

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

### "Happy All Saints' Day!"

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation... And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:1-2, 39-40).*

The time of harvest fast approaches, and the leaves of the trees dry and wither and fall to the ground, nearing the end of the Church Year. Within this time winding to a close comes the Day of All Saints or All Saints' Day. Strangely, within the fellowship of the Church, one almost never hears or sees any celebration, festive gatherings or sounds that would be so loud or noticeable that even the unbelieving would hear it, or desire to celebrate it, as happens with Christmas and Easter, and even with Epiphany as in some countries they celebrate Epiphany as loudly and openly (or more openly) as they do with Christmas and Easter.<sup>1</sup> I say "strangely" because All Saints' Day is a high feast of the Church Year, almost as high a feast as those other feasts mentioned.

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- Prayer Ministry news
- School News
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- Voters' Assembly minutes
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## Important Dates:

October 5: Prayer Retreat  
October 6: LWML Sunday  
October 9–11: MLS Fall break  
October 9–11: Breckenridge Conference  
October 12: Oktoberfest!  
October 19: LWML Fall Rally  
October 19: MLS Fall Gala fundraiser  
October 31: All Saints' Eve



Yet just as Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ Jesus on the same mountain height and ground where Jesus was standing, and Peter, James and John were sitting (or lying down waking from sleep) on the same mountain height and ground where the Lord Jesus was standing transfigured with His divine glory (Matthew 17:1-8), so the festive celebration of the testimony and memory and lives of all the saints in Christ who are now in glory is to be almost as high a celebration of God's workings as Christmas, Epiphany and Easter are. But how is it that no one outside of the fellowship of the Church ever hears about or notices the celebrations of All Saints' Day from believers, to the point that they would desire to get in on the fun as well?

The celebration of Christmas and Easter are so central to the identity of the Church's mindset that we have an evening before those holidays<sup>2</sup> designated in anticipation of celebrating them, namely, Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil. In fact, by the looks of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, one who is watching Christians in action might say that Christians think of Christmas Eve as being just as important a celebration as is Christmas Day! And in Mexico and some other countries, their preparations for Epiphany is extensive and joyful! It's so great that the celebrating of Christmas Eve is tantamount to the celebration of Christmas Day, the one unstoppably leads into the other!

So, seeing that All Saints' Day is nearly as high a feast as these others are, and seeing that it is designed to identify the Christians' faith in Jesus Christ, why don't we have a celebrative, joyful, exuberant evening of preparation set just before All Saints' Day to usher in the celebration of All Saints' Day, an evening of preparatory celebration similar to the celebration of All Saints' Day? And seeing that All Saints' Day is almost as high a feast as Christmas and Epiphany are---and we know the dates of Christmas and Epiphany---then what is the date of All Saints' Day? Well, All Saints' Day is November 1<sup>st</sup>. So, why not have the evening before it to be designated for celebrating the testimony of the saints who have gone before us who trusted in Christ Jesus so devoutly, clearly and bravely? It would be called All Saints' Eve or the Eve of All Saints. Exactly, and that is precisely what October 31<sup>st</sup>, the evening before All Saints' Day, is called, only currently it is still being said in very, very Old English words of "All Hallowed Evening." I say that, just as the King James Version stood as the Standardized Version of the Bible in the English-speaking world through the late-middle twentieth century, even though it is written in old King James style language, until a committee came up with the idea to put it into modern English (and a marvelous job they did!) called the New King James Version, so it is long overdue time that we update the name of October 31<sup>st</sup> into words that would be clearer to the minds of modern English-speakers: All Saints' Eve. This would recalibrate us and so many others to what an awesome time of year this is and worthy of a couple of days of celebration of it!<sup>3</sup>

What kinds of traditions, readings, songs, dinners and gatherings would be excellent for the celebration of All Saints' Eve/All Saints' Day for you and your family and Christian friends and fellow church members? I will leave it up to the Holy Spirit to place His encouraging suggestions for such evening and morning and day celebrations of All Saints Day, but here are some readings from the Word of the Lord that are good for All Saints' Eve and All Saints' Day: Hebrews 11; Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:1-13; Luke 9:27-36; Luke 19:1-10; John 2:1-5:30; most of the book of Acts; Galatians 2:20-21; Ephesians 1-2; Ephesians 5-6;

Continued on next page ➡

Philippians 3-4; Colossians 3-4; 1 Peter 1:1-5:11; all of 1 John; Revelation 12; Revelation 19-22.

