

February 2017

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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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MINISTRIES **Mission: “Connecting People to Jesus”**

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor
Rev. Bill Northend

HMong Ministries
Pastor Doua Xiong

School Principal
Amy Mello

Pre-School Director
Angelique Faulkner

James & Heather
Nardello
Bible Song Leaders

MISSION & MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: James Nardello
Treasurer: Marilyn Anderson

Secretary: Mary Rahn
Paul Cook, Kathy George
Barbara Christensen, Dick
Homann

Elders: Kent Christensen,

Jeff George, Lorry Hutton
Larry Sorge, Ed Mentz

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:
pastorbill@stpaulmerced.com





february 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 Bible Class 10:00 am	3	4 HMong Language School 9:00 am
5 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong Worship	6 Elders Meeting 6:00 pm	7	8	9 Bible Class 10:00 am	10	11 HMong Language School 9:00 am
12 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong	13 School & Preschool closed Women's Ministry 1:00 pm	14	15	16 Bible Class 10:00 am	17	18 HMong Language School 9:00 am
19 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship	20 School, Preschool, Church Office closed M & M Board	21	22	23 Bible Class 10:00 am	24	25 HMong Language School 9:00 am Policy Governance 9:00 am
26 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong	27 LWML & Women's Ministry 1:00 pm	28				
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>WORSHIP SERVICES 8:45 a.m. (Traditional) 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary) Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays 11:45 a.m. HMong Worship Service</p> </div>						

February 2017 Servants

BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Mary Ann Haar-
berg
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 21 Mary Rahn
February 22 Lynne Bacca
February 28 Barbara Chris-
tensen

ANNIVERSARIES

February 8 Jeff & Kathy
George
Jerry & Melinda Price

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

February 6 Lorry Hutton
February 10 Cody Harstad
February 22 Rose Martin
February 23 Guilianna Nardello
February 23 Heather Nardello
February 23 Isa-
bella
Nardello



Birthdays
& ANNIVERSARIES

GREETERS

February 5 (8:45 am) Don & Elaine Kock
February 12 (8:45 am) Marj Hoffmann
February 19 (8:45 am) Russ & Irene Pearson
February 26 (8:45 am) Ron & Carol Legan

COMMUNION SET UP

February 5 Carolyn Daberkow, Irene Pearson
February 19 Carolyn Daberkow, Rose Martin

COMMUNION SERVERS

February 5 (8:45)
February 5 (10:30)
February 19 (8:45)
February 19 (10:30)

READERS

February 5 (8:45) Marj Hoffmann
February 5(10:30) Barbara Christensen
February 12 (8:45) Irene Broughton
February 12 (10:30) Kathy Hogston
February 19 (8:45) Mary Rahn
February 19 (10:30) Elliott Cook
February 26 (8:45) Kaylene Mortensen
February 26 (10:30) Bethany Bogle

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

In order to assure we have some group serving every Sunday to have a Fellowship Hour to invite guests to and enjoy fellowship with congregational members, the following groups have consented to be responsible for these Sundays each month:

First Sunday – Christensens – Barb Christensen - 723-5846

Second Sunday – Youth – Marilyn Anderson – 631-8965

Third Sunday – LWML – Jan Sorge – 722-6101

Fourth Sunday – HMong – Sue Xiong – 314-203-6582

Fifth Sunday –

If you have a special event and want to provide refreshments for a particular Sunday, contact the group contact person and let them know.

Salvation Army Boxes

THANK YOU to everyone who filled shoeboxes for the Salvation Army. A total of 149 were filled by the school, church members and The Bear Creek 4-H Club—

you all should be very proud of what you accomplished!! Just think of how many children in the Merced area had a brighter Christmas. Pastor Doua blessed the boxes and friends from the Salvation Army picked them up on Sunday, December 11. Thank you for filling the boxes and for Thrivent for furnishing the boxes. And as Carmen says "God Bless you all."



M & M NEWS

New president is James Nardello – he prefers James to 'your highness, sire or Mr. President.' Treasurer remains Marilyn Anderson and new secretary is Mary Rahn. We are meeting monthly on the 3rd Monday of every month. If you have issues and/or concerns, please speak to any of your board members; James, Paul Cook, Barbara Christiansen, Kathy George, Dick Homan, Marilyn or Mary. We are doing our best to follow Policy Governance to best serve you, our friends and fellow members.

