

# Messenger



Dear Friend of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School,

At a recent church staff meeting, we reviewed the “Behavioral Covenant for Staff” the church staff adopted several years ago. At a time when we hear of so much turmoil among people who are supposed to be working together, I thought it would be good for us to review how we have agreed to treat each other. Following is our covenant:

“We promise to value our ministry of leadership to our congregation as a team and to offer our primary loyalty to that team.

We promise to express criticism and negative feelings first to the person, not to others.

We promise to refuse to talk with a complainer until that person addresses the person she or he is complaining about.

We promise to maintain confidentiality in staff conversations and meetings.

We promise to explain clearly to people who bring staff complaints that we will be sharing the conversation with staff.

We promise to commit to processing information about personality differences among staff and to give feedback to one another in order to support strengths and to balance weaknesses.

We promise to openly discuss our personal strategies and investments in proposals being made.

We promise to accept the fact that disagreements are expected and are to take place behind closed staff doors; in public we present ourselves as a team.”

I think our world would be a better place if all staffs tried to follow this covenant.

May the season of Easter bring you renewed joy as we again ponder the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Peace,  
Pastor Paul



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## MacArthur Park Lutheran School

Fiesta! Fiesta! Fiesta! It is almost time for Fiesta. The school will be hosting our annual Fiesta event on Friday, April 20th from 5:00 pm— 8:00 pm. Our festivities will begin with a parade and will be followed by a mini NIOSA. This is always a grand event. Information for the activities and opportunities to donate items will be in the bulletin or sent via e-mail.

Thank you to everyone who attended the open house and worship service for Lutheran Schools Week. We hosted 180 guests in first service and enjoyed hosting everyone in the classrooms. Our school is a great place! We are blessed to have so many wonderful students and families. Thank you for welcoming them at MPLC for our celebration.

The canned goods drive was very successful, and we are pleased to give a nice donation to “A Place For Grace.” Again, your support was greatly appreciated. Pastor Ziese, is a good sport to sit in the pie toss booth at Fiesta since we exceeded our goal.

Enrollment has begun for the 2018-2019 school year. We service children ages 18 month through First Grade. Registration is on line this year. If you know someone who might want information about our school, refer them to our website - [macparkschool.org](http://macparkschool.org), give them a brochure, or invite them to call the school. We would be glad to give information or schedule a tour.

Please keep our students and staff in your prayers as we move toward the end of

the school year. While we are busy and having great activities, it can also be a very stressful time. Thank you to everyone for your tireless support of MPLS! We feel very loved.

*MPLS Staff*



## *Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ March 20, 2018*

In attendance: Melissa French Stephenson, Ellen Bridges, Maureen Folkerts, Courtney Grove, Jeanette Pierce, James Vlasak, Sheryl Bierstedt, Virginia Stowell, Pastor Paul Ziese, Pastor Heather Hansen.

Melissa led the devotion. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM, and Pastor Paul led opening prayer. The group reaffirmed our commitment to the Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles.

### Actions:

- \* The February 20, 2018 minutes were approved as written.
- \* Financial report pending.
- \* Pastoral acts report received: Funeral service for Harriet Barosh, 2/22/2018, by Pastors Paul Ziese and Heather Hansen.

### Discussions:

- Pastor Paul reported that he will be having lunch with Pastor Nelson Velazquez April 3, 2018. He noted The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is asking congregations to participate in a program around mental illness. It was the consensus of Council that we would be interested in doing so. There was discussion regarding the funds left over from the insurance money for the hail damage (\$12,000). Replacing the fire alarm system in the Education Building and replacing sections of siding on the outside of the Education Building are concerns. James will discuss costs involved with Kevin Ott.
- Mission Team reports were received. James, Support Chair, noted that Kevin Ott will be updating the Building Utilization Summary for use by the Building Use Task Force. Courtney, Equipping Chair, noted that the 2019 WELCA conference will be held at MPLC, dates to be determined. Sheryl, Inviting Chair, recommended that, as good stewards, the \$500 in the budget for the Stewardship brunch be placed in the general budget and forgo the stewardship brunch. She will consult with Suzette Price regarding how best to get feedback from church visitors. Virginia, School Mission Team, presented the new MPLS brochure for review. She also noted that the MPLS food challenge will be extended until the end of April.
- Discussion regarding worship service times for the future. Congregation Council and Worship Task Force plan to meet to determine how best to move forward. A meeting is planned for May 12, from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Fireside Room.
- Pastor Paul and Beth will meet with the Quilters representative to discuss guide lines/expectations for groups utilizing MPLC/MPLS campus.

