



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

April 2017
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Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week is almost upon us, a sacred time of the Church Year when we gather for a number of special worship opportunities. Our schedule will be:

Maundy Thursday (4/13)	6:30 pm (communion)
Good Friday (4/14)	6:30 pm (Tenebrae service)
Easter Sunday (4/16)	6:30 am Sunrise service
	8:45 - 9:30 am Easter breakfast
	10:00 am Festival service



After the Festival Service, there will be a Kids Easter Egg Hunt and some other activities, along with refreshments.

If it's been a while since you've joined us for Easter breakfast, make plans to come with the family and enjoy this time together. Some of our men will be cooking for you, and it's a special time of fellowship that we can share on this momentous holiday!

Member Profile—Travis & Madeline Armstrong

Travis Armstrong recently became a member of St. Peter in January after completing the Bible Basics Course with Pastor Schewe. Madeline (Schulz) has been a member of St. Peter for many years when she started to attend with her parents and two brothers. Travis visited St. Peter with Madeline and found that he really liked that St. Peter preaches the truth about God's word and follows it closely.

Travis originally lived in the Fresno/Clovis area but when his parents separated when he was 7 years old, he moved with his mom to Sacramento. He has a younger sister, Taylor, who lives in Sacramento, and a younger brother, Zakary, who lives in Fresno with his dad. Travis is currently a student at Fresno Pacific University studying political science and history and plans to graduate in December 2017. He works as a server at Pismo's Coastal Grill in River Park to fund his college education. After graduating, he hopes to get a job in sales or marketing. Madeline was raised on a grape farm on the Kings River in Kingsburg. She attended Kingsburg High School and later graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a degree in communications (with an emphasis in interpersonal and organizational communications). After graduating, she got a job at an event planner at the Holiday Inn in Visalia. In 2016 she started a new job as an event planner at the DoubleTree Hotel in Fresno.



Madeline and Travis were just married on March 4th at St. Peter. They met through

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Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

Have you ever seen a middle man in action?

In John 19 it says: *"The soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle"* (vv. 16-18).

When Jesus was crucified, he was the middle man. Two criminals were executed along with him, one on his right, the other on his left.

However, there's more to it than that. The physical location where Jesus died wasn't the most important fact. When we speak of a middle man, we're often referring to the person between two parties who "makes things happen." If there is communication that needs to take place, or a deal that needs to be struck, the middle man is the crucial person. He carries out the negotiation and communication that's necessary.

In Hebrews 10, it says, *"Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence... He has appeared once for all at the end of the age to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself... Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many"* (vv. 24-28).

Christ served as the middle man in the greatest act of reconciliation that's ever occurred. He placed himself between us and God's righteous wrath and made the perfect payment that was needed for our sin and guilt. He offered his blood, his life, his all so that peace between us and God could be established.

How perfect was this service as our middle man? Paul would later write, *"God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross"* (Colossians 1:19,20). Jesus served as the middle man more perfectly than another other mediator in history, reconciling "all things!"

Not only this, but he continues to serve as our middle man. Paul wrote in Romans 8, *"Christ is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us"* (v. 34).

Not only did Jesus serve as our mediator to redeem us, he also pleads our case before his Father in heaven. Based on his own work, he prays, "Father, forgive them" when we have gone astray. What a comfort this is, knowing that our gracious Savior is still serving us by praying for us! Nothing will separate us from his love or his petitions on our behalf.

But that's not the end of the story. At the end of time and beyond, Jesus will continue to be the middle man: *"The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.' And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"* (Revelation 7:17).

Jesus will continue to be the middle man, but not in offering payments or pardons. He will take his rightful place of glory at the center of God's heavenly throne. There he will receive all the worship and praise he deserves forever. There we will sing to the middle man:

*"Amen!
Praise and glory
And wisdom and thanks and honor
And power and strength
Be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!"*

Lenten blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Schewe

SPRY Outing

At the end of February, sixteen members of the SPRY group went to dinner at the Double Tree hotel and then walked across the street to the Saroyan Theater to see the International Folk Dancers Ensemble perform. According to one participant, "It turned out to be better than anticipated." It was a fun evening for all!



Easter Egg Hunt

The Outreach Committee is preparing the Easter Egg Hunt for kids after the Easter worship service on Sunday, April 16th. Everyone is welcome to come out and watch the kids hunt!