Volunteers Welcomed and Invited

In order to make our wonderful library a well-functioning room, we would like to encourage interested parties to help us dig out and separate the worthwhile from the "just been there forever". Our loosely formed committee so far consists of Mary Rahn and Barbara Christensen. Please call either of us to get involved and add support. We've not decided on any exact time or date as yet, please consider helping. We welcome your input and suggestions. Thank you! Mary

BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY



HMong Bible Classes
10:30 a.m.

The class meet on
Sunday in the library.

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

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

Bible Class
Thursday 10:00 a.m.
Church Library



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 2017. So far this year, we have received \$332 in Choice Dollars.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED will hold their World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3, 2017 at the Church of the Latter Day Saints, 2976 N. McKee Rd. Merced starting at 9:30 a.m. until noon. The Theme is "Am I Being Unfair to You?" This year's program was written by the women in the Philippines. Light refreshments will be served and a freewill offering taken.

For further information, please contact Jan Sorge 769-1884.

A WOMEN'S MINISTRY SEWING CIRCLE has started and it meets on the second & fourth Mondays of the month from 1-3 p.m. in the church library. Anyone can attend, bring your own items to work on or come just to chat. What



CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Do you know a middle school secretary shared with me that she had a call wondering where our Bible clubs were this year???? God is calling us to fill this need – let's do it!!

Help us reach more kids to tell them about Jesus

- Curriculum provided
- Bibles provided
- Snacks provided
- Check in kids
- Distribute Bibles
- Distribute snacks

Mondays 1-2 p.m. Cruickshank Middle
Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. Rivera Middle
Thursdays 1- 2 p.m. Hoover Middle
Fridays – 1 -2 p.m. Tenaya Middle

Let's the START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT WITH BIBLE STUDY GROUPS BACK IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!

EVERY STUDENT IS GIVEN A BIBLE and encouraged to read it every day. Bible verses are learned every week.

Three volunteers at each school site is ideal. Learn on the job with an experienced leader.

Call Jan Sorge, Coordinator at 769-1884 or email: merced-hostel@juno.com.

THANK YOU!

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

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

Monday, February 27th will be our next meeting for our Lutheran Women in Mission at 1-3 p.m. in the church library. Devotions "Loves Me Forever" and a short Bible Study "How Great Thou Art!" from the Quarterly plus fellowship and friends – come get acquainted with your Sisters in Christ! All women are welcome!

Mission Grant Recipients Current Biennium 2016-2018 (Partial List)

1. St John's Valley of Faith, S.A.Y. Yes! Center, St John's Valley of Faith Lutheran Church, Arvin, CA - **\$3,715 Paid**
2. Bring Youth and Young Adults to Christ, Grace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley, CA - **\$17,000 Paid**
3. Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations, LCMS Office of National Mission/Armed Forces - **\$2,000 Paid**
4. Solar Lanterns Brighten African Women's Lives, Lutheran Women in Mission, St. Peters, Lodi, CA - **\$5,000 Paid**
5. HMong Bibles and Catechisms, Peace Lutheran Church, Fresno. CA - **\$6,300 Paid**
6. Community Café Rural Outreach: Nourishing Body and Soul, Our Savior's Lutheran LWML, Caruthers, CA - **\$6,200**
7. Creatively Sharing God's Word with People who have Intellectual and Developmental disabilities, Bethesda Auxiliary, CNH UNIT, Cupertino, CA (RSO) - **\$9,000**
8. Gospel Hands VBS for Deaf Children, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf (RSO) - **\$3,000**
9. Joy of Harvest HMong Language School, Joy of Harvest Ministry, St Paul, Merced, CA - **\$10,000**

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!

NEW LWML ZONE PROJECT: Save those old prescription bottles, take the labels off and we will send them to the medical missionaries to have bottles to give their patients. A huge need in foreign countries! Put empty bottles in plastic tub in the parish hall.

SAVE MAGAZINES FOR THE HOSPITAL: Take your labels off and put in the plastic tub in the parish hall. They are delivered to the hospital lobby desk to be distributed to waiting rooms on each floor plus the Cancer Center.



