

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

I love seasons. I love the changing of the seasons and the rhythm of life. The changing of the seasons is a way to orient oneself as to where you are and what kinds of things you should be doing. Just a few months ago, we were all looking forward to the beginning of summer and the plans we had made. Summer is often the time for special trips, either for vacation or perhaps a big sporting event. Summer here is a time to see the monsoon rains (sometimes in amounts that have surprised me!) and to see the Rio Grande flow once again.

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Important Dates:

- September 6: Labor Day Holiday
- September 7: Choir practice begins
- September 7: Youth confirmation classes begin
- September 11: Patriot Day
- September 12: LWML Bible study
- September 17: LWML Fall Rally
- September 25: Joint Circuit Pastors' Meeting



Now summer is winding to a close. The school year has begun. Confirmation classes are starting up. As we move into fall, things can often settle into a familiar routine. The weather begins to cool down, and leaves change color. In many cases, it's harvest time.

Fall then transitions to winter. Nature settles into a period of rest, though often we are quite busy because of the holidays. The daylight hours are shorter, and the air is colder.

But as spring approaches, the days gradually grow longer again and the temperatures rise. Trees begin to bud, and a bit of color returns to the landscape. We push through the end of the school year with renewed vigor because the end is in sight! And we look forward to making those grand plans for the upcoming summer.

The seasons of the Church Year also help to orient us and settle us into a familiar pattern and rhythm of life. Right now, we are in the middle of the green season, or the "ordinary time." This is the time to focus on spiritual growth and discipleship. But as I am writing this, there are sample materials for the upcoming Advent season, the time where we prepare for our coming Lord. Christmas marks the celebration of our Lord's birth. Epiphany is a time to celebrate our Lord's revealing of Himself to the world. Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Easter is the great celebration of our Lord's victory of sin, death, and the devil. And Pentecost marks the beginning of the New Testament Church. And just like the four natural seasons, once we get through all the seasons of the Church Year, we do it all again!

I think about these sorts of things when I read passages such as the passage from Ecclesiastes quoted above. Ecclesiastes is a unique and interesting book in the Bible. Along with Job, Proverbs, and The Song of Songs, it's classified as wisdom literature. The wisdom books in the Scriptures are some of the most relatable. Even though they are ancient, they describe the human condition and relate to common human experiences. The book of Job wrestles with the question of suffering, Proverbs gives wisdom of how to live before God and before others, and The Song of Songs describes the beauty of marriage. The contribution of Ecclesiastes is that it wrestles with the question of meaning in this life.

In Ecclesiastes, King Solomon calls himself the "Preacher," (or "Teacher," depending on the translation), and he laments that what he has seen in this world is simply "vanity." He laments all the things that he has seen "under the sun." He has seen injustice, the righteous being oppressed and the unrighteous going unpunished. He has seen people work and toil all their lives without ever being able to enjoy what they gained. He has seen people gain wealth just to lose it all in one bad business venture. From this earthly perspective, things just keep going as they have always gone. There is no end; there is no goal. He struggles to find meaning.

But in the end, Solomon knows that there is meaning, that not everything is vanity. In the last verses of Ecclesiastes, he says, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Ultimately, all things seem to be "vanity" when one only has an "under the sun" perspective. But when one knows that the Lord is God, that He is sovereign, and that He will make all things right in the end, that gives a person an "above the sun" perspective. With this perspective, not everything is vanity.

In our own "under the sun" perspective, seasons change but everything remains the same. Whether we're talking about the natural seasons or the seasons of the Church Year, it's all very predictable. It's all very familiar. And if this is all we see, if this is all we think about, then we might be tempted to slip into thinking that this is all there is. We don't see what God is doing. We don't see where God is leading us.

But we have the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. He has come, not to make all new things, but to make all things new. And though for now "while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22), there will come a day very soon when Jesus will return. All flesh shall see Him as He come to judge the living and the dead. And those who have believed in Him shall enter into eternal life in the new heavens and the new earth, which has no end. And when we cling to this truth by faith, we can joyfully live in whatever season we find ourselves in. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave



Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

Perhaps you've noticed how frequently you see the above verse quoted in prayer ministry materials, from the prayer ministry newsletter articles to other materials that have been distributed. It seems like a tall order when you really think about it, doesn't it? *Always* rejoice? *Don't cease* to pray? Give thanks in *everything*? Really? Who can do that???

