

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

Due to the Regional Pastors' Conference being scheduled so soon after Holy Week and Easter, there has not been time to prepare an article for the May newsletter.

Pastor Andrew Cave

In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry
- Stewardship
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- JULIETs and WINGS/LWML
- Church Council meeting minutes
- Treasurer's Report

Important Dates:

- May 1: National Day of Prayer
- May 3: Don Taylor Funeral
- May 3: Mother/Daughter Tea
- May 8: JULIETs Lunch
- May 11: Mothers' Day
- May 17: Armed Forces Day
- May 26: Memorial Day





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

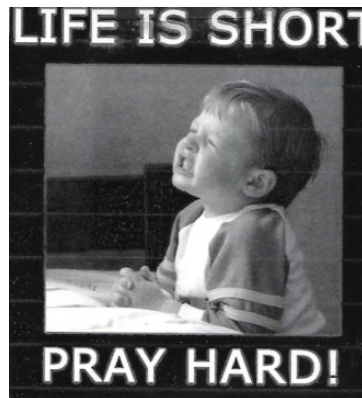
Go Make Disciples

As we emerge from the solemnness and then joy and victory of Holy Week and the Resurrection, what are we to do with this heartfelt time? We could just ease back into our “regular” lives, leaving behind all we have just experienced. That’s pretty easy to do!

And yet we also have the opportunity to savor these times and share them. We can pray first for those who share this news with us...our pastor, pastors worldwide, missionaries, those being persecuted for their faith, our brothers and sisters in Christ who are examples and encouragement to us. Finally, we can pray for ourselves: that we will share our faith with those around us by all we say, do and think. We can pray for our Lord to provide “divine appointments,” those times when we can share what we know with someone needing to hear it! Here are a few scriptures to guide our prayers:

- **Matthew 28:19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- **Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”
- **2 Thessalonians 3:1-2** Finally, brothers,¹ pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored,¹ as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.
- **Psalms 126:5-6** Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.
- **Acts 4:19-20** But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
- **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

- **Galatians 6:9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

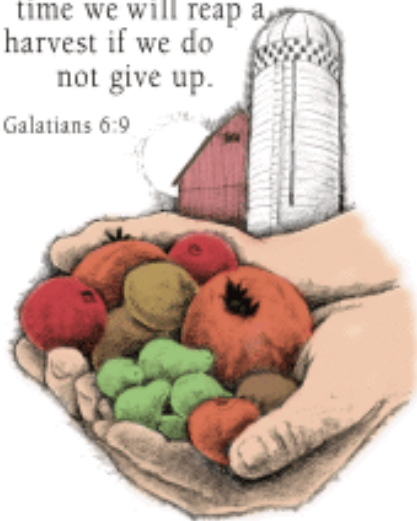


***“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

1 Thessalonians: 16-18

Let us not become weary in
doing good, for at the proper
time we will reap a
harvest if we do
not give up.

Galatians 6:9



Stewardship

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

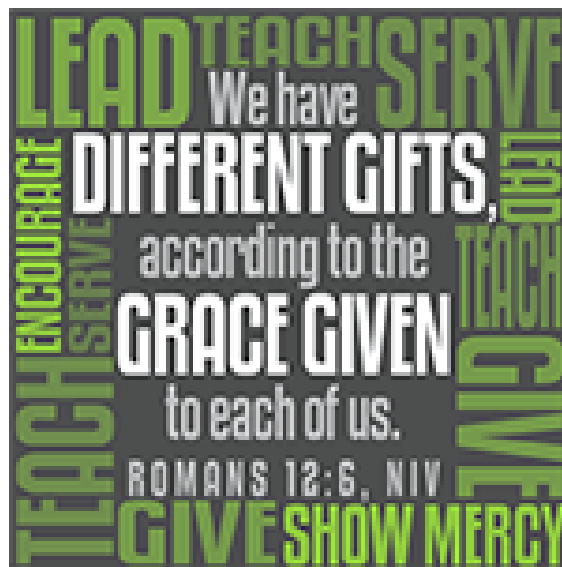
Verses 4-5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

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Verses 6-8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship





Birthdays of the Month

May Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Michael	Kaiser	3
Chris	Micklevitz	8
Debra	Tate	8
Nancy	Nobis	9
Ashley	Shaw	10
Alexander	Lyons	11
Joanne	Lenahan	12
Gabriella	Gucci	14
Harvey	White	15
Richard	Turk	18
Fred	Bork	19
Stephen	Kaiser	25
Jeamy	Carrera-Little	26
Lupe	Tapia	26
Megan	Wood	27
Kathy	Mailander	29
Andrew	Perry	29
Ken	Martin	31

*Happy
Anniversary*

May Anniversaries

		<u>Date</u>	<u># of years</u>
Greg & Beth	Fant	22	43
Ben & Megan	Wood	24	22
Nathan & Victoria	Graff	25	6
Robert & Pamela	Kell	25	40
Eric & Fran	Gunderson	29	55

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in May.

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.

JULIETS

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

Thursday, May 8 — Lorenzo's

1753 E. University Avenue

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



WINGS/LWML

The next gathering of WINGS (Women in God's Service) will be on Monday, May 12, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

President Doug Lorenz called the Mission Lutheran Church Council meeting to order at 6:28 PM.

Other Council members present: Pastor Cave, Secretary-Carol Cooper, Treasurer-Brad Mueller, Financial Secretary-Carol Moore, Elder-Richard Turk, Outreach-Brad Springer, Jr., School Board-Karen Springer, and Trustees-Brad Springer, Sr. (by phone).