The hymns of *Lutheran Service Book*, hymns 644 through 680, especially “For All the Saints,” give a very good supply of songs to sing or hear on All Saints’ Eve and All Saints’ Day! God bless His people in Christ Jesus with His peace and joy!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Robert Carabotta

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<sup>1</sup>The Christians’ celebration of the Feast of Pentecost should be as noticeable to people outside of the Church as are their celebrations of Christmas, Epiphany and Easter (Acts 2), but that is the subject of another devotional writing.

<sup>2</sup>Holiday meaning “holy day.”

<sup>3</sup>It’s interesting that at the time of Charles Dickens, the celebration of Christmas was almost unheard of! Can you imagine such a thing? With the writing of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, which became an instant best-seller, giving very clear testimony in it that Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ (read the original Dickens’ classic and you will see it there), the celebration of Christmas because of the birth of Jesus Christ and charitable giving skyrocketed in Great Britain and the English-speaking nations, and that continues unto today! (See the 2017 released movie, *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.)



# For All the Saints



# Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

*“Built on Christ, we join together as God’s house of prayer for all nations.”*

A letter to my family at Mission Lutheran Church and School:

Dear family member,

As we just passed the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conception of the prayer ministry, I am feeling reflective and I have many questions bouncing around in my head. How can we continue to grow as God’s house of prayer at Mission? Wow. Let me count the ways! There is much potential! What is it that God wants from us? Of course, I think the guiding principal is to see that ***all we do is covered in prayer***. But then I ask, “By whom?”

Of course, each of us is given the gift—the joy—of being able spend time with our Lord in prayer. So we pray! Sometimes it may be a reflective time of study of God’s Word and prayer and other times it’s little hurried snippets of prayer throughout the day to stay in touch with Him. All are times we treasure and He treasures.

So I’m just going to ask you a question that’s on my heart. Do you consider yourself to be a part of God’s house of prayer here at Mission? Of course we all pray together during worship services and by that we each are part of His house of prayer. Many are also praying in other ways, and Shirley and I are very grateful for that.

Since I’m already asking bold questions, let me just ask you this: If you are not yet a part of the prayer ministry, will you seriously consider praying with us?

Let’s set aside those things that hold us back long enough to consider what it means to be a more established part of the prayer ministry. (Some things that hold us back are not feeling qualified, being too busy to even consider it, being afraid we will be asked to pray aloud, thinking it’s a big commitment...)

At the very heart of the prayer ministry (and the most important part) are intercessors for various groups. The title intercessor may sound a bit off-putting, but it’s really simple. It’s something each of us can do. We are hopefully already talking to God everyday anyway, right? Of the 1,440 minutes we are gifted with each day, being an intercessor takes as little as one or two of those minutes! Intercessors are provided with prayer targets to guide their prayers and they are free to also pray as the Spirit leads. The only effort involved is the discipline to set aside a minute or two each day to pray in the privacy of your own home or wherever else you may be! Covering all we do at Mission in prayer is a very big deal, yet simple when we each pray a little! Imagine having each one of us praying for our church and its activities! ***Will you become an intercessor?***

Of course there are many other opportunities to pray and we invite to join any activity that interests you. (Please note that attending a group prayer time does not mean you need to pray aloud—simply silently praying in agreement is fine!) If you are free around 10am on Monday mornings, we gather to pray in the church nursery.

