



# THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

November 2019

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## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

As our nation gathers to thank the Lord for all his blessings to us, we also will offering a Thanksgiving service this year. Our church service will be Thanksgiving Eve (Wednesday) at 6:30 pm.

Join us in God's house to give thanks to him for the blessings of the past year, and put the holiday week in proper perspective! *"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1).*



## Karla Opperman Called to Be ECM Director

At the quarterly Voters Meeting on October 20, a call was issued to Miss Karla Opperman to be the Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) Director for our new pre-school. Miss Opperman has been contacted and sent a packet of information about this new ministry at St. Peter. Over the course of the next few weeks, she will be speaking with our leaders about our new ECM and deliberating where the Lord would have her serve in his kingdom.

Miss Opperman currently serves as the ECM Director at Concordia Lutheran School in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She is a 2012 graduate of Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. Keep her in your prayers as she deliberates the two calls to serve that she currently has.

## Current Bible Classes:

**Sundays (10:20 am) "The Call and the Public Ministry"** - As we call a director/ teacher for our new pre-school, we're reviewing what exactly a "call" is and how a congregation can issue one. Join us for this timely discussion!

**Wednesdays (6:30 pm) "NOAH: Obedient Builder"** - We learn much from the account of Noah and his epic assignment of building an ark to weather the great Flood. Join us for this fascinating discussion, either "live" at church or LIVE on our church Facebook page.



*"Oktoberfest!" was held at church on Oct. 26. German food, Reformation games, a bounce house and more were enjoyed by all!*

*See more pictures of church activities on the back cover.*





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

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

### ***The OT Poetical Books: “Golden Apples in Silver Settings!”***

Speaking of poetry, Robert Frost remarked, “It begins in delight and ends in wisdom”. In the Bible’s poetical books we find that wonderful combination. Has any poem ever surpassed the charm and wisdom of Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd...” ?

Proverbs 25:11 expresses the grace of wise speech and the artistry of biblical poetry: “A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”

#### ***Biblical poetry and wisdom***

Most people today tend to think of poetry in terms of rhythm and rhyme. The Hebrew Old Testament’s poetry consists of balance of thoughts more than of words and sounds called parallelism.

There are three basic types of parallelism. One occurs when the second part of a verse echoes the idea of the first:

*“Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
Extol him, all you peoples.” (Psalm 117:1)*

The second type places contrasting thoughts side by side:

*“A gentle anger turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)*

The third kind of parallelism expands or continues the thought through the rest of the verse, as in Ecclesiastes 7:5:

*“It is better to hear a wise man’s rebuke  
Than to listen to the song of fools.”*

Because of parallelism, the strength and beauty of the Bible’s poetry carries over into any language into which it is translated. Biblical wisdom finds its highest fulfillment in Jesus, the very “wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24).

#### ***Job: A grand expression of faith***

Amid life’s trials, this book emphasizes faith. It tells of Job, an upright man who was also very wealthy and successful.

Suddenly, he lost everything: his ten children, possessions, servants, and his health.

Why did this happen? Job’s friends wrongly contended it must have been because of some great sins on his part. Job accused God of being unfair, and often allowing the wicked to prosper.

In the end, Job is restored. But not before he humbles himself before his Creator and learns to trust God no matter what happens.

The book of Job contains one of the Old Testament’s grandest expressions of faith in the resurrection: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God” (Job 19: 25,26). These words, spoken in Job’s darkest hour, point ahead to Christ, who would come and redeem his people from sin and death itself.

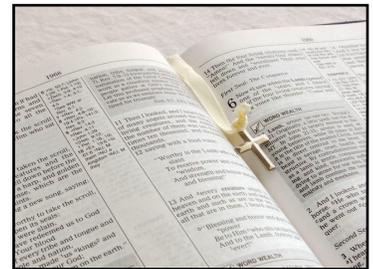
#### ***Psalms: The Bible’s hymnbook***

The book of Psalms is the Bible’s hymnbook. It contains songs of praise, thanksgiving, sorrow, teaching, prayer, and repentance. The theme of hope runs throughout the book.

Half of the 150 Psalms are attributed to David, Israel’s greatest king. In reflecting the experiences of David and the other inspired writers, the Psalms speak to believers of all times and in every circumstance.

The Psalms divides into five smaller books: 1—41; 42—72; 73—89; 90—106; 107—150. Each of them ends with a doxology, “Praise be to the Lord.”

Of special note are the Messianic psalms, which point directly to Christ. Psalm 22, for example, describes the Savior’s sufferings: “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing” (v. 18). From the cross Jesus quoted this Psalm when he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).



#### ***Proverbs: Daily wisdom***

According to tradition, Proverbs is the product of Solomon’s middle age; the Song of Song’s was written in his youth and Ecclesiastes in his old age. Proverbs shows the wisdom of mature man; the Song of Songs depicts youthful love; and Ecclesiastes contains the reflections of an old man looking back over life.

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# November 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 November 17, hosted by Teresa and John Barber. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.

## Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ The annual WELS women's retreat hosted by Apostles in San Jose will be from January 10-12, 2020. As always, it will be held at the Mount Hermon Conference Center in the Santa Cruz mountains. The speaker will be Naomi Schmidt. The topic is "Finding Peace When Circumstances Don't Change". Registration forms and lodging costs are on the SIS board. Registration will close on December 1. See Mary Sanchez for more information.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ The new 2020 missionary wives calendar is on the SIS board for anyone to view. An order form is there as well if interested in purchasing.
- ♥ SIS would like to encourage all ladies in the congregation to attend the quarterly SIS meetings. Please see Mary Sanchez if you have any questions.

