



THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

December 2018

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www.stpeterclovis.org

Midweek Advent Services

During the special season of Advent, we offer midweek Wednesday service to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and to stay focused on the real meaning of the holiday season.

Our schedule for Wednesdays is:

5:30 pm	Supper in Luther Hall (provided)
6:30 pm	Advent worship (6:30 pm)

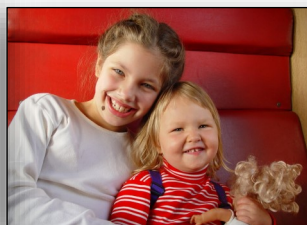


These Wednesdays are a very special time for a church family, as they can share a meal and a vespers service together. Make plans to join us! Our schedule is early enough to get you home at a reasonable hour, and supper is provided for your convenience in planning your day.

Other December Events around Church

Many other events have been planned over the holidays at church! More details on these events is available in our Sunday Announcements and on our fellowship hall bulletin board. Plan to join us for some of these meaningful and fun events during the month of December!

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|--------------------|---|
| December 1 | SIS Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange (7 pm, at Marilyn Hood's) |
| December 8 | Ladies "Advent by Candlelight" (6:30 pm, Luther Hall, hosted by Vicki Schewe) |
| December 15 | "Christmas for Kids!" (9 am to noon) — Kids age 4 thru 12 are welcome to come enjoy a morning of Christmas activities and fun, including the recounting of the Christmas story, Christmas carols, crafts, snacks and good Christmas cheer! |
| December 23 | Children's Christmas service (9 am) |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight service (6:30 pm) |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve communion service (6:30 pm) |





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

I feel that we should have a quiz!

I feel this way especially as we move into the Advent season. Last year, we enjoyed a sermon series during the Sundays of Advent that featured the candles on our Advent wreath. Do you remember what each of them stand for?

This is probably all the more important when we realize that we'll be using our Advent wreath again this year. Why use a tradition that you might not understand? So... what do those candles mean?

Down through time various interpretations have been suggested or added, even debated, but here are some classic meanings. The wreath is really a symbol of Jesus Christ.

If we start with the wreath itself, you'll notice that evergreen branches adorn it. The green color of these branches are "ever green," just like our Christmas trees in the forest. They symbolize the constant and eternal life that our Savior Jesus has, and which he has brought to us as well. Added to this is the fact that the wreath is in a circle, which has no beginning or end, symbolizing eternity. The wreath of branches is also a symbol of victory, so naturally we would think of the crown of life that Christ has won for us.

Each week an additional candle is lit. Jesus is the Light of the world, and he is approaching once again, both as we commemorate his birth and also at the end of time. The brightening light of the wreath reminds us that his coming is closer and closer as time marches on.

The color of most of the candles is blue. This color is symbolic of HOPE, the hope that we have as we await Christ's coming. It also is the color of the early morning sky as our Morning Star (a name of Christ) will come. And, he will take us to our final home in heaven, pictured in the blue color. In past times churches often used purple, the color of Lent, symbolic of repentance and the King of the Jews. Many have now changed to blue, since the repentance and mood of Advent is markedly different from the mood of Lent. In addition, it gives Advent its own unique and fitting color.

The first candle is the "Prophecy Candle." God revealed many details and made many promises through the Old Testament prophets, and we rejoice that he has faithfully kept them in the coming of our Savior.

Current Bible Classes:

Sundays (10:20 am)

"Lessons from the Lessons" -

During the Sundays of December we will be exploring how the readings from our Sunday Advent services fit together in a unified way to show the plan of God to send our Savior. Come and grow in your appreciation for how these readings have developed through the years!

Wednesdays (6:30 pm)

(Replaced by our Wednesday evening Advent suppers and services)

The second candle is the "Bethlehem Candle." Was Bethlehem ready to receive the Savior? We are reminded to prepare our hearts through repentance and faith for the coming of our Savior.

The third candle is the "Shepherd's Candle." These first visitors had great joy as they heard about the newborn King, and worshiped him. The color for this third candle can be pink, for joy.

The fourth candle is the "Angels Candle." Hear the message they proclaimed that first Christmas night, and proclaim Christ's coming to those you meet and know.

The fifth candle (center) is the "Christ Candle." It is white, the color of purity for Christ's holiness. For Christmas morning and the Sundays after Christmas, it is the only candle lit in the wreath, for the waiting is over.

Scripture readings can easily be found to fit these foci for a meaningful Advent and Christmas devotional season.

So, share this message with your children or grandchildren. Remember this in our worship services. And use it in your own devotions at home.

In Jesus our Light,

Pastor Schewe

December 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 December 15th dinner will be hosted by Bob & Mary Dickson. The January 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 will be hosting their annual Cookie & Ornament exchange at Marilyn Hood's home on Saturday, December 1st at 7pm.
- ♥ 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.
Our last rally "Be Ambassadors for Christ" the speaker told us about witnessing to people that God puts into our lives every day. Coincidentally, the November issue of Forward in Christ (page 28) has an article "Ambassadors: Help them see Jesus." Check it out
- ♥ 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.

