



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

June 2017
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stpeterclovis.org

New Members Welcomed May 14

On Sunday, May 14, we welcomed four new members into the St. Peter family:

John and Teresa Barber

Aaron and Madi Machado

All of them finished the spring edition of our church's *Bible Basics Course*. How blessed we are to have them among us! Make sure you introduce yourself to them. And, look for member profiles of these folks in the next weeks and months!



Member Profile—The Ergo Family

Marcus and Amanda Ergo were married for twelve years before Marcus died of cancer in October of 2010. They have two sons: twelve-year-old Zachary, and nine-year-old James. Amanda was confirmed at St. Peter where her family attended for many years. After Marcus and Amanda moved back to the Central Valley from Reno (where they lived for two years), they began attending St. Peter. The family enjoys learning and growing in faith, especially with the Sunday School program. A highlight of their week is singing and playing with friends at St. Peter.

The Ergos enjoy their simple, small-town life in Kingsburg. They live in a little fixer-upper cottage they discovered sixteen years ago. Amanda and the boys enjoy being outdoors working in the yard, growing pumpkins, sunflowers and succulents, or digging in their dirt fort. With so many family members living in the same town, family get-togethers are almost constant. (Cousin Jack has "his" spot at the counter for meals.)

Even though their lives are simple, the pace is not slow. Zachary and James are involved in many school and after-school activities. Zachary is in his fifth year of piano lessons. He also plays the clarinet and oboe. James is in his fourth year of piano at Reedley School of Music. He has also started guitar lessons and really has shown a natural talent for it. Zachary and James both swim for the Kingsburg Sea Wolves. This year they started to participate in the Kingsburg 4H program and enjoy their horticulture and poultry groups. They recently became chicken farmers and have 9 chickens! Amanda, a former high school teacher, acts as "support staff" to Zachary and James.



Continued on page 6



Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

What do you know about St. Peter Catechism classes?

This is the time of year when confirmations are happening around out synod, so perhaps it's a fitting time to update you on our church's Catechism instruction.

Before a youth is ready for confirmation, they're instructed for anywhere from two to four years. I'm planning to have students for three years of Catechism class before they're confirmed. During each of the first two years, half of the Catechism material is covered, along with material on Martin Luther's life and the Wisconsin Synod. In the third year, the entire Catechism is taught, to reinforce the doctrines learned and to allow for deeper discussion questions for the older kids.

This model allows for students to be combined during the first two years, and for the oldest students (year 3) to have their own, more advanced lecture and discussion time. During years 2 and 3 of Catechism, students are also required to write one-page sermon summaries of a number of Sunday sermons during the year.

This year, Abigail Schewe has been taking her final year of Catechism instruction. Before Confirmation Day, it's also a custom in Lutheran circles to examine youth confirmands to give them a chance to express their faith



and exhibit what they have learned in their studies. Abigail will be examined in the May 28 church service by way of questions and answers, and also by reading essays that she has written about various doctrines.

Confirmation Day is then scheduled for June 4. After that ceremony, Abigail will

be a communicant member of the congregation and our Wisconsin Synod.

Our Junior Catechism class has had three students this past year, all of whom are taking their first year of Catechism instruction. The students are Zachary Ergo, Jonathan Farley, and Jada Gregg. We meet on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm during the regular school year.

Next year, God willing, these three will be in their second year of class and any 6th graders will be eligible to join them. No confirmands will be ready at the end of next year, but after the following year these three would be ready for examination and confirmation.

It is such a blessing to teach these young people! They are eager to learn, and to talk about the teachings of God's Word and how they apply to their lives.

May God continue to bless the youth of our church and build up their faith in the Scriptures so that they might be "wise for salvation!"

