

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

The Pastor's Pen article will not appear again until God leads a new shepherd to serve our congregation. Stay tuned!

In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry
- "Hide It"
- Stewardship
- "The Gift of Light"
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- Council Meeting minutes
- Treasurer's report

Important Dates:

March 3: Midweek Lent service
March 8: LWML Bible study
March 10: Midweek Lent service
March 14: Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 17: Midweek Lent service
March 17: St. Patrick's Day
March 24: Midweek Lent service
March 28: Palm Sunday





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

March 2021

Covering all we do in prayer!

Among the things that have been modified over the past year at Mission is the prayer ministry. No longer do we pray in person on Thursday mornings and Saturdays, but we pray together on Zoom. We no longer meet in the Sanctuary before services to pray with our pastor, elders and acolyte. Likewise, we don't have prayer teams to pray after services with those in need of prayer. We look forward to adding activities back as it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, we continue to pray—and perhaps we now find even more time to spend with our Lord in prayer!

You may recall that the prayer ministry has three main areas to target with prayer to ensure that all we do at Mission is covered in prayer. Over the next three months, we will share pandemic-modified prayer targets for each of these areas and we invite you and all congregation members to pray over these areas regularly.

Let's anticipate together what our Lord does at Mission as we seek Him together!

This month will be Worship and Support. In April, we will cover Christian Education and Missions and Fellowship in May.

Worship and Support

IN GENERAL, *may we all*

- Unite in worship and sharing our Lord's Supper regularly.
- Search the Scriptures for God's will and receive the spirit of wisdom.
- Maintain a deep desire to spend regular time in prayer.
- Be ever thankful for those serving the Lord in so many different ways, using their God-given gifts.
- Know God as our provider of more than we can ever ask or imagine and trust that He will provide all the help we need.
- Glorify God in all we do and say and in every attitude we hold.

For our pastors, as they equip our boards and ministries at Mission to edify the body of Christ, that

- Their hearts would be drawn to the place of prayer as a daily priority.
- They boldly proclaim God's unchanging Word, through speech, action and attitude.

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- They are strengthened and protected as they lead according to God's Word and perfect will.
- God would be glorified through them.

GREETERS, *pray for the greeters that*

- God will call as many as needed to serve as greeters and that we can safely resume greeting before services.
- Greeters and congregation members will welcome each worshipper with joy that only comes from knowing and trusting in the Lord.
- Visitors are acknowledged and warmly welcomed so that each feels a sense of belonging.

USHERS, *pray for the ushers that*

- God would call as many as are needed to serve as ushers for our Divine Services.
- Each usher will joyfully and prayerfully welcome each worshipper and oversee the needs of those leading the service as well as the worshippers as if serving the Lord.

CHOIR, *pray for the choir that*

- God will call many to make music with their voices and instruments to praise God and worship Him in spirit and truth; that they sing at home until we can soon safely resume singing.
- The Holy Spirit would speak to our hearts as the Word is shared through music.

ALTAR GUILD, *pray for the Altar Guild that*

- God would call as many as needed to serve in this capacity.
- Those serving will prepare and care for the Sacraments lovingly, prayerfully and joyfully, being ever aware of the blessing of serving the Lord.

ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS, *pray for the acolytes and crucifers that*

- Many young boys and girls answer God's call to serve Him and that they can again serve safely soon.
- By serving, each heart would be captured to serve Him lifelong.

BOARD OF ELDERS, *pray for the Board of Elders that*

- They would seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom in every decision and direction they take, that the Lord would grant them as special helping of wisdom as they determine timing for gradually returning to previous activities safely.
- Each elder would care for each member of his "care group" as with the love of Christ.
- They would oversee the pastoral offices and divine services following God's Word and LCMS guidelines.
- More men would be called to serve.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP, *pray for the Board of Stewardship that*

- The Board would see God's wisdom and direction in all they do, praying for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- All members of the congregation are generous in sharing time, talent and treasure.
- Every member of the congregation recognize the talents that God has given them and be willing to share those talents for the purpose of furthering the work of the Lord.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES, pray for the Board of Trustees that

- The Board will prayerfully look to the Lord's wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they lead the congregation in the loving care of our church property, mindful of their service to the Lord.
- Many would be called to joyfully serve alongside the trustees.
- The Lord protects and keeps each worker safe.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM, pray for the Board of Evangelism that

- The Lord's guidance and inspiration will direct their efforts and protect them from discouragement.
- They would oversee the welcoming of guests and potential members, as if welcoming the Lord to our services and that visitations would be resumed when it is safe to do so.
- God's wisdom, the love of Christ and the fire of the Holy Spirit will guide them as they lead the congregation to seek the lost, that they might know the Lord and be saved.
- God will call as many as are needed to participate in this work.

