

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.” (Romans 8:34)

On the seventh Sunday after Pentecost we heard the Word of the Lord about our Lord Jesus, that He prays for us, and that when we pray, He is praying with us. We also learned that some of the things which He taught us to ask of the Father, in that prayer which we call the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father, the Lord Jesus Himself asked of the heavenly Father for us in that prayer which He prayed on the night in which He was betrayed.

Continued on next page →

In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry news
- School News
- Stewardship
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- LWML news
- Council meeting minutes
- Treasurer's Report

Important Dates:

- August 2: School Board meeting
- August 7: Youth campfire
- August 11: Commissioning of MLS staff
- August 12: Back to school night
- August 13: Ladies lunch
- August 14: 1st day of kindergarten
- August 15: 1st day of grades 1 through 5
- August 19: 1st day of preschool
- August 24: Breakfast fundraiser for the MLS PTO



The comfort and assurance of His love and grace to us, and of His power that He is working in us, is this reality that Christ Jesus, crucified and risen and seated at the right hand of our heavenly Father, is praying for us, and because He is praying for us, He is therefore praying with us while we are praying. In other words, the Lord Jesus is been in prayer for us before we got around to praying; we just jump into the middle of His ongoing prayers and then exit from them as we go about our work or play.

This truth comes to our ears and hearts from Romans 8:34b-e, which says, “Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.” The word for “interceding” involves pleading, supplicating, in short, praying. We have One who does not cease to pray for us, and who is therefore praying with us, in all things. The Bible says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). What we see Him doing in those years of His earthly ministry among His apostles and the people of Israel, as written in the Gospels, namely, rising early before anyone else while it was still dark to pray to the Father, He continues unto today and beyond, although now, He neither slumbers nor sleeps while He watches over us and prays for us.

Let this truth comfort and strengthen you. From what we know of the Word concerning Jesus, it would be safe for us to imagine that the Lord Jesus loves for us to join Him in prayer. God bless you in your life in prayer.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robert Carabotta



“Communion and Confession: The Lord’s Supper in Augustana”

Such was the title of the seminar at Grace Lutheran Church of Albuquerque, NM, held from July 22nd through the 26th. I was privileged to attend and participate in this class with other pastors and laymen from different cities and states. The Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki of Concordia Theological Seminary of Fort Wayne, Indiana, taught this class, and what a great teacher he is, a true gift to the Church. These yearly classes on various subjects, which are of great interest and need to our churches, are taught in every state by several different pastors-teachers from our seminaries for our ongoing growth in the Word of the Lord. (There is talk that next year’s class will be on the book of Galatians, at the same city and same congregation!) The congregation’s members were so hospitable to all of the participants. Each morning began with worship in the Order of Morning Prayer in the Lord’s house, followed by sessions of instruction and discussion, questions and answers, in a spacious classroom/fellowship area, into the afternoon. Of course, each afternoon we took a break for lunch at area restaurants. On Wednesday evening we enjoyed a barbeque dinner in the fellowship hall with members of the congregation.

As to the subjects that we covered in our seminar, these included (*If you wish to receive a copy of my 23 pages of notes of these sessions, please let me or Carol Moore know and I will be sure to get a copy of them to you*):

- the mystery and gift of Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper of Christ’s body and blood, as revealed in the Bible and rightly taught from the Bible in the Book of Concord’s documents of the *Augsburg Confession*, the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, the *Small Catechism* and *Large Catechism* and the *Formula of Concord*;
- the call from the Word of the Lord, the Bible, to “confess the same thing” (Eph. 4), to abide in that teaching of the apostles within a church fellowship which teaches and confesses the same teaching for the unity of those who participate in Holy Communion;
- the Office of the Public Ministry/Pastoral Office which Christ has instituted for the purpose that the Word of the Lord be preached in its purity and that the Sacraments of Christ be administered rightly to God’s people as Christ Jesus has so lovingly commanded in the Word of the Lord;

Rev. Masaki also taught us about the support which the historical liturgies of our Church give to both our confession of faith and the Sacraments of Christ. Much of what I was able to teach in our Sunday morning Bible study regarding Holy Communion was confirmed in Dr. Masaki’s teaching to us, which is very encouraging to us as a congregation. Unity and fellowship and encouragement in our faith as Lutheran Christians all come through such confirmation in what the Word of the Lord says.

