MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

"For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well" (Psalm 139:13-14)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (Jeremiah 1:5a).

"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." (Luke 1:39-45).

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Important Dates:

August 3: First day of school for K-5 August 10: First day of preschool August 31: Prayer Ministry Retreat



My brothers and sisters in Christ, on the 24th of June, 2022, the country received the news that the Supreme Court had announced the overturning of the 1973 decision of Roe vs. Wade, a decision which stated that all people in the country had a right to abortion. Though it's difficult to obtain a precise count, in the years following that decision well over sixty million innocent lives were lost.

We rejoice that the Supreme Court has overturned this tragic and, frankly, evil decision. On the one hand, a person can reason that abortion is wrong from science and natural law, and many people do, even some who claim to not be religious at all. A person can rightly say that the scientific position is that life begins at conception, and that equal protection under the law should be applied to all persons irrespective of age.

But on the other hand, as Christians we believe and confess an even deeper reality. Yes, we do believe that life begins at conception and that all people are of equal worth irrespective of age (or race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, abilities etc.). But we also have an answer as to why—why is it that all people are equal? Why does every life matter? The answer is that each person is uniquely made by God. God is the Author of Life, and each person is His special creation.

It's certainly noteworthy that the ruling was announced on June 24th, which is the festival day for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. (Whether or not this timing was the Court's intention, God knew the timing!) John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus, miraculously conceived in the aged womb of Elizabeth six months before Jesus was miraculously conceived in the virgin womb of Mary. When Mary, carrying a first-trimester Jesus in her womb, visited Elizabeth, carrying a third-trimester John, John leaped for joy at the presence of his Lord and Savior! Though both were in the womb, both were very much fully human. Jesus shows the worth of a tiny baby by becoming one Himself, though He is the Lord of all creation. And John shows that even the smallest infant is capable of receiving faith and rejoicing in the Lord.

And so we rejoice at the Supreme Court's ruling. But Jesus also once told His disciples to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16b). This means that, though we rejoice in the Lord and delight in His will, we also must be prudent and accurately assess what is happening around us. The overturning of Roe vs. Wade does not outlaw abortion. It sends the issue back to the states. And different states have very different laws. We also have to recognize that Christians (and others) who are described as "pro-life" are often accused of wanting to force women to have babies but then are not interested in helping the parents take care of them. Though such accusations are very often unfounded, it is a challenge we face nonetheless.

So while we rejoice in the Supreme Court's ruling, we do not sit back as if the victory has been won and the fight is over. It isn't. There is still much work to do. And as important as our legal system is, the more important work is what God has given us as Christians to do. God has given us His Word, the means by which a person comes to faith in Him. God's Word is the only means by which a person's heart and mind can be changed so that they believe that all people are God's special creation. And so we proclaim the Word to a world that so desperately needs to hear it. And God has also poured out His love into us through Jesus Christ. And that love flows through us and to others.

And so, as far as we are able, we will come to the aid of others. We will help parents who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. We will show them that the child can live, that they can raise the child (or give the child to parents waiting to adopt), and that we will help them with what

they need. We do this because, for the Christian, we do not pit the rights of the mother against the rights of the child. Rather, we say that *all* life is sacred: the child, the mother, the father. And God calls us to honor and cherish every person.

And so we do rejoice, but we also know that there is much work ahead. We pray that God would grant us boldness to speak His Word. We pray that God would grant us courage to reach out and help those in need. We pray that God would open our eyes to see the need, and to open our hearts to respond in love. And we pray that God would lead every person in this nation, and the world, to honor and cherish life. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave



Mission Lutheran Church and Schoo/ Prayer Ministry

Back to School!

As we begin another school year at Mission, it's time for our "house of prayer" to join in prayer for our upcoming school year. We must begin with a prayer of thanksgiving as we recognize God's faithfulness to answer our prayers for an increase in the number of students enrolled in Mission Lutheran School. Let's pray for continued growth!

Below are updated prayer targets used by the prayer ministry team as we pray for Christian education at Mission. They are broken into 7 parts as we attempt to cover the whole school in prayer. You may wish to pray for one section each day in your personal prayer time. Please consider saving these targets and praying for our school throughout the school year!

