



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

June  
2016

Volume 17 Issue 6

## Look What's Inside

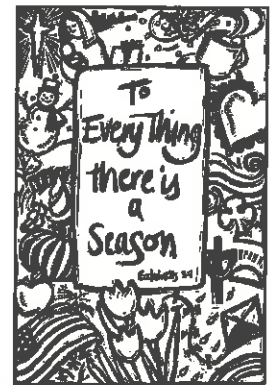
You walk into the concert hall expecting a wonderful concert for the evening. The conductor is at the podium doing what a conductor does. But to your surprise, there is but one man in the orchestra pit dashing from the reed section to the brass section to the percussion section to the string section. He stops at each section and plays a few measures of music and then runs to the next to play a few more. As a result, the musical piece is disjointed and lacks the unity of a pleasant piece of music.

The music which a congregation plays to each other and to their communities can be unpleasant. The Apostle Paul knew that because some of the congregations to whom he wrote, screeched out some pretty horrible music from time to time. He directs special concern for this matter to the church in Corinth, Rome, and Ephesus. First Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 have much to say to us about the kind of music the world should hear from the Christian church.

God has designed His church by giving each individual in it a spiritual gift. If everyone contributes that gift toward the mission of the church, then the church can flourish and thrive. The Bible tells us that all gifts are given for the common good and that unity is realized as each contributes his/her gift. The Bible also tells us that we are to work to preserve this unity which has been established among us by God's Spirit. Paul speaks of this unity as being "the body of Christ." You and I are the "body of Christ" to the world. With that high honor and privilege comes a responsibility as well. Just as our Lord assumed the role of servant to the world, so we, as Romans 12 states, become "living sacrifices" to each other and to the world. May each of us surrender ourselves to Him in faith allowing Him to create beautiful music through us, His church.

Pastor Mick

Message	1
Joy of Harvest	2
School/Preschool	3
President's News	4
Habitat for Humanity	5
Thrivent	6
LWML	6
Bible Classes	7
Sunday School	7
Birthdays	8
Servants	8
Calendar	9





## JOY OF HARVEST MINISTRIES

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### HMong Language School

HMong Language School visited the HMong Story 40 Exhibit on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Merced Fairground. It was a great opportunity for our students to learn and experience the HMong's journey to the United States. This visit also taught our students the importance of their HMong language. The HMong Story 40 showcased the history of our HMong people including beliefs, customs, clothing, and arts that were brought with us from China to Laos and to the United States, particularly here in California.

It has been 40 years as of May 2015 that the HMong people first arrived in the United States. Our HMong students learned of the many challenges and struggles the early HMong went through to get to today. Today there are HMong doctors, lawyers, teachers, senators, businessmen/women, and many other professionals in the US. Majority of the HMong in America have been too comfortable and busy living the "American Dream" that they have forgotten to teach their children HMong. HMong children these days barely know how to speak HMong. A HMong vocalist named Fong encouraged young children to advance life to a better level for the future. At the same time, it is crucial for HMong children to do their best and learn HMong, if they don't know it.

As we all know, the HMong Language School sees this same vision and way beyond. We continue to not only do our best to help HMong children learn and speak HMong, but with the hope that they would believe in Jesus also. One way for the young generation to advance life to the next level is to let go of the old way (shamanism) and to live a new life in Christ. Below is a poem written by Soul Vang that was displayed at the exhibit for us all to think about.

HMong School is coming to an end for this spring session. June 4<sup>th</sup> is the last day of school. We will break for the summer and school is scheduled to resume again this fall.

Thank you for always keeping the HMong Language School in your prayers. Your support for Joy of Harvest Ministries means a lot. May God grants you peace, love, and understanding always!

Have a safe and blessed summer in the Lord!

Sue Xiong  
HMong Language School Coordinator

### IN THE END

A Poem By *Soul Vang*

For *Chayut*

"In the end, we'll lose all the things, language, traditions, even our children (when they are no longer Hmong)," you, my friend, said.

And I think you're right. But in the end, we'll probably never know.

And are our language, traditions, and children ours to lose, or just ours to celebrate and let go?

In the end, all we may be able to do is to present our very best. And let the next take it over.

That's what every generation must have finally felt and done in the end.



HMong Language School at HMong Story 40 Exhibit

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

*By Amy Mello, Principal*

June 2016

The last month of school is always a challenge to keep everyone focused and working until that #lastbell. Students are eager for summer fun to begin and teachers, well, teachers are tired! There's no tired like teacher tired! Our school is blessed to have such a dedicated group of teachers that work endlessly to give to our students and make learning relevant and engaging right up until the last minute.