We learned so much about each of these things, and time and space in this newsletter would fail to allow me to share all of it here, but you might notice me teaching these things in conversations, in the various Bible studies to our youth and adults on our church campus, and in the nearby retirement communities and other places, and in the preaching of the Word in the house of the Lord! But I would draw your attention to these places in the Bible and in the Book of Concord, which Dr. Masaki taught us and which speak of these very things:

Holy Communion:

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Cor. 10; 1 Cor 11:17-34;

Augsburg Confession, Article, XXIV; Article XXV, 1;

Large Catechism, Part 5; *Formula of Concord*, *Solid Declaration*, Article VIII, 76-86;

Shared confession of faith and fellowship:

Ephesians 4; Acts 2:38-42;

The Office of the Holy Ministry:

John 20:19-23; Matthew 28:16-20; the *Small Catechism* on the Office of the Keys;

The liturgy:

Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV.

Some (although there were more than some) of the statements and points which Rev. Masaki spoke/taught and which were especially enlightening were the following:

“Liturgy is Christ’s pastoral care.”

Ordination is a process, not simply a brief rite or ceremony; it includes the desire to serve, and instruction, training, correction, examination and approval, a divine call through the Church, prayer, and the rite of ordination, which happens with preaching (that is, by the Word of the Lord), mandates, spoken vows, to be officiated by ordained pastor(s), *with* the laying on of hands, not *by* the laying on of hands. Precisely because a call and ordination and installation in that call are by the power of the Word of God it is therefore the duty of the clergy to ordain a man into the ministry and install him in a divine call as pastor.

Liturgy focuses on Christ speaking/giving, and our hearing/receiving (that is, Law and Gospel, *vita passiva*, the passive life, life by receiving from the Lord), “A seven-year old child knows what the church is: believers and ‘the little sheep who *hear* the voice of their shepherd.’” (Luther). The right question is not, “What is Liturgy?” but, “*Whose* Liturgy is it?”

Doctrine, our Confession, leads to liturgy, our life in Christ. In learning liturgy, we do not start with the liturgy. Liturgy is a consequence of doctrine.

Open Communion, with its opinion that it is the body and blood of Jesus which, once received, works the unity among those who are in disagreement in doctrine, reduces the Gospel to something which it is not. The Gospel delivers the entire gift of Christ, His kingdom, His promises, the Holy Spirit, not just a part of it; it consequently removes all doctrines which are contrary to it; it crowds them out, if you will. When the Gospel establishes that unity between people, they are prepared to go together into the communion of the body and blood of Christ (Cf. Acts 2:30-42; Romans 16; Hebrews 6 and 10).

The administration of the Lord’s Supper is not subordinated to but is coordinated with the proclamation of the Word.

And this following point is awesome: The original Greek words in 1 Corinthians 11 of Jesus’ Words of Institution are actually written as “into the remembrance of Me.” It’s very hard to translate it into many modern languages, but the weight of that phrase is that God, the heavenly Father, is the One doing remembering (and the word “remembering” carries a lot of heavy meaning to it). We are entering into it. Again, Christ Jesus is the One inhabiting and leading the liturgy and giving and doing in the presence of His Father; we are receiving Him and from Him in the presence of His and our Father.

Seriously, I have 23 pages of notes which I wrote from this seminar. Each time I read them, my heart is filled with awe over these great mysteries which we have within the fellowship of the Lord’s Church. If you wish to receive a copy of my notes of those sessions, please let me or Carol Moore know and I will be sure to get a copy of them to you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robert Carabotta



Prayer Ministry at Mission

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

*Gracious words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body. Proverbs 16:24*

It seems that once we begin to pray for others, there is need for prayer all around us! We open our e-mail or answer our phone and there are prayer requests! We hand out our prayer cards in our daily lives and begin to pray for those outside of our church family. We visit with family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors....there is need for prayer! And we ourselves need prayer! There are a variety of needs, but we often find there is need for healing prayers. Whether that need is for bodily, emotional or spiritual healing, our Lord has provided wisdom, comfort and promise in His Word about healing. Here is a sampling to aid us as we pray for healing:

