

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

This passage in Ecclesiastes is familiar to many of us. For some, its familiarity may stem from a certain song recorded by the Byrds in the 1960s. But for others, its familiarity is due to the fact that it is commonly read at funerals. It was one of the Scriptures read at the funeral of my grandfather, John T Cave, a few weeks ago.

The words of Ecclesiastes feel just as applicable today as they did some three-thousand years ago when they were first written by wise King Solomon. Ecclesiastes is a book that wrestles with the meaning of life "under the sun." In other words, it's all about the search for meaning in the day-to-day life in this world. As Solomon notes, and as we see ourselves, life under the sun is a life that comes in seasons. Things come and things go in a familiar repetition.

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Important Dates:

- July 4: Independence Day
- July 13: JULIETs lunch
- July 18: LWML lunch gathering and Bible study
- July 29–August 3: Synod Convention



Now, it probably goes without saying that you didn't have to tell my grandpa about the seasons. As a lifelong farmer, he knew all about that! He knew the time to plant and the time to harvest. He knew when it was time for the rains to increase, and when it was time for the rains to slow down. He knew that when it was time to bale hay, the hay wouldn't wait for you to be ready! He knew when it was time to work, and when it was time to stop working to go to church or spend time with family. He knew how long it took a cow to calve. He knew when the deer would be on the move and when the fish would bite. The time for all of these things, and many more like them, would come and go and come again. There was a time for everything.

Indeed, there was a time for everything. Along with being a farmer, Grandpa was also a carpenter. There was a time to break down and a time to build up. Grandpa was a Korean War veteran. There was a time for war and a time for peace. But as true as those words were for him personally, that second verse in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes is true for him and for all of us: "a time to be born, and a time to die."

For many things in our lives, seasons come and go and then come again. That's the way of life "under the sun." But if all we ever see is life "under the sun," we will struggle in vain to find meaning. King Solomon was granted extraordinary wisdom from God, yet the repeated cry throughout the Book of Ecclesiastes is that all is vanity. Everything comes and goes, and not much changes. Indeed, "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). If this life is all we have, if this life is all we can perceive, then we could certainly understand why Solomon wrote with this somewhat jaded and cynical perspective. A life that is confined to being "under the sun" offers us no real hope.

But the same Holy Spirit who inspired Solomon also inspired these words:

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

As long as we are in this life "under the sun," there is a season for everything. As our own family has recently experienced, there is time to weep and a time to laugh (although those two times might be one and the same). But as followers of Christ, we don't look at this life with a jaded and cynical perspective, believing that this is all there is and there is nothing new under the sun. Rather, we believe in the One who has promised, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). We believe in the One who is coming again to raise the dead and usher in a new heavens and new earth. On that day, time as we know it will cease. All of the trials and difficulties of this life will give way to everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We may be living "under the sun" for now. But very soon, all of this will pass away, and what will be is beyond anything we can possibly imagine. 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.”*



*All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.*

-Psalm 22:27-28

Let’s pray for our nation!

As we pray, let’s:

- ◆ Give thanks for our freedom to worship in spirit and truth;
- ◆ Thank the Lord for those who serve and protect us;
- ◆ Ask for protection and guidance of those who lead our nation, that they would have their hearts opened to the knowledge and fear of the Lord;
- ◆ Ask that people throughout our nation would recognize *our* Lord as *their* Lord;
- ◆ Ask that the Lord’s mighty hand would guide our nation according to His will; and
- ◆ Ask that the Lord be revered and glorified in this nation.



***“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

1 Thessalonians: 16-18

Stewardship

Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Making Space:

Over the next two Sundays, a variety of surplus, unused, and/or obsolete items will be placed outside of Luther Hall on the school annex walkway. The items are free but you are responsible for hauling them away. At the third week or so (mid-July), anything remaining will be donated or put in the dumpster.

JULIETs

The JULIETs will be gathering for lunch again in June. All women in the church are invited. And bring a friend!

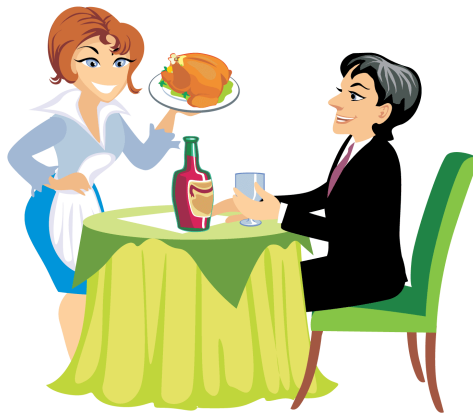
Thursday, July 13 — Hacienda de Mesilla
1891 Avenida de Mesilla

We meet at 11:30 am.

