

# Messenger



Dear Friend of MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School,

After consulting with the synod office, I notified the congregation council September 18 and worshippers September 23 of my intention to retire as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on November 1. I have also submitted the necessary paperwork to retire.

It has been an honor to serve as one of your pastors for over 22 years and I will cherish my memories of working with you in a variety of ministries. I hope we can relive some of the good experiences before I leave.

Lynn and I will be vacationing in Italy in early October and the rest of the month I will be saying goodbyes and packing my office and study as time permits. If you know of anyone you think I need to visit before leaving, please give the name to Debbie Kennedy while I am away, and I will begin seeing

them toward the end of the month.

We plan to continue living on Nona Kay for now, but I will need to join another church and I will not be able to provide pastoral services to MacArthur Park. As I told a retired pastor, I have had 22 years to mess things up at MacArthur Park. Now it becomes someone else's turn.

I plan to continue being active in the community and today Councilman Clayton Perry encouraged me to work with his new homeless coordinator and with Agape. Also, I plan to remain active with the sponsoring committee and other local groups.

I do not know what my life will be like after November 1, but the Holy Spirit has been working hard the last few weeks. Pending confirmation by the synod council, I will be chairing a new synod task force dealing with immigration, refugees, and related topics. At the installation of Bishop Briner, Bishop Eaton

said how central our synod is to the ELCA on the issue of immigration, so I think I will get good support from across the church.

The synod is also working on other plans for me which have not been finalized yet.

During the transition, I encourage you to work with Pastor Heather, the council, the synod staff, and our church staff. Pastor Heather is also facing a new situation, so I especially encourage you to be supportive of her.

*(Continued on Page 6.)*

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## MacArthur Park Lutheran School

MPLS has had a terrific start of the school year. We have 62 students and 12 staff. Our annual rummage sale was a great success. More than 250 volunteer hours were clocked and Thrivent provided us with an “action team gift card” which fed our volunteers throughout the entire event. The contributions by volunteers, donations made by so many and the support of the congregation were amazing. This event would not be possible without the tireless support we receive. Thank you to everyone who helped. We also hosted a breakfast for Pastor Ziese and wished him farewell as he journeys onto the new adventure of retirement. We are thankful for the many years he has led us in Chapel. “Big Chapel” is always a highlight of our week. We will miss you Pastor Ziese.

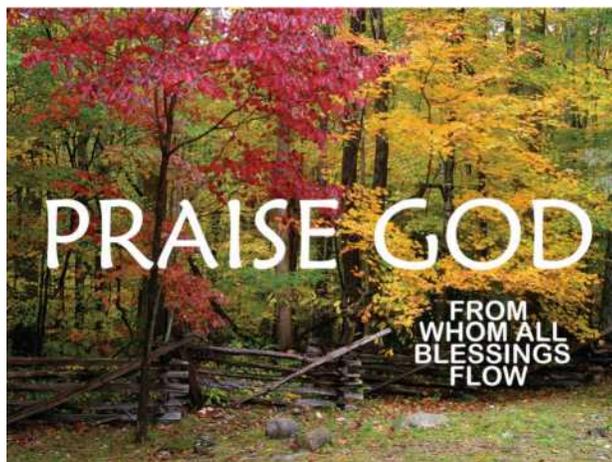
November will bring the start of the holidays and we are looking forward to all the excitement that brings. The school celebrates Thanksgiving with a special Thanksgiving Chapel, a food drive for “A Place for Grace”, and a meal.

In December we will have Breakfast with Santa and our annual pageant. The pageant is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend the program and it is a great way to celebrate the season.

January will start our next big fundraiser, the clothing sale. Items needed are clothes, shoes, accessories, jewelry, purses, belts or anything clothing related. Please no stained, torn, or worn out clothes. Items can be brought and dropped off at the school or church office. Clearly mark all donations for the sale. There will be many opportunities to volunteer for this event and more information will be published as the sale grows closer.

MPLS would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holidays! We pray that the Lord be the center of your celebrations as we celebrate His birth.

