

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars! Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded and they were created. And He established them forever and ever; He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling His word! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel who are near to Him. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 148)

Today, I want to talk about failure. Well, not failure so much as limitations. Recently I've been reading a book entitled *You're Only Human: How Your Limits Reflect God's Design and Why That's Good News*. It was written by a Presbyterian theologian named Kelly Kapic, and while it's not a perfect book, I found myself agreeing with him far more often than disagreeing. (While you will need some theological discernment, it's a book worth your time if you're interested.) His basic premise in the book is that we're not meant to be able to do everything, and embracing the limitations of our human nature is one way in which we honor God and His sovereignty over us and all of His creation. And even more importantly, embracing our human limitations helps us to relate to God in the proper way.

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## Important Dates:

- October 1: LWML Sunday
- October 2: Fall break begins for MLS
- October 4–6: Breckenridge conference; Pastor Cave will be out of the office
- October 9: Columbus Day  
WINGS/LWML fellowship and Bible study
- October 29: MLS Sunday  
Reformation Sunday



After all, He is God and we are not! And yet, He cares for us, each of us individually. He loved us enough to create us and He loved us enough to redeem us. And He even loves His human creatures so much that the Son of God became a human creature for us and for our salvation.

To embrace our human limitations and all that means is to embrace that God made us and all of His creation *good*. Even before mankind's fall into sin, we were creatures with limits. We know that Adam and Eve did not have the knowledge of good and evil. But their knowledge of creation itself was also limited. They were not there when God laid the foundations of the earth or when He established the boundaries of the seas. They were not there when He spread out the stars in the heavens or hung the sun and moon in the sky. They were not there when the fish, birds, and animals were formed. They had no control over the course of time; it was God who established the day, the week, the month, and the year. Even as perfect human creatures, they were limited to what God had given them—and it was *very good*.

I have been thinking a lot about human limitations lately because of my recent hunting trip. (And I apologize to everyone who may be tired of hearing about it, but what can I say? It was an exciting opportunity!) There are few things which beckon for adventure and exploration more than the great outdoors, as well as few things that will humble a person more than the grandness of God's creation.

A lot of my ordinary days are spent in relative comfort, and walking distances are easy. But in the mountains, even short distances can be difficult due to the steepness and ruggedness of the terrain. More than once I found myself needing to pick my way carefully over rocks and fallen trees, and more often than I would like to admit I found myself needing a moment to catch my breath. (Not that I was going to admit that to my hunting partner!)

Many of our buildings and cars are climate controlled, but there's no controlling the climate in God's creation! The weather will do whatever the Lord directs, regardless of which way you prefer the wind would blow. And speaking of the wind blowing, you find out just how at the mercy of the weather you are when you're hunting an animal with the incredible olfactory capabilities of an elk! Even though we bathed in special soap and sprayed a scent-blocking solution on ourselves, more than once we were busted by the breeze. The slightest breeze can carry traces of your scent hundreds of yards, allowing the elk to slip away before a good harvesting opportunity presents itself, oftentimes before you even lay eyes on them.

Oh, and laying eyes on these creatures is also quite humbling. Elk are huge! Pictures, and even seeing them from a distance, does not prepare you for what one looks like when they're only thirty or forty yards away. The magnificence of these creatures attests to the unspeakable magnificence of their Creator!

And for those of you who may be wondering, no, I was not able to harvest one. And that too is a lesson in limitations. On Monday morning I hit one—twice. We spent until dark and then again until noon on Tuesday searching for him, but never found him. One can never underestimate God's creation!

I learned many things from this experience. And perhaps the best thing I learned was an even deeper sense of gratitude. God does not "owe" me the opportunity to exploit His creation however I see fit. But in His graciousness, He granted me the ability to experience a facet of His creation that I had not experienced before. He gave me a chance to see just how small I am and how great He is. He granted me to see more ways in which He cares for His creatures and sustains His creation. And even if there were some disappointments, He granted me to see that He cares for me as well.

