



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

February  
2016

Volume 17 Issue 2

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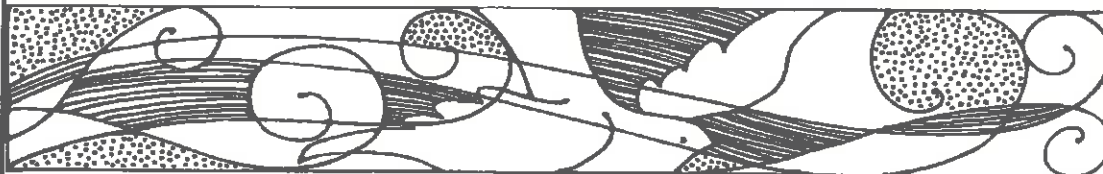
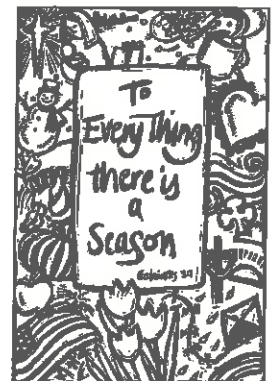
## ELDERSTREAT

**Elders Treat! Yes, that's right. Your Elders will treat you to dinner on each of the Wednesday evenings of Lent EXCEPT Ash Wednesday. Let me say that again. The Elders of St. Paul Lutheran Church will treat you to dinner on each of the Wednesdays of Lent before the Lenten services EXCEPT Ash Wednesday. Just drop a free-will offering into the basket (TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF ST PAUL WHO WILL BE GOING TO NEW ORLEANS TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE), dish up your food, sit down, pull up to the table and enjoy. I'd say that's a pretty good deal. So, let your tummy do the talkin' and we know you'll join us for our Lenten worship services starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10. Ash Wednesday, in the Roman Catholic tradition is a day of fasting. Not that I want us to adhere to Roman Catholic tradition. It's just that we only have five elders. Therefore, we will not serve dinner on Ash Wednesday.**

**Each of the six Lenten services and the services of Holy Week have a theme which starts with the letter "P": Ponder, Purpose, People, Proclaim, Praise, Pain, Palms, Prayer, Passion and Paradise. Each Service in this series focuses on a word to consider while living Lent as Easter people. Each service highlights the ways in which the passion narratives of Christ take on more significant meaning for us when we see them through the lens of the empty tomb.**

**Come and join us, your tummy will appreciate it and so will your faith.**

**Pastor Mick**





**ZONE 3 SPRING RALLY  
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016**

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2916 N. MCKEE RD.  
MERCED CA 95340**

**“MAKE ME A SERVANT”**

**Luke: 1:38 “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word.”**

**Sierra Saving Grace, Kathy Miller, E.D. speaker**

Local non profit to house the homeless with physical, emotional support and care.

Ingathering for their clients: peanut butter, Top Ramen, tuna, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, canned chili, canned refried beans, Minute Rice, canned green beans, peas, peas and carrots, Saltine crackers –

(small sizes as these are mostly for individuals)

**Sue Xiong, Director, St. Paul Hmong Language School**

-share the challenges and rewards of the Language School

-the family nights

-belong, become, believe

Registration \$13 register by 3/10; \$15 at the door

9:30 registration –Coffee, tea, continental breakfast

Devotions, speakers – lunch – offering – ingathering dedication

2:45 p.m. close with Lord’s prayer

**Mail registrations with names, church, phone numbers & checks made out to L.W.M.L. to St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML, 2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced CA 95340.**

## **PRESIDENT'S NEWS**

Dear St. Paul Lutheran School and Preschool Families, Students and Friends:

Happy New Year and welcome back to all of our school families. We are so happy to start another year at St. Paul Lutheran Ministries and especially St. Paul Lutheran School and Preschool. The first trimester of the school year is done and we look forward to the next two trimesters. As the Ministry also moves forward, there is some information and updates that I would like to bring to your attention.

I want to explain the composition of church and school at St. Paul. St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is made up of the church, school and preschool. St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is a church member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). St. Paul Lutheran School and Preschool is a ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Ministries as well as a school member of the LCMS. The school and preschool operate under the policy based governance of the St. Paul Lutheran Ministries Bylaws and Constitution. What does this mean?

