



# THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

March 2019

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## Lent Begins in March

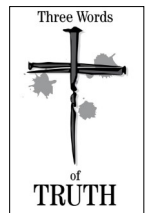
Ash Wednesday falls on March 6 this year. We will be offering special services for Lent that will focus our thoughts on the suffering and death of our Savior. Lent offers a time for repentance and joy in the forgiveness that our Savior won.

Wednesdays: 5:30 pm Supper served in Luther Hall (compliments of our SIS ladies group)

6:30 pm Midweek Worship (Series: *"Three Words of Truth"*)

Sunday series: *"Women of Lent"*

Make plans to join us on Sundays and Wednesdays during this meaningful time of year!



## "Prep Singers" Concert at St. Peter 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 Lenten / 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 by the kitchen door. Questions? See Mary Sanchez.





## Bible Classes at St. Peter

### Sunday mornings: "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 evenings (6:30 pm):

Will be replaced by our Lenten suppers and worship during the season of Lent. After Easter, we'll be starting a new series.

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Our hymnal's Occasional Services includes a rite for the Imposition of Ashes with these comments:

**"Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance. The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful gives Ash Wednesday its name."**

**The church father Tertullian (ca. A.D. 165-215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite for Christian burial: '...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...', words that will someday be spoken over us all."**

In the Scriptures, we hear of the mention of ashes connected with repentance with people such as Job (42:6), Ezekiel (27:30), Jeremiah 6:26), Daniel 9:3), and Mordecai (Esther 4:1).

Jesus encouraged the practice in Matthew 11:21.

The Imposition of Ashes is a form of symbolic communication, similar to the use of an Advent wreath, kneeling for communion, or bowing your head during prayer. For those who understand the symbolism, it can be a meaningful custom.

We hear comforting words about God's response to those who repent: *"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor."* (1 Samuel 2:8)

The custom of reintroducing the ashes to Ash Wednesday began in the 1950's in the liturgical movement as churches sought to reclaim many of Christianity's ancient and pure

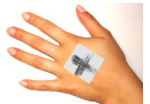
traditions. Many of our WELS churches offer the imposition of ashes each year.

We will offer ashes at the end of the Ash Wednesday service for only those who would like to come forward and receive them. It will be completely voluntary. After some introductory words, those who would like to receive them will be invited forward.

Ashes are normally applied to the forehead in the shape of the cross with the minister's words: *"Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."*



Those who prefer the ashes on their hand are welcome to extend their hand, palm down.



If you have any questions about the practice, please talk to me. If you're unsure of whether you'd like to participate, I'd encourage you to give it a try. It could be a meaningful start to your Lenten walk.

Serving Christ,

*Pastor Scheuwe*





## Daylight Saving Time Begins

A reminder that Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!



## March 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 March 16th dinner will be hosted by Don & Patti Sweetman. The April dinner will be postponed to the 27th because of Easter. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.

## Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ SIS will be organizing Lenten suppers starting in March. The sign up sheet is posted in Luther Hall. See Jan Carter for more information.
- ♥ 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.



March 1—Vicki Schewe  
 March 5—Mettabel Taub  
 March 5—Linda Tran  
 March 6—Matthew Evers  
 March 11—Jeff Carter  
 March 18—Mike Farley  
 March 19—Jack Hambleton  
 March 23—Robert Zeisser

## Those Who Serve—March

### Ushers

Leo Schulz & Brad Carter

### Flowers

3—Bob & Mary Dickson

10—Jan Carter

17—Travis & Catherine Hambleton

24—Don & Patti Sweetman

### Altar Guild

Mary Dickson & Ellen Gates

### Coffee & Dessert Hosts

3—Michelle Taub

10—Jan Carter

17—Mary Sanchez

24—Ellen Gates

31—Mary Sanchez

### Lawn Mowing Teams

2—Leo Schulz & Jonathan Farley

9—Faith Lutheran-Hmong

16—Curtis Garner & Barry Burghardt

23—Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

30—Mike Farley & Bruno Stutz

### Church Cleaning

2—Michelle Taub

9—Faith Lutheran-Hmong

16—Mary Schulz

23—Mary Schulz

30—Mary Schulz

### Luther Hall Cleaning

2—Don Sweetman

9—Barry Burghardt

16—Mary Schulz

23—Mary Schulz

30—Mary Schulz

### New Resident Mailing

Joan Hevron



**MARCH**  
ANNIVERSARIES

March 4—Travis & Madeline Armstrong

March 7—Bob & Mary Dickson

March 31—Justin & Sarah Dubin



## ECM Action Team Update

The new ECM Action Team has been meeting regularly since December. This new committee for 2019 has been tasked with carrying out the work laid out in the report to the congregation at the Open Forum and fall Voters Meeting, which is necessary for our church to open a Christian pre-school by August 2020.

The past weeks has been filled with discussion, securing more bids where prices might be lower than anticipated, filling out paperwork and applications, and permitting.



- During our Holiday Fund Drive, about \$66,000 in gifts and pledges were made toward the new pre-school. Praise God for this! May God move our members to follow through on these pledges for 2019.
- A fire alarm (required) is presently being designed and permitted.
- The modifications to Luther Hall are almost ready to submit to the Clovis building department for permitting.
- The playground fence, layout, and materials have garnered much discussion on the committee. Plans are to begin work on this in spring before the weather gets hot.

The target for completing the onsite preparations is around October. There will be opportunities for our members to help with various tasks once the work begins, to keep our costs at a minimum. Look for these opportunities and volunteer if you have skills in a certain area!