Sunday—pray that God will:

- Use Mission Lutheran School (MLS) to attract children and their families to Jesus.
- Draw the congregation and school together to reach out to others with the message of Jesus as their Savior.
- Provide protection and security throughout our campus.
- Bless and increase the numbers of those who support our school through time, talent and treasure.
- Work among congregation, staff, parents and students that all reflect Christ's love.

Monday—Pray for the Christian Education taught at MLS, that:

• Children are nurtured to maintain a lifelong relationship with

Jesus Christ as their Savior.

- The number of students continues to grow and that more families would have a deep desire for their children to receive the knowledge of Christ as part of their education.
- Our students will be fully prepared to transition to other education, whether Christian or secular, when the time comes for them to leave MLS.
- Children will be strengthened as they study God's Word as part of their education.

Tuesday—pray for the students at MLS, that:

- Each student will know Christ as their Savior who cherishes them.
- They will be protected from worldly influences.
- They will hunger for learning and be persistent and disciplined in study.
- They will develop loving, respectful and compassionate relationships.
- They will exercise the gifts with which God has blessed each one.

Wednesday—pray for teachers and staff, that:

- God will strengthen them to be powerful witnesses of Jesus to students and parents.
- They will have wisdom and compassion as they teach, encourage and discipline.
- They will model the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- God will protect them from discouragement and bless them in their lives: spiritually, physically, emotionally.
- That a spirit of unity flourishes among them.

Thursday—Pray for parents at MLS, that:

- Parents and grandparents will know Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- That they are Christ-like role models in their children's lives.
- That they take an active role in their children's lives and education.
- That they support and encourage the MLS teachers and staff.
- That they insure their children are part of regular worship.
- That they would be granted wisdom, patience, strength and love as they parent.

Friday—Pray for the MLS School Board, Administration and Pastor, that:

- Each one gathers strength and wisdom from their own personal time with the Lord.
- They provide wise oversight and direction to provide the Bible-centered education God desires, always remaining faithful in doctrine, scripture and LCMS guidelines.
- That all relationships are Christ-like.
- That they are blessed and guided in all decisions.

Saturday—Pray for the Parent-Teacher Organization and school volunteers:

- All would graciously serve the school, students and administration in support of the ministry of MLS.
- All would communicate openly, encouraging and edifying one another.
- **o** God would lead, inspire and bless all PTO and volunteer activities and plans.



"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

The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



August Bírthdays

		Date
Honda	Barbara	7
Hauenstein	Meribeth	8
Fant	Greg	10
Springer Sr.	Bradley	10
Brennan	Jeannie	11
Cave	Pastor Andrew	11
Echtenkamp	Wade	11
Helton	Krista	13
Ryan	Vince	15
Eisenbraun	John	16
Bartels	Arlyn	20
Aguilera	Athena	24
Carabotta	Robert II	26
Ryan	Cheryl	27
Kell	Pamela	28
Cave	Matthias	29
Gunderson	Eric	29
Spicka	Chuck	31

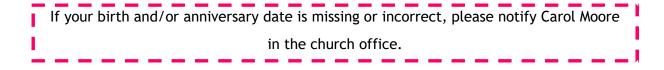


August Anníversaríes

		Date	# of	years
Wolf	Nick & Codie	:	5	50
Cave	Rev. Andrew & Emily		8	7
Perry	Andy & Sonya	1	0	37
Ryan	Vince & Cheryl	1	4	24
Lorenz	Doug & Alma	2	4	54
Duever	Doug & Pat	2	8	57
Turk	Richard & Olga	2	8	34

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in August.

May God continue to bless you.





In thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, our group will be collecting 80 pair of adult socks to donate to the homeless in the community.

Donations will begin August 14th and run until LWML Sunday on October 2nd. Look for the container in the Narthex to put your donations in



80 days of prayer for a missionary





August Activities

The LWML will be meeting for Bible study and fellowship.

Bring a sack lunch and join us as we dive into the Bible study. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Monday, August 8th "Lonely for Others".

We will be meeting at the home of Alma Lorenz for the August meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacki McCurley at 575-202-5955.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

May 17, 2022

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attending were Brad Springer, Brad Mueller, Jacki McCurley, Carol Moore, Pastor Cave, Eric Gunderson and Shirley Miller.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the April 19th council meeting were approved.

