

Messenger



Dear Friend of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School,

I have now returned from my fourth sabbatical/study leave and want to thank Pastor Heather, the staff, council, and members of the church for this opportunity to get away for a while for refreshment and education. While I plan to write a number of articles about my sabbatical in upcoming weeks of my blog, in this newsletter article I will tell you some of the things I did. I am still processing all that happened on my sabbatical and in the world over the last two months and will share more at appropriate times.

I began and ended my sabbatical with silent retreats at Lebh Shomea, a house of prayer operated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Sarina, Texas about 20 miles south of Kingsville. I used my time at Lebh Shomea in prayer and reflection and found the time in solitude quite beneficial.

My out of state travel took me to the Peace Monastery of Christ in the Desert in the high desert north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. There I stayed at a Benedictine monastery and prayed the hours with the monks for over a week.

My daily schedule was:
2:30 am – get up
4:00 - Vigils
4:45 - Breakfast
5:15 - Lauds
5:45 – Mass,
8:45 – Terce
9:00 – Several Hours of Work
12:45 pm – Sext
1:00 – Main Meal
2:45 – None
5:15 – Matins
5:45 – Dinner
7:20 – Compline, and
7:40 – Lights Out and Grand Silence until Vigils the next day.

I also went on several tours around San Antonio. Locally I visited the King William District, the Alamo, the Museum Extension of the River Walk, and Market Square.

In the Hill Country, I toured Natural Bridge Cav-

erns, Fredericksburg, the LBJ Ranch, Johnson City, a winery, and Luckenbach.

I spent two Sunday mornings watching the religious programs available locally as well as the Sunday news programs.

On other Sundays I worshiped at Cornerstone Church, Community Bible Church, Concordia Lutheran Church, St. Pius Catholic Church, Northwood Presbyterian Church, and First Unitarian Universalist Church. I also spent two Sundays with my mother and we attended Christ Lutheran Church in Brenham and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Houston. *(Continued on Page 4.)*

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MacArthur Park Lutheran School

Merry Christmas! December is such an exciting time at the school. The children are full of excitement and joy as we prepare for the holidays. We will be hosting our annual Christmas pageant, having breakfast with Santa, and learning all the traditions and customs of the holiday, but most importantly learning about Jesus birth. We are so blessed to be in a Christian school where we can focus on the true meaning of Christmas!

You are invited to join us on December 15 at 9:00 am for our annual Christmas pageant. The children will be retelling the Christmas story through song and narration. This is a long-standing tradition at MPLS. Everyone is welcome and it is a great way to stop and enjoy the true meaning of Christmas.

The school will be closed December 22-January 4. December 21, we have noon dismissal and we return on Thursday, January 5. We are looking forward to a great month. Please watch your church mailboxes for a special Christmas treat from the school.

We extend a very happy holiday wish to you and your family!

MPLS staff & children

*“Glory to God
in the highest
heaven, and on
earth peace
among those whom
he favors!”*

Luke 2:14



News Notes

CROP WALK

A special thanks to Brenda Krueger, George and Jeanette Pierce, the LaFuenta family, Beth Borstad and Claudia Torkelson who walked in the 2016 Crop Walk on Nov. 6th at Comanche Park. These walkers, along with your generous donations, raised \$511 to battle world hunger. Twenty-five percent of all funds raised in the San Antonio Crop Walk stays with local organizations including the SA Food Bank, CAM, Bethel AME, and Temple Beth El.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

272 lbs. of food items and \$196 in monetary donations were collected! Thank you to all who donated to support neighborhood families around St. Pius X Catholic Church on Harry Wurzbach. The Society of St. Vincent De Paul, St. Pius X Conference thanks you again for always opening your hearts to this worthy project.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your faithful giving in 2016. If you wish to make a year end contribution to the church, please either bring that to one of the upcoming December worship services or to the church office **no later than noon, Fri., Dec. 30.**



The Christmas trees in the sanctuary of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church are decorated with Chrismons.

