

Messenger



Dear Friend of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School,

Beth Borstad, Abel Flores, Suzette Price, Renee Staul, Pastor Heather, and I attended the multi-council retreat sponsored by the Southwestern Texas Synod at St. John's Lutheran Church. Ten congregations from our area sent council representatives to work for two days on plans for the upcoming year.

In January as part of a worship service, our congregation had worshipers complete a fifteen-question survey as part of our annual parochial report to the denomination. One hundred ten people completed surveys and Pastor Heather also used the surveys at her First Call Theological Education retreat.

At the council retreat, we were told the most essential behavior for a healthy congregation today is to have either a clear sense of mission or a deep sense of the presence of God in the congregation.

MacArthur Park had both characteristics come out at the top of the surveys we conducted. We had some of our best scores on a clear sense of mission, worship nurtures people's faith, and deepens people's relationship with

God. It is reassuring for me to know we are strong in both when a healthy congregation needs to be strong in only one.

We also scored quite high on manages disagreements in a healthy, respectful manner. In a time when so many institutions are conflicted and our vision statement to live the gospel and change the world forces us to engage many of these conflicts, I find it gratifying our congregation thinks we handle conflict well. With the teachings of the ELCA in conflict with many of the desires of our contemporary culture, this strength will be needed as we move forward.

At the retreat, our council members identified four behaviors from the survey we want to address this year: seek out and use gifts of people of all ages, always ready to try something new, work for social justice and advocacy, and help members live out their faith in daily lives.

To help with our local planning process, our group identified six stakeholder groups we want to work with: MacArthur Park Lutheran School and its families, people 18 to 30 years old, our local community and schools, our elderly and others confined at home, those with food insecurity, and active members.

With these six stakeholder groups, we identified strengths

and values, opportunities, aspirations, and results. Pastor Heather prepared charts of our plan and they are posted in the fireside room next to our guiding principles and on the outdoor bulletin Board. I have also been asked to discuss the retreat results in coming blog postings.

The whole council adopted the plan from the retreat as a way to implement our plan of ministry.

I encourage you to become familiar with our plans for the coming year and get involved where you have gifts and interest.

I thank those who gave of their time to attend the retreat and the staff of the Southwestern Texas Synod for conducting the retreat.

May God rich bless you as we move through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Peace, Pastor Paul

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MacArthur Park Lutheran School



March is a busy month, not only will we celebrate Easter we will also celebrate Lutheran Schools Week. March 6th is the start of Lutheran Schools Week celebration. The students will be participating in the 8:30 worship service and following the service, we will be hosting an Open House in the school building. The music room and library will also be open, so please plan to visit the classrooms and see all the wonderful things your school is doing! Part of our celebration includes a challenge to “make a change”. This year we will be collecting diapers and wipes for the Children’s Shelter of San Antonio. Our goal is 100 packages of diapers and wipes. If we reach our goal, Pastor Heather has agreed to be painted by our preschoolers. Last year with active participation, we far exceeded our goal, so please feel free to make contributions towards this year’s goal. We will be having a school concert March 10th at 6:00 p.m. The theme is “Bustle in the Bushes” and all our songs will be about bugs. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Open registration has begun for the 2016-2017 school year. We are accepting applications for children ages 18 months through First Grade. Our current enrollment this year is close to 60 students and we hope to surpass that number next year. Don’t forget to mention our school to friends, family, co-workers and anyone who might need a

school for their child. Our rates are very competitive so don’t hesitate to spread the word. Our biggest form of advertisement is “word of mouth”.

Mark your calendars for April 1. The school will be hosting a spaghetti supper and shopping night. Dinner will be served from 4:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. and vendors will be setup for your shopping convenience throughout the evening. This is the last big fundraiser for the school year. Volunteers will be needed for set-up, serving and clean-up throughout the evening. Sign-up sheets will be posted prior to the event if you are interested in helping out.

Please watch the bulletin as all these events grow closer for more information or feel free to call the school office with any questions (822-5374).

MPLS staff and students



**See what love the
Father has given us,
that we should be
called children of God.**

1 John 3:1, NRSV



Building Task Force

The building task force met on Mon., Feb. 1, 2016. Council President Suzette Price led the meeting.