The month of May was packed with field trips. These hands-on opportunities to put learning into action are one of the benefits of being at St. Paul. Students had the opportunity to visit local sites including our own Merced County Courthouse and UC Merced. At UCM, students had the opportunity to see a wonderful children's opera, **WOOSH**, and take a tour of the engineering department to see a few of the underground mysteries on campus. There were also opportunities to marvel in the wonder of God's creations as students got to visit **Camp Calvin Crest** to learn about Native Americans, **Columbia** to learn about the historic Gold Rush and the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** to observe many creatures of the sea. Our 5th grade class took a trip to the local animal shelter as part of a service project. They had earned extra funds from their "Flamingo Fundraiser" for camp and decided to put them to good work helping the shelter.

Classrooms have been working on final projects to demonstrate their learning. First grade has been writing animal reports and creating dioramas to show their habitats. Third grade completed Family History presentations, many of which included tasty recipes passed down over generations. Fifth grade presented their Historical Figures Wax Museum. Students dressed as famous historical figures and gave a short presentation of their life. They all did a great job!

A special thank you to church members, James Nardello and Paul Cook. Both came in May and led chapel services for our students. It has been a blessing to have these two faithful and generous men give of their time and talent to serve our school.

We wrapped up the year with two students, Hannah Isakow and Karli Willis, both serving as **Principal of the Day**, as well as a number of others serving as **Teacher for the Day**. All were items up for bid at our annual auction in April. Needless to say, we may have some future educators here at St. Paul. Our last week ended with our traditional Small Business Day and End of Year Award Ceremony as well as a closing chapel to celebrate all we do in Christ. This year has been one of building and strengthening faith of our families, staff and students. We look forward to gearing up for the new year and can't wait to see where God guides our steps!

**St. Paul Preschool Happenings**

*By Angelique Faulkner, Preschool Director*

This school year has been a truly wonderful year at St. Paul Preschool. All of our students have worked so hard and we are blessed to see them move on. Our Pre-K friends will be going on to Kindergarten and we know they are ready and will do a great job. But our Preschool friends will return in the fall, taller and older, ready to take on new challenges. And we can't wait.

We, as a teachers and as a school, have been so blessed by the families we have been able to get to know this year. We pray God's blessings upon each of them and we wish everyone a great summer and time with their families.

Children are a gift from the Lord and we count it a privilege to be their teachers. God is good and we wait in anticipation for the good things he has in store for St. Paul School in the 2016-2017 school year.

God Bless,

Ms. Angelique and the Preschool Staff

## President's News

Hi St. Paul Congregation Members, Families and Friends

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is moving forward working on the Mission of Connecting People to Jesus. A lot has happened since the last newsletter and let me update you.

The Voters (Membership) Meeting on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00PM was very productive and I thank all the members that were present for their input and commitment to the congregation.

The voters approved the updated policy based governance guidelines. These guideline enhance the current congregation constitution and bylaws. The guidelines detail the senior pastor/board responsibilities and relationship, help the board strategically plan for the congregation and state the senior pastor limitations. If you need a copy of the guidelines, please ask Carolyn in the church office for a copy.

The voters approved the detailed housing expense allowance for Pastor Doua Xiong. The approval is necessary from the host congregation to be official by the IRS.

The voters approved moving forward with Merced city application/permit process for connecting to the city water supply. The application has been submitted to be put on the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Merced City Council Meeting agenda. We will see if the council approves our request.

The voters approved applying for an LCEF loan to fund the water connection project. The option approved is to refinance the existing LCEF mortgage, adding a maximum of \$80,000 at an interest rate of 3.875% for 20 years.

The Senior Pastor Call Task Force Team (Call Committee) is still hard at work. The team had a facetime video call with strategic interview consultant, Pastor Rod Hall on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The team has agreed to have Pastor Hall work with the top three candidates and those candidates have agreed to go through with the interview process with Pastor Hall. Results of those interviews should be available to the team in about one month. Further information will be brought to your attention as it arises.

On Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the M & M Board of Directors met for two hours to strategically plan fellowship and outreach events for the next fiscal year. More information and request for assistance from the congregation will be coming soon. Some of the events to look forward to are Harvest Dinner and Fellowship 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday combined services and brunch. Please look to participate in these events to again fulfill our Mission of Connecting People to Jesus.

In Christ,

Paul Cook – Mission & Ministry Board of Directors – President



Our Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at Rancho del Rey in Atwater. Register to play golf, sponsor a hole, donate a prize, or volunteer to help – we need all of the above. Check our website for all the details

[www.hfhmerced.org](http://www.hfhmerced.org).



Brush with Kindness applications are available online and we will be doing more projects as we have volunteer available. Homeowners, who aren't physically able to do small projects, should call us at 726-0850.



We are looking at a very positive opportunity to partner with another non profit organization to open a ReStore. Watch the website for up do date information. If you would like to be in on the planning stages – please call the Habitat phone 209-726-0850 and you can get involved. There's many opportunities in re-searching, 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://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](mailto:merced-hostel@juno.com)



Thank You to all Thrivent Choice Dollar Donors!

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

Please remember to continue to support St. Paul through your Choice Dollars in 2016. So far this year we have received \$1056.00 Contact Thrivent by calling 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice." The money that we receive through your donations, help fund a variety of projects around the church.

