

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Pastor's Pen

A Devotion: "The Tides of All Saints' and the End of All Things Mortal"

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

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Important Dates:

November 2: Coats for Kids fundraiser
November 3: Daylight Savings Time ends
November 9: LWML Craft day
November 10: MLS Sunday
November 27: Thanksgiving Eve service
November 28: Thanksgiving Day Holiday
November 30: Vendor Boutique fundraiser for MLS



¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God (Revelation 14:13-19).

Revelation 14 and other readings of the Bible give rise to two time periods of the Church Year, the one being All Saints'-tide (at the end of October and the beginning of November) and the last Sundays and weeks of the Church Year. These readings also give rise to the beginning of the season of Advent, because during the last weeks of the Church Year and in the beginning of Advent we concentrate our souls on the promise of Christ Jesus that He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead and will bring us to the complete and consummate kingdom of God in the new heavens and the new earth!

May the following meditations be a blessing to you in your devotions and heart's ponderings over the next few weeks ...

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

These words from the Holy Spirit comfort us so deeply and surely as we think about those loved ones who have trusted in Christ Jesus for remission of sins and redemption but whose bodies have been laid to rest in the sleep of death and whose souls are in joy and peace in the presence of God in Paradise! These words give us courage in the face of death, to know that this world has no claim on things of beauty and bliss beyond description, to long for that glory in God's kingdom beyond the split-second blink of bodily death! Verse 13 of Revelation 14 gives rise to our Church's noble flow of remembrances at the Eve and Day of All Saints and the slow ebb of the same in the days thereafter.

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶ So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

These words from Revelation 14 echo those of Matthew 24:29-31, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The one who is seated on the cloud is Christ Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, crowned the King of kings and Lord of lords, who will come in clouds of glory in the glory of His heavenly Father and of the holy angels, to raise up the dead and the living from the listless weight of mortality and to gather into His kingdom His believers whom the Holy Spirit will have changed over to physical, glorious immortality!¹ Verses 15 and 16 are speaking to us of how the Lord Jesus will gather us who have trusted in Him, marked as we are on our foreheads with the name of God in Holy Baptism, into His kingdom!

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God (Revelation 14:13-19).

Verses 17 through 19 of Revelation 14 are speaking of the judgment of the living and the dead, which will happen immediately after the glorious appearing of Jesus from heaven and the resurrection of the bodies of the living and the dead.

But verses 18 and 19 are speaking of a different gathering, that of unbelievers, to be trampled in the wrath of God. This separation of the unbelieving from the righteous-by-faith-in-Jesus will be done by the hands of mighty, holy angels, even as our Lord teaches us in Matthew 13:36-42. Other passages of Scripture which interpret with plain and explicit words these poetic/symbolic images of Revelation 14 are John 3:31-36 and John 5:22-29.

Some of the hymns which stir us up to pray for those who have yet to believe in Jesus and to tell the good news about Jesus to anyone and everyone are: "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" (LSB 508), "Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment" (511), "The Clouds of Judgment Gather" (513), and "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (515), "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (516), "For All the Saints" (677), and "Jerusalem the Golden" (672).

God bless your meditations on the Word of the Lord, your prayers for all people, and your speaking of the Gospel to whomever the Holy Spirit leads you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robert Carabotta

¹Luke 9:26-35 also connects to Rev. 14:14-16, Matthew 24:29-31 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 to enlighten our understanding of these awesome things.



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 question for you:

What part of belonging to Mission Lutheran Church and School is closest to YOUR heart?

We have much to be thankful for in our family here at Mission from our shared worship and communion to the way we fellowship together. As a family, we are active and busy serving, giving and growing in our knowledge of our Lord. Please spend a little time considering what is most important to you in our lives together. And once you know what that part is, please consider praying for that part of your church and school family.

In addition to the prayer groups that meet throughout the week, we currently have 30+ intercessors {“Prayer Warriors”) who daily pray from their homes for some of the aspects of all we do at Mission. You’ve all heard that the big goal of the prayer ministry is to see that all we do is covered in prayer! We would like to modify that big goal to: ***see that all we do is covered in prayer by all.***

The groups that our intercessor “prayer warriors” pray for from home have been recently re-ordered. Each group is outlined in the section on the next page. Please consider which group you will pray with from home individually on a daily basis for just a few minutes!

New prayer target booklets have been designed to support and guide our intercessors. Intercessors individually choose which groups and targets to pray each day. Some pray for one or two different groups each day, while others elect to pray for all of the groups each day.

