



THE MESSENGER

2550 Gettysburg Ave.

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 St. Peter Lutheran Church—Clovis, CA

September 2019

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Update on Pre-School Construction and Funding

As you have probably noticed, work has been going on in earnest to prepare our campus for opening a Christian pre-school in August 2020. Our synod terms this an “Early Childhood Ministry” (ECM).

Our ECM Action Team, tasked with overseeing the on site preparations, and our ECM Governing Board, which will oversee the running of the pre-school as the “school board,” have been very busy during the summer months.

The renovations in Luther Hall are nearing completion and the playground site preparations are almost finished. The play structure and fencing will be coming in about two months.

Financial picture: At the July Voters Meeting, the start-up budget for opening the pre-school was raised to \$105,000, due to the added architectural and contractor costs that were required. As of last week, we have been blessed to receive about \$90,000 toward these costs. It is so wonderful that the people of our congregation have been moved to generously support this work – What a blessing! There are still pledges that are being fulfilled, as monies come in each week toward our ECM efforts.

The other side of the coin, obviously, is that we still have about \$15,000 to go with fully funding this work. We still need this support to finish the budgeted plan that was approved in July. Also, as was discussed at the Open Forum on August 4, if we surpass the \$105,000 amount, there is a Wish List of three items that we can have done:

1. A sink in the new pre-school classroom
2. A shade or sail over the playground structure
3. Replace the flooring in the restrooms

It would be wonderful to get this all done and get our ECM off to a great start by next year! Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support our efforts and work in getting these on-site preparations done in the next weeks and months.





Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter,

Here is the next installment in our series “*Knowing Your Scriptures!*”

The Pentateuch: The first five books of the Bible

God is the great communicator. In the beginning, he simply said “Let there be...” and created the heavens and the earth.

Ever since that time, he’s been communicating with his creation. The book of Genesis tells us that God walked in the Garden of Eden and spoke with our first parents. Even after they disobeyed him and fell into sin, he did not break off communication. He declared to them the terrible results of their sin—a world filled with sorrow and death. He also spoke of the Savior whom he would send into the world.

With other early believers, such as Abraham, God also spoke directly. At the time of Moses (1400 B.C.), God began to put his word into written form.

Moses and the prophets after him wrote God’s word on animal skins which were sewn together and rolled into scrolls so exactly that they even counted the number of Hebrew words in each Old Testament book to make sure they didn’t miss any. In this way, the Lord saw to it that this written word was preserved from one generation to another.

The Pentateuch

God used Moses to lead the chosen nation of Israel from bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land. To Moses God gave the Ten Commandments. And it was Moses whom God inspired to write the first five books of Scripture.

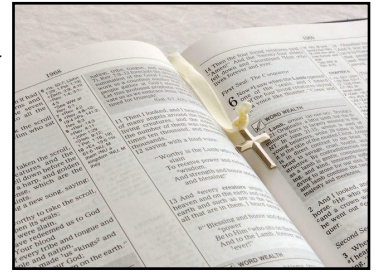
These books are known by different names: Pentateuch, meaning “five volumes” and Torah. the Hebrew title meaning “law.”

The ancient Jews divided the Hebrew Scriptures into three main parts—the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Jesus referred to this division: “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44). The Psalms are the first book in the Writings and thus represent that section.

Genesis

Genesis means “Beginning, origin.” Not only does the Bible’s first book describe the creation of the heavens and the earth, but it also relates other firsts: the first sin, the first gospel promise, the beginnings of God’s chosen nation of Israel.

Genesis falls into two divisions. The first part of Genesis (chapters 1-11) recounts the early history of the human race. Here we find the epic stories of Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel.



The rest of the book (12-50) focuses on the formative years of the nation of Israel. The Lord chose this people, beginning with Abraham, to be the nation from which the Savior of the world would come: “Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed” (22:18). Most of these chapters deal with the patriarchs—that is, the founding fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). The book’s closing chapters relate how God saved the family from famine through Jacob’s son Joseph.

Within its twofold division, Genesis has ten mini-histories, each beginning with the expression “This is the account of...” Throughout the Bible’s first book we see the tragedy of human sinfulness, but also the wondrous story of God’s grace to a fallen world.

