

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:

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Important Dates:

- July 4: Independence Day
- July 18: Ordination of Rev. Andy Perry





Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

Should you really be praying for your pastors every day?

Well, of course you know I'm going to say yes, don't you? I could get silly and give you the disadvantages...like, it's gonna take at LEAST 15-20 seconds and maybe more of your already filled calendar every...single...day! It's ANOTHER thing to remember, and besides, I suspect Satan would view it as upsetting his apple cart a bit...

There are three solid reasons why it's a really good idea, not to mention that it's biblical. First, it's good for our Pastors, and it's good for your brothers and sisters in Christ. And the third reason is that it's good for you.

[I'm going to suggest that we each pray for our three pastors: our Vacancy Pastor, Pastor Cramm, our called and soon-to-be-ordained Assistant Pastor, Andy Perry, and our yet-to-be-known Senior Pastor.]

When we pray for our pastors, we are serving them in a very direct and meaningful way. We are asking God to protect each of them, to grant them wisdom and power and insight to boldly speak God's Word in teaching, preaching and shepherding. While pastors have the joy of sharing God's Word—His great love—they are also burdened with a myriad of challenges as they deal with many situations we know nothing about within our congregation. They hunger for that prayer support! When we pray for our pastors, it is a reflection of the love we have for our Lord, and our pastors! They sincerely appreciate our prayers more than we realize!

As we pray for our pastors, they will be strengthened in their ministries. Our brothers and sisters in Christ benefit beyond words when they are spiritually blessed with pastors who conduct biblical, wise, loving ministries that inspire them to recognize the intensity of the love our Lord has for them. One of the greatest blessings for a church is the treasure of godly leaders! Godly leadership inspires and empowers God's people to, first be led to a deeper relationship with their Savior, which then yields a healthy church, with followers who are eager to serve the Lord inside and outside the church walls.

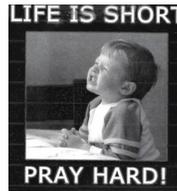
How can it be THAT good for each of us as individuals to simply pray for our pastors? Perhaps the greatest gift this side of Heaven, is to be spiritually right with God! Don't we want the wisdom to recognize our sin, confess and walk away refreshed each Sunday?? Don't we want to hear the bold truth and not what we want to hear—even though that might be more comfortable in the moment? Don't we want to be assured that the all-powerful God is by our side—always? Don't we want pastors who can lead us to flourish even when many churches are withering?

It is not only among the highest of privileges, but very good for our souls to pray for our pastors!

Heavenly Father,

We thank you that you are the all-powerful, loving, merciful God that you are...that you have gifted us with loving, biblical and enthusiastic pastors. Please protect each of them, inspire them to spend quality time with you in Your Word and listening to your wise guidance each day. May all they—and we—do glorify you and reflect You to the world that needs you so much! In the precious name of Jesus we pray,

Amen.



*“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

"Take It to the Lord in Prayer"

Colossians 4:2 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

What power there is in knowing we can come before God and share our deepest concerns with Him. Such is the God we have and the love He has for us. In both the Old and New Testaments, communication with God was central to the relationship He shared with His people.

In a word, prayer is *communication*. It is going before God and speaking to Him honestly, attentively, and respectfully. Our prayers make our requests known to God (see Philippians 4:6); our prayers are to be done without ceasing (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Our prayers should be offered to God in times of thanksgiving and distress, in sickness and in health and, above all, in faith.

We know that through faith in Jesus' sacrifice, death, and resurrection, we have salvation from our sins. And by this redemption we are transformed into God's children. As God's children we can call on our Father at any time, in any place, and under any circumstance.

To pray then is to speak with God as one would a friend. You surely have needs, fears, and joys. Through a simple prayer, and of your own accord, thank God for the joy of living He is giving you. Thank Him for your good health, the people in your life, and for His provision. Let God know of your fears and everything that hurts you and breaks your heart. Pour out your tears before God, and He will comfort you. He will bless you and give you peace even in times of trouble.

Don't forget that Jesus reminds us—just as He did His first disciples—"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

There's also a 19th-century song that says it very well: "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of prayer that we might make all our heartfelt concerns known to You. Remind us that You are near and hear our prayers whenever and wherever we offer them. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

A Gift of Joy

“And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Matt. 2:9b–10).

Did you know that stewardship can lead you to know true joy? For those who have been in the Church for any length of time, this might sound really surprising. But the Wise Men show us this joy.

The Wise Men did not know joy because of what they had done. They knew the joy of receiving the gift of God! The creation, through the star, had caused them to set out on a journey. It brought them to an unwitting and unwilling Herod. But what finally pointed them to their ultimate goal, the King of the Jews? It was the Word. The Word of God that the scribes had quoted to Herod proved to be true. They had found the palace of the king!