*(Continued on Page 4.)*

*(Continued from Page 3.)*

- James will discuss with Kevin Ott safety concerns related to decorating/decorating the sanctuary/campus. Kevin, or other person in charge, will assign duties for various events.
- Pastor Heather will consult with two families who have memorial funds remaining, if they would be amenable to place these funds into the Endowment Fund. This would enable the church to be able to start using interest from the Endowment Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 with closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Bridges, Congregation Council Secretary

## *Easter Sunday - April 1*

*7:00 am Sunrise Service at Arneson  
River Theater*

*8:00 & 10:00 am Worship Services  
with Holy Communion (here in our sanctuary)*

*9:00 am Breakfast served in our  
Fireside Room*

*9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt*



## Women's group to meet April 12

# Pastor Heather Hansen to lead study

The MacArthur Park Lutheran Church women's group will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in the Fireside Room.

Pastor Heather Hansen will lead the group in a Bible study. Lisa Hooter and Suzette Price will provide the refreshments.

Meanwhile, at the March 8 meeting the women's group assembled, packaged, weighed and labeled 70 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Patty Raney and Suzette Price provided the refreshments, and Susan Rath gave the devotion.



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 8**, when Mac Park will celebrate Bright Sunday.

What is **Bright Sunday**? It is an Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity. For centuries in all Christian faith traditions, the week after Easter, including the following Sunday, was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

The Bible reminds us that the resurrection and the Risen Christ's many appearances to his disciples afterwards led to an explosion of joy and celebration. We have a Savior who, knowing that he was about to be betrayed, tortured, and crucified, told his disciples before his arrest: "These things I have spoken to you, that my *joy* may be in you and that your *joy* may be full." (John 15:11) and "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Also on Bright Sunday, our 2018 stewardship theme, Bearing Joyful Fruit for Jesus...*with JOY!* will begin. In keeping with this theme, church members will be invited to bring a can of fruit to deliver to the altar during the offering. The fruit will become part of the food distributed by The Mac Park School to the Grace Fellowship Food Pantry.

You don't want to miss **Bright Sunday!** Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors, bring your kids and grandkids, wear a silly hat or tie and join us for a colorful, fun, fruity and joyous celebration of Jesus! Stay tuned for more details in your Sunday bulletins.



## News Around Mac Park and Our Community

**Congratulations to Pastors Paul and Lynn Ziese** on the birth of their granddaughter Juliet Abigail born February 26 to Timothy Ziese and Felicity Brown. She weighed 8 lbs. 1 1/2 oz.

**Congratulations to Aimee and Nick McKenney** on the birth of their son Colby Anthony born March 6. He weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 3/5" long. Congratulations also to big brother Cody, grandparents Tony and Sherill Whiteman, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins here at Mac Park.

**A note from the Harriet Barosh Family:** "Dear Ladies of the Church, Thank you so much for all you did at the luncheon after Mom's funeral. Our family appreciates everything that you did. It was beautiful and the desserts were delicious. Thank you again."

**The Threshold Singers of San Antonio** are organizing as a local chapter of the international Threshold Choir ([thresholdchoir.org](http://thresholdchoir.org)). In groups of 2-4, we sing for persons at the thresholds of life who struggle with living or dying. Our music is non-denominational, SSA, and written for the purpose of communicating comfort and peace. If you can hold your own harmony part, blend your voice with others and communicate kindness with your voice, we welcome you, your heart, and your precious time. Practices are Tuesday evenings near W. Hildebrand Avenue and Fredericksburg Road. Visit [thresholdchoir.org](http://thresholdchoir.org), watch the video, and/or contact us at [thresholdsingers-sa@gmail.com](mailto:thresholdsingers-sa@gmail.com) or 281-671-7708.



### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday – Wednesday**

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

1:00 – 4:00 pm

**Thursday and Friday**

9:00 am – 12:00 noon





On March 11 MacArthur Park Lutheran Church offered a blessing for the prayer shawls that will go to the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly May 4-5. The shawls are being sent so that each voting member will have a prayer shawl or prayer square during the process of selecting the new bishop. **Virginia Stowell** who heads up the prayer shawl ministry reports that eleven knitters made the 37 shawls and 200 prayer squares that were blessed during the Sunday worship service.

