

# Messenger



Dear Friend of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church,

I recently had my annual performance review with the executive/personnel committee. They were again too lenient with me but they did name a new priority for 2015 – 2016: I am to help the congregation develop a year-round stewardship program. They also listed some other priorities for me which I will discuss at another time.

I am excited by this new challenge. I received my Doctor of Ministry in Comprehensive Stewardship from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in 1998 and have attended four stewardship continuing education programs over the last three years in Orlando, Kansas City and St. Paul (twice). I am looking forward to doing more work in stewardship and am happy this congregation wants to make stewardship a priority.

A year-round emphasis will involve more than

just preaching about stewardship often during the year, though I expect that to happen. The proper use of time and talents will be explored, as well as a narrative budget. I will also consider how stewardship can become an emphasis in several areas of congregational life.

Giving patterns are changing among younger generations. Gone are the days when people carried checkbooks and extra cash. We will need to look more at online and electronic means of contributing. Since many younger folks like to give to tangible items, we will need to rely less on pledged commitments and more on special offerings and special events.

Older contributors will also be affected. One of our candidates for associate pastor asked why our endowment fund has so little money. I was reminded we need to promote that fund more and encourage planned and deferred giving of resources through legacies and other means.

In preparation for this new emphasis, I have been reading *Propel*, a book suggested at the North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy. This book, written by a pastor at Church of the Resurrection (UMC) outside Kansas City, has some new ideas that have worked there.

In order to begin this new emphasis in September, about the time we hope to have our new associate pastor, I plan to use August to get ready, perhaps when our projected first grandchild is asleep and I have some spare time.

*(Continued on Page 2.)*

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## **Heather Hansen recommended for associate pastor position**

Following the call process according to synod guidelines, Heather Hansen has been recommended to the congregation as part time associate pastor. The congregation will vote at a called congregation meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8 after a Meet and Greet at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

On January 25, 2015, the congregation voted to elect the Call Committee. Members of that group are Courtney Grove, chair; Sheryl Bierstedt, Beth Borstad, Jan Hunt, Jamie La Fuente, Ellen Bridges, Jim Price, Britta Stone and Bill Sweda. Pastor Paul Ziese consulted with the committee.

The Call Committee met regularly and completed the Ministry Site Profile, a document that told about the MacArthur Park Lutheran Church congregation and described the type of candidate that was desired to meet the needs of the church.

Next, the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA sent names of two candidates whose skills and interests fit the needs described in the Ministry Site Profile. Those two candidates were interviewed, and the Call Committee unanimously voted to recommend Heather Hansen to the MacArthur Park Lutheran Church Congregation Council.

On July 21, the Congregation Council voted to recommend Heather Hansen to the congregation for a vote. A pay package was also approved for recommendation to the congregation.

On Aug. 8, the congregation will be taking two votes. The first will be a vote to call Heather Hansen to the position of part time associate pastor. A two-thirds vote of those present is required to approve her call. The second vote will be to approve the pay package. A majority vote is required for passage.

If her call is approved and she accepts the call, she may join the staff as early as Sept. 1.

Suzette Price, Congregation Council President

*(Continued from Page 1.)* For a stronger stewardship emphasis to be effective, I will need members of our worshiping community to step forward and help. I hope you will give prayerful consideration to how God may be calling you to enhance the stewardship ministry of this congregation. You can begin now by praying all of us will become better examples of generosity in all we do.

Peace, Pastor Paul

## Hansen may come home as associate pastor More giving needed to reduce shortage

By JIM PRICE

If Mac Park voting members want to call an associate pastor, specifically Ms. Heather Hansen, they're going to need to give some more financial help.

The proposed 2015-16 church budget presently being prepared for a congregation vote on Aug. 30 has a "slight deficit" or red tinge, according to Treasurer Dan Bierstedt.

**Voting members will decide on Aug. 8 whether to call Hansen to fill the part-time position. A "Meet and Greet" Hansen will begin at 2 p.m., followed by a special congregation meeting at 2:30 p.m. to vote. A second vote will be taken on the compensation package.**

"As a matter of full disclosure for the time being, there is a slight budget deficit," Bierstedt said. Increased giving is needed to eliminate the shortage of funds, President Suzette Price said.

"To move the church forward, a leap of faith is in the budget planning," Bierstedt said. "We're acting with courage by accepting change," he said of the Finance Committee "and we would hope, if not already a joyful steward, the congregation would join in this endeavor."