*Carla Lockett, MPLS Director*



### *Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ August 21, 2018*

In attendance: Beth Borstad, Melissa French-Stephenson, Ellen Bridges, Sheryl Bierstedt, Courtney Grove, Jeanette Pierce, James Vlasak, Virginia Stowell, Pastor Paul Ziese, and Pastor Heather Hansen. Suzette Price, and Cynthia Lopez, Congregation Council President for San Pablo, were also present.

Beth led the devotion, discussion and opening prayer. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. The group reaffirmed and discussed our commitment to the Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles.

#### Actions:

- \* The June 19, 2018 minutes were accepted as printed.
- \* Written Mission Team reports were received from School Chair and Sending Chair. Support Chair reported that the nominating committee has provided nominees for open council and committee positions. He will confirm nominees in question and present them at the Congregation meeting, Part A. James made a motion to accept the following nominees to the MPLS school board: Jim Rath, Aimee McKenney, Sarah Metcalfe, Paul Gassler, and Marcia Napier. The motion carried with a second by Sheryl.
- \* There were no Pastoral acts.
- \* San Pablo Council President reported that their congregation is very interested in participating in God's Work Our Hands Sunday with MPLC. They have ordered 40 GWOH shirts. They will have a "Lunch to go" on 9/30/18. Seven of their children (K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) are interested in participating in MPLC Sunday School.
- \* Report from Pastor Paul: He made a motion to extend the contract with the Coptic Church through December 31, 2018. The motion carried with a second by Virginia. Council agreed that Pastor Paul should work with Pastor Nelson to pursue conversations/options regarding ICE/deportations. There should be protocols in place.
- \* Report from Pastor Heather: The Worship Task Force met regarding recommendations for worship. Following some discussion, Pastor Heather moved to continue with one worship service on Sunday morning, with Christian Education opportunities afterward. With a second by Sheryl, the motion carried. This may be revisited in the future.
- \* The August 2018 financial report was received. MPLC had a net deficit of 22,464.97 for July and budgeted deficit of \$47,736.70 YTD. MPLS had a net deficit of \$3,232.43 for July, and a net surplus YTD of \$14,516.35. The Capital Campaign total as of July 2018 is \$56,430.48.

*(Continued on Page 4.)*

- \* The proposed budget for 2018-2019 was discussed. Council approved presenting an unbalanced budget, and proposals to remedy the situation, at the Congregation Meeting, Part A, August 26, 2018. Additional suggestions/options will be brought to the Congregation Meeting, Part B. The motion was made by Sheryl and seconded by Jeanette. Pastor Heather presented a “proposal for salary funding and lowering 2018-2019 budget numbers”. The proposal was discussed, and Jeanette made a motion to consult with the synod and to move forward with inquiries. The motion carried with a second by Courtney.
- \* A called congregation council meeting was set for September 13, 2018 at 6:30 to discuss the proposed budget, possible actions to balance the budget, staff interviews, follow up from Congregation meeting, Part A, and preparation for Congregation meeting, part B.
- \* The MPLC Plan of Ministry for September 2018-August 2019 was discussed and recommended for acceptance with several changes, with a motion by Pastor Paul and second by Virginia. Pastor Heather will email the changes to council members.

The meeting was adjourned with closing Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Bridges, Congregation Council Secretary

## News Around Mac Park Campus



**Congratulations to** Dan and Sheryl Bierstedt on the birth of granddaughter Ivy Gene born Sept. 15 to Erin and Korey Ackerman.

**Our Christian** sympathy to family and friends of Woody Browning who passed away August 23, and to Gary and Barbara Van Lydegraf on the death of their son David on September 4.

**Farewell and Godspeed** to Ruth McFarland as she moves to Austin and to Mary Ann Anderson as she moves to New Braunfels to be closer to their families.

**“Dear MPLC Family,** Thank you for being my church family for the past several years. Those of you who were there recently in the sudden death of my Grandson provided me with much comfort. I felt privileged to be able to be a part of the Women’s Group, the Bell Choir, serving on several committees, taking part in our worship services, and decorating the fellowship hall for various functions. As I begin a new journey that he is leading me on, I hope to find a church as great as MPLC . Effective Sept. 1st my new address will be: 1951 Old FM 306, Apt. 503, New Braunfels, TX 78130, 210-378-2431. ~In Christ, Mary Ann Anderson”

Please join us on  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018 AT 10:30 AM**  
for a retirement celebration honoring 22 years of  
faithful service at MacArthur Park Lutheran  
Church and School for

***Pastor Paul Ziese***

Menu: Breakfast casseroles, grits and fruit will be  
provided.

