

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will You have us prepare for You to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, He reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, He said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray Him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:17-30)

Continued on next page →

In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry
- Stewardship
- Time, Talents and Treasure
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- JULIETs and WINGS/LWML
- Treasurer's Report
- Tea Party
- Sunday School
- MLS Events

Important Dates:

April 25: Rummage Sale



The above text from Matthew's Gospel was our appointed Gospel reading for Holy Thursday. This is part of the Passion narrative, and it describes the institution of the Lord's Supper. There's far more in this text than could be unpacked in one sermon (or one newsletter article!), but we can take a moment to unpack a bit of the significance of Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper in the context of a Passover meal.

Now, before we dive too far into this, it must be said that there has been much written lately on the Jewish Seder practices at that time, with certain doctrinal implications being deduced from which cup Jesus might have used when He declared, "This is My blood of the covenant." But truth be told, the earliest sources we have for the Jewish Seder meal were written a couple hundred years after Jesus' earthly ministry. Since we don't have sources contemporary with the timeframe of the Gospels, and the Gospel accounts themselves don't give the details of how they observed this meal, it would behoove us to stick with what Scripture itself tells us about the Passover.

When the Lord commissioned Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, He told him, "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is My firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let My son go that he may serve Me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'" (Exodus 4:22-23). And that's exactly what happened. Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the people go. And thus, the Lord threatened a final plague, the death of the firstborn, both of man and of animals. Whatever first opened the womb would die.

The Lord made a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites, and that distinction was something tangible. The Lord told Moses that they were to consider the month they were in to be for them the first month of the year from then on. On the tenth day of the month, every household was to take a lamb. On the fourteenth day of the month, they were to kill their lambs at twilight. They were to roast the lamb and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. They were to continue eating unleavened bread for seven days. And the people were to take the blood of that lamb and mark the lintels and doorposts of their houses. And at midnight, when the Lord struck down the firstborn of Egypt, He did not allow the destroyer to enter any house that was marked with the blood. And so it was called the Passover, for the Lord passed over every house that was marked by the blood of the Lamb.

The Passover was to be kept by all Israelites year by year in remembrance of what the Lord had done. Jesus likewise kept the Passover during His earthly life, from His childhood through to the night in which He was betrayed. But on that night, Jesus kept the Passover with His disciples. This was highly unusual because the Passover was instituted as a *family* meal. But now Jesus is holding this with His disciples. Earlier in His ministry, when someone told Jesus that His mother and brothers were waiting outside, Jesus stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:49b-50). So Jesus is holding the Passover as a family meal, but it is a family meal as *He* defines it.

And so now Jesus, as *the* firstborn Son, hosts this meal with His disciples, whom He calls His brothers. He does not smear lamb's blood on the door, because He is the very Lamb of God whose blood rescues from death and hell. He keeps this meal on the night in which He is betrayed, and the destroyer will not touch His disciples save for the one (Judas Iscariot) who has rejected the promises given by the blood of the Lamb.

And Jesus takes that unleavened bread, no longer a symbol of eating in haste to leave Egypt, but now more than a symbol. It is the very body of the One in whom we have our perfect rest. And He takes the cup, gives thanks, and says, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27b-28). This is not the blood smeared on doorposts, but the blood that is drunk by those who believe in Him. The Lord had promised long ago that there would be a new covenant, a covenant written on the hearts of God's people, a covenant in which the Lord delivers the forgiveness of sins (see Jeremiah 31:31-34). Thus, Jesus fulfills the old covenant even as He announces that the new covenant is here.

In the old covenant, the firstborn of those who rejected the Lord died while the firstborn of those who were marked by the blood of the lamb were spared. In the new covenant, the true firstborn Son dies so that all who believe in Him will be marked by the blood of the Lamb and will therefore never truly die.