Chrismons are ornaments made from Christian symbols. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

According to the website "whychristmas.com," Chrismons were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She also thought of the word Chrismon that is a contraction for "Christ monograms."

Chrismons are traditionally white and gold. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold represents His majesty and glory.



(Continued from Page 1.)

On our church campus, I took time to reorganize my library upstairs in the education building and clean out my office downstairs.

My reading included several books by Martin Luther and some books on the first three centuries of the church's existence.

I also attended a synod seminar on transitional ministry.

For a change of pace I did not get up to go to the gym at 5 am. Instead, I stayed up many nights to watch late night television.

And for the first time in years, I watched the World Series and several National Football League games.

I again thank you for this opportunity which many pastors never get to enjoy.

I wish you God's blessings as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

Peace,
Pastor Paul

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Service with Holy Communion ~ Choirs

6:30 pm Candlelight Service with Holy
Communion

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 am Service with Holy Communion



Are you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas? If so, please see the sign-up sheet in the back of the church and follow the instructions. If you are unable to be in church, simply call the church office to see if there are any still available. We ordered a total of 30 plants this year and the cost is \$10 per plant. Thank you!

Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ November 15, 2016

In attendance: Beth Borstad, Melissa French-Stephenson, Ellen Bridges, Sheryl Bierstedt, Rene Staul, Pastor Heather Hansen, and guest Dan Bierstedt.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with devotion by Beth Borstad. The group reaffirmed our commitment to the purpose statement and guiding principles.

Actions:

- The October 18, 2016 minutes were approved with an amendment. There will be a community Thanksgiving service and MPLC will participate. This changed after the October council meeting.
- A written financial report was received from Treasurer Maureen Folkerts. October operating receipts for the church were \$30,877.27 and total expenses were \$29,796.41 with a net income of \$1,080.86. Year to date operating receipts were \$54,927.08 and total expenses were \$61,092.86 with a loss of \$6,165.78. The school had operating receipts of \$28,459.11 and total expenses were \$23,767.54 for a net income of \$4,691.57. Year to date operating receipts were \$78,796.83 and total expenses were \$28,664.59 with a net income of \$50,132.24.
- Pastoral Acts were received with an addition. (Addition) Pastor Paul Ziese presided at the wedding of Renee Staul and Jeremy Edmondson on 10/15/16. Pastor Heather Hansen presided at the memorial service for Marguerite Meinhardt on 10/27/16. Pastor Heather Hansen presided at the memorial service for Helen Louise Wallis (mother of Kathy Jones) on 11/5/16. Tom and Kathy Jones were received into membership by transfer from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, SA on 11/13/16. Pastor Heather Hansen presided at the Holy Baptism of Micah Theodore Ackerman, son of Korey and Erin Ackerman, on 11/13/16.
- The council approved renewing the Taking Faith Home subscription.

Discussions:

- Congregation Council heard a presentation from Claudia Race on Skyhawks Sports Academy/SuperTots Sports Academy. Sheryl Bierstedt will explore and compile a list of questions for further review.
- Dan Bierstedt, Building Finance Committee, gave an update on his research with regard to the Capital Campaign. He met with a representative from Frost Bank and with Kevin Ott. Beth Borstad will check to see if we have the original plat.
- Pastor Heather had no report.
- Mission Team Reports: Suzette Price is working with volunteers. Renee Edmondson, Sending Chair, will provide a written report. She notes that Diego Bernal will present for the next Texas Treasure Hunt. Sheryl Bierstedt, Inviting Chair, noted that Dale Lockett is working with the Web Site and Maureen Folkerts is working with Facebook. Bill Sweda provided a written report via email after the meeting.

(Continued on Page 6.)

(Council Minutes continued from Page 5.)