So that the restaurant can be prepared, please notify either Holly Poppy or Ruth Jakcsy at least 2 days in advance if you plan to attend.

Call or text Holly at (575) 932-8517

Call or text Ruthie at (575) 312-6166



Women in God's Service

The next WINGS (LWML) gathering will be in Luther Hall at noon on Tuesday, July 18. During the summer months (June, July and August), we will have lunch meetings at noon. June and July will be in Luther Hall. August will be at the Lorenz's home. All women are invited to bring a sack lunch and join us for fellowship and Bible study. Drinks will be provided.



July Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Guericke	Le	1
Vandiver	Verline	1
Monica	Maxeene	3
Martin	Mary	9
Staffeldt	Ruth	11
Weber	Susan	11
Moore	Carol	15
Roof	Toni	15
Wood	Ben	15
Springer	Karen	24
Jensen	Karen	25
Micklevitz	Benjamin	31

Happy Anniversary

July Anniversaries

		<u>Date</u>	<u># of years</u>
Martin	Ken & Mary	5	37
Hallem	Don & Janis	17	19
Scaling	Robert & Beverly	17	52
White	Harvey & Jan	19	55
Krohn	Mark & Amy	25	42
Grothman	Ray & Darci	29	6

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in July.

May God continue to bless you.

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



News from MISSION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Educating, equipping, and preparing the whole child using God's Word, solid academic curriculum and relevant experiences for the purpose of continued education and Christian life.

Christ-Centered Quality-Driven Student-Focused Family-Friendly

Angel Scholarship Awards for 2023-24!

Applications were submitted by Mission Lutheran School families in June for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. The committee met, reviewed all applications and had the delightful task of awarding Angel Scholarship Funds to students and their families! This year, 16 students from 12 families applied and were awarded a total of \$9,960!

Congratulations to the following students and families!

- Grayson Vigil
- Scarlett Vigil
- Alexa Diaz
- Keegan Maddox
- Kaitlyn Poppy
- Sawyer Mabry
- Jonas Mabry
- Gabriela Lopez
- Asher Lopez
- Peyton Craine
- Paisley Craine
- Nickolas Cooper
- Astrid Trujillo
- Savana Trejo
- Liam Melton
- Edward Marrufo



Your donations to the Angel Scholarship Program made these awards possible. The Angel Scholarship Program is funded completely by donation. Funds received now through May 1, 2024 will be distributed next year to more Mission Lutheran School students. Are you interested in making a donation to this fund? Do you know someone who may be interested in making a donation? Please contact the school: (575) 532-5489, office@mlschool.net.

Mission Lutheran Church

Voters' Assembly

November 20, 2022

Pastor Cave opened the meeting with prayer at 11:40 AM.

Three new members, Mark Poppy, Austin Nathaniel, and Emma Wood, were accepted as voting members. (Note: It was later learned that Emma is ineligible to be a voting member since she is not 18 years of age-voting member age per the constitution.)

The minutes from the August voters' meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

President Brad Springer asked if any of the Boards had reports they wanted to present. Pastor Cave submitted his report in writing. There were no additional reports.

Pastor Cave explained that the voting for a new Synod President will take place on line. We need to elect a lay delegate to participate in the voting process. Pastor Cave will be our pastoral delegate. Brad Springer nominated Michael Kaiser to the lay delegate and Bobby Jakcsy seconded. The motion carried.

Brad Mueller distributed copies of the Treasurer's report. There was a question regarding general contributions and Brad reported that we are running behind.

Vice President Wade Echtenkamp presented the slate of officers for next year. It was decided to vote first for the officers and then for each Board individually. The slate of officers remains the same as last year: President, Brad Springer; Vice President Wade Echtenkamp; Secretary, Jacki McCurley; Treasurer, Brad Mueller; and Financial Secretary, Carol Moore. This slate was elected by acclamation.

For the Board of Elders, three elders, Ken Martin, Eric Gunderson, and Nathan Graff, will continue to serve the second year of their 2-year term. Harvey White, Richard Turk, and Jim Bonse were elected to serve a new 2-year term. Austin Nathaniel was also elected to serve a 2-year term.

Doug Lorenz reported that he is retiring as chair of the Board of Trustees but will continue to serve on the Board. Brad Springer Sr. was elected as the new chairman.