PRAYER MINISTRY, pray for the Prayer Ministry that

- Prayer, supported by God's Word, would be the cornerstone of all we do.
- We consistently seek God's will in opening individual and joint prayer opportunities.
- All at Mission hunger for time with our Lord in prayer, privately and in communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- All are drawn to spend time in prayer for our community, state, nation and the world.
- All are drawn to pray for those who have lost their way or who have yet to find our Lord.
- The Holy Spirit provides protection and guides our prayers.
- That we thankfully look for our Lord's answers to our prayers, being confident that He always hears and always answers according to His perfect will.
- *All* would joyfully engage as God's house of prayer at Mission.
- The Lord calls many to serve as intercessors for Divine Services, when that activity can be safely resumed.

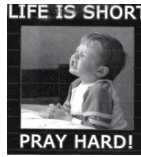
COUNCIL, pray for the Church Council that

- Being mindful that our church and school are God's creations, the Council will represent Christ's body by earnestly and prayerfully seeking the Lord's guidance in every decision they make and every direction they take.
- They would lead according to God's unfailing, unchanging Word.
- Their interactions would reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- All council members eagerly serve the Lord and contribute to the work of the church council.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY, pray for the Voters' Assembly that

- The Lords' guidance be sought in every decision, according to God's Word, with prayer.
- All interactions will be led by the Holy Spirit, bearing the fruit of His presence.
- Every member of the congregation will participate, recognizing that each of us has a role to play in making decisions for the welfare of our church and school
- Each voter will come prepared to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider any decisions that need to be made.

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***“Rejoice always;
pray without ceasing;
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



"Hide It?"

From Lutheran Hour Ministries

2 Corinthians 3:12-13; 4:1-3, 6 - Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's Word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ... For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

It's a weird little story Paul is talking about. When Moses brought the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai, the people at the foot of the mountain were surprised to see that his face shone with the glory of God. It scared them. But Moses made them come close to hear God's message, and after that, he put a veil over his face. So the only time they got to see Moses' face clearly was when he was giving them God's message. The rest of the time his face was covered up.

It's not entirely clear, but it looks like Moses did this so that the people wouldn't be able to see the glory fading away. Maybe he thought that they would have problems with their faith if they saw the glory wearing off and Moses' ordinary human face returning to normal. And so Moses took steps to hide that. They only got to see his face at its most glorious, when he had just been in the presence of God.

Some Christians do something similar even today, don't they, don't we? We are all familiar with people who show only their best side on Sunday at church—the smiles, the proper language, the carefully censored conversation that makes it sound like they've got their Christian lives completely under control. No sin for them, oh no! No angry outbursts, no ongoing temptations, no doubts, no worries, no family problems. Just a victorious Christian life, day after day after fake day.

Because that's what it is, isn't it? It doesn't matter how many veils we throw over our lives to hide our fading glory. We still sin. We are broken. We need help. We still need Jesus, our Savior, every single day of our lives.

And so God invites us to live, not like Moses, but like Paul—as people who are willing to let our flaws and weaknesses show, because we trust that Jesus has redeemed us with his life, death, and resurrection. We also know that He has given us His Holy Spirit, who is slowly but surely transforming us into Jesus' glorious likeness. And so we don't need to hide or be ashamed of the work God is doing in our lives. As Paul says, "We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18a).

THE PRAYER: Dearest Jesus, help me to relax in Your love, knowing that You are working even when my flaws and weakness show the most. Amen.

The gift of light

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you” (Is. 60:1–2).

Light. It was the very first thing that the Creator spoke into existence. We marvel at the way He created it. But today, it is important that we contemplate just what a simple, yet profound gift light is for us.

Did you know that without light, there would be no life on this planet? That is significant! The light that shines on our planet interacts with the green plants all around the globe and the result is the production of oxygen. No oxygen, no breath. No breath means no life. Like all things in our beloved creation, it all ties together.

Light is also a key gift that our Lord gives us in our spiritual life too! Without the light that is Jesus we too would, as Paul says in Ephesians 2, be dead in our trespasses and sins. Sin is darkness and death. Jesus is the light of life.

In Jesus, this light has shown upon us. Our sin is exposed. Our death is deserved. But as the light of life pierces the darkness in which we lay, one very *simple*, yet truly profound *gift* is given. His glory rises upon us! His love shines upon us and we are given what we don’t deserve—life!

This light doesn’t stop with us either. How we use this gift of light for the sake of our neighbor also reveals God’s glory!