- There is no Church Safety Report at this time, however Renee Edmondson will address this issue and one of the Pastors will arrange to meet with the Safe Officer.
- Council is considering a Congregation Council Retreat possibly in January.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM and Pastor Heather closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Bridges, Congregation Council Secretary

Women's group shares a meal

Fellowship includes gift and cookie exchange



The December meeting of the MacArthur Park Lutheran Church women's group will begin with a meal at 6 p.m.

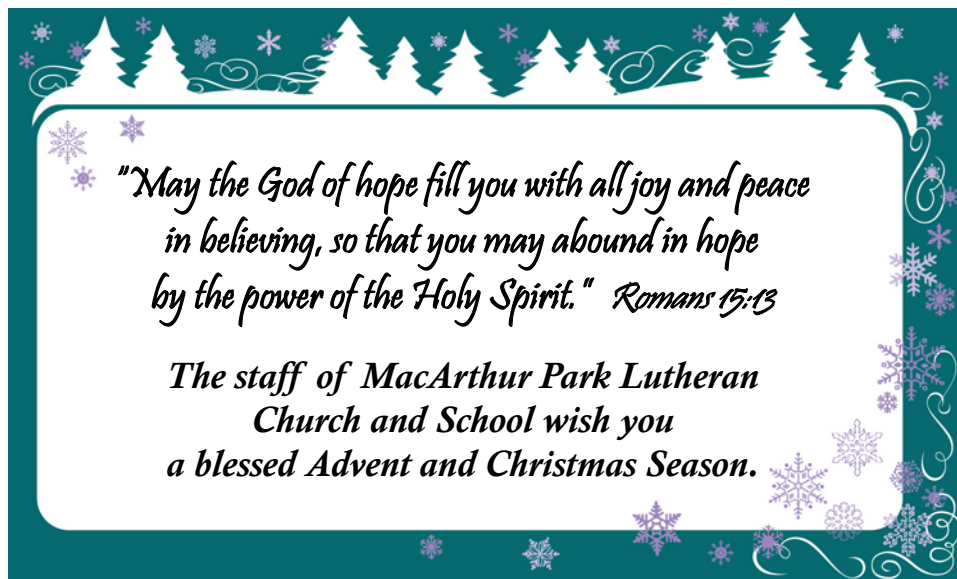
Most members will bring designated ingredients that will be assembled to make taco salad. Other members will bring dessert. Sherill Whiteman will email members to find out what they would like to bring or you can contact her to let her know.

In addition to the meal, there will be a gift exchange. Each person wishing to participate should bring a wrapped gift with a value less than \$10.

The tradition has been that Susan Rath reads a story about the Right family. Depending on whether the word right or the word left is read, wrapped gifts are passed in that direction. At the end of the story, each person should end up with a gift that is not the one she brought.

Also, there will be a cookie exchange for those who choose to join in. Bring Ziploc bags containing six cookies each. Bring up to six bags. For each bag that is brought, participants will receive a bag of six different than what they brought. Bringing a recipe for the cookies is encouraged, but not required.

