



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

September
2015

Volume 16 Issue 8

Dear Friends and Members of St. Paul's,

First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have participated in the cottage meetings during the month of August. Your opinions matter to your Transition Team for it helps the team prepare future plans and goals for St. Paul and prepare the profile of the pastor who will best lead you to accomplish that plan.

Let me share a tentative agenda for the months ahead. September will be used by the transition team to tabulate the results of your surveys, examine demographical material for Merced, consider the availability of resources (both human and material) and brainstorming about the future of this congregation and school. We will also evaluate present ministries and determine whether other ministries should be considered to take their place.

My hope is that we can take the results to the congregation so they may confirm the findings of the Transition Team or revise them. At that time, the congregation will be prepared to vote on a call committee. The Transition Team will then become advisory to the call committee. The congregation will then be issued a call list from the CNH district. I believe that the call committee can be in place sometime in the month of October.

This is a cursory overview of the future months here at St. Paul. Please keep your transition team in your prayers as they enter into some super busy weeks.

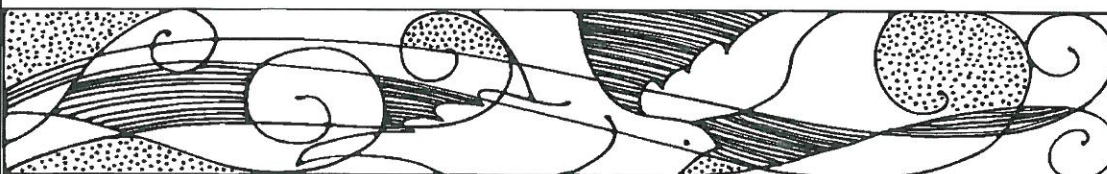
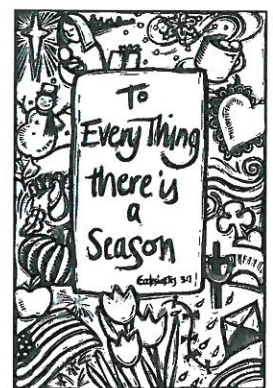
Pastor Mick

P.S. Your transition team is still open to any feedback that you would like to share. Below, is a list of the transition team members.

Irene Broughton	Scott Chastain	Kent Christensen
Meagan Christensen	Kathy George	Amy Mello
Heather Nardello	Phil & Mary Rahn	Vicar Doua Xiong

Look What's Inside

Message	1
HMong Outreach	2
Church Archives	6
LWML	4
Thrivent	4
Habitat for Humanity	9
Childrens Outreach	5
Bible Classes	5
Sunday School	5
Birthdays	10
Servants	10
Calendar	11





Notes From Sue Xiong

Hmong Language School

Fall Semester

Sept. 19th – Dec. 19th, 2015

Saturdays 9AM-12PM

Grades: 1st – 12th

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2916 N. McKee Rd
Merced, CA 95340

Contact Sue Xiong for more information at
651-216-8457 or xions3@csp.edu

It has been talked for a while now that Vicar Doua will be going back to the seminary this fall. Well, that time is here. He is leaving shortly after Labor Day and returning around mid-November. This will be the first time that our family will be apart from each other for a couple months and for it to be such a far distance (more than 2,000 miles). We ask that you please keep our family in your prayers. Thank you!

While Vicar is gone, the Hmong congregation will worship with St. Paul. I will lead Hmong adult Bible study, and we hope to have our children join St. Paul's Sunday school. We're excited and looking forward to being more "visible" among our St. Paul brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings to all,
Sue Xiong

St. Paul Children's Choir

The choir will meet Tuesdays 3:15-4:00 in the church library beginning, Tuesday, September 1.

Deanna Morgan
Choir Director
617-7819

Salvation Army Christmas Boxes

We will again be doing the boxes for the Merced Salvation Army. We had over 65 boxes last year. Let's try to increase the number this year. Have you started thinking about what goes into the shoe box for the Salvation Army program? Here's a short list to help you gather items for the boxes—school supplies, toys, hygiene items, hard candy, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, etc. There will be a complete list of suggested items in each box. Thrivent will be providing the plastic boxes for us like they did last year. The boxes will be put out in the Narthex on September 6 and will be due back to the church on November 22. We're trying to get a head start and allow you plenty of time to fill the boxes and bring them back. 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. These boxes will then be given to children in our community to help brighten their Christmas. The children that received the boxes last year were thrilled. Thank you and as Carmen says, "God Bless."