President (Brad Springer):

The Voter's Assembly meeting on June 5th will be held at 11:30 am. The main agenda item is to approve the church budget.

<u>Pastor's Report:</u> Pastor Cave's report is attached. We will know by the end of the month how much money we will be receiving from the LCEF grant to upgrade the video equipment in the sanctuary. He will meet with the group who wrote the grant proposal when they get that amount from LCEF.

<u>Treasurer's Report (Brad Mueller)</u>: The treasurer's report and a draft budget are attached. Brad Springer moved that we accept the proposed budget. It was seconded by Eric Gunderson. The motion carried to accept the budget. The only correction was to make sure that the titles of boards and committees are corrected on the final budget to present at the voters assembly.

<u>Financial Secretary (Carol Moore)</u>: Nothing to report. Carol Moore mentioned that two new families will be coming in from Alamogordo and El Paso.

<u>Elder's Report (Eric Gunderson):</u> Report is attached. Care groups are being revised. The elders approved Pastor Cave's vacation from July 25th through July 31st.

<u>Trustees (Doug Lorenz)</u>: Doug was not in attendance but submitted a report the next day. The report is attached and details all the work that the trustees have completed in Luther Hall and in the church.

<u>School Board (Shirley Miller)</u>: Darci Grothman continues giving tours for those interested in the school. Preschool will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays next year. The Afghan boys are enjoying preschool. The last day of school is June 10th and will begin again on August 3rd.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for July 19th at 6 pm.

Pastor Cave led us in closing prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 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.

		WISSION L	-uı	heran Churc	ch and 5	CNOOI	
<u>Repor</u>	t Prepara	tion Date: J	Ju	<u>y 1, 2022</u>			
Budge	et Status:	Month o	f J	une 2022		<u>FY Thru J</u>	une 2022
		Budget		<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Inco	<u>me</u> :						
MLC Ge	neral	\$19,600.00		\$17,768.35		\$254,800.00	\$253,916.7
MLS Tot	al	\$170.00		\$4,254.64		\$215,550.00	\$189,435.9
Designat	ted / Other	\$196.67		\$155.00		\$2,360.00	\$11,404.7
		\$19,966.67		\$22,177.99		\$472,710.00	\$454,757.3
Exper	nses:						
MLC Tot	al	\$13,975.17		\$12,615.10		\$182,936.30	\$186,605.00
MLS Tot	al	\$24,919.97		\$21,669.61		\$339,035.60	\$288,305.6
		\$38,895.14		\$34,284.71		\$521,971.90	\$481,630.8
Net Diffe	rence	-\$18,928.47		-\$12,106.72		-\$49,261.90	-\$26,873.4
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MLC G		1			022 (In	<u>ru June 30, 2</u>	<u>2022)</u>
	Average We	ekly Contribut	tior	ns Needed:		\$4,900.00	
	Average We	ekly Contribut	tior	ns Received:		\$4,883.01	
	General Fu	nd Contributior	าร `	Year-to-Date:		\$253,916.71	
	General Fu	nds Budgeted	Ye	ar-to-Date:		\$254,800.00	
		us/Shortfall Ye				-\$883.29	
Assets	s / Liabiliti	es					
<u>Fund</u>	Assets:		E*trade Endowment (as of June 30, 2			\$101,340.82	
			Strasser Endowment (as of Mar 31, 2		ar 31, 22)	\$80,293.89	
			of S	Sep 30, 2021)		\$405,478.00	
		TOTAL				\$587,112.71	
<u>Curre</u>	nt Assets:	Checking (as	; of	June 30, 2022)	\$64,496.17	
		LCEF Saving	ıs (as of June 30,	2022)	\$146,790.08	
		(minus		School Funds	,	\$23,012.30	
		designated	Youth Activity Fu			\$3,765.57	
		funds)	1	Staffeldt Schola	arship	\$11,000.00	
			L	COVID Grant		\$39,966.07	
		Total	LC	EF Savings Av	ailable	\$69,046.14	
<u>Liabi</u>	lities:	None					
C a i a i a i a	o into-						
<u>Comm</u>	ients:				7% of nee		



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Elder on Call: Eric Gunderson (575) 382-8236

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

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