Our board has voted to bid on a ReHab property. If all goes well, we will be ready for volunteers by February. Our construction crew is analyzing just what needs to be done and up to date information will be on our website www.hfhmerced.org or our Facebook page. Check it out! Or call us at 726-0850.

Brush with Kindness applications are available online and we will be doing more projects as we have volunteers available. Homeowners, who aren't physically able to do small projects, should call us at 726-0850. Don't hesitate to call – this is a great opportunity!!

We are seriously looking at a possible site for a ReStore. Watch our website for up to date information. Many volunteers will be needed to get it up and running. Go to www.hfhmerced.org or call the Habitat phone 209-726-0850 and you can get involved. There's many opportunities in researching, marketing, publicity, shelving, connecting with possible donors.

If you have some expertise to share and would like an application so an interview can be arranged to be considered to be a board member, please check our website [hfhmerced.org](http://www.hfhmerced.org) or call 726-0850 and have one mailed to you. We are looking for someone interested in fundraising, computer skills and legal expertise. Each member of our board is responsible for a task, so it is a working board and together we work as a team to accomplish the goals we have agreed upon.

If you would like to visit one of our board meetings to see if this is what God has planned for you to do, please call me to add you to our agenda.

Jan Sorge, President & Church Relations Chair, 209-769-1884 or merced-hostel@juno.com

NEWS AND NOTES FROM ST. PAUL SCHOOL***February 2017******By Amy Mello, Principal***

The end of January found us celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week and honoring Jesus with the theme "Upon this Rock". We had an amazing turnout for Lutheran School Sunday where children served by reading, greeting, ushering and playing the bells. We had fun showing our school spirit dressing up as "ROCK" stars one day and 100 years olds another celebrating the "100th Day of School". This year we participated in the Lutheran Hour Ministries On-Line Mission to Madagascar. Students were able to watch videos each day about the mission to share the love of Christ and learned tons about the country of Madagascar. Offerings were taken to support this mission and that of our alum, Rebekah Ramirez, in her "Onedrop" Campaign, to raise money for clean water in Bangladesh. We are proud to support the efforts of our students who are putting feet to their faith!

We ended Lutheran Schools Week by remembering our loving 1st grade teacher, Brenda Mognis, at the 8th Annual Mog-Jog on Saturday, January 28th. She had a dream to be able to financially support families who had a desire to provide their children with a Christian education. Through her memory and funds raised at the Mog-Jog and our annual school auction, her dream has become a reality. If you were not able to attend but share in her dream donations are gladly accepted.

February begins our enrollment season for the 2017-2018 school year. We will have a preview night on Thursday, February 2nd at 6:00. This is a wonderful opportunity for prospective parents to come and take a look at the fabulous programs at our school and preschool. Please consider sharing this information with friends or family that might be considering a wonderful Christian education for their children.

Our 17th Annual Dinner and Auction is also coming up on March 25th. It will be "Fiesta Time" as we celebrate another great year of Lutheran education at St. Paul. This is the most important 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.

St. Paul Preschool Happenings***By Angelique Faulkner, Preschool Director***

The Preschool had a blast ending January with Lutheran Schools week. The kids did a fabulous job with the different dress themes during the week. I think my favorite at the preschool is always "Crazy Hair Day". Our theme this year was "Jesus Is My Rock". The kids worked on a special "Jesus Is My Rock" project that we are going to share with a special church. I don't want to give away which church, but I bet you can probably guess which one it is.

During Lutheran Schools Week the preschool also collected an offering to go towards the "Onedrop" project that our friend Rebekah Ramirez is working on. God has laid upon Rebekah's heart to raise enough money to build a well in Bangladesh where the people there can have clean and safe drinking water. And the love and hope of Christ will be shared with them as well. I shared her project with the preschoolers and they were so excited to help. They brought in an offering of just over \$113 for the "Onedrop" project! I am so proud of our preschoolers.
God is doing big things with these little guys.

The month of February we will be hard at work learning and having fun with the Valentine's Day theme. Hearts will be everywhere! And conversations about loving our neighbors, loving each other and the love God has for us will no doubt be had. The kids have come so far this

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- Last week when we baptized Anna Rusu the St Paul community of believers rallied around this young family and welcomed her (and all of them) into the life and fellowship of our church.
- When visitors showed up for a non-existent 10:30 worship service members of St Paul grabbed a hold of them, explained our 5th Sunday custom and spent time welcoming and learning about them.

