

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

“As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, ‘I will follow You wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’ To another He said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ Yet another said, ‘I will follow You, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 9:57-62)

I once heard a man describe a *cabin* as “the place where you store your fishing gear while you’re out hunting!” To him, a *cabin* was a place where you just happened to sleep; it wasn’t *home*. *Home* means much more than just the place where we happen to sleep at night. *Home* is a word that is full of meaning. *Home* means much more than a house. *Home* is where we feel secure, safe, and accepted. *Home* is the place to which we desire to return. *Home* is the place of family and friends, good food, good memories, and the anticipation of more good times to come!

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Important Dates:

- April 3: Voters’ Assembly
- April 3: Baptism class
- April 10: Baptism class
- April 14: Holy Thursday service
- April 15: Good Friday service
- April 16: Easter Prayer Vigil
- April 16: Easter Vigil service
- April 17: Easter Sunrise service
- April 17: Easter service
- April 19: Church Council meeting
- April 24: MLS Easter program



But what does *home* truly mean for a disciple of Jesus Christ? Everything we normally associate with the word *home* seem like good things, things that we should desire, things that we would think Jesus would approve of. But what does Jesus do? Does Jesus call us to stay home in safety and security, or does He call us to leave home?

In the above passage from Luke, Jesus calls on these would-be disciples, these men who would follow Him, to leave home. He says that “the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head,” meaning that He does not have an earthly home where He has safety, security, and acceptance. He says to “leave the dead to bury their own dead,” a seemingly heartless thing. And He says, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God,” meaning that your loyalties cannot be divided. You cannot long for the comforts of your earthly home while pressing on toward the upward call of God. Jesus calls on these men to let go of holding on to their earthly homes and to come and follow Him.

This is indeed a high calling, one that we are unable by our own strength to fulfill. We all long for the safety, security, and acceptance of *home*. *Home* is where we feel like we belong. And perhaps that’s really what we’re longing for when we think of *home*: a place where we belong.

Last January, my great-grandmother passed away at the age of 102. My father sang a solo at her service, and the words of the refrain went:

*While I’m here, I’ll serve Him gladly, and sing Him all these songs;
I’m here, but not for long. I’m going home.*

From an earthly perspective, the words of this song make very little sense. One hundred and two years old doesn’t sound much like “I’m here, but not for long!” But even more profound are the word, “I’m going home.” My great-grandmother was surrounded by family and friends who loved her all her life. Wasn’t she already home?

No, she wasn’t. And neither are we. Having a desire to be surrounded by people who love us and who we love in return, having a sense of acceptance, and feeling like we belong, are all Godly desires. But God gave us these desires, not so that we would find fulfillment in this life, but so that we would fix our eyes even more upon the reality of where our home truly is.

The Apostle Paul writes: “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20-21). We have a home, a home that transcends all earthly homes. We have a place where we will be surrounded by people who love us and who we love in return—the people of God—a place where we find acceptance—acceptance before the throne of God on account of what Jesus Christ has done for us—and a place where we belong. Jesus calls us to leave behind the clinging to our earthly homes because He has a home for us, one that is far more than we could possibly imagine. We wait with eager anticipation the Day when He returns, calls us all from our graves, and ushers us into this new, eternal, heavenly *home*. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

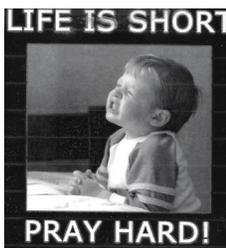
When: Saturday, April 16, 2022

Where: Mission Lutheran Church and School Sanctuary

Who: All are invited to pray!

Why? This is a unique opportunity for quiet time with the Lord as we transition from Holy Week to Easter.

1. You are invited to participate in the Easter Prayer Vigil on Saturday, April 16th.
2. We will meet to pray in the church sanctuary.
3. Everyone is invited to sign up for one or more half-hour time slots.
4. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.
5. You will be provided with a sheet of prayer targets and scripture passages to read as inspiration for your time of prayer or you may simply pray as the Holy Spirit leads.
6. A scripture to ponder as you prepare is John 17, our Lord's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest.
7. An Easter Vigil Service follows at 4:00 pm.