Discussions in the meeting included:

1. Building needs based on our vision and mission goals.
2. The education building and the sanctuary have deficiencies which we need to improve which include:
 - a. The need for a nursery in the sanctuary or close by.
 - b. A need for a gathering area in the back of the church for fellowship, and for pastors' space for worship prep and robing.
 - c. The sanctuary is dark and needs to be brightened up.
 - d. The carpet and pews are almost 20 years old.
 - e. The acoustics are poor in the sanctuary.
 - a. The education building has offices spread out. Not an efficient work environment. It is expensive to heat and cool the large areas.
 - b. The building is in constant need of repair because of age, air conditioning units which need attention, the roof is patched, etc.
 - c. The second floor makes it difficult for some members to attend any meetings or events. Installing an elevator would be extremely costly.
 - d. The Fireside Room often is not large enough to accommodate meetings or events.
3. The task force agreed to have Kevin Ott contact 3 companies bid to do what is called an assessment of design build for the sanctuary.
We need to know the condition of this building and if it is feasible to remodel, redesign, or convert the building to meet our needs.
They can also give us an idea of what cost would be involved if we decided to go this route.
The task force must then decide what the priorities are, which building (or both) to remodel or replace based on needs and cost, and the direction we as a congregation decide to take.
4. Task force members include: Paige Marg, chair, Abel Flores, Bill Sweda, Kevin Ott, Chris Stone, Norma Case, Bob Hunt, Jan Hunt, Caryn Milliman, Suzette Price.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Sweda



Mid-Week Lenten Services continue each Wednesday through March 16. A Lenten meal will be served at 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room and worship at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. This year the focus of the services will be prayer and song with a brief message on the daily text for reflection, and evening prayer liturgy from the Iona community.

Maundy Thursday Worship – March 24 at 6:30 pm with Holy Communion. Time for private confession with Pastors Ziese or Hansen can be scheduled for this day through the church office. Times can be scheduled beginning at 4:30 pm.

Good Friday Worship – March 25 at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – March 27

7:00 am Sunrise Service at Arneson River Theatre

9:00 am Breakfast served in our Fireside Room

10:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
(here in our sanctuary)



Mac Park will collect non-perishable items during Lent to support the food pantry at St. Vincent de Paul. Items can be left in the back of the church. Below is the list:



REALLY NEED

peanut butter, jelly, jam
canned tuna
boxes of macaroni & cheese
spaghetti sauce & spaghetti noodles
toilet paper

canned fruits
cereal
boxed instant mashed potatoes
bags of pinto beans, bags of rice

NEED

canned vegetables
canned Spam, ham, chicken, &
Vienna Sausage
canned pasta (ravioli, Spaghetti-o's, etc.)
milk products (powdered, shelf stable,
canned, Velveeta)

boxed stuffing mix
soup
canned beans (refried, ranch, &
pork & beans)

CAN ALSO USE

Hamburger Helper
Jello, pudding, & fruit cups
Ramen noodles
soap, deodorant, razors

cans of juice (8 or 16 oz.)
crackers, cookies
toothbrushes, toothpaste
shampoo, conditioner

REMINDER: Unbreakable containers ONLY.

Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ February 16, 2016

In Attendance: Suzette Price, Maureen Folkerts, Melissa French-Stephenson, Robin Bullington, Pastor Hansen, Beth Borstad, Renee Staul, Abel Flores, Pastor Ziese, Paige & Charles Marg

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm with a video study and discussion. The group reaffirmed its commitment to the purpose statement and guiding principles.

Actions:

- Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Congregational Council meetings were approved as printed.
- A written financial report was received from Treasurer Maureen Folkerts. January was behind by \$14,716.14 for the month and behind by \$23,093.68 for the year. MPLC School was ahead by \$4124.74 for the month and ahead by \$28,688.68 for the year.
- Pastoral Acts – New members Charles & Paige Marg and Julie Tyroff were received by affirmation of faith and Phil Petmecky was received by transfer from Gethsemane Lutheran Church.
- Caroline Aulds was voted an inactive member with a motion by Maureen Folkerts and a second by Robin Bullington.
- The 2016-2017 Mac Park School fee schedule was approved with a motion by Rene Staul and a second by Maureen Folkerts.
- The annual roadmap for our yearly goals to support our plan of ministry was approved with a motion by Melissa French-Stephenson and a second by Rene Staul.

