

Messenger



OCTOBER
2015

Welcome to Heather Hansen as she becomes a pastor this month and returns to our staff! Heather and I have worked together for many years in the past and I look forward to our new working relationship.

Heather will become an official pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Rite of Ordination on October 17 in the Chapel of the Abiding Presence at Texas Lutheran University. She will be installed as associate pastor here at a later date.

Heather returns to a staff with many years of experience at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church and School. Her new responsibilities will focus on youth and family ministry, education, and grace groups. She will also be available

for other pastoral needs such as preaching, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and visitations.

Heather will be serving us as a half-time pastor. She will also be teaching at TLU and spending time being a mom to her children and a wife for Mark. She will need to balance her time and energy.

Times have changed since her years here as a director of youth and family ministry. She is a different person, her job description has changed, the congregation and school have changed, and the context has changed. We need not to assume all will be as it used to be.

Heather and her family are now in a time of transition. I encourage you to pray for Heather and her family and be attentive to any transition needs.

Peace,
Pastor Paul

HEATHER L. HANSEN
*will be ordained
to the ministry of
Word and Sacrament
in the ELCA.*

*RITE OF ORDINATION
AND SERVICE OF HOLY
COMMUNION*

*on Sat., Oct. 17,
2015, 7:00 pm*

*at the Chapel of the
Abiding Presence
at Texas Lutheran
University*

*1000 West Court St.,
Sequin, Texas.*

*Your prayers &
presence are requested.*

Reception follows.

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MacArthur Park Lutheran School



Fall is here! We are still waiting on cooler weather but it will be here before we know it. Classes are underway and everyone is settling into routines. We are fully staffed and thankful to have new employees who are a great asset to our team. Here is a list of everyone and what they do:

18 month teacher- Shawna Schorre
 2 yr old teacher- Laurie Sweda
 3 yr old teacher- Mary Kay Schiebel
 4 yr old teacher- Cyndy Flores
 Kindergarten teacher- Michelle Esquivel
 First Grade teacher- Lesley Harkins
 Morning Aide- Sherry Charbonneau
 Administrative Assistant- Britta Stone
 Extended Day Teachers- Lucy Alvarado
 & Alyssa West
 Director- Carla Lockett

That's a total of 11 employees at the school. We are truly blessed!

We have completed yet another successful rummage sale. Whew, it was a lot of work but everyone's generosity of time and sale items helped make it a great event! Our cookie dough fundraiser will end the second week in October. We are trying a new brand this year. Please let us know what you think.

Decorate your car and gather your treats, our annual "trunk-o-treat" will be on Wed., October 28 from 6:00- 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Watch for sign-up sheets to host a spot. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Please continue to collect box-tops and ink cartridges. Both are very valuable to the school. There is a box in the robe room where both can be dropped off.

Again" thank you" to everyone who helped with the rummage sale. We could not do it without you!

Carla Lockett & MPLS staff

Bring your cat, dog, rabbit, or frog,
 your iguana or fish or whatever pet
 you wish, to the

Blessing of the Animals

MacArthur Park Lutheran Church
 2903 Nacogdoches Rd., on the
 campus lawn

Sunday, October 11th @ 10:45 a.m.

Join us as we sing, meow, bark,
 and ribbit our praises to God,
 the Creator of All.

Live music, prayers, and pet blessings!



*Is your pet aggressive
 or overly sensitive?
 Consider bringing your
 animal in a pet carrier,
 or come instead with a
 picture of your pet.*

Congregation takes the first of many votes on building

Building process will move forward

The congregation voted to move forward with the building process after hearing a summary of what had taken place previously to prepare for this next step.

At Part B of the 55th annual congregation meeting on Sept. 20, 46 members voted in favor with one opposed.

Instructions from the ELCA Building Consultant Anne Gerrietts were that a vote of 85% or more of the congregation would be required to move forward on a building/remodeling project.

She had asked us to prioritize our missions and describe how our facilities are keeping us from being successful. That was done and potential solutions are:

1. *To Live the Gospel by welcoming all into the fellowship and worship of Jesus Christ.*

- a. Increase the size of the narthex to provide sufficient room to gather, fellowship, welcome visitors and have refreshments.
- b. Locate the nursery in the same building as the sanctuary.
- c. Make the sanctuary more accessible and convenient for those with disabilities or those with young children.

2. *To Change the World by supporting the work of CICBA (Congregationally Initiated Community Based Advocacy.)*

- a. Convert the education building into a public space for meetings and gatherings during the week and educational purposes on Sunday.
- b. Locate all offices on the first floor in the education building in order to provide potential for better working relationships among staff members.

These potential solutions now will be passed on to the Building Committee. Members of that committee are Norma Case, Bob Hunt, Kevin Ott, Jimmy Petrusas, Chris Stone and Paul Whiteman.

