

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

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

## In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry
- "The Gift of the Gospel"
- Stewardship
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- Council Meeting minutes
- Treasurer's report

## Important Dates:

- May 5: Cinco de Mayo
- May 6: National Day of Prayer
- May 9: Mother's Day
- May 11: School Board meeting
- May 11: Elders' meeting
- May 15: Armed Forces Day
- May 18: Church Council meeting
- May 28: Last day of school
- May 31: Memorial Day





# Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

## Covering all we do in prayer!

This is the third of our series of pandemic-modified prayer targets as we continue to be sure all we do is covered in prayer. Please continue to pray regularly for Worship and Support and last month's Christian Education and add the following for Missions and Fellowship! *Let's anticipate together what our Lord does at Mission as we seek Him together!*

### ***Missions and Fellowship***

#### IN GENERAL, *may we all*

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

#### FOR OUR PASTORS, *as they equip our boards and ministries at Mission to edify the body of Christ, that*

- Their hearts would be drawn to the place of prayer as a daily priority.
- They boldly proclaim God's unchanging Word, through speech, action and attitude.
- They are strengthened and protected as they lead according to God's Word and perfect will.
- God would be glorified through them.

#### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND MISSIONS, *pray that*

- The Board responds lovingly and effectively to help those in need of assistance, seeking the Lord's wisdom, guidance and inspiration with the love of Christ, limited resources and community support.
- All at Mission will support efforts through prayer and donations.

#### BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP, *pray that*

- All will joyfully anticipate the return of fellowship activities offered by the Board and assist with the details of offering each event.
- Participants are inspired by devotions and Bible studies, that their faith in God's Word is matured.
- All will thankfully partake of meals, devotions, studies and singing God's praises, satisfying both a physical and spiritual hunger.

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LWML, *pray for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League that*

- Women of the congregation will be drawn to participate in Bible studies and the leader will be blessed as she is inspired to lead in the knowledge of God's Word.
- Women of the congregation will unite to embrace and uphold each of the missions supported by the LWML.
- Quilters are mindful of and pray for each recipient and their knowledge of the Lord as they joyfully construct quilts.
- We care donors and the coordinator will pray for the needs of each family and the new life they've brought into the world that they would know God's saving grace.
- Sunshine cards reflect genuine love, concern and prayers for the needs of each card recipient.
- Women will joyfully anticipate future programs and the resumption of in-person events.

BREADBREAKERS, *pray that all groups may resume soon and that*

- The Holy Spirit will guide the church elder in forming groups and will call forth faith-filled leaders for a growing and thriving ministry.
- Many in our congregation will value the fellowship, study and prayer with their brothers and sisters in Christ offered by the Breadbreakers groups.
- All studies will awaken a hunger in the participants to spend more time with the Lord in His Word.
- Interactions will reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit and will glorify God.

EL CALDITO SOUP KITCHEN, *pray that*

- God will continually provide the help needed to cook and serve.
- Those cooking and serving will take hold of every opportunity to show God's love and share His saving Gospel.

YOUTH GROUP, *pray that*

- Youth leaders will reach out to, pray for, and lead young people in a Christ-like manner.
- New young people will be attracted to join the Youth Group and it will be blessed and thrive.
- All young people will be captivated by a desire to come together to grow in their knowledge of Christ through fellowship with one another.
- The Holy Spirit will show opportunities to serve their church, senior communities, other youth, and school campuses.

JULIET WOMEN'S LUNCHEONS, *pray that they may soon safely resume and that*

- Each woman of the congregation and others lovingly invited are welcomed into fellowship.
- The women enjoy Christian fellowship, strengthening one another in faith and supporting one another in prayer and service.
- Their interactions be guided by the Word of the Lord and reflect the fruit of the Spirit and Christ's love.
- They use this opportunity to share the Gospel with others such as the restaurant staff.

ROMEO MEN'S BREAKFASTS, *pray that that they may soon safely resume and that*

- The Word of the Lord and the unity of the Spirit are shared among all who participate.
- Men will be drawn together to serve the Lord.
- Each will strengthen one another in faith and pray for one another throughout the week.

- They use this opportunity to share the Gospel with others such as the restaurant staff.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP, *pray that*

- The Lord will re-establish this fellowship in the wisdom of His timing.
- Many young adults will be drawn to participate in this fellowship as they support one another in growing faith.



