



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

**October  
2015**

Volume 16 Issue 8

### Look What's Inside

**Hi! The enthusiasm around St. Paul's is contagious. People have noticed that attendance in worship has increased to 88 and 89 for the first two weeks of our two service schedule. Praise be to God!**

**Thanks to James and Heather Nardello, we now have "Bible Song" which takes the place of Sunday School. Bible Song is a multi-faceted tool which helps our children grow in Christ and helps them learn through all five senses. It's great fun too!**

**"Head to Heart" is our new confirmation curriculum and it will be facilitated for the children by Lonny Boyer, Dave Lundin and Vicar Doua. They are great dedicated leaders and good role models for the kids. Starting this year, the confirmation program will incorporate fifth grade on up and if the children complete the two year program, they are eligible for confirmation.**

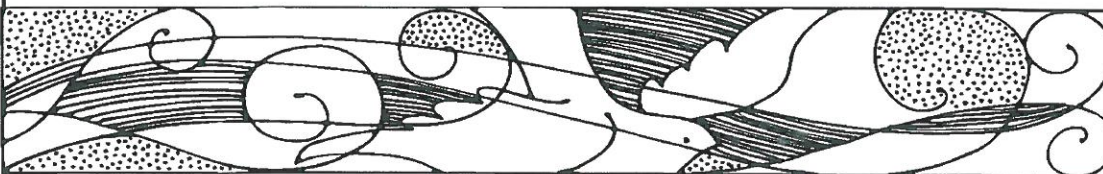
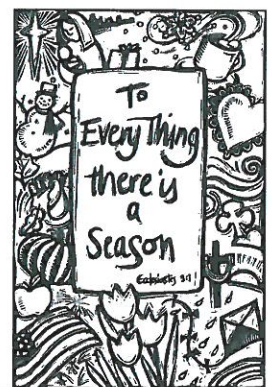
**Eventually, the religion classes at the school (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade), will be using the same confirmation curriculum as the church and children completing their confirmation studies in the school classroom, will have the opportunity to join the children from the church and be confirmed as well.**

**Thanks to Jan Sorge and a team of nine ladies we will bring glory to God at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the church, a 25 year celebration for the school and a 65 year celebration for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League on November 1, 2015.**

**We thank God for His faithfulness to this congregation over this 75 years.**

**Pastor Mick**

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## *NOTES FROM SUE XIONG*

### **Hmong Language School**

September 19<sup>th</sup> was the first day of Saturday Hmong Language School for this fall session. It was a successful one! We have twenty-five students. Some of these students attended our spring and/or summer sessions. Ten students are new to Hmong School. We are scheduled to run through December 19<sup>th</sup> of this year. However, there is a chance that we will continue Saturday Hmong Language School throughout the 2015-16 school year. We will see where God is leading us in this.

In the meantime, I am going to hold a monthly family night for Hmong students and their families. We introduce Christ to students in Hmong School. The monthly family night is the next step (phase) for us to connect students and their families to Jesus, especially for the non-Christians. One of my professors in graduate school came up with the triple B's for doing ministry outreach: Belong, Become, and Believe. People need to feel a sense of belonging before they become, and then hopefully when they "become" they believe. I want our non-Christian Hmong students and families to know that they DO belong to Jesus, too.

## **Come Join Us for an Afternoon of Bible Trivia**

Theme: Journey to the Promised  
Land: Are We There Yet?

**Support Joy of Harvest  
Hmong Ministries**

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
1:00-3:00PM**

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

**Cost: \$80/Team of 6 OR \$15/Person**

**\*Light Refreshments will be provided\*  
1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Places Take Home Special  
Prizes**

**Contact Jan or Sue for Tickets and More  
Details**

**Jan @ 209-769-1884**

**Sue @ 651-216-8457**

**You May Purchase Your Tickets from Sue  
after Sunday Services Up to Day of Event.**

**All are invited!**

**Adults, Children, and Youth**



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.

