



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

January 2019

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www.stpeterclovis.org

Christmas Events Enjoyed at St. Peter

Children's Christmas Service:

Thank you to our Sunday School children for sharing the "Good News of Great Joy for All People" on Dec. 23rd. The children recited memory verses from the Bible, reminding us of God's many promises to send a Savior, and how he has fulfilled all of these promises.



Christmas for Kids:

Thank you to all who helped with our Saturday morning "Christmas for Kids" on Dec. 15! About 35 children came to hear the Christmas account and have some Christmas fun.





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

In last fall's church newsletters, I shared a few good articles on the blessings of marriage. This series by Pastor Bruce McKenney was originally featured in our synod's magazine, "**Forward in Christ.**" I'd like to share the next article in this series, which stresses the importance of forgiveness in a marriage:

"His wife had died of cancer, and I was making a home visit to see how he was doing. In the course of the conversation, we talked about how he was able to be at her deathbed, reading her favorite Bible passages and hymns. Then he said it. 'Pastor, through it all, I learned something very important. One of the greatest blessings of marriage is that husband and wife can help each other on the road to heaven.'"

In this series, we've learned that marriage is based on a life-long commitment that husband and wife make to God and to each other. We also learned that the purposes and blessings of marriage are companionship, chastity, and children. But there could be another "C" added to that list—Christian growth, or as the grieving husband said, 'Helping each other on the road to heaven.' Did you ever think about that? Through marriage, spouses can help each other on the road to heaven.

What's the best way to do that? Perhaps a good answer is the word 'forgiveness.' It's only through the forgiveness of sins purchased by Jesus' death on the cross that sinners can look forward to heaven. It's that same forgiveness from Jesus that enables couples to forgive each other while living on earth. Without forgiveness from God, there is no hope for heaven. Without forgiveness by both husband and wife, there's little chance for lasting happiness in marriage. Getting past sins in marriage is only possible through the forgiveness Jesus gives to us. Paul put it this way: 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you' (Ephesians 4:32).

I experienced that as a pastor in a profound way at the deathbed of a Christian man who seemed so restless in spite of God's promises. Then it came out. Years earlier, in a moment of weakness, he had been unfaithful to his wife. He had kept that secret to himself all those years. But now he was facing death and wanted forgiveness from the one he had hurt.

When I called his wife to his side, he confessed his sin to her. Bless her soul, for though his words hurt her, she said, 'Honey, I forgive you and so does God.' He could close his eyes in death, knowing that he was at peace with both his wife and his Savior. Forgiving others comes from knowing the forgiveness Jesus gives us.

So what can a couple do to help and encourage each other on the road to happiness in marriage and on the road to heaven? It sounds so simple, but it is so true—say the Lord's Prayer together just before going to sleep at night. What do couples say to each other when they pray the words 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us'? Are they not saying, 'Honey, please forgive me, and I forgive you too'?

Better yet, keep saying that prayer together in church as you not only hear God's promise of forgiveness in the Word but also taste it in Holy Communion. Trust that through that forgiveness the Holy Spirit will give you strength to forgive each other and give you peace in your marriage.

*Pastor Bruce McKenney
"Forward in Christ" magazine (adapted)
September 2013*

May God lead our married couples and all our church members to know the forgiveness of our God through our Savior Jesus, and reflect that forgiveness to those around us in our homes and our lives!

Serving Christ,

Pastor Schewe

Voters Meeting and SIS Meeting—Sunday, Jan. 27

Our congregational quarterly meetings will be held on Sunday, January 27. Plans are to break off adult Bible Class at 11:00 am to start our meetings that morning. These two meetings discuss the important ministries and business of our church. Please plan to attend!

January SPRY Dinner

St. Peter Recycled Youth (SPRY) is a fellowship group for those 50+. SPRY meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month for dinner and a meeting. The January 19th dinner will be hosted by Barry White and Ellen Gates. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.



Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ A new officer team was elected at the November meeting:
 President: Donna Vander Poel 1st Vice President: Mary Sanchez
 2nd Vice President: Jan Carter Secretary: Ellen Gates
 Treasurer: Brittney Blankenship
- ♥ SIS organized the mid-weed Advent dinners. Thank you to all those who contributed!
- ♥ Heart SIS Luncheon will be held in February—date to be determined...
- ♥ In LWMS News: The Redwood Circuit is now on Facebook! If you would like to keep informed about our circuit or general LWMS news, this is a great way to be in the loop. Search on Facebook for “Redwood Circuit LWMS” under “groups”. This is a private page but open to any LWMS member. If you send your email address to Judith Bushman or Brenda Wilson can also send you an invitation to join.
 Our circuit is looking for a treasurer and a Spiritual Growth Leader starting in April 2019. Descriptions of those jobs are on the LWMS website (LWMS.org) If interested or for more information, see Patti Sweetman or Mary Sanchez. There is also a LWMS bulletin board in Luther Hall by the SIS bulletin board.
- ♥ SIS would like to encourage all ladies in the congregation to attend the quarterly SIS meetings. The next SIS Quarterly Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th. Childcare will be available during the meeting. Please bring your mite boxes to the meeting.



January 8—Madeline Armstrong
 January 10—Jonathan Farley
 January 10—Niki Schulz
 January 11—Laurynn Bornemann
 January 11—Leo Schulz
 January 13—Kaity Hood

January 13—Ellen Gates
 January 13—Joan Hevron
 January 22—Michael Engel
 January 26—John Hansen
 January 28—Andrew Schulz
 January 30—Justin Dubin

Those Who Serve—January

Ushers

Bob Dickson & Evan Blankenship

Flowers

6—OPEN
 13—OPEN
 20—OPEN
 27—OPEN

Altar Guild

Marilyn Hood & Joan Hevron

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

6—Mary Sanchez
 13—OPEN
 20—OPEN
 27—Mary Sanchez

Lawn Mowing Teams

5—Winter Schedule
 12—Schewe & Blankenship
 19—Winter Schedule
 26—Team from Faith Lutheran—Hmong

Church Cleaning

5—Jeff & Helen Hansen
 12—Jo Hobensack
 19—Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald
 26—Team from Faith Lutheran—Hmong

Luther Hall Cleaning

5—Travis & Madeline Armstrong
 12—Barry Burghardt
 19—Vicki Schewe
 26—Team from Faith Lutheran—Hmong

New Resident Mailing

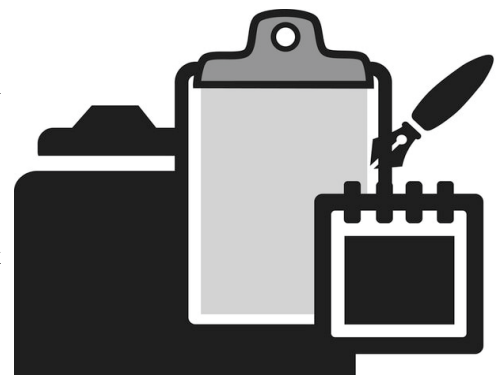
Irene Payne



January 10—Amilcar and Robyn Jones

Church Council Update—December 9

- Pastor's Report: Pastor Wagenknecht (District Board for Home Missions Liason) will be visiting the Hmong congregation in January.
- Elder's Report—Brian and June Lewis and Bernita Krumbach have requested release from membership as they have moved out of the area.
- The Early Childhood Ministry Action Committee is comprised of Pastor and Vicki Schewe, Ellen Gates, Travis and Catherine Hambleton, Barry White, and Mike Farley. The purpose of that committee is to proceed with the work the voters approved in order for us to open an ECM in Fall 2020. First jobs include a fire alarm system, classroom wall, and fire exit door.
- Trustee: Some sprinkler work will be scheduled for the east/south side of Luther Hall for January. We will be taking down the Christmas exterior lights on Monday, January 7th from 8-10am—any help would be appreciated!
- There will be a Voters' Meeting on January 27th. The next council meeting is scheduled for January 13th. Leo Schulz would like the congregation to know that they are invited to offer suggestions for issues that the council might address at future meetings.



Church Council

Informal Doctrinal Discussions with the Missouri Synod Continue



Representatives of the Wisconsin Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod will meet Nov. 27 and 28 for another in a series of annual informal doctrinal discussions.

These meetings have proven to be beneficial in helping the three synods better understand the doctrine and practice of one another. The meetings have opened lines of communication between the leaders of the three synods and between various groups such as those responsible for world mission efforts. The meetings have also been beneficial in providing mutual encouragement to stand firm in the areas where there is full agreement.