Please continue to 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.

## Prayers for our WELS mission in Haiti

Note from Lee Petersen on February 13, 2019:

Dear Friends of Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti, Inc.,

The political unrest in Haiti, which has been ongoing for months, has intensified in recent days. The unrest is driven by "a worsening economic crisis that has led to a drop in living standards, inflation at around 15 per cent, a growing national deficit, and allegations of corruption leveled at President Jovenel Moise, before he took office." according to the UN News.

Branch Schools is not immune during these challenging times. Pastor Terry Schultz, WELS missionary to Haiti, summarizes reports from the school directors: "The continued turmoil in Haiti has led to many businesses and markets closing for days on end. Our schools may be closed for the entire week. Meanwhile, prices on basic food supplies have skyrocketed between 30% to 100%. Huge increases are also reported in drinking water, charcoal, and cooking oil. At least one of the 3 orphanages (Boursiquot's) is down to one meal and one snack per day."

**HAITI UPDATE: February 20, 2019 (Lee Peterson):** Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We're so grateful for friends like you who are holding the children close in prayer during this time of hardship. The outpouring of concern during this crisis is truly humbling. We're receiving messages of encouragement from across the country. More than \$8,000 has been donated for food needs in Haiti so far.

Last week, we immediately sent money through secure means to the Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti, Inc. directors and we confirmed with them that the money was received and used to purchase food and cooking supplies. We are thankful for safe and modern means of transferring money across the world. We will continue to send your generous contributions to Haiti throughout the coming weeks and months as we do not foresee a decrease in food prices in the near term. Many news outlets are reporting Haiti is close to a humanitarian crisis. Two of the schools opened today after being closed for over a week. However, the situation remains perilous. The government opposition has established a 72-hour deadline for the government to resign or riots, unrest, and violence will resume. If you would like to donate toward these efforts, go to: <https://www.branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org/donate.html>



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>March 2019</h1>						
3 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	4	5 Luther Hall—Voting location for elections	6 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 3:30 Youth Catechism 5:30 Lenten supper <b>6:30 Lenten Worship</b>	7 7:00 Board of Elders	8	9 10-noon Fresno Parkinson's Support Group
10 <b>CHANGE CLOCKS</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Church Council	11	12 10:00 <i>Mornings with Mommy</i>	13 10:00 <i>Mornings w/ M.</i> 3:30 Youth Catechism 5:30 Lenten supper <b>6:30 Lenten Worship</b>	14	15	16 5:30 pm SPRY gathering
17 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	18 Pastoral Circuit Meeting (Modesto)	19	20 2:00 Youth Catechism	21 <b>Luther Prep</b> <b>Singers at St. Peter</b> 5 - 6 pm Supper <b>6:30 pm Concert</b>	22	23 8:00—11:00 Campus Clean-up
24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 ECM Action Team Meeting	25	26 10:00 <i>Mornings with Mommy</i>	27 10:00 <i>Mornings w/ M.</i> 3:30 Youth Catechism 5:30 Lenten supper <b>6:30 Lenten Worship</b>	28	29	30
31						

## Meet Bruce and Rebecca Oatman!

Bruce and Rebecca Oatman were recently welcomed into membership in our congregation on February 3rd. They were looking for a home congregation and felt very comfortable at St. Peter from the beginning. The congregation was welcoming and most importantly they appreciated the message and liturgical worship. They also liked that children were included in the service and not separated from their parents.

Both Bruce and Rebecca were born outside of California—Bruce in Indiana and Rebecca in Ohio. Bruce moved to California with his family when he was in high school. Rebecca moved to San Francisco in the mid-eighties. They met each other at a Lutheran singles retreat run by Bruce's brother. They met in March 1989 and took a leap of faith getting married just a few months later in June 1989 at West Portal Lutheran Church in San Francisco. Bruce was working as a code enforcement officer when he retired. He also worked as a mechanic and school bus driver. Rebecca is currently working for Fresno Unified as a school nurse.

They have four children—three live locally. Their oldest son has two daughters and lives in Nevada. Rebecca's parents and siblings live in New York and Texas. Bruce's father and siblings live in the Bay Area and Indiana.

Bruce and Rebecca feel very blessed to have been able to homeschool their children and to have had a lot of time with them. They have had many interesting experiences raising numerous farm animals including milking goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, rabbits, ostriches and sheep. For many years they gardened, canned, butchered much of our own meat and made many of our own dairy products. The farm animals are gone and the kids have moved out and they are in a different phase of life now. They've taken on a new challenge: they are attempting to train a diabetic service dog!

Rebecca loves reading, walking and music. Bruce enjoys mechanical things, riding his trike, ham radio and training the dog. They enjoy their time together at home, but still love going to see movies or visiting local wineries.

We are happy to welcome Bruce and Rebecca into our church family here at St. Peter!

## Heart SIS Luncheon

Sisters in Service (SIS) held their annual SIS Heart Luncheon on Sunday, February 10, trying a new location at Andiamo in Clovis this year. It was a great opportunity for Christian fellowship!

Many ladies signed up to be Secret Heart Sisters this year. This program is designed to for each member to uplift, encourage, pray for, and get to know their Secret Sister better. We'll reveal the secret at the Heart SIS Luncheon in 2020!



If you would like to include information in a future newsletter, please contact Catherine Hambleton at [secretary@stpeterclovis.org](mailto:secretary@stpeterclovis.org)