Family Bible Hour

Adults, we have a few more lessons on the New Testament book of 1 Peter left to discuss on Sundays in April. Join us in Luther Hall after church for a cup of coffee and refreshments. We begin about 10:15 am.

Children's Sunday School will be held at the same time in the church.

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!

March Council Update (3/19/17 meeting)

- Council is working on updating and revising council member duties. A list of candidates for offices up for election this summer was presented to the council. Those up for a new 2 year term will be Scott Crossfield (Vice-President), Mike Farley (Treasurer), Travis Hambleton (Trustee), Leo Schulz (Outreach), Bruno Stutz (Head Elder). Candidate list will be posted in Luther Hall. These names will be presented to the voters at the **Voters' Meeting on April 30th.**
- A total of \$851 was donated to the CLHS choir. This includes the \$250 the council approved at the February meeting as well as the free-will donations at the end of the service on 3/12.
- There was discussion about starting a "Mommy and Me" or "Little Lambs" Children's Ministry at the church. Pastor Schewe will consult with someone who has started these programs before for input on how St. Peter can get its own started.
- Next council meeting is scheduled for April 9th. 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.



Those Who Serve—April

Ushers

Norm Vander Poel

Flowers

2—Don & Patti Sweetman

9—Mary Sanchez

16—Easter

23—Chue Lao

30—Don & Patti Sweetman

Altar Guild

Marilyn Hood & Joan Hevron

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

2—Jan Carter

9—Irene Payne

16—Easter Breakfast

23—Leslie Fitzgerald

30—Mary Sanchez

Lawn Mowing Teams

1—Hansen/Garner/Burghardt

8—Stutz/M.Farley/Dickson

15—Schewe Family

22—Sweetman/J.Schulz/Saethre

29—Carter/Hoffmeyer

Church Cleaning

1—Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

8—Hmong Congregation

15—Kelly Curry

22—Bruno & Inge Stutz

29—Ken Hoffmeyer

Luther Hall Cleaning

1—Mary Sanchez

8—Hmong Congregation

15—Bob & Mary Dickson

22—Don Sweetman

29—Ken Hoffmeyer

April Birthdays

3—Jan Carter

5—Emma Bornemann

11—Dorothy Teufel

16—Joshua Schulz

18—Collin Schulz

24—Lucy Farley

30—Bruno Stutz

April Anniversary

April 17—Jeff & Helen Hansen

Worship Conference Registration Now Open—Irvine, CA



Registration is now open for the eighth triennial National Conference on Worship Music & the Arts. This year's conference will be held in two locations: **Concordia University, Irvine, Calif., June 27–30** and Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis., from June 13–16.

Thousands of WELS members have attended worship conferences in the past to be enriched by presentations about worship, music, liturgy, and liturgical art; to experience daily worship with WELS members from around the country; to participate in choirs and musical ensembles; and to be inspired with ideas for their local congregations.

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, chair of the conference planning committee and director of the Commission on Worship, says the planning committee works to offer presentations for everyone. "To see the value of topics for laypeople who aren't musicians," he says, "look for presentations on worship and outreach, church renovation, strategic planning and worship enrichment, and communicating Christ in the 21st century."



This year, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, the conference also will include special presentations examining Lutheran history with application to the present and will feature five Reformation-themed services that showcase newly commissioned texts and music from 15 composers and poets.

A special Reformation 500 grant from Thrivent Financial is making it possible to offer the second regional conference in California. This conference will include many of the same presentations and worship services as the Kenosha conference, though it will be on a slightly smaller scale.

"This is a great opportunity for those who perhaps have found distance to be a factor in not attending past conferences," says Rev. Mark Schewe, pastor at St. Peter, Clovis, Calif., and worship coordinator for the Arizona-California District. "I think it's good for all of us to understand our deep Lutheran roots and also the Christian freedom that we have to worship the Lord in many forms."

The regional conference also will allow more teens and children to be involved, with an honor choir and a children's choir being planned for each site. "The 2011 conference featured a 40-voice children's choir for the first time," says Gerlach. "This was so successful that the 2017 children's choir will be even larger, up to 80 voices for the Kenosha site. This choir will model possibilities with children, serving as an inspiration for both children and other attendees." The honor choir will give high school students the opportunity to participate in the conference as well as sing in the closing service.

Gerlach says he's excited for the opportunity to take the conference "on the road." "We pray it will offer more people a chance to be personally inspired and then to take ideas back home to enrich worship in their own churches."