**Earlier this year, a Future Staffing Task Force determined with the largest group of youth in more than a decade, particular emphasis needed to be placed on youth, as well as on Grace Groups, family ministry and Christian education.**

The direction was followed by the Call Committee which interviewed two candidates designated by the Southwestern Texas Synod and deemed both as qualified to fill the associate pastor position and job responsibilities. Unanimous votes of recommendation for the congregation to call Hansen were approved by the committee, Executive/Personnel Committee and Congregation Council.

Notified of the recommendation approvals, Hansen said: "I am delighted and surprised all at the same time to be considered for the position of associate pastor, focusing on youth at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church. I am delighted because of Mac Park's vision for mission and reaching out into the community to live the gospel and change the world. It's a powerful vision statement, but in reading the paperwork that the Call Committee submitted to the synod, and in what I see and experience at our church, Mac Park is a healthy, welcoming, vibrant congregation where I feel I can truly use my gifts, particularly in the areas of youth, education and mission.

*(Continued on Page 6.)*

## MacArthur Park Lutheran School



Happy New Year! I can't believe that the new school year is almost here. School will start August 24. We are looking forward to having children ages 18 months through first grade. With the additional ages, children will be able to stay at our school for up to 6 years! That is exciting! Please pray for all our staff and students as we move forward in this exciting new school year.

MPLS is working everyday to "Live the Gospel and change the world". We have a great learning environment with age appropriate curriculum, daily chapel, music and a variety of activities that nurture students' development. It is a great feeling to have the never-tiring support of the congregation. Your prayers and love are felt on a daily basis and help maintain our continued success.

Our annual rummage sale will be in September. We are glad to accept donations at anytime. Let friends and neighbors know that we are collecting. The rummage sale has been our biggest fundraiser for the last couple of years. Watch for sign-up sheets and volunteer opportunities as the date grows closer.

Our school activities will be getting into full swing before you know it, so watch the bulletin for information about what is happening. We still have limited openings in all of our classes, so please continue to spread the word about the school.

*Carla Lockett, Director*



**Sunday, September 13**  
**"God's Work. Our Hands."**  
**Sunday**

**More information to come!**

### The Women's Group

will resume meeting after their summer break on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 pm in the Fireside room. We invite all women of our congregation to attend the meeting. This meeting we will be planning our activities for the year.

We are also looking for someone to come forward to be the facilitator this year. If you are interested, please contact Suzette Price or Mary Ann Anderson.



## *Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ July 21, 2015*

In Attendance: Suzette Price, Dan Bierstedt, Roger Buchhorn, Maureen Folkerts, Lisa Hooter, Pastor Ziese

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm with a video study and discussion. The group reaffirmed its commitment to the purpose statement and guiding principles. In order to be safer it was suggested that Suzette Price ask Debbie Kennedy to use BCC for emailing the congregation. Price was also asked to check and see if guests who leave their emails receive the Happenings mailing on Thursdays.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Minutes of the June 23, 2015 Congregational Council meeting were approved as printed.
- The June financial report was received from Treasurer Dan Bierstedt. June was behind by \$6,809.79 for the month and ahead by \$12,136.80 for the year. MPLC School was ahead for the month by \$10,158.06 and by \$13,280.48 for the year.
- New member Judy Kutz was accepted and approved with a motion by Dan Bierstedt and a second by Maureen Folkerts.
- The Congregation Council voted on the recommendation of the Call Committee to recommend to the congregation calling Heather L. Hansen for the position of part time associate pastor. All nine members of the Congregation Council voted in favor. (Robin Bullington, Abel Flores and Melissa French-Stephenson voted electronically.)
- The Congregation Council voted on the recommendation of the Compensation Committee to recommend to the congregation a pay package for Heather L. Hansen. All nine members of the Congregation Council voted in favor. (Robin Bullington, Abel Flores and Melissa French-Stephenson voted electronically.)
- A special congregation meeting was called for Saturday, Aug. 8 at 2:30 p.m. following a Meet and Greet for the associate pastor candidate at 2 p.m.
- Folkerts made and Roger Buchhorn seconded a motion to recommend the Plan of Ministry for 2015-2016 to the congregation to be voted on at Part A of the annual congregation meeting on Aug. 30, 2015. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.
- Council members completed a positive performance evaluation of Pastor Ziese and accepted a set of goals for him for 2015-2016. These goals may need to be revised when the associate pastor is added to the staff.
- The revised funeral guidelines were approved. Folkerts will send a final copy to Debbie Kennedy to print.