1. For 25 years, St. Paul Lutheran Ministries has dedicated its energy and resources to providing a Christian school ministry to the community of Merced. The Ministry's steadfast commitment to providing the best Pre-K through 6th grade Christian education to any student in the Merced community is our goal.
2. Throughout the ministry revitalization evaluations in 2014 and 2015 and the recent transition team study during this interim pastor period, St. Paul Lutheran Ministries finds itself still dedicated to the school ministry at St. Paul. It is a proven pillar of the ministry.
3. St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is ready to show the Grace, Love and Sacrifice of Jesus Christ to anyone and the school ministry is one way we can do that.
4. The congregation and the Board of Directors are committed to the school and preschool now and for many years to come.

We are grateful and blessed to have our School Principal, Mrs. Amy Mello. We are very pleased with her leadership and dedication to the school. We are also proud and blessed to have the committed, dedicated Christian teachers at St. Paul. God has provided the Ministry with the best teachers in Merced. What a wonderful gift for our students.

*Continued on Page 4*

**PRESIDENT'S NEWS** *continued from page 3*

The transition team has completed their extensive project and provided a strategic plan to the board and congregation. The congregation has accepted and approved that plan. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Senior Pastor Call Task Force started their work and has requested a list of potential pastoral candidates from the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii (CNH) District President. The strategic plan is the guideline the district will use to compile that list. The search is officially on and we have faith that God will provide St. Paul with our next senior pastor. Please continue to pray for St. Paul Lutheran Ministries during this search process.

Thank you for your continued support. Students, Parents, Principal, Teachers, Staff, Church Members, Pastors and Friends - you all make St. Paul what it is and what it will become in the future. God has a wonderful plan for St. Paul Lutheran Ministries. Our faith and trust in God assures us that he will always provide for us in abundance. We are looking forward to many wonderful experiences and time with all of you. God Bless

In Christ,

Paul Cook

Mission & Ministry Board of Directors - President

**THANK YOU!**

THANKS so very much for the donations for the food baskets for LOVE INC. at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas. Thanks to the volunteers from our school, Principal Amy Mello, teacher Stephanie Ramirez, 5<sup>th</sup> ^ 6<sup>th</sup> graders who sorted the food, put it in boxes for the five families and helped deliver them as well with a smile and "Merry Christmas!", Librarian Lynne Bacca, her daughter Paula Heupel & her daughter, Lenore Cook and Jan Sorge. The school also donated \$200 from their chapel offerings to help pay for the perishables. What a blessing to share in this wonderful gift of giving!





Brush With Kindness is a program that our local Habitat has done this past year completing five different projects. These projects are especially for Senior Citizens who may be physically unable to do around their home such as trimming bushes, trees, raking leaves, washing windows, weeding flower beds, etc. The Homeowner pays for the supplies and we have volunteers who will do the physical labor.

The application is on our website [www.hfhmerced.org](http://www.hfhmerced.org) or you can call us and we'll mail you one. 209-726-0850.

### **The Mission**

A Brush with Kindness seeks to bring volunteers together to live out their faith and values through helping low-income homeowners restore their homes so they can continue to live in a safe, decent and affordable home.

### **The Vision**

Habitat has the opportunity to establish A Brush with Kindness in our community as a way to connect volunteers and their resources with opportunities to live out their faith and values through restoring homes of at-risk homeowners.

### **The Problem**

A Brush with Kindness began in response to an overwhelming need in neighborhoods to help low-income homeowners who because of age, disability or family circumstance struggle to care for their home. After years of deferred maintenance, homes fall into disrepair and consequently fall into a downward spiral of code citations, loss of homeowner insurance and ultimately in mortgage foreclosure that impact not just individual homeowners, but entire neighborhoods. A Brush with Kindness helps homeowners avoid issues that can lead to losing their home.

### **The Solution**

A Brush with Kindness relies on churches, businesses and community organizations that contribute volunteers, finances and materials to effectively serve homeowners in need.