Of course, we can quickly conclude that *only* our Lord Jesus can obtain those lofty behaviors, but *we* are not able to satisfy any of those three things! Yet we are told this is "God's will in Christ Jesus" for each of us! It's tempting to say we simply *can't* and look for an easier scripture to contemplate...but certainly there is also a hidden gem here for us in our prayer lives!

As Christ's own, we come to Him in prayer knowing Him as our refuge and strength. We may not always be happy about the circumstances we see around us! Yet, with the help of the Spirit at work through our gift of faith, we can focus on the rich blessings He showers on us from our salvation to His love and care for us—even numbering the hairs on our heads. By relying on Him through faith, we can rejoice. Sometimes we may not be able to rejoice immediately, but rather as we look back.

How is it possible to pray without ceasing? Before we get discouraged, thinking this means to pray every moment of every day, we realize that Paul didn't pray every moment, nor Peter. Even Jesus didn't pray all of the time! They all prayed—often! With the help of the Holy Spirit, we pray often, standing ready to pray about each situation we encounter with a quick prayer and to pray at more length each day. When we pray, we take hold of God's promises to us, knowing He is *for* us and did not spare His only son on our account! (Roman's :31-32) This comforting knowledge, in turn, brings joy. As we form the habit of praying without ceasing (often!) lifelong, we cement the knowledge of our need for our Lord in every situation. It's been said that prayer is the language of trusting the Lord. We soon begin to know that God is working everything for our good in His perfect will.

These three behaviors build upon one another. Like rejoicing and placing our situations in God's hands in prayer, being thankful is a trust that grows from faith! As we trust our Lord to work in our situations and in those for whom we pray, thanks springs forth. But we don't always feel thankful, do we? Even the Lord Jesus asked the Father to "take this cup" from Him before He aligned His will once more with the will of the Father. As we over and over see the faithfulness of the Lord, thanks in everything is something we glimpse.

Our knowledge of how deeply we are loved by our Heavenly Father gives us reason to rejoice, a deep desire to be in touch through prayer often and a faith that allows us to be thankful without knowing the outcome. His love, in fact is *so* deep that His will for us is to *rejoice* always; *pray without ceasing* and *give thanks in everything*. Thanks be to God!



Stewardship

What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards - His managers and custodians - of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Dear Pastor Cave and members of Mission Lutheran congregation,

From the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, the generosity of congregations across the country has been overwhelming. You saw our Ukrainian neighbors fleeing their homeland, children and belongings in tow, and you welcomed them with quilts and kits. You saw refugees separated from loved ones, in strange new countries, and you provided them with emergency supplies and support to rebuild their lives after destruction. Thank you for your compassion, prayers and incredible generosity.

I have three important resources to share with you:

Our [latest situation report](#) provides details about how your love is reaching our neighbors in Ukraine.

Our [SPECIAL EDITION congregational newsletter](#) shares updates, stories and our deep gratitude. Please use [our photos](#) in your congregation's publications, during worship or on your church's social media pages and beyond to show your congregation how their love is making a difference in Ukraine.

We've created a [free Bible study](#) for you to use this summer or fall with your congregation. *Seeing our Neighbors* is a three-week study based on Matthew 25:31-46. Using Scripture, images, the practice of Visio Divina and prayer, invite your congregation to see how God is calling God's people to reach out in love to neighbors across the street and across the globe.

Thank you for being a church that extends God's love when and where it's needed most. Please reach out to me at any time with questions about your congregation's partnership with Lutheran World Relief.

In gratitude,

Jon Diefenthaler, Church-Relations Advisor, (410) 852-2870

PS: Abundant thanks for your gifts of \$2,840 in total for our Ukraine relief effort. I will keep you updated on what LWR is doing in Ukraine and elsewhere in today's world.