But it was no palace. It was a place. It was a simple home. The Lord had come to dwell among His people in the simplest of ways. Through stewardship of creation and Word, they were led to find this place. Pointed to the truth by the management of Word and world, the Wise Men found joy. This joy is more than a feeling. It is a person. The joy comes from meeting Jesus.

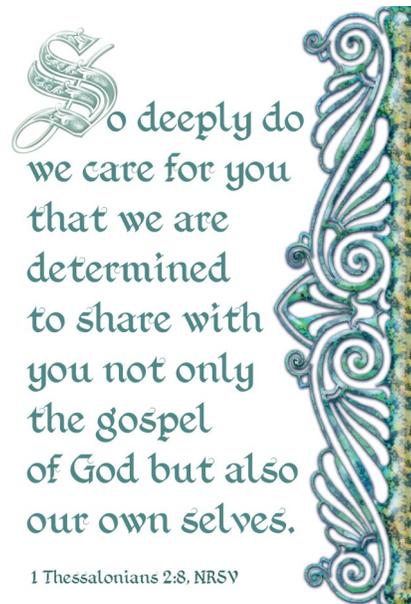
Your stewardship of God’s simple gifts is used by Him to guide others to Jesus. Most times that is your faithful financial support of our work together in the Church. Other times it is found in the simple acts of generosity that show the people around you that you have the joy of knowing Jesus. This takes money, time and a willingness to be in the Word and at the Lord’s Table. You can only steward the joy of God’s presence when you are present with Him. That is where you find the joy the Wise Men

know. It is that joy, as steward, that you are called to give to others!

Yes, you too can be a steward of the Wise Men’s joy. The simple gift of God’s Word will show this to you. In the coming year, make it a priority to be in God’s house and at His Table weekly. Then you will know the contagious joy of being a steward of God’s simple gifts!

Prayer

Lord God, You led the Wise Men by a star, first to Jerusalem and then to Jesus. You have also led us to Jesus through the leading of faithful stewards of the Gospel and Your creation. This gives us the same joy that the Wise Men knew so long ago in Bethlehem. Grant us Your grace to be radically generous with the joy You have given us in Jesus so that we might give that joy away as well! Amen.



Stewardship

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties - the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness - a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources



Angel Scholarship Awards for 2021-22!

Mission Lutheran School families submitted applications in May for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. The committee met, reviewed all applications, and had the delightful task of awarding Angel Scholarship Funds to students and their families! This year, 14 students from 8 families applied and were awarded a total of \$10,600! Students and families received notice of their awards at the end of the school year.

Congratulations to the following students and families:

- Nickolas Cooper
- Peyton Craine
- Paisley Craine
- Abigail Fuentes
- Alejandro Fuentes
- Abraham Fuentes
- Asher Lopez
- Gabriella Lopez
- Jonas Mabry
- Rowan Mabry
- Kellan Rodriguez
- Savana Trejo
- Scarlett Vigil
- Grayson Vigil

Your donations to the Angel Scholarship Program made these awards possible. Donations entirely fund the Angel Scholarship Program. Funds received now through May 1, 2022, will be distributed next year to more Mission Lutheran School students. Are you interested in donating to this fund? Do you know someone who may be interested in donating? Please contact the school at (575) 532-5489 or office@mlschool.net.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Luke 18:15-17)





Birthdays of the Month

July Birthdays

		Date
Guericke	Le	1
Peña	Johnathan	1
Vandiver	Verline	1
Eggebraaten	Noah	4
Aguilera	Oscar Yeshua	8
Peña	Jacinya	8
Martin	Mary	9
Staffeldt	Ruth	11
Weber	Susan	11
Moore	Carol	15
Roof	Toni	15
Wood	Ben	15
Steinhaus	Phyllis	21
Scott	Peggy	23
Eggebraaten	Emmaus Rensen	28

Happy Anniversary

July Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Martin	Ken & Mary	5	35
Hallem	Don & Janis	17	17
Scaling	Robert & Beverly	17	50
White	Harvey & Jan	19	53
Krohn	Mark & Amy	25	40
Grothman	Ray & Darci	29	4

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

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.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

May 18, 2021

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Attending were Brad Springer, John Guenther, Carol Moore, Pastor Cramm, Reverend Perry, Jerry Stickles, Shirley Miller, Doug Lorenz, Alma Lorenz, Roberta Willett, Mark Krohn, Sonya Perry and guest Mary Martin.

Pastor Cramm led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the April 20th meeting were approved.