Jan Sorge, President & Church Relations Chair, 209-769-1884  
or [merced-hostel@juno.com](mailto:merced-hostel@juno.com)

**NEWS AND NOTES  
FROM ST. PAUL SCHOOL  
February 2016  
By Amy Mello, Principal**

The end of January found us celebrating our "Life Together in Christ" for National Lutheran Schools Week 2016. We had an amazing turn out for Lutheran School Sunday where we had children read, greet and sing. Each day we wore a special color to represent a part of the salvation story we have in Him and celebrated ways we pray, learn, reach out, serve and play together in Christ. We were blessed with a visit from Scott Chastain who reminded us that the light and love of Jesus lives in us! We made "Salvation Bracelets" for the children of Ghana and donated our chapel offerings for the month to support his mission trip. We look forward to have another visit when Scott returns!

February begins our enrollment season for the 2016-2017 school year. We will have a Kindergarten Orientation on the 21st from 1:30-2:30 and a Preview Night for all grades the evening of the 25th beginning at 6:00. These are wonderful events that give prospective parents a look at our fabulous program. Please consider sharing this information with friends or family that might be considering a Christian education for their children.

Our 16th Annual Dinner and Auction is also coming up on March 19th. We will "Roar into the 20's" as we celebrate 25 years of Lutheran education at St. Paul. This is the biggest fundraising effort of the year, and we are beginning to collect donations and sponsorships. If you would like more information on how you can help please contact the school office.

### ***Lent & Easter Schedule***

**Wednesday, February 10  
Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 17  
Lenten Dinner 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Worship Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 24  
Lenten Dinner 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Worship Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 2  
Lenten Dinner 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Worship Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 9  
Lenten Dinner 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Worship Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 16  
Lenten Dinner 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Worship Service 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 20  
Palm Sunday  
Worship Services 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.  
HMong Worship Service 11:45 a.m.**

**Thursday, March 24  
Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, March 25  
Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 27  
Easter Sunday  
Worship times to be determined.**



**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**  
**Let's thrive!**

Thank You to all Thrivent Choice Dollar Donors!

We would like to thank every Thrivent member who has designated St. Paul Lutheran Church as the recipient of their Choice Dollars.

Please remember to continue to support St. Paul through your Choice Dollars in 2016. Contact Thrivent by calling 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice." The money that we receive through your donations, help fund a variety of projects around the church.

**Heartline Prayer Request Tip**

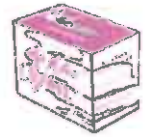
Thank you to all the prayer warriors who take part in receiving the Heartline Prayer requests. Please note, the Heartline email account is used only for sending out Heartline prayer requests, as well as an occasional announcement. This email account is not monitored on a regular basis, so anything sent to that account will not be handled in a timely manner. That is why it is important not to reply to that account and any emailed Heartline prayer requests should be sent to churchoffice@stpaulmerced.com.

If you would like to be added to the Heartline email list, please contact the church office and give us your name and email address.

**Changes at the OMC Building**

To the people who use the OMC, please be aware that an alarm system has been added to the building.

If you have meetings in the OMC, especially in the evening, please contact the church or school office for more information regarding the new procedures for the building.



**LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**  
**(LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE)**  
**also called Lutheran Women in Mission.**

**MISSION PROJECTS CHOSEN BY DELEGATES FOR 2014-2016**

*Twenty one projects were on the ballot, **SEVENTEEN HAVE BEEN PAID.***

*The following are yet to be funded by March 31, 2016.*

- 18 –Support Teenage Mothers & Victims of Sexual Abuse in Cameron – West Africa – Lutheran Hour Ministries - \$3000
- 19 – Enhancing Sustainable Food Security and Income Generating Activities for the Vulnerable Children at Christian Rescue Centre – Diakonia Compassionate Ministry \$11,090
- 20 – Increase Capacity for Lutheran Human Care and Evangelism Community Outreach Ministry endeavor – First Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose, CA \$6500
- 21 – Sacto Valley Chapter Lutheran for Life Annual Sexuality Event \$3100

If monies come in, the rest of the projects will also be paid in order of their votes. All projects will be posted on the LWML bulletin board in the Parish Hall as soon as they are available. **KEEP SAVING YOUR COINS AND PUT THEM IN A MITE BOX – OR IN THE BIG MITE BOX IN THE NARTHEX – EVERY COIN COUNTS TO COMPLETE THESE PROJECTS!**



**ALL WOMEN in the congregation are invited to attend our monthly meetings. The next meeting is Monday, February 22, 2016.** Devotions "Through the Night- A Time Such As This" and the Quarterly Bible Study Topic "Forgiven Creatures" will be shared by all. We meet in the church library from 10 am. to 11:30 a.m. Mite box and freewill offerings are taken. Every woman is welcome to join us and get to know your sisters in Christ.