So, I guess even though in some ways this experience pushed me to the limit, that's a good thing! Human limits are *good*. Knowing that we have a God who is so much greater than us is *good*. And knowing that this great God is also gracious and merciful to us is *very good*. Would I try this again? In a heartbeat! But until I have another opportunity like this, in the meantime, I will give thanks and praise to the Lord for the wonders (and limits) of His creation. 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.”*

### It’s Pastor Appreciation Month!

We are blessed with a hard-working, gifted pastor who serves with the love of Christ! As we contemplate how to appreciate him this month (and always!), one of the best ways is to daily pray for him! Here are a few prayer targets to consider as we lift our pastor, Andrew Cave in prayer, that he:

- Is constantly filled with God’s comfort and peace in all he does
- Is refreshed in mind, body and spirit as he serves
- Boldly proclaims the Word in preaching and teaching
- Puts on the Armour of God daily, being protected from any spiritual attack, temptation or discouragement
- Is granted divine wisdom and the mind of Christ as he leads and makes decisions
- Has divine appointments that help him reach those who haven’t responded to Christ’s calling
- His life is filled with the fruit of the Spirit
- Granted an abundance of understanding, humility and love
- Leads Mission according to the vision and will of the Lord

*Finally, brothers, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you that you are doing and will do all we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ.*

-2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

*“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

## It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



# Women in God's Service

The next WINGS (LWML) gathering will be in Luther Hall at 6:30 PM on Monday, October 9. All women are invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided

What does WING/LWML do?

- \* We collect mites which help fund huge mission projects at the national level – mites are collected at every monthly gathering and on Super Bowl Sunday. Anyone can add to our mites collection at any time. A mite box is kept on the table in the narthex. (See Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4 for the history of “mites.”)
- \* We make quilts to donate to those who are ill, in the hospital, in hospice care, or homeless. We sell enough quilts, especially baby quilts, to make the project self-funding. Quilters meet in Luther Hall every Wednesday morning except during the summer months. No special skills are needed to help tie quilts, but those who enjoy sewing are encouraged to participate by making simple quilt tops and/or doing the finishing work (binding the edges of the quilts).
- \* We collect and donate wee care bundles to Memorial Hospital's maternity ward for women in need.
- \* We provide supplies needed for coffee and goodies on Sunday mornings.
- \* We organize fellowship events (Spring tea, Advent by Candlelight) for the women in our church and school and include school moms who might be interested.
- \* We organize the annual Epiphany party for all the adults in our congregation.
- \* We participate in LWML Sunday every October.
- \* We sell greeting cards (these can be found in Luther Hall in the desk against the wall).
- \* We raise money through bake sales to help support a seminary student.
- \* We host the Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally and the Spring Workshop every 3<sup>rd</sup> year (rotating with Trinity in Alamogordo, and Zion and Ascension in El Paso).



# Birthdays of the Month

## October Birthdays

Date		
3	Joanie	Eisenbraun
4	Mark	Poppy
5	Beth	Fant
9	John	Guenther
9	Barb	Mueller
10	Robert	Smits
12	Ryan	Turk
13	Heidi	Babin
15	Jo	Wylie
18	Matthiew	Austin
18	Jan	Peyton
20	Karen	Buls
20	Shylo	Carrera-Little
23	Doug	Duever
23	Zackary	Sanchez
24	Winnie	Lee
30	Scott	Staffeldt

*Happy Anniversary*

## October Anniversaries

Date			# of years
5	Robert & Helen	Houck	40
8	JR & Karen	Johnson	63
15	Jerry & Amy	Carrera-Little	35
25	Rev. Warren & Elaine	Graff	37

*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.

**MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Voters' Assembly**  
**June 25, 2023**

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. There were 44 of 55 members in attendance.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

Bobby Jakcsy moved that we accept Barbara Mueller, Karen Jensen and Michael Kaiser as voting members. Carol Moore seconded. It was moved and passed.

Carol Moore moved to accept the minutes from the November and January Voters' Assembly. Debra Echtenkamp seconded. The minutes were all approved.