And since Jesus died, this new covenant is signed, sealed, and cannot be changed. The same word that can be translated as “covenant” in Greek can also be translated as “testament,” depending on the context. The most significant difference is that a *testament*, as in someone’s *last will and testament*, cannot be changed once the person who made it has died (see Hebrews 9:11-22). Thus, because Christ has died, the new covenant is indeed His unchangeable testament to us. (This is why, in the Words of Institution spoken in the Divine Service, it is most common to use the word “testament” rather than “covenant.”)

There is much more that can be said and has been said about the significance of Jesus choosing the Passover as the context in which He instituted His Holy Supper for us. But in this brief overview, we can see that Jesus chose the Passover in order to show that He has fulfilled Old Testament, He has redefined family to be those who believe in Him, He is our promised rest, and He is the One who has ushered in the New Testament, which will endure until the end of this age. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave





**Mission Lutheran
Church and School
Prayer Ministry**

April 2026



Alleluia! He is Risen! When we stop and focus on what actually happened on the first Easter, it is difficult to *adequately* celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior, isn't it? We've been through an entire Lenten season of praying for rightness with our Lord with our own humble prayers as we consider our own sinfulness alongside the disciples who turned away from Jesus. But we don't stay in the sorrow of Good Friday--*Jesus wiped our slates clean!* Now in relief, joy and celebration, we hold tightly the deep love of Easter—which is beyond our comprehension--in our hearts. It's a love to grasp, understand and share. So let us begin and end this month as we began and ended last month, being still before the Lord, exalting Him and casting every care on Him.

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

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?”—*John 11:25-26*

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. —
Matthew 28:5-6

He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise—*Luke 24:6-7*

Continued on next page →

Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.

You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!
For your dew is a dew of light,
and the earth will give birth to the dead.—*Isaiah 26:19*

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*

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^l from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.—*Romans 8:11*

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.—*Romans 6:4*

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*

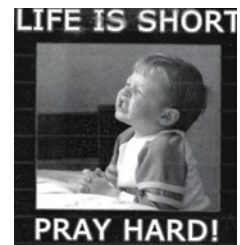
And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.—*Acts 4:33*

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

LCMS Stewardship

A Better Way

Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: 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 only to young children. We would love to be able to offer classes to older children. Ideally, we would have someone to coordinate this effort with a team of people to lead classes so that each person would lead once or twice each month rather than every Sunday.

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.



Birthdays of the Month

April/May Birthdays

Marcele	Skelton	April	8
Bob	Jakcsy	April	9
Dustin	Villarreal	April	9
Emily	Cave	April	12
Tracy	Sanchez	April	17
Jacki	McCurley	April	18
Frank	Brennan	April	20
Paul	Duerksen	April	24
Ordella	Uhde	April	28
Peyton	Craine	April	29
Debra	Echtenkamp	April	30
Michael	Kaiser	May	3
Asher	Graff	May	4

*Happy
Anniversary*

April Anniversaries

	date	# of Years
Bob & Ruth Jakcsy	April 27	58

Happy Anniversary to all those couples married in 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!

Lescombes

1720 Avenida de Mesilla

on

April 16th 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, May 11, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

Treasurer's Report Finance year 2026, March

Report Preparation Date: Apr 1, 2026

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of Mar '26</u>	<u>Month of Mar '26</u>	<u>FY26 thru Mar '26</u>	<u>FY26 thru Mar '26</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Church Income:	32,280.06	44,300.00	477,365.12	345,750.00
Church Expense:	<u>15,715.26</u>	<u>19,573.35</u>	<u>164,386.73</u>	<u>180,714.85</u>
Church Net In- come:	<u>16,564.80</u> ✓	<u>24,726.65</u> ✓	<u>312,978.39</u> ✓	<u>165,035.15</u> ✓
Church Net In- come:	16,564.80 ✓	24,726.65 ✓	312,978.39 ✓	165,035.15 ✓
School Income:	26,159.38	36,585.84	273,209.95	285,470.06
School Expense:	<u>42,724.18</u>	<u>45,695.59</u>	<u>429,161.18</u>	<u>434,496.54</u>
Thrivent Funds Effect:	<u>0.00</u> ✓	<u>15,616.90</u> ✓	<u>157,027.16</u> ✓	<u>16,008.67</u> ✓