As we consider this simple gift of light, may the Holy Spirit use that light to show just how good our Lord has been to us and how He is calling us to respond. This is all part of the

wonderful task of stewardship for which we have been made and redeemed. As His light shines on us, we are created to reflect it to those around us in what we say, what we do and how we give! Simple gifts ... yet profound results!

Prayer

Gracious Lord, as Your light has arisen upon us in the light of the world that is Jesus, so let Your light shine in and through us today and every day. Grant us the grace to identify and use the simple gifts You call us to share in the light of Your grace today and throughout this year. Amen.



Stewardship

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources





Birthdays of the Month

March Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Hagen	Jill	1
Guericke	Roger	5
Monica	Josephine (Jo Jo)	5
Bachmeier	Bev	7
Quinlan	Jean	7
Lujan	Becky	11
Franz	Peter	16
Smith	Shilo	18
Provencio	Ross	20
Aguilera	Oscar	21
Carabotta	Rev. Robert	27
Wolf	Nick	27
Mueller	Ralph (Brad)	28

Happy Anniversary March Anniversaries

		<u>Date</u>	<u># of Years</u>
Smits	Robert & Tiziana	11	28
Ryberg	Jan & Jacky	15	41
Persing	Peter & Jan Peyton	17	35
Weber	Glenn & Susan	22	51

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

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.

The Board of Christian Service and Missions Announces –

Annual “Baby Bottle” Campaign supporting Turning Point of Las Cruces

March 7 – March 21

Turning Point of Las Cruces, a pregnancy help center, came into being ten years ago and over the past year (2020) has served over 296 families.

“Who Are You Serving?”

Services provided are all free of charge to clients and include: pregnancy testing, first trimester ultrasounds, options education, post abortion recovery, peer counseling, education incentive programs, community resources and STI testing.

Client education level includes: 39% (Some College); 26% (High School); 20% (Graduated College); 14% (Graduate School); 8% (Less than High School); 2% (Trade School).

Client age variance: 33% (20-24); 24% (25-29); 15% (35+); 14% (15-19); 9% (30-34); 2% (under 15)

Client income level: 35% (\$0-\$14k); 24% (Unemployed); 15% (\$15-\$29k); 15% (Dependent); 9% (\$30-\$44k); 2% (Welfare)

“Responsible Stewardship”

Where the funds go: 6% Fund Raising; 6% Ultrasounds; 19% Pregnancy; 11% Community Awareness; 33% Client Education; 15% Administration

Donating: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, baby bottles are no longer distributed by the center. Instead there is a designated place for donations located in the church narthex. If you choose to write a check, please make the check payable to **TURNING POINT!**

For additional information about Turning Point, please follow the links below.

This 2 minute link introduces the “Baby Bottle” Campaign.

<https://turningpointlcbabybottle.wordpress.com/>

This 5 minute link walks you through the Turning Point Center with brief stories of clients.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kEDm1o_wgg

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
January 19, 2021

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Attending were Brad Springer, John Guenther, Carol Moore, Pastor Cramm, Reverend Perry, Alma Lorenz, Doug Lorenz, Jerry Stickles, Roberta Willett, Mark Krohn, Megan Wood, Shirley Miller and guests Richard Turk and Mary Martin.

Pastor Cramm led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the November 17th meeting were approved with the following correction: The Call Committee meeting was on Tuesday, November 24 not October 24.

President: President Brad Springer presented to council a Convention Referendum asking for the Synod to add a year to the current 2019-2022 triennium allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022 and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023? Carol Moore moved and Shirley Miller seconded that our congregation vote Yes to the referendum. The motion passed.

Brad presented the convention nomination papers from the district to select our voting lay and alternate delegate for the convention. Pastor Cramm was going to call the district to check if we need to submit these before February 15th since the district is also asking to delay the convention this year. He will let Brad know what we need to do from there.

Brad presented the district pledge request. John said that he currently sends \$1000 each month to the district. It was moved by Shirley Miller and seconded by Carol Moore to increase the amount to \$1200. Motion passed.

Carol and John have the credit card set up for a ZOOM account. After discussion, it was recommended that we set up one account using the church email and the officers will have the password/username information. Brad and Carol will set it up and Carol will create a ZOOM calendar for the congregation to set up meetings requiring ZOOM.

The call committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 26th to go over final papers to submit.

Pastor's Report: After suspending the shut-in calls, Pastor will be back on track for visitations. Pastor Cramm discussed the Lenten and Easter services. There will be an Ash Wednesday service and Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. There will be a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening service. Easter will have a Sunrise Service at 6:45 am and then a 10:30 am church service. The church services are now being broadcast through YouTube.