## Birthdays

November 4-Janet Zeisser  
 November 5-James Ergo  
 November 12-Emilia Burns  
 November 14-Travis Armstrong  
 November 17-Travis Hambleton  
 November 22-Judy Richart-Carter  
 November 25-Atalia Taub

## Anniversaries

November 17-Blake & Brooke Teixeira



## Those Who Serve—October

### Ushers

Jonathan Farley & Jonathan Farley

### Flowers

3- Bornemann

10-Marilyn Hood

17-Donna VanderPoel

24-Hambleton

### Altar Guild

Mary Dickson & Ellen Gates

### Coffee & Dessert Hosts

3- Mary Sanchez

10-Jo Hobensack

17-Mary Sanchez

24-Donna VanderPoel

### Lawn Mowing Teams

3-Leo Schulz & Jonathan Farly

10 -Faith Lutheran (Hmong Congregation)

17 -Curtis Garner & Barry Burghardt

24-Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

### Church Cleaning

3-Jo Hobensack

10 -Faith Lutheran (Hmong Congregation)

17- Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

24- John & Teresa Barber

### Luther Hall Cleaning

3 -Barry Burghardt

10 -Faith Lutheran (Hmong Congregation)

17- Travis & Madeline Armstrong

24 -Vicki Schewe

### New Resident Mailing

Irene Payne



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Proverbs speaks of a practical, loving wisdom. Large sections of its 31 chapters deal with the young. The subjects of sexual morality and work are often emphasized—as are the consequences of the opposites.

The book also advises parents, businessmen, leaders... everyone. Martin Luther remarked, “Anyone who intends to become righteous might well take this as a handbook or prayer book for his daily use.”

The book’s theme is, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline*” (1:7). To fear God is to stand in reverent trust before him. Real wisdom builds on this foundation; the fool ignores God’s word.

Proverbs concludes with the poem about the wife of noble character, an inspiring example for Christian wives of every age.

### ***Ecclesiastes: Words from a teacher***

This book receives its title from the opening verse: “The words of the Teacher”. Solomon is the Teacher, “Ecclesiastes” in the ancient Greek translation.

As if written for twentieth century Americans, Ecclesiastes points out how empty life is without God. The pursuit of wisdom, money, pleasure, and work as ends in themselves shows to be “meaningless, chasing after the wind.”

Perhaps the best-known part in the book is the famous section: “*There is a time for everything... a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot...*” (3:1-8).

Its most picturesque passage is probably the haunting description of the transition from youth to old age (12:1-7). After looking at all of life, Solomon concludes: “*Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*” (12:13).

### ***Song of Songs: A love song***

The Song of Songs means “the greatest or most beautiful of songs.” This is a song of love, full of sensuous imagery, as evidenced in the beloved’s opening sigh, “*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine*” (1:2).

The lover, in turn, exalts, “*How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves*” (1:15).

The poem praises the intimate physical joys of love between man and woman within marriage. The colorful description of Solomon’s marriage procession (3:6-11) and the culmination of his love with his bride (4:16—5:1) form the center of the song.

On another level, the poem reminds us of Christ, the heavenly bridegroom, and his perfect love for his bride, the church.

In addition to these poetical books, a large portion of the Old Testament was written in poetry in sections of the historical books and prophets.

### **Next: The major prophets**

Pastor Roland Cap Ehlke, “Northwestern Lutheran,” March, 1993.  
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### ***“Mornings With Mommy”***

*Mornings with Mommy* dates for the rest of the year are November 12/13, November 26/27, and December 10/11. This is a great way for the congregation to get to know our neighborhood young mothers and invite people to come see our congregation!

Sessions with openings are:

Tues, Nov 12: Dinosaurs

Tues/Wed, Nov 26 & 27: Harvest Time

Tues/Wed, Dec 10 & 11: Happy Birthday, Jesus!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>November 2019</b>						
					1	2 9:00 ECM Governing Committee
3 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Catechism	4	5	6 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Board of Elders	7	8	9 10:00 Parkinson's Support Group
10 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Church Council 12:30 Catechism	11	12 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	10 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	14	15	16 5:30 SPRY Gathering
17 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism	18 Pastoral Circuit meeting (Livermore)	19	20 6:30 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr.	25	26 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	27 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	28 	29	30 8:00 - noon Church workday

## Welcome to the Blacks!

St. Peter would like to welcome our new members Greg and Sara Black. Originally looking for somewhere for their children to be baptized, Greg and Sara found St. Peter after visiting several other Lutheran churches in the area. Greg and Sara have two children, Jackson and Ella. Greg was born and raised in the Fresno/Clovis area, while Sara was born in Minnesota, but has lived in Salinas, Fresno and Clovis. Greg has three brothers, two who live in Clovis, and one lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and two daughters. Both of Greg's parents live in Clovis. Sara's mother lives in Kingsburg and her father lives in Auberry, and she has one younger brother.

Greg is an accountant, while Sara is an office manager and a mother of "wildlings." The two attended college in Fresno. Greg attended Fresno State, and Sara, Fresno City College. In their free time they like going to the movies and spending time with family. We are blessed to have them joining our congregation!



*Left and middle: The playground and fence installation is completed.*

*Right: "Mornings with Mommy" enjoyed a great many moms and toddlers participating.*



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