



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

February 2019

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Baptisms at St. Peter

In January, we were blessed to see some of God's littlest lambs come into his kingdom through Holy Baptism:

Chloe Grace Armstrong

Chloe was born to Travis and Madeline Armstrong on Christmas Eve, and was baptized in our church service on Sunday, January 6.

Jackson Roy Black and Ella Marie Black



Jackson and Ella are the children of Greg and Sara Black. The Blacks have been visiting us since last summer and will be taking our summer *"Bible Basics Course."* Ella's birth last October and Greg's work in the upcoming tax season have made life busy for the family!

May God bless these children, keeping their faith strong in his baptismal grace all the days of their lives. And my God give these parents the wisdom, faith, and means to raise these children in his ways!

Coming: Luther Preparatory School "Prep Singers"— Thursday, March 21, 6:30 pm

The Luther Preparatory School "Prep Singers" from Watertown, WI will be coming to St. Peter in March to sing a Lent and Easter concert for us. The concert will be on Thursday evening, March 21, at 6:30 pm.

Make plans now to come for the special music from these 36 high school students who are studying at our synod's ministerial education high school in Wisconsin!

Host families are needed 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. Questions? See Mary Sanchez.





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

For this month of February, when families celebrate the gift of love that God has blessed us with, we conclude our newsletter series on marriage. This series by Pastor Bruce McKenney was originally featured in our synod's magazine, **"Forward in Christ."** Here is the final installment, focusing on how we all honor marriage:

"God says, 'Marriage should be honored by all!' (Hebrews 13:4)

Two thoughts stand out as we read these words. First, marriage should be honored. God instituted marriage for the well-being of his creation, and through it he wants to channel the blessings of companionship, chastity, and children. Therefore marriage should be considered something of great value. God values marriage highly and so should we! Second, marriage is something on which all should place a high value, both those who are married and those who are not.

How do we honor marriage? Here is a brief 'to-do' list.

All can honor marriage by listening to and learning what God's Word teaches about it. The listening and learning starts in confirmation classes as pastors teach the Ten Commandments. But it continues when marriage and family life are taught and reviewed in Bible classes marriage enrichment workshops, and even through sermon series. Like other Bible truths, what God says about marriage needs to be taught and retaught, learned and relearned. We live in a world that is dismantling marriage and the family and encourages all to follow its example. God's people, however, need to listen more to what God says about marriage and less to what the world is saying.

God established marriage because he loves humans—men and women—and because he wants them to experience human love in a committed, lifelong relationship. God's people want to show God their love by living in marriage according to his Word.

Spouses show their love for God and each other when they live together and love each other according to God's design of marriage. Moms and dads show love for their children when they provide an example of a God-pleasing marriage. It's the most important way to teach their children how to live in marriage. The home is a classroom of the Holy Spirit in which

Bible Classes at St. Peter

Sunday morning: "Ecclesiastes"

This Old Testament book teaches us much about the futility of finding lasting joy, happiness, and satisfaction in the "things" of this world. It has amazing relevancy to our own day and age!

Wednesday evening (6:30 pm):

Join us for a BRAND NEW series on Wednesdays in February! We will be "live" at church and also LIVE on our church Facebook page.

parents model for children what God demands and what God promises to those who are married. Parents are the primary teachers of the next generation of those who will get married.

But living according to God's design also is a clear and loving testimony to the outside world of what marriage is according to God's Word and a loving reproof of the lifestyles and attitudes that oppose God's will regarding marriage and the family.

Another thing that God's people can do to honor marriage is by lifting up their hands in prayer. For those what are still awaiting marriage, ask God for patience and guidance in finding a God-fearing spouse. For those who are married, lift up your voice in prayer and ask God to help you live in marriage according to his will. Parents, it's never too early to pray that your children will find God-fearing spouses. And it's never too late to ask for God's blessings on your children who are already married.

Finally, and most important, we honor marriage when we honor our Savior by looking to him for forgiveness. We all fail when it comes to honoring marriage. But the good news is that we can look to Jesus for full and complete forgiveness for sins in marriage too. His forgiveness will restore joy and love to marriage.

Pastor Bruce McKenney

"Forward in Christ" magazine (adapted) - Oct. 2013

May God lead us all to honor and treasure marriage in these ways!

