

Messenger

September



2016

“Live the Gospel, Change the World.” This purpose statement was adopted by the congregation several years ago following an in-depth planning process based on the Acts of the Apostles. We have a strong purpose statement to help us set our direction.

At the same time we adopted our purpose statement, we also adopted six guiding principles. During the last year, I have been reflecting more on the relationship between the first two of those principles: “Jesus is Lord and Savior” and “We welcome all.”

Living with both of these guiding principles at the same time is proving to be a big challenge.

In our increasingly secular and religiously pluralistic society, fewer are willing to say Jesus is Lord and Savior. Fewer are living by this gospel.

In addition, churches are not known widely for welcoming all. Christians are often assumed to be

anti-women, anti GLBTQ people, anti-immigrants, anti-Muslims, and anti-intellectuals. Instead of being known for whom they welcome and include, Christians are often known for whom they shun and exclude.

Christians are not known for being welcoming of all and those who welcome all often want to have nothing to do with Jesus and especially nothing to do with the church, the followers of Jesus.

MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School faces a challenge in moving forward, but I think the challenge is exciting because the challenge is central to the gospel. The path may not be easy for us but I think we are on the right course.

I sense a desire by many people to be spiritual and loving at the same time. People also want to make a difference in a changing world. MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School offers a community where people can be spiritual and loving, a community where people can help change the world.

As I leave for a two-month sabbatical in September, I hope all of you will rally around your staff and new council and Live the Gospel and Change the World.

Peace,
Pastor Paul



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MacArthur Park Lutheran School



Happy fall! School is in session and we are going strong. We have 60 children enrolled and have 11 employees. We are still accepting applications and looking to hire 2 employees. For the first time in several years, we have two classes of the same age. There are 2 two-year-old classes and we have space for additional students in each of these classes. We are looking forward to a great year.

Our biggest fundraiser is coming October 1, our annual rummage sale. We have been very blessed to receive donations throughout the year so we feel confident that this year's sale will be outstanding. With that said, we will need a great deal of help with unloading storage, sorting, and pricing. There will be sign-up sheets the Sunday prior to the sale so you can let us know if you can help. Donations will be gladly accepted however, if you

can save them till the week prior it would help with storage. We will also be trying something new this year. There will be an "early-bird" sale for people who want to shop before the crowd. Shoppers will be given the opportunity to shop a couple hours on Friday evening for a small fee. The rummage sale is always a lot of work, but it is a great time had by all.

Our cookie dough fundraiser is also set for September 19. We will have everyone's favorite flavor and there are a few new additions so watch for the flyers and brochures as the sale grows closer.

Thank you to everyone who has spread the word about our school! We have several church members' neighbors, friends or relatives attending so it's always nice to have "family". Please continue to pray for our staff, children and families.

MPLS staff and students

San Pablo congregation invites you to their 5th anniversary celebration service on Sun., Oct. 30 at 12:30 pm in our sanctuary. Rev. Sue Briner, Bishop's Associate for the Southwestern Texas Synod will be present, and Pastor Paul Ziese will join Pastor Nelson Velázquez in presiding during Holy Communion. Following the service, lunch will be served in the Fireside Room and everyone is invited.



Building Finance Team meets Interviews capital campaign companies

The Building Finance Team, chaired by Dan Bierstedt, met on Aug. 10 and did phone interviews with representatives of two additional capital campaign companies, Kairos and RIS. At a previous meeting the team had done a phone interview with a representative of the Mission Investment Fund with regard to its capital campaign program.

After discussing the interviews and studying the printed materials provided by each capital campaign group, the Building Finance Team will recommend one of the companies to the Congregation Council. With council approval, the congregation will meet and vote to hire the recommended company.

A capital campaign company might first do a feasibility study to determine whether such a campaign would meet the needs of the congregation and how much might be raised for a potential building project.

Members of the Building Finance Team are Dan Bierstedt, chair; Dena Chenault; Bjorn Dybdahl; Cheryl Nickles; Suzette Price, Chris Stone; Bill Sweda and Pastor Paul Ziese.---srp



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The fourth annual "God’s work. Our hands." Sunday will take place on **September 11**. Many of you have participated in the past and we look forward to working side by side again this year. We will have multiple service opportunities planned that Sunday. **We will only have one service on September 11 at 8:30 am and no Sunday School** to allow for the service projects we have planned. Come dressed in your gold “God’s work. Our hands.” t-shirt, ready to serve!