As a result of your thoughtfulness, we have received \$2,394.58 in Choice Dollars so far this year.

Through these funds, our Thrivent branch has been able to contribute to various projects around the church. Helping to pay for a new well meter and funding for the Coffee Fellowship Hour are just a couple of examples where the money has been spent this year.

Please remember to call 1-800-847-4836 to direct your Choice Dollars.



#### 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"

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Fall Fundraiser Luncheon at the Hoffmeister Center at 20<sup>th</sup> & 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. Home (722-6101 or cell 769-1884)

Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – World Community Day/Annual Meeting/Installation of

Officers and Chairpersons

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. "Our Journey Together"

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1345 E. Olive Ave. Merced

If you have any questions, please call Jan Sorge, President, Cell phone: 209-769-1884 or email: [merced-hostel@juno.com](mailto: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, 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!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> IS OUR ZONE 3 FALL RALLY AT ST. MATTHEW, SONORA. THE THEME IS "MIGHTY MITES AND MIGHTY MISSIONS" based on Luke 21:4. 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cost \$13 pre registration and \$15 at the door. We'll carpool and leave the church at 8:00 a.m. and return no later than 4 p.m. Call Jan Sorge for info 722-6101 or cell 769-1884.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME, WHO MODELED AND WHO PREPARED A WONDERFUL LUNCH FOR OUR FALL FLING FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

ALL WOMEN in the congregation are invited to attend our monthly meetings. The next meeting is Monday, October 19, 2015. Devotions "God Raises Me Up – Our Needs" and the Quarterly Bible Study Topic "The Friend Factor" will be shared by all. We meet in the church library from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mite box and freewill offerings are taken.

## 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.

Children's  
Outreach  
Ministries



Teaching children in their  
environments with the  
good news of Jesus.

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

We are going into our public schools 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](mailto:merced-hostel@juno.com)

## BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



**HMong Bible Classes**  
9:15—10:15 a.m.

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

Both classes 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  
School Music Room.

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



## *Celebrate Our Heritage*

This is an exciting year for St. Paul Lutheran Church as we celebrate three outstanding anniversaries! Our church - 75th anniversary - our school is celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> years – and Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society 65 years!

We would like to invite you to attend this very special celebration with us!

**Sunday, November 1, 2015**

**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**2916 N. McKee Rd.**

**Merced CA 95340**

1-2 P.M. Worship in the Sanctuary

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, California Nevada Hawaii District President will preach

Rev. Kou Seying, Concordia Seminary Staff, St. Louis, will be the liturgist

HMong Choir and School Choir

2-3 P.M. Recognition of special events & people

Ancestors of Gustav Polzin whose home was the beginning of our church

First Baptisms, Confirmation classes, Marriages in each of the three locations

Women’s Club House, 23<sup>rd</sup> & P St., 2916 N. McKee Rd.

3-4 P.M. Light refreshments in the Parish Hall

Display of pictures around the room –of previous years –

Fellowship and memories

If you have questions or need more details, please feel free to call Jan Sorge 209-769-1884. Housing is available at Quality Inn – 209-383-0333 for out of town visitors – a block of rooms blocked off under “St. Paul Lutheran Church” when making reservations.

We look forward to having you join us for this very special occasion!

History Research Committee:

Doris Alexander, Carol Kellogg, Elaine Kock, Mary Wallace,

Evelyn Williams, Theresa Lund, Rosie Martin,

Lona Sancibrian and Jan Sorge

## **PRESIDENT'S NEWS**

Dear St. Paul Congregation Members, Families and Friends:

We are a blessed congregation here at St. Paul Lutheran Ministries. We have bright future ahead and God has wonderful plans for us.

A lot is happening at St. Paul Lutheran Church. On September 13th, our ministry went back to two worship services – Traditional Worship (8:45AM) and Contemporary Worship (10:30AM) with a Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall at 9:45AM. A brand new Children's Ministry called "Bible Song" has started at 9:15AM in the School Art/Music Room. Head to Heart (confirmation) has resumed for children in 5th through 8<sup>th</sup> grades on Sunday evenings at 6:30-8:00PM in the School Art/Music Room. I encourage you to invite all you know – Everyone is Welcome.

