



THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

October 2019

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Important Quarterly Meetings—October 20

On Sunday, October 20, we will be holding our quarterly congregational meetings at church. We will be breaking off Family Bible Hour at 11:00 am to get a start on the meetings.

SIS will be discussing their various ministry opportunities for serving our congregation and the fellowship opportunities coming up, especially Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 26. Election of some board positions will also take place.

Our Voters Meeting will be discussion the ministry and business of our congregation. One item under New Business will be to issue a Divine Call for a director/teacher for our new pre-school for next fall. The “call window” in WELS opens as of October 15, and it will be important to have a director in place as soon as possible for our licensing with the state. A new director would not be arriving until the end of the current school year.

Make plans to be here for these important quarterly meetings!

“Live Nativity” Coming to St. Peter!

After a couple years of contemplating hosting a “Live Nativity,” this is the year we will give this outreach venture a try!

A committee has been discussing how and when to organize to lead our church in having this on our property on Saturday, December 14. The basic concept is that we would have a “walk-through” with some nativity scenes on our property with appropriate Christmas music.

Due to the fact that we will need helpers for a number of areas, we will be having an informational meeting in October to roll out more details and let you know where you could help out. Help will be needed with light refreshments (hot chocolate and cookies), costumes and characters (nothing too intense for your acting skills), audio and lighting, and providing simple set material.

Watch for more details and plan to help out for this fun and worthwhile outreach event for our neighborhood!



“Mornings with Mommy” has started up for the fall season.

Next sessions:

October 8 / 9 -

“My Healthy Body”

October 22 / 23 -

“Let’s Build!”





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

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

The Old Testament “Historical Books”

“[The Bible] accounts for the supremacy of England”, declared Queen Victoria. Indeed, God’s word deals not just with individual people, but it also covers entire civilizations. In the historical books of the Old Testament, we catch glimpses of the struggles among the superpowers of old: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia.

The historical books, however, focus most of their attention on one small nation. They relate the story of God’s chosen people from 1400 to 400 B.C., from the time they entered the Promised Land as nomadic tribes. After several centuries Israel became a monarchy, rose to glory under kings David and Solomon, split into two rival kingdoms, and fell into ruin. By the end of the Old Testament era, only a remnant of the nations remained.

From that remnant, the Savior of the world would come.

Conquest and Chaos (1400—1050 B.C.)

The historical books begin with “Joshua,” when Moses had just died. His successor, Joshua, led the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. The book recounts the conquest of the land and its division among the twelve tribes of Israel. In the opening chapter, before his death, Joshua spoke his famous words of farewell to the nation, “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (24:15).

“Judges” covers the 325 years from the time of Joshua until Israel had its first kings. The book’s closing sentence sums up this period: “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit” (21:25). Strife, immorality; and godlessness reigned. Instead of following God’s word, the people went their own way. The Lord would allow enemies to oppress Israel. The people would cry for help, and God would raise up “judges,” deliverers, to help them. Time after time, this pattern repeated itself. The book lists thirteen judges. Some of the more famous are Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

“Ruth,” the shortest of the historical books, is the story of the Moabite widow Ruth, who came to dwell with her Israelite mother-in-law Naomi in Bethlehem. Ruth became the wife of Boaz. Their great-grandson was King David. From that family came the greatest of all—Jesus.

The rise and fall of kings (1050—586 B.C.)

“1 Samuel” relates the career of Samuel, who served between the time of the judges and kings. He anointed the first two monarchs of Israel, Saul and David. Although Saul’s reign began well, he fell into unbelief and eventually ended his life in suicide. While Saul was in decline, young David—slayer of the giant Goliath—was the rapidly rising star of Israel.



“2 Samuel” covers the history of David as king. His illustrious career was marred by his affair with Bathsheba. From that time on, David’s life was filled with tragedy, including the rebellion and death of his son Absalom. Unlike Saul, David repented. He has been remembered as Israel’s greatest king. From his descendants came the One who would fulfill God’s promise to David: “I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Samuel 7:13).

“1 Kings” opens with the death of David and succession of his son Solomon, who built the magnificent temple in Jerusalem. Renowned for his wealth and wisdom, Solomon also succumbed to the temptations of power. His many wives and concubines led him into idolatry. Following Solomon’s death, the empire split into the northern and southern kingdoms, Israel and Judah. All 19 northern kingdom’s rulers were idolaters. The most notorious was Ahab, who with his wife Jezebel persecuted the prophet Elijah. Of Judah’s 20 kings a few were good rulers.