- ◆ **Cookie Donations Needed for this day:** Packaged cookies are being collected for a volunteer activity. They can be dropped off in back of the church on Sundays, or in the church office during the week. These cookies will be used to create trays to take to First Responders. On September 11, volunteers can choose to assemble cookie trays in the church kitchen. These trays can be picked up by participants on their way home, and delivered to a Fire or Police Station in their neighborhood. If you can help with donating cookies, assembling cookie trays, or taking them to a First Responder station in your neighborhood, please contact Brenda Krueger at 210-385-3639 or brenda.krueger25@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **Interested in Volunteering at the Food Bank?** On Fri. or Sat., Sept. 9 and 10, you can sign up to work a shift in the warehouse or the community garden at the San Antonio Food Bank. Please contact Claudia Torkelson if you are interested. There are morning and afternoon shifts in the warehouse on either day. Community garden is morning only. Claudia’s contact info is yogalife_tx@yahoo.com. (underscore after yogalife)

Habitat for Humanity Report

It is that time of year again...back to school, hope for cooler weather, and the season for our Lutheran Cluster Habitat house build. Mac Park will once again participate with our cluster churches including Christ, St. John-San Antonio, Abiding Presence, Grace, Zion, and St. John-Boerne. Our partner on this house is St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. We will build in a small area called Hope Village located north of Hwy. 90 and east of Hwy. 151. This Habitat community will include 21 houses this fall and another section in the area will begin in January.



Mac has been paired with our friends at Christ Lutheran as build partners which means that we will work together on Fri., Sept. 30 and Sat., Oct. 1. Each of our teams will need 10 workers each day. Mac will provide the lunch for Friday and Christ will feed us on Sat. If you would like to participate, please sign up with Jeanette or George Pierce. Working on a Habitat house is fun and rewarding so please consider joining in. Since we collected funds in the spring, we will not run another Square Foot campaign now, but of course, if you would like to help us fully fund our half of the Lutheran Cluster house, your financial gifts are most appreciated. You might want to consider offering a gift in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or any other special occasion. What a gesture it would be to celebrate Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio's 40th year of building clean, efficient, and durable homes by helping with the effort and witnessing to God's love in action.

This fall we are partnering with our family, the Rehs. Parents Seh and Beh have two teens at home, Nga-17 and Hsaw-14. They love Habitat and have already helped their older daughter build her home and have put in many sweat equity hours on their own home buying experience.

As Pastor Paul mentioned in a recent blog post, we attended the Faith in Action Team's August lunch meeting and heard an exemplary presentation by South San High School's 2016 Valedictorian, Araceli Garcia, who will enter her freshman year at Stanford University this fall. Araceli let us know how important it was for her and her brother to have the opportunity to grow up in a stable home environment in her Habitat house. The work we do to fund and build homes has an impact beyond what we can even imagine.

Thanks to our Mac Park family and our cluster partners we will have the opportunity to continue God's work through Habitat this fall. Please consider joining the work crew or helping with lunch. ~Jeanette Pierce

Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ August 16, 2016

In Attendance: Suzette Price, Robin Bullington, Melissa French-Stephenson, Pastor Heather, Bill Sweda, Beth Borstad, Pastor Ziese, Maureen Folkerts, Renee Staul

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm with a prayer from Pastor Heather. The group reaffirmed its commitment to the purpose statement and guiding principles.

Actions:

- Minutes of the July 19, 2016 Congregational Council meeting was approved as printed.
- A written financial report was received from Treasurer Maureen Folkerts. July operating receipts were \$38,500.99 and total expenses were \$32,744.16 with a net income of \$5756.83. Year to date operating receipts were \$328,486.00 and total expenses were \$384,296.66 with a loss of (\$55,810.66). For July, MPLC School operating receipts were \$533.69 and total expenses were \$17,007.69 with a loss of (\$16,474.00). Year to date operating receipts were \$25,470.88 and total expenses were \$223,825.59 with a net income of \$31,645.29.
- Pastoral Acts –Holy Baptism of Kayden Cooper Folmer
- Resignations of Bill Sweda and Beth Borstad from current council positions were accepted in order to make them available for election to other positions. The resignation of Abel Flores as Support Chair and Paige Marg as Building Committee chair were accepted as of July 25, 2016. All resignations accepted with a motion by Maureen Folkerts and a second by Robin Bullington.

