

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." ... "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

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Important Dates:

- October 1: Prayer Breakfast
- October 2: LWML Sunday
- October 3-14: MLS Fall Break
- October 10: LWML Gathering and Bible Study
- October 17: Staff Meeting
- October 23: Active Threat Training
- October 27-28: Breckenridge Conference
- October 30: **Reformation Sunday**
- October 30: MLS Sunday and Potluck



Revelation 12:7-12

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Matthew 18:1-11

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”

As I write this, it is the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels. This is not one of the principal Feast Days that we celebrate every year, but many Lutheran congregations will observe it when September 29th happens to fall on a Sunday. There are many festival and commemoration days throughout the Church Year which are dedicated to various saints, but St. Michael and All Angels is unique because it is the only day devoted to commemorating non-human saints, or “holy ones,”—God’s angels.

The study of angels is fascinating. There are often many more questions raised than the Scriptures provide answers! But there are certain things that we do know. We know that angels are created beings. They are God’s creatures. We know that angels are spirits, that is, they do not have human bodies like us human creatures do, though at times they can appear to us in human form. (And because angels and humans are distinct creatures, we know that people do not “become angels” when we die.) And we know that there are good angels that serve God and there are evil angels that serve Satan (the demons).

The most important thing that the Scriptures tell us about angels is that they serve us on God’s behalf. The Hebrew word for angel is *malach*, and the Greek word is *angelos*, and the primary meaning of both words is *messenger*. Angels are *messengers* of God. They come to bring His word to God’s people. Perhaps the most well-known example of this is when the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and bear a Son whom she would call Jesus. In addition to being messengers, angels are seen ministering to God’s people in other ways. They deliver words of comfort, such as when the seraph touched Isaiah’s sinful lips with a coal from the altar. They enact acts of judgment against God’s enemies, as is seen by the angels pouring out the bowls of God’s wrath in the book of Revelation. And they rescue God’s people, like when the angels took Lot and his family from Sodom and Gomorrah before their destruction.

From these and many other examples in the Scriptures, we can see that angels are powerful beings, far more powerful than us humans! But they are not worthy of our worship. Indeed, as perfect and sinless creatures of God, they reject all attempts to worship them. Their delight is to serve us in obedience to God’s command while pointing us to Him. This is even reflected in their names. Gabriel means *hero of God*, and Michael means *who is like God*. When we remember St. Michael and the other angels, we do so by thanking God that He has created the angels and appointed them for our good.

Angels like Gabriel and Michael are sometimes called “archangels,” because they seem to have more prominence than other angels. But there is one angel who is even higher, indeed He is Most High. Throughout the Old Testament, one will often find references to *the* angel of the Lord. In most cases, when the text specifies that this is not *an* angel but *the* angel of the Lord, this is no mere created being. This is *the* perfect messenger of Yahweh’s word, the Word Himself, Yahweh Himself, the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ.

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The angel of the Lord not only brings God's word, He steps in to rescue and redeem God's people. He speaks for God and receives worship as God. The angel of the Lord is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity stepping into human history for the sake of His people. It is He who stayed Abraham's hand from slaying Isaac, providing a ram for a substitute. It is He who wrestled with Jacob by the Jabbok River, changing his name to Israel. It is He who stood between the Israelites and the Egyptians by the Red Sea and led the people through the waters. It is He from whom all the angel hosts have their being and to whom all the angel hosts give the glory.

