

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



“Connecting People to Jesus”

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

PAID

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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

MISSION & MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paul Cook
Treasurer: Kera Good
Secretary: James Nardello
Marilyn Anderson, Kathy George
Barbara Christensen, Sue Xiong

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

How to reach us:

2916 N. McKee Rd
Merced CA 95340

Phone:
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Pre-School: 209-383-5672
School: 209-383-3302
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amello@stpaulmerced.com
marianne@stpaulmerced.com
afaulkner@stpaulmerced.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 am Bible Class HMong language school 6/29-7/10 6:30-8:30 5th-12th grades only (OMC)	2	3 Church Office Closed	4  4 th of July
5 8:15 am Bible Class 9:15 am Worship 10:15 HMong Bible Class	6	7	8 10:30 am Bible Class HMong language school 6:30-8:30 5th-12th grades only (OMC)	9	10	11
12 8:15 am Bible Class 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am HMong Bible Study 11:45 am HMong Worship	13 Elders Meeting, 6:00 pm Library	14	15 10:30 am Bible Class	16	17	18
19 8:15 am Bible Class 9:15 am Worship	20 M&M Board Meeting 6:00 pm Library	21	22 10:30 am Bible Class	23	24	25 Sterner-Snyder Wedding 1:00 p.m.
26 8:15 am Bible Class 9:15 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

WORSHIP SERVICES:

BIRTHDAYS

- July 3 Brady Mello
- July 5 Evelyn Cook
- July 6 Meagan Christensen
- July 7 Theresa Lund
- Jacob Lundin
- Krista Vannest
- July 8 Kathy Riemer
- July 9 Joshua Good
- July 10 Aaron Hogston
- July 12 Dylan Hair
- July 15 Julianna Boyer
- July 16 Anya Davidenas
- July 16 Dick Homann
- July 18 Betty Hale
- July 19 Carter Vannest
- July 23 Maverick Shepherd
- July 25 Vicky Larson
- July 26 Darlene Mentz
- July 28 Jeff Keller
- Danyale Cox
- July 30 Amy Mello
- July 31 Riley Hayes

ANNIVERSARIES

- July 12 Dave & Patricia Bultena
- July 14 Gary & Kaylene Mortensen
- July 22 Jeff & Gwen Keller
- July 23 Tim & Vicki Prothro
- Jerry & Mary Lou Parker
- July 27 Chopper & Amy Mello

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

- July 4 Taylor Vannest
- July 9 Riley Hayes
- Zoe Hayes



GREETERS

- 9:15 A.M. Combined Service**
- July 5 Charlie & Betty Jo Rodgers
 - July 12 Jerry & Mary Lou Parker
 - July 19 Phil & Mary Rahn
 - July 26 Greg & Sandy Bishop

COMMUNION SET UP

Greg & Sandy Bishop

COMMUNION SERVERS

- July 5
- July 19

READERS

- July 5 Betty Jo Rodgers
- July 12
- July 19
- July 26

READERS NEEDED! A calendar has been put up on the bulletin board in the parish hall for your convenience to sign up to be a reader. Please sign up as soon as possible so we have readers each Sunday morning. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**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.**





Pastor Marozik initiated a Thursday evening service for those who work on Sunday or are traveling. This was an informal service that paralleled the following Sunday's service in theme and content.

TOGETHERNESS SUNDAY was held at Rotary Cove, Lake Yosemite on September 20, 1970. The event was planned and hosted by the Sunday School Staff. The day began with a 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion held Lakeside. Bible Classes for all ages followed. A Pot-luck lunch, fun, games, songs and closing vespers rounded out the day. Many remarked that the setting reminded them of the Sea of Galilee. Also several lake attendees were attracted to the activities thus providing a witness to our faith. Pastor Marozik held regular worship services at the Church at 11 AM for those unable to attend the events at the Lake.

Habitat for Humanity—*Continued from page 7*

Habitat for Humanity will hold its first annual golf tournament on September 25 at Rancho Del Rey Golf Course in Atwater. Tee off will be at 12:00 Noon with a lunch provided and dinner after the event. We will have loads of raffle prizes, a Closest to Pin hole, a Long Drive contest, and a putting contest prior to the start of the round. Cost to play will be \$80.00 a player. We will be looking for hole sponsors at a cost of \$100.00 that will provide a sign at a hole to advertising your company. Or a corporate sponsor, that will cost \$500.00 but includes entry fee for four players, a hole sign and a big mention in the sponsor booklet. HfH is also looking for any donations or golf gifts for the raffle as well. Please contact Don Spiva at 209-769-5068 for further details.

