



THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

December 2019

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www.stpeterclovis.org

Miss Karla Opperman Accepts Call to be Our ECM Director

Karla Opperman has accepted our call to be the director and lead teacher for our new pre-school. We praise God that he has provided us with a called worker to lead this new ministry for our church!

Plans are for her to help coordinate things with our ECM Governing Committee over the next months as we go through the licensing process with the state, and to move to Clovis after the school year. Our ECM is planned to open its doors next August for the new school year. May God continue to bless us in this ministry endeavor. Keep her current school (Concordia Lutheran in Eau Claire, Wisconsin) in your prayers as they enter the calling process for their ECM ministry.



Midweek Advent Services

Our Advent midweek services will be offered on Wednesdays during December (4, 11, 18). Our schedule is:

5:30 pm Supper (Luther Hall)

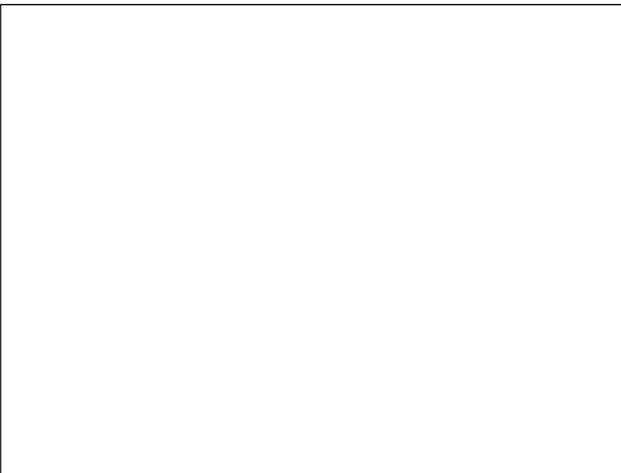
6:30 pm Advent Worship



Join us for these special evenings to keep focused on the meaning of the holiday season. The services will be kept to about 40 minutes to assure timely arrival back home for young families.

Our three midweek services will see the reactions of believers to the news of Christmas and teach us lessons for our lives each Wednesday (Zechariah, Mary, Joseph).

SIS ladies, if you'd like to sign up to host an Advent supper it would be a great blessing. The sign-up sheet is next to the SIS board in Luther Hall. If you have any questions, ask Mary Sanchez.



On Nov 7th a paint party was held in Luther Hall. A good time was had by all.

The painters enjoyed great company, wine, and too much food.

We're all looking forward to the next one!

Live Nativity!

**Saturday,
December 14th**

5:00 - 7:00 pm



Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

This is the next article in our current series on “Knowing Your Scriptures!”

“The major prophets: Their Words on Fire”

The prophets were the great preachers of the Old Testament. Through them God spoke. And in them we see the awesome power of God’s word: *“Is not my word like fire”, declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”* (Jeremiah 23:29).

The prophets also foresaw the future. They foretold God’s judgment upon his apostate people and upon the heathen nations. Most important, they proclaimed the Savior who was to come. According to Moses, the mark of a true prophet was that everything he said came true.

Some of the prophets, such as Elijah and Elisha, did not put their words in writing. Others did. The first four literary prophets are called “major prophets,” not because their works are more important than the others, but mainly because of the length of their books. Two of these prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah, carried out their work in the city of Jerusalem in the kingdom of Judah. The other two, Ezekiel and Daniel, were active in Babylon, after the Jews had been taken into exile there.

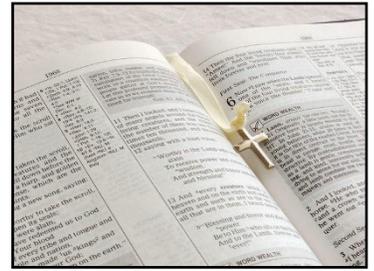
Isaiah: Evangelist of the Old Testament

The prophet Isaiah had a lengthy ministry (@ 740 to 680 B.C.). His book divides into two main sections, chapters 1-39 and 40-66. The first part is mainly a book of judgment, not only upon Judah but also on nations such as Babylonia and Egypt. The second part emphasizes consolation, especially offering the comfort of forgiveness of sins.

Isaiah’s account of how God called him (ch. 6) paints a majestic picture. *“I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted,”* amid the praise of angels, *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty”*. The prophet responded to God’s question *“Whom shall I send?”* with the classic, *“Here am I. Send me!”*

Isaiah foretold the virgin birth of Jesus, whom he refers to as Immanuel (“God with us”) in 7:14. In one of the greatest of all the chapters of the Bible, Isaiah spoke of the Messiah

as the Suffering Savior: *“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed”* (53:5).