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Schewe

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:5)



Jada, Jonathan, and Zachary enjoying the day's class



Catechism

April Voters' Meeting Update (4/30/17 meeting)

- Discussion held regarding starting a “Mornings with Mommy” program or other Early Childhood Ministry program at St. Peter
- Stewardship—Considering starting a “New Member Assimilation” program to help new members feel welcome and become active in our ministry.
- Next Church Work Day will be June 10th
- Pastor Daniel Thao from our Hmong congregation received a call to serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church (Hmong) in Minnesota. (If he accepts the call, it is likely that the Clovis congregation will consolidate with the Fresno congregation at the Fresno site.)
- Five officers were newly elected at the Voters' Meeting. Vice President—Scott Crossfield; Treasurer—Mike Farley; Elder—Bruno Stutz; Outreach—Leo Schulz, Trustee—Travis Hambleton
- Next council meeting is scheduled for June 11. 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.

Sisters In Service Meeting Notes (4/30/17 meeting)

- St. Peter is now a paying member (\$75/year) of LWMS (Lutheran Women Missionary Society); SIS members collect money in mite boxes to raise money for organization. There are local and national LWMS rallies held each year. Patti Sweetman is contact person.
- Irene Payne is Historian. If you have any photos for her, put them in her church mailbox or email them to secretary@stpeterclovis.org
- SIS organized a Mother's Day craft for the kids to make on 5/14
- SIS is doing a fundraiser in May for “New Beginnings, A Home for Mothers”
- SIS Constitution & Bylaws were recently revised and approved at April meeting

June Birthdays

June 4—Zebulon Taub
June 4—Amanda Carter
June 12—June Lewis
June 13—Zachary Ergo
June 14—Emily Schewe
June 14—Rachel Schewe
June 17—Inge Stutz
June 21—Dillon Fitzgerald
June 23—Leslie Fitzgerald
June 25—Michael Carter



Those Who Serve—June

Ushers

Karl Saethre

Flowers

4—Jan Carter

11—Trina Gilbert

18—Donna Vander Poel

25—Marilyn Hood

Altar Guild

Dorothy Teufel & Mary Dickson

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

4- Jan Carter

11- Mary Sanchez

18—Donna Vander Poel

25—Jan Carter

Lawn Mowing Teams

3—Stutz/M.Farley/Dickson

10—Schewe Family

17—Sweetman/Schulz/Saethre

24—Jeff Carter/Ken Hoffmeyer

Church Cleaning

3- Michelle Taub

10—Mike Farley

17—Jeff & Helen Hansen

24—Ken Hoffmeyer

Luther Hall Cleaning

3- Andrew & Niki Schulz

10- Jan Carter

17—Travis & Madeline Armstrong

24—Ken Hoffmeyer

June Anniversaries

June 9—Brian & June Lewis

June 13—Leo & Mary Schulz

June 16—Norm & Donna Vander Poel

June 19—Mark & Vicki Schewe

June 20—Justin & Stacy Shrum

June 21—Jonathan & Keren Farley

Martin Luther College Celebrates Graduation

On May 13, 145 students earned degrees marking the completion of their ministerial training at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn. This included 29 bachelor of arts (preseminary) degrees, 89 bachelor of science in education degrees (including 16 early childhood education), 5 bachelor of science degrees, and 4 seminary certifications. In addition, 18 students received their master of science in education degree.



MLC President Rev. Mark Zarling presented the commencement sermon on the theme, *"Courage for the Commission."* The sermon text chosen by the class, John 16:33, states: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In

Luther Movie Screenings

Perhaps you know that a new "Luther movie" has been made, as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Hundreds of WELS congregations and groups have already hosted screenings of the new film, *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy* in their local communities, and hundreds more are planning showings in the upcoming months.

Mr. Lee Hitter, director of WELS Communications, says he is thrilled to see WELS congregations take advantage of this opportunity to highlight God's grace and the anniversary of the Reformation in their communities. "The reaction from our members that have seen the film is tremendous," he says. "Every Lutheran should make it a priority to see it on the big screen. Celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences."

Northwestern Publishing House is offering many resources connected to the film, including DVDs of the actual movie in November.



Pastor Charles & Connie Cortright

Pastor Charles Cortright was the pastor of St. Peter when we were just a small mission church meeting in a sandwich shop and later in a school auditorium. He left St. Peter in March 1990 after accepting a call to the east coast. He has served at our WELS pastoral college and several other congregations since.