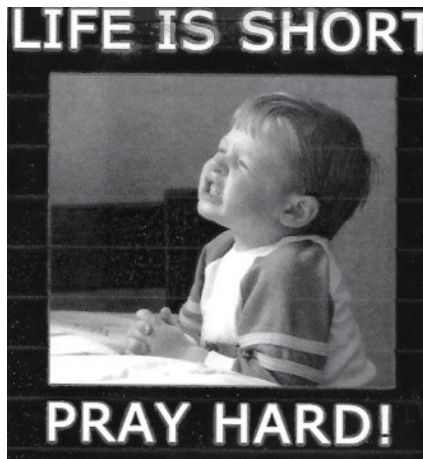
If you are willing to pray with one of the groups below, please contact Alma Lorenz at (505) 402-6622 or Shirley Miller at (505) 870-7279 or the Group Coordinator of your group of interest. We will get a booklet of prayer targets to you.

Another prayer opportunity for you: if you have a heart for the students and staff at our school, please join us on Thursday mornings as we pray together for the staff, students and all aspects of the school. We gather in Luther Hall for about 10 minutes just after 7:30 AM, following the Praise and Prayer Hour that happens each Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 AM.

You are warmly invited to join the Praise and Prayer Hour! My grandchildren are coached to try every food before they determine whether or not they like it. I suggest to all that you try joining the Praise and Prayer Hour at least once before you determine it’s not for you!



Worship and Support	Christian Education	Missions & Fellowship
Group Coordinator: Jan Peyton	Group Coordinator: Roberta Willett	Group Coordinator: Ruth Jakcsy
Divine Service Intercessors Greeters Ushers Choir Altar Guild Acolytes Nursery] Board of Elders Board of Stewardship Board of Trustees Board of Evangelism Prayer Ministry Council Voter's Assembly	Board of Christian Education Board of Day School Mission Lutheran School and Pre-School (Students and Staff) Sunday School Bible Study PTO Youth and Adult Confirmation Off-Campus Bible Studies Vacation Bible School	Board of Christian Service and Missions Board of Fellowship LWML—Quilters, Wee Care, Sunshine, Memorial Meals, Missions Faith Lutheran Church Breadbreakers El Caldito Youth Group JULIET Luncheons ROMEO Men's Breakfasts Young Adult Fellowship



Stewardship

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us - like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ - give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart - for the joy set before us - the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources





November Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Pathy	Patricia	2
Franz	Janet	4
Reyes	Karen	12
Stegemann	Cathy	12
Burns	Rosalie	13
Del Bozque	Jerry	15
Monica	Sawyer	15
Siffring	Al	17
Duever	Pat	21
Gunderson	Fran	21
Aguilera	Ciara	22
Shaw	Kerri	29

Happy Anniversary

November Anniversaries

	<u>Date</u>	<u># of yrs</u>
Lujan Al & Becky	8	33

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

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, ...) 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 Indulgence Café on Tuesday, November 12th, at 11:30 am. If you plan to attend, please contact either Jacki McCurley at 526-9182 or Ruth Jakcsy at 522-8637.

LWML November Happenings

November 9th: Bible Study and Craft Day from 10 am - 2 pm

Need some new ornaments for your tree or a small gift for a friend? Come to craft day on November 9th. We will begin at 10 am with coffee and treats while diving into the Bible study "Always Thankful." Then, decide between several crafts to assemble and take home with you.

Bring a friend and your kids for fun and fellowship.

Food and craft supplies will be provided.

Please sign up to reserve a spot for our planning.



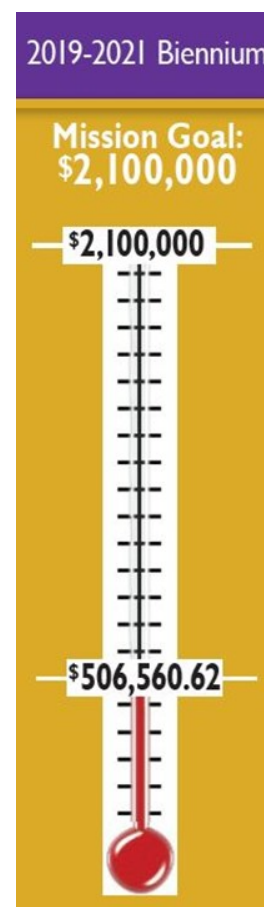
LWML Mission Goal Report

Mite Goal for the 2019-2021 Biennium: \$2,100,000

Total Mites received to date: \$506,560.62

Total Mites needed to reach our goal: \$1,593,439.38

Praise the Lord for all mite offerings received, and we pray His blessings on the grant recipients as we begin funding this biennium's grants. Continue to fill your Mite Boxes and/or donate your gifts online at lwml.org/donate-online. **Fill the thermometer to the top with overflowing generosity!**



MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
September 17, 2019

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, Brad Springer, Beth Fant, Fran Gunderson, Doug Lorenz, Mark Krohn, Ben Wood, Carol Cooper, Alma Lorenz, Megan Wood, Kay Swedberg, Jan Peyton and guest Carol Moore.

