



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

April 2018
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Happy Easter!

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ on the first day of the month, may you have the peace, comfort, and joy of knowing that our Savior Jesus' mission of salvation has been completed for you. *"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)



The Lord is Risen!

The fact that Jesus rose victoriously from the dead has sealed our redemption and salvation before God, validated the life and ministry of Jesus, and assures us that we shall live eternally. Hallelujah!

Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) Committee Update

The St. Peter ECM Committee has been meeting since January. Its assignment has been to discuss the possibility and feasibility of whether our church should consider opening an Early Childhood Ministry center, more simply termed a Christian pre-school. Such pre-schools are a common way many of our WELS churches are teaching the gospel to children directly in their mission to spread the Word, and an outreach opportunity in inviting young families to Sunday worship and the other ministries a church offers.

Our ECM Committee has been made up of: Jeff & Helen Hanson, Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald, and Pastor Schewe. In April, the committee will be expanding to add Ellen Gates, John & Teresa Barber, and Matt & Shay Evers. The committee has been following the discussion guide provided by our Wisconsin Synod called **"Building Blocks."**

The next step of discussion involves: Personal interviews and pulse group discussions with church members to see what questions they might have about the potential for this ministry at St. Peter and what their initial reaction is; researching other preschools near us in Clovis to see what they are doing and how they do it, researching our neighborhood's demographics, and preparing a recommendation for the congregation regarding whether to proceed with more discussion about opening an ECM at St. Peter or not. The ECM Committee is also recommending that Mike Fitzgerald be ratified as the chairman of the ECM Committee.

Stay tuned for information on when interviews and pulse group opportunities will be coming this spring and summer. If you have any questions, let Pastor Schewe know. May God bless our congregational discussions and research on whether we should pursue this ministry of gospel proclamation and outreach.



Our "Mornings with Mommy" sessions are enjoying getting to know about 15-20 children aged 0-4 at the four monthly sessions



Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

“This changes everything!”

How many times could that phrase have been said down through time?

- When the first wheel was devised by some inventive mind millennia ago, that phrase certainly would have fit.
- When digital images were first successfully stored and retrieved (unless you really enjoyed taking those rolls of film in).
- When Orville and Wilbur Wright successfully got their wooden aircraft off the ground at Kitty Hawk, NC.
- When the smallpox vaccine was developed.

As we celebrate Easter once again this year, the same—and more—could be said.

You might remember the facts surrounding that first Easter Day. The women made their way from their homes to the tomb early that first Easter morning. They had spices. They wondered who would move the stone for them.

But then a revelation! And one that changed everything. The stone was rolled away! The guards were gone. Angels were present. And the message was proclaimed, “He is not here. He is risen!” The disciples were now to go to Galilee for more instruction from the risen Savior before he would ascend into heaven.

That sure changed everything for Jesus’ followers that day. The women hurried back to Jerusalem. Peter and John sprinted to the tomb. Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Lord. The disciples on the way to Emmaus walked and talked with him.

But more had changed. Romans 4 says, “Christ was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification. (4:25, NASB). Because Jesus’ payment for our sins was sufficient, God the Father raised him from the dead.

Current Bible Classes:

Sundays (10:20 am)

“Lessons from Joseph and his Brothers”

After our current Bible class on the book of JAMES ends on April 8, we will begin a new series on the Old Testament believer Joseph. Join us for this brand new class and discussion!

Wednesdays (6:30 pm)

The Wednesday evening gatherings begin again on April 4. We will be finishing up “ELIJAH: Fiery Prophet of God.” Join us “live” at church, or LIVE on our church Facebook page!

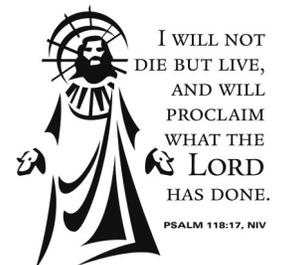
Our sins have been atoned for! We have been declared righteous and members of God’s family when we did not deserve it. We are reconciled with God. We have a place in heaven. This changes everything!

Even more has changed. Titus 2 says, “Christ redeemed us from every lawless deed, and to purify for himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds” (2:14, NASB). This changes our life, and the way we use our time, talents, and possessions. Those who have been touched by the grace of God to know and believe the message of the empty tomb will no longer live for themselves. They will no longer have selfish aims and goals. They will strive to put sin behind them. This changes everything.

Easter truly is the singular event in the history of the world that has changed everything. May this joy touch us on Easter Day and in the days after. And may we share this good news with others around us, both personally and also as we carry out the mission of our church, so that they can know about this event that changed everything.