Brad Mueller distributed copies of the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget along with a copy of last year's budget. He presented the budget with the main changes that which included the increase in the after school/ music teachers pay and flooring for the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. Discussion followed and questions were addressed:

Questions:

- How are there 53 Sundays in the year? It is because the fiscal year budget begins and ends on a Sunday.
- Why is Christian Education down significantly? There have not been any expenses the last couple of years so he decreased the amount.
- Why has the MLS Employer Payroll Tax gone way up? Brad will be looking at this a little more-he didn't have the answer in front of him.
- What are the tuition collection fees? This is to cover the fees when families pay tuition by credit card.

Debra Echtenkamp moved to accept the budget and it was seconded by Don Hallem. Motion passed and the budget is approved.

The meeting moved into reports:

Pastor: Pastor Cave's report is attached. Since the last voter's meeting he has had 6 baptisms, 3 confirmations and 3 funerals. He will begin online classes in August to complete his Ambassadors of Reconciliation Training. The Synod convention is July 29<sup>th</sup> to Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The convention will mainly be focused on policies and resolutions. There is a proposal to change from a 3-4 year cycle for the conventions. He has asked the congregation to keep Concordia University Austin in your prayers as the board of regents has voted to separate from governing alignment of the synod.

Jerry Del Bozque asked Pastor if there is any work on having an Hispanic ministry. Stephen Heimer from Zion is working in the circuit to create a mission start for a new Hispanic Church in the district. He wants the circuit to get together to see how we can all support this before going to the District.

President: Brad Springer thanked Brad Mueller for all his hard work on putting together the budget. He also thanked Pam Kell for providing the food this morning. He mentioned that council meetings are open for everyone to attend. Our next voters meeting will be in either July, August, or September. There is currently an opening as the chair on the Outreach Board. The main tasks are sending cards to visitors, change the sign and maintaining the bible box.

Financial Secretary: Carol Moore would like to thank all the counter volunteers.

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Elders: The report was handed out to members and is attached. Eric Gunderson reported that the elders have changed the communion statement for the bulletin. He advised members to look over the statement and provide feedback to your elder. He is looking into the Telecoil Loop to transmit church audio in a format that can be received by hearing aids. It was suggested that he investigate more since we currently have some headsets that work and are not being used. The Board of Elders voted to include Holy Communion on the fifth Sunday's but not have Matins Liturgy. Many questions arose about not having Matins. Roberta Willett brought up that their old church would have communion along with Matins but it was included at the end of the service. It was suggested that the Elders contact their care groups to talk to them on this issue as many members felt this was something that should have come before the voting members.

Trustees: Brad Springer, Sr. reported that everything is going good. He is finishing up on the classroom for the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade. There are a surplus of items that have no place and are not needed at the church. He will set them out the next couple of Sundays for people to take, after that they will be donated.

School Board: Shirley Miller thanked everyone for approving the school expansion. The new teacher is bubbly and enthusiastic. Thank God for sending us Darci Grothman as the administrator.

Mark Poppy wanted to thank Pastor for putting the Bible studies on Facebook. Pastor mentioned you do not have to have an account to access the Bible studies.

The meeting was closed by everyone standing and citing the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacki McCurley, Secretary

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## MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

August 15, 2023

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, Eric Gunderson and guest Doug Lorenz.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the July council meeting were approved.

President (Brad Springer): Brad had nothing to report at this time.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's report is attached. Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> not the 13<sup>th</sup>. He plans to outline some options for the fifth Sundays. He will send an email out to the congregation for them to review before the September 10<sup>th</sup> voters' meeting.

Vice President Report (Wade Echtenkamp): Wade had no report. He will start working on interested parties to serve as officers.

