



# THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.  
Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

August 2017  
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stpeterclovis.org

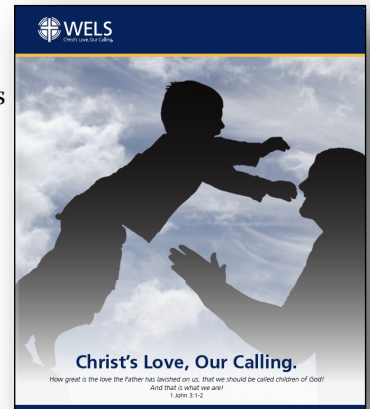
## “Love Takes TIME”

This has been the theme of our summer Stewardship series at church. This four-week series is part of a larger series based on our wider synod’s motto: *“Christ’s Love, Our Calling.”*

This first segment is focusing us on the blessings of TIME from our Lord. Often our hurried and harried lives become a chase after the trivial.

- Love Takes TIME:
- Week 1—Thank God he took TIME for us
  - Week 2—Spend TIME with fellow believers
  - Week 3—Spend TIME with your neighbors
  - Week 4—Spend TIME serving Christ

The sermon videos for these messages is available on our Facebook page (see above). May God bless us through this service series and make us wise stewards of our TIME!



## Summer “Family Storytime”

Our summer Family Story Time kicked off in June and continues through August 8.

Kids of all ages have had a great time listening to stories, singing songs, and enjoying a delicious ice cream treat. This has been a great opportunity to meet families in our Clovis neighborhood!

At this past Tuesday’s Storytime, we had 14 children from seven different families attend. Not only does it give the opportunity for a family-oriented activity for people, but it allows for conversations between our St. Peter volunteers and the parents from the community who have come. It’s great to meet these families!



Family Storytime will be ending as parents look ahead to the school year beginning in early to mid August. Next on the horizon is the “Mornings with Mommy” program that will begin after Labor Day. More information on that program is on the back cover.





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

I was vividly reminded of something the other day. It happened during a stretch break.

Every so often, I do like to take a stretch break. After 45 minutes or an hour of desk work, I find it refreshing and mind-clearing to get up from my office desk, walk a couple laps around Luther Hall, or even poke my head outside for a few deep breaths.

I poked my head outside the other morning. For some reason my eyes began to take note of the cars passing by our property, especially on Gettysburg Avenue. I watched for a couple minutes. Car after car passed by. I tried to imagine how many people drive by our church in the course of a day or a week. I am certain it is in the THOUSANDS.

Our founders here at St. Peter knew what they were doing when they purchased this piece of property. I'm sure it might have been more cost-effective to look into property off the main roads, or bordered by only one main road. But at that time, a lot of a few acres was purchased on the corner of two main arterials in a growing part of Clovis. THOUSANDS and TENS OF THOUSANDS of cars, joggers, and dog walkers pass by this property during the course of a couple weeks.

Why bring this up? It served as a good reminder to me. First, I thank God that those before us (and some still among us!) laid out and built the attractive campus that we have. This is a good encouragement for all of us to continue to contribute our time and effort to keep our property looking sharp, and thinking of ways to enhance it. I do think our property leaders lead us well in this area, and I thank God for them also.

Secondly, I continue to think about how vital it is for us to analyze our church signage and enhance this so that people can see clearly who we are and what we are do-

ing here. Driving east on Gettysburg Avenue or north on Temperance Avenue, it's virtually impossible to notice us unless you're not stopped by a red light. Even coming south or east toward our property, it's no bargain that a driver will notice us.

This is not brought up as an indictment against anyone from the past. Sign design has changed over the years, and back when our current sign was installed, I'm certain it was designed according to the codes back then.

However, codes change, and we have an audience out there that needs to see us. More traffic and walkers are passing by than ever. In addition, we are enhancing our ministries - especially our children's ministries - with a message we don't want to be a secret. Vacation Sunday School, Family Storytime, and "Mornings with Mommy" are all programs that we want our neighborhood to know about.

Travis Hambleton, our property chairman, met recently with a Fresno sign consultant here at our property to talk about possibilities with our signage on the corner, the concept of having a sign with moving text for changing announcements, and what options might be desirable for the other corners of our property—by our driveway and to the south on Temperance Avenue.