Mark Krohn will check with Laura Baumgartner and Peter Martin about setting up and maintaining the church website. This item will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

Elder's Report: Lead elder this year is Jerry Stickles. They are discussing the possibility of Bible study in the Sanctuary between services and singing. All depending on the vaccine and COVID 19 protocols for the state. Council will review COVID protocols for NM at the next meeting.

Treasurer Report: John Guenther's report is attached. John said we are doing very well this year. December was down because of paying off the mortgage.

School Board: Shirley Miller is the Chairman for this year. They are discussing registration for next year, scholarship applications, and possible candidates for administration. Megan Wood will still be the lead for administrative search. PTO is working on a ZOOM event in lieu of the typical Open House. Plans are to open in person in the fall.

Fellowship: Nothing to report.

Financial Secretary: Nothing new to report.

Trustees: Half of Luther Hall work is complete. They will pay the remaining amount in 1 ½ weeks when the job is completed.

Evangelism: They are planning to meet next week.

Prayer Ministry: Alma Lorenz reported that everything is continuing as it was since the Pandemic. The Thursday AM and Saturday AM prayer meetings are still occurring.

Christian Education: Nothing new to report.

Christian Service: Mark Krohn's report is attached. Brad Springer moved and Jacki McCurley seconded to begin stocking the food pantry. Motion passed. They want to make a name change for Pastor's Pantry. The logistics of the food pantry and a new name will be presented to the council next month.

Stewardship: Alma Lorenz said that they welcomed the addition of the Bible verse in the blue bulletin and the articles in the newsletter.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for February 16th at 6:00 pm.

Reverend Perry led us in closing prayer.

Carol Moore moved and it was seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacki McCurley, Secretary



**MEETING
MINUTES**

TREASURER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: February 23, 2021

Budget Status: **Month of Jan. 2021** **FY Through Jan. 31, 2021**

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$24,000.00	\$23,888.00	\$148,800.00	\$152,129.00
MLS Total	\$18,375.00	\$10,338.49	\$145,450.00	\$86,399.38
Designated / Other	\$266.67	\$24.72	\$1,666.67	\$2,898.45
	\$42,641.67	\$34,251.21	\$295,916.67	\$241,426.83
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$18,237.19	\$6,949.08	\$116,234.13	\$89,144.30
MLS Total	\$28,893.72	\$14,624.23	\$164,725.75	\$129,290.45
	\$47,130.91	\$21,573.31	\$280,959.88	\$218,434.75
Net Difference	-\$4,489.24	\$12,677.90	\$14,956.79	\$22,992.08

***Note:** Actual figures also include income and expenses not originally budgeted for the fiscal year.

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2021 (Through February 21, 2021)

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,800.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,923.76
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$167,408.00
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$163,200.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	\$4,208.00

Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	Endowment (as of Feb. 22, 2021)	\$113,728.41
	Strasser (as of Dec 31, 2020)	\$66,569.29
	Thrivent (as of Dec 31, 2020)	\$392,273.07

<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking (as of Feb. 23, 2021)	\$65,906.18
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LCEF Savings (as of Feb. 23, 2021)	\$116,538.13						
(minus designated funds)	<table> <tr> <td>School Funds</td> <td>12274.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth Activity Funds</td> <td>\$3,565.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bible Stix/MLS PTO</td> <td>\$587.37</td> </tr> </table>	School Funds	12274.81	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,565.57	Bible Stix/MLS PTO	\$587.37
School Funds	12274.81						
Youth Activity Funds	\$3,565.57						
Bible Stix/MLS PTO	\$587.37						

Total LCEF Savings Available \$100,110.38

<u>Liabilities:</u>	None	\$0.00
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Comments:

1. The COVID-19 induced lower revenues balanced against corresponding lower expenses for the church and school are leaving a stable financial status to this point in the fiscal year.



Palm Sunday is March 28th.

Mission Lutheran Church and School

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School: (575) 532-5489

Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net

secretary@missionlutheran.net

office@mlschool.net

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

Elder on call: Jerry Stickles (575) 640-8436

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2021

President	Brad Springer	Trustees	Don Hallem
Vice President	TBD	Christian Education	Roberta Willett
Treasurer	John Guenther	Evangelism	Sonya Perry
Secretary	Jacki McCurley	Christian Service & Missions	Mark Krohn
Financial Secretary	Carol Moore	Stewardship	Alma Lorenz
Elders, Chairman	Jerry Stickles	Day School Education	Shirley Miller
Elders, Vice-chairman	TBD	Fellowship	Amie Springer