Discussions:

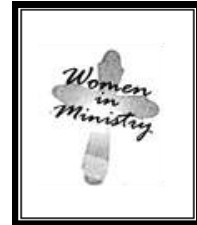
- The list of nominations for council and committees was reviewed. Nominees are as follows:
 - President – Beth Borstad
 - Vice President – Melissa French-Stephenson
 - Treasurer – Maureen Folkerts
 - Secretary – Ellen Bridges
 - Support Chair – Bill Sweda
 - Equipping Chair – Courtney Grove
 - Inviting Chair – Sheryl Bierstedt
 - Nominating committee – Carol Couffer, Henry Sladek
 - Audit committee – Paul Halvorson
 - Endowment Fund Committee – Mark Helmke
- The building finance committee has been researching several financial institutions

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm with a closing prayer from Suzette Price.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bullington, Congregation Council Secretary

Women's group reconvenes

First meeting will be Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.



The Mac Park women's group will meet in the Fireside Room at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8 to organize for the year's gatherings.

This is a great opportunity to get to know other women in the congregation, learn something new and do service in the community.

Some of the traditional meetings have included assembling Lutheran World Relief health kits, learning more about our faith through a pastor led Bible study and inviting women from other area churches to join in a game of bunco.

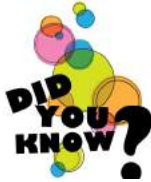
Of course, there are always refreshments. Sometimes it is just cookies and punch, but other times the group does a taco salad dinner.

You are invited to attend! All are welcome.---srp



We are excited to tell you about a new Sunday School class being offered this fall for **kids in grades 3-12**. As we explore new and different ways of providing meaningful and engaging Christian Ed. opportunities, one thing that really sticks out to us is that there is A LOT of musical talent in this group of young people! Because of that, David and I, as music educators and parents of 2 in this age group, are planning 4 classes that will meet during the Sunday school hour throughout the fall. The dates are **Sep. 4, Oct. 2, Oct. 30 & Nov. 27** and the class will meet in Carla Lockett's music room in the portable. This will be the only class offered to this age group on those 4 Sundays.

The focus will be on worshipping and praising God through music; be that playing a band or orchestra instrument, singing, playing the chimes, using rhythm instruments to accompany, playing piano or guitar, incorporating movement to music...the list goes on! No past musical experience is necessary, we just want the kids to be open to trying different things as well as using their God given gifts and shining in the talents that they already have. We also have some pretty talented adults, so may be inviting some of you to join us from time to time to share your talents and knowledge with the group. In addition, the kids will have the opportunity to participate in our church services on 4 different Sunday's this fall. Those dates are Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 6 & Dec. 4. Although participation in the services is completely optional, we know that their involvement will really add to the services and be very meaningful to the congregation as well as the participants. ~Melissa French-Stephenson and David Stephenson



MacArthur Park Lutheran Church member *Courtney Grove* has been selected to receive the 2016 SCHOLARSHIP to the 2016 Southwestern Texas Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention.

Mac Park member *Sheryl Bierstedt* has completed a 6-week class in Mindful Meditation.

By: Suzette Price

Ryan French, brother of Mac Park member Melissa French-Stephenson, sang with Garrison Keilor on his last show of Prairie Home Companion on May 21, 2016.

According to ELCA Global Links-July 2016, there are more Lutheran in Tanzania than there are in the United States.

On June 11, 2016, the quilters sent a Spring Delivery to the Methodist Children's Hospital: There were 114 Therapy Dolls, 57 stuffed animals, 108 card games, 740 sticker packages and 420 Dinosaur bookmarks!!!!!!