Consider dragging yourself out of bed just once on Thursday mornings to join us for the Praise and Prayer Hour at 6:30am. I know, I hear your cries of protest! Just give it a try! You may be as blessed as the 8-10 regular attendees are and be compelled to come back every week! Of course we also hold special prayer events during the year, such as prayer breakfasts, prayer vigils, retreats, etc. Please watch for those and join us!

We see God's answers to our prayers so often—even if we miss them at first—and thank Him for His faithfulness to each of us! Contact me or Shirley Miller with questions.

May the Lord bless each of you as you spend time with Him in prayer!

*Alma Lorenz*

Alma Lorenz

Prayer Ministry Co-Coordinator

P.S. I thought you might be interested in the scriptures that guided the founding of the prayer ministry as God's house of prayer:

*"And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." -Ephesians 2:17-22*

*"these I will bring to my holy mountain,*

*and make them joyful in my house of prayer;*

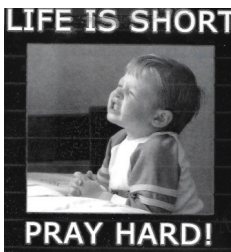
*their burnt offerings and their sacrifices*

*will be accepted on my altar;*

*for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*

*The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,*

*I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."*—Isaiah 56:7-8



## Stewardship

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words:

“We are all beggars. This is true.”

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironical, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable - the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything - forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and - yes - even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace - the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion - that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources







## October Birthdays

Eisenbraun	Joanie	3
Poppy	Mark	4
Fant	Beth	5
Guenther	John V.	9
Waters	Yvonne	9
Smits	Robert	10
Peyton	Jan	18
Buls	Karen	20
Aguilera	Jeannette	23
Duever	Doug	23
Lee	Winnie	24
Ryberg	Jacalyn	24
Eggebraaten	Asher Elliot	28
Staffeldt	Scott	30

*Happy Anniversary*

## October Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Johnson	JR & Karen	8	59
Carrera-Little	Jerry & Amy	15	31

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

*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.



## WINGS—Women IN God's Service

### What does our LWML do?

- ◇ We collect mites, which help fund huge mission projects at the national level; mites are collected at every monthly gathering and on Super Bowl Sunday. Anyone can add to our mites collection at any time. A mite box is kept on the table in the narthex. Small mite boxes are available to take home. See Carol Moore if you would like one. (See Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4 for the history of "mites.")
- ◇ We make quilts to donate to those who are ill, in the hospital, in hospice care, or homeless. We sell enough quilts to make the project self-funding.
- ◇ We donate wee care bundles to Memorial Hospital's maternity ward for women in need.
- ◇ We provide coffee and goodies on Sunday mornings.
- ◇ We organize fellowship events (Spring tea, Advent by Candlelight, cookie walk, ...) for the women in our church and school and include the women of Faith as well as school moms.
- ◇ We organize the annual epiphany party for all the adults in our congregation (and Faith's).
- ◇ We participate in LWML Sunday every October, including decorating the pews with quilts.
- ◇ We sell greeting cards.
- ◇ We raise money through pie sales to help send representatives to district and national conventions.
- ◇ We provide memorial meals for funerals and memorial services.
- ◇ We host the Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally and the Spring Workshop every 4<sup>th</sup> year (rotating with Trinity in Alamogordo, and Zion and Ascension in El Paso).
- ◇ We raise funds to support a seminarian every year.

All women who are members of an LCMS church are automatically members of the LWML. We encourage all women in our congregation to join us as we explore new ways to make our get-togethers a time of joyful fellowship as well as service to our Lord.

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**JULIETS:** The Juliet's are Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together. We meet once a month for fellowship and prayer. Join us at Amador Patio Bar & Grill on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 am. If you plan to attend, please contact either Jacki McCurley at 526-9182 or Ruth Jakcsy at 522-8637.