Discussions:

- A report was given on the Multi-congregational Leadership Retreat that was attended by the Pastors and several council members. The theme for this year is “Making all things new”.
- Equipping Chair Bill Sweda presented a written report. The school currently has 56 students with 2 more enrolling in March. A month long street banner will go up in April for the fall enrollment period.
- Sending Chair Renee Staul reported that 16 cases of backpack food were delivered to Oak Grove Elementary for the backpack program. The St. Vincent de Paul food drive will continue through Palm Sunday. The next Texas Treasure Hunt will be February 28th on the importance of voting.
- Inviting Chair Beth Borstad reported that the Time & Talent sheets are being updated and will be presented in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. with a closing prayer from Suzette Price.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bullington, Congregation Council Secretary



It's that time of year again! Dust off those running/walking shoes and join us for the 14th Annual Jon's Run on Saturday, May 7 at Wheatley Heights Sports Complex. Although named for our first son who died in April of 2002 of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), this event honors the lives of

all children who have died from any cause. Funds raised make this event possible and support SIDS research and prevention.

For more information and to register or make a donation, please visit www.jonsrun.com and join "Team Jon" or form a team of your own. We are looking for volunteers for May 7th as well. For groups or individuals that are interested, contact us at 210/920-0566 or jonsrun@jonsrun.com.

We are excited that Jon's Run, Ltd. will be a part of The Big Give SA so please consider supporting us on May 3rd!

Our many thanks for the continued support from all of you of us and Jon's Run. We are very grateful for our Mac Park family!

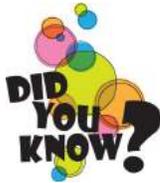
Blessings,
Melissa, David, James, and Sam
Jon's Family

CAM NEEDS

CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry) has the following needs:

- ◆ Men's jeans
 - ◆ Men's shoes
 - ◆ Children's clothing—emphasis on boys clothing
- CLOTHING ITEMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE MARKED CONTAINER IN THE RESOURCE ROOM IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.**
- ◆ Weekly volunteers: contact mhenderson@cam-sa.org or 222-1553
 1. to help with data basing
 2. to answer phones
 3. to work with clients





Each year, Thrivent members are designated **Choice Dollars** based on their qualifying insurance premiums, contract values and volunteer leadership. If you are an eligible Thrivent member with Choice Dollars available to designate you can help strengthen our community by directing them to MacArthur Park Church and School.

By: Suzette Price

Members and friends of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School directed \$610 of Thrivent **Choice Dollars** to the school and \$1,375 to the church in 2015. Thank you to those members who helped to support our church’s mission by directing Choice Dollars.

Thrivent **Choice Dollars** for the past year must be directed by March 31, 2016. Members have two easy options for directing Choice Dollars ~ online: www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or phone: 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
RECEIVED FEBRUARY 7, 2016**



MARG, CHARLES & PAIGE

11854 STANTON DR.

his email: charles.marg@yahoo.com

her email: paige.marg@yahoo.com

He: Retired USAF

She: Wounded Warrior Project

his c# 439-7018

her c# 904-253-9287

PETMECKY, PHIL

310 BASSWOOD

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78213

He: Retired SAWS

h# 340-2360

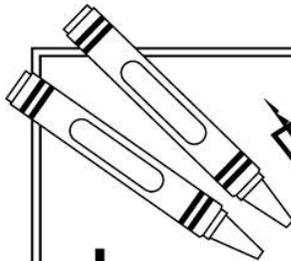
TYROFF, JULIE

3110 THOUSAND OAKS DR. #116

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78247

She: Eye Mart Express

c# 250-0222



PUZZLE

Lamb of God

 John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah — and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus. 

Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.

1	2	25	4	30	16
8	33	27	12	23	18
29	6	32	20	10	34
24	17	5	19	22	11
3	31	26	9	13	15
14	7	28	35	21	

LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.



What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!

Stitches from the Quilters



Quilter “Dude” of the Month: Bob Hunt

Robert Hunt was born on January 14, 1936, the first child of Bob and Frances Hunt of San Antonio. He was born in the Medical and Surgical Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. His parents had another son, younger, named Gilbert, but he passed away in 1992. He was a firefighter and was electrocuted on the job.

Robert grew up in San Antonio. He started school at St. Mary’s Hall -----wait a minute---isn’t that a GIRLS’ SCHOOL???

(Part II in April)



World Relief Quilt: Well, Pat tells me that she tries to use everything that someone donates to the quilters!!!! Well, someone donated some decorator’s samples and they were for upholstery and draperies, so therefore they were too tough to put into a regular quilt or even a “Kumfert Kwilt”, so she made a “World Relief Quilt” out of the samples. It certainly is colorful. It is the first quilt for 2017!



“Cone” thread donation: As in the donation of the decorator samples, some-

one else donated about 10 or 12 cones of thread--- Well, Pat is not about to waste the thread, so she used Delbert’s “cup holder tree” rig for the cone of thread. (The thread kept flying off her regular sewing machine so she rigged it with a rubber band and an old spool to make the thread stay on the holder!! What will the Richmonds think of next???) Anyway, the previous pictured quilt was made with the donated thread. Pat tells me that she is on quilt number 3 of the World Relief Quilts for 2017. And the 2016 ones have not even left the church yet. OH Well!!

