

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4)

As this is the beginning of August, we have now started another academic year at Mission Lutheran School. The mission statement of Mission Lutheran School is, “Mission Lutheran School educates, equips, and prepares the whole child using God’s Word, solid academic curriculum and relevant experiences for the purpose of continued education and Christian life.” And, Lord willing, we will fulfill that mission for each child.

The Lutheran Church has long history of placing great value on education. Currently, the LCMS operates the second-largest network of Christian schools in the U.S.A. (second only to the Roman Catholic schools). There was a time in the history of the Missouri Synod when having a school attached to the church was a requirement for membership in the Synod! Martin Luther himself was a strong advocate for childhood education, and was an early advocate especially for the education of girls.

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Important Dates:

August 10: LWML
August 20: Juliet’s



At the beginning of every academic year, our congregation has a rite for the installation of teachers and staff during the Divine Service. We do this because it gives the teachers and staff an opportunity to publicly confess their adherence to the Word of God and their promise to teach in accord with the Scriptures. It also gives the congregation the opportunity to be reminded each year what our school is committed to and is also an annual reminder to pray for our school.

But this can raise a question. To be a school teacher is a worthy vocation, but where does this vocation come from? And from where does the authority of the vocation of school teacher come? One might surmise that the authority to teach the children derives from the congregation since the congregation are the ones who have formally called or appointed these individuals to these positions. Or one also might surmise that the vocation of teacher is auxiliary to the pastoral office, since the teachers do much more for the students than the pastor can do on his own.

But if the teachers derive the authority for their vocation from the congregation or from the pastoral office, how could we understand the vocation of teacher in a school that is not attached to a congregation, be that a public school or independent private school? Are the teachers in those schools somehow “lesser” than the teachers of Lutheran Schools? Certainly not!

This question of the authority of the teaching office is greatly simplified when we understand that the authority to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6a) is a matter of the Fourth Commandment, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12). The Apostle Paul makes it clear in the above passage from Ephesians that, while the Fourth Commandment does require children to obey their parents, the flipside is that parents (and fathers particularly) have the responsibility of properly raising their children.

In his Large Catechism, Martin Luther rightly taught that fathers and mothers cannot do everything for their children on their own, and so they enlist others to aid them in various matters. Not every father and mother is going to feel equipped to train their children in all manner of academics, and so they enlist the help of teachers.

This understanding of the office of school teacher helps us to give the proper honor due to this vocation. The Lord has given fathers and mothers for us to honor, with the promise that it will go well for those who obey this commandment. Those who come alongside and help fathers and mothers in their God-given tasks are worthy of being honored as well.

So as we begin another school year, we give thanks to God for the teachers and staff that He has brought to us, and we honor the work they do. We give thanks to God for the students who are in our school, praying that they would learn well. And we give thanks to God for all fathers and mothers of the students who have trusted Mission Lutheran School to partner with them in raising their children to learn, live, and grow in Christ. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave



Mission Lutheran Church and School/ Prayer Ministry

**August
2026**

Back to School!

Prayer for children—both in our congregation and in our school—was among the first prayer priorities when the Prayer Ministry was first commissioned and our congregation termed itself as “God’s House of Prayer” in 2014. The Lord has answered that prayer in ways we couldn’t have imagined at that time! Since then, we have recognized the school as our greatest mission field. As we begin another school year at Mission, it’s time for our “house of prayer” to join in prayer for our upcoming school year. This year, many of us have a special prayer pal we will pray for individually; yet let’s pray, also, for our school as a whole—our students and staff.. As our staff was commissioned we all agreed to support them with our prayers. Here are some prayer ideas.

Sunday—pray that God will:

Use Mission Lutheran School (MLS) to attract children and their families to Jesus.

Draw the congregation and school together to reach out to others with the message of Jesus as their Savior.

Provide protection and security throughout our campus.

Bless and increase the numbers of those who support our school through time, talent and treasure .

Work among congregation, staff, parents and students that all reflect Christ’s love.

Monday—Pray for the Christian Education taught at MLS, that:

Children are nurtured to maintain a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ as their Savior.

The number of students continue to grow and that more families would have a deep desire for their children to receive the knowledge of Christ as part of their education.

Our students will be fully prepared to transition to other education, whether Christian or secular, when the time comes for them to leave MLS.

Children will be strengthened as they study God’s Word as part of their education.

