

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:15-16)

In the second section of his Small Catechism, Martin Luther suggests that the members of the household could use Psalm 145:15-16 as the prayer before a meal. Though it is a simple prayer, it confesses that all creatures receive their daily sustenance from the Lord. This prayer confesses that the Lord gives in "due season." In other words, He gives what is needed at the proper time. And it is He that brings true satisfaction to every living thing.

When thinking about having a deep and abiding sense of satisfaction in due season because of the blessings which the Lord provides, perhaps no single day encapsulates this better than our holiday of Thanksgiving. It may seem a bit odd for me to be thinking about Thanksgiving in September, but Thanksgiving is a feast at the end of the harvest season, and many cultures in various times and in various places have had festivals that celebrated the end of the harvest. In the Old Testament, the Lord instituted various feast days, one of which was the Feast of Booths, which was a festival that celebrated the final harvest. This took place on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Ethanim), which, depending on how the Jewish calendar lines up with ours, would be in September or into October.

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Important Dates:

- September 4: Labor Day Holiday
- September 6: Choir rehearsals begin; youth confirmation classes begin
- September 10: Voters' Assembly
- September 11: Patriot Day
- September 14: JULIETs lunch



The Feast of Booths (also called the Feast of Tabernacles) was one of the three feast days where the people were required to make a pilgrimage to the Lord's tabernacle/temple to offer their sacrifices on the altar of burnt offerings. It was a week-long celebration during which the people would spend a week living in booths made of leafy branches. This was to remind them of the care and provision with which God provided them during their time of wandering in the wilderness.

Observing holidays like the Feast of Booths or Thanksgiving can be of great benefit to us in remembering and celebrating where all of our blessings come from. And even something as simple as taking a few seconds to pray before a meal can serve as an excellent reminder that the Lord cares for us and grants us all that we need.

We know that being thankful for our blessings is not always easy. Not only is our sinful nature quite selfish and greedy, we are immersed in a culture that is intent on making us discontent. Sometimes it seems that our entire economy is designed to make us discontent! I recently came across a statistic that claimed that in the 1970s the average person encountered 500 advertisements a day. These days, the average person encounters around 5,000. That number is staggering and difficult to believe. But whether or not that statistic is accurate, we know that advertisements are everywhere. Half of what I see on social media are not posts from friends but rather are advertisements. Ads dominate YouTube videos. Several streaming services now have ads. And if I think the solution is to turn off the screen, I still can't escape it. I check my mail box and most of what's in there is some kind of advertisement. The few magazines I'm subscribed to spill much of their ink on ads. (And several of the "articles" are poorly disguised product reviews.) And even getting outside doesn't remove this. There are billboards all up and down the road, all trying to convince me to look and take notice.

Now, I'm not against industry and innovation to make better products at more affordable prices. And I'm certainly not against people trying to earn a living. But as we go through life in this world, we must do so as those who are wise as serpents yet innocent as doves. We need to be aware that the world we live in will often try to play on our feelings of discontentment, and that discontentment will rob us of the joy that the Lord wishes us to have.

Yes, the Lord wants us to have joy. And He desires that we find our true joy, our true satisfaction, our true contentment in Him. He is the One who provides for all His creatures. He has shown how much He values His creation by sending His own Son into this world, taking on human flesh. The Creator has taken on the nature of His own creation in order to redeem us and make us a new creation! If the Lord values us so much that He would send His Son to die and rise again, we can be confident that He cares enough for us to grant us our needs in this life.

So whether it's September or any other month of the year, whether we're celebrating a big holiday like Thanksgiving or simply saying a prayer before a normal meal, let us find contentment in the Lord. Let us be thankful for all the blessings He has given us, and let us trust in Him to provide everything that His creation needs. The eyes of all look to Him, and He satisfies the desire of every living thing. 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.”



Lord, please guide and bless our labor!!!

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!
-Psalm 90:17

As we pause this Labor Day to reflect on all our Lord has helped us accomplish in our employment and in our work serving Him, let us pray for:

- ◆ Ever thankful hearts for our present and past employment and every opportunity we have had to serve Him in our church and beyond;
- ◆ An appreciation of the talents, skills and capabilities God gives each of us;
- ◆ That whatever we do, “in word or deed, (we) do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him;” (Colossians 3:17)
- ◆ Ever thankful hearts that we are provided rest and refreshment when we are weary, always leaning on our Lord during challenges;
- ◆ The Lord to walk with us in all of our responsibilities, equipping us for each task;
- ◆ Grace and resilience to overcome the times we stumble;
- ◆ Humility, wisdom, kindness, love and perseverance as we work;
- ◆ Protection from physical or emotional harm and spiritual temptations;
- ◆ Guidance from the Holy spirit to lead us in wisdom and righteousness;
- ◆ Hearts to humbly serve, giving God the glory.



Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

-Psalm 128:1-2

“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

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much – and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5-9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



MUSIC News



I am excited to announce that choir will begin soon. I would like to invite those of you who like to sing to come join the Mission Lutheran Church Choir. We are an open group of people who enjoy lifting our voices to enhance and guide the worship services. Come and help us make a joyful noise!

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary for rehearsals. Practices begin on Wednesday, September 6th



Any questions, please contact Jacki McCurley, (575) 202-5955.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 95:1-3

JULIETs

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

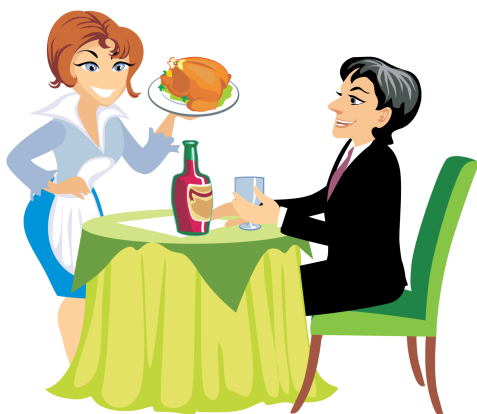
Thursday, September 14 — Olive Garden
100 N. Telshor Blvd.

We meet at 11:30 am.

So that the restaurant can be prepared, please notify either Debra Echtenkamp or Olga Turk at least 2 days in advance if you plan to attend.

Call or text Debra at (901) 830-7216

Call or text Olga at (575) 571-6251



Women in God's Service

The next WINGS (LWML) gathering will be in Luther Hall at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 11. All women are invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study. Drinks and dessert will be provided

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September to Remember

A Special day for Lutheran Women in Mission (and their friends and family) to donate to our Mission Grant Goal in honor of someone who has made a difference in their lives.

On Sunday, September 10, you will have the opportunity to help our LWML raise funds for the mission grant recipients this biennium. (You can find a list of these thirty-one grant recipients posted on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church and also in this newsletter.) Each of these organizations in their unique way is honoring God by serving others. To that end, every dollar you donate toward "September to Remember" will be sewn into these ministries, and our prayer is that the Lord would cause the people being served to reap a beautiful harvest by His provision. In addition, Lutheran Women in Mission has been blessed with a \$10,000 matching gift, which means the donation made by Mission's LWML will have the opportunity of doubling the impact of our giving!

The WINGS/LWML at Mission Lutheran Church will be honoring Kay Swedberg with a donation to the Mission Grant Goal. For those who do not know Kay, for more than twenty years she made a beautiful difference in the lives of people attending Mission Lutheran Church. Kay was actively involved in all aspects in the life of the church. Many of the activities of LWML such as the spring "Mother Daughter Tea" and the "Epiphany Party" were begun under Kay's guidance. For years, she served the Circuit Pastors lunch for their monthly meetings, baked pies at Thanksgiving for members to purchase (with proceeds going to LWML) and served as the chef in charge of Wednesday Family nights and soup suppers. The kitchen in Luther Hall was planned, maintained and kept in order by her. Kay was also a member of the choir and a talented ukulele player, who also taught the students in our school to play the ukulele. Kay now resides in Santa Fe close to family, but still joins, via Zoom, the Thursday morning prayer group.

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2023–2025 LWML Mission Grants

1. Orphan Grain Train Servant Center – Orphan Grain Train, U.S. **\$100,000**
2. A Healing Space for At-Risk Children – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND **\$100,000**
3. Serving God's Children with Special Needs – Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI **\$100,000**
4. Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment – Lutheran Braille Workers **\$100,000**
5. Disaster Response Team – Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX **\$50,000**
6. Mobile Kitchen – Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. **\$85,000**
7. Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach – LCMS Life Ministry **\$96,500**
8. Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide – Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO **\$100,000**
9. Equipping Young Leaders – LCMS Youth Ministry **\$50,000**
10. Set Apart To Serve – LCMS Office of Pastoral Education **\$100,000**
11. Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job – Ministry in Mission, Haiti **\$85,000**
12. Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth – Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA **\$35,000**
13. Water and the Word – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya **\$80,000**
14. Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach – Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S. **\$47,000**
15. Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals – Trinity HOPE **\$58,082**
16. Care for Street Children of Western Kenya – Capstone Ministries **\$50,000**
17. Nurturing Faith for the Aging – Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew) **\$100,000**
18. Zoe's Home Support – Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO **\$75,000**
19. Tanzania Children's Homes – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa **\$74,500**
20. Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan – Lutheran Hour Ministries **\$100,000**
21. Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church – Lutheran Family Services, U.S. **\$106,000**
22. Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in U.S. – Lutheran Hour Ministries **\$100,000**
23. A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children – Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S. **\$100,000**
24. God's Word for Central and South American Missions – Lutheran Heritage Foundation **\$100,000**
25. Bringing God's Word to India – India Bible Translation Project **\$100,000**
26. Life Connection Events and Kits – Lutherans for Life **\$70,000**
27. Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry – Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE **\$50,000**
28. Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students – Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE **\$20,000**
29. Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School – St. Paul Lutheran School, Cullman, AL **\$50,000**
30. Showering Love on the Least of These – Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA **\$100,000**
31. PARTIAL Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit – Camp Restore Detroit, MI **\$58,988.62**



September Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Holly	Poppy	3
Pastor Glenn	Weber	3
Amy	Krohn	5
Sheila	Vakselis	5
Nova	Wood	5
Robert	Young	10
Austin	Nathaniel	11
Carol	Cooper	12
Codie	Wolf	12
Michele	Allison	13
Ray	Grothman	13
Jim	Bonse	14
Ruth	Jakcsy	14
Rev. Warren	Graff	15
Amie	Springer	25
Hannah	McCurley	26

Happy Anniversary

September Anniversaries

		<u>Date</u>	<u># of years</u>
Fred & Karen	Reyes	17	14
Wade & Debra	Echtenkamp	21	44
Irv & Marcele	Skelton	21	55

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in September.

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

July 18, 2023

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Attending were Brad Springer, Wade Echtenkamp, Brad Mueller, Jacki McCurley, Carol Moore, Pastor Cave, Eric Gunderson and Shirley Miller.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the May and June council meetings were approved.

President (Brad Springer): Brad wanted to schedule the next Voters meeting. The next meeting will be on September 10th at 11:30 am in Luther Hall. The agenda will be set later with possible discussion on the communion statement and Matins service.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cave said adult instruction is going on as needed. Confirmation classes will begin after Labor Day. The library has been moved over to the nursery area.

Vice President Report (Wade Echtenkamp): Wade had no report.

Secretary Report: No report

Treasurer's Report (Brad Mueller): The treasurer's report is attached. We ended the fiscal year in the black. He is looking at moving some of the LCEF funds into a CD to earn more interest.

Financial Secretary (Carol Moore): Nothing to report.

Elder's Report (Eric Gunderson): The elder's report is attached. They are still working on the communion statement, Matins service and Telecoil system.

Trustees (Brad Springer Sr.): Brad was not in attendance but submitted his report which is attached.

School Board (Shirley Miller): The school board report is attached. School begins on August 2nd and Preschool begins on August 9th. There are still 2 openings in Preschool. We need more students!!

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

Pastor Cave led us in the closing prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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.

TREASURER REPORT for the August 2023 COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: August 1, 2023

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of July 2023</u>		<u>FY24 Thru July 2023</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$28,825	\$31,985	\$28,825	\$31,985
MLS Total	\$12,200	\$38,607	\$12,200	\$38,607
Designated / Other	\$333	\$101	\$333	\$101
	\$41,358	\$70,693	\$41,358	\$70,693
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$16,496	\$14,841	\$16,496	\$14,841
MLS Total	\$45,170	\$31,250	\$45,170	\$31,250
	\$61,666	\$46,091	\$61,666	\$46,091
Net Difference	-\$20,308	\$24,602	-\$20,308	\$24,602

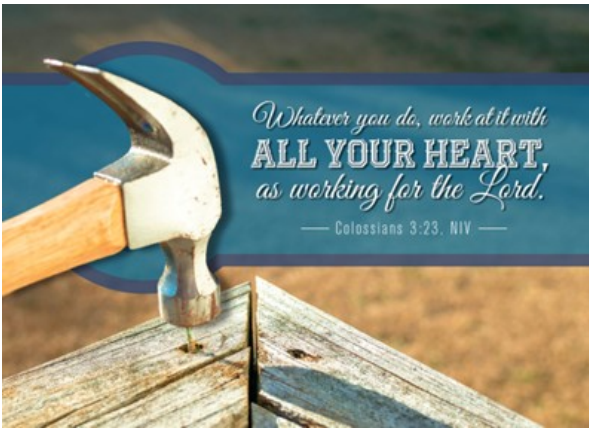
MLC General Fund Contributions – FY24 (Thru July 31, 2023)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,765
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	\$6,607
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$32,247
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$28,825
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	\$3,422

Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	E*trade Endowment (as of June 30, '23)	\$107,033
	Strasser Endowment (as of June 30, '23)	\$70,425
	Thrivent (as of July 31, '23)	\$408,279
	TOTAL	\$585,737
<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking (as of July 31, '23)	\$114,807
	LCEF Savings (as of July 31, '23)	\$147,836
	(minus designated funds)	
	Angel Prog/TA Holding	\$212
	Registration/Tuition Holding	\$0
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,766
	Staffeldt Scholarship	\$10,450
	COVID Grant	\$43,738
	School Security Grant	\$11,502
	Youth Christian Development	\$25,000
	Total LCEF Savings Available	\$53,168
<u>Liabilities:</u>	None	

Comments:



Labor Day is September 4

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 School: (575) 532-5489
 Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net
 secretary@missionlutheran.net
 office@mlschool.net*

Elder on Call: Nathan Graff (505) 280-4927

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

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