To know how much food is needed, please make a  
reservation by completing the bulletin insert,  
calling or emailing the church office.

210-824-7135 or [macparklutheran@satx.r.com](mailto:macparklutheran@satx.r.com)

Please RSVP by October 24



In lieu of gifts, donations may be made to  
the Fund for Leaders, Southwestern Texas Synod,  
in honor of Pastor Paul.

Checks should be made payable to:  
MacArthur Park Lutheran Church.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

On September 17, 2018, the Audit Committee members met and examined the financial books of MPLC and MPLC School for 9/1/2017 - 8/31/2018, and we found them in good order. ~Audit Committee: David Tamez, Bill Barfknecht, Paul Halvorson.

*(Continued from Page 1.)* I do have a parting request. If I need to make amends with anyone before I leave, I would like to know now and not after I have left. During my 22 years in San Antonio, I have heard my share of complaints about pastors and congregations which were not addressed while the pastor was still there, and amends could have been made. The trashing of people and institutions is popular in our nation today, but I think Christians can set a better example. I plan to say good things about you in the community.

As you move forward, remember your guiding principles as you continue to Live the Gospel and Change the World. May God continue to bless your ministry.

Peace, Pastor Paul

## Community Thanksgiving Service

### Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

#### Northeast Baptist Church

2930 MacArthur View

(across from MacArthur High School)

210-824-7235



**Multiple church denominations and languages will be participating with music and worship. MacArthur Park Lutheran Church will be one of the participants.**

***Bring refreshments to share after the service.***



MacArthur Park Lutheran Church member Dale Lockett was a presenter at the Imagine Learning Symposium in Provo, Utah, in September.

His Facebook page says that former Mac Park member Jonathan Zitelman is the lead pyrotechnician at Pyrotex. He is also director of event services at Texas Lutheran University.

Mac Park member Renee Edmondson and her husband Jeremy went, in costume, to Chuy's Tex-Mex Restaurant and received a free meal! Chuy's has a shrine to Elvis at every location, according to its website.



Thinking ahead for the next three months  
**Mac Park women will serve, learn, celebrate**



The MacArthur Park Lutheran Church women’s group is always active and engaged. Activities for November, December and January provide opportunities to serve others, study the Bible and enjoy fellowship time together. Unless otherwise indicated, the group meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

On November 8, Mac Park member Jill Piazzini will be speaking on the topic “Know the Ten Signs: Detection Matters.” Piazzini is on the Alzheimer’s Association’s speakers bureau. She is also the owner and care manager of **Gray Matters**, which provides individualized geriatric care management to those in need. This event will be open to the public.

All women are invited to the Dec. 13 meeting at 6:30 p.m. There will be a taco salad supper, white elephant exchange and a cookie exchange for those who like to bake.

On Jan.10, the women’s group will do a Bible study.

Put these dates on the calendar, and plan to attend.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

4:30 pm Service with Holy Communion ~  
Choirs

6:30 pm Candlelight Service with Holy  
Communion

**Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day**



## Pastoral Transition Update

As many of you know, Pastor Paul Ziese announced his retirement on September 23, effective November 1 of this year. What many people have been asking since then is “what happens next?” Hopefully this brief article will help explain the next few steps.

First, as mentioned in church the past few weeks, Pastor Heather Hansen’s call was set up to be coterminous with Pastor Paul’s. This meant that if or when Pastor Paul was to accept another call, or retire, etc., Pastor Heather would also need to resign her position as Associate Pastor. In conversation with the Synod Office and Bishop’s Staff, this resignation does not have to take place immediately, and, in this case, the Bishop has recommended that Pastor Heather stay at Mac Park through much of the transition time ahead to provide some continuity and stability through the change in leadership.