Mac Park Sunday mornings

Coffee and snacks will hit the spot

Mary Jane Blair had a great idea, and Beth Borstad followed through with it. Have people sign up to bring snacks for just one Sunday. If enough people sign up, it will not be a burden for anyone.



For that one Sunday, the responsible person would:

*Make coffee for thirty. Set out coffee cups, stirrers, creamer, sugar and artificial sweeteners.

*Provide an alternative beverage such as orange juice or punch. Set out juice cups.

*Provide snacks for about thirty people. Try to have a healthy choice and something gluten free. Set out plates, napkins and forks, if needed.

*Clean up at 10:30 a.m. or after the second service, if you attend that service.

The name of the person will appear in the bulletin on the day the snack is provided and in the Messenger. The names will be listed with all others who have Sunday morning responsibilities.

Suzette Price will be the person responsible for this ministry. Contact her at thewriteprice@gmail.com with any questions.---srp



THE LORD WILL PROTECT

God always watches over us, during good times and bad.

Directions: Connect the dots, according to the instructions below. Then use the resulting word to complete the Bible verse.

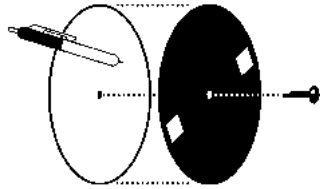
Start at 19. Draw from 19-18, 18-17, 47-62, 62-77, 22-21, 21-20, 50-51, 82-81, 81-80, 80-65, 65-50, 50-35, 35-20, 24-38, 38-53, 24-40, 40-55, 17-32, 47-48, 32-47, 26-41, 41-56, 56-71, 71-86, 56-57, 57-58, 55-54, 54-53, 53-68, 68-83, 55-70, 70-85, 58-43, 57-73, 73-88, 43-28, 28-27, 27-26.

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
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46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
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61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
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76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
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91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
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106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
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121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135

>> "So do not __ __ __ __, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." Isaiah 41:10, NIV <<

PROMISE WHEEL

This craft will remind you that God is always with you.



What you need:

- A large round bowl
- 2 large pieces of construction paper
- A pen
- Scissors
- A ruler
- A brad
- A Bible or search engine

What you do:

1. Turn the bowl upside down and trace around it on both pieces of paper.
2. Cut out the circles. Draw a dot in the center of each.
3. On one circle, trace and cut out two 2" squares opposite each other, with the dot in the middle.
4. Align the dots and place the brad through both circles.
5. In the space left by one square, write a fear you have. Then write a comforting Bible verse in the other square.
6. Rotate the circle to a new blank space, and write another fear and verse.

Stitches from the Quilters



Quilter “Dude” of the Month: Bob Hunt (Part VI) He commuted to Austin, Texas to teach classes one week a month. Most of his classes were made up of recently graduated engineers. Wow, Bob, that is truly an awesome responsibility. I would imagine it is somewhat thankless, too. Not everyone is aware of the 24/7 nature of such a responsibility. Thanks, Bob. **(Part VII in October)**



“Bernice Raney’s Double Wedding Ring”

Well, we promised to tell you about this quilt. It seems that Bernice started this quilt while her husband was alive. Then, when he died she put it away until a few years before she passed away.

She finished it and left the quilt to her daughter to be quilted and the money should go to the Mac Park School. Well, it has been quilted mostly by Mary Alice Rupard.



Here we see Pat Richmond explaining to Rosy Giglio how she (Pat) plans to bind Bernice’s quilt. It is going to be done in the scallops.

Never let the moss gather around these ladies (and gent)!



This new quilt is the **“Omy Mae Couffer Diamond Jubilee Quilt”**

Before it is quilted, it has to be basted together to shrink its surface area in the quilting quarters.



So, Mary Alice Rupard is presently basting it and when it reaches the right size, she will begin quilting from the back side!!!!

***Yours in Christ,
Mary Alice Rupard***



"Post"-ings from the Stamp Group

September 2, 2016

NO MEETING – LABOR DAY WEEKEND

September 9, 2016

7:30 – "Show and Tell" – Bring something interesting to share!!!!

September 10, 2016

9:am – Saturday Morning Bourse – Bldg #6 – Small bourse

September 16, 2016

7:00 – Auction – Come find some good bargains!!!!!!