He is risen, indeed!

Pastor Schewe

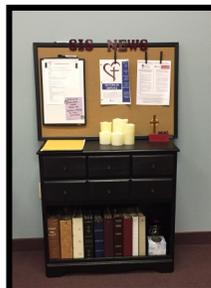


April SPRY Activities

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. On Saturday, April 21st at 5:30 pm, SPRY have their monthly dinner. The dinner will be hosted by Bruno & Inge Stutz in Luther Hall. For more information, contact Inge Stutz.

Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ Board Meeting April 15th
- ♥ General Meeting April 29th
- ♥ **Please bring your Mite Boxes to the April 29th meeting**
- ♥ SIS Bulletin Board & Cabinet—If you'd like to see the latest SIS news, look for the bulletin board by the Luther Hall kitchen for details throughout the year.
- ♥ LWMS Redwood Circuit Rally: Saturday, April 21st at Apostles in San Jose
- ♥ 55th Annual LWMS Convention: Green Bay, Wisconsin June 21-24
- ♥ The next SIS Quarterly Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 29th.



Those Who Serve—April

Ushers

Curtis Garner & Barry Burghardt

Flowers

1—Easter

8—Joshua & Natalie Bornemann

15—Travis & Catherine Hambleton

22—Mary Sanchez

29—Bruno & Inge Stutz

Altar Guild

Marilyn Hood & Joan Hevron

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

1—Easter Breakfast

8—Mary Sanchez

15—Ellen Gates

22—Inge Stutz

29—Mary Sanchez

Lawn Mowing Teams

7—Schewe & Blankenship

14—Travis Hambleton

21—Jeff Hansen & Don Sweetman

28—Carter/Hoffmeyer/Dubin

Church Cleaning

7—Jo Hobensack

14—Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

21—John & Teresa Barber

28—Kelly Curry

Luther Hall Cleaning

7—Vicki Schewe

14—Mary Sanchez

21—John & Teresa Barber

28—Bob & Mary Dickson

April Birthdays

April 3—Jan Carter

April 5—Emma Bornemann

April 11—Dorothy Teufel

April 16—Joshua Schulz

April 18—Collin Schulz

April 24—Lucy Farley

April 30—Bruno Stutz

April Anniversaries

April 17—Jeff & Helen Hansen

April 30—Aaron & Madi Machado



QUARTERLY
Meeting

April 29th
Voters' Meeting
and
SIS General
Meeting

March Council Meeting Update (3/18/18)

- The following council positions are open for nominations and elections: President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Elders (2), Education, Stewardship. The nominating committee will be announcing a slate of names for the April voter's meeting.
- The church council has decided that the offering from the Lenten mid-week services will go to tuition support for Emily & Rachel Schewe as they are studying to become called workers.
- Outreach: An Outreach committee met to discuss Early Childhood Ministry options for our church. They have completed part 1 of 5 from the WELS Planning Binder. They will continue with their discussions. There is also research being done to possibly have a church booth 1-2 weeks per month at the Clovis Farmers Market.
- Fresno Parkinson's Support Group had their first meeting on 3/10/18 in Luther Hall. They will continue to meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10-12:00. They have committed to use the building from March—July.
- The council has decided to bring the issue of the pew fund to the voters. At the April voters' meeting, the voters will be asked to decide whether the pew fund should continue in its current state, or be released into the general fund/special projects in accordance with the wishes of the people who donated to the pew fund.
- Elder's Report: Scott Crossfield requested a release of his membership. Brooke Teixeira has requested a transfer in from The Spring in Reno, NV.
- Communion Sundays in April will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (4/8 and 4/22).
- Next council meeting is scheduled for April 8th. 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.

New World Mission in South America

This summer two missionaries from the One Latin America (1LA) mission team will be moving to Ecuador. This will be the first time WELS will have an active mission presence in the South American country. Rev. Nathan Schulte and Rev. Phil Strackbein have begun making arrangements to make the move. Schulte currently serves in Mexico, and Strackbein serves in Bolivia.

The missionaries' first priorities will be to find a location for a Christian training center while also settling in themselves and doing boots-on-the-ground work, meeting their neighbors and learning more about the community.

Learn more about WELS Missions at wels.net/missions and check out Academia Cristo at academiacristo.com.



Appeals Court to Hear Case on Clergy Housing Allowance

For many years the federal government has allowed ministers of the gospel, as defined by the IRS, to deduct the cost of housing from their salaries (often referred to as the "Clergy Parsonage Allowance"). Last year, a lawsuit challenging this tax benefit was filed in a federal court in Wisconsin, arguing that this benefit provided to clergy is unconstitutional. The court ruled with the plaintiffs and declared that the IRS could no longer provide this exemption.

