

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

During this Lenten season, Pastor's schedule has been especially full with additional services and events. Because of these commitments, the article he typically writes for the newsletter will not appear this month. Thank you for your understanding, and we appreciate all the time and care Pastor is dedicating to our congregation during this meaningful season.

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- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- JULIETs and WINGS/LWML
- Church Council Meeting minutes
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- MLS Events

Important Dates:

- March 8: Daylight Savings
- March 15: Voters' Assembly Meeting
- March 28: Gala





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

March 2026



How do we adequately prepare our hearts for the joy and freedom to come next month as we celebrate Easter? The task is unattainable on our own, but let us pray and meditate on who He really is to us! I am giving a few scriptures you may want to pray and meditate with and add more of your own. Please also consider praying for our church and beyond at the Mission Prayer Vigil on Friday, April 4th as we await the Easter Vigil and the celebration of Easter the following day. More information will be forthcoming. And of course, pray also with your fellow worshippers as outlined at the end of the article.

Be Still

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” – *Psalms 46:10*

Return to the LORD

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God? – *Joel 2:12-14*

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Know His Power and Authority: His way or my way?

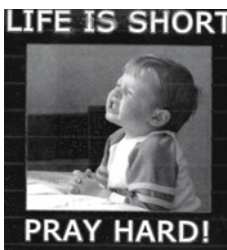
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. – *Isaiah 55:10*

Consider His Mercy

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. – *1 Peter 1:3-5*

A Right Relationship

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. – *1 Peter 5:6-7*



*“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 pray!

We join together in prayer during Sunday's Divine Service. Join your Mission family in prayer during the week:

- Tuesdays at 12:30pm** in the church library there is both open prayer and silent prayer as we cover all we do at Mission in prayer and pray for other prayer needs and concerns. (Usually less than 30 minutes)
- Wednesday mornings** during the school year at 7:35am in Luther Hall, members join the MLS staff to pray for the school and individual students in brief around-the-table prayer. (Usually 10 minutes)
- Thursday mornings** at 6:45 am on ZOOM for the Mission **“Prayer and Praise Hour”** which consists of Morning Prayer (from the Lutheran Service Book) led by four alternating men, three scripture readings, a handful of songs sung while muted and open prayer. Some pray aloud while others pray silently in agreement. (Usually 45-50 minutes) Contact Doug Lorenz with your email address to be added to the weekly reminder with the Zoom link. Doug.4corners@gmail.com

Stewardship

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785* "We Praise You, O God."

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.

We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;

We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

Visit [lcms.org/family](https://www.lcms.org/family) to find free family devotional and prayer resources to help make devotions and prayer a family habit.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

Many Christians give something up during Lent as a reminder that Jesus gave up everything when He came down to earth to die and rise for us. Lent is a time where we remember our sin, repent and focus on Christ's suffering for us. In this time of reflection and repentance, instead of (or in addition to) giving something up, it can also be helpful to add something into our lives. These verses from 1 Thessalonians tell us to "pray without ceasing" and to "give thanks in all circumstances." One habit that could be helpful to focus on is prayer. As a family, you can start developing this habit by finding times to pray together such as before meals, before bed or whenever works best in your family's routine.

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

Time, Talents and Treasure



Stewardship is many things. Our congregation has always been more than generous with their church contributions. But stewardship also requires that we give of the talents God has given each of us. That means using some of our time to further the mission of our church. Here are just some of the ways that you can contribute.

Prayer Ministry: We strive to cover all areas of the Church's life in prayer. We currently meet every Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the church library for a short time of prayer. We also meet every Wednesday morning at 7:35 am to pray with the teachers before the start of the school day. Those who aren't part of the school staff then meet for breakfast. And we meet via Zoom every Thursday morning at 6:45 am when we follow Responsive Prayer 2 in the hymnal. This includes singing at least 3 hymns! A wonderful way to start the day. We could use more leaders for this prayer time. Everyone is welcome to join in any of these prayer opportunities.

Sunday School: Instruction in the Bible and in the faith and worship life is currently provided to children of all ages. We need volunteers to assist with various classes and substitute when available.

Altar Guild: The volunteers of the altar guild prepare the bread and wine for Communion, prepare the altar for the appropriate time in the church year, and prepare the baptismal font for baptisms. Training is provided to ensure that all volunteers are well equipped and supported in their work of the Lord's house.

Choir: Come and make a joyful noise! The choir meets to rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm from September through May. While you do need to be able to read and carry a tune, no other particular skills are required - just a love of sacred music.