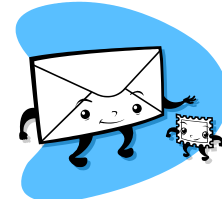
September 23, 2016

7:00 – Board of Governor's Meeting (if necessary)

7:30 – BAGNITE – Find some good stamps for your collection!!!!

September 30, 2016

7:30 – Bourse – Philatelic Flea Market – Buy, Sell, Trade!!!!!!



Dear Reverend Ziese, "Undie Sunday" was a tremendous success in the eyes of The Agape Ministry. Claudia Torkelson's organizational ability and health conscious knowledge and skills along with the cooperation, support and involvement of the Congregation Council, led by Ms. Suzette Price, made the event an intimate, enthusiastic, enjoyable time that demonstrated your church's continued love and support of Agape.



I counted approximately 350 men's briefs and 278 pairs of men's and women's socks that were donated by the participants at the Sunday event. Our bins are filled for our homeless neighbors to have access to clean dry underclothing and socks. I anticipate that we'll be able to provide socks and briefs for quite awhile. Up until recently a considerable amount of Agape's operating funds were used to purchase socks and underwear, but "Undie Sunday" allows this benefit to continue through the hot days ahead. This charitable event serves as a model for other churches and organizations to help Agape continue its care of others.

In addition to the donated undergarments and socks, your generous church members also contributed \$73.00 to Agape.

Please share the gratitude of The Agape Ministry and its "neighbors" with your congregation. The results of "Undie Sunday" allows the ministry to continue to do a "little more" to help our disadvantaged neighbors.

Your brother in Christ,

Kenneth Mamot, Executive Director

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	July 31	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	TOTAL
9:30am	149	168	8:30 = 77 10:45 = 69	8:30 = 89 10:45 = 85	8:30 = 54 10:45 = 91	782
Offering	\$9,091.00	\$5,169.00	\$3,545.00	\$2,209.82	\$2,443.00	\$22,457.82
Sunday School	50	Youth brunch & fellowship	Reception for Pastor Paul & Carla Lockett	35	22	107

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following:

Bill Barfknecht; Dale Beaver, Jr.; Fred Beaver; Faye Eberling; Evelyn Garza; Dorothy Imig; Dewey Johnson; Ryan Nunn; Sharon Nunn; James Peters; Carlo Reyes; and David Van-Lydegraf;

Those undergoing chemo and/or radiation treatments: Barbara Bowden; Collin Cash; Rob Milliman, Jr.; Montsho; and Virgil Peterson.

PASTORAL ACTS

7/31/16: Holy Baptism of Kayden Cooper Folmer

8/26/16: Funeral service for James Loudemilk

Our Christian sympathy to Alan Kirk on the death of his father Virgil Kirk on August 3, 2016, and to family and friends of James Loudermilk on his death August 20, 2016.



DIRECTORY UPDATES

Pastor Heather's email:
pastorheatherlynn@gmail.com

Robin Bullington's email:
rabullington@gmail.com

Jeff Bullington's email:
boards4@att.net

Ruth Makela's new address:
PO Box 902
Chetek, WI 54728



2903 Nacogdoches Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78217
church: (210) 824-7135
fax: (210) 826-5146
school (210) 822-5374
Website: macparkelca.org
Email:
macparklutheran@satx.rr.com
-or- officemacpark@satx.rr.com

A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
www.elca.org



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We're on the web!
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

† 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 †

2016 — 2017 Congregation Council

Beth Borstad, President	Renee Staul, Sending Chair
Melissa French Stephenson, Vice President	Bill Sweda, Support Chair
Ellen Bridges, Secretary	Sheryl Bierstedt, Inviting Chair
Maureen Folkerts, Treasurer	Courtney Grove, Equipping Chair

Church & School Staff

Senior Pastor: Paul Ziese	Home: (210) 826-3071
Associate Pastor: Heather Hansen	Cell: (210) 317-8509
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
Assistant Sextant: Sara Milam	Cell: (210) 355-8100
Administrative Asst.: Debbie Kennedy	Cell: (210) 325-8817

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