## WINGS (Women IN God's Service) October Happenings:

Join us on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Luther Hall for a Bible study, food and fellowship. The Bible study is entitled "Loving and Respecting Authority."

On Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, we are having a bake sale. Bring in baked items to sell or bring in your money to buy baked goods. The sale will be in Luther Hall at 9:00 am. All proceeds go to support our Seminary student.

Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to set aside all of those seasonal preparations and focus our hearts and minds again on Jesus. It is a beautiful evening filled with Scripture readings, narration, prayer, optional skits, songs of praise and Christian fellowship.

Hostess Opportunities: Do you enjoy decorating? Volunteer to be a table hostess and we will reserve a table for you! Many ladies partner with one or two others to host a table. Hostesses provide table settings, holiday decorations, candles and a dessert for a table of 6 to 8 ladies. It is lots of fun, and requires only a few hours of your time for planning, baking and decorating. If you want to host a table this year or need more information before committing, please contact Jacki McCurley by November 1<sup>st</sup> at (575) 202-5955.

Also, **don't forget** all the churches in the Rio Grande Zone will hold their LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. We will car-pool from Mission's church parking lot at 8:00 AM. Please let Carol Moore know if you plan to attend. She can be reached at (575) 521-9797 or (575) 312-6369 or via email at [cjmoore2562@gmail.com](mailto:cjmoore2562@gmail.com). This is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with ladies from Alamogordo and El Paso (and perhaps some from Deming and Silver City as well!).

# Oktoberfest!

The second annual Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, in Luther Hall, from noon to 3:00 PM. All members of Mission Lutheran Church and all School families, as well as members of Faith Lutheran, are invited to this fun fellowship time. There will be wonderful German-style food: brats, hot dogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad, big soft pretzels, yummy desserts and root beer (plus some “near beer” for those who want something more authentic but not alcoholic!). For entertainment there will be “oompah music” on the boom box as well as our one and only Joanie Eisenbraun at the rinky-tink piano, a cake-walk (musical chairs) , chicken dance, a best costume contest with a prize for the best costume, guessing jars filled with pretzels and/or Gummi Bears, and a coloring table for children. There will also be a free-will collection jar to help support our adopted seminarian.

Since there are only three members of the Fellowship Board, we can really use some volunteers to take on various tasks such as: set up Friday at 5:00 PM, clean-up Saturday afternoon, baking cakes for the cake walk (10 are needed), overseeing the children’s coloring table, preparing the soft pretzels (3 ladies in the kitchen at about 10 AM Saturday for an easy and fun job!), and 2 people to oversee the cake walk/musical chairs.

A bulletin board will be in the Narthex for two weeks prior to the event with a sign-up sheet for volunteers and another sign-up sheet so we will know how many people to plan for.

If you have questions, please talk to Kay Swedberg. She can be reached at (575) 522-1966.

Mark your calendars! And bring your cameras!



**MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Voters' Assembly**  
**June 2, 2019**

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Pastor Carabotta opened the meeting with devotion and prayer based on Ephesians Chapter 4.

There were 39 of 56 voting members present.

The minutes of the February 17, 2019, meeting were accepted as mailed out.

Carol Moore moved, and Shirley Miller seconded, that Karen Buls, Roberta and Tom Willett, and Codie Wolf be accepted as new voting members of the assembly. The motion passed.

Pastor Carabotta led us in prayer for Bev Gerdes who was admitted to the Emergency Room this morning.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Carabotta's report is attached.

Thanks to the Fants for lunch. Also, thanks to Shilo Smith, Jill Smith, and Kay Swedberg for stepping in to set-up for lunch today.

Treasurer's Report: John Guenther's report and proposed budget is attached. John noted that MLC and MLS have conserved on expenses to make-up for revenue shortfalls. The shortfall is due to the members who left our congregation this past year. He does anticipate a small shortfall at the end of the current fiscal year, June 2019.