**Heartline Prayer Request Tip**

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

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

**Scheduling of Facility Use**

This is a friendly reminder that whenever you are scheduling an event or meeting, please contact the church office to schedule it. It is important to do so before the event or meeting is publicized to make sure the room is available and avoid possible scheduling conflicts. As part of the procedure, we have a facility use form that needs to be filled out. Once the event is properly scheduled, it will be added to the calendar.

Thank you for your help in making this a smooth process.



**LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**

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

MISSION PROJECTS CHOSEN BY DELEGATES FOR 2014-2016

**ALL PROJECTS WERE PAID – ALL THANKS TO GOD!!!**

New projects were voted on by our delegates at our Convention April 15-17 in Visalia.

**KEEP SAVING YOUR COINS AND PUT THEM IN A MITE BOX – OR IN THE BIG MITE BOX IN THE NAR-THEX – EVERY COIN COUNTS TO COMPLETE THESE PROJECTS!**

Watch for the new projects to be listed on the LWML bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Posters will be displayed as soon as they are available.



We will not meet until the fall – will be doing a Women's Bible Study once a week and are inviting any ideas you would like to see happen for Women's Ministry. Please call me or talk to me and we'll make it happen!  
Jan Sorge 769-1884



*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

*Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)*

**Information about the LCMS youth Gathering in New Orleans you might not know:**

Held every 3 years since 1980, 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, participants will study the Apostle Paul's words to the people of Philippi reflecting upon the key concepts of identity, humility and community.

Using the book of Philippians, we will hear and profess that it is in Christ alone that we stand. Youth spend time together in God's word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across the synod.

For additional ways to connect to LCMS Youth Ministry or just find out what we will be doing, please visit [www.lcms.org/youth](http://www.lcms.org/youth). The event schedule is out and the topics are fantastic! Topics like Cracking the Parental Code and Islam 101 will give you an idea of the diversity of the event.

Our St. Paul Youth are thinking about packing but we still need a couple more fundraisers to reach our financial goal. *A cookie sale* is coming up soon so listen for the announcement. If you have any *odd jobs* (weeding, mowing, organizing) we could do for you please let us know by calling Marilyn Anderson at 209-631-8965.



**BIBLE CLASSES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**HMong Bible Classes**  
10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Both classes meet on Sunday in the library.

## June 2016 Servants

### BIRTHDAYS

June 2 Sandy Bishop  
Ed Mentz  
June 8 Karan McKenzie  
June 18 Gillian Davidenas  
Simon Davidenas  
Jeremy Keller  
June 21 David Bultena  
June 25 Don Kock  
June 27 James Nardello

### ANNIVERSARIES

June 9 Don & Elaine Kock  
June 10 Larry & Jan Sorge  
June 13 Gary & Karen Kelleher  
June 14 George & Kathy Morton  
June 15 Dave & Teresa Lundin  
June 17 Ed & Darlene Mentz  
June 20 Hershel & Marion West  
June 21 Russ & Irene Pearson

### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

June 6 Janet Seilnacht  
June 9 Kent Harstad  
June 20 Ed Mentz



### GREETERS

June 5 (8:45) Marj Hoffmann  
June 12 (8:45) Jeff & Kathy George  
June 19 (8:45) Lonn Boyer  
June 26 (8:45) Greg & Sandy Bishop

### COMMUNION SET UP Rose Martin & Betty Jo Rodgers

### COMMUNION SERVERS

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

### READERS

June 5 (8:45)  
June 12 (8:45)  
June 19 (8:45)  
June 26 (8:45)

### 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 – LVML – 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.





# 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Bible Class 10:30 a.m. School Award Ceremony 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> Closing Chapel 8:45 a.m. Last Day of School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> HMong Language School 9:00 a.m. OMC
<b>5</b> 8:45 am Worship 9:15 Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong Worship	<b>6</b> Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m. Library	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> Blaylock- Williamson Wedding 3:00 p.m.
<b>12</b> 8:45 am Worship 9:15 Bible Song 10:15 HMong Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 HMong Worship 6:30 New OrL. Youth	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Hmong Wor- ship	<b>20</b> M & M Board 6:00 pm Library	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Song 10:30 HMong Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Hmong Worship 6:30 New Orleans Youth	<b>27</b> Habitat 6:30 p.m. Library	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	<b>30</b>		
			<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>            8:45 a.m. (Traditional)            10:30 a.m. (Contemporary)            Communion 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays            11:45 a.m. HMong Worship Service         </div>			

**June 2016**

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



“Connecting People to Jesus”

[www.stpaul  
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## **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**

**Mission: “Connecting People to Jesus”**

### **MINISTRY STAFF**

Interim Pastor  
Rev. Mick Ista

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:** Paul Cook  
**Treasurer:** Marilyn Anderson  
**Secretary:** James Nardello  
Mary Rahn, Kathy George  
Barbara Christensen, Dick  
Homann

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

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