There are a lot of exciting changes coming so please mark your calendars to keep up with all them!

**CHANGES IN WORSHIP TIMES
EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.**

8:45 a.m.---Traditional Worship Service

10:30 a.m.---Contemporary Worship Service

Please note the contemporary service time has been changed to 10:30 a.m. This is different than the originally announced time.

From September 13—November 15, while Vicar Doua returns to the seminary to complete his classes, there will not be a HMong worship service.

There will be a HMong bible class from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the library.

Sunday School Classes

Open to all ages

Starting September 13, 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

They will meet in the Parish Hall and walk over to their classroom location.

Confirmation Classes

Watch the bulletin for the date and time when confirmation classes will start.

Come Join Us for an **Afternoon of Bible Trivia**
Journey to the Promised Land: Are We There Yet?
Sunday, October 18th 1-3 P.M.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church,
2916 N McKee Rd, Merced, CA 95340**

Parish Hall

\$80/Team of 6 or \$15/Person

Come Support Joy of Harvest Hmong Ministries

Light Refreshment will be provided

Asian Desserts, Eggrolls, and other Baked Goods will be available for purchasing.

Contact: Jan Sorge for tickets and more info @ 209-769-1884 or merced-hostel@juno.com



With the request for Thrivent to serve coffee after church on the second Sunday of the month the following answered the call.

July The Mortensens who celebrated 42 years of marriage

August The Sorges

September Doris Alexander

October Marilyn Anderson

November Delores Hutton

December The Lundin Family

A big THANK YOU to them all. With the two services which will begin September 13, it remains to be seen as to what arrangements will be made for coffee after services.

With the removal of the ten trees thought may be given to what type of trees could replace those trees. A look at the south facing sign in front of the church may be a project as well. Should you have any thoughts as to projects for Thrivent let Kaylene Mortensen or Evelyn Williams know.

Remember to call in and direct your Choice Dollars. 800-847-4836

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.

Wednesday, October 7th will be our annual Fall Fundraiser Luncheon at the Hoffmeister Center at 20th & Canal. This fundraiser is what is used to give the Community Grants to our local non profit organizations to help further their mission projects locally. We appreciate your support. Call or see Jan Sorge for tickets.

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

The following LWML Mite Box Projects have yet to be paid.

Twenty three projects were on the ballot, TWELVE HAVE BEEN PAID.

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

13-Graduate Studies for International Lutheran Leaders 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 1 P.M. TO 3 P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – School Staff and parents will be our models – St. Paul women will provide the luncheon. Tickets are available between worship services or in the school office; or call Jan Sorge 769-1884 or Irene Barbour Pearson 383-3213. Bring your friends!

Monday, September 21 will be our first meeting of the year for our Lutheran Women in Mission at 10 a.m. – noon in the church library. Devotions and a short Bible Study plus fellowship and friends – come get acquainted with your Sisters in Christ! All women are welcome!

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.

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 on Celebration Sunday, which will be 1-4 p.m. on November 1. Mark your calendars for this special event. Watch the October newsletter for more details. If you have any questions, call me at 769-1884 – Jan Sorge.

Children's Outreach Ministries

teaching children in their surroundings with the Good News of Jesus.

**CHILDREN'S
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES
IS GOD CALLING YOU?**

We will be going into our public schools mid September for Discovery Clubs in elementary schools and Exploration Clubs in middle schools.

Volunteers are needed to be assistants and/or leaders. Call me and I'll do some small group training for a specific age group.

I have curriculum that is available for all age groups. Copies can be made as we have permission to do so. Snacks are provided as I have money left from the grant to pay for any supplies we need.

This is a mission opportunity right here at home and we have hundreds of children who DO NOT KNOW WHO JESUS IS!!! They are amazed when they hear about Him!

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
No Bible Sunday Study
after 9/6/15

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. Starting 9/13/15, K.I.C.K. will be offered during the 10:30 a.m. service.

HMONG BIBLE CLASS

9:15—10:15 a.m. in the library

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

Church Archives



BACK IN HISTORY. by Theresa Lund, Historian
From the August 2010 St. Paul Messenger

1980

Officers leading St. Paul in 1980 were Ray Hoffmann, President; Roland Schroeder, Vice President ; Marj Hoffmann, Secretary; Doris Alexander, Treasurer; Lorry Hutton, Evangelism; Ron Lund, Stewardship; Larry Sorge, Spiritual Life; Jan Sorge, Education; Darrell Beckman, Property and John Wallace, Youth.