In constructing the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020, John forecasts a small deficit, less than \$5,000. He tried to be as realistic as possible. Offerings are budgeted at \$4,800 per week. We are currently experiencing approximately \$4,600 weekly. A one-time expense for property maintenance, replacing the kitchen grease trap, is included at \$10,000, though no one knows what it will cost. The monies for the Strategic Planning consultant are included in the budget, and though Pastor Borchert has met with us already, these monies will be expensed in the next fiscal year.

John moved, and Karen Johnson seconded, that the proposed budget be approved. The motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Elders' Report: Ben Wood reported that as part of Strategic Planning, the Elders met with Pastor Borchert on May 20. The Board is about half-way through Pastoral evaluations with action items to be addressed. The Elders continue to meet with their care groups.

Day School Report: Megan Wood's report is attached. Ben Wood walked the Voters through the report in Megan's absence. \$10,000 in Angel Scholarships were given to 14 students. Pastor noted that the baptisms mentioned in his report are school families.

Registration is currently well behind where we were this time last year. Please advise any member of the Board of anyone you know who might be interested.

Christian Education: Nothing to report.

Trustees' Report: Doug Lorenz' report is attached.

Doug addressed a desire to increase the handicap parking in the curb lane in front of the church to five slots. MLS has a student pick-up procedure in place that allows families to use these slots when picking up their children. At times, drivers with disability hangers have had to leave their cars in the parking lot and walk to find their children, which defeats the purpose of handicap parking. The proposal is to have families use the lane just outside the curb lane to

pick up their children. MLS would have to revise their pick-up procedure.

Bob Jakcsy moved, and Frank Brennan seconded, that the Trustees' plan for extended handicapped parking be approved. After discussion and prayer, the motion passed.

Evangelism and Prayer Ministry Report: Alma Lorenz reminded members to use our prayer cards. She asked if there were any "card stories" to share. Verline Vandiver said she has handed out many prayer cards at a rehab center, and people were pleased to receive them. Alma noted that there is a basket beneath the prayer card supply in the narthex where prayer requests can be submitted.

Alma said that she is the only elected member of the Evangelism Board and is being helped by Carol Cooper. She asked that others participate. Greg Fant said that we need volunteers for visits.

Christian Service and Missions: Fran Gunderson said that things are going well. She asked that others prayerfully consider joining her, as she is the only elected member of the Board and being helped by Ruth Staffeldt.

Stewardship Report: Mark Krohn discussed the many blessings in our lives and the many forms of Stewardship opportunities, noting that every member has talents and skills to offer. Citing the various activities in our church and the areas where our members can utilize their talents, Mark stated that not all require a lot of time and invited each member to consider where they can help. Speaking to the fact that earlier in the meeting we approved the new budget, one that shows a deficit, Mark stated that we know the Lord will provide and he encouraged each - and therefore all of us together - to prayerfully consider increasing our giving, improving our tithing, in carrying out God's work in our church.

Fellowship Report: Kay Swedberg said that the Board was considering hosting a July 4 picnic but need to know that at least 10 people are available and interested. Since only five members were available on July 4, a picnic will not be held.

The next Fellowship event currently planned is Oktoberfest, for either September or October. This would include German food, German music, the chicken dance and games for kids.

Endowment Board: Nothing to report.

Strategic Planning Task Force (SPT): Greg Fant said that Pastor Borchert, our consultant, met with several groups in May. Pastor Borchert has submitted a preliminary draft report of his findings, which will be emailed to members when finalized.

Greg noted that page 6 of Pastor Borchert's draft report is reproduced on the back of the agenda. This summarized his meeting with the SPT, which concluded with the development of a Vision Statement for Mission. Greg asked members to pray about the vision and what it means to our church family and to each member personally. If our Vision Statement can guide us through goal setting, then it is worthwhile.

