

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:1-7)

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### Important Dates:

December 1: Advent by Candlelight  
 December 8: WINGS/LWML Fellowship and Bible Study  
 December 11: JULIETs lunch  
 December 12: Cookies, Cocoa and Carols  
 December 16: Council Meeting  
 December 19: MLS Christmas Program  
 December 21: Bake Sale



It's that time of year again! Once again the Church begins a new year with the season of Advent, a penitential and hopeful season in anticipation of the joy of Christmas. It's common during the season of Advent, just like the season of Lent, to have additional mid-week worship services to help our hearts and minds focus on and be ready for the time of celebration which is surely coming. We usually organize our mid-week services around a central theme, and this year, the theme for the mid-week Advent services (as well as the mid-week Lenten services this coming Spring), will be the prophecies about Jesus in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah was a prophet who lived in the eighth century B.C. This was long after the split between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Isaiah primarily prophesied to the southern kingdom, but he had messages from the Lord to the northern kingdom, as well as to many of the surrounding nations. During his lifetime, the brutal kingdom of Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, scattering its people abroad and re-settling the region with peoples from other nations. Assyria then continued its conquest southwards, conquering most of Judah and besieging Jerusalem. Only by a miracle from the Lord was Jerusalem spared and the Assyrians sent back home in defeat.

Isaiah saw many things that were distressing in his time. And he also foresaw that the southern kingdom of Judah, though it had escaped destruction from Assyria, would one day be conquered by Babylon. And the Lord made it clear that all of these things were happening because of the sins of the people.

And yet, even though there were much trouble and calamity in Isaiah's day, his writings are not all doom and gloom. The Lord did give him many words to proclaim to the people, including messages of repentance and warnings of the judgment that would fall upon them because of their sins. However, the Lord also revealed to Isaiah many prophecies of the coming Messiah. Isaiah has so many wonderful messages about Jesus that he has sometimes been called the "Fifth Gospel."

It is in Isaiah that we hear the clear prophecy that the Messiah will be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). The text above from Isaiah 9, which we hear read on Christmas Eve, is a wonderful prophecy of who the Christ-Child truly is and what He will accomplish for His people. In this passage, as well as others throughout Isaiah, we see that the Christ will be a descendant of David and will sit upon David's throne forever. We also see this text referenced at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry as He preaches, teaches, and heals in the region of the Galilee (see Matthew 4:15-16).

And not only is the coming Messiah foretold, the forerunner of the coming Messiah is also foretold! Isaiah 40:3 famously says, "A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" This is fulfilled in Jesus' relative, John the Baptizer, who went out into the wilderness to prepare the people to receive the coming Christ (see Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23). Gabriel had told John's father Zechariah that John would "turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:16-17). And Jesus affirmed this to His disciples, saying that John was indeed this "Elijah" (see Matthew 17:10-13).

And the Lord not only foretold through Isaiah that the Messiah would come, He also revealed through him what the Messiah would do for His people. In a series of prophecies called the "Servant Songs," the Lord promises of the Christ: "a bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench; He will faithfully bring forth justice" (Isaiah 42:3).