**2016 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING**

**In Christ Alone**

Held very three years, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across the synod. The event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry (<http://www.lcms.org/youth>) in Saint Louis, MO.

The 2016 Youth Gathering will be July 16-20 in New Orleans. If anyone is interested in financially supporting our youth, we would be very appreciative. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church with Youth Gathering referenced on the memo line. Please place your donation in the offering plate, give it to Marilyn Anderson, or send it to the church office. If you have any questions, please call Marilyn at 631-8965. We are still looking for more youth to join in this adventure. We have 5 so far, possibly 8.



**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED** will hold their annual World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at Bethesda Apostolic Faith Church, 1822 Canal St. Merced from 9:30 – noon. The theme is: "Receive Children, Receive Me"

A freewill offering will be taken and this program was prepared for the World Day of Prayer Committee in Cuba. Information will be shared about the women in Cuba and their challenges.



**BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**HMong Bible Classes**  
10:15 a.m.

**Bible Song (Sunday School)**  
9:15—10:15 a.m.

**HMong Women's Bible Class**  
6:30 p.m.

Meet in the Parish Hall and walk over to the classroom in the OMC.

**Bible Class**  
**Wednesday 10:30 a.m.**  
Church Library

Both classes meet on Sunday in the library.



**ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS***by Angelique Faulkner, Preschool Director*

The preschool and school have just finished celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. Every day was a different color for them that tied into the colors on a salvation bracelet. We also did a few different activities throughout the week. On Wednesday the preschoolers collected an offering of \$35. We are using that money to purchase 5 weeks of food for a hungry child through Samaritan's Purse. Another activity we did was that our preschoolers made cards of encouragement that will be mailed to our troops serving our country. We hope that the troops will be blessed knowing that they are being thought of, supported and prayed for.

February is the month of love and it is such a fun month at the preschool. We get to talk about the greatest love of all, the love of Christ. And we get to make valentine cards and other activities that will help with our writing, letter recognition, colors, fine motor skills, creativity and so much more! We have the best teachers at our school who always have a creative way for our kids to explore and learn.

February 25 is Preview Night at the preschool and school. The teachers and I will be here to show new and perspective parents samples of activities they do in their classrooms as well as answer any questions they may have. If you know someone who is looking for a great school to send their child to, please invite them to our Preview Night!

Have a blessed February!

Ms. Angelique, Preschool Director

**BACK IN HISTORY. . . . . by Theresa Lund, Historian***From February 2007 St. Paul Messenger*

In January, 1942, The St Paul congregation made application for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States (Now LCMS).

March 24, 1942, the congregation resolved to request the District Mission Board to supply a resident pastor for Merced, and specified the Rev Edwin Fritze as it's choice. He was called by the Mission Board. Rev Fritze was ordained and installed on Cantate Sunday, May 3, 1942. Officiating was Rev George C Jacobsen of Stockton. The sermon was preached by Rev Arthur Brohm, Jr of Modesto. Others participating in the service were Rev R Spannous, Rev J F Bauermerate (spelling unclear) and Rev H J von Renner as well as laymen Ray Menssen, Eldo Sprecher and E J Pohli (Spelling unclear).

The congregation purchased a parsonage, through FHA, at 51 Union Ave in the Pastor's name, in July Plans were drawn up for a church, but due to the war (WWII) and its restrictions, the idea was given up until more normal times. A building fund was established and invested in US Bonds.

Rev Fritze left Merced in August 1943 to accept a teaching position at a Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Rev W B Struefert of Livingston served during the vacancy.