The Board of Directors met with Joel Koerschen from the CNH District Office on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. We reviewed and updated a good portion of the current policy based governance system we currently use. Our third meeting with Mr. Koerschen is scheduled for Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30AM and we will finish updating the governance system.

The board will be putting together a nominating committee for new board members and Elders. The board will be losing Keri Good and Marilyn Anderson as they term off. I thank them for all of their time and dedication to the Mission and Ministry Board of Directors. They are true blessings to St. Paul. If you are interested in serving on either board, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Please continue to pray for St. Paul Lutheran Ministries. I will leave you with this reminder from Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

In Christ,

Paul Cook –  
Mission & Ministry Board of Directors - President

**NEWS AND NOTES FROM ST. PAUL SCHOOL**

**By Amy Mello, Principal**

Each month the students at St. Paul focus on a different virtue from our Core Virtue Character Education program. The year always begins with **Respect and Responsibility**. *Throughout September students heard messages about being polite and kind and treating others how they would want to be treated. "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." ~ Romans 12:10*

This month students will learn about **Perseverance** and how to not give up even when things seem impossible. *When we persevere, God blesses us. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." ~ James 1:12 All are welcome to join us at chapel every Wednesday at 8:45 am.*

Our 5th Grade students have shown great perseverance in their efforts to raise the needed funds for 5th Grade Camp at Hume Lake with their "Flamingo 'Fun'draiser". With persistence, dedication and lots of support from their families they were able to raise more than enough to pay the way for all 12 students and their chaperones. If you have been around town for the past couple of months and have seen flocks of pink flamingos gracing the lawns of your neighbors you know our 5th grade families have been there!

Due to the Rough Fire that surrounded Hume Lake, our students continue to show perseverance refusing to give up on camp. While they usually go in October, this year they will be going in the spring. To show our support, St. Paul, in conjunction with many of our area Christian schools, collected non-perishable food items for victims of the fires. We had a special collection at chapel and were able to donate \$70 to a food bank that is supporting those affected. Even during difficult times God shows us we can be a blessing to others.

We ended September with Dad's Can Cook, our annual Father's Club Event pitting dads against dads in a friendly competition of tailgating. This month we look forward to "50's Night" This annual event brings our school and church communities together for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun. Looking forward to seeing you there on Saturday, October 24th!

## **ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

*by Angelique Faulkner, Preschool Director*

### October at the Preschool

We have just wrapped up our Preschool Book Fair. I want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped by purchasing books. Our teachers were able to choose \$1,300 worth of books for their classrooms!

The month of October will be a busy month as well. We will be riding our bikes and trikes to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. As well as walking in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lights On event in downtown Merced. And we will be having fun at 50's Night towards the end of the month.

The classrooms are alive with learning. We are heading into our 3<sup>rd</sup> month of school and the kids seem to have adjusted well to their schedules and activities. They are busy bees! October is a great time to learn as we start to see pumpkins everywhere. Pumpkins are so fun to learn with. We can cut them open and explore them. We can use the seeds to count, create art, cook and eat. The pulp is a very squishy sensory experience that can also be used for exploring or creating more art. It's fun to practice our fine motor skills to hammer nails into pumpkins. We can learn the life cycle of a pumpkin as well as the names of the anatomy. We can put different size pumpkins in order from smallest to biggest and vice versa. There is so much we can and will be doing! It's going to be great!!!

### *Salvation Army Christmas Shoe Boxes*

Have you taken one or more of the empty shoe boxes on the table in the Narthex? It would be great to see an empty table by the end of October! Remember the filled boxes are due back on November 22, so there is plenty of time to fill them. Remember the boxes go to the Salvation Army for use in Merced. 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."