The case was immediately appealed by the Federal Government and will come before a federal appeals court in the coming months. The Church Alliance, an organization of church benefit plan administrators, has filed a "friend of the court" brief in support of the appeal. WELS has expressed its support for this appeal and is also participating in the effort with the Church Alliance organization. While we recognize that this benefit, like other tax exemptions, is not one that we can demand from our government, we are very much aware of the benefits that this provides to those who serve in our synod as ministers of the gospel. Regardless of the outcome, we trust that the Lord of the Church will continue to provide for the needs of those who serve him in gospel ministry.

April 2018



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 6:30 Sunrise Worship 8:45 Breakfast 10:00 Easter Worship Sunday School Choir sings 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt	2	3	4 4:00 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Class	5 6:30 Bible Basics Course	6	7
8 9:00 Worship (comm.) 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:30 Church Council 11:30 ECM Committee	9	10 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	11 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 4:00 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Class	12 6:30 Bible Basics Course	13	14 10:00 Fresno Parkin- son's Support Group (Luther Hall)
15 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:30 SIS Board Meeting	16 6:30 Bible Basics Course	17 [Redacted]	18 [Redacted]	19 [Redacted]	20 [Redacted]	21 LWMS Spring Rally (San Jose, CA) 5:30 SPRY (Luther Hall) Hosted by the Stutzes
22 9:00 Worship (comm.) 10:15 Family Bible Hour	23 Spring Pastors Confer- ence (Penryn, CA)	24 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	25 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 4:00 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Class	26 6:30 Bible Basics Course	27	28
29 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:30 Voters' Meeting 11:30 SIS Quarterly Meeting	30	1	2 4:00 Youth Catechism 6:30 Bible Class	3 6:30 Bible Basics Course	4	

New Member Profile: Robert & Anncy English

Robert (Bob) and Anncy English recently completed the Bible Basics Course taught by Pastor Schewe and will be welcomed as new members in April. They recently purchased a dental practice in the Fresno area and visited St. Peter. They love the small atmosphere and the Biblically sound doctrine that Pastor Schewe preaches and instructs.

Bob was raised in Alaska and attended the University of Alaska. He moved to San Francisco to attend dental school at University of the Pacific, School of Dentistry. Bob's parents have passed away but he has a younger brother in Iowa and a younger sister in Alaska. Anncy was raised in Taiwan and the US where she came for college. She attended Purdue University. Anncy's parents live in Taiwan and she has a brother living in Hawaii and a brother in Milpitas.

Bob and Anncy were both single for about 20 years when they were encouraged to sign up for eHarmony and that's how they met each other. They were married in San Francisco in December 2014. They own two dental practices, one in San Francisco and the other in Fresno. Bob handles the dentistry while Anncy is the clinical administrator for both businesses. They recently purchased a new business they're excited about—Mini Dental Implant Centers of America. They will help people with loose or ill-fitting dentures achieve stabilization and a better quality of life. They are on the cutting edge of technology and can help improve people's lives at a fraction of the cost of traditional implants.

As far as hobbies and traveling go, they'd love to have hobbies and travel anywhere in the world, but their businesses keep them far too busy!

We are very happy to welcome them into our church family here at St. Peter!



Lutheran Women Missionary Society Rally—Saturday, April 21st



LWMS rallies are semi-annual gatherings where mission-minded women come together to encourage one another in spiritual growth and mission awareness. They are usually held in the

spring and the fall. These are a wonderful opportunity to meet or join the women for worship, fellowship, and learning about missions at home and around the world. There are 60 LWMS circuits and St. Peter is part of the Redwood circuit. The Redwood Circuit Rally will be held on Saturday, April 21st at Apostles Lutheran Church in San Jose (5828 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose.)

LWMS Pastoral Advisors prepare devotions for use at the circuit rallies. This year, Pastor Brock Groth from St. Marks in Citrus Heights will be speaking on Mission Work in East Asia and South Asia. Pastor Groth has been serving as associate pastor at St. Mark's since June of 2017. Before coming to St. Mark's, he served as a counselor to India for two years following his graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI, in 2015. He is a second-career pastor, previously graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, in 2006.



Moms, Register Online Today for the April Sessions!

April 10 or 11 - Rain, Clouds and Puddles

April 24 or 25 - Frogs, Ducks, and Pond Animals

Come get to know the moms from our neighborhood who are coming to these play-dates!



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