Note: If anyone is interested in any of the resources listed above, please contact Carol Moore in the church office. The link to read the "Special Edition congregational newsletter is <https://lwr.org/static/gliaspr22lcms/>





Birthdays of the Month

September Birthdays

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

Happy Anniversary

September Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Reyes	Fred & Karen	17	13
Echtenkamp	Wade & Debra	21	43
Skelton	Irv & Marcele	21	54

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.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

September Happenings in the LWML:

- Come join us on Monday, September 12th, at 6:30 pm in Luther Hall for Bible study and fellowship. The Bible study this month is entitled “A Lot of Tough Love.” Dessert and coffee will be served.
- Quilters begin meeting at 9:30 am on Wednesday, September 7, in the multi-purpose room of Luther Hall.
- Don’t forget about the sock donation through the month of September until October 2nd. We are trying to get 80 socks to match the 80 years of LWML. The bin is located in the narthex. Socks will be donated to the homeless community.
- Mark your calendars for the:

LWML-Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally

Saturday, September 17, 2022

9:30 am -2:30 pm

Mission Lutheran Church

2752 N. Roadrunner Pkwy

Las Cruces, NM



Join us for:

Bible Study
Singing
Food
Fellowship

>> InGathering for Wee Care Project (bundles put together for the hospitals in Las Cruces to new mothers who don’t have anything to take their babies home in). Items needed are: Newborn diapers, Onesies (0-3 month size) and receiving blankets.

Cash donations to purchase supplies are also appreciated.



Meeting every Wednesday from
6:30 - 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.
Rehearsals begin on September 7th.

Any questions, contact Jacki McCurley
575-202-5955



MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH Voters' Assembly June 5, 2022

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. There were 33 of 57 members in attendance.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

Debra Echtenkamp moved and Ruth Jakcsy seconded, that the minutes of the April Voters' Assembly be approved. The motion passed.

Jerry Stickles moved that we accept Charlotte Muchow, Karen Springer, and Gabriella Gucci Goodrich as voting members. Debra Echtenkamp seconded. It was moved and passed. (Note: It was later learned that Gabriella is ineligible to be a voting member since she isn't yet a member of Mission Lutheran Church).

Brad Mueller distributed copies of the proposed budget along with budget highlights to voting members. Jerry Stickles moved that we accept the proposed budget. Debra Echtenkamp seconded. Written proxy votes from Carol Moore, Shirley Miller, Betty Coughlin, Alma Lorenz and Doug Lorenz were accepted. The signed forms are attached to the minutes. After a little discussion, the motion was called. It was moved to accept the approved budget.

Reports

Pastor: Pastor Cave's report is attached. He gave special thanks for the Easter Vigil and potluck. This was a great way to integrate school and church together. At the Synod convention, the Rio Grande and Pecos will combine for one pastoral delegate and one lay delegate. They will be meeting in September in Minneapolis, MN. If you are interested in participating, talk to Pastor. The LCEF grant that was submitted for \$4500 ended up being \$2400 since they decided to give money to all submissions. Special thanks to Darci Grothman, Shilo Smith, Doug Lorenz and Dan McCurley for their work on this grant. Jerry Stickles moved to use money from the budget to cover the difference of the grant and money requested (\$2100). Bobby Jakcsy seconded. Motion passed.

Elders: Eric Gunderson said the elders approved their part of the budget. Jerry Stickles will be stepping down as Elder. The elders want to thank him for all his years of service.

School Board: This is our last week of school. Chapel will be at 2 pm on Thursday and a fun day on Friday. Currently there are 38 students registered for next year.

The next meeting will be around September.

Carol Cooper said that the Sunday school is thinking about expanding. There are currently about 5-8 students each Sunday of various ages. Please pray about the need for more children and members that would be willing to serve as teachers.

Pastor Cave led us in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacki McCurley, Secretary

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting
July 19, 2022

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

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the May 17th council meeting were approved.

President (Brad Springer):

We need to have a quarterly Voter's Meeting sometime in August or September. After discussion, a date was set for August 28th at 11:30 am in Luther Hall.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cave's report is attached. He has four members in the adult catechism class. Youth confirmation classes will begin in September. On September 25th there is a joint circuit meeting to vote on the pastoral and lay delegates for the convention. On July 31st and August 1st, the school is having orientation. They are asking the church to help in providing meals for these events. A motion was made by Eric Gunderson to approve \$500 for the meals. Carol Moore seconded. Motion passed. The intention is to have church members help with serving the meal and welcoming the families to our church. Pastor will send out information to the congregation on what it would entail to be the lay delegate. If interested in being a delegate the voters would need to approve at voters assembly. He will also send out an email with information on the school orientation. He will be on vacation from July 25th to July 31st.