Here are the next steps as we enter the process of calling a new pastor(s):

***This is a roughly estimated timeline because the process takes a variable amount of time depending on leadership availability and the time the congregation needs to determine what it is looking for in its leadership.***

- November/December – Pastor Heather will be serving as solo pastor during these months while the synod finds someone to serve as a transitional (interim) pastor. There may be a supply preacher on the (minimal) occasions of her absence during this time.
- January (hopefully!) – The Synod office will assign a part-time transitional pastor to work alongside Pastor Heather for an undetermined amount of time.
- During the months following the arrival of the transitional pastor, the council will begin the hard work of visioning for the future and matching that with the financial abilities of the congregation.
  - The council will also appoint a call committee to do much of the work of determining what kind of a pastor or pastors the congregation should look for as they also assess the needs of the congregation.
- Sometime in the next 12 to 16/18/20 months, the call committee will finalize the paperwork for calling a new pastor or pastors. At this point, Pastor Heather will submit a resignation as the congregation begins interviewing candidates.
  - It is not impossible for Pastor Heather to then be re-called as a pastor of MacArthur Park. However, it is also a possibility that once she has resigned, she will need to seek a new call based on the needs of the congregation, and/or her own personal discernment. This will come towards the end of the process however, so there should not be a significant amount of time between her resignation and the call of new pastoral leadership. (The transitional pastor will also be present during this entire time of call process to help lead the congregation as well.)

Throughout this process, there are many things you can do to help! First, talk to your council members about what you see as the needs of the congregation. Second, continue to come and gather with the community! As we seek new leadership, your presence and participation is important! Third, pray for our congregation. Pray for the council and call committee as they work on determining our future vision and pastoral needs. Pray for each other (all the members) as we discern together the future of our congregation and ministries. Pray for the leadership (Pastor Heather and the interim pastor) as they guide us through this transitional time. And finally, continue to pray for Pastors Paul and Lynn as they take this new step in their journey of faith together.

Please feel free to contact Council President, Courtney Grove, or Pastor Heather at any time in the next few months if you have questions regarding the transitional process and peace be with you!

## Stitches from the Quilters

### Quilter of the Quarter



Angie Merla was born Angelita Hernandez at 269 N. Laredo, San Antonio, Texas by a midwife on August 2, 1969. She was born to Jesus Rodriguez Hernandez and Maria Tovar Hernandez. She was a middle child—that is to say she had 7 girls and 2 boys older than she and 5 girls and 2 boys younger than she. Wheeeeeew!!!!!!! I'm tired just writing about her already.

She went to Navarro Elementary School until the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, then she went to Harris Jr. High for the 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> grades. Then she went to Burbank for 6 months and then transferred to Jefferson High School. *(Part II next time)*



Here we see Jan Kelly picking the ticket for the “Log Cabin Afghan” that Mary Rupard and Pat Richmond crocheted.



The Log Cabin Afghan was won by Elaine Bir of the Stamp club. That is suitable that someone in the stamp club would win the afghan, because out of the \$1000 that was made, the members of the stamp club bought \$600.



“Log Cabin Afghan”

Here we have Debbie Osuna and Pat Richmond of the stamp club presenting the Log Cabin Afghan to Elaine Bir and her husband Tony.



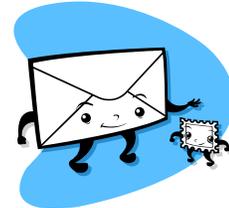
### “It’s Christmas Time”

All six of these cute characters are on display (in the fireside room). Get your tickets for these before the drawing on December 19, 2018. We have already collected \$250.

*Yours in Christ,  
Mary Rupard*

## “Post”-ings from the Stamp Group

November, 2018: 2 – “show and Tell”, 3 – **Boursette-Senior Bldg.**,  
9-Auction, 16-Bourse, 23 & 30 – NO MEETING-  
THANKSGIVING



December – 2018: 7 – BLUE CHIP AUCTION, 8 – **Boursette-Senior Bldg.**,  
14 – Christmas Party, 21 & 28 – NO MEETINGS-CHRISTMAS AND  
NEW YEARS’ EVE.

January, 2019: 4 – “Show and Tell”, 5 – **Boursette-Senior Bldg.**, 11 – Auction,  
18 – Program, 25 – Bourse.