The Building Committee will interview architects, schedule visits to view church projects from the architects interviewed, check references of architects, select the architect and present him/her to the Congregation Council.

If the Congregation Council approves the recommendation of the Building Committee, the next step would be for the congregation to vote on the architect.

During the same time frame, the Building Finance Committee would interview capital campaign companies and present its selection to the Congregation Council. Members of that committee are Dan Bierstedt and Michael Aguirre.

The congregation will also vote on the capital campaign company.---(Suzette Price, Congregation Council president)

Forum on same-sex weddings held

Straw poll taken

During the Sunday School on Sept. 20, Senior Pastor Paul Ziese and soon to be ordained Heather Hansen led an informational session concerning same gender weddings.

Pastor Ziese provided the following information from the ELCA statement on Human Sexuality and asked for a show of hands on which of the four statements best describe individual beliefs of attendees. This statement was adopted by a two-thirds vote (676-338) by the eleventh biennial Churchwide Assembly on Aug. 19, 2009.

“This church also acknowledges that consensus does not exist concerning how to regard same-gender committed relationships, even after many years of thoughtful, respectful, and faithful study and conversation. We do not have agreement on whether this church should honor these relationships and uplift, shelter, and protect them or on precisely how it is appropriate to do so.

“In response, this church draws on the foundational Lutheran understanding that the baptized are called to discern God’s love in service to the neighbor. In our Christian freedom, we therefore seek responsible actions that serve others and do so with humility and deep respect for the conscience-bound beliefs of others. We understand that, in this discernment about ethics and church practice, faithful people can and will come to different conclusions about the meaning of Scripture and about what constitutes responsible action. We further believe that this church, on the basis of “the bound conscience,” will include these different understandings and practices within its life as it seeks to live out its mission and ministry in the world.

“This church recognizes that, with conviction and integrity:

“On the basis of conscience-bound belief, some are convinced that same-gender sexual behavior is sinful, contrary to biblical teaching and their understanding of natural law. They believe same-gender sexual behavior carries the grave danger of unrepentant sin. They therefore conclude that the neighbor and the community are best served by calling people in same-gender sexual relationships to repentance for that behavior and to a celibate lifestyle. Such decisions are intended to be accompanied by pastoral response and community support.

“On the basis of conscience-bound belief, some are convinced that homosexuality and even lifelong, monogamous, homo- sexual relationships reflect a broken world in which some relationships do not pattern themselves after the creation God intended. While they acknowledge that such relationships may be lived out with mutuality and care, they do not believe that the neighbor or community are best served by publicly recognizing such relationships as traditional marriage.

*“On the basis of conscience-bound belief, some are convinced that the scriptural witness does not address the context of sexual orientation and lifelong loving and committed relationships that we experience today. They believe that the neighbor and community are best served when same-gender relationships are honored and held to high standards and public accountability, but they do not equate
(Continued on Page 6.)*

Congregation Council Meeting Minutes ~ September 15, 2015

In Attendance: Suzette Price, Roger Buchhorn, Maureen Folkerts, Melissa French-Stephenson, Robin Bullington, Abel Flores, Heather Hansen, Beth Borstad, Pastor Ziese

Others in attendance: Beverly Buchhorn, Michael Aguirre

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm with a welcome to new council members. The group reaffirmed its commitment to the purpose statement and guiding principles.

Actions:

- Minutes of the August 18, 2015 Congregational Council meetings were approved as printed.
- The August financial report was received from Treasurer Maureen Folkerts. August was ahead by \$2192.11 for the month and ahead by \$9388.39 for the year. MPLC School was ahead for the month by \$159.92 and ahead by \$ 1837.32 for the year.

Discussions:

- Thank you to Melissa French-Stephenson for organizing a successful God's Work. Our Hands.
- Council discussed the upcoming forum on changes to the wedding guidelines. Questions and concerns were raised regarding same sex marriage.
- Inviting Chair Maureen Folkerts provided a written report. Time & Talent data base is completed and provided to the church office.
- Equipping Chair Roger Buchhorn provided a written report. Current school registrations are at 52. The School Committee has two vacancies to be filled. Men's Group is still in need of a leader as well as the Women's Group.
- Support Chair Abel Flores reported on the roof repairs needed on several of the buildings. Two bids have been submitted and he is waiting on one more bid.
- Sending Team Chair Renee Staul provided a written report. The noisy offering on August 30th generated \$224.00 for the Oak Grove Elementary backpack program. The cost of providing 8 children with food for 9 weeks is \$252.00. Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers and a group to provide lunch on September 25th.
- Council discussed possibly eliminating written reports for Part B of the Annual Congregation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. with a closing prayer from Heather Hansen.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bullington
Congregation Council Secretary

Women's Group



When natural disaster strikes or political conflict flares, families often have little chance to gather their belongings before fleeing. They arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety scared, vulnerable and dirty from travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash with the fresh scent of soap and a clean, soft towel—reminders that someone cares for them in their plight.

