



THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

August 2019

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Construction in Full Swing for the Pre-school!

As you probably have noticed, work is in full swing for the adjustments needed for our pre-school. Despite the back part of the fellowship hall being “bagged,” we’ll have plenty of space for Bible Class and fellowship space on Sundays and during the week.

An update will be given to the congregation on Sunday, August 4 at an Open Forum. Information will be shared on the ECM Action Team’s work on the playground and Luther Hall, the newly formed ECM Governing Committee, and the timeline we are following to open our doors in August 2020. May God continue to bless our plans!



Clovis Farmers Market—Reaching Out to Neighbors

Did you know that St. Peter’s has a Farmers Market booth in Old Town Clovis from May to October?

Hundreds of people browse through the various booths on Friday evenings. This gives us a chance to meet people and share church information and materials. Those who have helped man the booth have met many people and gotten our name out in the community.

Can you help man the booth on a Friday evening? We only have two dates left, September 27 and October 25. The Farmers Market is held from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. We have about 3-4 volunteers serve each night, and a couple are needed for both dates. Look for the signup clipboard in the church entry or talk to Pastor Schewe!



Scenes from the Clovis Farmers Market





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

With the numerous themes, background, and contexts of the various books of the Bible, it can be difficult for casual readers or even longtime church members to remember the details of each book.

In this and succeeding issues of our newsletter you'll see articles on each category of Scripture's books and how they fit into God's plan of salvation. May God bless this series! This month, we begin with a look at what the inspired Scriptures are overall:

The Bible, the Holy Scriptures. What an amazing book!

More than 10,000 handwritten copies of the Bible have come down to us from ancient times, thousands more than any other book. Since the invention of the printing press, it has topped the best seller list year after year, century after century. It's estimated that nearly four billion Bibles have been published in the last 175 years. The entire Bible or parts of it have been translated into 2000 languages.

President Abraham Lincoln called it "the best gift God has ever given to man." The reformer Martin Luther wrote, "Let the man who would hear God speak read Holy Scripture." Indeed, the Bible is the very word of God. From beginning to end, the Bible states that it is God's word. The expression "thus saith the Lord" or its equivalent occurs well over 2000 times in the Bible.

Jesus often equated the Scriptures with God's word. Referring to an Old Testament text, for instance, he declared, "Have you not read what God said to you..." (Matthew 22:31). And he told his disciples, "The Holy Spirit ... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" for the writing of the New Testament (John 14:26).

The Bible also proves its divine power in our hearts. It contains the good news of Christ, the gospel, which is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

The word "bible" comes from a Greek word meaning "the book." Actually, the Bible is a collection of 66 separate books—29 in the Old Testament written before the coming

of Christ, and 27 in the New Testament. Over a period of 15 centuries—from about 1400 BC to AD 100—some 40 different men wrote the various books. Yet behind it was the almighty God, inspiring them, breathing into them the exact words to write. "All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Since the Bible is God's own book, it is perfect. "The Scripture cannot be broken," said Jesus (John 10:35). Time after time, Scripture has been challenged. In 1806, for instance, the French



Institute counted 80 geological theories which were hostile to the Bible. Not one of those theories now stands. Whether speaking of nature, history, or theology, the Bible is without error. Yet each new generation of skeptics continues to level its attacks against the word. Then they fade and pass away like grass and like the flowers of the field. "The grass withers and the flower fall, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

Because it is God's word, the Bible is our highest authority. Throughout the centuries, believers have echoed the words of early Christians, "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29). No earthly authority stands above God's word.

The master author begins the Bible by recounting his creation of heaven and earth. Then he describes the first man and woman's life in paradise. The third chapter of Genesis brings us to the dreadful history of the fall into sin. Adam and Eve gave in to the devil's temptation, and thus brought sin and death upon the entire human race. Yet immediately after this tragic history, we read the first promise of the Savior, the one who would "crush" the devil's power (Gen. 3:15).

There, early in the Bible's first book, the pattern is set for the entire Scriptures. It is the story of people's sin and God's grace. Like a dark thread, the story of sin runs through the Bible. But alongside it runs the golden thread of the promise of the Savior in the Old Testament and the fulfillment of that promise in the New.

Saint John sums up the purpose of his Gospel, as well as the rest of the Bible: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Everything in the Bible centers around Jesus.

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August 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. SPRY will meet for their regular dinner on August 17th at Mike Farley's home. After the meal, you're invited to pick some farm-fresh grapes of your own to take home. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.

Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ SIS held their quarterly meeting Sunday, July 28th. The next quarterly meeting will be in October. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.
- ♥ SIS has decided to adopt Missionary Pastor Joel Heckendorf from Light of the Valleys in Reno as their missionary family. Mary Sanchez will start off the letter writing to encourage them in their mission project. A sign up sheet has been placed on the SIS board in Luther Hall. Please sign up for a month that you would like to write an encouraging card or email to the Heckendorfs.
- ♥ On August 11th, SIS will host an Ice Cream Social to help everyone cool off! All are welcome to join in!
- ♥ SIS will be holding elections for President and 2nd Vice President in October. Please contact Vicki Schewe, Mary Sanchez, or Brittney Blankenship if you're interested in an office.
- ♥ SIS would like to encourage all ladies in the congregation to attend the quarterly SIS meetings. Please see Donna Vander Poel if you have any questions.