Greg led opening devotion based on Philippians Chapter 4.

The minutes of the August 20, 2019, meeting were approved as emailed.

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

Treasurer's Report: John Guenther's report is attached.

Vice President's Report: Brad Springer said he needs to know who is terming out at the end of year so that he can identify a slate of officers and board members for 2020. Jan Peyton said she would provide a listing of the positions vacating at the end of 2019 and those returning to serve their second term.

Next Sunday, after services, Brad plans to announce this effort and ask members to pray, then let him know if they are willing to serve in 2020.

President's Report: Greg Fant reported that the Strategic Planning Taskforce (SPT) meetings have been good conversation. The Vision Statement developed is "MLSC is a Christ-centered family bringing God's message of love and salvation to everyone." Ben Wood moved, and Alma Lorenz seconded, that this vision statement be taken to the next Voters' Assembly meeting for their discussion and approval. The motion passed.

Megan Wood reported that the School Board has been developing goals, strategies and future plans for MLS and asked that their efforts be provided to the SPT for inclusion in the planning process. Megan will email the Board's planning details to Greg for the SPT.

Greg said that we need an inventory of what MLCS is already doing now so that planning can build on those efforts.

Doug Lorenz said his view of the SPT is that the taskforce will develop a master view to guide MLCS' future work and programs.

Financial Secretary's Report: nothing to report this month.

Stewardship Report: Mark Krohn's report is attached. Contributions to the LCMS National Offering continue to come in. Mark moved, and Megan Wood seconded, that a free-will offering be scheduled to support this LCMS effort. The motion passed. Mark will discuss with Pastor how to incorporate this in services.

Board of Elders Report: Ben Wood reported that an 8th bread breakers group is being added. Altar Guild training was held Saturday, September 14, with three attending.

The Elders discussed the need for them, and other members, to visit our shut-ins.

The Board needs to begin identifying potential Elders for 2020 and beyond. Doug Lorenz and Jerry Stickles are terming out at the end of the year.

The Stewardship/Elder Initiative to visit each member will continue using a slightly different format. Stewardship will receive a note of each visit to report on time and talent interests of the member.

Continued on next page ➡

School Board Report: Megan Wood's report is attached. Enrollment has met budget projections.

Megan reported that the PTO has proposed that tuition be increased by \$45/month, which would then be used to cover MLS offering childcare after school hours for no additional fee. This change is viewed as a big incentive to enroll students here.

Fellowship Report: Kay Swedberg '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 noted that a \$350-\$400 expense will be incurred to repair the damaged sheet rock in the shed and above the water fountain in the church building.

The lights in the Luther Hall outside columns are not working. Lighting in the playground will be improved.

The HangSafe hooks have been installed in the hallway.

Christian Education Report: nothing to report this month.

Christian Service and Missions Report: Fran Gunderson's report is attached. Fran noted that the demand for food has dropped dramatically this past month.

Leadership Prayer Shield: Prayer requests were identified for Karen Buls, Emma Wood, and visitors.

The next Council meeting is October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: October 14, 2019

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of September 2019</u>		<u>FY Thru September 30, 2019</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$24,000.00	\$21,100.75	\$62,400.00	\$56,749.97
MLS Total	\$16,440.00	\$19,374.91	\$54,180.00	\$75,695.73
Designated / Other	\$125.00	\$343.25	\$375.00	\$2,198.34
	\$40,565.00	\$40,818.91	\$116,955.00	\$134,644.04
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$13,181.66	\$12,561.45	\$56,292.12	\$49,704.89
MLS Total	\$20,366.59	\$23,803.64	\$67,248.04	\$70,132.72
	\$33,548.25	\$36,365.09	\$123,540.16	\$119,837.61
Net Difference	\$7,016.75	\$4,453.82	-\$6,585.16	\$14,806.43

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

MLC General Fund Contributions – FY 2019 (Thru October 13, 2019):

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$4,800.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,579.86
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$68,697.97
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$72,000.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$3,302.03

Assets / Liabilities (As of October 14, 2019):

<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	\$25,988.40
	LCEF Savings	\$66,114.98
	MLS	\$4,142.79
	(minus Sabbatical	\$8,673.62
	designated) Youth Activity	\$1,473.97
	Coats for Kids	\$360.00
	Total Savings Available	\$51,464.60
<u>Liabilities:</u>	Mortgage Loan	\$33,697.48

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 and Apple Tree donations.



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

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

Elder on call: Ben Wood (575) 496-9599

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