*“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

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us - in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us - in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us - in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship





Birthdays of the Month

April Birthdays

		Date
Dodge	Joyce	1
Kenny	LaVerne	1
White	Robert ("Quail")	6
Skelton	Marcele	8
Jakcsy	Bob	9
Cave	Emily	12
McCurley	Jacki	18
Brennan	Frank	20
Uhde	Ordella	28
Echtenkamp	Debra	30

Happy Anniversary

April Anniversaries

	Date	# of years
Mueller Brad & Barb	1	33
Tate Larry & Debra	5	48
Jakcsy Bob & Ruth	27	54

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

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.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

February 15, 2022

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Attending were Brad Springer, Wade Echtenkamp, Brad Mueller, Jacki McCurley, Carol Moore, Pastor Cave, Pastor Perry, Eric Gunderson, Shirley Miller, Doug Lorenz and Sonya Perry.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the January 18th council meeting were approved with a spelling correction of “financial” under the financial secretary report.

President (Brad Springer): Should our congregation members be able to attend council meetings? It can be built into the agenda for congregational input but have a time limit. Carol Moore will put something in the bulletin before council meetings to let them know the meetings are open and if they want to join contact himself, Carol or Jacki McCurley.

Are we ready to resume in person? After a little discussion it looks like we will resume via ZOOM at this time.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Cave’s report is attached. There were 148 people in attendance for the service on January 30th. We will be having an Easter Vigil service. It will consist of a bonfire outside, candles, procession into the church and baptisms. There would be a potluck after the service. The Board of Elders has approved the service. Information will go out in the newsletter and weekly emails.

Pastor Perry mentioned that Pastor Schlak will be preaching on the 5th Sunday in May. It will be a friends Sunday with a potluck instead of Sunday school. Doug Lorenz brought up that they need to think through the potlucks as to who will organize, set up, clean up etc. There is more involved than just having a potluck.

Vice-President (Wade Echtenkamp): The Las Cruces police will be referring him to someone by the end of the week in regards to safety training.

Treasurer’s Report (Brad Mueller): The report is attached. Brad said he is starting to work on next year’s budget so if he has questions he can work with John Guenther before he moves.

Elder’s Report (Eric Gunderson): Report is attached. Doug Lorenz asked the elders to revisit the bread breaker groups. We have new members who don’t even know what it is and may want to join a group.

Trustees (Doug Lorenz): The trustees are busy working on maintenance projects.

Outreach (Sonya Perry): She is busy training new people in her group. The bible box has been a challenge as people were adding other items in the box so she has had to keep checking the box. It has been a fun and blessed adventure.

School Board (Shirley Miller): Report is attached.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 6 pm.

Pastor Perry led us in closing prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Jacki McCurley, Secretary

Note: Board Reports that are indicated as being attached are available from the church secretary upon request. They are not included in the newsletter in order to save space.



Meeting Minutes

TREASURER REPORT – MARCH 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: March 2, 2022

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of February 2022</u>		<u>FY Thru February 2022</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$19,600.00	\$17,237.00	\$171,500.00	\$170,525.00
MLS Total	\$17,975.00	\$17,894.00	\$159,455.00	\$138,333.00
Designated / Other	\$197.00	\$64.00	\$1,573.00	\$8,017.00
	\$37,772.00	\$35,195.00	\$332,528.00	\$316,875.00
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$15,680.00	\$15,033.00	\$133,656.00	\$186,605.00
MLS Total	\$26,843.00	\$24,452.00	\$224,406.00	\$186,604.68
	\$42,523.00	\$39,485.00	\$358,062.00	\$316,482.00
Net Difference	-\$4,751.00	-\$4,290.00	-\$25,534.00	\$393.00

*Note: Actual figures also include income and expenses not originally budgeted for the fiscal year.

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2021 (Thru Feb. 28, 2022)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,900.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,880.00
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$170,795.00
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$171,500.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$705.00

Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>		E*trade Endowment (as of Mar 2, 2022)	\$111,098.67
		Strasser (as of Sep 30, 2021)	\$81,479.04
		Thrivent (as of Sep 30, 2021)	\$405,478.00
		TOTAL	\$598,055.71
<u>Current Assets:</u>		Checking (as of March 1, 2022)	\$24,164.87
		LCEF Savings (as of Feb. 11, 2022)	\$146,729.77
	(minus designated funds) {	School Funds	\$10,063.05
		Youth Activity Funds	\$3,765.57
		Staffeldt Scholarship	\$11,000.00
		Other	
		Total LCEF Savings Available	\$121,901.15
<u>Liabilities:</u>		None	\$0.00

Comments:

1. Revenues lower due to low MLC general contributions and MLS enrollment being 74.13% of needed tuition receipts.



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 10th.

Mission Lutheran Church and School

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We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2022

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