Tuesday—pray for the students at MLS, that:

Each student will know Christ as their Savior who cherishes them.

They will be protected from worldly influences

They will hunger for learning and be persistent and disciplined in study.

Continued on next page



They will develop loving, respectful and compassionate relationships.

They will exercise the gifts with which God has blessed each one.

Wednesday—pray for teachers and other staff, that:

God will strengthen them to be powerful witnesses of Jesus to students and parents.

They will have wisdom and compassion as they teach, encourage and discipline.

They will model the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

God will protect them from discouragement and bless them in their lives: spiritually, physically, emotionally.

That a spirit of unity flourishes among staff.

Thursday—Pray for parents at MLS, that:

Parents and grandparents will know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

That they are Christ-like role models in their children's lives.

That they take an active role in their children's lives and education.

That they support and encourage the MLS staff.

That they insure their children are part of regular worship.

That they would be granted wisdom, patience, strength and love as they parent.

Friday—Pray for the MLS School Board, Administration and Pastor, that:

Each one gathers strength and wisdom from their own personal time with the Lord.

They provide wise oversight and direction to provide the Bible-centered education God desires, always remaining faithful in doctrine, scripture and LCMS guidelines.

That all relationships are Christ-like.

That they are blessed and guided in all decisions.

Saturday—Pray for the Parent-Teacher Organization and school volunteers:

All would graciously serve the school, students and administration in support of the ministry of MLS.

All would communicate openly, encouraging and edifying one another.

God would lead, inspire and bless all PTO and volunteer activities and plans.



“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

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Define Your Life by How You Give

Originally Published in August 2023

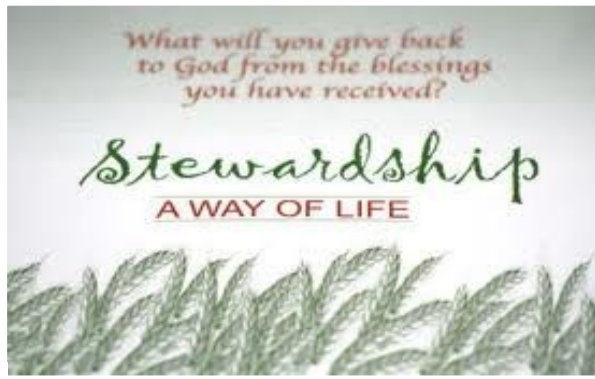
Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Time Talent Treasure

Stewardship at Mission is joining together as a church and school family to keep our church home running and growing as an inviting place to worship, grow in our knowledge of the Lord, fellowship together and attract others to know our Lord! God has gifted each of us with time, talents and treasure to this end. Below are ways to use those talents!

Which opportunities speak to you?

Prayer Ministry—we want to insure all we do at Mission is covered in prayer!

- Worship – our Divine Service is filled with prayer
- Intercessors – pray with the pastor, elders, acolytes before service and pray for individuals after service
- Tuesdays -12:30-12:50 prayer for church, school and individual needs – pray aloud or silently
- Wednesdays at 7:35-7:45am – pray with Pastor and school staff for school – optional fellowship for breakfast out afterward
- Thursdays – 6:45-7:30am Praise and Prayer Hour via Zoom – Four current or former elders lead Responsive prayer 2 from Lutheran Service Book, includes open prayer and singing (muted 😊)
- At home individually – email prayer chain and praying with Scriptures from Prayer Ministry newsletter article

Divine Service Support—it takes many to make our worship time meaningful

- Greeter (part of Outreach Board)
- Usher
- Acolyte/ Crucifier
- Altar Guild
- Music – Choir, Organist/Pianist, other music instruments
- Misc – collecting attendance records, straightening pews, sharpening pencils, etc
- Audio visual – sound and computer
- Emergency Support



Church Council Officers (elected)

- President – Oversees business concerns of church and presides over Church Council and Voter Assembly meetings
- Vice-President – Assists president, recruits officers and Board members and oversees Fellowship and Christian Education Committees
- Council Secretary – Records minutes of Council and Voter's Assembly meetings, maintains quorum determination and reports from boards
- Treasurer- Preparation of budget, prepares monthly reports and pays bills
- Financial Secretary – Maintains scheduled offering counters and confidential records of giving for tax purposes; makes weekly deposits

Elected Board Members:

- Board of Elders – Six or more men are elected to assist in leading worship, assist with Pastor's needs, communicate regularly with members and oversee Stewardship Committee and Breadbreakers
- Board of Trustees – Two elected members lead a committee to oversee building repair and maintenance
- School Board – Six elected members and Treasurer Oversee the direction of our school ministry
- Board of Outreach – Two elected members and volunteer members establish and promote outreach activities to invite and welcome new and potential members. These include greeters, welcome cards, free Bible box, slogans on our church sign and may include community or on-campus events and activities. Board also oversees funding of missions and community assistance.