Home Town Buffet on Saturday, October 3 for lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for a great lunch with family or friends to help support Habitat and the next two houses we will be starting in late August or September. Tickets are available from any board member or call 726-0850 to make arrangements to pick them up. The cost is only \$12.00 for all you can eat! What a treat! Take a friend to lunch and do two good deeds!

Check out our website for further information on any of these events. www.hfhmerced.org and find us on Facebook Habitat for Humanity of Merced County.

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 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.

NOTES FROM ST. PAUL SCHOOL

By Amy Mello, Principal

Summer is a wonderful time for teachers, students and families to recharge their batteries. There is time for vacations, summer camps, family visits and just plain old playing with friends. Lots of activity! On campus, however, this means planning – wrapping up the old school year and planning for the new!

What a whirlwind the last month has been as I transition into my new position; many thanks to those of you who have offered your support and best wishes. Your prayers have lifted me and given me confidence. Special thanks and appreciation go to Mr. Homann who has been of great support. He has provided guidance, suggestion and been very patient as I ask many, many questions. Additional thanks to Mr. Galen Chastain, who has taken on the challenge of managing the many tasks of getting the new 6th grade classroom installed. There are many hoops to jump through to meet all the requirements, and he has been diligent in his efforts. We look forward to installation being complete in early July so our new 6th grade students can have a home.

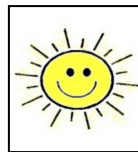
Our staff continues to go through transition as well. We welcome Bethany Bogle, kindergarten, and Stephanie Struble, first grade, as new teachers to our staff. At the same time we say goodbye to Aidan Cohen, second grade, and Allyson Hall, third grade, who will be beginning new adventures this fall. Aidan will be traveling to Italy to teach, and Allyson will move to the Merced Union High School District to begin her new position. We know that God has prepared these women for their new challenges and thank them for their dedication to St. Paul. They will be missed!

I look forward to hiring two additional teachers and developing a strong team to help our students grow spiritually, academically, physically and socially. (Yes, that will be four new teachers out of 7.) While some may find all these changes scary, I see God's hand in this work. He is providing great OPPORTUNITY for us to do amazing things at St. Paul Lutheran School.

ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Angelique Faulkner, Preschool Director

Preschool Summer Fun



We are currently in our first month of our Summer Session and we have been having lots of fun. We are trying to stay cool and are keeping busy with arts and crafts, cooking, science and playing in the water of Fridays! Our Bible them for this summer is “The Armor Of God”. The kids are learning what each part of the armor stands for and how God gave it to us to use. We are making new friends and having a great time. We can't wait for all the fun activities coming up!!!!



Several big events coming up for our local Habitat:

Orientation on Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. – noon at the Boys and Girls Club, 615 W. 15th St. Merced. Presentations will be held every thirty minutes in either English or Spanish. Applications will be available and qualifications explained in the presentation. These applications will be reviewed by the Family Services Committee, home visitations made and recommendations to the board for final approval. Two families will be chosen for the next two homes to be built on West Ave.

Home dedication: Check out our website for further information for the dedication of the home at 927 W. 8th on Saturday, August 1 at 10 a.m. Rosa Chavez and her sons will be moving into this brand new home. Plan to attend and share this exciting event with us. Light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, September 16th is our next Volunteer Orientation from 7-8 p.m. with sign ups for projects at 8 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced, in the Outreach Ministry Center conference room – a portable next to the garage. Watch for the Habitat Banner on the fence next to the entry. Call to reserve your spot – 726-0850.

Continued on page 9

Children's Outreach Ministries



Reaching children in their neighborhoods with the Good News of Jesus.

CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

We will have a training session Wednesday, August 26th from 7-8 p. at St. Paul Lutheran Church library, 2916 N. McKee Road. So, if you are interested, please call me and reserve your spot and materials.

This was written by one of our third graders at Chenoweth in our Discovery Club:

“What God Is”

God is a special person because He is the person who took our sins also you should thank him for making your prayers come true, you should also thank him because He loves everyone on this planet and also forgives bad things you do so you should keep God in your very own heart and what's more important is that God has you in his heart and you should never forget about God.

