



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611



St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

March 2017
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Lent Begins in March

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1. During this sacred season, we recount the accounts of Jesus' suffering and death, a solemn time of worship as we realize what our sin has cost him. Yet it is also a time of inner joy, as we thankfully praise the Lord for his salvation.

We will be offering both Sunday and Wednesday worship services during Lent. On Sundays our theme will be *"Old Testament Feasts that Foretell our Salvation."* Each week we will examine one of the Old Testament festivals that the Lord commanded his people to celebrate and learn what it means for our walk of faith today.



On Wednesdays we'll follow the synod's Lenten series *"Repent! Turn to Jesus!"* Once again we'll enjoy a rotation with St. Peter, Modesto, as their new pastor, Pastor Daniel Schroeder, will be leading some of the midweek services.

We also will enjoy a meal before our Wednesday worship. Our ladies from SIS will be providing the meals. Come enjoy some food and Lenten worship on these Wednesdays! It can be a special time of meditation around the Word of God as we hear the accounts that won our salvation from sin. Bring a friend, if you can!

Schedule: 5:30 pm Supper
 6:30 pm Lenten worship



California Lutheran High School Choir—Sunday, Mar. 12

We will be blessed to have CLHS's traveling choir with us on Sunday, March 12. They will be beautifying our service with many musical selections.

In order to have them here, we've been asked to provide them with a supper at church on Saturday evening at 6:00 pm. Overnight hosts are also needed for the 36 students and chaperones who are in their entourage. And, we will need to send them off with a sack lunch for their trip back to Wildomar after Bible class.

Mary Sanchez is coordinating our efforts in hosting them. If you can help in any way or have questions about what's needed, please contact her.

The Church Council is giving CLHS an amount of money for their service to us. If you would like to add to that amount, a door offering will be taken that morning to show our appreciation.





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

What's next?

I've had a chance to think about that for over a year. It seems like just a couple months ago that I was on the phone with Travis regularly, arranging details for our family's move to Clovis. But, it's been over a year since we arrived. Where does the time go? We are so thankful for the support and friendship that everyone here at St. Peter's has extended to us.

In the last year, not only has my family gotten settled in the area, but our church has also been greatly blessed by the Lord. He has "settled" us, strengthened our stakes, and given us a spirit of unity in our faith, fellowship, and friendship.

So, what's next? I ask the question in the context of our church's ministries. After all, we are not here just for "ourselves." God has given us a mission to reach out with the gospel and share our Savior with those around us in our community and our own neighborhoods.

Of course a church should plan the "regular" things that a church does: Sunday worship, Bible classes, Catechism instruction, Sunday School, fellowship meals and events, and more. Yet as I've had an opportunity to reflect on certain aspects of St. Peter's objectively, I've thought of a few things that I believe are worth doing and trying to enhance our ministry opportunities and meet more people here in Clovis. Because I've been blessed to serve at three churches over the last 24 years and also serve our Wisconsin Synod as a consultant for the Commission on Congregational Counseling (CCC), I've had a chance to see a number of different churches' ministries in action as they reach out with the gospel.

I shared some thoughts with our Church Council and at the Voters Meeting, and I'd like to share them with our church at large as well for your thoughts, prayers, input, and (if you'd like) your help.

One of the foremost things in my mind is that I believe we should consider offering some type of children's ministries during the week that we can invite people to.

There are over 200 new movers within a 3-mile radius of our church property every month. (Read that again, if you need to!) Many of these new movers are families. Many of them have children that we can invite in some way and get to know.

We also have a terrific facility in Luther Hall with a large space, five classrooms, full kitchen and bathrooms. We don't need to hassle with rented or temporary space. We are on a very visible intersection for publicity. And, Luther Hall is available to use most of the week!

One of the ways our WELS congregations does children's ministry is by offering a meeting time for young mothers and their young children during the week. It affords a chance for children's activities—story time, Bible time, music time, play time—and also social time for the young moms (or grandparents or dads) that bring the kids. Offered once a week or twice a month, it doesn't involve a great deal of cost.

If the Lord opens doors in this area, eventually I believe it would be wise for our church to consider opening an **Early Childhood Ministry (ECM)** at our church. This is the new wave of outreach via education in our synod. An ECM can offer 3-year old, 4-year old, and/or 5-year old preschool classes by half or full days during the week. ECM's are tuition based and don't carry the cost burden that a grade school does for a congregation. And again, we have a great facility to start that conversation with.