Several big events coming up for our local Habitat:

1) Home Town Buffet Fundraiser on Saturday, October 3 for lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Join us for a great lunch with family or friends to help support Habitat and the next house we will be building. 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!

2) 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.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church Outreach Ministries Center, 2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced. Learn the history of Habitat locally and globally and sign up for upcoming events at 8 p.m.

Annual meeting/potluck on Saturday, November 7 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church Parish Hall.

If your last name begins with:

A-G – bring a dessert

H-O – bring a salad or side dish

P-Z - bring a main dish

For more information, call 209-726-0850.

Check out our website for further information on any of these events. [www.hfhmerced.org](http://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](http://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

October 2015 Servants

**BIRTHDAYS**

- October 1 Marj Hoffmann
- October 1 Carole Legan
- October 3 Samuel Severson
- October 6 Barbara Prothro
- October 7 Kathy Morton
- October 15 Gwen Keller
- October 16 Adam Hogston
- October 17 Betty Jo Rodgers
- October 20 Traci Ceska
- October 21 Teresa Lundin
- October 24 Gloria Schroeder
- October 27 Mary Lou Parker
- October 27 Elliott Cook
- October 28 Greg McKenzie

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- October 4 Hershel & Samantha Thompson
- October 6 Gary & Kathy Hogston
- October 25 Dick & Mary Homann

**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

- October 4 Jeremy Keller
  - October 17 Julianna Boyer
  - October 21 Jamee Vang
  - October 21 Mang Vang
  - October 21 Natalie Vang
  - October 21 Nathan Vang
  - October 21 Noah Vang
  - October 21 Nolan Vang
  - October 22 Aaron Hogston
  - October 29 Darienne George
  - October 31 Kathy Morton
- Also baptized in October—Kaylene Mortensen

**GREETERS**

- October 4 (8:45) Greg & Sandy Bishop
- October 11 (8:45) Karen Kelleher
- October 18 (8:45) Ed & Darlene Mentz
- October 25 (8:45) Ron & Carole Legan

**COMMUNION SET UP**

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

- October 4 (8:45) Hershel West & Lorry Hutton
- October 18 (8:45) Hershel West & Lorry Hutton

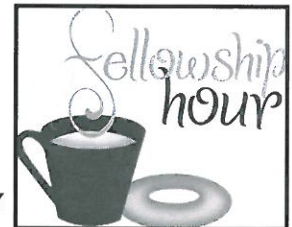
**READERS**

- October 4 (8:45) Melinda Price
- October 11 (8:45) Irene Broughton
- October 18 (8:45)
- October 25 (8:45) Irene Broughton

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.





# 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 HMong Language School 9 a.m.
4 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song (Sunday School) 9:15m HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 6:30 Confirmation	5 Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m. Library	6 Transition Team 6:30 p.m. Library	7 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.  Preschool St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon	8	9	10 HMong Language School 9 a.m.
11 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song (Sunday School) 9:15m HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 6:30 Confirmation	12 Church Women United 9:30 OMC  4-H 6:00 Parish Hall	13 Transition Team 6:30 p.m. Library	14 Habitat Volunteer Orientation 7 PM OMC	15	16	17 HMong Language School 9 a.m.  HMong School Family Fun Night 5-7 pm
18 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song (Sunday School) 9:15m HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 6:30 Confirmation	19 LWML 10:00 am Library  M&M Board Meeting 6:00 pm Library	20 Transition Team 6:30 p.m. Library	21 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	22	23	24 HMong Language School 9 a.m.  50's Night 5 pm
25 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song (Sunday School) 9:15m HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 6:30 Confirmation	26	27 Transition Team 6:30 p.m. Library	28 Bible Class 10:30 a.m.  Teacher In-Service 12:00 dismissal	29	30	31
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>  <b>8:45 a.m. (Traditional)</b>  <b>10:30 a.m. (Contemporary)</b>            Communion 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays            at both services</p> </div>						

**October 2015**

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



“Connecting People to Jesus”

**www.stpaul  
merced.org**

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## **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