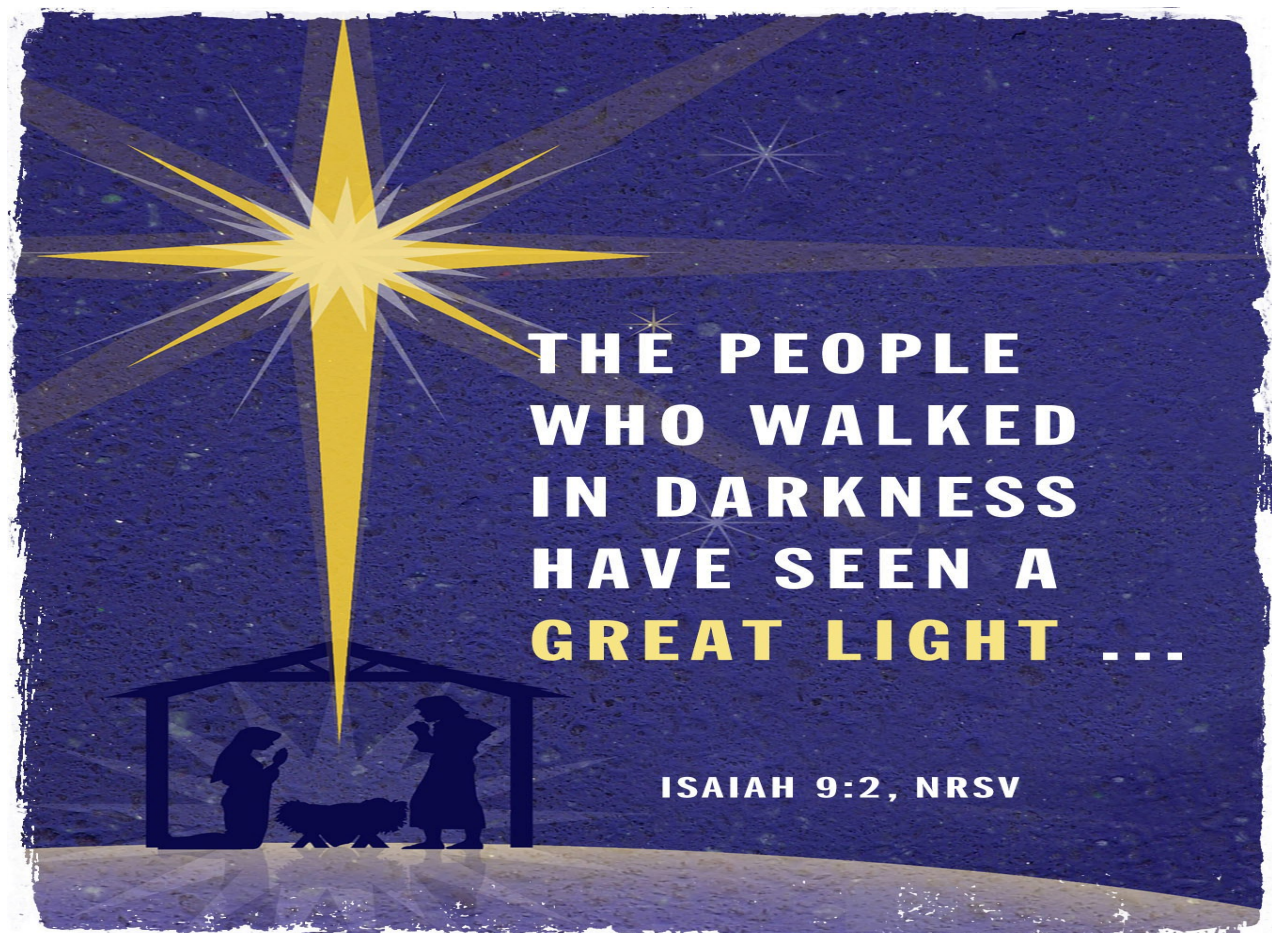
In other words, the Christ is not coming to bring the wrath of God upon His people, but rather to comfort and sustain those who mourn over their sins and are calling upon Him to ransom and save.

But the salvation of God's people would come at a cost. The wrath of God is not falling upon the people because it is falling upon the Christ in our stead. The Servant of the Lord says in Isaiah, "I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting" (Isaiah 50:6). And in a passage we hear every Good Friday, Isaiah foretells of the Servant, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

And yet, the pains that the Christ endured for His people have procured their salvation! Therefore He can proclaim: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). The Gospel of Christ shines forth clearly from the pages of Isaiah!

While it would be impossible to thoroughly examine how Christ is present all throughout Isaiah in just a few sermons, in this season of Advent and later on in the coming season of Lent, we will have an opportunity to hear from some of the most beautiful and meaningful passages about the Christ from the Old Testament. When we hear how much the Lord revealed to Isaiah about the coming Messiah and how He would ransom and save His people, we will see that it is more than fitting to label the book of Isaiah as the "Fifth Gospel." Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave



# Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

*“Built on Christ, we join together as God’s house of  
prayer for all nations.”*



## Praying through hope, peace, joy and love this Advent

The church year has ended and another begins. The world waits for January 1, 2026 to begin new habits—healthy eating, exercise more, organize schedules better...we as Christians pause during the busiest time of year to look at our readiness for Christ’s coming. We remember His first coming with gratitude, but we anticipate His second and reflect on our readiness. Perhaps we change habits? If spending more time with your Heavenly Father is one you are considering, here are different scriptures for each week of advent you may want to use as you pray:

### HOPE

**Isaiah 2:1-5:** *The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, <sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law,<sup>[a]</sup> and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

**Romans 13:11-14:** *<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

**Matthew 24:36-44:** *<sup>36</sup> “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[a]</sup> but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

### PEACE

**Isaiah 11:1-10:** *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;*

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for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**Romans 15:4-7:** <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

## JOY

**Isaiah 35:1-10:** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.<sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.<sup>[a]</sup><sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Psalms 51:1-12:** Have mercy on me,<sup>[a]</sup> O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right<sup>[b]</sup> spirit within me.<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Hebrews 12:1-2:** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## LOVE

**Deuteronomy 7:6-9:** <sup>6</sup> “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

**Psalms 107:1-3:** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**John 3:16-17:** <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world,<sup>[a]</sup> that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**May each of you treasure in your hearts the hope, peace, joy and love found in our Heavenly Father’s gift of His Son, through, the Holy Spirit who is at work in us!!**

## Stewardship

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas... dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.

