

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

Doctor Luther begins a hymn with a message about God's Ten Commandments:

These are the holy Ten Commands
 God gave to us by Moses' hands
 When high on Sinai's mount he stood,
 Receiving them for our good.
 Have mercy, Lord! (*Lutheran Service Book*, 581, stanza 1)

It was the practice of Doctor and Pastor Martin Luther to preach parts of the catechism every year to the people of his parish. He considered himself to be a child when it came to the catechism, which he had to read and meditate on every day, and he scolded those preachers and all Christians who thought they were beyond the daily reading and study of the catechism. He says:

Continued on next page ➔

In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry
- LWML Workshop
- Stewardship
- Youth fundraising
- School News
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- WINGS—LWML news
- Council meeting minutes
- Treasurer's Report

Important Dates:

- March 4, 11, 18 and 25: Mid-week Lent services at 6:00 PM
- March 8: Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 8 and 15: Baptism class
- March 10: JULIETs lunch
- March 23: WINGS-LWML gathering
- March 23–27: Spring break for Mission Lutheran School
- March 28: LWML Spring Workshop in Alamogordo
- March 28: "Welcome Home, Vietnam Vets" at Veterans' Park



“But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher; yes, as learned and experienced as all the people who have such assumptions and contentment. Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning---and whenever I have time---I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so. Yet these delicate, refined fellows [pastors and preachers who do not daily read or teach the catechism] would in one reading promptly become doctors above all doctors, know everything, and need nothing. Well, this, too, is a sure sign that they despise both their office and the souls of the people. Indeed, they even despise God and His Word. They do not have to fall. They have already fallen all too horribly. They need to become children and begin to learn their alphabet, which they imagine they have long outgrown (Mark 10:15)

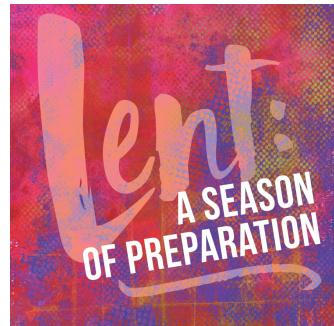
What else are such proud, arrogant saints doing who are unwilling to read and study the catechism daily? They think they are much more learned than God Himself with all His saints, angels, prophets, apostles, and all Christians. God Himself is not ashamed to teach these things daily. He knows nothing better to teach. He always keeps teaching the same thing and does not take up anything new or different. All the saints know nothing better or different to learn and cannot finish learning this. Are we not the finest of all fellows to imagine that if we have once read or heard the catechism, we know it all and have no further need to read and learn? Can we finish learning in one hour what God Himself cannot finish teaching? He is engaged in teaching this from the beginning to the end of the world. All prophets, together with all saints, have been busy learning it, have ever remained students, and must continue to be students” (Martin Luther, *The Large Catechism, Preface*, 7-8, 16).

In our Advent and Lenten midweek Services of the Word, we have been digging down into the subjects of God’s Word which the catechism places in front of our eyes and would place into our hearts. So far, we have revisited the mysteries of the Creed in the Lenten season of last year and Baptism in Advent. This Lenten season, we are diving into the Ten Commandments. It is striking how points before unknown come to the fore about these Commandments from God each time that we hear them and the preaching of them!

We might think that such an encounter with the Ten Commandments, being Law, could not possibly bring about personal renewal, as the penitential season of Lent is designed to be. But we would be mistaken to think this about the hearing, study and preaching of the Ten Commandments, for these Commandments come from God, our heavenly Father, which His Son, Jesus Christ has fulfilled for us, and He died to save us from their punishments which we deserved. Furthermore, having raised His Son up from the dead, God shows Himself as He is, our heavenly Father, who in fiercest love for us would impress on us the way of pure love by way of the Holy Spirit leading us to keep these Commandments, having in Holy Baptism taken us from having hearts of stone to giving us, and forming in us, hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:22-27; Romans 13:8-10).

Let us come to the house of the Lord, each Wednesday evening, at 6 PM, to hear the Law and receive the Gospel, being renewed throughout these 40-plus days, and to pray that God would grant His blessings to those form whom we pray and that He would do His work in us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robert Carabotta





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

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

Why a prayer vigil?

As we move into the season of Lent, we reflect on our Lord Jesus Christ -- His life, His sacrifice and the depth of His love for each of us. It causes us to pause again and again and again to realize the depth of our need for Him.

In Luke 22, Jesus asked the disciples to “watch and pray” as they repeatedly fell asleep from sorrow, leaving Jesus to pray alone. During Holy Week, as we focus on Jesus’ Passion and fulfillment of the scriptures, we have the opportunity to “watch and pray.”