God is someone who loves us and respects us and we should do the same to him. We are glad God sent Jesus to take care of the universe and built this environment around us so everything God did for us we should always love him no matter where you are you should love him. This is why I'm doing this article to show how much I love God and you should have God all the time and everywhere.”

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

BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



Adult Bible Class
Sunday Morning
8:15 a.m.
Genesis
Led by Pastor Ista

CHILDREN & YOUTH STUDIES
K.I.C.K., Kids In Christ's Kingdom
K.I.C.K. Children's Church will be offered during the 9:15 a.m. service

HMONG BIBLE CLASSES
All at 10:15 a.m.
Adults - library

Preschool - K. Pm. I Parish Hall

Bible Class
Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
Church Library
Hebrews
Led by Pastor Ista



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Kaylene Mortensen has obtained a quote for the removal of ten of the Liquid Amber trees. The quote is \$250 per tree. This matter was presented to the M and M Board at the June meeting. The expenditure was also approved by Thrivent members.

After church coffee has been successful as far as the willingness to drink coffee is concerned. The problem has been finding people to serve the coffee. LWML has assigned Thrivent the responsibility of serving on the second Sunday of each month. Doris Alexander has purchased goodies in the past using Thrivent money. The need is for servers from Thrivent. If you are willing, sign up on the second Sunday on the calendar by the coffee pot. It will be a big help.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED in the Merced Area is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement, celebrating diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.

Our mission is:
"AGREED TO DIFFER, RESOLVED TO LOVE, UNITED TO SERVE"

Friday, Sept. 11, 2015 we will have our Human Rights Celebration with the theme "Journey Toward Peace" with speaker Debbie Johnson, founder of WithOut Permission located in Modesto. This will be at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 500 Buena Vista Dr. Merced. For questions, please contact 769-1884.

They are coordinating their efforts with the Police Dept. Fire Dept. and training local volunteers to see the signs of Human trafficking and rescuing young adults. Come and bring your Youth Groups, parents, teachers, to learn what to watch for to help save these victims in our own community which are being solicited.

If you have any questions, please call Jan Sorge, President, Cell phone: 209 769 1884 or email: merced_hostel@juno.com

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION



WHAT IS LWML??



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

MISSION PROJECTS CHOSEN BY DELEGATES FOR 2014 -2016

Twenty three projects were on the ballot, each delegate voted for seven.

The first to be paid are:

- 1 – Water filters for Kenya Communities sponsored by Holy Cross, Rocklin CA \$6000 PAID
- 2 – Outreach in public schools –Bible Clubs – St. Paul Merced CA \$5000 PAID
- 3 – Outreach to Chico State/Butte College students- Redeemer, Chico CA \$2200 PAID
- 4 – Bibles for the unchurched, impoverished children, teens & adults – St. Mark Kaneohe, Hawaii \$ 5500 PAID
- 5 – Joy of Harvest Ministries – Outreach to the Asian Community of northern CA –Trinity Lutheran – Georgetown CA \$20,000 PAID
- 6 – Fresh water Storage for Cambodian Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Battambang, Cambodia – Trinity Lutheran, Stockton CA \$ 4300 PAID
- 7 – Safe place to play for children/families Outreach ministry – Good Shepherd, Hayward CA \$ 12,000 PAID
- 8-Outreach Expansion to People with Developmental Disabilities – Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Redding CA \$1500 PAID
- 9-Helping Hands:Reaching Out to Families with Free Clothes and Christian Children's Books – Trinity, Redding CA \$4900 PAID
- 10-Angels Nest Child Development Center, Safety & Growth, Greenhaven, Sacramento CA \$7500 PAID
- 12-Spiritual & Nutritional Community Outreach Program – First Lutheran Church, Yuba City CA - \$5000
- 13-Graduate Studies for International Lutheran Lealers at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO - \$5000
- 14-Expanding Outreach to Native Americans on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington – Lutheran Indian Ministries - \$5000
- 15-Technology to Overcome Distance Issues – Alaska Mission for Christ - \$3500

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!**

FALL FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH FROM 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. MARK YOUR CALENDARS – We need volunteers to model – school personnel, parents, young women, mature

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Dear St. Paul Congregation Members, Families and Friends:

June has seemed to fly by and a lot has happened at St. Paul in the last 30 days. We have to remember that God has a plan for St. Paul Lutheran Ministries. God is with us and he is with you. We are so blessed to have a gracious God that provides us with so much.