August 10—LaVerne Farley

August 15—Barry Burghardt

August 15—Brittney Blankenship

August 22—Curtis Garner

August 24—Evan Blankenship

August 24—Robert English

August 6—David & Kelly Curry

August 9—Matthew & Shayleen Evers

August 16—Phil & Joy Rosenthal

Those Who Serve—August

Ushers

Andrew Schulz & Barry Burghardt

Flowers

4—Rosenthal

11—Bornemann

18—Hood

25—Gates

Altar Guild

Dorothy Teufel & Jan Carter

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

4—Patti Sweetman

11—Ice Cream Social (SIS)

18—Inge Stutz

25—Donna Vander Poel

Lawn Mowing Teams

3—Hansen/Sweetman

10—Carter/Hoffmeyer/Dubin

17—A.Schulz/J.Schulz/Armstrong

24—L.Schulz/J.Farley

Church Cleaning

3—Stutz

10—Hoffmeyer

17—Taub

24—Hansen

Luther Hall Cleaning

3—Dickson

10—Burghardt

17—Sweetman

24—A.Schulz

New Resident Mailing

Joan Hevron



Church Council & Voters' Meeting Update (7/14/19 and 7/28/19)

- Pastor's Report: Pastor will be on vacation August 18th. A new catechism class is being organized and will begin in Fall 2019.
- ECM Governing Committee has had 2 initial meetings. The members are Jeff Hansen, John & Teresa Barber, Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald, and Vicki Schewe. ECM Governing Committee was recommended for addition to the church bylaws by the council and was approved by the voters. This establishes the church council as the "board of control" for the State of California in regard to the ECM.
- ECM Action Committee is working on the construction project and finishing designs for the playground. They will present more information at the August 4th Open Forum.
- Catherine Hambleton has indicated she would like to retire from the church secretary position. The Church Council will be finding a replacement in the next few weeks.
- Trustee Report: Next campus clean up day will be Saturday, September 7th. The Church Council is investigating solar options to help reduce our power bills now and in the future when we have our ECM up and running.
- Evangelism Committee: Continuing outreach to people who have just moved into the area. They will be forming a committee to create a live nativity this year. We will be asking some MLC students to come help with outreach this summer. We will also continue with the farmer's market in Clovis—volunteers are still needed.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for September 8th. Leo Schulz would like the congregation to know that they are invited to offer suggestions for issues that the council might address at future meetings.



(continued from page 2)

The Scriptures, says Jesus, "Testify about me" (John 5:39). He is the long-awaited Savior who has died for the sins of the world and rose again for our salvation. The purpose of the Bible is to make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Without Christ the Bible would be empty. With him, it is the door to heaven. Moreover, the Bible shows us how to lead a godly life while we still live on earth response to Christ's love for us.

As the Savior's book, the Bible is sufficient. In telling us about Jesus, it contains everything we need to know for our salvation. The holy writers make it clear that we are not to look for another gospel or for further divine revelations. "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you," Paul says, "let him be eternally condemned!" (Galatians 1:8). The Bible's last book warns against adding to our subtracting from it (Revelation 22:18,19) - a warning that applies to all of God's word. Religions such as Islam and Mormonism add new revelations. They preach another "gospel" and stand eternally condemned. The Bible alone brings to us the only Savior. It is his book.

The Bible is also our book. The apostle Paul asserts, "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4). Since God wants to teach us, ought we not want to learn? Sadly, we all too often neglect the word of God. "more Bibles are bought and fewer read than any other book," laments one Christian author. But he goes on to say, "If you see a Bible that is falling apart, it probably belongs to someone who isn't." God did not give us the Bible to gather dust on the coffee table. It's ours to use and wear out. It's our that we might grow in knowledge, strength, and faith.

Finally, the Bible is also ours to share. There is absolutely no greater fit that we can pass on to the next generation. There's no greater gift to share with our dying world today.

Article by Pastor Roland Cap Ehlke, "Northwestern Lutheran," March, 1993.
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Next: The Pentateuch, the Bible's first five books.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
August 2019						
				1	2 9:00 ECM Governing Committee	3
4 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	5	6 <i>6:30 Bible Basics Course</i>	7 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Board of Elders	8	9	10 10:00 Parkinson's Support Group
11 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Church Council	12 Pastoral Circuit Meeting (Livermore)	13 <i>6:30 Bible Basics Course</i>	14 6:30 Bible Study	15	16	17 5:30 SPRY Gathering at Mike Farley's house in Fowler
18 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	19	20 <i>6:30 Bible Basics Course</i>	21 6:30 Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 ECM Action Team	26	27 <i>6:30 Bible Basics Course</i>	28 6:30 Bible Study	29	30 5:30 - 9:00 Clovis Farmers Market booth	31

HERE'S THE SCOOP!



Ice Cream Social

SIS will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 11th in between church and Family Bible Hour! Join in the fun!

SIS will take care of all of the details and supplies. See Jan Carter or Mary Sanchez if you have any questions.

Church Clean-up Day

Our next church clean-up day will be September 7th from 8:00—11:00am. We'll be working on our normal inside and outside jobs as well as some rearranging some storage areas. Any help would be appreciated! Please see Travis Hambleton if you have any questions.



Mornings with Mommy—Fall 2019

Keep an eye out for upcoming dates for Mornings with Mommy.

Vicki will be starting up the program again in September!

Greeting Cards Available

We've added several new categories of Christian greeting cards in Luther Hall. We offer a variety of themes: birthday, sympathy, thinking of you, encouragement, new baby, and anniversary. This is not a fundraiser, just a service to help you spread Christian joy and caring. The price per card is just 50 cents and can be left in the collection box. Please see Catherine Hambleton if you have any questions or suggestions for new cards.



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