Mac Park's Women's Group will again be assembling Personal Care Kits in March 2016 and will be collecting items over the next few months. In October the Women's Group will have a table outside the sanctuary before each service with an example Kit and the items needed. Below is a list of items used to make each Kit. Please note that we must follow guidelines given in regard to each item in order to use it in the Kit. We thank you in advance for your support of this important cause!

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20"x40" to 52"x72"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz), any brand, in original wrapping
- One sturdy comb (no picks or fine tooth combs)
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

(Continued from Page 4.)

these relationships with marriage. They do, however, affirm the need for community support and the role of pastoral care and may wish to surround lifelong, monogamous relationships or covenant unions with prayer.

"On the basis of conscience-bound belief, some are convinced that the scriptural witness does not address the context of sexual orientation and committed relationships that we experience today. They believe that the neighbor and community are best served when same-gender relationships are lived out with lifelong and monogamous commitments that are held to the same rigorous standards, sexual ethics, and status as hetero- sexual marriage. They surround such couples and their lifelong commitments with prayer to live in ways that glorify God, find strength for the challenges that will be faced, and serve others. They believe same-gender couples should avail themselves of social and legal support for themselves, their children, and other dependents and seek the highest legal accountability available for their relationships.

"Although at this time this church lacks consensus on this matter, it encourages all people to live out their faith in the local and global community of the baptized with profound respect for the conscience-bound belief of the neighbor. This church calls for mutual respect in relationships and for guidance that seeks the good of each individual and of the community. Regarding our life together as we live with disagreement, the people in this church will continue to accompany one another in study, prayer, discernment, pastoral care, and mutual respect." (Continued on Page 7.)

The Vine Wellness Group: A Counseling Ministry



Self Care to Help with Anxiety

It's about that time of year again. Time to start thinking about all of the upcoming family gatherings, holiday travel plans, gifts to buy, parties to plan, food to prepare, and so on and so forth. The list goes on and on!

Often times we experience anxiety during the holiday season because of an unspoken and unnecessary pressure to reach unrealistic expectations. These expectations can be anything from feeling the need to spend a certain amount on the holidays, getting along with frustrating family members, and this idea of having it all together at all times. The best thing you can do for yourself and those you love during this hectic time is take care of yourself. You'll never be able to take care of other people if you aren't taking care of yourself first.

A few ways to take time for yourself include, taking the time to do things you enjoy, live within your means, and find someone to talk to when you are feeling overwhelmed. In addition to counseling services, The Vine Wellness Group is now offering yoga, meditation and relaxation classes weekly. This is a great way to give yourself just a small amount of time to focus on you and find a place to relax, too!

Written by: Lauren Settle, MA, LPC-Intern.
Supervised by Annie Viers, MA, LPC-S, LMFT-S.
14802 Jones Maltzberger Rd #101 * 78247 * www.laurensettle.com

(Continued from Page 6.)

After Ziese outlined the four positions of the ELCA statement, an unofficial vote to determine the general opinion of the group in attendance was taken. The vote showed that 11 persons held the first position; seven the second; seven the third and 31 the fourth position.

Hansen followed up with additional thoughts on the wedding policy and gave examples of various situations that pastors encounter in officiating at weddings of all types.

She also will lead a further discussion on the same-gender subject during the Oct. 4 Sunday School time at 9:45 a.m. ---(Suzette Price, Congregation Council president)



meeting needs

The Bible emphasizes the importance of giving to people in need. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus describes the proper attitude for giving.

*Directions: Starting at the *B and going counterclockwise, write every other letter on the lines below. Continue until you've completed Matthew 6:3, NIV.*



"B _____

_____ , _____

_____ g."

MATTHEW 6:3, NIV

Answer: "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matthew 6:3, NIV

BLESSING BAGS



Make these practical gifts to share blessings with homeless people and others in need.

What you need:

- Gallon-size zippered baggies
- Clothing (socks, mittens, scarves, rain ponchos)
- Travel-size toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, sunscreen, lip balm, lotion, tissues, bandages)
- Snacks
- Water bottles
- Paper
- Pencil

What you do:

1. Pack baggies with supplies listed above (and more, if desired).
2. Write encouraging notes (including Bible verses), and add them to the baggies.
3. Keep the gifts in your car, and give them to people who are homeless or asking for help.

Stitches from the Quilters



Quilter of the Month: Dorothy Spencer (Part VII)

In 1968, Dorothy was sent to Eisenhower Middle School where she taught Earth Science and 2 sections of Special Education.