Investments & Assets / Liabilities

D-Designated R-Restricted

<u>Investments:</u>	Mission Lutheran Church Fund	(Morgan Stanley / E-Trade)	D	134,220.83
	Mission Lutheran Endowment Fund	(Strasser/American Century)	R	94,842.37
	Duever School Endowment Fund	(Thrivent)	R	0.00
	Mission Lutheran School Investment Fund	(Thrivent)	D	198,664.94
	MLC Youth Development CD	(LCEF)	D	13,989.25
	All Access Savings - Rainy Day	(LCEF)	D	<u>201,090.53</u>
	TOTAL			642,807.92 ✓

Continued on next page →

Current Assets:

BMO Checking

\$572,010.25

	Youth Activity Fund	3,765.57	D
	Youth Engagement Fund	12,500.00	D
	MLS Reg/Tuition Holding	3,103.20	D
	Angel Scholarship Program	5,890.73	D
minus	COVID Grant	7,547.70	R
Dedicated	Apple Tree Donations	356.77	D
Funds	Emergency Tuition Assist.	5,850.00	D
	School Security Grant	8,100.05	R
	Liquidated Thrivent Funds	97,431.09	D
	Coats for Kids	0.00	D
	Staffeldt Scholarship Fund	9,377.00	D
	Temporary Holding	424,968.55	D
	Trustee Projects Fund	9,024.23	D

Total Checking Available After Dedicated Funds

-15,904.64

✓



*Mother-Daughter
Tea*

*May 2nd from 1-3 pm
in Luther Hall*

Program: Anyone for Tea?

Signup to reserve your spot.

Signup sheet will be in the Narthex on April 12th.

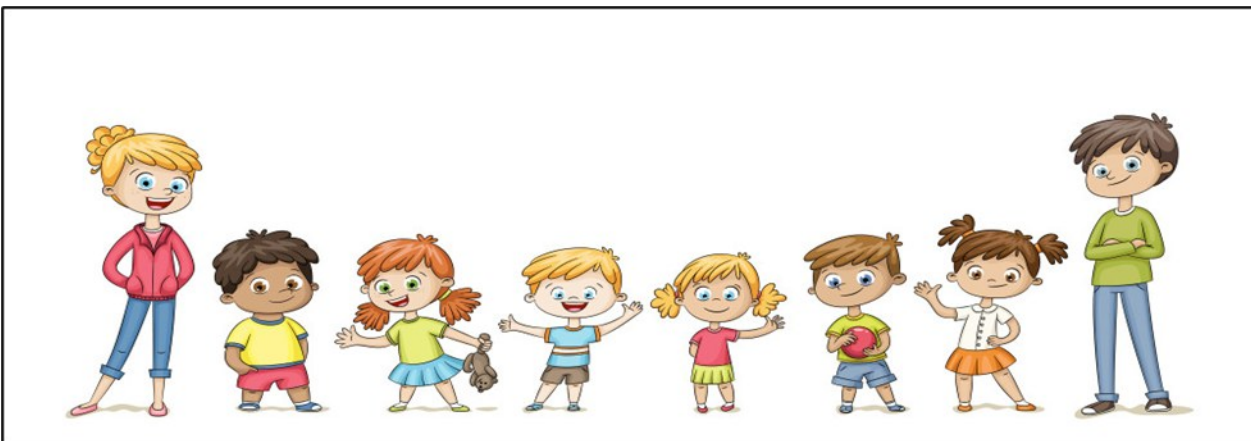


SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 12 - "The Land at Last - Joshua" Amie Springer

April 19 - "A Judge Leads - Gideon" - Jace Melton

April 26 - "A Prophet Serves - Samuel" - Susie Melton





Pictures from
National
Lutheran
Schools' Week





Upcoming Events

April 25 - Rummage Sale

May 1 - Pizza Day

May 4-8 - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7 - PTO meeting @ 6pm

May 8 - Fruit of the Spirit Awards during Chapel





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: Richard Turk (575) 621-3497

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