Pastor Schewe

February 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 February 16th dinner will be hosted by John & Teresa Barber. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.



Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ SIS will be organizing Lenten suppers starting in March. See Jan Carter for more information.
- ♥ Heart SIS Luncheon will be held on February 10th at Andiamo Restaurant in Clovis. This is a chance for the ladies of the congregation to come together for a devotion, activities, conversation, and a great lunch.
- ♥ Secret Heart Sisters... changing this year! The focus of our Secret Heart Sisters has always been to encourage the ladies who participate to encourage and uplift their secret sister throughout the year. This year's change will be to eliminate the gift-giving aspect of the program. Instead, we'd like each secret sister to focus throughout the year to encourage her secret sister through prayer and friendly conversations!
- ♥ LWMS News: The Spring Circuit rally will be held on Saturday, April 27th at Hope Lutheran Church in Penryn. The theme is "Solid as a Rock". Mary Sanchez asked SIS to consider if they would like to host the LWMS Circuit meeting in Spring 2020. A brief discussion was held and the SIS board will continue the discussion later.
There is a LWMS bulletin board in Luther Hall by the SIS bulletin board. Please take a look at it for all of the latest information!
- ♥ 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, April 28th. Childcare will be available during the meeting. Please bring your **Mission Boxes** (previously called Mite Boxes) to the meeting. If you don't have a Mission Box, please ask Mary Sanchez or Jan Carter.

Those Who Serve—February

Ushers

Travis Hambleton & John Barber

Flowers

3—Phil and Joy Rosenthal

10—John & Teresa Barber

17—Norm and Donna Vander Poel

24—Ellen Gates

Altar Guild

Inge Stutz & Helen Hansen

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

3—Teresa Barber

10—Donna Vander Poel

17—Mary Sanchez

24—Inge Stutz

Lawn Mowing Teams

2—Hambleton/May/White

9—Hansen/Sweetman

16—J.Carter/Hoffmeyer/Dubin

23—A.Schulz/J.Schulz/Armstrong

Church Cleaning

2—John & Teresa Barber

9—Kelly Curry

16—Ken Hoffmeyer

23—Bruno & Inge Stutz

Luther Hall Cleaning

2—Mary Sanchez

9—Barry Burghardt

16—Ken Hoffmeyer

23—Bob & Mary Dickson

New Resident Mailing

Mary Sanchez



February 3—Amanda Ergo

February 5—Joshua Bornemann

February 6—Amilcar Jones

February 7—Abigail Schewe

February 12—Mark Schewe

February 12—Joy Rosenthal

February 14—Keegan Fitzgerald

February 17—Hannah Schewe

February 21—Mike Fitzgerald

February 26—Samuel Farley

February 27—Jeremy Harville

February 28—Helen Hansen

February 28—Mary Dickson

Church Council & Voters' Meeting Update

- Pastor's Report: Pastor will be attending a pastoral conference from Jan. 27-29 at Shepherd of the Hills, Las Vegas, NV
- Financial Report: End of year total expenses were \$187,782 compared to budgeted \$177,375. Total in bank in checking is \$28,382, not including funds in designated accounts like ECM. Total undesignated offerings for year were \$203,505.
- Elder's Report—Brian and June Lewis and Bernita Krumbach have requested release from membership as they have moved out of the area.
- Outreach Report: Emphasis on door to door campaign by members
- Stewardship chairman handed a copy of updated Talent Survey Sheets to all chairman for their use and encourage us to contact people from the list for help.
- Trustee - working on estimate for 2 new front doors for the sanctuary - an anonymous donor gave \$5000 pay for them. New sprinklers were installed east of Luther Hall to expand our lawn - \$2500 was donated by a church member to pay for the work. Three estimates have been gathered for us to consider installing solar panels on the roof of Luther Hall.
- 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.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for February 10th. 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.



Support for Parents from *Forward in Christ*

Forward in Christ's monthly parenting column, *Heart to heart: Parent conversations*, offers support for today's parents. In January, Dan Nommensen and Sarah Reik, both parents and licensed professional counselors, shared thoughts and tips about how parents can prepare their children for dangerous situations without scaring them. Read their articles or view a webcast featuring Nommensen and Reik at forwardinchrist.net. While visiting the site, you can also search for articles on other topics.