Exodus

Scripture’s second book, Exodus, takes up the history of God’s people some three centuries after the close of Genesis. The descendants of Israel had grown into a great nation, as God had promised. But over the generations they had become slaves in Egypt.

Through the statesman-prophet Moses, God led his people out of Egypt (hence the name Exodus). On their way to the land God had promised to Abraham, the land of Canaan, they traveled into the wilderness. God guided his nomad nation to Mt. Sinai. There he gave them the Ten Commandments engraved in stone.

The theme of Exodus is the Lord’s covenant with the people of Israel. The book divides into three sections: the deliverance from Egypt (1-18); the establishment of God’s covenant with Israel (19-24); entry into the place of the covenant, the tabernacle (25-40). The tabernacle was a large tent which served as the focus of worship for the entire nation.

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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 September 21, hosted by Irene Payne and Ellen Gates. 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.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ 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.

Birthdays

September 7- Ashley Neiman
September 11- Patti Sweetman
September 19-Mary Sanchez
September 20-Bob Dickson
September 21-Chad Dickson
September 21-Amanda Harville
September 26-Mary Anne Blalock
September 27-Teresa Barber
September 29-Sarah Dubin

Anniversaries

September 4-David & Michelle Taub
September 11-Robert & Janet Zeisser



Happy
Birthday!

Those Who Serve—September

Ushers

Barry White & Travis Hambleton

Flowers

1—Bornemann

8—Sweetman

15-Fitzgerald

22-Teresa Barber

29-Jan Carter

Altar Guild

Marilyn Hood & Joan Hevron

Coffee & Dessert Hosts

1-Teresa Barber

8-Mary Sanchez

15-OPEN

22-OPEN

29-Inge Stutz

Lawn Mowing Teams

7-Curtis Garner & Barry Burghardt

14-Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

21- Bruno Stutz & Mike Farley

28- Evan & Brittney Blankenship, Schewe

Church Cleaning

7- Jo Habensack

14- Mike & Leslie Fitzgerald

21- John & Teresa Barber

28- Kelly Curry

Luther Hall Cleaning

7-Travis & Madeline Armstrong

14-Barry Burghardt

21-Vicki Schewe

28-Bob & Mary Dickson

New Resident Mailing

Marilyn Hood



Thank
You



WELS Convention Highlights

Delegates to the 65th biennial synod convention, held at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn., three weeks ago, have much to remember and to share with others as they return to their home congregations. Illustrating how our worldwide fellowship of confessional Lutherans continues to grow, our synod had the privilege of declaring fellowship with two overseas Lutheran church bodies. The Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ—Kenya is a relatively new Lutheran church body that is united with WELS in doctrine and practice. The Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taiwan had its origin as a WELS mission in 1968 and has since become an independent church body. The convention formally declared fellowship with both Lutheran churches; delegates cast their unanimous votes with a standing ovation. The convention approved the synod's two-year ministry financial plan recommended by the Synodical Council. No changes were made to the plan that was proposed. This plan outlines the financial support that will be provided to all areas of ministry for the next two years. Numerous changes to the synod's bylaws were approved. Most of these changes involved bringing more consistency to the length of terms on various boards and committees. Director of the WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling Rev. Jon Hein's keynote presentation provided an honest evaluation of membership trends and the challenges posed by a changing culture. He outlined the synod's plans to address these challenges making use of the means of grace and committing all results to the hands of the Holy Spirit. After hearing reports from all areas of the synod's missions and ministries, many delegates commented that for the first time they had a real picture of the scope and nature of the many things we are doing together as a synod. They expressed an eagerness to return home to share what they had learned with their congregations. Rev. Joel Voss was re-elected as the synod second vice president and I was blessed and honored to be elected to serve another term as synod president.

Serving in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

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Exodus contains the spectacular account of Israel's passage through the Red Sea, as well as God's miraculous providing of manna as a food for his people in the desert.

Israel in the desert

The other three books of the Pentateuch continue the story of the Israelites' journey to Canaan, a journey which lasted 40 years.