Our synod now has 403 ECM's, compared to 313 grade schools. Martin Luther College, our college of ministry, has a training program specifically for ECM teachers that is separate from its grade school program, even operating an ECM of its own on their campus for hands-on training purposes for college students in that track.

The spiritual aspect could also be attractive to many in our conservative community. Bible stories, hymn singing, chapel by the pastor, and even singing for Sunday services could be offered. It would only take a regular group in the teens to have a viable program.

All that, of course, would be down the road, if the Lord leads in that direction. For now, I believe discussing some occasional weekday children's ministries would be wise. Please pray that God would keep our mission in front of us, and use us and our congregation to reach out and meet those around us in our corner of the world, and to share the Savior with them as we have opportunity!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Schewe

Easter is on Sunday,

April 16, 2017

Sunrise Service 6:30 am

Breakfast 8:45-9:30am

Worship Service 10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am



February Council Update (2/12/17 meeting)

- Outreach Committee met on 2/5 and discussed possible outreach opportunities. First event will be to publicize CLHS choir using banners for the street and sending out a limited mailing. Discussion also addressed the possibility of starting a fellowship group for parents with preschool children to meet at the church once a month.
- Council is working on updating and revising council member duties. A list of candidates for offices up for election this summer will be ready to present to the council at the March meeting. Candidate list will be posted in Luther Hall.
- Council approved a donation to the CLHS choir to help defray costs of travel. A free-will offering plate will be available in the church entry for those members who would like to donate to their cause.
- Next council meeting is scheduled for March 19. 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.



Daylight Saving Time
will begin on
Sunday, March 12

Campus Clean-up

There is a campus
clean-up day
scheduled for Sat-
urday, April 8
from 9:00am -
12:00 pm.



Those Who Serve—March

Ushers

Brian Lewis & Bob Dickson

Flowers

5—Bob & Mary Dickson

12—Jan Carter

19—Travis & Catherine Hambleton

26—Robert & Janet Zeisser

Altar Guild

Dorothy Teufel & Mary Dickson

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

5—Inge Stutz

12—Jan Carter

19—Vicki Schewe

26—Mary Sanchez

Lawn Mowing Teams

4—Jeff Carter & Ken Hoffmeyer

11—Hambleton & A.Schulz

18—Leo Schulz & Jonathan Farley

25—Hmong Congregation

Church Cleaning

4—Ken Hoffmeyer

11—Mike Farley

18—Jeff & Helen Hansen

25—Vicki Schewe

Luther Hall Cleaning

4—Ken Hoffmeyer

11—Jan Carter

18—Irene Payne

25—Vicki Schewe

March Birthdays

March 1—Vicki Schewe

March 5—Mettabel Taub

March 5—Linda Tran

March 6—Matt Evers

March 11—Jeff Carter

March 14—Alicia Branche

March 18—Mike Farley

March 19—Jack Hambleton

March 21—Sharon Farley

March 23—Robert Zeisser

March Anniversary

March 7—Bob & Mary Dickson



Family Bible Hour

Adults of all ages, join us in Luther Hall after church for a cup of coffee and refreshments. At 10:15, we're beginning a new Bible class series on the New Testament book of 1 Peter. We'll be discussing this book for the next few weeks. Children's Sunday School will be held at the same time in the church.

Wednesday Night Suppers

SIS is still looking for volunteers to make dinner on Wednesday evenings before the Lent worship services. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall if you're interested in serving dinner. The church will be paying for the main dish. If you've signed up for a dinner, you can talk to Mike Farley about reimbursement for the main dish. See June Lewis if you have any questions.

Care Call List Changes

St. Peter's Care Call list is a phone tree of members that pass on spiritual and emotional care needs to everyone on the list. We will be revising the care call list to include only those members who do not receive the weekly emails from Pastor Schewe, which include these prayer and support requests. If you would like to remain on the Care Call list regardless, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall. See Catherine Hambleton if you have any questions.

Home Visits

Pastor Schewe always enjoys spending time with our members and getting to know them better. If you haven't had the opportunity to have him come by for a home visit or a visit over a cup of coffee or lunch, let him know!