Vice President Report (Wade Echtenkamp): Wade is still working on getting training for active threat response. It would be about 1-1 ½ hour training and a session for about 20-25 people. He will contact LCPD again and try to schedule a Sunday afternoon training.

Treasurer's Report (Brad Mueller): The treasurer's report is attached.

Financial Secretary (Carol Moore): Nothing to report.

Elder's Report (Eric Gunderson): The elders are working on policies for marriages, funerals, baptisms and other general building use. He would like to thank all who included him and Fran in their prayers during his illness.

Trustees (Doug Lorenz): The report is attached.

Outreach (Sonya Perry): This Sunday Pastor Perry will be preaching and will focus on prayer and Pro Life. She is asking if we could look at doing the baby bottles for Turning Point at this time. It was recommended that we wait until at least September since we are currently collecting for Vision 2023. They have lost a member from their committee who moved away.

School Board (Shirley Miller): Report is attached with one correction on orientation being July 31st and August 1st. They have 37 students enrolled for next year. They would like to put a sign up with Luther's crest and add Mission Lutheran School to make it more visible where the school is located. Location and measurements will need to be made. Look for future emails in regards to this item.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 6 pm.

Pastor Cave led us in closing prayer.

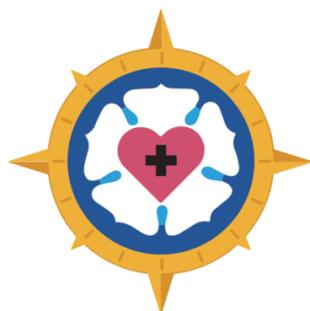
It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

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



INTERNATIONAL Lutheran Council

World Conference of Lutheran Church Leaders

Over seventy presidents, bishops, and other leaders from worldwide confessional Lutheran churches will meet in Kisumu, Kenya for the triennial INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL WORLD CONFERENCE, September 13-16. Please pray for safe travel and a blessed conference.

For more information about the World Conference and about the International Lutheran Council visit www.ILCouncil.org.

TREASURER REPORT – AUGUST 2022 COUNCIL/VOTERS MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: August 1, 2022

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of July 2022</u>		<u>FY23 Thru July 2022</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income:				
MLC General	\$25,000	\$18,897	\$25,000	\$18,897
MLS Total	\$10,100	\$29,433	\$10,100	\$29,433
Designated / Other	\$280	\$498	\$280	\$498
	\$35,380	\$48,828	\$35,380	\$48,828
Expenses:				
MLC Total	\$17,254	\$16,864	\$17,254	\$16,864
MLS Total	\$24,990	\$22,893	\$24,990	\$22,893
	\$42,244	\$39,757	\$42,244	\$39,757
Net Difference	-\$6,864	\$9,071	-\$6,864	\$9,071

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY23 (Thru July 31, 2022)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,000
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$3,779
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$18,897
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$25,000
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$6,103

Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	E*trade Endowment (as of Jul 31, '22)	\$105,392
	Strasser Endowment (as of Jun 30, '22)	\$80,294
	Thrivent (as of Sep 30, 2021)	\$385,841
	TOTAL	\$571,528

<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking (as of July 31, 2022)	\$52,018
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	LCEF Savings (as of July 31, 2022)	\$146,864
	(minus designated funds)	
	School Funds	\$312
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,766
	Staffeldt Scholarship	\$6,450
	COVID Grant	\$44,063
	Temp Holding	\$1,650
	Total LCEF Savings Available	\$90,624

<u>Liabilities:</u>	None
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Comments:

1. Revenues lower due to MLS enrollment being 69% of needed tuition receipts.



Mission Lutheran Church and School

2752 N. Roadrunner Parkway

Las Cruces, NM 88011-8081

Church Office: (575) 522-0465

School: (575) 532-5489

Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net

secretary@missionlutheran.net

office@mlschool.net

Elder on Call: Jim Bonse (575) 526-8675

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