All women are invited to attend this fellowship event!---srp



ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

An investment in women's education: the International Women Leaders initiative

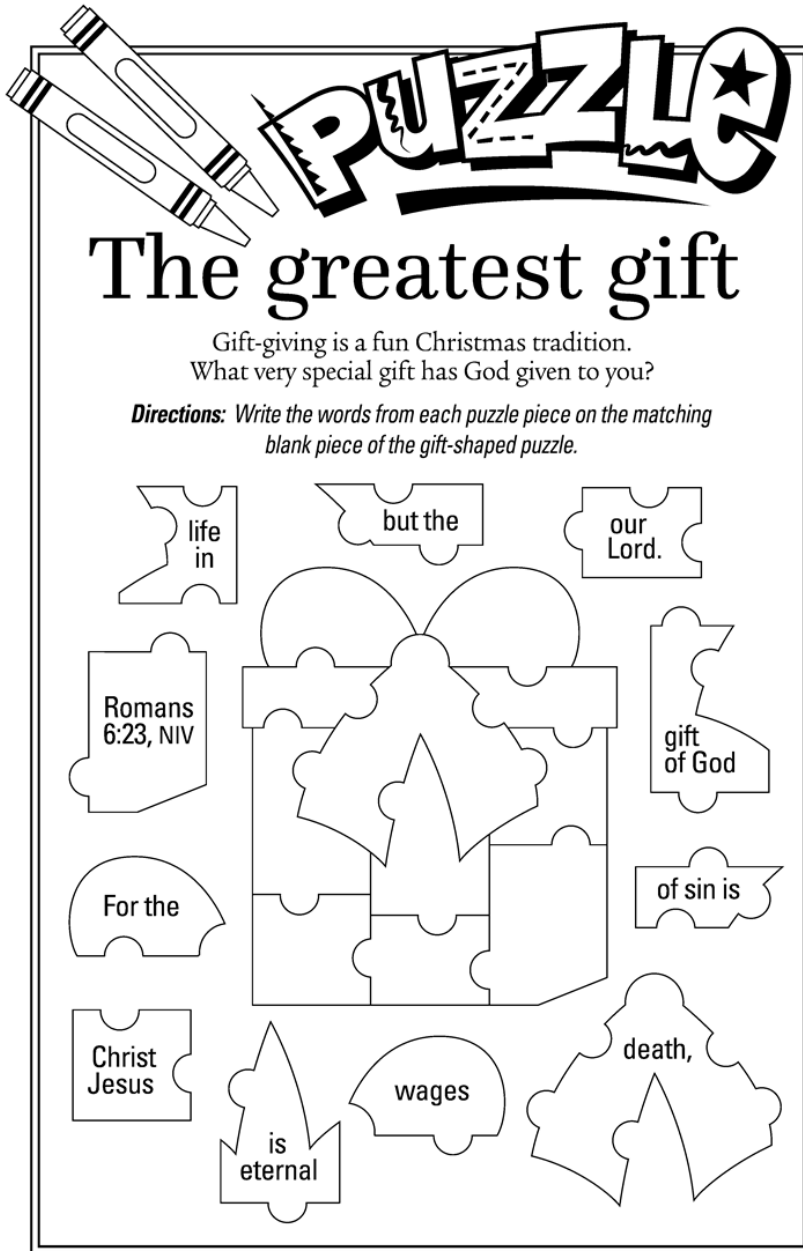
Do you know that the ELCA has provided scholarships to more than 1,000 international students since 1987? And do you know that as part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* there is the International Women Leaders initiative, which provides scholarships for women? [Watch a video that shares the stories of some of the current women who have received scholarships](#) through this initiative. It is said that the best investment a person can make to better society is to support the education of women. Please [consider investing in this initiative](#).

‘Ecumenical Witness on the Eve of the Reformation’

On Oct. 27, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton hosted a webcast and was joined by panelists Martin Marty, Susan Wood and Khadijah Islam. They discussed ecumenical and inter-religious relations on the eve of the 499th anniversary of the Reformation. Consider [watching the entire webcast](#), as the insightful discussion touches on many other topics.

Lutherans and Catholics gather in Sweden for joint service

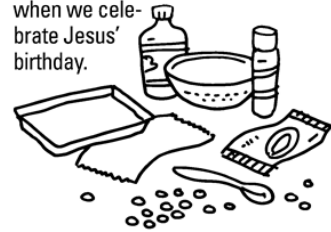
On Oct. 31, the 499th anniversary of the Reformation, a joint commemoration service took place in Lund, Sweden, that brought together leaders from both the Catholic and Lutheran faith traditions. During this service, Pope Francis and Cardinal Kurt Koch of the Roman Catholic Church joined in leading the service with Bishop Dr. Munib Younan and the Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, both of The Lutheran World Federation. [Read more about this service](#) or [watch a recording](#) of it.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.