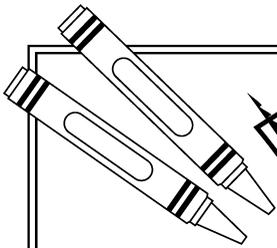
MacArthur Park Lutheran Church will be donating a large number of items to Lutheran World Relief. The women's group has assembled, packaged, weighed and labeled 70 personal care kits using seed money from a Thrivent Action Team grant. **Susan Rath** provided the toothbrushes for the kits, and **Patty Raney** and **Suzette Price** bought some of the combs and nail clippers. The Florida State University Alamo Seminoles alumni group assembled, packaged, weighed and labeled 100 personal care kits. Mac Park member and Alamo Seminoles President **Eric Price** applied for and received a Thrivent Action Team grant that paid for some of the needed items for the kits. Alamo Seminoles donated 120 bars of soap for the kits. The Mac Park quilters made 30 quilts to donate. **Pastor Lynn Ziese** made and packaged 64 fleece blankets and 8 baby care kits. On April 4, **Dan Bierstedt** and **Henry Sladek** will load the boxes into their trucks and deliver them to the Lutheran World Relief area gathering point at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin.

**Note from SAMMinistries:** "February is often thought of as the month of love. The color red abounds as we celebrate Valentine's Day and share special treats with those closest to us. But the generosity you showed during the month of February, is a display of love that helps transform lives. Felecia and Dirk were direct beneficiaries of that love. When their house burned down, a local hotel owner took pity on them allowing them to stay at the property long-term for little pay as they worked to get back on their feet. Felecia calls it their "hard time place". Five people. Ten bags. One room. And then they found SAMMinistries.



Today, thanks to you, Felecia and Dirk's family found the faith they needed to press ahead, hope for a brighter future, and the love that kept the family together and moving forward. With your help, SAMMinistries offers faith, hope, and love to families and individuals, like Felecia and Dirk, who are experiencing homelessness or on the verge of housing disaster.

While we are grateful for your gift, we are more grateful for partners like you who show love to the 'least of these,' helping them overcome homelessness and begin their journey towards self-sufficiency. Thank you for making a difference! ~Blessings, Navarra R. Williams, President and CEO"



# PUZZLE

## RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



*Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.*

- |                     |                  |                        |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2+2 = ___ united    | 2x3 = ___ death  | 7+6 = ___ resurrection |
| 3x3 = ___ certainly | 18-16 = ___ have | 4-1 = ___ been         |
| 0+1 = ___ if        | 2x4 = ___ we     | 13-1 = ___ him         |
| 2+3 = ___ in        | 20-6 = ___ like  | 2+5 = ___ his          |
| 2x5 = ___ be        | 8+3 = ___ with   |                        |

“For 1 we 2 3 4  
 with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,  
8 will 9 also 10 united  
11 12 in a 13  
14 his.” Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

# CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

### What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.

## Stitches from the Quilters



### **Quilter of the Month** **Mary Alice Rupard**

In spite of weighing only 2 lbs when she was born, Mary has had reasonably good health until 1965 when she started losing her hearing at the young age of 45. Although she has severe asthma and a recent diagnosis of diabetes, she still keeps “plowing” forward.

Mary was born into a strong Lutheran family and was baptized when she was about a week old, because they were not sure she would live. She attended St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Massillon, Ohio. The church is still going strong and is over 100 years old. (*Part V in May.*)



### **“New Puzzles”**

Here we see Joshua Laney and his mother Debbie Osuna busily working on the new puzzles we are giving to the children at Methodist Children’s Hospital. As we mentioned last month, this is a new item that Debbie and Joshua came up with. These puzzles will be included with the May delivery.



### **“Kumfert Kwilts”**

Here we see Betty Pomykal getting some Kumfert Kwilts for the pastors to give when they visit people that are sick or in the hospital. Betty fell in love

with the yellow kwilt. The backing of the kwilt is a harvest scene. Bon Appetite, Betty!!!!