# Time, Talents and Treasure



**Stewardship** is many things. Our congregation has always been more than generous with their church contributions. But stewardship also requires that we give of the talents God has given each of us. That means using some of our time to further the mission of our church. Here are just some of the ways that you can contribute.

Prayer Ministry: We strive to cover all areas of the Church's life in prayer. We currently meet every Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the church library for a short time of prayer. We also meet every Wednesday morning at 7:35 am to pray with the teachers before the start of the school day. Those who aren't part of the school staff then meet for breakfast. And we meet via Zoom every Thursday morning at 6:45 am when we follow Responsive Prayer 2 in the hymnal. This includes singing at least 3 hymns! A wonderful way to start the day. We could use more leaders for this prayer time. Everyone is welcome to join in any of these prayer opportunities.

Sunday School: Instruction in the Bible and in the faith and worship life is currently provided only to young children. We would love to be able to offer classes to older children. Ideally, we would have someone to coordinate this effort with a team of people to lead classes so that each person would lead once or twice each month rather than every Sunday.

Altar Guild: The volunteers of the altar guild prepare the bread and wine for Communion, prepare the altar for the appropriate time in the church year, and prepare the baptismal font for baptisms. Training is provided to ensure that all volunteers are well equipped and supported in their work of the Lord's house.

Choir: Come and make a joyful noise! The choir meets to rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm from September through May. While you do need to be able to read and carry a tune, no other particular skills are required - just a love of sacred music.

Ushering: Ushers hand out bulletins before the church service, advise those taking communion when it's time to approach the communion rail, and take up the offering by passing the offering trays. They may also direct late arrivals as needed to show them where there is open seating. In the event of a medical emergency, they may also be tasked with calling 911.

Greeting: Greeters arrive a bit early in order to greet members and guests as they arrive. If someone is attending our church for the first time, greeters are to make sure they sign the guest book.

**Church Council Officers** are all elected by the voting members of the congregation.

President: The president oversees the corporate/business concerns of the congregation and presides over the monthly Council and quarterly Voters' Assembly meetings of the congregation.



Vice President: The vice-president assists the president in his tasks and is responsible for the recruitment of officers and leaders for election to the positions and boards of the congregation.

Council Secretary: The secretary records the minutes of the Council and Voters' Assembly meetings and forwards all minutes and board reports to the Church Secretary for posting and filing.

Financial Secretary: The financial secretary records and keeps confidential records of each member's giving for tax purposes and makes the bank deposits of weekly offerings.

Treasurer: The treasurer is responsible for the payment of bills and the recording and publishing to the congregation its progress in offerings toward, and expenses within, the congregation's yearly budget. Prepares the budget every year for voter approval.

Board of Elders: The men of this Board assist the pastor in the spiritual care of the members, the leading of worship and the oversight of the adult Bible studies, provide communication to the pastor of the needs of the members, and make visits to the members of the congregation.

Board of Trustees: The members of this board oversee the repair and maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Mission Lutheran Church and School campus and administrate the volunteers of the congregation in that ongoing maintenance work.

Board of Day School Education (School Board): The School Board is responsible for the ministry of Mission Lutheran School; it provides counsel and direction to the school ministry, including interviewing candidates for open positions and providing input to documents required for maintaining the school's accreditation.

Board of Outreach: This board of members initiates and manages outreach activities with the purpose of bringing the Gospel to unchurched people. Activities include: maintaining a Bible box which provides a free Bible to anyone who wants one; changing the verse on the church sign (facing Roadrunner Parkway); sending a note to someone who visits the church for the first time; offering to visit first-time visitors to answer questions about the church; assist members of the community who are in need of financial assistance; or other activities as deemed helpful to reach unchurched people in our community

**Committees.** The following are volunteer opportunities and the members are not elected by the voting members of the congregation.