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



December 11—Robert & Anncy English
December 23—Joshua & Natalie Bornemann

Those Who Serve—December

Ushers

Barry Burghardt & Curtis Garner

Flowers

2, 9, 16, 30—Joshua & Natalie Bornemann

23—Don & Patti Sweetman

Altar Guild

Dorothy Teufel & Jan Carter

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

2—Teresa Barber

9—Irene Payne

16—Patti Sweetman

23—Christmas

30—Jan Carter

Lawn Mowing Teams

1—Andrew Schulz/Josh Schulz/Armstrong

8—Leo Schulz & Jonathan Farley

15—Curtis Garner & Barry Burghardt

22—Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

29—Bruno Stutz/Mike Farley/Bob Dickson

Church Cleaning

1—Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

8—John & Teresa Barber

15—Kelly Curry

22—Bruno & Inge Stutz

29—Michelle Taub

Luther Hall Cleaning

1—Mary Sanchez

8—John & Teresa Barber

15—Bob & Mary Dickson

22—Don Sweetman

29—Andrew & Niki Schulz

New Resident Mailing

Helen Hansen



December 3—Simone Jones

December 7—Kelly Curry

December 11—Joel Schewe

December 18—Natalie Bornemann

December 19—John Barber

December 22—Don Sweetman

December 29—Ryan Hambleton

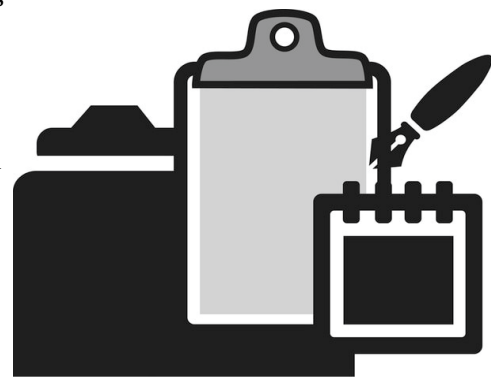
Voters' & Church Council Update—November 4 & 11

- The Early Childhood Ministry Committee presented their research and plans to the voters. A secret ballot was used to vote on the development of the ECM at St. Peter and the vote passed unanimously. It is the intent of the program to be self-sustaining, i.e., not require subsidy from the church budget, once the start-up costs have been paid. A special fund drive will run from Thanksgiving to New Year's, asking each member to prayerfully consider how they can support the ECM projects. This will allow the steering committee to plan and begin preparations.

- Pastor's Report: Pastor Schewe attended the Asian Ministry Conference in Wisconsin. WELS has 6 Hmong pastors, 3 Korean pastors, 1 Chinese pastor, 2 Vietnamese evangelists, among others, who currently serve in Home Missions.

Mornings with Mommy is considering adding a 3rd morning because of growing need.

- Elder's Report—There are no membership changes at this time.
- Trustee: Draft versions of the Lawn Care team schedule and the church and Luther Hall cleaning schedule were distributed. Please let Travis Hambleton know of any changes or if you're not on the schedule but would like to be.
- There will be a special Voters' Meeting on November 25th to review and approve the church budget for 2019. The next council meeting is scheduled for December 9th. 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



Hundreds Gather to Celebrate 125 Years of Apache Mission

Over 1,200 attended the Apache 125th anniversary celebration at Peridot Lutheran church and school, Peridot, Ariz., Oct. 26–28. The event commemorated the 125th anniversary of WELS World Missions work in the Apache reservations of Arizona.

Since its humble beginnings in 1893, the Apache ministry has grown, now serving over 3,600 people in a variety of ways. Five missionaries, two Apache pastors, and one Apache evangelist serve the nine congregations on the reservations. The Apache Christian Training School (ACTS) provides education and resources to prepare leaders for sharing God's Word on the reservations and beyond. Two schools serve over 275 students, giving them a foundational Christian education. These are just a few of the services for which attendees gave thanks at the celebration last month.

"The most encouraging thing about the work among the Apache people is that they are recognizing that the work of missions and ministry belongs to them," says Schroeder. "While we are still there to help and assist, it is gratifying that the Apache people are embracing the idea of training members of their tribe to serve as pastors and teachers, looking ahead to the day when all called workers on the reservation will be Apache."

Learn more about the Apache mission and its work at nativechristians.org. Download Bible studies related to Rev. Dr. William Kessel's presentation.

Learn more about WELS Missions at wels.net/missions.



December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
December 2018						
2 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	3	4	5 3:30 Youth Catechism 5:30 Advent Supper 6:30 Advent Worship	6	7	8 10:00pm Fresno Park- inson's Support Grp 6:30 pm Ladies Ad- vent by <i>Candlelight</i>
9 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	10 Pastoral Circuit Meeting (Modesto)	11 10:00 <i>Mornings with Mommy</i>	12 10:00 <i>Morn. w/ M.</i> 3:30 Youth Catechism 5:30 Advent Supper 6:30 Advent Worship	13	14	15 5:30 pm SPRY
16 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	17	18	19 5:30 Advent Supper 6:30 Advent Worship	20	21	22
23 9:00 Children's Christmas Service (No Family Bible Hour)	24 6:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 Worship (No Family Bible Hour)	31 6:30 New Year's Eve Service (communion)					

Member Profile: Brooke Teixeira

Brooke Teixeira recently transferred her membership to St. Peter from our WELS church in Sparks, NV. She says she loves how friendly St. Peter is and that she enjoys seeing all the smiling faces when she comes to church!

Brooke was raised in Reno, Nevada, where her parents still live. She attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she studied biology. Her younger sister is currently attending Cal Poly. Brooke and her husband, Blake, were married one year ago. They met at a college rodeo, which is no coincidence since most major life-events for them happen at rodeos. Blake is an active and very successful rodeo roper. They moved to Clovis in order to be in a central location to easily travel from rodeo to rodeo. They also like that they have enough room here to board their animals. Brooke works for Ariat Cowboy Boots. She loves her job and how closely it relates to their lifestyle.



Brooke and Blake Teixeira

In her free time, Brooke loves to plant cactus and work in her garden. She also loves to cook. Since they're on the road a lot, they like to vacation in places where they can't take their horses—sometimes it's nice to getaway!

We're so happy to welcome Brooke as a member of St. Peter!

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