Pastor Cave led the opening prayer.

The minutes of the January 19, 2025, Mission Lutheran Church Council meeting were approved as presented.

President Lorenz called for the following reports:

Pastor Cave-See report attached-Pastor Cave noted the following dates in his report: 1) March 5th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of extra services throughout Lent and Easter 2) the Southern Region Spring Pastors' Conference is April 30-May 2nd and the District Convention is May 29th -May 30th.

Vice-President-No Report

Secretary-No additional report

Treasurer-Brad Mueller: In response to President Lorenz inquiry regarding PayCor, Brad reported PayCor is still good; some early 2025 payroll difficulties are now "straightened out."

He reported that he has redeemed a CD and transferred the proceeds in the amount of \$53,259 to an LCEF "all access account." Brad pointed out that the LCEF "all access account" holds funds which are "dedicated funds," so the funds are as readily available when needed as non-dedicated funds are.

Financial Secretary-Carol Moore-No report

Elders-Richard Turk: Richard reported the elders are progressing with the goals explained in the January report, and in March, Richard Ojinaga will be installed so that we have eight elders.

Trustees-Brad Springer, Sr.-See report attached-Brad Sr. was out of town so Karen called Brad when it was time for his trustees report to give us more detail of work anticipated.

Outreach/Fellowship/Stewardship-Brad Springer, Jr.-Brad reported that he will still be helping with the Southern Region Spring Pastors' Conference as he can, but it is not feasible for the Outreach committee to host the "Pizza Night" originally planned for March 21.

School Board-Karen Springer: Karen reported 1) the School Board is looking for funds, seeking grants for 51 students and 2) In an effort to help modify behavior and better support teachers, the school is developing a Student Code of Conduct. Parents are on board with our discipline efforts.

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Unfinished Business:

We had previously discussed the need for changes to our By-Laws, and we have had some suggestions. Carol Moore will be emailing them to the voters tomorrow for further discussion at the Voters' Meeting in March.

Doug also asked which "instructional video" we want to do next, and Pastor Cave suggested we do a "Trustees" video next; Karen Springer suggested we do an Elders instructional video. We decided to do an Elders video next.

Youth Group: Doug shared that Devyn Lorenz, his granddaughter, Nova Wood, and Matthew Monica are beginning to organize a Youth Group and anticipate meeting next Sunday in Veterans' Park. Pastor Cave suggested waiting until the following Sunday and plan to consider: Food for the gathering, guidance/chaperones (possibly Jim Roberts or Jace and Suzi Melton or Ben and Chris Micklevitz). Pastor Cave also observed that "Youth Group parents need to know this is coming." Pastor will coordinate with Devyn, Nova, and Matthew.

Other discussion: Voters' Meeting will be March 9, 2025, with two weeks' notice. Doug will coordinate lunch for the meeting.

Pastor Cave led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Cooper



MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL
Treasurer's Report for the Apr '25 Council/Voters Meeting

Report Preparation Date: Apr 1, 2025

Budget Status:	Month of Mar '24		FY25 thru Mar '25	
	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income:				
MLC General	\$25,624		\$236,958	\$306,813
MLS Total	\$26,930		\$243,075	\$264,170
Designated / Other	\$7,199		\$12,933	\$1,575
	<u>\$59,753 *</u>		<u>\$492,966 *</u>	<u>\$572,558 *</u>
Expenses:				
MLC Total	\$16,647 *		\$155,142 *	\$160,358 *
MLS Total	\$42,073		\$409,889	\$391,741
	<u>\$58,720</u>		<u>\$565,031</u>	<u>\$552,099</u>
Net Difference	\$1,033 *		-\$72,065 *	\$20,459 *

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY25 (Thru Mar 31, 2025)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$7,867
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	<u>\$6,564</u>
Average Weekly Surplus/ Shortfall :	-\$1,303 *
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$255,990
General Fund Budgeted Year-to-Date:	<u>\$306,813</u>
Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus/ Shortfall :	-\$50,823 *

Investments & Assets / Liabilities

Investments:	Morgan Stanley/E*Trade (as of Mar 31, '25)	\$121,456
	Mission Lutheran Endowment Fund (as of Dec 31, '24)	\$83,348
	Thrivent (as of Mar 31, '25)	\$461,886
	LCEF MLC Youth Development CD Account	\$13,453
	TOTAL	<u>\$680,143 *</u>

Current Assets:	Shepherd's Staff Checking (as of Mar 31, '25)	\$31,660 #
	LCEF All Access (as of Mar 31, '25)	\$122,592 #
	Youth Activity Fund	\$3,766 #
	Youth Christian Development	\$12,500 #
	minus MLS Reg/Tuition Holding	\$4,262 #
	Angel Scholarship Program	\$4,152 #
	Dedicated Chaplin PE Equipment Grant	\$119 #
	Funds COVID Grant	\$27,481 #
	Apple Tree Donations	\$0 #
	Emergency Tuition Assistance	\$5,850 #
	School Security Grant	\$8,774 #
	Staffeldt Scholarship Fund	\$7,877 #
	Total Checking Available After Dedicated Funds	\$79,471 *

Liabilities: None



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School: (575) 532-5489
Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net
secretary@missionlutheran.net
office@mlschool.net
Elder on Call: Jace Melton (210) 459-1023

May 29 is Ascension Day

We're on the web!
<http://missionlutheran.net>
<http://mlschool.net>

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2025

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