In previous meetings the group has focused on various areas of doctrine and practice, working to identify where we agree and where disagreements remain. Topics discussed in the past have been Church and Ministry, fellowship, the role of men and women, and principles that guide the interpretation of the Scriptures. The main focus of discussion for this year's meeting will be to identify, from each synod's perspective, what issues would need to be resolved—on the basis of Scripture—for fellowship to be possible.

These discussions have been termed “informal” to avoid giving the impression that they will result in a re-establishment of fellowship in the near future. Any restoration of fellowship would be possible only when the three synods are in full agreement in doctrine in keeping with the Scriptures. Even though fellowship might not be possible now, the informal discussions will continue because of the benefits and opportunities they bring.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

January 2019

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9:00 Worship (comm)

10:15 Family Bible Hr.

7

8

10:00 Mornings with Mommy

9

10:00 Mornings with Mommy

3:30 Youth Catechism

6:30 Bible Study

10

11

12

10-noon Fresno Park-
inson's Support Grp

13

9:00 Worship

10:15 Family Bible Hr.

11:30 Church Council

14

15

16

3:30 Youth Catechism

6:30 Bible Study

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18

19

5:30 pm SPRY gather-
ing

20

9:00 Worship (comm)

10:15 Family Bible Hr.

11:30 ECM Action
Team Meeting

21

22

10:00 Mornings with Mommy

23

10:00 Mornings with Mommy

3:30 Youth Catechism

6:30 Bible Study

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27

9:00 Worship

10:15 Family Bible Hr.

11:00 Voters' Meeting
SIS Meeting

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| Pastoral Winter Conference |
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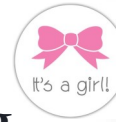
30

31

3:30 Youth Catechism
6:30 Bible Study



Birth Announcement: Chloe Grace Armstrong



Congratulations to Travis and Madeline Armstrong on the birth of their daughter, Chloe Grace Armstrong. Chloe was born on the afternoon of December 24th and weighed 7lbs. 2oz.



Coming Soon: Luther Prep Choir—Thursday, March 21, 2019



**LUTHER
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

The Luther Preparatory School “Prep Singers” from Watertown, WI will be coming to St. Peter this March to sing a Lenten concert for us. They will perform on Thursday evening, March 21st. After the performance, host families will be need to provide a place for the 36 students and 9 chaperones to sleep. If you are able to host some students or chaperones, please sign up soon. See Mary Sanchez for more details.

Holiday Fund Drive for St. Peter’s Christian Pre-school

We are having a Holiday Fund Drive at St. Peter’s during the month of December to raise the necessary funds to open a Christian pre-school.

The goal of the fund drive is \$64,000. These monies have been estimated to cover the costs of a playground area, a fire alarm, and modifications to Luther Hall to accommodate state licensing. Work in these areas will begin in 2019.

A cover letter and pledge forms have been put in all our member’s mailboxes to indicate a gift that you might like to give by year’s end and/or a monthly gift in 2019. Please prayerfully consider how you can generously support this new ministry at our church. This will greatly assist our church in reaching out with the gospel to both children aged 3-4 and their families.

It would really be a blessing to have this amount covered in gifts and pledges for 2019 by the end of the Holiday Fund Drive, so that work can be planned for the new year. Together, we are able to do this!

Note that when you submit your pledge form, you do not need to give monies with it at that time. The form simply indicates your intentions for a gift by Dec. 31 and/or monthly in the new year. Forms can be either put in the offering or placed in Norm VanderPoel’s mailbox.

You can choose whether or not to include your name on the pledge form. Those who do so will receive a report from the church for tax purposes. Whether you include your name or not will not matter as far as confidentiality, as all forms will be kept by Norm VanderPoel, our financial secretary. Forms will not be viewed or circulated by others.

When you are ready to give the gift(s) that you have decided on (in December and/or monthly in 2019), please make sure it is clearly marked as your gift to “St. Peter ECM.” A new checking account has been opened for those funds and will be kept separate from our church operating funds.

Please consider your gift to be above your regular church offerings, as our normal ministries and obligations do need to continue at St. Peter.

May God bless us with the desire to support this children’s ministry at St. Peter!



If you would like to include information in a future newsletter, please contact Catherine Hambleton at secretary@stpeterclovis.org