Stewardship Committee: This committee is for the purpose of equipping the all of the boards with the human and information resources needed to carry out their work. This committee also encourages church members to share their time, talent and treasure as needed to support Mission Lutheran Church.

Fellowship Committee: The Fellowship Committee is responsible for strengthening the fellowship between congregational members spiritually and socially, supporting the integration of new members into the life of the congregation, planning and implementing outreach events in which the larger community's participation is invited, and in general building mutual cooperation, trust, and enjoyment among the members of the congregation.

None of these opportunities require great amounts of time (with perhaps the exception of the Treasurer!). Please prayerfully consider where you might best put your God-given talents to work for the good of our church family.





## December Birthdays

Don	Hallem	1
Robert	Pfotenhauer	3
Oliver	Luchini-Angotti	5
Bradley	Springer Jr.	7
Doug	Lorenz	8
Jeri	Spicka	14
Phyllis	Turquette	26
Robert	Scaling	28
Paul	Vakselis	29
Sam	Grothman	31

*Happy Anniversary*

## December Anniversaries

		Date	Years
Chuck & Jeri	Spicka	10	49
Jace & Susana	Melton	17	9
James & Hailey	De Rossitt	23	19
Paul & Sheila	Vakselis	20	40
John & Joanie	Eisenbraun	31	65

*Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in December.*

*May God continue to bless you.*

If your birth and/or anniversary date is missing or incorrect, please notify Jennifer Diaz  
in the church office.

# JULIETS

All women in the church are invited to our monthly ladies' lunch. And bring a friend!

Thursday, December 11th - DH Lescombes Winery  
1720 Avenida de Mesilla

We meet at 11:30 am.

So that the restaurant can be prepared, please notify Debra Echtenkamp at least 2 days in advance if you plan to attend.

Call or text Debra at (901) 830-7216



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## WINGS/LWML

The next gathering of WINGS (Women in God's Service) will be on Monday, **December 8th**, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided.



**Lutheran  
Women  
*in Mission***

## December Happenings

Please join us for COOKIES, COCOA and CAROLS on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
\$10 at the door to fill your box with assorted cookies.

Activities begin at 6:30 with cookie gathering, carols outside and then some wonderful hot cocoa and fellowship.

All proceeds go toward supporting our Concordia Seminary Student, Noah Oloff.

Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> after church in Luther Hall.

Come purchase some delicious baked goods for your holiday (no cookies will be available, as we sold those on December 12<sup>th</sup>).

All proceeds go toward supporting our Concordia Seminary Student, Noah Oloff.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2025

President Doug Lorenz called the Mission Lutheran Church Council meeting to order at 6:33PM.

Council Members present were: Vice-President: Eric Gunderson, Secretary: Carol Cooper, Treasurer: Brad Mueller, Financial Secretary: Carol Moore, Pastor Cave, Board of Elders: Richard Turk, and School Board: Karen Springer.

Pastor Cave led the Council members in opening prayer.

The minutes of the August 19, 2025 were not accepted as presented. The Council declared the minutes to be accepted with the following changes which have been made: 1) "follow-up" information gathered from the September Voters' Meeting but included in the August 19 minutes be removed and 2) a misquoted comment made by Carol Moore during the August 19, 2025 meeting also be removed from the minutes.

The following reports were given:

Pastor Cave: Pastor Cave's report is attached. Pastor Cave also reported that Mike and Lindsay Andrews' baby daughter (just born) will be baptized this coming Sunday, October 26.

Pastor Cave asked Richard Turk if the Elders would like to host the Ft. Wayne Lutheran Church Choir. A meal in Fellowship Hall before or after the choir's performance would need to be provided. The performance date is anticipated to be in early January, 2026.

Vice President: Eric Gunderson shared a report which shows the list of 21 current Council Members and the list of 2 council members who have made it known they are willing to serve for the term that begins July 1, 2026. Eric indicated he is not clear if any current council members have served their positions' term limit. Treasurer Brad Mueller has asked the Council to create an "Assistant Treasurer" position on the Church Council.

Eric also reported that "Coats For Kids" is currently having its annual fundraising campaign. Doug said he would like to have a report from Coats for Kids on the success of our participation in this year's campaign.

Secretary: Carol Cooper had no report.

Treasurer: Brad Mueller reported that he estimates he will need to move \$20,000 in November from LCEF to pay current expenses and will move another \$20,000 from Morgan Stanley to the Operating Fund before the end of the year. Thrivent investment account will be the last to move to the operating account because it earns more than Morgan Stanley.

