



THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

December 2017
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stpeterclovis.org

December Happenings at St. Peter

Holiday Services

During the next month, plan to join us for:

Sundays—Our Advent series will take a closer look at “*Our Advent Wreath*,” and learn the meaning of the candles we light each week as we prepare for Christ’s coming.

Wednesdays—The theme of the midweek services will be “*Isaiah’s Prophecies of the Messiah*.” Supper, served by SIS, starts at 5:30 pm. Worship will be at 6:30 pm.

Children’s Christmas—Will be held on Sunday, Dec. 24, in our regular morning service. With this holiday falling on a Sunday, no evening service will be held.

New Year’s Eve—Again, this will be a regular Sunday morning service, with no evening service that day.



***Advent by Candlelight* for Ladies—December 2**

Ladies, on Saturday, December 2, *Advent by Candlelight* will be held in our Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. Check out the display in Luther Hall and register to attend! Candles, coffee, and conversation, followed by a short program of readings and Christmas carols. Desserts that ladies bring are also enjoyed.

Christmas for Kids—December 9

Saturday, December 9 will feature a *Christmas for Kids!* from 9 am to noon. A skit of the Christmas account, Christmas carols, crafts, and fun are planned for the morning. Parents, make plans to bring your children and some friends of theirs! Registration online is appreciated (stpeterclovis.org).

Ladies’ Christmas Cookie & Ornament Exchange—December 20

Sisters In Service (SIS) is hosting this event on Wednesday, Dec. 20th at 6:00 pm at the home of Marilyn Hood. Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament and 2 dozen cookies to share!

Area Reformation service—

About 400 people attended the circuit Reformation service in San Jose on October 29.

Prof. Allen Sorum from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary preached, and a meal of German food was served afterwards.

Make plans to attend this uplifting event next year!





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

Are you ready to do Christmas?

People often speak of the Christmas season in those terms. "We're going up to our cousins' in the Bay area to 'do Christmas.'" What does that mean? Usually, it means that we'll put on our new Christmas socks and sweater, drive up to see some extended family, exchange presents, eat some Christmas goodies, and head back home in the evening.

There certainly is nothing wrong with visiting relatives and enjoying some Christmas traditions during the upcoming season. In fact, we're often reminded at Christmastime that we should reach out to those we love more often than we do.

But, if our view of the holidays is that we have to "do Christmas" and make sure we "do it right," we're going to be left a bit exhausted and broke by the end of December.

It's my prayer that your primary view of the Christmas season coming up is one where your hands are open and your eyes are looking upward. This position will help ensure that Christmas is not something that we "do," but rather that Christmas is something that we "receive."

If that's a still a stretch for you, think of the shepherds. How did they "do" Christmas? They came to the manger. The wise men? They came to the house the little family were living in at Bethlehem. And Mary? She was left pondering it all in her heart.

All were astonished and felt blessed to play a part in observing the grace of God, which had come to earth in the gift of a baby boy, the Son of God. This was God's gift to mankind, the Savior who would live a humble, perfect life for them and who would die a costly death on the cross for their sins. He would rise again, sealing their salvation - yours and mine as well! God had gifts to shower on them.

Current Bible Classes:

Sundays

"What Everyone Should Know about the Augsburg Confession"

We left this series for a few weeks to discuss the Reformation and the new Luther movie. We'll return to this to finish our look at this important Confession of our faith. Coming topic will be: The Lord's Supper, Confession, and Christ's Return to Judge.

Wednesdays

Will be replaced by our Advent Wednesday services in December.

We also are Christmas "receivers," not "doers."

If you have a hard time remembering that important fact in December, help is available for you:

- Once again, we're having midweek Advent services on Wednesdays. A meal at 5:30 pm and a reflective service at 6:30 pm will help you keep your focus.
- Ladies, "Advent by Candlelight" on Dec. 2 is a great way to remember the holiday focus before the season begins in earnest.
- Children, "Christmas for Kids" on Dec. 9 will be a fun and festive event, with Christmas activities that will be meaningful and faith-filled.
- Our social groups will be meeting at various times during the month, and the folks there will not elbow and press on you like the people in the checkout lines at the mall.

So as we look ahead to a special time of year, enjoy the customs that mean so much to you. And in it all, don't feel you have to "do" Christmas right, and that you might "fail" at the month of December.

Someone else already "did it." Open up your hands, look up, and receive it!