**BIRTHDAYS**

February 1 Mary Ann Haarberg  
 February 3 Rose Martin  
 February 5 Zoe Hayes  
 February 9 Irene Pearson  
                   George Morton  
 February 10 Tina Orchard  
 February 14 Irene Broughton  
 February 16 Melinda Price  
 February 17 Kathy Hogston  
                   Benjamin Davidenas  
 February 19 Kevin Alexander  
 February 21 Mary Rahn  
 February 22 Lynne Bacca  
 February 28 Barbara Christensen

**ANNIVERSARIES**

February 8 Jeff & Kathy George  
                   Jerry & Melinda Price  
 February 14 Megan & Michael Werliein

**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

February 6 Lorry Hutton  
 February 10 Cody Harstad  
 February 22 Rose Martin  
 February 23 Guilianna Nardello  
 February 23 Heather Nardello  
 February 23 Isabella Nardello  
 February 28 Jeanne Kight



**& Birthdays  
Anniversaries**

**February 2016 Servants****GREETERS**

February 7 (8:45) Marj Hoffmann  
 February 14 (8:45) Jerry & Melinda Price  
 February 21(8:45) Sandy & Greg Bishop  
 February 28 (8:45) Phil & Mary Rahn

**COMMUNION SET UP**

Carolyn Daberkow & Rose Martin

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

February 10 (8:45)  
 February 10 (10:30)  
 February 21 (8:45)  
 February 21 (10:30)

**READERS**

February 7 (8:45) Marj Hoffmann  
 February 10 (Ash Wednesday)  
 February 14 (8:45) Mary Rahn  
 February 17 (Lent)  
 February 21(8:45) Carol Sipan  
 February 24 (Lent)  
 February 28 (8:45)

**HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR  
OUR FELLOWSHIP HOUR  
AFTER WORSHIP.**

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE  
CALENDAR ON THE WALL  
BY THE KITCHEN COUNTER  
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
383-3301.**

**THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY  
TO VISIT WITH GUESTS AND  
ALL OUR CHURCH FRIENDS.**





February

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m. Library	2	3 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	4	5	6 Father-Daughter Dance 6:00 p.m. Parish Hall	
6 8:45 am Worship 9:15 Bible Song 10:15 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong Worship 6:30 Confirmation	7	8	10 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.  Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm	11	12 School & Pre-school closed	13	
14 8:45 am Worship 9:15 Bible Song 10:15 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong Worship 6:30 Confirmation	15 M & M Board 6:00 p.m. Library School & Preschool closed.	16	17 Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Lenten Supper 6:15 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20 Policy Governance Meeting 9:30 a.m. Library	
21 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:15 HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Hmong Worship 6:30 Confirmation	22 LWML 10:00 a.m. Library Habitat 6:30 PM Library	23	24 Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Lenten Supper 6:15 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m.	25 School/ Preschool Open House 6:00 p.m.		27	
28 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:15 HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Hmong Worship 6:30 Confirmation	29						
			<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> <b>8:45 a.m. (Traditional)</b> <b>10:30 a.m. (Contemporary)</b> Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays <b>11:45 a.m. HMong Worship Service</b>				

**February 2016**

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries  
2916 N. McKee Rd.  
Merced CA 95340



"Connecting People to Jesus"

[www.stpaul  
merced.org](http://www.stpaulmerced.org)

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**

**Mission: "Connecting People to Jesus"**

### **MINISTRY STAFF**

Interim Pastor  
Rev. Mick Ista

HMong Ministries  
Vicar Doua Xiong

School Principal  
Amy Mello

Pre-School Director  
Angelique Faulkner

James & Heather Nardello  
Bible Song Leaders

### **MISSION & MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Paul Cook  
**Treasurer:** Marilyn Anderson  
**Secretary:** James Nardello  
Marilyn Anderson, Kathy George  
Barbara Christensen,

**Elders:** Kent Christensen,  
David Lundin, Scott Chastain  
Ed Mentz, Jeff George

### **How to reach us:**

2916 N. McKee Rd  
Merced CA 95340

Phone:  
Church: 209-383-3301  
Pre-School: 209-383-5672  
School: 209-383-3302  
FAX: 209-383-3642

E-mail:  
[pastormista@stpaulmerced.com](mailto:pastormista@stpaulmerced.com)  
[churchoffice@stpaulmerced.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulmerced.com)  
[amello@stpaulmerced.com](mailto:amello@stpaulmerced.com)  
[marianne@stpaulmerced.com](mailto:marianne@stpaulmerced.com)  
[afaulkner@stpaulmerced.com](mailto:afaulkner@stpaulmerced.com)  
Website: [www.stpaulmerced.org](http://www.stpaulmerced.org)