President: President Brad Springer said that Andy Perry is now cleared for a call. He is redoing the papers and then will send them to the district to finalize. The call committee is narrowing down the list of candidates for a Pastor from fourteen to six. They will be meeting on June 1st to get down to four candidates and to select uniform interview questions. After interviews, the committee will put together a summation for the Voters' assembly. Brad contacted the District President and he has appointed Gary Piepkorn as the circuit visitor for the call committee. The Voter's meeting is set for May 23rd and the link will be sent out later.

Pastor's Report: Pastor had Carol order some books for Bible study. The money collected for his trip to Africa is being used now for Visa's, materials, etc. The council needs to discuss first before going to the Voters on whether the church continues with two services or return back to one.

Andy will be visiting with school families and he plans to begin working again with the youth in the circuit.

Elder's Report: Report is attached.

Treasurer's Report: Report and proposed budget is attached. We are sustaining ourselves in the current budget. Brad moved to approve the proposed budget to submit to the Voters' assembly. It was seconded and approved.

School Board: Report is attached. They have a possible candidate that they would contract for a year.

Financial Secretary: Nothing new to report.

Trustees: They will be putting the cushions back in the pews on Friday at 1:30 pm. They have contacted a landscaper to look at the drain problem by the shed. The cost would be about \$1200.

Evangelism: Sonya started putting messages out on the sign. She changes it about every two weeks. Andy approves the messages before they go out. They are continuing to send cards to visitors.

Prayer Ministry: Nothing new to report.

Christian Education: Nothing new to report.

Christian Service: No action items. He will have something to report for Voters' assembly.

Stewardship: Nothing to report.

Continued on next page →

Our next council meeting is scheduled for June 15th at 6 pm.

Reverend Perry led us in closing prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacki McCurley, Secretary



MEETING MINUTES

SING UNTO THE LORD!

Start warming up those voices!! The time will soon be arriving for you to join the Mission Lutheran Church Choir. We are always looking for men and women to join us in singing praises to our Lord.

Choir practices will start again in August.

Look for more information in July for dates and time of practices.

Any questions, please contact Jacki McCurley, (575) 202-5955.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: June 15, 2021

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of May 2021</u>		<u>FY Through May 31, 2021</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$24,000.00	\$23,054.00	\$230,400.00	\$235,858.21
MLS Total	\$16,850.00	\$8,271.00	\$215,100.00	\$116,980.20
Designated / Other	\$266.66	\$43.09	\$2,733.33	\$3,666.63
	\$41,116.66	\$31,368.09	\$448,233.33	\$356,505.04
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$15,888.50	\$9,054.73	\$176,721.74	\$128,129.97
MLS Total	\$19,641.72	\$18,742.10	\$249,407.71	\$201,549.63
	\$35,530.22	\$27,796.83	\$426,129.45	\$329,679.60
Net Difference	\$5,586.44	\$3,571.26	\$22,103.88	\$26,825.44

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

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2021 (Through June 13, 2021)

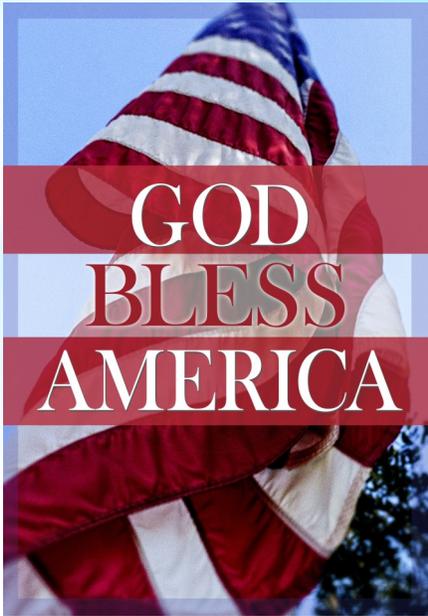
Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,800.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,888.70
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$244,435.21
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$240,000.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	\$4,435.21

Assets / Liabilities

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	Endowment (as of May 31, 2021)	\$115,300.63
	Strasser (as of Mar 31, 2021)	\$73,892.45
	Thrivent (as of May 31, 2021)	\$409,306.57
	TOTAL	\$598,499.65
<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking (as of May 22, 2021)	\$44,393.14
	LCEF Savings (as of June 15, 2021)	\$146,591.15
	(minus designated funds)	
	{	
	School Funds	23289.31
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,565.57
	Mission Trip Support	\$3,543.00
	Total LCEF Savings Available	\$116,193.27
<u>Liabilities:</u>	None	\$0.00

Comments:

1. Lower school revenues offset by lower expenses for church/school leave us with positive current overall cash flow for the fiscal year.



Independence Day is July 4th.

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: Ken Martin (575) 650-3304

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	TBD
Financial Secretary	Carol Moore	Stewardship	Alma Lorenz
Elders, Chairman	Jerry Stickles	Day School Education	Shirley Miller
Elders, Vice-chairman	TBD	Fellowship	Amie Springer