Committees:

- Christian Education – Oversees Bible studies, Sunday School and other Christian Education under the guidance of the Vice-President
- Fellowship Committee – Provides opportunities for fellowship among church family members through regular and special events typically including organizing, food and/or activities, decorating, etc. Memorial meals may be provided following funerals of church members. Under the guidance of the Vice-President

- ◇ ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating out) – men gather weekly for breakfast and fellowship
- ◇ JULIET (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together) Ladies enjoy lunch out on the third Thursday of each month
- Stewardship Committee – Leadership and encouragement to congregation to share time, talents and treasure under the direction of a member of the Board of Elders
- Breadbreakers – Small groups of 6-8 are formed to fellowship, share a pot luck meal and study God's Word. The groups are changed each year to allow members to become better acquainted with one another. Group studies are led by qualified men and overseen by the Board of Elders.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League):

Women of the congregation meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm for Bible study, activity planning and preparing "Wee Care" bundles for newborns at Memorial Hospital. Other activities include:

- Quilting – Most Wednesdays at 9 am. Women create quilts for Wee Care, homeless, overseas military, etc. and some are sold.
- Missions include support to a seminary student through special sales and events.
- Provides events for congregation such as Advent by Candlelight, Epiphany Party and Mother-Daughter Tea.



August/September Birthdays

Barbara	Honda	August	7
Tracy	Krause	August	10
Greg	Fant	August	10
Bradley	Springer Sr.	August	10
Jeannine	Brennan	August	11
Pastor Andrew	Cave	August	11
Wade	Echtenkamp	August	11
Krista	Helton	August	13
Vince	Ryan	August	15
Arlyn	Bartels	August	20
Madelyn	Sanchez	August	20
Athena	Aguilera	August	24
Robert II	Carabotta	August	26
Cheryl	Ryan	August	27
Matthias	Cave	August	29
Eric	Gunderson	August	29
Haley	DeRossitt	August	31
Chuck	Spicka	August	31
Holly	Poppy	September	3
Pastor Glenn	Weber	September	3
Amy	Krohn	September	5
Sheila	Vakselis	September	5
Nova	Wood	September	5

Happy Anniversary

August Anniversaries

Andrew & Emily	Cave	August	8
Andy & Sonya	Perry	August	10
Vince & Cheryl	Ryan	August	14
Doug & Alma	Lorenz	August	24

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in August.

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!

Cattle Baron

701 S Telshor Blvd

We meet at 11:30 am on August 20th.

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



WINGS/LWML

The next gathering of WINGS (Women in God's Service) will be on Monday, **August 10th**, at 12:30 PM at the home of Alma Lorenz. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. A salad luncheon and dessert will be served. Bible study will be "Faith Over Fear."

Meetings will resume at 6:30 pm starting in September

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2025

President Doug Lorenz called the Mission Lutheran Church Council meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

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

Pastor Cave opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor Cave: See report attached. The need to appoint a lay delegate to participate remotely in the March 8, 2026 election of the Missouri Synod president. Michael Kaiser has agreed to serve as our lay representative; Karen Springer nominated Michael Kaiser to serve as our lay delegate and Brad Mueller seconded the nomination; the vote for Michael Kaiser to be our lay delegate and confirm Pastor Cave as our pastoral delegate was unanimous.

Vice President: Eric Gunderson reported that so far we still need candidates who are willing to serve as Vice President, Secretary and Youth Outreach Coordinator. (Brad Springer, Jr who has been serving as Youth Outreach Coordinator indicated he is willing to help when his time permits.)

Eric asked the Council if he could be permitted to appeal to the Congregation on Sunday mornings.

Doug suggested we save that appeal until Alma Lorenz (Stewardship) and Richard Turk (Elders) have the results of their congregation survey.

Financial Secretary: No report.

Treasurer's Report: See Report attached.