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

- Equipping Mission Team Chair Roger Buchhorn provided a written report. Current registration for the next school year is at 33. There will be a giving tree for the school for four Sundays beginning on July 26. The Men's Breakfast group will meet July 23. *(Continued on Page 8.)*

*(Continued from Page 3.)*

**“And I am surprised because I didn’t think the seminary and call process would bring me back to Mac Park as a possibility for ordained ministry, but I couldn’t be more excited and hopeful for what the future may hold.”**

The associate pastor position calls for 20 “regular” hours per week and five to seven additional unscheduled hours. Approval of the call requires a two-thirds majority of voting members at the Aug. 8 meeting and a simple majority on the compensation package.

Voting members are defined as confirmed members, according to the MacArthur Park Lutheran Church constitution. “Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith,” according to the constitution.

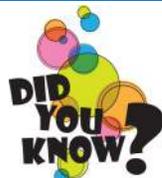
If both votes are approved, Hansen has 30 days to accept the call. If she approves more quickly, she could possibly begin her new duties by Sept. 1. She also is expected to continue in her part-time position as lecturer in the Texas Lutheran University Theology Department.

She and her husband, Mark Hansen, are parents of Hannah and Alex. In 1995 she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M, in 2004 a Master of Arts degree in youth and family ministry from Luther Seminary and recently finished a Master of Divinity degree to become a candidate for Ordained Minister.

**Hansen also served as MacArthur Park director of youth and family ministries from 1996-2009, Southwestern Texas Synod youth ministry coordinator from 2007-2012 and TLU campus ministry assistant from 2010-2013.**

Currently she is serving in a pastoral capacity at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Maxwell, 12 miles east of San Marcos.

(Price is a long-time member of Mac Park and a retired daily newspaper editor and reporter.)



**By: Suzette Price**

All meetings held at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church should be scheduled through Administrative Assistant Debbie Kennedy. This helps ensure the space is available, and any a/c, heating, or room set-up needs are taken care of.

On June 15, 2015 the Mac Park Quilters delivered a shipment of 150 therapy dolls, 75 stuffed animals, 400 dinosaur bookmarks, 200 card games, and 250 sticker packages to the Methodist Children’s Hospital!!

On July 1, 2015, the Mac Park Quilters finished (ready to ship) the **World Relief Quilts for 2016???**

## *The Vine Wellness Group: A Counseling Ministry*



### Opiate Painkillers – Prescribing Addiction?

200 million prescriptions were written for opiate painkillers in 2011. Medications such as Vicodin, Percocet, Oxycontin, Morphine, Methadone, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone and Oxycodone work by reducing pain signals to the brain.

Prescribed for moderate to severe pain, other effects include euphoria, relief from anxiety and sedation. When taken solely for pain management, addiction is unlikely. Over time the body can become “tolerant”, i.e. less able to produce those same desirable effects, risk of abuse becomes real as the person shifts from taking as prescribed to self medicating in larger amounts.

The body adjusts to increased amounts of the chemical by accepting it as necessary for functioning, subtle changes in physiology support this belief and abuse turns to dependence. Attempts to regain control, by decreasing or stopping the medication are met with extreme resistance in the form of withdrawal symptoms.

Anxiety, irritability, runny nose, watery eyes, fever, hot and cold sweats, muscle and joint aches, stomach cramps, insomnia, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are symptoms that this drug elicits to send you in to survival mode. You MUST have more and may no longer recognize the person that you become in order to fuel that need.

Opioid Dependence recognizes no prejudice; it doesn’t care what you earn, where you live, where you worship, who you love or what you look like. All are welcome, all may succumb. So, how do we fight back against this foe? Recovery is an achievable reality, help is available in a plethora of forms; just ask. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”. Romans 8:28

<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

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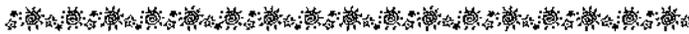
# Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and – for many people – time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who's behind all those summertime joys.



*Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a  around words describing God's actions. Draw an  around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw ~~~ under words that describe the ocean.*

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,  
 who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,  
 who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar ...



*Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God's name in this Bible verse.*

i t T w H s p j E k e m a b L f g O h b c R d  
 e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L  
 a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y



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*(Continued from Page 5.)*

Registration for the men's retreat will be deposited before the camp deposit is required for the retreat scheduled for Sept. 24-27.