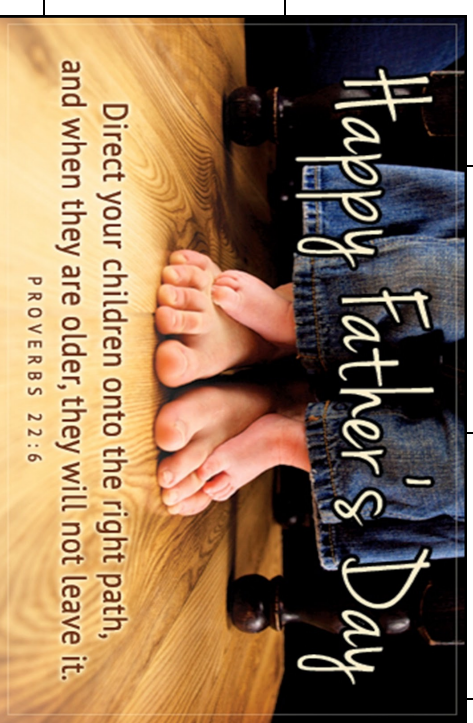
Pastor Cortright just recently accepted a call to serve in Europe. He and Connie are now living in Prague, Czech Republic. He will be a missionary and theological educator in the Eurasia region. He will be "helping to strengthen Lutheran pastors to bring Jesus to de-Christianized Europe." He will be working at first with a young vicar in Romania, mentoring him to become the only confessional Lutheran pastor who will preach in Romanian. Sorin-Horia Trifa lives in Bucharest, Romania. So while their home base is in Prague, they will be traveling there to work with him.

Connie Cortright is writing a blog to document their time in Prague. If you're interested in following their journey, you can visit her website at conniecortright.org.



June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 5:30 Wedding rehearsal (Brittney Fund & Evan Blankenship)	3 District Delegate Conference (Vacaville) 3:30 Wedding
4 Confirmation Day 9:00 Worship (communion) 10:00 Confirmation re- ception	5	6	7 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study LIVE on Facebook	8	9	10 Church Clean up Day 9:00—12:00
11 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour 11:35 Church Council	12	13 6:30 Family Storytime	14 4:00 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study LIVE on Facebook	15	16	17 5:30 pm SPRY
18 Father's Day 9:00 Worship (communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour	19	20 6:30 Family Storytime	21 6:30 Bible Study LIVE on Facebook	22	23	24
25 Installation of elected officers 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour	26	27 6:30 Family Storytime	28 6:30 Bible Study LIVE on Facebook	29		



Family Story Time

What is it?

An outreach program to invite our church neighbors. The program is an 8-week literacy program. It's intended to stop the summer slide and help equip parents with the basic reading tools for their children.

When?

Tuesday evenings in Luther Hall, beginning June 13.

What we will offer

This is a community event that we'll be publicizing. Our church will offer:

- Read-out-loud stories and interactive singing
- Free books and other literacy items
- Small craft
- Ice cream treat

How you can help...

- 1) Donating new children's books, or \$ for books
- 2) Donating ice cream, toppings, or cookies
- 3) Sign up to help during a reading night
- 4) ATTEND! And bring friends with young children
- 5) Help with tagging the new books with our info



Parking Lot Resurfacing

In May, our church parking lot received a makeover, with two coats of sealer and new striping. The work crew also added 4-square, hopscotch, and basketball lines for the kids to enjoy. This was done for a cost of \$4000, a great deal and a great improvement to our property!



Member Profile—The Ergo Family *(continued from first page)*

As the boys have gotten older, the family has started to travel a bit beyond the usual amusement park trips. Last fall, they traveled to the east coast to visit Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. They enjoyed the opportunity to see historical sites and experience the fast pace of city life. Though the boys would rather stay home and dig in their dirt field, they try to enjoy the educational trips on which their mother drags them.

Amanda is the Sunday School teacher for the 3rd - 8th grade class. She also leads the children's choir and bell choir. Zachary is nearing the end of his first of three years of catechism with Pastor Schewe. On communion Sundays, you'll see him as an acolyte for the worship service. James enjoys participating in church by playing the piano during the offering collection. What a blessing to have to the Ergo family at St. Peter!



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