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Schewe

November Council Meeting Update (11/12/17)

- After much discussion, the council tentatively approved allowing a Parkinson's Support Group to use Luther Hall for their monthly meeting in January and March provided that all questions about insurance coverage are resolved.
- Outreach: Looking into forming an Outreach committee to discuss Early Childhood Ministry options for our church. Also considering starting a Farmer's Market booth in Clovis. We are planning to move forward with getting a team of 3-4 MLC students for a week to help with outreach.
- Trustee: Next campus clean up is November 25th.
Working with sign company to improve our signage around the campus.
TV mount in the sanctuary is scheduled for December 12th.
Distributed "Church Property Wish List" to all members in church mailboxes.
Purchased new cart to transport tables.
- Elder's Report: Phil and Amanda Harville were approved as new members.
- Offering from the Advent & Lent mid-week services will go to tuition support for Emily & Rachel Schewe as they are studying to become called workers. Justin Shrum was the previous recipient of the offering to pay his tuition costs, but has since graduated from the seminary.
- At the Special Voters' Meeting on November 19th, the 2018 budget was approved by the voters.
- Next council meeting is scheduled for December 10th. Don Sweetman would like the congregation to know that they are invited to offer suggestions for issues that the council might address at future meetings.

Church Property Wish List

A church property wish list was distributed in member mailboxes a few months ago. Some of the priority items include:

- Windows and sliding glass doors in the parsonage (\$3000)
- New tables for Luther Hall (\$2800—about \$175 per table)
- Purchase and installing security camera and DVR for property (\$1000)
- Widen sidewalk between Church and Luther Hall (\$2000)

Those Who Serve—December

Ushers

Travis Armstrong

Flowers

3—Joan Hevron

10—Mary Sanchez

17—Joshua & Natalie Bornemann

24—Christmas Eve

31—Joshua & Natalie Bornemann

Altar Guild

Dorothy Teufel & Mary Dickson

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

3—Inge Stutz

10—Patti Sweetman

17—Mary Sanchez

24—Christmas Eve

31—OPEN

Lawn Mowing Teams

2—Sweetman/Hansen/J.Schulz

9—Jeff Carter & Ken Hoffmeyer

16—Travis Hambleton & Andrew Schulz

23—Leo Schulz & Jonathan Farley

30—Curtis Garner & Barry Burghardt

Church Cleaning

2—Bruno & Inge Stutz

9—Ken Hoffmeyer

16—Michelle Taub

23—Mike Farley

30—Jeff & Helen Hansen

Luther Hall Cleaning

2—Don Sweetman

9—Ken Hoffmeyer

16—Andrew & Niki Schulz

23—Jan Carter

30—Travis & Madeline Armstrong

December Birthdays

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| December 2—Madi Machado | December 18—Natalie Bornemann |
| December 3—Simone Jones (1) | December 19—John Barber |
| December 7—Kelly Curry | December 22—Don Sweetman |
| December 11—Joel Schewe | December 29—Ryan Hambleton (6) |

December Anniversary

- December 23—Joshua & Natalie Bornemann





Reformation Worship Focuses on God's Grace

A year ago, in anticipation of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, initial plans were made for a large celebration in Milwaukee that would include conferences for all WELS called workers and a large festival worship service for called workers and WELS members in the 15,000-seat Bradley Center. After determining the huge cost of such an event, the decision was made not to hold the event as hoped but to encourage districts and regions to plan for local celebrations that would be less costly and enable more people to participate.

That decision was blessed by God. During the last two weekends, more than 20 districts and regions held special Reformation 500 worship services. The events were very well attended and provided many more people the opportunity to join in this celebration than would have been possible with one centralized event. In each case, worshipers had the opportunity to thank and praise God for the blessings of the Lutheran Reformation. Worshipers were reminded that "grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone" is not just a slogan or motto, but the heart and center of what connects us to "Christ alone."

To view photos or contribute your own, check out the WELS Facebook page at fb.com/welslutherans. Watch for more photos and information about Reformation 500 celebrations in the January 2018 edition of *Forward in Christ* magazine.



Serving in Christ, WELS President Mark Schroeder

WELS Women's Retreat 2018

Apostles Lutheran Church in San Jose is hosting a WELS Women's Retreat on January 19-21. It will be held at the Mt. Hermon Conference Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The theme is "Growing with Your Sisters in Christ". If any women are interested in going the cost is approximately \$250, with a deposit of \$100. If interested, please see June Lewis or Mary Sanchez.