Stitches from the Quilters



Quilter "Dude" of the Month—Bob Hunt (Part IX)

Bob attended his Mother's church until he was in his early 40's, then he tried the Chapel Hills Methodist Church and Trinity Baptist Church with Buckner Fanning. When he met Jan in 1980, he began to go to Mac Park, but he was still not a member. However, one day Charlotte Berger came to their house to visit. (We all remember Charlotte and her forceful "charm.") Charlotte said, "You have to become a member!" That did it. So he has been a member of Mac Park for approximately 20 or 25 years. Thanks, Charlotte!!! (Part X in Jan. 2017)



God's Work.... Here we see Dale and Carol Couffer taking some of the Kumfert Kwilts that were tied by the church people to Meals on Wheels in Mac Park One.



Even Albert Luna, the person from Meals on Wheels is taking one of the Kumfert Kwilts and one of the cell phone bags to one of his clients, a Mrs. Greene. He saw the stack of Kumfert Kwilts on the table and he asked if he could take one to one of his favorite clients. So those of you that tied about 30 Kumfert Kwilts on September the 11th, have spread your Christian mission to people through out San Antonio. Each of those Kumfert Kwilts were stamped with "This was made for you by the Quilters' Guild of Mac Park Lutheran Church". Thanks folks for your time and effort on 9/11.



Here are Mike and Rosy Giglio delivering Kumfert Kwilts to the Meals on Wheels—Mac Park Two.

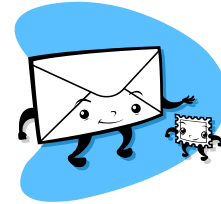


*Yours in Christ,
Mary Alice Rupard*

"Post"-ings from the Stamp Group

December 2, 2016

7:30 – BLUE CHIP AUCTION – See description in Philatex



December 3, 2016

9:30 – Saturday Morning Bourse – Building #6 – Small bourse

December 9, 2016

6:00 – Christmas Party and Election of officers!!!! – Fireside Room!!!!

December 16 – Bourse – Philatelic Flea Market – Buy sell, trade

December 23 & 30 –

NO MEETINGS – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS HOLIDAYS

Our Christian

sympathy to family and friends of Helen Wallis, mother of Kathy Jones, who passed away on Nov. 1 at the age of 88; and to family and friends of Mary Jane Bradshaw who passed away on Nov. 8 at the age of 91.



Congratulations to Libby and Blake Lavender on the birth of Owen Henry on Oct. 28! Owen is welcomed by his big brother Max and grandparents Dan and Sheryl Bierstedt.

Congratulations to Jessica Gottschalk and Kevin Nolan on their marriage Nov. 25th!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"I knew someday I'd be a star!"

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	Oct 30	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27	TOTAL
8:30am	63	71	51	79	59	323
10:45am	68	75	73	77	68	361
Offering	\$2,264.25	\$6,938.72	\$5,386.00	\$3,819.00	\$1,858.00	\$20,265.97
Sunday School	no count	29	17	31	20	97

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:

Evelyn Garza; Kathryn Hancock; Dorothy Imig; Dewey Johnson; Linda Kavanagh; Ryan Nunn; Claudette Perez (Barbara Ott's mother); James Peters; Carlo Reyes; Jean Schriever; and David VanLydegraf.

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



PASTORAL ACTS

10/15/16: Marriage of Rene Staul & Jeremy Edmondson

10/27/16: Memorial service for Marguerite Meinhardt

11/5/16: Memorial service for Helen Wallis

11/13/16: Tom & Kathy Jones received by transfer from Prince of Peace Lutheran

11/13/16: Holy Baptism of Micah Theodore Ackerman

11/21/16: Funeral service for Mary Jane Bradshaw

11/25/16: Marriage of Jessica Gottschalk & Kevin Nolan

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 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 Edmondson, 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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