Ben Wood suggested that we meet annually to review our goals and determine how we are doing. We are not locked in to the goals that are set. Goals can be changed or modified when necessary.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None

Bob Jakcsy moved, and Jerry Stickles seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

We concluded with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

**MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Council Meeting**  
**August 20, 2019**

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, Brad Springer, John Guenther, Beth Fant, Pastor Carabotta, Fran Gunderson, Doug Lorenz, Mark Krohn, Ben Wood, Carol Cooper, Alma Lorenz, Megan Wood, Kay Swedberg, Jan Peyton and guests Eric Gunderson and Carol Moore.

Pastor Carabotta led the opening devotion based on Hebrews Chapter 12.

School Board Report: Megan Wood's report is attached. The school is requesting permission to add coat hooks to the hallway for grades 2/3. Megan moved, and Ben Wood seconded, that HangSafe Hooks be mounted in the hallway for grades 2/3. The motion passed with one nay.

Megan then left this session to attend the PTO meeting and planned to return when it concluded.

The minutes of the July 18, 2019, meeting were approved as amended to exclude the word organized from the last sentence in Elders' Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Carabotta's report is attached. An assessment of interest for a married couples Bible study will be accomplished to determine if this study will be scheduled.

Treasurer's Report: John Guenther's report is attached. John cautioned everyone that we cannot identify trends from the few weeks included in this report. The grease trap replacement effort, now completed, which was budgeted at \$10,000, actually cost \$2,400. The budget for this fiscal year includes contributions at \$350 less per month than last year. Current results are underrunning budget, but we will not know the true trend for a while. The mortgage will be paid off in just less than three years.

Vice President's Report: Brad Springer said he will begin the process of identifying a slate of officers and board members for 2020. Pastor Carabotta reminded Council that a committee is identified in our by-laws to assist the Vice President in this search.

President's Report: Greg said he was delaying discussion of Strategic Planning Taskforce and the next Voters' meeting for later so that Megan could participate.

Greg introduced Eric Gunderson who was attending to ask for assistance in scheduling this year's "Coats for Kids" event. After discussion, the spaghetti dinner event will be scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Eric plans to request that Thrivent once again provide \$250 to cover costs. Kay Swedberg indicated that the Fellowship Board will help Eric with this effort.

Financial Secretary's Report: Beth Fant has ordered 65 boxes of envelopes for next year.

Stewardship Report: Mark Krohn's report is attached. Council members agreed that the Time & Talent surveys of the past have not been effective. A suggestion was that other members make home visits in lieu of a paper survey. Pastor said that a designated person would need to follow-up with the Boards if these visits were scheduled.

Mark said that the Elder-Stewardship Initiative to visit members is not continuing, though not complete. Doug Lorenz was unhappy with this development, and others agreed. Ben Wood indicated this would be revisited with the Elders. Greg Fant asked that at minimum, new members would be contacted.

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We have received mailings from Synod regarding the 2019-2021 LCMS National Offering, themed “Joy to the World.” These offerings would be used for mission work, both domestic and abroad. A copy of these mailings is attached to these minutes. We have a 3-year window to respond. Pastor suggested that we designate a specific Sunday to request members donate to this request. Carol Moore suggested an insert regarding “Joy to the World”, including an envelope which could be returned when members are ready to donate.

Fellowship Report: Kay Swedberg said that Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 12, noon to 3 p.m. The Board has decided that beer will not be served. Someone to cook brats is still needed.

Board of Elders Report: Ben Wood’s report is attached.

Evangelism Report: Alma Lorenz’s report is attached.

Prayer Ministry Report: Alma Lorenz’s report is attached. Alma noted that the Prayer Ministry retreat will be Saturday, October 5, to update prayer targets for each group and review responsibilities.

Trustees Report: Doug Lorenz’s report is attached. Doug thanked the Lord that the cost for the grease trap replacement was far less than anticipated.