In Memory of Sharon Farley

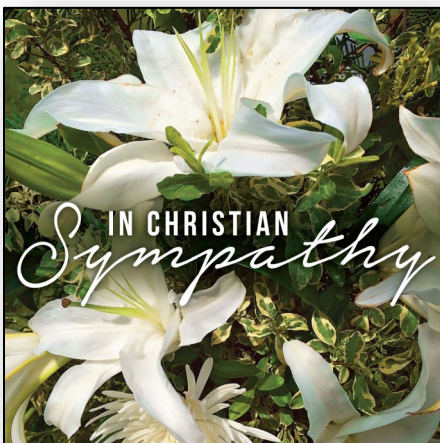
Sharon Louise Tilly was born in Fresno on March 21, 1943. She was made a child of God through Holy Baptism on September 24, 1943. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith as she pledged her faithfulness to the Lord in July 1971.

Sharon graduated from Bullard High School and Fresno State University. She married Mike Farley on July 17, 1965. The Lord blessed them with a daughter, Shannon, and with many years of blessed memories at their farm off Hwy 99 in Fowler. Sharon and Mike were active members back to the time St. Peter Lutheran Church began in 1981, and previously at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (WELS) in Fresno. She was a middle school French teacher at Computech in Fresno for 16 years.

She fought Alzheimer's for seven years, but went home to be with her Lord on October 31, 2017.

Sharon is survived by Mike, her husband of 52 years, daughter Shannon and husband Wally Hass of Oak Park, CA; her three grand-children Abigail, Spencer, and Claire Hass; a brother, Mike Tilly of Fresno; a sister, Susan and husband Bill Hale of Clovis and numerous nephews and nieces.

Flowers or remembrances may be sent to St. Peter Lutheran Church or to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org).



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			29 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Advent Worship	30	1	2 7:00 Advent by Candlelight
3 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:30 Young Adults mtg 5:00 SPRY Outing	4 7:00 Bible Basics Course	5	6 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Advent Worship	7 7:00 Board of Elders	8	9 9:00 to noon Christmas for Kids
10 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:35 Church Council	11 Pastoral Circuit Meeting (Modesto) 7:00 Bible Basics Course	12	13 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Advent Worship	14	15	16 5:30 pm SPRY
17 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hour	18 7:00 Bible Basics Course	19	20 6:00 SIS Cookie/ Ornament Exchange	21	22	23
24 9:00 Christmas Eve Worship (Children's service)	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 New Year's Eve Worship (comm)						

December SPRY Event

St. Peter Recycled Youth (SPRY) is a fellowship group for those 55+. SPRY meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month for dinner and a meeting.

On Dec. 3, SPRY will be going to see a show at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater. The show is "*Breaking Up is Hard To Do*", a comic story showcasing eighteen Neil Sedaka classic songs. For more information, contact Inge Stutz.



SPRY Bingo in November!

Altar Poinsettias

We will be decorating the altar area with poinsettias this Advent season. If you would like to contribute to the poinsettia flowers, take a flower envelope from the Luther Hall entry table, write "Poinsettias" on it, and place it in the offering plate. Please see Dorothy Teufel if you have any questions.



Poinsettia Sign-Up



Mornings with Mommy Update

We've been blessed to have about 60 children age 0-4 from about 40 households participate in our "Mornings with Mommy" program since it began in December. As mommies bring their little ones for fun and play, we have a chance to meet them and let them know that we are a welcoming church that also has spiritual ministries they are welcome to attend.

The December date (only one with the holidays coming) is December 13 from 10 am to 11 am. The theme will be "Merry Christmas!"

Thank you to all our great volunteers who help with this program!

St. Peter Church Wear

Want to get the word out about our church? A great way is to have a polo, cap, tote bag, or other item that has our church logo embroidered on it. We have our logo on file with **Embroid Me** at 605 W. Herndon Ave, Clovis. (559) 324-8686.

For more details, see the poster in Luther Hall.

Member Profile—Meet the Dubins!

Justin and Sarah Dubin, along with their energetic and cheerful son Michael, can be seen regularly around St. Peter's.

Sarah, daughter of Jeff and Jan Carter, has been a member at St. Peter's her whole life. Justin was born in Tulsa, OK. After relocating to Clovis, he graduated from Clovis High School. The two of them met at Wal-Mart.

Through Sarah, Justin visited St. Peter's and took our *Bible Basics Course* last winter and spring. The Dubins were married at St. Peter's last March, and Justin became a member of the church last May.

The Dubins enjoy raising their son and trying to keep up with him, along with some camping and traveling from time to time. They hope to spend time up at Yosemite National Park in the future.



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