

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Very soon, we will be celebrating Holy Trinity Sunday. The Easter Season lasts for seven Sundays and then concludes with the Festival of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the Upper Room and the New Testament Church was born. The first Sunday after Pentecost is Holy Trinity Sunday, and it marks the beginning of what is sometimes called the “Season of the Church” on the calendar of the Church Year. Indeed, even though the three-year lectionary, which we use, labels these Sundays as *Sundays of Pentecost*, the older, one-year lectionary labels these Sundays as the *Sundays after Trinity*.

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### Important Dates:

- June 3-5: LWML District Convention in Albuquerque
- June 5: Voters' Assembly
- June 9: Closing Chapel
- June 9-10: LCMS District Convention in Denver
- June 10: Last day of school for K through 5th grade
- June 13: LWML Bible study in Luther Hall
- June 19: Father's Day



Holy Trinity Sunday is unique among the feasts, festivals, and commemorations. Whereas other special days in the Church Year celebrate either a particular person or particular event, Holy Trinity celebrates a teaching, a doctrine. What we celebrate is that God has revealed through His Word that He is One God who exists in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is not three Gods; He is One God. Yet the Three Persons are not different modes or faces or phases of this One God; the Three Persons are distinct without being mingled or confused. This is a great mystery that we cannot understand with our own limited human minds. We simply confess this mystery, saying what the Scriptures have revealed.

This year, Holy Trinity Sunday coincides with the day of commemorating *The Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, AD 325*. This was one of the most important of the church councils in history. It was called by Emperor Constantine who had legalized Christianity in 313 A.D. He called the council because there was a massive debate going on inside Christianity. And the debate was this: was Jesus Christ of one essence with the Father, or was He the first among created beings? The main teacher of the latter position was a man named Arius, who had won many believers over to his heretical teaching.

The council debated this question furiously. One of the strongest defenders of the orthodox belief, that Jesus Christ is of one essence with the Father, was a young deacon named Athanasius. Athanasius not only was a strong voice in the Council of Nicaea, but also went on to be one of the greatest teachers in the church and is recognized as one of the early church fathers.

When the Council of Nicaea determined that the witness of Scripture stated that Jesus and the Father are One, that the Persons of the Trinity are of one substance, they formulated a Creed stating their beliefs. This Creed was finalized in the Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D. and is known today as the Nicene Creed that we and all Christendom still say today as a confession of our faith.

Sometime later, the Athanasian Creed, which we say on Holy Trinity Sunday, was formulated. It was not written by Athanasius but is named after him because it is based on his teachings of the Holy Trinity. This is a long Creed, longer than we would want to say every Sunday morning! And it's not nearly as easy to commit to memory as the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. But along with the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, the Athanasian Creed is considered an ecumenical statement of the Christian faith, a confession that one must believe in order to be saved.

So, while Holy Trinity Sunday is unique in that it is celebrating a teaching and not a person or event, there were many notable people and events in the history of forming this clear confession of the God whom we worship. Let us celebrate that God granted these faithful people to know and confess the truth of who He is so that we also can know and confess Him as our Lord. Amen.

*Pastor Andrew Cave*





# Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

## *God's House of Prayer at Mission*

We continue to look at ourselves as part of “God’s house of prayer” here at Mission Lutheran Church and School. You may recall from last month’s newsletter article that our mission statement for the prayer ministry, or “God’s house of prayer,” is ***“Built on Christ, we join together as God’s house of prayer for all nations.”*** [Ephesians 2:17-22 and Isaiah 56:7-8] We pray for each of you to join in prayer. As I consider what to share with you this month, I thought it would surround the joyous time of the ascension of our Lord. Yet I am “side-tracked” by the tragedy in Uvalde, TX, and the smoke that leaves a yellowy haze over our beautiful mountains. Do you notice, as I sometimes do, when the Lord is urging me to bring what is on my heart to Him?

I suspect we all have been called to pray over the heartbreaking loss of life and the destruction of property by the fires that have ripped through New Mexico and other states. When we are struck by events such as these, we often don’t know how to pray, but we pray. A spiritual mentor from my past once shared his “go-to” prayer when he didn’t know how or even what to pray. He called it his 8-word prayer, “Oh, God, oh God, oh God, oh God.” Although I’m not sure how he came up with 8 words, when I always think when it comes to numbers it should be a more Biblical number like 3 or 7 or 12 or maybe 144? Yet I think 72 “Oh, God’s” are not sufficient.

But we do know what, or rather Who is sufficient and to know His heart and pray accordingly, we turn to His Word. I’m simply going to share some scriptures to pray for those who have lost loved ones, the little ones and older ones who have witnessed things too horrific for us to imagine, those who face danger as they fight fires and those who are facing any kind of loss because of the fires.

**Matthew 5:1-3** Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

**Psalms 73:26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

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**II Corinthians 4:18** As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

**Revelation 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

**Psalm 147:3** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

**Joshua 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

**Matthew 5:4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

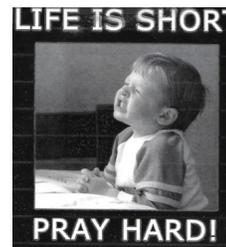
**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**Isaiah 41:10** Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Alma Lorenz

*“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

### What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything - everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds - the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills - is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone - and the work of the Holy Spirit - that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are - in both body and soul - are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to - with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.