The people of St Paul have made hospitality, the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers, a value they work at.

The apostle Paul wrote the Ephesians: *"...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..."*

Church
Archives



The community of St Paul is a where both strangers and members of the household of God find blessings. Let's never forget how those searching for them can enter our doors and find a warm welcoming gateway to those gifts the Lord has for all of us.

BACK IN HISTORY. by Theresa Lund, Historian
From February 2008, St. Paul Lutheran Messenger

In the spring of 1956, the parish hall was transformed into a theater and the St Paul Players took to the stage. They presented a one act comedy on Sunday evening at 8PM. The play, "Kidnapping Betty", took place in the fielding home in the 1930's. Cast in order of appearance:

Joanna Fielding, Dan's snappy sister (Charlotte Anderson)
Mollie Fielding, Dan's Aunt (Elowene Lund)
Sally Perkins, neighborhood gossip (Gertrude Wessel)
Bud Simpson, Fieldings hired hand (William Petzold)
Dan Fielding, owner of the farm (Harold Zimmer, Jr)
Betty Meadows, the new school teacher (Theresa Lund)
Nat Meadows, Betty's peppery father (William Jueneman)

Personal note from your historian. As Betty Meadows, I was carried onto the stage in a trunk (yeah I weighed a lot less then) early in the play. I had to remain in the trunk until my entrance. It was hot and uncomfortable. Fortunately my part required me to slightly lift the lid from time to time. as the plot evolved. That way I got to breathe.

President's News Welcome Edition



Dear St. Paul Congregation Members, Families and Friends:

It comes with a great deal of joy and excitement – and a fair bit of *faith in God's plan* for me to take on the role of President for St. Paul's. I've spent a great deal of time praying and talking with God. I needed his assistance and guidance on whether I should - or could, continue my involvement with the Mission and Ministry Board of Directors. Not that I didn't want to, but with so many other areas our family is committed, I wasn't sure how much time I would be able to participate, if at all.

It probably didn't help that there were some pretty big shoes to fill. For all of you who know past-president and current board member Paul Cook, he had his hands in everything. He assisted in so many ways: as a construction worker, plumber, event coordinator, inspector, and lawn maintenance mechanic. And it may come as a surprise for those who saw his truck at the church daily that he has an actual job as a veterinarian and incredibly involved and compassionate husband and parent. So needless to say, I'm glad he's sticking around so I can pick his brain.

I also know all of you can pat yourselves on the back, too. You dug your heels in and worked to assist wherever possible while we've been on the hunt for a new pastor. Whether on the Transitional Team, the Call Committee or visited the round table discussions, the Board of Directors and both Pastor Ista and Pastor Doua – and now, Pastor Northend have definitely recognized your commitment to serving the Lord and our church. Thank you. We will look forward to your continued support.

And – while on the subject of Pastors...I know I share in your excitement in having Pastor Bill Northend at St. Paul's. God heard our prayers and has sent a pastor (and a lovely wife, Mary) - who is equally passionate for Christ and the future of our church. Amen! In the short amount of time I have spent with him, it's clear he's committed to carrying on the St. Paul Mission of "Connecting People With Jesus".

In saying all that, I'm thoroughly dedicated to working alongside you through Pastor Northend, Pastor Doua, Carolyn Daberkow in the Church Office – and with the M&M Board of Directors and Elders, along with Amy Mello, the principal for St. Paul School, to continue the great work that has been done to get us where we are today.

I must thank my beautiful wife, Heather. She has supported me and is ultimately responsible for my spiritual journey to Christ – again. I know I can take on this new responsibility because I have her in my life. Her passion for children and her love of Jesus is demonstrated in her leadership of our St. Paul's Sunday School program, *Bible Song*. And, I couldn't forget my children – Nicolas, Isabella and Giulianna, who daily remind me why it's so rewarding to be a father. Thank you for loving me and giving me a chance to teach you more about God, family and friends.

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session we try to teach the students 2-3 Christian songs. The song, "Silent Night" was perfect for the season but it was a bit of a challenge for most of the students to sing in HMong. They did a great job



Student Cash Nyiaj Lee gives his speech in HMong.

overall.