***“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

# The Gift of the Gospel

*“For this reason, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly” (Eph. 3:1–3).*

**There is that word:** stewardship. It is a word that so many Christian people balk at. In fact, it isn’t really a joke that when the word “stewardship” is mentioned in church, men guard their wallets and women clutch their purses. The Church has earned this response. Over the generations, the Church has allowed the word stewardship to become equated with the financial resources necessary to compensate staff and pay bills.

So, as we consider simple gifts, does it surprise you that Paul would willingly talk about stewardship with the people of Ephesus? Notice what He isn’t talking about: money. What Paul is talking about is REAL stewardship, which deals with stewardship of God’s grace. That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

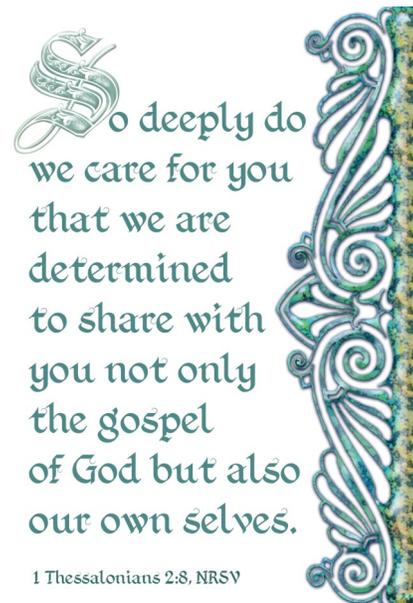
The greatest gift that our Lord has given us to steward is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Truthfully, it is the ONLY gift we are given to steward. How you are led by God to steward the resources entrusted to you by God are to be stewarded for the sake of the Gospel. How you use your stuff tells a great deal about what you think of the Gospel. If your stuff is used to help your family, friends, congregation and community to better understand the Gospel, you are a faithful steward. If it is about you and your comforts, or even their comforts, that isn’t faithful stewardship.

This perspective is helpful. It also causes us some grief. None of us are always faithful in our stewardship for the sake of the Gospel.

What Paul calls us to in these words is repentance. Today we ask the Lord to work in and through our stewardship so that the people around us will KNOW about our stewardship of the Gospel as individuals and as a congregation.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, as You entrusted the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Your servant Paul, so You have entrusted it to me. I admit that I have not always been faithful in my stewardship of the Gospel. I have been more worried about my comfort and my legacy than the extension of the Gospel. Lead me to see and use the simple gifts You have entrusted to me for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Amen.



1 Thessalonians 2:8, NRSV

## Stewardship

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13-14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “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” (Deut. 14:22-23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son - our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way - and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy - we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9-10).

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources





# Birthdays of the Month

## May Birthdays

<u>Date</u>		
5	<b>Willett</b>	Tom
8	<b>Micklevitz</b>	Chris
10	<b>Radke</b>	Irma
10	<b>Shaw</b>	Ashley
11	<b>Lyons</b>	Alexander
12	<b>Lenahan</b>	Joanne
15	<b>White</b>	Harvey
18	<b>Turk</b>	Richard
19	<b>Bork</b>	Fred
19	<b>Lusk</b>	Janet
26	<b>Carrera-Little</b>	Jeamy
27	<b>Wood</b>	Megan
29	<b>Mailander</b>	Kathy
29	<b>Perry</b>	Andrew
31	<b>Martin</b>	Ken

*Happy  
Anniversary*

## May Anniversaries

<u>Date</u>			<u># of years</u>
22	<b>Bonse</b>	Jim & Sonja	<b>50</b>
22	<b>Fant</b>	Greg & Beth	<b>39</b>
24	<b>Wood</b>	Ben & Megan	<b>18</b>
29	<b>Gunderson</b>	Eric & Fran	<b>51</b>

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

*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

March 16, 2021

President Brad Springer called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Attending were Brad Springer, John Guenther, Carol Moore, Pastor Cramm, Reverend Perry, Alma Lorenz, Doug Lorenz, Jerry Stickles, Shirley Miller, Amie Springer, Mark Krohn, Sonya Perry and guest Mary Martin.

Pastor Cramm led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved.