I'm excited about those discussions. They are only discussions and proposals right now, but I'd hope you'd share my excitement. We have a mission field that passes by us every single day on the way to work at the hospital or running errands into town. Our signage and appearance could be one of the biggest advantages we have in our outreach efforts, due to our visible location.

Stay tuned for information that's being gathered on this. Such projects take planning, and they also do not come free. Quality, attractive signage costs money. But as I think about all those cars I saw that morning, I know that it can be a great enhancement to our visibility and to meeting many of our neighbors as we look to share the word about Jesus with those around us!

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Schewe*

## Bible Classes at Church

### Sunday mornings: “Timely Topics, Timeless Truths”

We have one more week of this series, as we discuss “*The Christian’s Use (or not?) of Psychoactive Medications.*” After Pastor Schewe is back from vacation, he’ll be starting a new series on August 27 called “*What Everyone should Know about the Augsburg Confession.*” This will be a fitting discussion with the Reformation 500 celebration happening around the world this year!

### Wednesday evenings: “Hymns of Faith and Hope”

Each Wednesday we are discussing some of the Scripture texts and backgrounds of favorite hymns. Each week will feature 3-4 hymns, with one hymn especially featured. A short video on the background of that hymn and composer will be seen by the group.

Featured hymns will be:

- |             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| August 2    | <i>Silent Night</i>                   |
| August 9    | <i>How Great Thou Art</i>             |
| August 30   | <i>What a Friend We have in Jesus</i> |
| September 6 | <i>It Is Well with my Soul</i>        |

Join us to learn more about the fascinating stories behind some of our beloved hymns. Held “live” at church, or LIVE on our Facebook page. Tune in!

## SIS Event

Ladies, Sisters in Service (SIS) will host a salad luncheon at church on Saturday, September 23rd. They’re still in the planning stages, so mark your calendars and look for more details to come.



Hymns of Faith  
And Hope



Salad Luncheon

## Paint Committee Forming

Discussion is beginning to possibly repaint the interior of Luther Hall. Travis Hambleton is organizing a Paint Committee to select a new wall color. If you’re interested in joining this committee, please let Travis know. The first meeting will be after Family Bible Hour on Sunday, August 13.

### August Birthdays

- August 28—Scott Crossfield  
August 10—LaVerne Farley  
August 15—Barry Burghardt  
August 15—Brittney Blankenship  
August 24—Evan Blankenship  
August 22—Curtis Garner

### Those Who Serve—August

#### Ushers

Norm Vander Poel & Curtis Garner

#### Flowers

- 6—Chue Lao  
13—Chue Lao  
20—Phil & Joy Rosenthal  
27—OPEN

#### Altar Guild

Inge Stutz & Helen Hansen

#### Coffee & Dessert Hosts

- 6—Jan Carter  
13—Mary Sanchez  
20—Mary Dickson  
27—OPEN

#### Lawn Mowing Teams

- 5—Hansen/Garner/Burghardt  
12—Stutz/M.Farley/Dickson  
19—Schewe Family  
26—Sweetman/JSchulz/Saethre

#### Church Cleaning

- 5—Michelle Taub  
12—Mike Farley  
19—Ken Hoffmeyer  
26—Jeff & Helen Hansen

#### Luther Hall Cleaning

- 5—Andrew & Niki Schulz  
12—Mary Sanchez  
19—Ken Hoffmeyer  
26—Travis & Maddy Armstrong

#### Organ

Jeff Carter

### August Anniversaries

- August 6—David & Kelly Curry  
August 9—Matthew & Shayleen Evers  
August 28—Al & Mary Sanchez





# Church Council Meeting Update (7/9/17 meeting)

- Discussion was held regarding the dissolving of the Clovis Hmong congregation. Pastor Thao and his family will be moving in early August to the Kansas City area to be near family, as there is much to do caring for his aging parents.
- The Schewes will be in Wisconsin and Minnesota getting their kids to school from August 10-24. Pastor John Boehringer will be preaching for the two Sundays that Pastor Schewe will be gone.
- Trustee presented a list of projects that could be on a “wish list.” Members could provide an additional offering to pay for these projects that go beyond the normal budget. The list will be presented to the voters at the meeting in July.
- We received a \$10,000 anonymous donation that was designated toward paying our debt. Our loan balance is currently \$297,973.
- Next council meeting is scheduled for August 9. 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.