HMong students also had the opportunity to



participate in the HMong Children's Christ-

Community/Home Outreach

We continue to reach out to people and share Jesus with them wherever we go. One of the many examples is when we took our car to the dealer and ran into a mother and her son. In the HMong community, if you take the time to get to know people and find out who they are, you will find that you have at least one connection with them somewhere, somehow. Now, only the older generation could talk to you and tell you their history.

Thank You

Thank you for those who sent Christmas greetings to us and our family this past Season. It was a blessing to receive your Holidays gifts as well as your greetings cards/newsletter. Our family is loved so much by God's people like you. Thank you for thinking of us during the Holidays.

Blessings to All!

Contact Information

Joy of Harvest (HMong Outreach) Ministries
 c/o St. Paul Lutheran Church
 2916 N. McKee Road
 Merced, CA 95340
 Church: 209-383-3301

Policy Based Governance Meeting
 Saturday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. to noon

Policy Based Governance. Have you ever wondered exactly what this means? Now is your chance to find out. Joel Koerschen of the district office will be here to explain the policy that we use to run the church. This meeting is open to all. Plan now to

Joy of Harvest (HMong Outreach) Ministries News January 2017

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all! Take a moment and count your blessings from the previous year. What do you see? Well, we hope you see God's grace and hard working hand through the many blessings He granted you. As we start a new year, we ask that God will continue to grant you even more amazing blessings, according to His will. We pray that you will continue to believe and have trust in Jesus for all your needs and cares throughout the year, no matter how sophisticated your life will be. We pray the same for us as well. May you always be close to God and listen to His guidance. May your relationship in Christ grow abundantly this year and forever more and may He sustain you.

HMong New Year Outreach



Pastor Doua praying for an elderly, Non-Christian lady who needed prayers at the New Year Event.

Merced HMong New Year Celebration was held from December 16th-18th, 2016.

HMong congregation had a booth out at the event to reach out to the HMong community here in Merced.

This was the first time we had a new year or event booth and needed financial

assistance. The California Nevada, Hawaii District's Mission Agency granted us a mini-grant of \$500 toward this out-

An elderly, Non-Christian woman who was sick and hospitalized two to three times a month, since October, needed prayers. A young lady shared her struggle with spiritual warfare. She wants to follow Christ because of her illnesses. However, she still wants to respect her husband who has parents practicing shamanism. She asked to have a Bible in the HMong language. An elderly shaman said she knows that God is calling her but she's not ready to let go of shamanism. Through the practice of shaman chanting, she can be in spiritual contact with her children in Laos. A mid-age man came looking for a book of wisdom at



Pastor Doua Xiong

inviting a grand-

our booth. Of course, Pastor Doua Xiong had a great talk with him about wisdom, the Ten Commandments, the Bible and gave him the Small Catechism in HMong. These are just a few examples of the different conversations we had with different people.

HMong Language School

HMong Language School went well for the fall 2016 session. There were 31 students registered. Four students came from



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

February
2017

Volume 18 Issue 1

PASTOR BILL'S BOARD

As I sit behind my new desk looking out at the horizon of our town, the landmark that stands out from my window is the water tower at the corner of McKee and El Portal. Tall, white and majestic it seems to catch the sun as it is silhouetted against our cloudy winter skies.



Plastered on the side of this white monolith is a phrase I seem to see all over Merced: Gateway to Yosemite.

Merced is proud that we are the entryway to this world-class landmark. A good gateway city accommodates the traveler with hotels, eateries and gas stations to help them on their way. Merced certainly fits that bill.

What may not be so obvious is that in this very city there is another gateway to even more remarkable place. St Paul, this little church tucked away in McKee

Road, is the entryway to a relationship with an amazing God with a remarkable destination for the willing traveler. This God who made the universe, who knows every hair on a traveler's head cares dearly about them and longs to have them know the blessings he has in store for them.

- St Paul is a gateway for parents with an amazing school of dedicated teachers and staff who build scholars, believers and families.
- St Paul is a gateway for people who want to worship with ceremonies known by the ancient Israelites, with music they hear on the radio or words in melodic tones of HMong.
- St Paul is a community of Christians who care for and about each other – and extend themselves into the lives of their neighbors and the community around them.

Look What's Inside

Pastor Bill

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