New Luther Movie with Reformation 500

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a new Luther movie has been produced. This film explores the life of Martin Luther and his quest for truth, bringing to life the key events of the Reformation. "It explores the truths of the Reformation: Christ at the center of our faith, the importance of God's undeserved grace, and the value of Scripture as the authority for all teaching in the Christian church," says Rev. John Braun, chairman of the Reformation 500 committee and author of a new book called *Luther's Protest*. Watch for more information, and plan on seeing it!

Bible Translation Update—Holman Christian Standard Bible

A revised version of the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) is now available and has been influenced by input from WELS pastors. This is one of three translations WELS considered adopting for use in publishing in 2013. The other two are NIV2011 and the ESV. The 2013 synod in convention chose not to adopt a single translation for WELS publications.

The WELS Translation Liaison Committee (TLC) discovered HCSB publishers would welcome input from WELS on revisions, and submitted 56 pages of recommendations dealing with issues not limited to one passage or context and 1,031 recommendations on individual passages.

Three members of the WELS TLC met with the publishers of the HCSB for five hours to discuss the suggested recommendations. All of the recommendations of the TLC have been incorporated in the revised text and a high percentage of our recommendations on individual passages." The WELS Conference of Presidents appointed a committee of five pastors to review the CSB. That group is planning a comprehensive review of the revised text that will involve a large number of WELS pastors. Stay tuned for more details.

When the print version is released in March, Northwestern Publishing House will begin offering the CSB for purchase.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Supper 6:30 Ash Wednesday (Communion)	2 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 3)	3 6:00 pm Wedding rehearsal	4 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 5) 5:00 Armstrong/Schulz Wedding
5 9:00 Worship (Communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour	6 Pastoral Circuit meeting	7 7:00 Board of Elders Meeting	8 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship (Pastor Schewe)	9 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 4)	10	11 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 6)
12 Move clocks forward 1 hour	13	14	15 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship (Pastor Schroeder)	16 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 5)	17	18 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 7)
19 9:00 Worship (Communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:30 Council Meeting	20	21	22 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship (Pastor Schewe)	23 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 6)	24	25 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 8) St. Peter Young Adults Outing
26 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour	27	28	29 4:00 Catechism 5:30 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship (Pastor Schroeder)	30 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 7)	31	1 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 9)



SIS Heart Luncheon

Sisters in Service (SIS) held their annual SIS Heart Luncheon on Sunday, February 12 at Marie Callender's. It was a great opportunity for Christian fellowship. Thanks to all those who organized games, decorations, and a devotion!



Member Profile—Brian & June Lewis

Brian and June Lewis first came to St. Peter after hearing their friends, Kathy Klein and Mary Ann Blalock, speak warmly about St. Peter. They decided to visit and knew they had found the church home we were seeking.

June was born in North Dakota and moved to Torrance, California when she was 3 years old. Brian's family was originally from the Los Angeles area and they settled in Torrance as well. Brian and June met each other on a blind date—set up by mutual friends. They agreed to the blind date and 5 years later they were married at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Torrance. They have been married for 43 years. Brian is retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation where he managed conservation camps in Southern California. He worked in various facilities throughout California from the northern border to the southern border. He currently works as a property manager for a ranch in Coursegold. Because of their many moves, June has held a variety of occupations: preschool teacher, church administrative assistant, and Pregnancy Care Center Director, to name a few. Brian and June have 2 children. Their daughter, Melanie, lives in Clovis and is a professor and Program Director for Teacher Librarian Services at Fresno Pacific University. Their son, Christopher, daughter-in-law, Ashley and their 2 grandchildren live in Susanville, CA.

In his free time, Brian enjoys playing the guitar, singing, and reading. June enjoys reading, quilting, knitting and crochet, and various needle arts. They enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and have fond memories with them at Disneyland. June loves to go back to her hometown in North Dakota as well. Something you might not know about Brian is that he is a Vietnam veteran. Something unique about June is that she went back to college at the age of 57. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. It was a great experience for her to complete a dream and do it in an atmosphere where she could share her faith. Beginning in 2017, June took on a new job....SIS president. We look forward to her leadership in this new service role.



We are glad to have Brian and June here with us at St. Peter!



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