Singles were meeting regularly in various homes and on Feb 17, held a topic discussion on Budgeting and the Proper Use of Finances.

The Choir from Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West sang on February 24 at St. Paul.

In the spring a committee for the resettlement of a Laotian family was busy organizing efforts and setting goals. Coordinator was Carolyn Clayton.

A Frog Kissing Celebration (VBS) was held summer evenings for the whole family.

Fellowship Club sponsored a trip to Oakhurst to attend an old fashioned melodrama at the Golden Chain Theater on Friday, August 29. Amid peanuts, popcorn and beverages, the folks booed and hissed the villain all evening, and of course they clapped for the hero.

A new roof was installed on the church and parish hall at a cost of \$6000.

Roy Blumhorst was guest preacher at an afternoon Reformation Celebration Service on October 26. A mass choir sang and light refreshments were served following the afternoon service.

On December 14, Gary & Jean Olthoff, missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators, shared insights into their work in Liberia, West Africa. Toshiko Knaack served as guest organist to enhance the worship experience.

* * * * *

Over the years the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League has held many Mission Safari Nights. The idea originated in 1953 when Mrs. William (Lynn) Petzold suggested a progressive dinner with each “mission station” serving a part of the dinner and the ladies giving a program about work in the country they had chosen. The home was decorated in the theme, the committee dressed in costume and the food served representative of the “mission station “. The LWML carried out the program for several consecutive years then discontinued it. In October 1971 the Mission Safari was once again a special night.

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Dear St. Paul Congregation Members, Families and Friends:

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries has been in this interim transition for eight months so far and a lot has happened during that time. We have to remember that God has a plan for St. Paul and he is with us.

Pastor Ista and the Transition Team have been hard at work with team meetings, cottage meetings and information gathering. Their main goal is to determine the qualities the congregation wants in the next pastoral leader of St. Paul Lutheran Ministries. They are moving forward and are instrumental in this transition process. Thank you Transition Team!!

We have leadership in our school ministry with Principal Amy Mello. We are glad she is on board. School is back in session with students in our Preschool and Kindergarten through 6th grade programs. Please join us in welcoming our teachers in a Teacher Dedication service on September 27 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

The Board of Directors is meeting with Joel Koerschen from the CNH District Office on Saturday, August 29th. This will be our second meeting with Mr. Koerschen to train on proper utilization of the policy based governance system our ministry is governed by. The board's leadership role is to look forward for the ministry at St. Paul and determine ways St. Paul can fulfill the mission of "Connecting People to Jesus." Please pray for us as we learn to use the governance system to its fullest potential.

The church kitchen will be getting a fresh makeover soon and we can have our Harvest Dinner again. We will be soon going to two services to give people a choice in worship styles that suit them best. God wants us to be open to all that wish to come and worship at St. Paul.

A lot will happen in the next few months. Hang on and come along for the ride. We will need everyone's help, participation and commitment. Continue to pray for St. Paul Lutheran Ministries and God bless you all.

In Christ,

Paul Cook

Mission & Ministry Board of Directors - President

NEWS AND NOTES FROM ST. PAUL SCHOOL

By Amy Mello, Principal

Learning with a passion and a purpose... That is our theme for the 2015-2016 school year! Our desire is to help students practice their faith, trust in the Lord and experience His many blessings to discover their passion and live out their lives for His purpose. It is such an exciting time - many new faces, new friends and old, an eagerness to learn. I am so blessed to be a part of this amazing place!

We began last month with the **Back to School Ice Cream Social** where I was able to introduce myself. Teachers and families were able to connect at home visits and school began with much excitement on August 19th. We rounded out the month with the **Mog Jog** where we continue to honor the memory of our sister in Christ, Brenda Mognis, through her scholarship program.

This month we look forward to celebrating **Grandparent's Day** on September 18th! Our special loved ones will come and join us for a tour of the classroom and school, a brief program and lunch. Teachers will be down at **Cold Stone Creamery** serving ice cream in the afternoon. A percentage of funds raised will benefit the school. We hope you will consider joining us. Would you like to be a "grandparent" for someone who might not have one? Let me know and I would love to partner you up!

September 27th at the 10:30 service we will be dedicating our wonderful group of teachers! This dedicated group has worked hard to prepare for the coming year and share the word of God with our school families. We hope that you will be able to join us and welcome them!

ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Angelique Faulkner, Preschool Director

Yay! The new school year has begun and we are having a wonderful time. There are so many new faces and families that have joined St. Paul this year and we are so excited to partner with our parents and help our kids grow and become lifelong learners.

Our classes are full or filling up! And we are blessed to have such wonderful children and staff. We have welcomed Miss Renee who has joined our afternoon daycare staff and Miss Treasure Simeone who has joined our morning Preschool staff.

The kids are becoming familiar with the routines of preschool and now they are starting to get to work. I know this is going to be a great year together and God has great things in store!!!



Several big events coming up for our local Habitat:

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.

Habitat for Humanity will hold its first annual golf tournament on October 9 at Rancho Del Rey Golf Course in Atwater. Tee off will be at 11 a.m. 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.

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

September 2015 Servants

BIRTHDAYS

Sept 2	Bill Hiller
Sept 3	Larry Sorge Mary Kellogg
Sept 4	Chih-Chun Chien
Sept 6	Paul Hayes
Sept 10	Kaylene Mortensen Nicole Harstad
Sept 13	Vicki Prothro
Sept 14	Beth Davidenas
Sept 15	Kameron Harstad Marc Mortensen
Sept 16	Doris Alexander
Sept 18	John Wallace
Sept 20	See Xiong
Sept 25	Darienne George Noah Vang
Sept 27	Kevin Peters Darren Peters Max Ceska
Sept 29	Gary Sorge

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Sept 2	Gillian Davidenas Simon Davidenas
Sept 3	Lucille Hiller Ruthie Osorio
Sept 14	Paul Cook Nicole Cook Elliott Cook Annika Cook Evelyn Cook
Sept 18	Mary Kellogg
Sept 20	Jase Keller Jax Keller
Sept 23	Jeff Keller
Sept 29	Beth Davidenas
Sept 30	Amy Mello

Also baptized in Sept.: Larry Sorge, Joshua Good and Mikayla Good.

GREETERS

Sept. 6 (9:15)
Sept. 13(8:45) Gary & Kaylene Mortensen
Sept. 13 (10:30)
Sept. 20 (8:45) Phil & Mary Rahn
Sept. 20 (10:30)
Sept. 27 (8:45) Greg & Sandy Bishop
Sept. 27 (10:30) School Children

COMMUNION SET UP

Irene Pearson & Kathy George

COMMUNION SERVERS

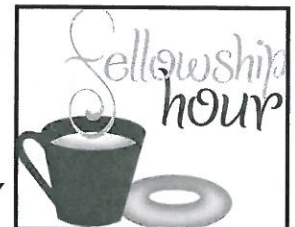
September 6 (9:15)
September 20 (8:45)
September 20 (10:30) Gary Hogston

READERS

September 6 (9:15) Marj Hoffmann
September 13 (8:45) Melinda Price
September 13 (10:30)
September 20 (8:45) Irene Broughton
September 20 (10:30).
September 27 (8:45)
September 27 (10:30) School Children

**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.**



september 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Transition Team 7:00 p.m. Library	2 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	3	4	5
6 8:15 am Bible Class 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am HMong Bible Study 11:45 am HMong Worship	7 Labor Day Office Closed No School Or Daycare	8 Transition Team 7:00 p.m. Library	9 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	10	11	12
13 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15m HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	14 Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m Library	15 Transition Team 7:00 p.m. Library	16 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	17	18 Grandparent's Day	19 HMong Language School 9 a.m. Fashion Show 1-3 pm
20 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	20 LWML 10:00 am Library M&M Board Meeting 6:00 pm Library	21 Transition Team 7:00 p.m. Library	22 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	23	24	26 HMong Language School 9 a.m.
27 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Teacher Dedic- ation Service	28	29 Transition Team 7:00 p.m. Library	30 Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Minimum School Day			
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>WORSHIP SERVICES: effective 9/13/15 8:45 a.m (Traditional) 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary) Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays at both services</p> </div>						

September 2015

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



“Connecting People to Jesus”

**www.stpaul
merced.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

MISSION & MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paul Cook
Treasurer: Keri 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:
Church: 209-383-3301
Pre-School: 209-383-5672
School: 209-383-3302
FAX: 209-383-3642

E-mail:
pastormista@stpaulmerced.com
churchoffice@stpaulmerced.com
amello@stpaulmerced.com
marianne@stpaulmerced.com
afaulkner@stpaulmerced.com