You can register for either conference at wels.net/worshipconference. Singers (adults, teens, and children) and instrumentalists also can sign up to participate in choirs and worship. The registration deadline for the honor choir and the children's choir is March 15, if possible, but later registrations are also welcome.

Conference Brings Together World Missionary Wives

Twenty-four world missionary wives gathered together in Athens, Greece, from Feb. 23–27. This conference, the first of its kind, was funded by the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society.

As Mrs. Julia Wagenknecht, a member of the conference planning committee who has spent time on many different world mission fields, explains, "The theme for our precious four days together was '(En) Courage in Christ,' and that theme weaved into areas of family life, ministry, and cross-cultural experiences. Many hugs were exchanged along with stories of blessings and challenges from those recently new to a mission field to some who have spent 30-plus years in world mission service."

Mrs. Susan Nitz, who serves alongside her husband, Paul, in Malawi, says, "By the end of the conference, it seemed as if we were all close friends instead of strangers, and it was evident that the goal of our conference had been met—to make connections with sisters in Christ serving in distant places and form friendships and relationships that will certainly continue after our brief four days together."



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 Worship (communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour	3	4	5 3:45 Catechism 5:30 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship (Pastor Schroeder)	6 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 8)	7 8:00 am Board of Elders Meeting	8 9:00 - noon Spring Clean-up! 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 10)
9 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:35 Church Council	10	11 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 9)	12 4:00 No Catechism (Spring break)	13 5:30 Supper 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship (communion)	14 6:30 Good Friday Tenebrae Service	15 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 11)
16 Easter Day 6:30 Sunrise Worship 8:45-9:30 Breakfast 10:00 Festival Worship 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt	17	18	19 4:00 Catechism 5:30 SIS Board Meeting at church	20 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 10)	21	22 9:00 Bible Basics Course (Session 12)
23 9:00 Worship (communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour	24 Pastoral Spring Conference	25	26 4:00 Catechism	27 6:30pm Bible Basics Course (Session 11)	28	29
30 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:45 Voters' Meeting 11:45 SIS Meeting						





California Lutheran High School Traveling Choir Enjoyed by All!

On Sunday, March 12, the CLHS Exaltation Choir was here to beautify our worship service with their music. Our church was their last stop on their spring tour through northern California. The 32 students were hosted by eight different St. Peter families on Saturday night and the kids left kind thank-you cards for their host families before they left! At the end of the worship service, our children's choir was able to sing along with the choir in their final song "God Be With You Til We Meet Again." After the service, we tried out a new idea presented by the Outreach Committee to host refreshments outside. It was a beautiful day and was a great opportunity to try out the new idea. We thank the CLHS students, teachers, and chaperones for their visit! Thank you also to everyone who hosted students overnight in their homes, provided food, or helped in any other way!



“All-Church Picture” on Sunday, April 30

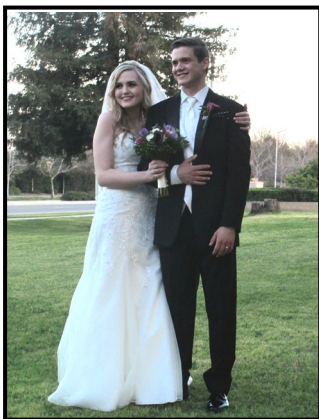
Our Church Council has set SUNDAY, APRIL 30 as the day when we will take an “all-church picture” after our worship service. What does this mean? We will have everyone gather in the space in front of the church doors and have a few quick pictures taken by someone on a ladder from the parking lot. It's not intended to take a great deal of time, but simply to gather people and take a few shots.

Pictures like this can be neat to display and to save for posterity. Please plan to be at church that day (of course!), and to be ready to gather after the church service is over.



Member Profile—Travis & Madeline Armstrong

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a mutual friend and co-worker who set them up on a blind date. Early in the relationship it was clear to them that it was God's will that they were meant to share their lives together. They were married about a year after going on their first date. They recently returned from their honeymoon in Maui and hope to travel more in the future.

In his free time, Travis enjoys reading, cooking, and working out. He likes to read a wide range of topics: politics, economics, business, philosophy, science, religion, history, and many others. Madeline enjoys baking and cooking, reading, shopping, and playing with her little cousins (she has a lot of them!)

Family relationships play a big role in both of their lives. They have many fond memories of family trips and holidays with their parents and siblings. They look forward to making their own memories as they start their new life together.



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