“2 Kings” continues the saga of the divided kingdom including the work of the prophet Elisha. The book relates the fall of the northern kingdom Israel to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. They were never heard from again. In 586 B.C., the southern kingdom Judah and its capital Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians. The book closes with the Jews in exile in faraway Babylon.

“1 Chronicles” covers much of the same ground as 2 Samuel and “2 Chronicles” relates the same period as 1 and 2 Kings.

The returning remnant (540—400 B.C.)

“Ezra” begins where 2 Chronicles ends. Babylon has fallen to Persians. The exiles could now return home.

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September 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 October 19, hosted by Bruno and Inge Stutz. Please see Inge Stutz if you have any questions.

Sisters in Service Update

- ♥ The LWMS Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at St. Mark's in Citrus Heights from 9:30 to 3:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Ruth Schmitzer. Ruth will be speaking on the Kids C.A.R.E program. She will focus on the goals of the program and sharing its history. She will share her experiences from her Nepal trip in February 2019, as Nepal was the 2018 recipient of Kids C.A.R.E. Also, Ruth will be speaking on Early Childhood Education in Indonesia, as that is the new project introduced at the Des Moines Convention. A biography of Ruth is on the SIS board. If you are interested in attending, please see Mary Sanchez.
- ♥ 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. See Mary Sanchez for more information.
- ♥ SIS meeting has been changed to October 20th to coincide with the voters meeting.
- ♥ Mission boxes are due, please return to Brittney Blankenship by Oct 13th.
- ♥ 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 position.

Birthdays

October 3- Jeff Hansen
October 4- Scott Nieman
October 15-Bruce Oatman
October 18-Rachael Farley
October 20-Jonathan Farley
October 21-Irene Payne
October 25-Phil Harville
October 27-Solomon Jones
October 29-Robyn Jones
October 31-Mary Schulz

Anniversaries

October 21-Bruno & Inge Stutz
October 22-Jeff & Jan Carter
October 22-Scott & Ashley Nieman
October 29-Nick & Jo Hobensack

Happy Anniversary

Those Who Serve—October

Ushers

Robert Klein & Bob Dickson

Flowers

6 - Irene Payne
13 -Bornemann
20 - Fitzgerald
27 - Jo Hobensack

Altar Guild

Inge Stutz & Helen Hansen

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

6 -Leslie Fitzgerald
13 -OPEN
20 -Irene Payne
27 -Jo Hobensack

Lawn Mowing Teams

3—Faith Lutheran-: Hmong Congregation
10 -Travis Hambleton, Mike May & Barry White
17 -Jeff Hansen & Don Sweetman
24-Jeff Carter, Ken Hoffmeyer, & Justin Dubin
31-Andrew Shulz, Josh Schulz & Travis Armstrong

Church Cleaning

3-Faith Lutheran: Hmong Congregation
10 -Bruno & Inge Stutz
17- Michelle Taub
24- Ken Hoffmeyer
31-Jeff & Helen Hansen

Luther Hall Cleaning

3 -Faith Lutheran: Hmong Congregation
10 -Barry Burghardt
17- Don Sweetman
24 -Ken Hoffmeyer
31-Andrew & Niki Shulz

New Resident Mailing

Helen Hansen

thank you!

Current Bible Classes:

Sundays (10:20 am) *“The Call and the Public Ministry”* - As we head toward a Call Meeting on October 20, when we intend to 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) *“What’s In Your Mouth?”* - We have one more lesson in this “Time of Grace” series: “Silence or Witness?” We’ll be starting a new series on Wednesday on Oct. 16. Join us “live” at church or LIVE on our church Facebook page.

Church Council Update

- Work is being done by the ECM Action Committee to make improvements to the property in preparation of opening the preschool next year. A playground and fencing are being put in soon behind Luther Hall, new flooring will be installed in the classrooms in Luther Hall, and the state application by November.
- The ECM Governing Committee is requesting a call list from WELS for our church, to call a director on October 20th at the quarterly Voters Meeting. We pray that we would have a director accept our call by early 2020. The Governing Committee also has decided on a tentative name for the preschool: St. Peter Precious Lambs Learning Academy.
- The Outreach Committee needs volunteers to make introductions to new residents in the community. The lists are by block, so they can easily get done in a short amount of time. Contact Evan Blankenship and volunteer!
- The Outreach Committee is also planning a Live Nativity for December 14. More information will follow soon.
- The Church Council is looking into sending one or two members to attend the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership. Pastor Schewe is gathering details.