Christian Education Report: Carol Cooper reported that Sunday, August 25, would be the “Learn the Books of the Bible” competition and pizza party. Our regular Sunday School schedule will resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

Christian Service and Missions Report: Fran Gunderson’s report is attached

President’s Report continued: Megan Wood has returned. Council decided to hold the next Voters’ Assembly meeting on Sunday, September 29, at noon following Divine Service.

Greg provided materials from the last Strategic Planning Taskforce meeting, which are attached. He asked everyone to pray that school and Church strategic plans be closely aligned.

The next Council meeting will be September 17, 6:30 p.m. The agenda for the Voters’ meeting will be finalized then.

Leadership Prayer Shield: Prayer requests were identified for the Elders, the Strategic Planning effort, and the election of officers and board members for 2020.

The next Council meeting is September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

We closed with the Lord’s prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary



# Meeting Minutes



# TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

## Mission Lutheran Church and School

**Report Preparation Date: September 16, 2019**

<b><u>Budget Status:</u></b>	<b><u>Month of August 2019</u></b>		<b><u>FY Thru August 31, 2019</u></b>	
	<b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>Actual*</u></b>	<b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>Actual*</u></b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
MLC General	\$19,200.00	\$18,053.22	\$38,400.00	\$35,649.22
MLS Total	\$23,640.00	\$31,972.43	\$37,740.00	\$56,320.82
Designated / Other	\$125.00	\$161.48	\$250.00	\$1,855.09
	<u>\$42,965.00</u>	<u>\$50,187.13</u>	<u>\$76,390.00</u>	<u>\$93,825.13</u>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
MLC Total	\$16,888.80	\$20,421.27	\$43,110.46	\$37,143.44
MLS Total	\$28,148.05	\$28,801.09	\$46,881.45	\$46,329.08
	<u>\$45,036.85</u>	<u>\$49,222.36</u>	<u>\$89,991.91</u>	<u>\$83,472.52</u>
Net Difference	-\$2,071.85	\$964.77	-\$13,601.91	\$10,352.61

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

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2019 (Thru September 15, 2019):**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,800.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,568.29
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$50,251.22
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$52,800.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	<u><b>-\$2,548.78</b></u>

### **Assets / Liabilities (As of September September 16, 2019):**

<b><u>Fund Assets:</u></b>	Endowment Fund (as of Jul 31, 2019)	<b>\$93,894.93</b>
	Strasser Fund (as of Jun 30, 2019)	<b>\$56,356.77</b>
<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>	Checking	<b>\$36,485.45</b>
	LCEF Savings	\$66,058.88
	MLS	\$4,142.79
	(minus Sabbatical	\$8,673.62
	designated) Youth Activity	\$1,473.97
	<b>Total Savings Available</b>	<b>\$51,768.50</b>
<b><u>Liabilities:</u></b>	Mortgage Loan	<b>\$34,632.22</b>

### **Notes:**

1. MLC expenses lower due to grease trap fix costing about 25% of the \$10,000 originally
2. Initial MLS income higher due to early payments of future tuition.



***Mission Lutheran Church and School***

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***School: (575) 532-5489***

***Emails: pastor@missionlutheran.net***

***secretary@missionlutheran.net***

***office@mlschool.net***

***Elder on call: Doug Lorenz (505) 402-3389***

**We're on the web!**

**<http://missionlutheran.net>**

**<http://mlschool.net>**

## **Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2019**

President	Greg Fant	Trustees	Doug Lorenz
Vice President	Brad Springer	Christian Education	Carol Cooper
Treasurer	John Guenther	Evangelism	Alma Lorenz
Secretary	Jan Peyton	Christian Service & Missions	Fran Gunderson
Financial Secretary	Beth Fant	Stewardship	Mark Krohn
Elders, Chairman	Ben Wood	Day School Education	Megan Wood
Elders, Vice-chairman	Robert Smits	Fellowship	Kay Swedberg