Frank retired from USAA in 1980 and Dorothy retired from teaching in 1985. Frank and Dorothy travelled extensively before and after retirement. They have been to all 50 states, Australia and all over Europe.

Frank was an Eagle Scout and remained extremely active in Scouting until he was no longer physically able to do so. (Tune in at Nov. for Part VIII)



Christmas Stockings:

Here we see Laurie Ledwig (our new quilter) and Delbert Richmond busily working on getting the 150 quilted stockings ready for delivery to the Methodist Childrens' Hospital. At this point in time, there are 125 ready to go!!! Keep up the good work folks!



Bernice Raney's Double Wedding Ring Quilt:

Here we see Mary Alice Rupard and Maritza Guzman taking a break from quilting to discuss the quilting process. They have finished half of the quilt already. This is the next quilt for raffle.



"Lady Lorraine" quilt:

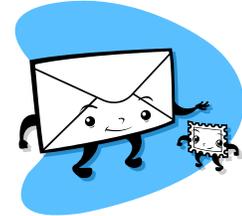
Tickets are going like "Hotcakes". We already have over \$500 for the Mac Park School. In October and November the quilt will be in the sanctuary, then when Christmas season comes, it will be at the school. You have only till Mother's Day Week 2016 to get your tickets. **Don't Wait!!**



Rosy Giglio already has made 550 sticker pages for the kids in the hospital. Good going, Rosy.

**Yours in Christ,
Mary Alice Rupard**

“Post”-ings from the Stamp Group



October 2, 2015: 6:15 – Juniors
 7:00 – Meeting
 7:30 – Program – (See Notes below)

October 3, 2015: 9:30 a.m. – Saturday morning bourse – (Small bourse) – Bldg 6

October 9, 2015: 7:00 – Auction – Come get some great bargains!!!!

October 16, 2015: 6:15 – Juniors
 7:00 – Board of Governors’ meeting (if necessary)
 7:30 – BAGNITE- chance to add to your collection at about 5¢ a stamp

October 23, 2015: 7:30 – Bourse – Buy, sell, trade!!!!!! Get great bargains

October 30, 2015: NO MEETING – HALLOWEEN

Program Notes: “Another of My Mysteries”

By John Clay ~ October 2, 2015

Oh, Please, John!!!! Really???? Well, what can I say, John is either being “cute” or really mysterious AGAIN!!!!!! He has told me that he will be ready to “Shock and Awe” everybody on October the 2nd. We can only guess what John has up his “Sleeve.” If John’s program is as interesting as it has been in the past, it will be well worth your time. I know it will be entertaining and informative as his programs have been in the past. O.K., John, the “proverbial” ball is in your court.

Yours in Philately, Pat Richmond



Women outnumber men on the Congregation Council for 2015-2016. There are seven women and three men.

Members of the Congregation Council represent the 20s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s in age.

Congregation Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and are always open to anyone.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Service	Aug 30	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27	TOTAL
8:30am	62	62	107	81	81	393
10:45am	79	66	only 8:30 service	97	121	363
Offering	\$5,280.40	\$5,838.00	\$1,709.00	\$6,653.00	\$3,842.16	\$23,322.56
Sunday School	36	24	no SS – God’s work Our hands	60	17	137

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following:

Fred Beaver, Lou Anne Blankenship, Rhea Clouse, Sandra Couffer, Beverly Frank, Evelyn Garza, Jessica Gonzales (Flores’ daughter/difficult pregnancy with twins), Carl Graves (son-in-law of VanLydegraf’s/pneumonia), Annice Guenther, Harvey Hancock, Dorothy Imig, Dewey Johnson, Linda Kavanagh, Bonnie McKisson, Ryan Nunn, James Peters, Jonathan Petrutsas, James Rabenaldt, Margaret Tagamen (Roslyn Lamborn’s sister/colon cancer), Cynthia Rigoni (Dorothy Kaiser’s sister/non-Hodgkins Lymphoma stage 4), Bill Tope, and David VanLydegraf.

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



Our Christian sympathy to Eileen Martinka and Britta Stone on the death of their aunt/great aunt, Elsie Lee Biesebach on September 10.



FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER HEAVEN.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NI

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 Nov.
newsletter is:
Wed., Oct. 21, 2015

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

Roger Buchhorn, Equipping Chair

Melissa French Stephenson, Vice President

Renee Staul, Sending Chair

Robin Bullington, Secretary

Abel Flores, Support Chair

Maureen Folkerts, Treasurer

Beth Borstad, Inviting Chair

Church & School Staff

Pastor: Paul Ziese

Home: (210) 826-3071

Parish Assistant: 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

Administrative Asst.: Debbie Kennedy

Home: (210) 564-0430

MacArthur Park Lutheran Church
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