Isaiah is the most prominent of the prophetic books.

Jeremiah: Prophet to the nations

We know more about the personal life of Jeremiah than any other prophets, as his book has information on him. He lived a century after Isaiah.

In calling Jeremiah as a young man, God declared, *“Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations”* (1:5). Although Jeremiah was timid by nature (1:6), the Lord assured him, *“Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land”* (1:18).

Jeremiah needed that strength. For the most part, his message was anything but joyful. He spoke out against the people of Judah because they had forsaken God. He told them how the Babylonians would destroy the country.

This certainly did not make him popular. He was imprisoned, put in stocks, let down into a miry dungeon, and taken from his homeland against his will. At one point he cried, *“Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?”* (20:18).

Through his troubled ministry, the prophet looked ahead to the day God would establish a “new covenant” with his people: *“I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more”* (31:31-34).

Lamentations: Jeremiah’s lament

The small book (5 chapters) of Lamentations is Jeremiah’s poetic dirge over fallen Jerusalem. *“How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave”* (1:1). Jeremiah has been nicknamed the “weeping prophet.”

The poem expresses horror, grief and God’s anger toward the nation and city that had spurned him. Yet amid these laments, there is hope: *“The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him; to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord”* (3:25,26).

(continued on p 4)

SPRY Christmas Party

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 December 21, hosted by Bob & Mary Dickson. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.

Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ The cookie/ornament exchange will be hosted by Marilyn Hood on Saturday December 21 at 2:00pm. Please bring a wrapped ornament and one dozen cookies to share and one dozen cookies to exchange. This is a great time for the women to get together for fellowship and fun.
- ♥ Sign ups are needed to write to our mission Pastor. More information on the SIS board.
- ♥ The Advent suppers sign up sheet is next to the SIS board. The dates are December 4, 11, and 18th.
- ♥ SIS would like to encourage all ladies in the congregation to attend the quarterly SIS meetings. Please see Mary Sanchez if you have any ques-



Birthdays

December 3- Simone Jones
December 7- Kelly Curry
December 7- Rebecca Oatman
December 11-Joel Schewe
December 18- Natalie Bornemann
December 19- John Barber
December 22- Don Sweetman
December 24- Chloe Armstrong
December 29- Ryan Hambleton

Anniversaries

December 8- Phil & Amanda Harville
December 11- Robert & Anncy English
December 23- Josh & Natalie Bornemann



Those Who Serve—December

Ushers

Joshua Schulz & Brad Carter

Flowers

1-Bornemann
8-Bornemann
15-Bornemann
22-Bornemann
29-Hambleton

Altar Guild

Marilyn Hood & Joan Hevron

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

1- Teresa Barber
8- Inge Stutz
15-Mary Dickson
22-Sweetman
29-OPEN

Lawn Mowing Teams

1-Bruno Stutz & Mike Farley
8-Schewe Family & Blankenship Family
15-Faith Lutheran-Hmong Congregation
22-Travis Hambleton, Mike M. & Barry W.

Church Cleaning

1-Kelly Curry
8-Bruno & Inge Stutz
15-Faith Lutheran-Hmong Congregation
22-Michelle Taub

Luther Hall Cleaning

1-Bob & Mary Dickson
8-Barry Burghardt
15-Faith Lutheran-Hmong Congregation
22-Don Sweetman

New Resident Mailing

Mary Sanchez

thank you!

(continued from p. 2)

Ezekiel: Prophet in exile

Ezekiel lived in Babylon during the Jews' exile there. His book, written from 593 to 571 B.C., has three main sections:

- Threats of judgment on God's impenitent people (chapters 1-24)
- Prophecies against hostile nations (25-32)
- Promise of restoration of God's people (33-48).

One of its most vivid descriptions is Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (ch. 37). God miraculously added flesh and skin and breath of life to the bones. This symbolized how he would bring his people back from hopelessness.

The book closes with descriptions of a rebuilt Jerusalem. Revelation, the last book of the Bible, uses this same language to describe the new Jerusalem, namely heaven.

Daniel: Spokesmen to kings

Like Ezekiel, Daniel lived in exile in Babylon. There he became a prominent statesman. Before heathen kings he boldly witnessed to his faith in the true God.

The first six chapters of the book of Daniel are historical, including the accounts of the three men in the fiery furnace, the handwriting on the wall, and Daniel in the lion's den.

The other six chapters are prophetic, recording Daniel's God-given dreams about future events. Several of these prophecies pointed to Jesus. From the book of Daniel, Jesus took the title of "Son of Man," which he often applied to himself.