Mission’s sixth annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil is coming up soon, with all invited to share in the touching time of “watching and praying.” For those who may not have been a part of a prayer vigil, it may seem like something a bit uncomfortable. That’s what I thought when I first had the opportunity to participate in a prayer vigil—and I avoided participating. Later I realized it was a fear of the unknown that held me back. Let me share a bit about how the Good Friday Prayer Vigil works to remove the unknown for any of you who may hesitate.

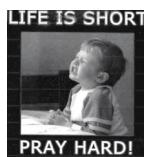
A few weeks ahead, a signup sheet will be in the narthex for all to choose the time to participate. You may choose a half hour or hour slot or longer if you wish—or pray at two separate times, as you prefer. The vigil begins at 7 am and goes until just prior to the 7 pm Good Friday service, with a break for the Noon service. A prayer coordinator will be present for anyone with questions or who wants someone to pray along with them. There may or may not be others present praying at the same time. We strive to have every single slot filled throughout the day.

When you arrive for your prayer time on Good Friday, a page of prayer targets will be available to use as a guide, and it includes scriptures that may be helpful as you pray. Some who say they have a hard time focusing when they pray find this very helpful. It also gives a deep sense of unity with our Mission family to realize we are all praying for the same things!

How do people pray? Some are led to pray at the altar, and some are comfortable kneeling in the front pews, while others prefer to walk around in the sanctuary. Most sit in a pew with a bowed head. All are fine!

Sometimes some of us become so drawn into the joy of spending time with the Lord that we stay longer than the time for which we signed up! That’s fine, too!

There are so many situations and issues calling us to unite in prayer, so please join your Mission Family in the sanctuary on Good Friday! This is a blessed time of spending time with our Lord “watching and praying” as we continue to strive to be God’s house of prayer.



Faith Lutheran Church

The Closing Service of Faith Lutheran Church of Las Cruces took place on Sunday, February 23rd, at 4:00 PM at its 1001B North Solano Drive location. It was a beautiful Service with many people in attendance, including several pastors, members and leaders of San Pablo Lutheran Church and Cristo Luz del Mundo Lutheran Church of El Paso, Pastor Hernandez of Juarez, Mexico, Pastor Carabotta and members of Mission Lutheran Church and School of Las Cruces, our Southern Area Vice-President Pastor Gary Piepkorn and Mrs. Judy Piepkorn of Faith in Christ Lutheran Church of Portales, NM, the members of ¡Adelante! Mariachi San Pablo, and friends of Faith.

Rev. Richard Schlak of Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute and pastor of Cristo Luz del Mundo preached the sermon in the Divine Service, a message of hope, anticipating the members of Faith launching out into the work of the Lord in other churches as the Lord will lead them. Dr. Alfonso Diaz, an elder of Faith, recited a summary of the history of our daughter congregation, announcing that the records of this congregation will be sent to Concordia Historical Institute for archival purposes. Dr. Diaz also, on behalf of the congregation, presented certificates of funds and church supplies from Faith to various churches, including to Mission Lutheran Church and School. After sharing in the Lord's Supper of Holy Communion, we received the Lord's blessing, encouraging us that the Lord is with us.

You may notice some new and some familiar faces among us from time to time in the Lord's Divine Service. We delight to see them and have them join us here at our family of Mission Lutheran Church and School! Please welcome them and introduce yourselves to them. We look forward to joining our Lord Jesus Christ on His continuing mission of bringing people in our neighborhoods to the grace and love of our heavenly Father.



Stewardship

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources



Fundraising for Youth Attending the “Higher Things” Conference

Several youth members of our congregation will be attending the “Higher Things” Conference at Fort Collins, CO, this summer. This is an awesome opportunity for our youth to fellowship with youth from other congregations.

In order to allay the costs of attending, there will be a couple of scheduled fundraisers over the next few months, such as a car wash on Saturday, April 4th. In addition, the youth are willing to provide a number of services to our church family members and friends any time between now and June 20th. If you have a need for any of the following, please contact Erin Nicholson:

- Yard work
- Dog washing/walking
- Car washing
- Manual labor
- Meal preparation
- Household chores

Please be as generous as you are able with your donations! Checks should be made out to Mission Lutheran church with “Higher Things” written on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin at (512) 571-7505 or via email at erin.mn1482@gmail.com.



Save the Date



VBS 2020

Mission Lutheran Church and School

2752 N. Roadrunner Parkway

June 8-12

9 am - 12:30 pm (Lunch included!)

SAVE THE DATE. © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. Permission granted for purchaser to make copies for the year the VBS program is purchased.



Birthdays of the Month

March Birthdays

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



Happy Anniversary

March Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Smits	Robert & Tiziana	11	27
Peyton	Jan & Peter Persing	17	34

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.



Ladies, mark your
calendars!