And so as we remember and celebrate St. Michael and All Angels, we do so by doing what they would have us do: to worship, honor, and give all glory to *the* angel of the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

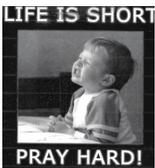
Last month we talked about the scripture below...about rejoicing, praying without ceasing and being thankful. Over the past two +++ years, the standards for much we're "doing" changed—even for "God's house of prayer at Mission!" We certainly didn't stop praying, did we? But now we rejoice and are thankful that many of our past activities are resuming. We members of the prayer ministry are thrilled to again host a prayer breakfast. Prayer is among the precious gifts our Lord Jesus gave each of us through His sacrifice. We hope you will be able to join us:

2022 Fall Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am -10:30 am

Luther Hall

Oops! What if you're reading this late and missed the prayer breakfast? I'm sorry you missed the yummy food, fellowship and Pastor Cave's devotion! But you still have a place in the prayer ministry. Of course, we pray together every Sunday as we worship together, but there's more! The prayer ministry tries to cover all we do at Mission in prayer. We have many opportunities for you to participate without leaving the comfort of your own home and a few more if you care to join in prayer with others. Please see Alma Lorenz or Shirley Miller—or give either of us a call and we will be happy to share with you all the prayer ministry is doing.



*“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

“We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable - the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and - yes - still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace - the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion - are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship





Birthdays of the Month

October Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Eisenbraun	Joanie	3
Poppy	Mark	4
Fant	Beth	5
Guenther	John V.	9
Mueller	Barbara	9
Smits	Robert	10
Turk	Ryan	12
Babin	Heidi	13
Wylie	Jo	15
Peyton	Jan	18
Buls	Karen	20
Duever	Doug	23
Sanchez	Zackary	23
Lee	Winnie	24
Staffeldt	Scott	30

Happy Anniversary

October Anniversaries

		<u>Date</u>	<u># of years</u>
Johnson	JR & Karen	8	62
Carrera-Little	Jerry & Amy	15	34

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in October.

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.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

October Happenings in the WINGS (Women IN God's Service) chapter of LWML:

- All ladies are invited to join us on Monday, October 10th, at 6:30 pm in Luther Hall for Bible study and fellowship. The Bible study this month is entitled "Legacy for Life."
- Dessert and coffee will be served.
- Quilters meet at 9:30 am every Wednesday in the multi-purpose room of Luther Hall.
- **Thank you** to everyone who donated men's and women's socks in celebration of 80 years of LWML. The school children also collected children's socks and all the socks will be donated to the homeless community.

Upcoming Event

Advent by Candlelight — Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 pm

Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to set aside all of those preparations and focus our hearts and minds again on Jesus. It is a beautiful evening filled with Scripture readings, narration, prayer, optional skits, songs of praise and Christian fellowship.

Hostess Opportunities: Do you enjoy decorating? Volunteer to be a table hostess and we will reserve a table for you! Many hostesses partner with one or two others to host a table. Hostesses provide table settings, holiday decorations, candles and a dessert for a table of 6 to 8 ladies. It is lots of fun, and requires only a few hours of your time for planning, baking and decorating. If you want to host a table this year or need more information before committing, please contact Jacki McCurley by November 1st at 575-202-5955.



Mission Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

August 16, 2022

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Attending were Brad Springer, Pastor Cave, Wade Echtenkamp, Richard Turk (representing the Board of Elders), Doug Lorenz, Brad Mueller, Carol Moore and Sonya Perry.

Pastor Cave led us in an opening prayer.

The minutes of the July 19 council meeting were approved.

President (Brad Springer):

Michael Kaiser has volunteered to be the lay representative to the joint circuit meeting on September 25th. He has also volunteered to be the circuits' lay representative to the Synod convention in 2023. This requires voter approval and will be an item on the agenda for the August 28 voters' meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor submitted a written report via email and that report is attached. He thanked all those who participated in the 2 orientation sessions for the school. One of our church members questioned whether electronic giving would become an option. Something on the order of a "donate here" button on the website would be an example. Much discussion ensued but all agreed that someone with more technical experience will be required to determine the feasibility and desirability of such an option.

Vice President (Wade Echtenkamp):

The training on active shooter response is currently only available during regular working hours. We were hoping to have something available on a Sunday afternoon. We might be able to set up a Zoom meeting. Wade will look into a Zoom meeting at 2:00 pm on a Sunday afternoon.