Ushering: Ushers hand out bulletins before the church service, advise those taking communion when it's time to approach the communion rail, and take up the offering by passing the offering trays. They may also direct late arrivals as needed to show them where there is open seating. In the event of a medical emergency, they may also be tasked with calling 911.

Greeting: Greeters arrive a bit early in order to greet members and guests as they arrive. If someone is attending our church for the first time, greeters are to make sure they sign the guest book.

Church Council Officers are all elected by the voting members of the congregation.

President: The president oversees the corporate/business concerns of the congregation and presides over the monthly Council and quarterly Voters' Assembly meetings of the congregation.

Vice President: The vice-president assists the president in his tasks and is responsible for the recruitment of officers and leaders for election to the positions and boards of the congregation.

Council Secretary: The secretary records the minutes of the Council and Voters' Assembly meetings and forwards all minutes and board reports to the Church Secretary for posting and filing.

Financial Secretary: The financial secretary records and keeps confidential records of each member's giving for tax purposes and makes the bank deposits of weekly offerings.

Treasurer: The treasurer is responsible for the payment of bills and the recording and publishing to the congregation its progress in offerings toward, and expenses within, the congregation's yearly budget. Prepares the budget every year for voter approval.

Board of Elders: The men of this Board assist the pastor in the spiritual care of the members, the leading of worship and the oversight of the adult Bible studies, provide communication to the pastor of the needs of the members, and make visits to the members of the congregation.

Board of Trustees: The members of this board oversee the repair and maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Mission Lutheran Church and School campus and administrate the volunteers of the congregation in that ongoing maintenance work.

Board of Day School Education (School Board): The School Board is responsible for the ministry of Mission Lutheran School; it provides counsel and direction to the school ministry, including interviewing candidates for open positions and providing input to documents required for maintaining the school's accreditation.

Board of Outreach: This board of members initiates and manages outreach activities with the purpose of bringing the Gospel to unchurched people. Activities include: maintaining a Bible box which provides a free Bible to anyone who wants one; changing the verse on the church sign (facing Roadrunner Parkway); sending a note to someone who visits the church for the first time; offering to visit first-time visitors to answer questions about the church; assist members of the community who are in need of financial assistance; or other activities as deemed helpful to reach unchurched people in our community

Committees. The following are volunteer opportunities and the members are not elected by the voting members of the congregation.

Stewardship Committee: This committee is for the purpose of equipping the all of the boards with the human and information resources needed to carry out their work. This committee also encourages church members to share their time, talent and treasure as needed to support Mission Lutheran Church.

Fellowship Committee: The Fellowship Committee is responsible for strengthening the fellowship between congregational members spiritually and socially, supporting the integration of new members into the life of the congregation, planning and implementing outreach events in which the larger community's participation is invited, and in general building mutual cooperation, trust, and enjoyment among the members of the congregation.

None of these opportunities require great amounts of time (with perhaps the exception of the Treasurer!). Please prayerfully consider where you might best put your God-given talents to work for the good of our church family.



March/April Birthdays

			Date
Becky	Lujan	March	11
Peter	Franz	March	16
Nathan	Graff	March	16
Shilo	Smith	March	18
Oscar	Aguilera	March	21
Darci	Grothman	March	21
Elaine	Graff	March	25
Rev. Robert	Carabotta	March	27
Nick	Wolf	March	27
Pamela	Kell	March	28
Ralph (Brad)	Mueller	March	28
Victor	Babin	March	30
Susan	Brown	March	31
Robert	White	April	6

Happy Anniversary
March/April Anniversaries

			Date	# of
Robert & Tiziana	Smits	March	11	33
Jan & Jacky	Ryberg	March	15	46
Peter & Jan Peyton	Persing	March	17	40
Pastor Glenn & Susan	Weber	March	22	56
Brad & Barb	Mueller	April	1	37
Larry & Debra	Tate	April	5	52

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in

March & April..

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!

Pecan Grill
500 S. Telshor Blvd

March 19th 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, March 9th, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MINUTES

DECEMBER 21, 2025

Vice-President Eric Gunderson called the Mission Lutheran Church Voters' Assembly to order at 11:58 AM; President Doug Lorenz was not in attendance because he was ill. Pastor Cave opened the meeting with prayer.

Haley DeRossitt was presented to the Assembly and accepted as a voting member of the Voters' Assembly. Thirty-five of forty-nine voting members in good standing were present, constituting a quorum.

The minutes of the September 14, 2025 Voters' Assembly were presented to the Assembly for acceptance.