Rio Grande Zone Spring Workshop

Hosted By: Trinity LWML
1505 College Ave., Alamogordo, NM

March 28, 2020

Registration 9:30
10am - 2pm

Featuring

LWML Prayer Service:
"Living in Love-Bearing
Fruit"
Led By: Pastor Heithold
Quilt Time
Lunch
Quilt Dedication

Ingathering: Walmart or Costco Gift cards benefiting Ysleta Mission Hot Lunch Program

Please let Jacki McCurley or Carol Moore know if you plan to attend.



WINGS—Women IN God’s Service

March Happenings

- The next WINGS-LWML gathering and Bible study will be in Luther Hall on Monday, March 23rd, beginning at 6:30 PM. The topic of the Bible study will be “What an Opportunity.” We begin with an “ice-breaker” which is always entertaining. Refreshments will be served. All ladies are invited to join us for this time of fellowship.
- The LWML Rio Grande Zone Spring Workshop will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamogordo on Saturday, March 28th. We will meet in the parking lot at Mission Lutheran Church at 8:00 AM to car-pool. Registration begins at 9:30 AM, and the workshop will end at 2:00 PM. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with ladies from the other churches in the Rio Grande Zone. Please let Jacki McCurley or Carol Moore know if you plan to attend.
- Mark your calendars! The next LWML bake sale will be on Sunday, April 5th. We will begin the sale at 9:00 AM, before Bible class begins, and will continue after church service if there are still items to sell. All proceeds go to help our seminary student, Quincy Koll. Plan to bring baked goods to sell or plan to buy something to take home, or both!

JULIETS: The Juliet's are “Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together.” We meet once a month for fellowship and prayer. Join us at Pepper’s (on the Mesilla Plaza) on Tuesday, March 10th, at 11:30 am. If you plan to attend, please contact either Jacki McCurley at (575) 202-5955 or Ruth Jakcsy at (575) 522-8637.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
January 21, 2020

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, Brad Springer, John Guenther, Carol Moore, Pastor Carabotta, Fran Gunderson, Roberta Willett, Doug Lorenz, Amie Springer, Alma Lorenz , Megan Wood, and guests Jan Peyton and Kay Swedberg.

Pastor Carabotta led the opening devotion. February 2 is the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Jesus.

The minutes of the November 19, 2019, meeting were approved as emailed.

Action Items:

President Fant thanked outgoing leaders Carol Cooper, Kay Swedberg and Jan Peyton.

Greg indicated that the Council Secretary position is still vacant. Brad Springer volunteered to absorb that role until someone stepped forward. There was discussion around his offer and also the identification of possible candidates. Jan Peyton indicated that she could continue to be Council Secretary but that she could not commit to a full term. Council decided to accept Jan's proposal, thereby filling all leadership roles for 2020. Council will continue to search for someone willing to assume the Council Secretary position should Jan not be able to serve the entire year.

Greg said that when he sends out the agenda, he will be calling for action items. He wants our meetings to focus primarily on progress towards fulfilling our Strategic Plan.

Megan Wood said she has talked with Paul Albers, asking for assistance in the search for a School Administrator. Paul provided access to a system which has postings of individuals searching for an administrative position. He asked that the School Board provide an advertising-type write-up describing why someone would want to work here. He indicated that the search could take 12-24 months.

Megan said that the Sonoma Ranch Life magazine will be including an article spotlighting Mission. Mary Martin has developed information about the school. Members indicated they would want to have the magazine highlight both Mission Church and School.

Our CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing) Renewal is up for review. The CCLI allows us to copy music that is not in our Lutheran hymnal. The cost is based on the total number of members in our congregation and is \$200 annually. We also use Song Select, another \$200 annually, to find music and words. We are not using Song Select often now.

After further discussion, Doug Lorenz moved, and Megan Wood seconded, that we renew CCLI and no longer subscribe to Song Select. The motion passed.

Greg Fant advised that the Shepherd's Staff software we are currently using is the 2008 version, which is outdated. This software is currently used by the Financial Secretary to track contributions and by the Treasurer for financial reporting. There is another ledger software package available. After discussion, Carol Moore and John Guenther will follow-up and decide how to proceed.

Continued on next page →

Greg Fant asked Council to review the short-term goals in the Strategic Plan and prioritize them. Some of these goals are already being addressed. The Evangelism Board and Pastor will be using “Joining Jesus in His Mission” for Bible Study beginning February 23. This is an educational approach to the goal of personal growth to be able to share. The Fellowship Board is considering how to incorporate families with children and neighborhood events into their activities.

The Church and School each have a website. The Church website is in need of a major overhaul. Pastor will contact Jeannette Aguilera and ask if she would be willing to help us.

Roberta Willett has discussed a youth program, “Higher Things,” which will be held in Ft. Collins, CO, this year. Roberta said that those young adults who attend this event tend to stay with our LCMS religion. Roberta will talk with Erin Nicholson about moving forward. Information needs to go out to parents to receive a commitment from students.