Come visit us sometime!!! Things are really moving along!!

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



News Around Mac Park and Our Community

Women's Group will have their regular monthly meeting on Thurs., March 10, at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. They will be putting together the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. They will also have a devotion and refreshments. All women are welcome and invited to attend.

Our Christian sympathy to Jennifer and Rory Hoxie on the death of her father Dr. Frank Giesber on February 15, and to Dorothy and Abel Flores on the recent death of her aunt Delfina Castillo.

A huge thank you goes out to Dorothy Spencer for her 20 years of service coordinating the Meals-On-Wheels program from our site. She has done a fantastic job keeping this program going and serving the senior citizens in our surrounding neighborhood. It's time for her to sit back and take life a little easier! And now we welcome **Bob and Jan Hunt** who have agreed to take over this responsibility. Thank you! The program can always use more drivers, so if you might be interested, please contact Bob or Jan and they will be happy to give you more information.

San Pablo congregation will have a Lenten Retreat on Sat., March 12 from 9:30 am—3:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Themes are: Last Supper and Jesus Capture, and Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

SAMMinistries and the San Antonio Potter's Guild invite you to the 16th annual Empty Bowls on Sun., March 6, from 11 am to 2 pm, at the Southwest School of Art, 300 Augusta St. An international event, Empty Bowls offers an opportunity to pause and reflect how a simple meal and bowl can remind us of the thousands of homeless people in our community who go hungry each day. At the same time, it also helps raise funds in support of the services SAMMinistries provides to more than 5,000 homeless individuals each year. Shoppers have the opportunity to purchase handmade bowls, which are accompanied by a serving of soup and bread donated by local restaurants, caterers, and bakeries. We hope to see you there!

"Post"-ings from the Stamp Group

March 4, 2016

6:15 – Juniors

7:15 – Regular Meeting

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

March 5, 2016

9:30 – Saturday Bourslette – Building #6 – Small Bourse

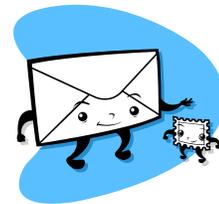
March 11, 2016

7:00 – Auction – Come get some good bargains

March 18, 2016

7:30 – Philatelic Flea Market—Come sell and buy – get good bargains

March 25, 2016 – NO MEETING – GOOD FRIDAY



RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	Jan 31	Feb7	Feb 14	Feb 21	TOTAL
8:30am	68	78	86	66	298
10:45am	135	78	82	68	363
Offering	\$2,432.01	\$7,595.00	\$3,312.00	\$3,320.00	\$16,659.01
Sunday School	23	24	20	24	91

Ash Wed. Feb. 10: attendance 95; offering \$601.25

Wed., Feb. 17: attendance 58; offering \$404.00

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following:

Dale Beaver, Jr., Fred Beaver, Randy Bierdermann (Randal Shook's step father), family and friends of Delfina Castillo (Dorothy Flores' aunt), Evelyn Garza, family and friends of Dr. Frank Giesber (Jennifer Hoxie's father), Dorothy Imig, Dewey Johnson, Barry Milam, Ryan Nunn, James Peters, Jonathan Petrutsas, Carlo Reyes, David Van-Lydegraf, and Faye Wolff.

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

PASTORAL ACTS

2/7/2016 Charles and Paige Marg, and Julie Tyroff received by affirmation of faith

Phil Petmecky received by transfer from Gethsemane Lutheran



DIRECTORY UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS



Robert Goodwin
c# 275-6086

Virgil Kirk
email: vkirk@twc.com

Max & Hallie Guevara
653-2111
12910 Reveille
San Antonio, TX 78233
email: teacherhg@yahoo.com

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sun., March 13
On Sat., March 12, turn your clocks ahead before going to bed!

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



Deadline for April
2016 newsletter is:
Fri., Mar. 18, 2016

Like us on Facebook



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 †

2015 — 2016 Congregation Council

Suzette Price, President	Renee Staul, Sending Chair
Melissa French Stephenson, Vice President	Abel Flores, Support Chair
Robin Bullington, Secretary	Beth Borstad, Inviting Chair
Maureen Folkerts, Treasurer	Bill Sweda, 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

MacArthur Park Lutheran Church
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San Antonio, TX 78217-4595