*In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I called.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry came to his ears.—2 Samuel 22:7*

*The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults,
and with my song I give thanks to him.
The LORD is the strength of his people;^[a]
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.—Psalm 28:7-10*

*I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.—Psalm 34:4*

*But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.—Psalm 66:19*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.—Psalm 103:1-5*

*Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed;
save me, and I shall be saved,
for you are my praise.—Jeremiah 17:14*

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. — Malachi 4:2

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

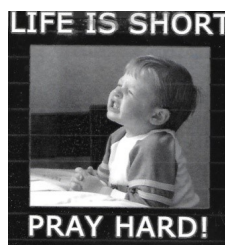
“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. —Matthew 5:3-14

For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” —John 6:33

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith^[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. —Romans 5:1-5

This article will continue with more scripture to guide, inspire and comfort us as we pray in next month's newsletter. Until then, may our Lord bless you as you pray!



Stewardship

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony of receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? The offerings are collected in plates or baskets, and they are brought forward and given to the pastor or an assistant. The pastor turns toward the altar, and, as he slightly bows his head, the offerings are raised slightly to the Lord and placed on the altar or an adjacent table.

Why do we have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does - it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1-3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion - the bread and the wine - were brought forward with the offerings. The offerings and elements were lifted toward the Lord and placed upon the altar. The altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

Gifts brought to the altar come from the sweat of His people's brow. They are the bread and wine, the fruits of His people's labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people are to bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. Gifts set upon the altar are offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into service for His gracious work.

For what is offered to the Lord from the sweat of His people's brow - the bread of anxious toil - comes back to us as the bread of life. The bread comes down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup will receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire - oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household." (Deut. 14:22-26)

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows. He receives this from us in the first-fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise, and He turns these into spiritual bread. He gives this heavenly bread - the bread of eternal life - back to us so we might have joy.

So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder. The offerings we have given to Him, the Lord gives back to us in His supper so that we may rejoice in the salvation He won for us upon the cross.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources





Birthdays of the Month

August Birthdays

Honda	Barbara	7
Hauenstein	Meribeth	8
Spaman	Lila	9
Fant	Greg	10
Brennan	Jeannie	11
Echtenkamp	Wade	11
Ryan	Vince	15
Eisenbraun	John	16
Bartels	Arlyn	20
Aguilera	Athena	24
Carabotta	Robert II	26
Ryan	Cheryl	27
Gunderson	Eric	29
Spicka	Chuck	31



*Happy
Anniversary*

August Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Wolf	Nick & Codie	5	47
Ryan	Vince & Cheryl	14	21
Vandiver	Donald & Verline	14	8
Lorenz	Doug & Alma	24	51
Duever	Doug & Pat	28	54

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

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 4th 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.

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 (at 302 S. Main Street, just off Amador Avenue) on Tuesday, August 13th, at 11:30 am. If you plan to attend, please contact either Jacki McCurley at 526-9182 or Ruth Jakcsy at 522-8637.



*be kind to
one another*
Ephesians 4:32

Mark Your Calendars Ladies!

The LWML is inviting all women of the congregation to join us for lunch, devotions and fellowship. Meet new people and reconnect with others. Our Bible study is “A Grace-Full Woman,” based on Ephesians 4:32. Lunch will be provided. Feel free to bring a friend.

Saturday, September 7th
11:30 am
Mission Lutheran Church — Luther Hall



MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
June 18, 2019

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, John Guenther, Beth Fant, Pastor Carabotta, Megan Wood, Fran Gunderson, Doug Lorenz, Mark Krohn, Kay Swedberg, Carol Cooper, Jan Peyton, and guest Carol Moore.

Pastor Carabotta led the opening devotion based on Luke Chapter 11

The minutes of the May 21, 2019, meeting were approved as emailed.