On Saturday, June 13th, the Mission & Ministry Board of Directors and Elders met with Pastor Ted Hartman revisiting Transforming for Mission (Revitalization). Strengths, concerns and plans were gathered from that meeting and will be passed onto the transition team to use to determine the direction our ministry.

The Board of Directors had their monthly meeting on June 15th (third Monday of each month). With the help of Mary Wallace, the board moved forward with a six month financial budget to present to the voters. On Sunday, June 21st, the voters approved the budget through 12/31/15.

The board is back to a full team to perform official business and to provide leadership for St. Paul Lutheran Ministries. Sue Xiong and Kathy George have been voted in by the board to fill the two vacancies on the board. Thank you to them for accepting to be on the board.

The message last Sunday was about how life has many storms but faith in God will bring us through them all (Mark 4:35-41). Our school is a ministry we provide to the community. We are adding 6th grade in order to continue to provide a place at our school for as many children in our community as possible. Well, there has been many storms as we work to add the classroom to the campus. Each step has had a setback that has added delays or more cost than anticipated. I ask you to continue to pray for the school as we work to add the next grade to God's ministry at St. Paul. God will provide as we ask for his blessings.

In Christ,

Paul Cook

Mission & Ministry Board of Directors - President



Vicar Doua and his family will be staying in Merced and they have a need for unused twin, full, and queen-sized bedframes and box springs. If you have any of these items that

2016 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

In Christ Alone

Held every 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.

St. Paul History . . . are you interested in researching the history of St. Paul? We will be celebrating our 75th year this year along with our 25th year as a Christian school. I would like people who are interested in the history of St. Paul to work together with me to come up with a presentation for our congregation at a Celebration Sunday – tentatively Sunday, November 1. Call me at 769-1884 – Jan Sorge



Salvation Army Boxes

We will be doing the boxes for the Salvation Army and the children in our community again. We had over 65 boxes last year. Let's try to increase the number this year. Thrivent will be providing the plastic boxes for us like they did last year. When school supplies go on sale in August, it's a great time to pick up items for the boxes at very good prices. The boxes will be put out in the Narthex on September 6 and will be due back to the church on November 22. Those who did boxes last year know how easy it is to fill them and discovered after shopping to fill one box, they had enough to fill a second box. There will be a list of suggested items in each box. Thank you and as Carmen says, "God Bless."

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MINISTRIES
JOY OF HARVEST HMONG LANGUAGE SCHOOL
SUMMER COURSE 2015
5th-12th grades ONLY*
June 29th-July 10th (Monday-Friday)
Evening Session: 6:30-8:30 P.M. (White and Blue Hmong)
St. Paul Lutheran Church
2916 McKee Rd, Merced CA 95340

Contact: Director Sue Xiong @ xions3@csp.edu or (651)-216-8457

*Returning students and/or students with some basic Hmong skills.

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Another student said, “The Jesus songs that we sing every week are in my mind. Even though I don’t completely understand Hmong, I still try to sing ‘Yexus Hlub Kuv’ (meaning Jesus Loves Me or “God Is So Good”) everyday at home.”

Hmong Language School will continue this summer for everyday for two weeks. And again our regular Saturday school will resume in the Fall.

A thank you to those who have been supporting the Hmong School through prayers, gifts, and supplies. We pray that you will continue your partnership with us as we continue Hmong Language School here at St. Paul Merced and throughout the Central Valley. May God bless you accordingly.

Sue Xiong
Hmong Language School Director



Last Day of Hmong School, Spring 2015

A Farewell Party for Pastor Kou and Family

On June 7th, we had a farewell party for Pastor Kou, Maykou, Grace, Sarah, Seth, and Malachi. It was a joint service with Pastor Kou preaching. We had friends who came in to join us from as far north as George Town, and as far south as Visalia, CA. A “See You Later” with happy tears was expressed to the Seyings by many.

Congratulations to Pastor Kou and his family for their new Endeavor in Christ! May God be with you always!



A Thank You to those who lent a helping hand in any possible way to make the farewell party a successful one. God bless your hearts!

We Will Miss You, Seying Family!