***Leviticus** describes numerous details for Israelite worship. The book relates how the people were to come near to God (1-16) and to exhibit their relationship with him (17-27). The people's lives centered around various sacrifices, the priesthood, laws of purification, and special days, such as the Great Day of Atonement. The many sacrifices pointed ahead to the supreme sacrifice for the sins of the world.*

***Numbers** is a travelogue of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness. It covers the 39 years during which the people traveled from Mt. Sinai to the Promised Land. Numbers tells of the people's rebellion and complaining, and of God's punishments, patience, and forgiveness. It contains the well-known stories of the 12 spies, the bronze serpent, and Balaam's donkey.*

***Deuteronomy** means "second giving of the law." It repeats many of the laws, including the ten commandments. This book was Moses's farewell to the people as they prepared to enter Canaan. We find in Deuteronomy the Lord's promise to Moses, "I will raise up . . . A prophet like you" (18:18). That greatest of all prophets was to be Jesus Christ. Deuteronomy closes with the account of Moses' death.*

Many modern "scholars" deny Moses' authorship of the Pentateuch and attributes the writing to several sources. Yet, the Bible declares, "Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priest" (Deuteronomy 31:9). And as we have seen, no less an authority than Jesus himself speaks of the "Law of Moses."

The Pentateuch serves as the grand entranceway of the Bible. We stand in awe as God begins relating his plan of salvation. The rest of the Bible will unfold that glorious plan.

Next: The historical books.

Pastor Roland Cap Ehlke, "Northwestern Lutheran," March, 1993.
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| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
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September 2019

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|---|--|---------------------------------|---|----|----|---|
| 1 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism 2:00 ECM Governing Committee | 2 8:00-11:00 Church Cleanup Morning | 3 6:30 Bible Basics Course | 4 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Board of Elders | 5 | 6 | 7 8:00-11:00 Church Cleanup Morning |
| 8 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:30 Council Meeting 11:45 Catechism | 9 | 10 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 11 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 12 | 13 | 14 10:00 Parkinson's Support Group |
| 15 9:00 Worship (comm) 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism | 16 | 17 6:30 Bible Basics Course | 18 6:30 Bible Study | 19 | 20 | 21 5:30 SPRY Gathering |
| 22 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism | 23 Fall Pastoral Conference (Lodi) | 24 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 25 10:00 Mornings with Mommy | 26 | 27 | 28 9:00 ECM Action Team 9:00 Hmong ministry meeting |
| 29 9:00 Worship 10:15 Family Bible Hr. 11:45 Catechism | 30 | 31 6:30 Bible Basics Course | | | | |

Current Bible Classes:

Sunday mornings: *The Holy Spirit—His Person and Work*”

A variety of teachings have arisen down through the years concerning who the Holy Spirit is and what he does. At our Sunday Bible class, we are discussing what Scripture teaches about him.



Wednesday evenings (6:30 pm): “Grand Words and Key Themes!”

Scripture sometimes uses difficult or unfamiliar words to describe God’s acts or God’s people. What does “Zion” mean? What significance does yeast have? Each Wednesday we will pick out two or three grand words or key themes and discuss what they mean for our faith and life. Join us at church or on our Facebook LIVESTREAM at 6:30 pm.

“Mornings with Mommy”—Starts September 10!

The first session of “Mornings with Mommy” begins on Tuesday, September 10.

“Mornings with Mommy” is an educational playdate for children age 0-4, and provides social time for the moms and caregivers. Offered two weeks per month (Tuesday / Wednesday), each week has its own educational theme and group interaction time.

Moms can mingle with each other and enjoy activities with their children, including: arts and crafts, sensory table, and story time, music, educational toys focusing on gross and fine motor skill development, and a snack. Upcoming sessions are on:

September 10 / 11

September 24 / 25

October 8 / 9

October 22 / 23

Moms, come join us to meet other moms from our church neighborhood! And thank you to our many volunteers who make this program possible.



Church Clean-up Days (Sept 2nd & 7th)

We will be having 2 clean-up days in September. On Monday, September 2nd, from 8:00—11:00 we’ll be cleaning up our construction area and rearranging storage. On Saturday, 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.



Farmer’s Market—Volunteers Needed

We have one more date for our church at the Clovis Farmer’s Market this summer: Friday, September 28.

We need a few people to sit at our booth, say ‘hi’ to passers-by, and offer church information to those who might like it. Can you help?

We have sign up sheet in the church entryway available. Please add your name to the list if you can help! This would really be a valuable service as we get to know people from Clovis and let them know they are welcome to visit us.



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