Discussion of Pastor Borchers' Report: Pastor Borchers' Report is attached. There were mixed reviews of his report, with expectations differing between members. One main concern was a comment on page 4, as Council members understand that other pastor(s) did not attack Pastor Carabotta during his leave of absence.

Generally, members felt there was little new learned, though many were encouraged that the concept MLC as a family was mentioned frequently at the meeting. There is some concern that Pastor Borchers does not have the facilitator skills to help us.

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

Treasurer's Report: John Guenther's report is attached. John noted that his report is not end of year but the changes will be minimal. He anticipates a shortfall between \$8,000-\$11,000. The mortgage will be paid off in approximately 35 months.

School Board Report: Megan Wood's report is attached and includes a summary of the accreditation report. Megan said that the registration is currently 37, with preschool now 12 students. John Guenther said this equates to 31.27 FTEs, while next year's budget is based on 39.28 FTEs. Megan said that the Board and MLS have plans which address any concerns stated in the accreditation report.

Board of Elders Report: Ben Wood's report is attached. Pastor Carabotta reminded us that the LCMS national convention is this week. He and Ben will be casting votes for President on behalf of MLC. He asked that we pray for the participants and that God's will be accomplished.

Trustees Report: Doug Lorenz' report is attached. Work to replace the Luther Hall kitchen grease trap will begin next Monday.

Evangelism and Prayer Ministry Report: No report this month. Carol Moore reminded us that there is no Prayer Ministry Meeting this Saturday.

Fellowship Report: Kay said that the next Fellowship activity being planned is Oktoberfest. There was discussion about what the activity would encompass, including whether beer could be served. Pastor Carabotta indicated beer could be on the menu.

Christian Education Report: Carol Cooper said that the Board is considering whether to cancel Sunday School for a few weeks during the summer, as attendance is down and new materials will not arrive until some time in August. After discussion, Carol said that Sunday School would continue as originally scheduled.

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

Stewardship Report: Mark Krohn's report is attached.

Continued on next page →

Vice President's Report: Brad Springer's report is attached. He indicated that with July, he should be able to attend Council meetings regularly.

President's Report: The next Council meeting is July 16. Vice President Springer will lead the meeting, as President Fant will be out of town.

Pastor Carabotta led us in prayer.

We viewed a draft advertising video for MLS, which was well received.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT – FINAL FY 2018-19 STATUS

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: June 30, 2019

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of June 2019</u>		<u>FY Through June 30, 2019</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$25,750.00	\$25,129.00	\$272,950.00	\$249,520.19
MLS Total	\$200.00	\$1,776.77	\$170,250.00	\$165,995.10
Designated / Other	\$125.00	\$55.92	\$1,500.00	\$6,713.82
	\$26,075.00	\$26,961.69	\$444,700.00	\$422,229.11
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$14,227.23	\$13,469.72	\$184,415.51	\$178,819.59
MLS Total	\$17,648.63	\$19,119.50	\$261,284.56	\$248,990.86
	\$31,875.86	\$32,589.22	\$445,700.07	\$427,810.45
Net Difference	-\$5,800.86	-\$5,627.53	-\$1,000.07	-\$5,581.34

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

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2019 (Through June 30, 2019):

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,150.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,708.78
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$249,565.19
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$272,950.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$23,384.81

Assets / Liabilities (As of June 30, 2019):

<u>Fund Assets:</u>	Endowment Fund (as of Mar 3, 2019)	\$91,345.00
	Strasser Fund (as of Jun 30, 2019)	\$56,356.77
<u>Current Assets:</u>	Checking	\$26,292.47
	LCEF Savings	\$65,894.46
	MLS	\$17,946.38
	(minus Sabbatical	\$8,673.62
	designated) Youth Activity	\$1,473.97
	Other Holding	\$1,643.06
	Total Savings Available	\$36,157.43
<u>Liabilities:</u>	Mortgage Loan	\$37,448.70

Notes:

1. MLC general contributions and MLS tuition income both short of budget.
2. Both MLC and MLS expenses less which kept us close to budget balance.



*Back to School night is
Monday, August 12.*

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: Jim Bonse (575) 526-8675

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