Doug suggested letting the Congregation see a report projecting what we expect in coming months. Karen Springer suggested asking Ken Martin and her husband Brad to indicate timeline and dollars and the impact of the School on our overall financial position.

Financial Secretary - Carol Moore related to the Council that another counter is needed.

Elders Report - Doug explained that the Church Council must give its consent for the President of the Church Council to appoint a church member to serve on the Board of Elders until the next Voters' Meeting. With Consent of the Church Council, Doug Lorenz appointed James DeRossitt to serve on the Board of Elders until the next Voters' Meeting which will be December 14, 2025.

Regarding Church and campus security, Doug explained that Bobby Jakcsy will work with the Elders (and ushers working with Elders)

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to make the security plans for medical emergencies and shooter happenings.

Doug also asked if the Elders have communicated with the Stewardship Committee and encouraged possibly integrating Stewardship and Elder initiatives through Care Group visitation.

Trustees Report - See Brad Springer's report.

Outreach/Fellowship-The Youth gathering in Cloudcroft was a lot of fun!

School Board-See Karen Springer's report attached. Karen also shared that church member Gabriella Gucci-Goodrich worked with 7 children teaching art.

President's report - Unfinished Business: "We are still in need of a Youth Councilor/Coordinator."

Pastor Cave indicated that Haley DeRossitt and James DeRossitt and Jim Roberts have indicated interest in youth activities but probably cannot devote the time necessary to organize and manage a youth program. Pastor Cave also shared that Amy Krohn has identified curriculum that would be appropriate for early childhood through middle school and high school Christian education.

Doug asked if anyone had anything else that needed to be discussed. No one had more to add to the meeting.

Pastor Cave led the Council in the Lord's Prayer then made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Carol Moore seconded his motion, and all were in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Cooper

Secretary





# MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

## Treasurer's Report for the Sept '25 Council/Voters Meeting

Report Preparation Date: Sep 1, 2025

<b><u>Budget Status:</u></b>	<b><u>Month of Aug '25</u></b>	<b><u>FY26 thru Aug '25</u></b>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Budget</u>
<u>Income:</u>		
MLC General	\$22,487	\$52,417      \$79,425
MLS Total	\$57,416	\$89,080      \$44,769
Designated / Other	\$149	\$300      \$350
	\$80,052 *	\$141,797 *      \$124,544 *
<u>Expenses:</u>		
MLC Total	\$16,316 *	\$31,803 *      \$35,627 *
MLS Total	\$45,711	\$89,939      \$91,055
Total Expenses	\$62,027	\$121,742      \$126,682
Net Difference	\$18,025 *	\$20,055 *      -\$2,138 *

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY26 as of Aug 31, 2025**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$8,825
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	\$6,291
Average Weekly Surplus/ <u>Shortfall</u> :	-\$2,534 *
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$56,616
General Fund Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$79,425
Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus/ <u>Shortfall</u> :	-\$22,809 *

### **Investments & Assets / Liabilities as of Aug 31, '25**

<b><u>Investments:</u></b>	Morgan Stanley/E*Trade	\$129,589
	Mission Lutheran Endowment Fund (American Century)	\$84,989
	Thrivent	\$501,250
	LCEF MLC Youth Development CD	\$13,639
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$729,467 *</b>

<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>	Shepherd's Staff Checking	<b>\$40,181</b>
	LCEF All Access	<b>\$70,478</b>
	Youth Activity Fund	\$3,766
	Youth Christian Development	\$12,500
minus	MLS Reg/Tuition Holding	\$0
Dedicated	Angel Scholarship Program	\$1,695
Funds	COVID Grant	\$25,733
	Apple Tree Donations	\$1,213
	Emergency Tuition Assistance	\$5,850
	School Security Grant	\$8,774
	Musical Donations	\$60
	Coats for Kids	\$500
	Staffeldt Scholarship Fund	\$377
	<b>Total Checking Available After Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>\$50,191 *</b>

**Liabilities:** None



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***Elder on Call: Michael Kaiser (915) 525-6794***

**We're on the web!**

**<http://missionlutheran.net>**

**<http://mlschool.net>**

## **Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2025-26**

President	Doug Lorenz	Elders, Chairman	Richard Turk
Vice President	Eric Gunderson	Elders, Vice-chairman	Nathan Graff
Treasurer	Brad Mueller	Trustees	Brad Springer, Sr.
Secretary	Carol Cooper	Outreach	Brad Springer
Financial Secretary	Carol Moore	Day School Education	Karen Springer