Board of Elders: Richard reported that none of the elders have "termed out." We continue with our care groups. 103 congregational surveys (just referred to) have gone out to the Congregation, and so far, 41 surveys have been returned. Good information has been received; there will be on-going analysis of the survey, and it will be refined over time. A date-base is planned (not just surveys but also interviews), and will be on the church computer. "We hope to have better match of candidates to jobs, increase in participation, and not the same persons working." Richard was asked if the Elders were asked if salaries and sabbatical topics have been discussed, and he replied that they have been discussed.

Trustees: Brad Sr. reported that the pumps of the mini-splits on the roof of the sanctuary can be cleaned and serviced; he will not need to replace the mini-splits. He has been patching and painting where needed, and he replaced a toilet in the church with a Kohler toilet. He advised that some of the screens on church windows need to be replaced, but higher windows probably do not need screens; he suggested we store the frames of the screens we don't replace. Brad also shared that Bobby Jakcsy believes that three dead-bolts are needed to protect the Sanctuary; further discussion suggested 1) Brad should be on the security team, 2) doors leading to the Sanctuary from the Sacristy and the Narthex should be evaluated for strength (solid door vs hollow door), 3) the security team should consider additional ways to prevent intruder-access to the sanctuary.

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Outreach-Fellowship-Stewardship-Karen Springer reported on Brad Springer, Jr's behalf that he paid two requests for payment of utility bills in the amount of \$159 and \$83. Brad Mueller reminded the council that requests for assistance must prove need; it has been more than six months since we had a request for assistance.

School Board-See report attached. There was a change to the School Board report attached. The report cited that the monetary gift of \$424,000 donated by the Duever Estate came to the school with no restrictions. Documentation which accompanied the \$424,000 check recited that only income from the investment of the \$424,000 could be used to benefit the school. Brad Mueller and Richard Turk indicated it would be wise to ask Phil Noviche of Thrivent (fund investment company that has managed funds for Mission Lutheran for several years) to help identify investment funds that will earn maximum return on the investment of \$424,000.

Doug reported that the school has not been self-sufficient since 2019; 100% of church contributions and interest earned less church expenses has provided 39% percent of the school's operating funds. Doug is suggesting we use the proposed budget to share with parents to show them how much the church contributes to the education of our students; he also suggested the amount contributed to the school in the previous month be reported in the church bulletin. He proposed that we thoroughly discuss the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget during the March Voters' Assembly; the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget will be voted on at the June, 2026 Voters' Assembly. Karen Springer made the motion, Richard Turk seconded the motion, and all other council members were in favor of discussing the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget during the March, 2026 Voters' Meeting. Doug also asked Brad Mueller to prepare a short monthly Treasurer's Report for the church bulletin once a month.

Vacation Bible School will be June 22-June26.

Richard Turk noted that the Board of Elders will have one elder assigned each worship to be watching for security breaches, but also noted that any of us who are at the church should be mindful of situations that don't look normal.

Megan Wood reported that our Mission Lutheran students are learning about Jesus and doing well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Cooper, Secretary



MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

Treasurer's Report

Finance year 2027, July

Report Preparation Date: Jul 1, 2026

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of Jul</u> <u>'26</u>	<u>Month of Jul</u> <u>'26</u>	<u>FY27 thru Jul</u> <u>'26</u>	<u>FY27 thru Jul</u> <u>'26</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Church Income:	34,976.91	27,843.00	34,976.91	27,843.00
Church Expense:	<u>29,646.30</u>	<u>33,165.48</u>	<u>29,646.30</u>	<u>33,165.48</u>
Church Net Income:	<u>5,330.61</u> ✓	<u>-5,322.48</u> ✓	<u>5,330.61</u> ✓	<u>-5,322.48</u> ✓
School Income:	32,690.15 ✓	32,294.81 ✓	32,690.15 ✓	32,294.81 ✓
School Expense:	<u>40,596.66</u>	<u>41,297.62</u>	<u>40,596.66</u>	<u>41,297.62</u>
Thrivent Funds Needed:	<u>7,906.51</u>	<u>9,002.81</u>	<u>7,906.51</u>	<u>9,002.81</u>
<u>Investments & Assets / Liabilities</u>				
D-Designated R-Restricted				
<u>Investments:</u>	Mission Lutheran Church Fund	(Morgan Stanley / E-	D	142,353.16
	Mission Lutheran Endowment Fund	(Strasser/American	R	106,706.90
	Duever School Endowment Fund	Century)	R	423,177.87
	Mission Lutheran School Investment Fund	(Thrivent)	D	213,632.77
	MLC Youth Development CD	(LCEF)	D	14,111.32
	All Access Savings - Rainy Day	(LCEF)	D	<u>194,358.07</u>
	TOTAL			1,094,340.09 ✓
<u>Current Assets:</u>	BMO Checking	92,580.58		
	All Access Savings - Rainy Day	194,358.07		
minus	Youth Activity Fund	3,765.57	D	
Dedicated	Youth Engagement Fund	12,500.00	D	
Funds	MLS Reg/Tuition Holding	0.00	D	
	Angel Scholarship Program	2,132.62	D	
	COVID Grant	0.00	R	
	Apple Tree Donations	321.13	D	
	Emergency Tuition Assist.	5,850.00	D	
	School Security Grant	7,997.68	R	
	Liquidated Thrivent Funds	43,568.63	D	
	Coats for Kids	0.00	D	
	Staffeldt Scholarship Fund	9,477.00	D	
	Temporary Holding	0.00	D	
	Trustee Projects Fund	<u>7,175.07</u>	D	
Total Checking Available After Dedicated Funds		194,150.95	✓	