Planting Hmong Ministries

On Wednesday, June 17th, an initial conversation took place with First Lutheran in Yuba City about planting Hmong Ministry. First Lutheran Church has opened its door and welcomes Hmong Ministry into their midst any time.

Just in the Yuba City Metropolitan Area alone, according to Census 2010, there were 2,883 Hmong living there.

We pray and hope to plant a Hmong Ministry in Yuba City in the near future. Please help us pray that if this is God’s will, things will go accordingly.



Notes From Vicar Doua

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry:

My wife Sue and I thank God for your welcome and presence in ministry, since the day our family arrived in California one year ago. You are a blessing to us and we appreciate it very much.

According to the traditional way of seminary study, I must return to the seminary after a one-year of vicarage to complete my studies. However, I was asked to extend my vicarage assignment and carry on God's ministry here in the Central Valley to the Hmong and Southeast Asians through January of next year. The reason is that, as we all know by now, Pastor Kou Seying has accepted a call and moved away to be Dean and Associate Professor at the Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, MO.

The seminary has accelerated my studies, and I have been taking on-line classes along with my vicarage duties. In September, I will return to the seminary for ten weeks for more studies. Sue and the children will continue to stay in Merced. If things go accordingly, and God's will, I will be finished with my pastoral studies in mid January of 2016.

This is a very exciting and daunting moment for me and my family. Being in school full-time and doing ministry at the same time, especially taking over of what God has blessed Pastor Kou in ministry here can be overwhelming sometimes. However, I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to grant us guidance and support in His ministry here in California. As I had a conversation with Mike Lange, CNH Mission Executive, I told him I was afraid of not being able to fill Pastor Kou's shoes. A very encouraging word from Mike, "Do not wear other's shoes. You will get blisters." This reminds me that each person is blessed differently by God.

I cannot compare myself to others but to do only what I can with the ability God blesses me with. Therefore, I am willing and excited to carry this mission in Christ to the next chapter.

I look forward to continue partnership with you in ministry while I service the Lord here in Central California. I personally ask that you please keep me and my family in your prayers. Thank you!

Together we are building the Kingdom of God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Again, I thank the Lord for all of you.

In His Service,

Vicar Doua Xiong

Hmong Language School

The Hmong Language School Spring Session concluded on May 30th. The students put together a Christian program in Hmong for parents, grandparents, and relatives to see. The program consisted of the following Bible stories: The Creation, The Flood, Jesus' Birth, Jesus and the Little Children, Jesus Walked on Water, The Lord's Supper, His Death and Resurrection, and the Ascension. Each child took part(s) in the program.

The Gospel and Love of Christ was shared with 60 plus students. A student witnessed in front of all of the other students during one of our rallies and stated, "I believe Jesus! Now, I know He loves me." This particular student, his mother, and siblings want to learn more about God's Word and worship Him on Sundays with us. However, the father did not give them the approval to do so. Please keep this family, especial the father, in your prayer that one day the Holy Spirit will guide him and his family to faith in Christ Jesus. ***Continued on Page 3.***

Look What's Inside

Transition Team Update

About two years ago, Pastor Ted Hartman and a team of folks came to St. Paul's and helped you put together a plan for the future of your church. The process was called Transforming for Mission, also, often called "revitalization." Unfortunately, the plan was abandoned.

The transition team has chosen to invite Pastor Hartman back to revitalize "revitalization." The first concern which attracted our attention was a decision of a few years ago to reduce the number of worship services from two services to one. Church records show a quick drop in worship attendance in the few months following that decision, followed by a slow, gradual decrease in attendance in the months to follow. In the last seven years, the average attendance has dropped by 45 attendees per Sunday.

For a period of time now, the attempt has been to please both the "traditionalist" and the "contemporary worship lover" with a blended form of worship service, resulting in making most folks unhappy and some folks miserable, not to speak of those who will not attend a blended worship. Therefore, it is very likely that in the near future, we will return to two services. The likely worship times will be: 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. The traditional worship will be at 8 a.m. and the contemporary will be at 10:15 a.m. This is the schedule you previously had.

One of the most common concerns arising from the "one service or two service" debate is that "two services" cause the congregation to be divided into two very separate congregations. This is a legitimate concern and will be addressed by establishing a team of people who will aggressively and intentionally create fellowship activities to connect the constituents of the two worship services.

You will be hearing more about this in the near future and we welcome your comments and thoughts.

Pastor Mick

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