In our world, God continues to speak through the great prophets of old. His pronouncements of judgment ring out. The wicked of today still face God's eternal wrath (*"nor will their fire be quenched"* (Isaiah 66:24)). And his words of comfort in the Savior continue to reassure believers. *"I have loved you with an everlasting love"* (Jeremiah 31:3).

Next: The minor prophets

Pastor Roland Cap Ehlke, "Northwestern Lutheran," April, 1993.
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WELS Hosts Translation Conference in Africa

A Bible translation seminar conference was held in Lusaka, Zambia in August to equip and inspire representatives from our partner synods in Africa. This conference brought 17 Africans from 6 countries and 3 American missionaries together for 4 days. The two main objectives of this event were to give participants linguistic tools to translate confessional Lutheran literature from English into their local languages and to produce a prioritized list of the publications needed in each sister synod. Missionary John Roebke of the One Africa Team, says, "Our partners in Africa are looking for the essential tools needed to conduct gospel ministry. Thankfully translations of the Bible in their native tongues already exist. But how confidently can someone call himself 'Lutheran' if he never read anything written by Martin Luther?" Both the Ethiopian and Kenyan Lutheran synods want to translate the Small Catechism into a total of seven languages between them. Other goals include adapting MLP's "Bible Stories in Pictures— Expanded Version" for Sunday schools in the African churches as well as creating doctrinally sound hymnals, evangelism tracts, and prayer books for special services such as funerals and church dedications. To learn more about the work of WELS Multi-Language Publications, visit wels.net/mlp.

New Hymnal Project Continues to Move Forward

The WELS Hymnal Project Executive Committee has been working on carrying out the development of the new hymnal and its auxiliary resources. The new hymnal is slated to be available by Advent 2021. Rev. Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project says, "There are still a lot of things to finish." Several subcommittees of the WELS Hymnal Project are continuing to write and develop these materials that will provide direction, support, and resources to pastors, worship planners, musicians, and choir directors. New hymnal materials will be highlighted at the next WELS Worship Conference in 2021. Learn more about the work of the WELS Hymnal Project at weshymnal.com.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Catechism	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Church Council 11:30 Catechism	9	10 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	11 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 5:30 Supper 6:30 Advent Worship	12	13	14 10:00 Parkinson's Support Group 5:00 Live Nativity
15 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Catechism	16 Pastoral Circuit meeting (Livermore)	17	18 5:30 Supper 6:30 Advent Worship	19	20	21 2:00 SIS Christmas Cookie Exchange
22 9:00 Worship (Children's Christmas service) 10 15 Coffee hour	23	24 6:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight service	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29 9:00 Worship 10 15 Coffee hour	30	31 6:30 New Year's Eve service (comm.)	1 Happy New Year!			

Sunday Bible Class:

Sundays (10:20 am) "In the Footsteps of Paul" Our Sunday Bible classes will be discussing early New Testament churches and cities, based on Pastor Schewe's trip to Greece and Italy last spring. Come see some pictures and learn from the book of Acts as we learn lessons for our lives and our church's mission.



Poinsettias for Church Altar

We decorate our chancel area with many poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you would like to contribute towards these, please use a flower envelope and place it in the offering plate. See Dorothy Teufel if you have any questions.



Volunteer Sign-up Sheets

The 2020 sign up sheets are available for ushering, altar flowers, and coffee and dessert hosts. Please add your name to the lists if you would like to help with any of these service opportunities. If you would like to be added to the rotation to clean one of the church buildings or added to a lawn team, please add your name to the lists. If you are currently on a lawn team or in the cleaning rotation, please indicate any changes you would like to make on the lists or talk to Travis Hambleton.

2020 Ministry Plan and Budget

The budget for 2020 was been reviewed and accepted at the voter's meeting that was held on November 24. This budget is more than a business exercise, but it reflects what we all intend to do in the ministries of our church under God's blessing and guidance. A copy of the annual budget is always posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to Luther Hall. If you have any questions about the budget please see a Church Council member.

Upcoming Dates!

December 4, 11, 18	Advent Midweek services
December 7	SPRY Christmas Party
December 14	"Live Nativity"
December 21	SIS Christmas Party
December 22	Children's Christmas service
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight service
December 31	New Year's Eve service (communion)

Midweek Worship Service Offering

The Church Council has decided that the offering from the Advent mid-week services will go toward tuition support For Emily, Rachel, and Joel Schewe as they are studying to Become called workers at Martin Luther College. Our regular Sunday offerings will continue to go toward our church's operating budget and ministries.



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