Greg asked how we should proceed with the goal of streamlining governance. Brad Springer and Megan Wood committed to look at other churches’ websites to determine their governance structure. Greg believes we need to be better stewards of our time to cut-back on burn-out.

Greg asked for items to be added to our long-range calendar.

Spring Fest is April 11, the day before Easter.

Our prayer breakfast is Saturday, April 4, the day before Palm Sunday.

The prayer vigil will be Good Friday, April 10.

LWML’s Mother-Daughter tea is May 2.

“Joining Jesus on His Mission” Bible class begins February 23 and will continue for ten weeks.

Other Business:

Greg asked if anyone had items to discuss that are not fully covered in their report.

Pastor Carabotta said that Faith Lutheran Church will celebrate their final Sunday Service on February 23. The service will likely be held in the afternoon so that members of other churches can attend.

Doug Lorenz said that his write-up in the Trustees Report regarding the K12USA high noise levels coming from the new server is misleading. Doug indicated that a donation of \$10,000 was received to fund the new system. He believes that some funds remain unused and will determine if the donation will cover the installation of a new cooling source for the server.

Reports attached to these minutes include Pastor, Treasurer, Trustees, School Board, Elders, Evangelism, Christian Education and Christian Service & Missions.

Leadership Prayer Shield: Thank the Lord that all leadership positions are now filled for 2020. Pray for resolution of the funding for the K12USA server cooling system and for increasing general contributions.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: February 17, 2020

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of January 2020</u>	<u>FY Thru January 31, 2020</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
<u>Income:</u>			
MLC General	\$19,200.00	\$19,658.25	\$144,000.00
MLS Total	\$17,140.00	\$24,619.65	\$123,290.00
Designated / Other	\$125.00	\$429.06	\$875.00
	\$36,465.00	\$44,706.96	\$268,165.00
<u>Expenses:</u>			
MLC Total	\$16,692.82	\$16,155.31	\$119,260.87
MLS Total	\$26,473.62	\$26,578.72	\$157,885.26
	\$43,166.44	\$42,734.03	\$277,146.13
Net Difference	-\$6,701.44	\$1,972.93	-\$8,981.13
			\$18,114.66

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

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2020 (Thru February 16, 2020):

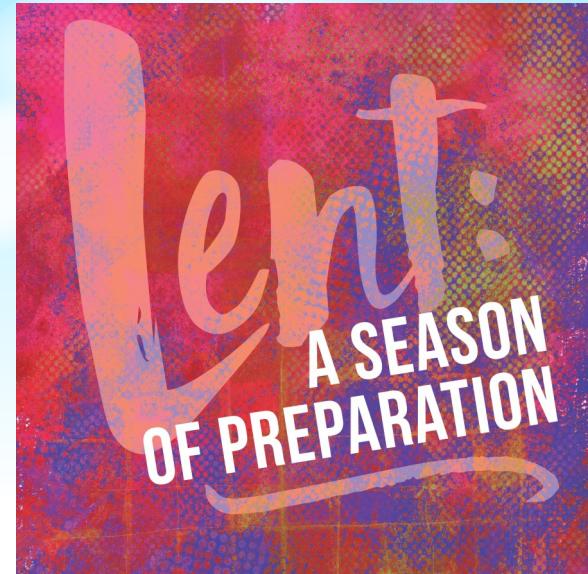
Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,800.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,550.07
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$150,152.22
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$158,400.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$8,247.78

Assets / Liabilities (As of February 17, 2020):

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	Endowment Fund (as of Sep 30, 2019)	\$94,632.00
	Strasser Fund (as of Sep 30, 2019)	\$56,831.25
<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking	\$42,207.52
	LCEF Savings	\$66,337.90
	(minus designated)	
	MLS	\$8,233.52
	Sabbatical	\$8,673.62
	Youth Activity	\$1,923.97
	Total Savings Available	\$47,506.79
<u>Liabilities:</u>	Mortgage Loan	\$29,828.84

Notes:

1. Budget surplus due to grease trap repair savings of \$7,500, \$10,000 MLS donation, and future MLS tuition prepayments.
2. MLC general contributions are significantly behind budget.



Mid-week Lent services will be on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, at 6:00 PM.

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

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: Jerry Stickles (575) 640-8436

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2020

President

Greg Fant

Trustees

Doug Lorenz

Vice President

Brad Springer

Christian Education

Roberta Willett

Treasurer

John Guenther

Evangelism

Alma Lorenz

Secretary

Jan Peyton

Christian Service & Missions

Fran Gunderson

Financial Secretary

Carol Moore

Stewardship

Mark Krohn

Elders, Chairman

Ben Wood

Day School Education

Megan Wood

Elders, Vice-chairman

Robert Smits

Fellowship

Amie Springer