Treasurer (Brad Mueller):

Brad mistakenly mis-reported the FICA tax to the IRS. He has filed the appropriate paperwork to make the correction but there will be a small penalty. The treasurer's report is attached.

Financial Secretary (Carol Moore):

Nothing new to report.

Elders (Richard Turk):

Elder assignments have changed since Jerry Stickles resigned from the Board due to health issues. The elders are currently working on policies for use of church facilities for weddings, funerals, etc. Richard will send a copy to the Council members for review.

Trustees (Doug Lorenz):

Doug pointed out that use of the church facilities is an elder decision while upkeep is a trustees' decision. The A/C is now working in the church sanctuary. A part needed to be replaced. There is an intermittent problem with the A/C in the fellowship hall. A fire inspection was done in both buildings today and we were cited for having a stove in the sacristy that is not vented to the outside. Because we unplugged the stove and put a note saying the stove is not in use, we will not receive a written citation. Doug will make sure the stove is removed before Sunday. We can then decide what type of storage cabinet to put in its place.

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Outreach (Sonya Perry):

Beginning on Sunday, September 11th and continuing on the 18th and 25th we will participate in a baby bottle campaign for Turning Point of Las Cruces. Carol will include a bulletin insert prior to the start of the campaign.

School Board (Shirley Miller):

No report was submitted due to Shirley's travel schedule.

Brad Springer questioned whether we need to meet in September since we will have just held a voters' meeting. Carol Moore suggested we keep it on the calendar and cancel it later if there's nothing to discuss. It will be kept on the calendar for now.

Pastor Cave led us in a closing prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol J. Moore (filling in for Jacki McCurley in her absence)

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 – SEPTEMBER 2022 COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: September 1, 2022

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of August 2022</u>		<u>FY23 Thru August 2022</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$20,000	\$17,357	\$45,000	\$36,254
MLS Total	\$18,140	\$26,942	\$45,670	\$56,827
Designated / Other	\$280	\$1,720	\$560	\$1,766
	\$38,420	\$46,019	\$91,230	\$94,848
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$15,645	\$17,717	\$32,899	\$34,581
MLS Total	\$24,330	\$27,083	\$49,720	\$49,976
	\$39,975	\$44,800	\$82,619	\$84,557
Net Difference	-\$1,555	\$1,219	\$8,611	\$10,291

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY23 (Thru Aug 31, 2022)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,000
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,028
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$36,254
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$45,000
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$8,746

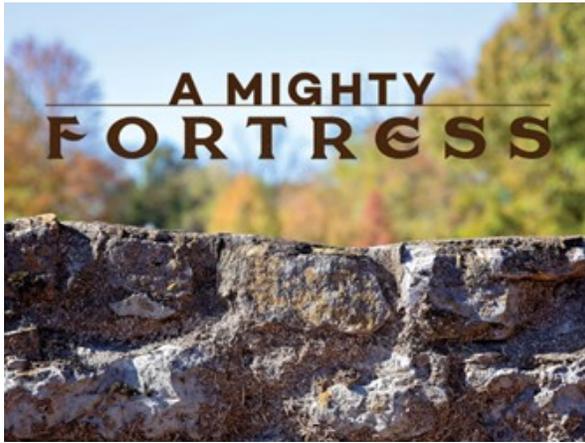
Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	E*trade Endowment (as of Aug 31, '22)	\$102,218
	Strasser Endowment (as of Jun 30, '22)	\$68,648
	Thrivent (as of July 31, 2022)	\$385,841
	TOTAL	\$556,707

<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking (as of Aug 31, 2022)	\$51,544
	LCEF Savings (as of Aug 31, 2022)	\$146,914
	(minus designated funds)	
	School Funds	\$312
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,766
	Staffeldt Scholarship	\$6,450
	COVID Grant	\$44,063
	Temp Holding	\$0
	Total LCEF Savings Available	\$92,323

Liabilities: None

Comments:



October 30 is Reformation
Sunday

Mission Lutheran Church and School

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We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

Elder on Call: Harvey White (575) 640-1110

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