Sonya Perry is stepping down as chair of the Board of Outreach. We do not yet have a candidate to replace her.

Jennifer Diaz and Karen Springer were elected to the Board of Christian Education (aka School Board).

Darci Grothman presented a proposal to expand Mission Lutheran School to include up to 8th grade. The presentation was made with the understanding that no questions or discussion would be allowed at this meeting. Instead, two Town Hall meetings will be held to allow for questions

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and discussion. The meetings will be on Sunday, December 4, at 2:00 PM and on Sunday, December 18, at 1:00 PM. Darci requested that questions be submitted in writing prior to those meetings – by November 29 and December 13 respectively. Questions should be sent to her at office@mlschool.net.

Some encouraging comments were made by Mark Poppy, Megan Wood, and Shirley Miller. Pastor reiterated that the impetus for this move is coming from both the parents and the teachers. Several families have written in support of this expansion as they are concerned about where their children will receive an education when they leave Mission.

The final vote on the proposal will be at a special voters' meeting on January 15, 2023.

Pastor Cave closed the meeting by leading the attendees in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Moore, substituting for Jacki McCurley

**MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Special Voters' Assembly
January 15, 2023**

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. There were 37 of 46 members in attendance.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

Bobby Jakcsy moved that we accept Jean Quinlan, Holly Poppy, Vince Ryan, Cheryl Ryan, Brad Springer Sr., Victoria Graff, Nathan Graff, Jennifer Diaz, Michelle Craine, Mary Martin, Jerry Del Bozque, Socorro Del Bozque and Pamela Kell as voting members. Jacki McCurley seconded. It was moved and passed.

Carol Moore moved to accept the School Board proposal for adding Middle School. Mark Poppy seconded. Discussion followed.

It was moved to have Brad Mueller, Brad Springer Jr. and Jacki McCurley do the official ballot counting.

Pastor Cave led us in prayer before members cast their written ballot.

The motion passed 49-1.

Pastor moved to have the ballots destroyed. Bobby Jakcsy seconded. Motion passed. Ballots were destroyed after the meeting.

The meeting was closed by everyone standing and singing the doxology.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacki McCurley, Secretary

TREASURER REPORT –JUNE 2023 COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: June 1, 2023

Budget Status:

Month of May 2023

FY23 Thru May 2023

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$20,000	\$27,325	\$240,000	\$261,747
MLS Total	\$3,340	\$13,311	\$202,630	\$221,006
Designated / Other	\$280	\$136	\$3,080	\$10,282
	<u>\$23,620</u>	<u>\$40,772</u>	<u>\$445,710</u>	<u>\$493,035</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$15,409	\$13,925	\$186,730	\$186,075
MLS Total	\$24,355	\$24,184	\$290,557	\$287,339
	<u>\$39,764</u>	<u>\$38,109</u>	<u>\$477,287</u>	<u>\$473,414</u>
Net Difference	-\$16,144	\$2,663	-\$31,577 *	\$19,621 *

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY23 (Thru May 31, 2023)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,000
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	\$5,453
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$261,747
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$240,000
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	\$21,747

Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	E*trade Endowment (as of May 31, '23)	\$104,670
	Strasser Endowment (as of March 31, '23)	\$68,739
	Thrivent (as of May 31, '23)	\$385,797
	TOTAL	\$559,206
<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking (as of May 31, '23)	\$73,428
	LCEF Savings (as of May 31, '23)	\$197,634
	(minus designated funds)	
	Angel Prog/TA Holding	\$14,154
	Reg/Tuition Holding	\$7,500
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,766
	Staffeldt Scholarship	\$10,450
	COVID Grant	\$44,063
	School Security Grant	\$12,983
	Youth Endow ment	\$25,000
	Temp Holding	\$0
	Total LCEF Savings Available	\$79,718
<u>Liabilities:</u>	None	

Comments:

* This current fiscal year's budget predicts a shortfall **-\$49,930** by the end of June .



July 4 is Independence Day!

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

Mission Lutheran Church and School

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School: (575) 532-5489

Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net

secretary@missionlutheran.net

office@mlschool.net

Elder on Call: Austin Nathaniel (571) 393-7055

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2023

President	Brad Springer	Elders, Chairman	Eric Gunderson
Vice President	Wade Echtenkamp	Elders, Vice-chairman	Richard Turk
Treasurer	Brad Mueller	Trustees	Brad Springer, Sr.
Secretary	Jacki McCurley	Outreach	
Financial Secretary	Carol Moore	Day School Education	Shirley Miller