Pastor Cave asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that the Congregation was being asked to consider only a change from 7PM to 5:30 PM for the beginning time of evening worship services with no mention of soup suppers. It was also noted that Amie Springer's name was misspelled and Mr. Melton's first name is Jace rather than Jason. The corrections were made; the minutes of the September 14, 2025 Voters' Assembly were accepted as corrected.

Pastor Cave - See report attached. Pastor Cave again invited our thoughts about changing Lenten and Christmas midweek service time from 7PM to 5:30PM. Parishioners should share their observations regarding a service time change with Pastor Cave or an elder.

Vice President - Eric Gunderson reported that he still does not have a slate of officer candidates for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2026. He noted that Carol Moore has compiled and published in the church newsletter more information about the positions which need to be filled. Eric also reported that "Coats for Kids" served 450 children in 2025.

Treasurer See Treasurers Report attached. Brad Mueller reported that when we look at the Treasurer's report we should note that money has been removed from the Thrivent bank account and added to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). He further explained that in years past when Mission Lutheran School needed money and there was not enough cash readily available (the Thrivent account consists of mostly invested funds and some cash), the needed funds were transferred from the LCEF account to the Thrivent account. All such funds have been transferred back to LCEF account; there is no difference in the total amount of "Investments and Assets".

Financial Secretary - Carol Moore informed the Assembly that contribution envelopes for members who use them have been put in their boxes.

Board of Elders - Richard Turk - See report attached. Richard asked the Voters' Assembly to confirm. James DeRossitt as the newest member to the Board of Elders. Carol Moore nominated and Frank Brennen seconded the nomination of James De Rossitt to the Board of Elders; the assembly unanimously voted to confirm James DeRossitt as a member of our Board of Elders.

Trustees-Brad Springer, Sr.-See Trustees Report attached. In response to Eric's observation that Brad had been very busy, he said, "I like doing the work."

School Board - Karen Springer - See report attached. Megan Wood, School Director, added that New Mexico Department of Education offers financial assistance for preschool families who meet the requirements of the State. Megan pointed out that State control of curriculum is often one of the State's requirements.

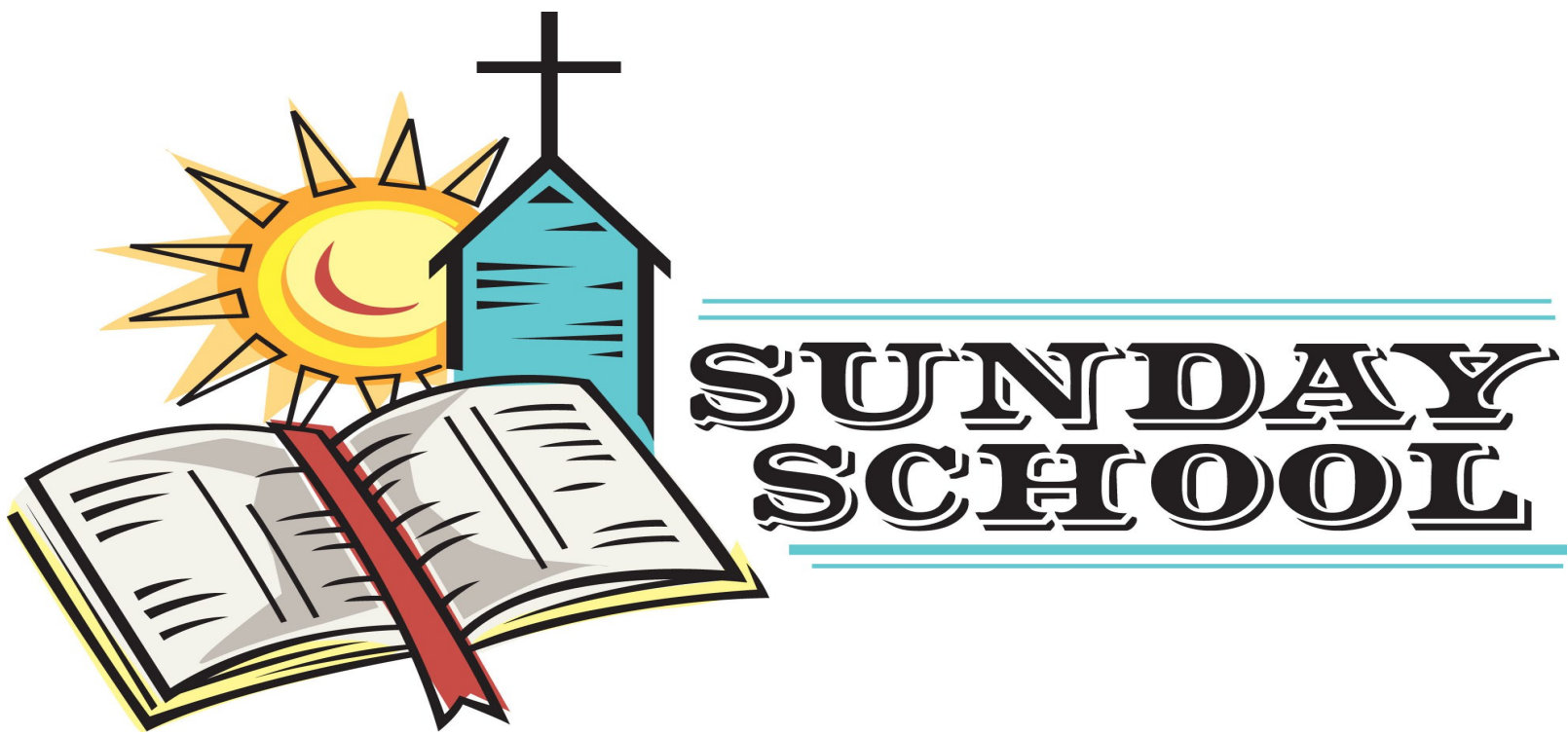
Unfinished Business - Alma Lorenz reported that the Youth Group still needs a coordinator; Pastor Cave added that if anyone is interested in serving as coordinator of the Youth Group, Jim Roberts is at White Sands and has offered to assist the group however he can.