- Sending Mission Team Chair Lisa Hooter provided a written report. The Texas Treasure Hunt on Housing will be during the Sunday School time on July 26. Blair Ortmann from SAMM will speak. The next CICBA meeting is July 27 at 6:30 p.m.
- Recommended updates to the Wedding Guidelines will be discussed at the August meeting.

Announcements: There will be a calendar sign up on Aug. 2 in the Fireside Room after second service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. with a closing prayer from Suzette Price.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Suzette Price – acting Congregation Council Secretary

Answer: The LORD Almighty

## Stitches from the Quilters



**Quilter of the Month:  
Dorothy Spencer-Part V**

While Beverly was alive, Dorothy studied under a professor named Dr. Lee from UT at Austin in order to learn more about Beverly's disease and how to help her. When Dorothy went to Frankfurt and applied at the school system there, her transcript revealed that she had background studies in the field of "special needs" individuals and that she indeed was experienced in working with her own child. (Beverly had passed away by this time.)  
*(Part VI in Sept.)*



**Hospital Delivery:** On June 15, 2015, Dr. Harry Greer and Nelda Greer made the quilters' first 2015 delivery to The Methodist Children's Hospital. They took 150 therapy dolls, 75 stuffed animals, 400 dinosaur bookmarks, 200 card games and 250 sticker packages (everything made by the quilters of Mac Park). Thanks Dr. Harry and Nelda!!!!



**Christmas Stockings:**

On June 1, we gained a new quilter: Laurie Ledwig. You will find out more about her in future issues. She is pictured here holding the first 20 of the squares

she has quilted for the November delivery of the 2015 Christmas Stockings for the Methodist Children's Hospital. Laurie represents a second generation-quilter. Her mother Mae Lukasik (2010-2015) passed away on April 16, 2015. Laurie sought us out, donated all her mother's stuff (gobs and gobs of stuff) and on her first visit to the quilters committed herself to Monday of every week to do whatever the quilters needed. (That's a risky remark to make to Pat Richmond as some of you found out!!!). Below you will see Laurie is busily cutting the squares for the stockings (she has finished cutting all the squares!!) And she also TAKES SEWING HOMEWORK!!!!

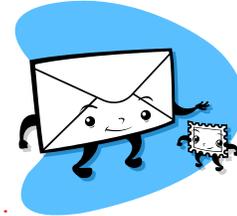


**Laurie is a regular "cut-up"!!!! Thanks Laurie.**

*Yours in Christ,  
Mary Alice Rupard*

## “Post”-ings from the Stamp Group

August 7, 2015: 6:15 – Juniors  
 7:00 – Board of Governors meeting (if needed)  
 7:30 – “Show and Tell” – Bring something to share  
 with the other members



**August 8, 2015: 9:30 – Saturday bourse – Building #6- Senior building**

August 14, 2015: 7:00 – Auction – Get some really great bargains

August 21, 2015: 6:15 – Juniors  
 7:30 – Program (See Program Notes below)

August 28, 2015: 7:30 – Bourse Philatelic Flea Market – Buy, Sell, Trade

### *Program Notes ~ August 21, 2015*

#### *“Minerals on Stamps” (or whatever Sam wants to do) by Sam Rodgers*

Well folks, those of you who know Sam, know that the program will be entertaining and informative!!!! He informed me that his collection of minerals on stamps was less than satisfactory, so he was not sure what he will show. (Like any of us can reeeeeeally predict what he will bring!!!) I told him that we would be anxious to see any of his new “Philatelic Orphans”. That being said, we will be anxiously awaiting, Sam, for you to surprise us.

*Yours in Philately, Patricia Richmond*

### **TEXAS IMPACT'S COMMUNITY TREASURE HUNT - SUN., AUG. 30 - Mental Health ~ Mental**

health conditions affect every-  
 one: grandparents, children, neighbors, com-  
 munity leaders, and the people with whom we  
 worship. An estimated fifty percent of all peo-  
 ple will meet the criteria for a diagnosable  
 mental health condition at some point within  
 their lifetime. In 2009, the National Alliance  
 on Mental Illness (NAMI) gave Texas' mental  
 health service a "D" grade and the Texas De-  
 partment of State Health Services acknowl-  
 edged that Texas' mentally ill population was  
 not receiving adequate mental health care.  
 Texas ranks 50th among U.S. States in mental  
 health expenditures per capita. Texas also  
 ranks far below the national average in the  
 number of mental health professionals per  
 100,000 residents.