President: President Brad Springer presented a draft survey for the congregation to complete about the church website. Amie will work with Mary to develop a survey based on this draft. Feedback from the survey and a course of action will be presented at the next council meeting.

Brad mentioned that yesterday was the closing date for the congregation to submit a nomination for Pastor. One was received and he sent it to the district so now we must wait for more information.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be gone from August 12<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup> to go to Africa to teach. He asked the council for a free will offering to help with costs. He will also be gone sometime in July and October for the birth of his grandchildren.

Elder's Report: Report is attached.

Treasurer's Report: Report is attached. John said revenue exceeds expenses at this time.

School Board: The school will be opening in person on March 29. Classes will meet Monday to Thursday with Friday being one on one Zoom conferencing. They are asking that Luther Hall not be used for Bible study to keep it sanitized.

Fellowship: Nothing to report.

Financial Secretary: Nothing to report.

Trustees: Report is attached.

Evangelism: Cards, emails and phone calls were sent to visitors from December 2018 through December 2020. They also sent them to visitors at Faith and members from Faith that we have not seen. They will continue this with visitors throughout this year. The committee would like to use the South side of the Marquee to put up a Bible verse or Christian slogans to spread the Gospel to others. After much discussion, the item was tabled until next month to look at scheduling, letters, and other issues that need to be addressed. Perhaps a concrete proposal can be submitted at next month's meeting.

Prayer Ministry: Nothing new to report.

Christian Service: Report is attached.

Stewardship: Nothing to report.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Reverend Perry led us in closing prayer.

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It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacki McCurley, Secretary



## MEETING MINUTES

Pastor Cramm plans to go on a mission trip to South Africa this summer as he has done in the past. We will be taking up a free will offering in May to help fund his trip. Please make checks payable to the church with "Mission Trip" on the memo line. If you prefer to make a cash donation, please place it in an envelope with your name and "Mission Trip" written on the envelope.

## TREASURER'S REPORT – APRIL 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

### Mission Lutheran Church and School

**Report Preparation Date: April 20, 2021**

**Budget Status:**                      **Month of Mar 2021**    **FY Through Mar 31, 2021**

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
MLC General	\$19,200.00	\$19,675.00	\$187,200.00	\$190,324.00
MLS Total	\$17,600.00	\$5,977.66	\$180,650.00	\$98,998.29
Designated / Other	\$266.67	\$122.35	\$2,200.00	\$3,054.93
	<u>\$37,066.67</u>	<u>\$25,775.01</u>	<u>\$370,050.00</u>	<u>\$292,377.22</u>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
MLC Total	\$14,413.51	\$9,559.74	\$145,636.14	\$108,299.68
MLS Total	\$21,486.71	\$14,636.69	\$208,024.18	\$158,980.23
	<u>\$35,900.22</u>	<u>\$24,196.43</u>	<u>\$353,660.32</u>	<u>\$267,279.91</u>
Net Difference	\$1,166.45	\$1,578.58	\$16,389.68	\$25,097.31

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

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2021 (Through April 18, 2021)**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,800.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,962.15
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$208,410.21
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$201,600.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	<b>\$6,810.21</b>

### **Assets / Liabilities**

<b><u>Fund Assets:</u></b>	Endowment (as of Mar. 31, 2021)	\$112,578.30
	Strasser (as of Mar 31, 2021)	\$73,892.45
	Thrivent (as of Mar 31, 2021)	\$400,162.65
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$586,633.40</b>

<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>	Checking (as of Apr 20, 2021)	<b>\$36,423.34</b>
	LCEF Savings (as of April 20, 2021)	\$146,576.09
	(minus designated funds)	
	School Funds	14679.31
	Youth Activity Funds	\$3,565.57
	Other	\$57.37
	<b>Total LCEF Savings Available</b>	<b>\$128,273.84</b>

<b><u>Liabilities:</u></b>	None	<b>\$0.00</b>
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### **Comments:**

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



**Mother's Day is May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

***Mission Lutheran Church and School***

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***Las Cruces, NM 88011-8081***

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

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

***secretary@missionlutheran.net***

***office@mlschool.net***

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

**We're on the web!**  
**<http://missionlutheran.net>**  
**<http://mlschool.net>**

**Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2021**

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