Again, Pastor Cave asked us to consider beginning Christmas and Easter midweek services at 5:30PM instead of 7:00PM. Pastor Cave and the Elders welcome hearing the thoughts of the members on this matter.

There being no further business to discuss, Eric asked that Pastor Cave lead the Assembly in prayer. The Voters' Assembly was adjourned at 12:37PM

Respectfully submitted,
Carol L. Cooper, Secretary



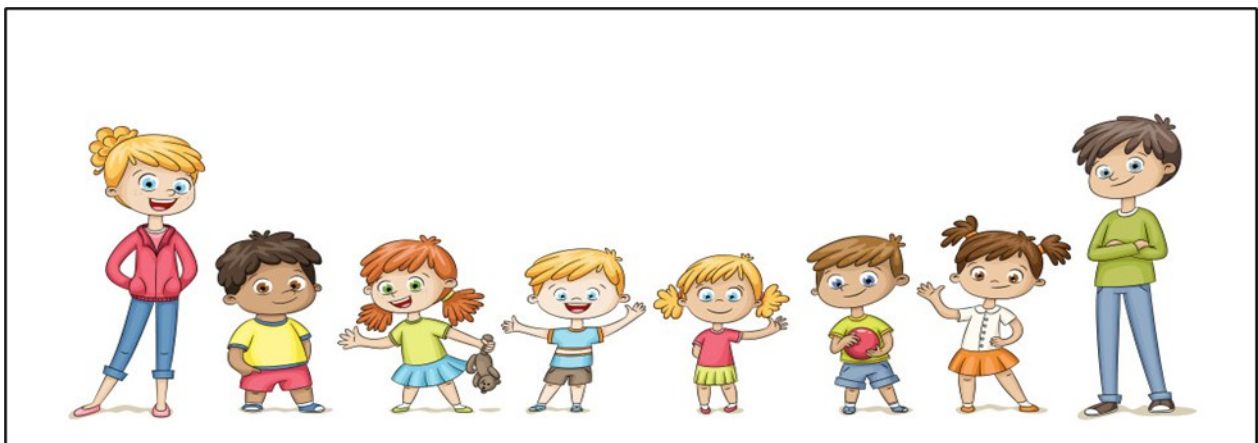


March 8 - "Hope in Hardship - Joseph" - Jace Melton

March 15 - "Fiery Directions - Moses" - Susie Melton

March 22 - "The Egypt Exit - Exodus" - Carol Cooper

March 29 - "The Loving Law - 10 Commandments" -
Amie Springer





MLS Upcoming events

- 3/9-3/13 National Lutheran School's Week
- 3/14 - Booth at the Farmer's market
- 3/16-3/27 - Spring Break
- 3/28 Annual Gala
- 4/2 Parent Conferences
- 4/3 Good Friday- No School
- 4/4 Students singing at the Easter Vigil
- 4/6 Easter Monday - No school

K-2 PE-Olympic Events and Wax Museum





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 School: (575) 532-5489
 Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net
 secretary@missionlutheran.net
 office@mlschool.net
 Elder on Call: James DeRossitt (505) 506-8812

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

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2025-26

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