# Birthdays of the Month

## June Birthdays

		Date
<b>Staffeldt</b>	Deborah	<b>1</b>
<b>Graff</b>	Victoria	<b>3</b>
<b>Miller</b>	Shirley	<b>7</b>
<b>White</b>	Jan	<b>12</b>
<b>Carabotta</b>	Eva	<b>19</b>
<b>Scaling</b>	Bev	<b>22</b>
<b>Siffring</b>	Connie	<b>26</b>
<b>Willett</b>	Roberta	<b>28</b>
<b>Carrera-Little</b>	Amy	<b>30</b>

*Happy Anniversary*

## June Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
<b>Turquette</b>	<b>James &amp; Phyllis</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Poppy</b>	<b>Mark &amp; Holly</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>McCurley</b>	<b>Dan &amp; Jacki</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Quinlan</b>	<b>Pat &amp; Jean</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Siffring</b>	<b>Al &amp; Connie</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>66</b>

*Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in June.*

*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

April 19, 2022

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, Pastor Perry, Eric Gunderson, Shirley Miller, Doug Lorenz and Sonya Perry.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the March 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting were approved.

### President (Brad Springer):

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

The by-law amendments were approved by the District in January.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cave's report is attached. A grant was submitted yesterday for new cameras for streaming. The deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup> so he hopes to hear from LCEF after that time. He will be out of town for a few days the first week of May.

Pastor Perry said that May 8<sup>th</sup> will be confirmation Sunday. May 14<sup>th</sup> is Jerry Del Bozque's wedding and the 15<sup>th</sup> of May will be Pastor Perry's last official day to serve as Pastor. He is willing to help as needed while he is still in Las Cruces.

Vice-President (Wade Echtenkamp): He is continuing to look into the request for Active Shooter training.

Treasurer's Report (Brad Mueller): His report and a draft budget are attached. Brad presented a housing allowance resolution that he is asking to be set by the board. This resolution is for IRS tax purposes only. The amounts can be changed at any time throughout the year. Shirley Miller moved and Eric Gunderson seconded that we accept the resolution. Motion passed.

Brad then presented the proposed budget. He asked that we all look over the budget carefully so that it can be approved by council next month. Once the budget is approved next month it will be sent out to the Voter's Assembly with the agenda and last meetings minutes. A special thank you to Brad for getting the budget together.

Financial Secretary (Carol Moore): Nothing to report. She will be out of the office from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Elder's Report (Eric Gunderson): Report is attached. The Elders have been working on their part of the budget and will be finalized in May. The care groups are being reorganized. Signup sheets for bread breaker groups will be going out soon.

Trustees (Doug Lorenz): The boy scouts completed their project. He is having the roof inspected as it is still under warranty. The blinds in the music room have been replaced.

Outreach (Sonya Perry): A lot of bibles went out of the bible box before Easter.

School Board (Shirley Miller): The school board approved their budget. Thank you to the Trustees for replacing the blinds. Registration is now open and they are looking for ideas on advertising.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Pastor Perry led us in closing prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

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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



## WINGS (Women IN God's Service) Summer Happenings

The LWML will be meeting throughout the summer for Bible study and fellowship. We will begin at 12:00 pm in Luther Hall.

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

Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>      **"Ecclesiastes: Comforting Words When Dealing with Tough Stuff."**

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>      **"Living in the Days of Noah – Today".**

Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>      **"Lonely for Others".**

(School will be in session in August, but we can set up a table outside the church, in the shade, for lunch and Bible study.)

All ladies are invited to join us.

# TREASURER REPORT – MAY 2022 COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING

## Mission Lutheran Church and School

**Report Preparation Date: May 1, 2022**

<b><u>Budget Status:</u></b>	<b><u>Month of April 2022</u></b>		<b><u>FY Thru April 2022</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	\$19,600.00	\$24,531.00	\$210,700.00	\$215,633.65
MLS Total	\$17,975.00	\$12,541.12	\$195,405.00	\$165,423.32
Designated / Other	\$196.67	\$0.00	\$1,966.66	\$8,472.48
	<b>\$37,771.67</b>	<b>\$37,072.12</b>	<b>\$408,071.66</b>	<b>\$389,529.45</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
MLC Total	\$17,671.61	\$14,064.95	\$153,800.93	\$186,605.00
MLS Total	\$34,599.12	\$22,096.06	\$287,448.12	\$241,098.93
	<b>\$52,270.73</b>	<b>\$36,161.01</b>	<b>\$441,249.05</b>	<b>\$405,831.22</b>
Net Difference	-\$14,499.06	\$911.11	-\$33,177.39	-\$16,301.77

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2021 (Thru Apr. 30, 2022)**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,900.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$5,021.02
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$215,903.65
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$210,700.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	<b>\$5,203.65</b>

### **Assets / Liabilities**

<b><u>Fund Assets:</u></b>	E*trade Endow (as of Apr 30, 22)	\$105,640.11
	Strasser (as of Mar 31, 2022)	\$80,293.89
	Thrivent (as of Sep 30, 2021)	\$405,478.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$591,412.00</b>

<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>	Checking (as of Apr 30, 2022)	<b>\$27,046.76</b>
	LCEF Savings (as of Apr 30, 2022)	\$146,774.00
	(minus designated funds)	
	{	
	School Funds	\$14,927.16
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,765.57
	Staffeldt Scholarship	\$11,000.00
	Other	
	<b>Total LCEF Savings Available</b>	<b>\$117,081.27</b>

**Liabilities:** None

### **Comments:**

1. Revenues lower due to low MLC general contributions and MLS enrollment being 65.16% of needed tuition receipts.



The LWML Rocky Mountain District Convention will be held in Albuquerque on June 3-5, and the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Convention will be held in Denver on June 9-10.

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

*Elder on Call: Ken Martin (575) 650-3304*

## 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