Secretary Report: No report



Treasurer's Report (Brad Mueller): The treasurer's report is attached. He bought two CD's from the LCEF fund. One is a general fund for \$50,000 at 4% interest for 6 months. The other one is \$12,500 from the Youth Christian Development. Brad has not been able to access the E\*trade endowment fund to check on the amount of funds. Currently John Guenther and Ken Martin are listed on the account. John Guenther is no longer a member at Mission Lutheran Church. A motion was made by Carol Moore that we remove John Guenther as a signer from the E\*trade endowment fund as well as any other financial accounts associated with Mission Lutheran Church. It was seconded by Jacki McCurley. The motion passed.

Financial Secretary (Carol Moore): Nothing to report.

Elder's Report (Eric Gunderson): The elder's report is attached.

Trustees (Brad Springer Sr.): Brad was not in attendance but submitted his report which is attached. Doug Lorenz was present to address the alarm system at the church/school. He presented two options, one from Telstar and another from Southwest Alarm. He recommends that we go with Telstar Option #2 as per the bids presented (which are attached). He also recommended that we have 3 contacts, not 2, for the system. Jacki McCurley moved that we go with Telstar-Option 2 for the alarm system. Carol Moore seconded. Discussion about whether the internet would support this additional wireless alarm. Doug said we would have plenty to add this system. The question was called and the motion passed. Because of the amount of the bid (over \$2500), the final vote does have to go before the Voter's Assembly. This will be presented at the Voters meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. The voter's meeting is set for September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Items for the agenda include: 1) fifth Sundays, 2) alarm system, 3) by-laws discussion and 4) officer discussion.

We all muted and Pastor Cave led us in the Lord's Prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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.



Meeting  
Minutes

## TREASURER REPORT for the September 2023 COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING

### Mission Lutheran Church and School

**Report Preparation Date: Sept 1, 2023**

<b><u>Budget Status:</u></b>	<b><u>Month of August 2023</u></b>		<b><u>FY23 Thru August 2023</u></b>	
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
MLC General	\$23,060	\$17,768	\$51,885	\$49,753
MLS Total	\$28,070	\$41,645	\$45,220	\$79,633
Designated / Other	\$333	\$16,166	\$667	\$16,267
	<b>\$51,463</b>	<b>\$75,579</b>	<b>\$97,772</b>	<b>\$145,653</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
MLC Total	\$13,197	\$18,703	\$32,891	\$33,544
MLS Total	\$30,500	\$40,932	\$75,671	\$72,182
	<b>\$46,896</b>	<b>\$59,635</b>	<b>\$108,562</b>	<b>\$105,726</b>
Net Difference	\$4,567	\$15,944	<b>-\$10,790</b>	<b>\$39,927</b>

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY23 (Thru August 31, 2023)**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,765
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	\$5,639
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$50,755
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$51,885
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	<b>-\$1,130</b>

### **Assets / Liabilities**

<b><u>Fund Assets:</u></b>		
E*trade Endowment (as of June 30, '23)		\$107,033
Strasser Endowment (as of June 30, '23)		\$70,425
Thrivent (as of August 31, '23)		\$404,149
LCEF MLC Youth Development CD Account		\$12,500
LCEF General Funds CD Account #1		\$50,000
LCEF General Funds CD Account #2		\$0
TOTAL		<b>\$644,107</b>

**Current Assets:** Checking (as of August 31, '23) **\$50,187**

LCEF Savings (as of June 30, '23)		\$147,915
(minus designated funds)	Angel Prog/TA Holding	\$512
	Registration/Tuition Holding	\$0
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,766
	Staffeldt Scholarship	\$4,425
	COVID Grant	\$43,738
	School Security Grant	\$11,502
	Youth Christian Development	\$12,500
	Other	\$0

Total LCEF Savings Available **\$71,472**

**Liabilities:** None

**Comments:**



## Reformation Day is October 31st

*Mission Lutheran Church and School  
2752 N. Roadrunner Parkway  
Las Cruces, NM 88011-8081  
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School: (575) 532-5489  
Emails: [pastor@missionlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@missionlutheran.net)  
[secretary@missionlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@missionlutheran.net)  
[office@mlschool.net](mailto:office@mlschool.net)*

*Elder on Call: Richard Turk (575) 621-3497*

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