All Sundays - Middle School Class - Amy Krohn (Same titles for each lesson)

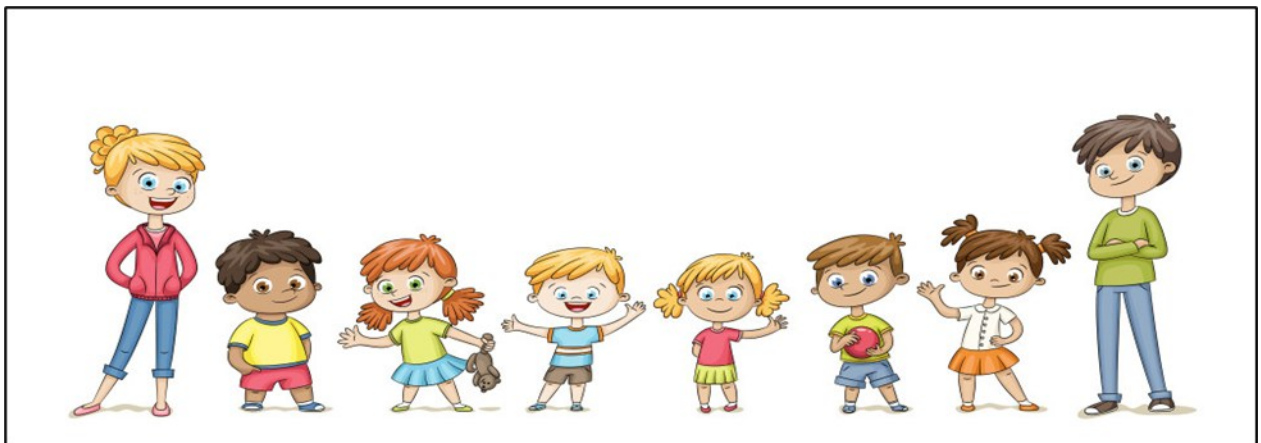
Elementary Class:

Aug 2 - Susie Melton - Homecoming Hopes-Return from Exile

Aug 9 - Amie Springer - A Nativity Night-Jesus' Birth

Aug 16- Carol Cooper/Brianna Duerkson - Wise Men Worship - Magi

Aug 23 - Susie - Claimed and Tested- Jesus' Baptism and Temptation





Back to
School Night

Thanks for
joining us!





Upcoming Events

August 3 – First day of Elementary

August 12 – First day of Preschool

August 28 – Fruit of the Spirit awards

August 31 – September 4 – MAP testing

September 7 – NO SCHOOL

Please join us!

Wednesdays

7:35 am – Prayer

Fridays

8:30 am – Chapel





Mission Lutheran Church and School

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School: (575) 532-5489

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office@mlschool.net

Elder on Call: Jace Melton (210) 459-1023

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2026-27

President	Doug Lorenz	Elders, Chairman	Richard Turk
Vice President	Jace Melton	Elders, Vice-chairman	Nathan Graff
Treasurer	Brad Mueller	Trustees	Brad Springer, Sr.
Secretary	Tracy Krauser	Outreach	Alma Lorenz
Financial Secretary	Dustin Villarreal	Day School Education	Karen Springer