## Community Based Advocacy Committee Report

- **Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio-** MPLC continues to work with the Lutheran Cluster to build decent, affordable housing in San Antonio. We are currently working on another home in the Lenwood Heights neighborhood, and even though the rain is delaying our progress, we plan to dedicate the house on Sat., Nov. 17. Please come out and join us in celebrating the completion of this new home.
- **Place of Grace Fellowship Food Pantry-** The food pantry serves our neighborhood on the first and third Wednesdays of the month including Oct. 3, 17; Nov. 7, 21; and Dec. 5, 19. We always need help unloading the truck at 10- noon and distributing food at 2-4 PM and 4-6 PM. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary. With the food shortages at the Food Bank, continued support with donations of nonperishable food items and funding are appreciated. The CBA committee hopes to sponsor a San Antonio Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry one time this fall on our MPLC parking lot. The date has not yet been determined.
- **Oak Grove Elementary School-** The noisy offering on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays supports healthy snacks for the school children at Oak Grove. We have met with the new Family Specialist, Lisa De La Rosa, and will continue to offer our assistance in other ways as requested. One suggestion so far is that we provide volunteers to help with the Friday morning distribution of the weekend backpack food. This work takes about 40 minutes at the start of the day and we are looking for interested MPLC members to help. Many of the CBA Committee members have joined the Oak Grove PTA to support the school and its activities.
- **Other upcoming dates: Bread for the World Offering of Letters- Oct. 21**  
**Crop Hunger Walk- Nov. 4 at Walker Ranch**
- **Good Gifts Fair- Dec. 2** Holly Schwartz will join us and we will have an Advent Giving Tree to support items needed by the church such as office supplies and paper products for our fellowship time.
- **CBA Bake Sale-** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bake sale to support our many community partner ministries such as CAM, Agape, and Texas Impact will be held in December 9.

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	Sept. 9	Sept 16	Sept 23	Sept 30	Oct 7	TOTAL
9:30am	83	102	99	94	115	493
Offering	\$1,787.00	\$5,705.00	\$6,303.00	\$1,303.00	\$5,757.33	\$20,855.33
Sunday School	NO SS — God's Work Our Hands	NO SS — Cong. Mtg. Part B	26	14	35	75

**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:** Larry Adams, Lou Anne Blankenship, Alan Kirk, James Peters, Myriam Santos (Pastor Nelson's wife), and Paula Schneider

**Those undergoing chemo and/or radiation treatments:** Collin Cash, Nell Craighead, Miriam Miller, and Rob Milliman, Jr.



**Bill & Starla Sweda** removed their land line  
His cell: 210-685-3477  
Her cell: 210-663-5170

**Ruth McFarland**  
Brookdale Gaines Ranch, 4409 Gaines Ranch Loop, #439, Austin, TX 78735, phone 512-721-3100 mailbox 3333.

### PASTORAL ACTS

8/28/18 Funeral Service for Woody Browning – Pastor Paul Ziese

### MEMORIALS

**VIRGIL PETERSON:** Tony and Sherill Whiteman

**WOODY BROWNING:** M/M B.J. Parish, Dorothy Grayson, Mary Lomax, Dale and Carol Couffer, Dan and Mickee Quevedo, and anonymous.



**Beginning Tues., Oct. 16** and continuing for approximately four weeks, the church office hours will be as follows: Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 am to 12 noon and closed on Fridays. Debbie will be out of the office during this time for a surgical procedure.

2903 Nacogdoches Rd.  
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church: (210) 824-7135  
fax: (210) 826-5146  
school (210) 822-5374  
Church email:  
macparklutheran@satx.rr.com  
School email:  
macparkschool@gmail.com

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

Deadline for Feb.,  
March and April 2019  
newsletter is:  
Fri., Jan. 18, 2019



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

† 9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion †

† Snacks, Fellowship and Christian Ed opportunities

for all ages at 10:30 am †

† 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)*

#### 2018 — 2019 Congregation Council

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

#### Church & School Staff

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
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

MacArthur Park Lutheran Church  
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San Antonio, TX 78217-4595