Missions Facebook Page

WELS Missions has a Facebook page! Like the page to stay up-to-date on news from Home and World Mission fields, read inspiring stories of the gospel at work, and take advantage of the many resources WELS Missions has to offer: facebook.com/WELSMissions

WELS Mission Journeys

WELS Mission Journeys, the official WELS program for short-term mission trips, provides an opportunity for all WELS members to walk together in the Great Commission. Through church- or school-based volunteer trips to WELS mission fields at home and abroad, members have the opportunity to engage in Christian service. Pre-trip training led by a congregational team leader equips volunteers to have significant impact during their trip. While volunteering, the learning and sharing of outreach ideas will allow teams to explore how they can use their God-given abilities to lead an outreach event upon their return home. With the Lord's blessing, these trips will inspire a lifelong journey of service and outreach for all who volunteer. Want to learn more about how you and your congregation can get involved? Visit wels.net/missionjourneys.



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----|--|
| February 2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. | 4 | 5 | 6 3:30 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Study | 7 7:00 Board of Elders | 8 | 9 10-noon Fresno Park- inson's Support Grp |
| 10 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Church Council 12:00 SIS Luncheon | 11 | 12 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 13 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 14 | 15 | 16 5:30 pm SPRY gather- ing |
| 17 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. | 18 Pastoral Circuit Meeting (Livermore) | 19 | 20 3:30 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Study | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 ECM Action Team Meeting | 25 | 26 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 27 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 3:30 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Study | 28 | | |



Heart SIS Luncheon

The SIS Luncheon is an annual event for the women in our congregation to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship while enjoying a delicious Italian meal. The afternoon will include games and a devotion as well as Secret Heart Sister reveal for those who participated in 2018.

Please sign up as soon as you know you can attend; the meal must be pre-paid this year. The luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 10th at Andiamo Ristorante Italiano in Clovis (1275 Shaw Ave), across the street from Sierra Vista Mall. Please sign up for the luncheon on the sheet in Luther Hall. Please make your menu choice and payment by Sunday, February 3rd. Please see Mary Schulz or Catherine Hambleton with questions.

At the luncheon, we'll be exchanging Secret Heart Sisters. The program will be changing slightly this year. The focus of our Secret Heart Sisters has always been to encourage the ladies who participate to encourage and uplift their secret sister throughout the year. This year's change will be to eliminate the gift-giving aspect of the program. Instead, we'd like each secret sister to focus throughout the year to encourage her secret sister through prayer and friendly conversations!



Greeting Cards Available

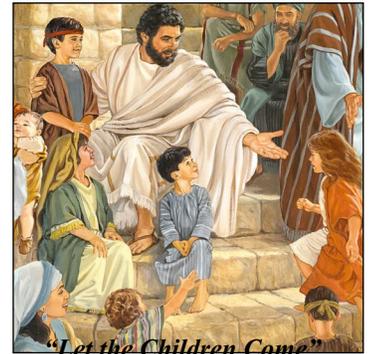
You may have noticed the newest display in Luther Hall. We now have some Christian greeting cards available for sale. We offer a variety of themes: birthday, sympathy, thinking of you, and anniversary. This is not a fundraiser, just a service to help you spread Christian joy and caring. The price per card is just 50 cents and can be left in the collection box. Please see Catherine Hambleton if you have any questions or suggestions for new cards.

ECM Action Team Update

The new ECM Action Team is meeting regularly, the new committee for 2019 that has been tasked with carrying out the work laid out at the fall Voters Meeting that is necessary for opening a Christian pre-school by August 2020.

Some highlights:

- During our Holiday Fund Drive, about \$66,000 in gifts and pledges were made toward the new pre-school. Praise God for this!
- The city of Clovis has approved our plan to open a pre-school.
- A fire alarm (required) is presently being designed, to be installed in the spring.
- Plans are being discussed by the ECM Action team regarding playground specifics, the wall and classroom space in Luther Hall, and a required fire exit door. These plans will be submitted for approval and permitting when they are ready.



Please keep this new ministry in your prayers, that God would bless our discussions and plans, and continue to open doors for us. Offerings toward this in 2019 should have checks made out to "St. Peter Lutheran ECM" and be clearly marked.



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