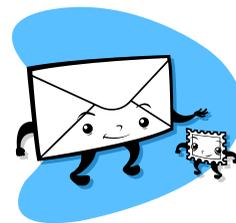
### **“World Relief Quilts”**

Well it’s that time again!!!! Here we see Delbert Richmond showing Debbie Osuna and Joshua Laney how to tie one of the quilts. Delbert acquiesced to doing the Lutheran World Relief Quilts so that Pat could work on another money making project for the school. Pat’s project needs to be finished by April 4. I’m not mentioning the project here in the Messenger, because it is a surprise for the young recipient!!!!!

Tune in next month and you will find out about the special project!!!!!!

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

## “Post”-ings from the Stamp Group



April 6, 2018: 6:15 – Juniors  
 7:15 – Regulars Meeting  
 7:30 – “Show and Tell” – bring something interesting to share

**April 7, 2018: 9:30a.m. – Saturday Bourslette – Senior Bldg. #6 – Baby Bourse**

April 13, 2018: 7:00 – Auction – Get great bargains!!!!

April 20, 2018: 7:00 – Program – “Philatelic Quiz” by Tony Bir (See Program Notes)

April 27, 2018: 7:30 – Bourse – A philatelic Flea Market – Buy, sell, trade!!!!

### *Program Notes ~ “A Philatelic Quiz” by Tony Bir ~ April 20, 2018*

Well, well, well, we finally have another program by Tony!!!!!! Some of you might remember his last Philatelic Quiz!!!!!! Part I was advanced and Part II was for beginners!!!!!! The only thing that “saved” me is that I got to grade my own paper!!!!( Wait, did I just say that out loud?????)

Anyway, Tony tells me that he is going to have good prizes!!!!!! I can hardly wait!!!!

We’re all studying hard so that we can win some good prizes!!!! (Do you really think I have a chance?????) Oh, well, I guess I’ll get some points for trying!!!!

*Yours in Philately  
 Pat Richmond*



## **Saturday Evening Worship**

Please join us on the last Saturday of each month as we worship, fellowship, and eat together! We begin at **5:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. We hope to see you **April 28th**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Heather.

# RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25	TOTAL
8:30am	186	59	54	63	362
10:45am	55	51	57	61	224
Offering	\$4,338.00	\$4,947.54	\$4,341.54	\$3,235.00	\$16,862.08
Sunday School	Lutheran Schools Wk Reception	24	18	25	67

**3/7 Wed. Lenten Services:** 12:15 attendance = 8, 6:30 attendance = 31, offering = \$55.00  
**3/14 Wed. Lenten Services:** 12:15 attendance = 3, 6:30 attendance = 28, offering = \$78.00  
**3/21 Wed. Lenten Services:** 12:15 attendance = 8, 6:30 attendance = 28, offering = \$45.00

**NOTE:** The offering totals listed above are the amounts received at the worship services. They do not reflect contributions received through the *Simply Giving* program or automatic bank drafts.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please pray for the following:**

Annie Brogan, Rev. Carl Fredrickson, Annice Guenther, Ryan Nunn, James Peters, Pamela Phillips, Virgil Peterson, and David VanLydegraf



**Those undergoing chemo and/or radiation treatments:** Collin Cash; Miriam Miller; Rob Milliman, Jr.; and Sylvia Sieberns (Carol Couffer's sister)



**Annice Guenther**  
 Carol Ann's Home  
 10506 Wayward Dr (78217)  
 210-378-5515

**Denise Bilderback**  
 210-894-9196  
 (replaces 210-661-7044)



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 school (210) 822-5374  
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 Email:  
 macparklutheran@satx.rr.com  
 or- officemacpark@satx.rr.com

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

**Deadline for May.  
 2018 newsletter is:  
 Thu., April 19, 2018**

Like us on Facebook



## 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

† **Christian Ed opportunities** for grade 1 – adult at **9:45 am** †

† **Last Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm:** Food, fellowship and worship †

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

*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)

### 2017 — 2018 Congregation Council

Beth Borstad, President	Jeanette Pierce, Sending Chair
Melissa French Stephenson, Vice President	James Vlasak, Support Chair
Ellen Bridges, Secretary	Sheryl Bierstedt, Inviting Chair
Maureen Folkerts, Treasurer	Courtney Grove, Equipping Chair
Hannah Hansen, Youth Rep	Virginia Stowell, School Mission Team

### 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
Volunteer Coordinator: Suzette Price	Home: (210) 655-3833
Administrative Asst.: Debbie Kennedy	Cell: (210) 325-8817

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

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