## Tree of Life Bible Camp

This year's Tree of Life Bible Camp had 101 campers—a great turn out for the camp! St. Peter sent 4 campers—Joel & Abigail Schewe and Zachary & James Ergo. The campers started the days with a Bible lesson then participated in great activities like swimming, crafts, and games.



## Synod Convention—Tune In!

The Wisconsin Synod 64th biennial convention will be held at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on July 31 - August 3. Our congregation has a lay delegate, Jeff Hansen, attending this year. We thank him for his time and service to our church and our synod.

You can tune in LIVE online for everything from the opening worship service, to presentations on various areas of ministry, to the essay on “*God’s Word is our Great Heritage*” by WLS Professor John Brenner. Simply go to: <https://wels.net/news-media/2017synodconvention/>

## LWMS Supporting Missions—Where do our offerings go?



Our membership dues in LWMS (Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society) cover the operating costs of LWMS. As a result, 100% of mission money contributed by the members goes to missions. Mission money is divided between international and circuit projects. At our circuit rally, the members will vote on circuit mission projects. Congregations vote for the annual mission project each spring. The selected missions receive money at the annual convention. The missions that are not selected receive money from the annual convention worship service offerings.

LWMS publishes a mission projects booklet that contains world and home mission projects. Our congregation can use this tool when selecting mission projects for women’s groups, Sunday school, preschool, youth group, or day school. God bless LWMS as it supports the spread of the gospel through our synod’s missions!

# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		6:30 Family Storytime	6:30 Bible Study			9:00 Bible Basics Course (6)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 Worship (communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour		6:30 Family Storytime	6:30 Bible Study	Pastor Schewe's Vacation Begins		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Worship— Pastor Boehringer 10:15 Family Bible Hour						5:30 pm SPRY
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Worship— Pastor Boehringer (communion) 10:15 Family Bible Hour				Pastor Schewe Returns from Vacation		9:00 Bible Basics Course (7)
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hour			6:30 Bible Study			

# New Member Profile—Evan & Brittney Blankenship

Evan and Brittney Blankenship recently became members of St. Peter in May 2017. After moving from Arkansas to Clovis, they were looking for a church to join. Evan was raised in the Lutheran church so they decided to give St. Peter a try. They continued to come back because everyone was so friendly and welcoming.

Evan was born in Texas but his family moved to Centerton, Arkansas when he was 12. He is the oldest of two boys. His parents recently moved to St. Louis, Missouri and his brother, Mason, lives in northwest Arkansas. Brittney was raised in Clovis. Her parents and her brother, Clayton, live in Clovis while her sister, Courtney lives in northwest Arkansas. Brittney left Clovis to attend the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (Woo Pig Sooie!) and graduated in December 2015. Evan and Brittney actually met online and their first date was at an Applebee's in Arkansas. They are newlyweds, having just married on June 3, 2017 at St. Peter. Brittney works as a Program Coordinator for Tulare County Farm Bureau and Evan is a Pharmacy Technician at Evolve Pharmacy Solutions.



Evan and Brittney like to be outside with their pets and enjoy cooking together. Their newest hobby is kayaking. Aside from getting married and joining a new church, the biggest change for them this past year has been relocating to California. Brittney grew up in Clovis but it was a big change for Evan. They are thankful to have found St. Peter and be welcomed as members. And we are happy to have them as a part of our church family!

## “Mornings with Mommy” – It’s Coming!

What is *Mornings with Mommy*? It’s not pre-school. It’s not childcare. It’s something different!

*Mornings with Mommy* is a children’s program that many of our WELS churches are doing to meet young families and build a bridge to friendship. Held twice a month on a weekday morning, age appropriate activities are offered for infants, toddlers, and pre-school aged children.



Moms can mingle with each other and enjoy activities with their children including: arts and crafts, sensory table, flannel stories and story time, music, educational toys, and a snack.

Brigetta Guelker (the WELS consultant who visited our church in April) recommended this as a great program to meet young moms and families in the neighborhood. Our Church Council is having Vicki Schewe start this new program at St. Peter’s. She will be needing help and participation from the moms with young children of our church, and from other adults who have an interest in our church’s outreach.

Watch for more information to come SOON. Ask Vicki how you can help. And pray for God’s blessing on this program!

*Mornings with Mommy* will be starting up in September after Labor Day.



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