### **WEDNESDAY CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME WED., AUGUST 26 IN THE CHOIR ROOM**

6:15-7:00 pm Women's Choir  
 7:00-7:30 pm Men's Ensemble  
 7:30-8:30 pm Bells

### **WEDNESDAY YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME WED., SEPTEMBER 2 5:45 PM IN THE CHAPEL**

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26	TOTAL
8:30am	65	56	60	65	246
10:45am	53	79	57	87	276
Offering	\$4,028.00	\$5,551.87	\$3,407.48	\$3,055.29	\$16,042.64
Sunday School	16	31	27	45	119

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please pray for the following:**

Fred Beaver, Sandra Couffer, Evelyn Garza, Annice Guenther, Dorothy Imig, Dewey Johnson, Bonnie McKisson, Ryan Nunn, James Peters, Jonathan Petrutsas, and David VanLydegraf.

Those undergoing chemo and/or radiation treatments: Collin Cash, Dorothy Flores, Deborah McHorse, Rob Milliman, Jr., and Montsho.



**Our Christian sympathy**

to family & friends of Ollie Moye on his death May 31; Abel & Dorothy Flores on the death of his mother June 27; and family & friends of Jerry Schramm on his death July 1. Please keep these families in your prayers.

### PASTORAL ACTS

**5/31/15 Reception of New Member**

James Rabenaldt—by affirmation of baptism

**6/4/15 Funeral**

Ollie Moye—by Pastor Paul

**6/21/16 Marriage**

Alan Abernathy and Olga De Anda

**7/11/15 Graveside Service**

Edward Jerry Schramm



**Pastor Kathee Forrest**

505 N. 25th St.

Beatrice, NE 68310

Email: [katheeforrest@gmail.com](mailto:katheeforrest@gmail.com)



**Congratulations** to Linda Kavanagh on the birth of triplet great-grandchildren on June 19! Two identical girls: Amelia & Elli, & one fraternal boy: Joshua, each weighing close to 5 pounds. The proud parents are Gina & Fletcher McClellen.

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 San Antonio, TX 78217  
 church: (210) 824-7135  
 fax: (210) 826-5146  
 school (210) 822-5374  
 Website: [macparkelca.org](http://macparkelca.org)  
 Email:  
[macparklutheran@satx.rr.com](mailto:macparklutheran@satx.rr.com)  
 -or- [officemacpark@satx.rr.com](mailto:officemacpark@satx.rr.com)

A congregation of the Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church in America  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



Deadline for Sept.  
 newsletter is:  
 Thurs., Aug. 20, 2015

Like us on Facebook



**We're on the web!**  
[www.macparkelca.org](http://www.macparkelca.org)

## Welcome to MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School

† MacArthur Park invites you for Sunday worship. †

### Our Worship Schedule

8:30 ~ 9:30 am 1st Service with Holy Communion  
 10:45 ~ 11:45 am 2nd Service with Holy Communion

*Lutheran Hispano-Latino Spanish services at 9:30 am with Holy Communion every Sunday in our chapel. All Spanish speaking (first or second language) welcome to share the joy of the Spirit.*

Website: [www.pilhlsa.com/home](http://www.pilhlsa.com/home)

† Christian Education opportunities for ages 2 – adult at 9:45 a.m. †

† Our School has a Christian environment for students ages 18 months–1st Grade †

### 2014 — 2015 Congregation Council

Suzette Price, President	Roger Buchhorn, Equipping Chair
Melissa French Stephenson, Vice President	Lisa Hooter, Sending Chair
Robin Bullington, Secretary	Abel Flores, Support Chair
Dan Bierstedt, Treasurer	Maureen Folkerts, Inviting Chair

### Church & School Staff

Pastor: Paul Ziese	Home: (210) 826-3071
School Director: Carla Lockett	Home: (210) 824-2322
Music Director: Leigh Anne Seitter	Home: (210) 497-7113
Choir Director: Carla Lockett	Home: (210) 824-2322
Youth Choir Director: Melissa French-Stephenson	Cell: (210) 316-9404
Property Manager: Kevin Ott	Cell: (210) 885-8959
Care Coordinator: Betty Pomykal	Home: (210) 822-7055
Sextant: Jean Schriever	Cell: (210) 860-1688
Administrative Asst.: Debbie Kennedy	Home: (210) 564-0430

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