(continued from page 2)

Its first six chapters recount a return from exile and rebuilding the temple and the final four chapters the return of a second remnant of Jews. Upon his return, he dealt with problems such as the Jews' intermarriage with neighboring heathens.

“Nehemiah” continues Ezra’s story and describes the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls, for which Nehemiah was largely responsible. He also helped Ezra in spiritually renewing the nation. The book concludes with a humble prayer, “Remember me with favor, O my God” (13:31).

“Esther” is named for the beautiful Jewish woman who became the wife of King Xerxes of Persia. God used Esther and her cousin Mordecai to save the Jewish people from a plot to annihilate them. The events of the book took place around 480 B.C., between the returns described in the book of Ezra.

Jesus Christ—the culmination of history

The thousand years covered by the Old Testament’s historical books is actually a microcosm of all history. When leaders ignore God’s law and have no real concern for the people,

they sow the seeds of their own downfall. We wonder how long God will tolerate our country’s blatant immorality. Perhaps the most frightening aspect of all is the spiritual sluggishness and indifference of Christians.

Solomon’s words still apply: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). Yet, God’s grace and mercy also continue to apply. In Christ there is forgiveness and renewal.

The entire history of the Old Testament—and all of world history—finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He is our “Joshua,” who leads us into the promised land of heaven. He is our Judge and delivers us from every enemy, including the consequences of our sins.

Jesus is the eternal King. He rules over everything for the benefit of the people, though they be but a remnant!

Next: The Old Testament “Poetical Books”

Pastor Roland Cap Ehlke, “Northwestern Lutheran,” March, 1993.
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October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
October 2019						
		1	2	3	4	5
		Asian Ministry Conference				
6 9:00 Worship (Comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism	7	8 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 	9 10:00 Mornings with Mommy 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Board of Elders	10	11	12 10:00 Parkinson's Support Group
13 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Council Meeting 12:45 Catechism	14	15	16 6:30 Bible Study	17	18	19 5:30 SPRY Gathering
20 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:00 Quarterly SIS and Voters meetings	21	22 10:00 Mornings with Mommy	23 10:00 Mornings with Mommy AZ-CA District Fall Pastoral Conference	24	25	26 Oktoberfest! (4:00 -7:00 pm)
27 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism	28	29	30 6:30 Bible Study	31		

Norman Eugene Vander Poel—With the Lord

“Norm” was born on November 27, 1932, in Pipestone County (MN) to John Phillip Vander Poel and Wilma Irene Stevens Vander Poel. He was raised on the family farm outside Edgerton, MN.

After graduating Edgerton High School in 1949, he lived and worked in Sioux Falls, SD, for two years. He then moved to Southern California. When the work ran out, he moved back to Pipestone until 1960.

Norm married Donna Rae Jensen on June 16, 1957, at The Little Brown Church in the Vale in Nashua, IA. They were blessed with three sons - Leland, Todd and Jay - before moving to California in 1964, eventually settling in Fresno, CA in late 1965. Norman worked for Langendorf Bakery pastry division for nearly 30 years. In the mid-nineties, he joined O&O Attorney Services in Fresno as a courier. A few years later he established his own business - Norm's Attorney Services. He officially retired full time in 2017 at the age of 84.

Norm was a beloved member and leader at St. Peter's. The congregation started out worshiping in Norm and Donna's living room in December of 1981. The group made use of sermon cassette tapes provided by neighboring WELS churches. During the history of the church, Norm served in many capacities: In elected offices, as a greeter and encourager, by doing much work behind the scenes, as a leader in the senior group (SPRY), as a Christian friend of all, and much more. He also had a special place in his heart for the Hmong ministry that began through the ministry of St. Peter's.

The Lord called Norm from this life on September 2, 2019, at the age of 86 years, 9 months, and 6 days.

Jesus said, *“Because I live, you also shall live.” (John 14:19)*



OKTOBERFEST!

Date: Saturday, October 26

Time: 4:00 –7:00 pm

Place: At St. Peter's!



Join us for some Oktoberfest fun and a church cookout!



Side dishes can be brought by attendees.

See more details on the placard in Luther Hall.

Fun — Food — BBQ — Music — Games for kids — Join us!