

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

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## Important Dates:

May 1-3: Pastors' Conference  
 May 4: Mother/Daughter Tea  
 May 5: MLS Spring Musical  
 May 12: Mother's Day  
 May 18: Armed Forces Day  
 May 27: Memorial Day



And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’” (Act 2:1-21)

On May 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. This festival day came to be known as “Pentecost” because it was fifty days after the Passover. Before it was known as Pentecost, it was known as the Feast of Weeks, or the Feast of First-fruits. It was a day that the Lord had established for the people of Israel after He rescued them out of Egypt as a day of rest, celebration, and rejoicing.

Pentecost was one of the three festival days where all Jewish men were required to present themselves before the Lord. Thus, it makes sense why, in the above reading from Acts, there was a great crowd in Jerusalem. But by the time of the events in book of Acts, not all of the Jewish people were to be found in Judea and Galilee. There were many who had been scattered throughout the known world. This meant that, for many of the Jewish travelers to Jerusalem, the Hebrew language would not have been their most familiar language. In addition to this, there were many visitors to Jerusalem who were what we call “proselytes.” These were Gentiles who had come to believe in the God of Israel, and many of them would have been entirely unfamiliar with the Hebrew language.

This unfamiliarity with the language caused a certain amount of difficulty by the time of the New Testament. The worship at Jerusalem was conducted in Hebrew, and there were certain parts of the liturgy that the worshipers were supposed to speak. While the priests and Levites would have tried to help the worshipers say the parts they were required to speak, it still would have made proper worship of the Lord difficult. For those who didn’t know the language, it would have felt as if they were somewhat separated from the full proclamation of the steadfast love of the Lord.

But on that particular day of Pentecost that is recorded in Acts 2, the Lord worked mightily to change all of that. Whereas the Lord had originally confused the languages of mankind at the Tower of Babel so that mankind would be dispersed over the world, now the Holy Spirit grants the gift of tongues to the Apostles so that they can proclaim the mighty works of God in Christ Jesus to all the people in their own native languages.

This is a particularly poignant reading for us in our context. As many of you well know, there are many people in our area for whom English is either difficult or entirely unknown. Over sixty percent of the households of El Paso speak a language other than English at home. Our own town of Las Cruces has nearly forty percent of households that speak a language other than English at home. These are people for whom Christ died who need to hear the Gospel just as much as anyone.

And as Lutheran Christians, we have the pure Gospel! We have a long history of preaching justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. And this is all apart from any merit or works within us at all. We have this wonderful good news of the free forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ to share with the world! And yet, not everyone who needs to hear this message is able to receive it in the language we are most accustomed to speaking.

Many of our neighboring pastors and congregations have been feeling the burden of desiring to offer the ability to hear the Gospel and receive the blessed Sacraments in Spanish. There have been many conversations over the last year or so. These conversations led to a mission forum last month in El Paso where a trio of pastors from the Texas District offered their insights on establishing a Spanish-speaking congregation. Their presentation was awesome! But the work is far from over.

As we continue to work towards this goal, I would ask you to be in fervent prayer about this. We pray that God would lead us to be able to make connections with the people who will want to hear the Gospel and receive the Sacraments in Spanish. We pray for the ability of the congregations in our circuit to be able to support these efforts during these difficult times. And most especially do we pray for the Lord to provide a pastor who can lead a new congregation.

We, the Church, are indeed an Acts 2 Church. God is not limited by human language, but has made His Church to be made up of every tribe, language, people, and nation. As we desire to bring the Gospel to those who are around us, we pray, trusting the Lord of the Church to provide in His time. Even where things are difficult—especially where things are difficult! — we know that the Lord can work mightily. Amen.

# Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

May 2024

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



Most likely, God’s favorite prayers from us are the ones based on His Word! These prayers may come from the depths of our hearts and be a direct quote from the BIBLE, as the Spirit nudges us in sync with or Lord! Sometimes I suddenly see certain scriptures in a different way, though I’ve read that particular passage many times before. Today it struck me in a new way, that when we pray scripture, we are joining in prayer (as God’s house of prayer) with believers throughout the ages! That is certainly true as we participate in the liturgy. You will see a sprinkling of our regularly used liturgy in Psalm 67. Let’s pray that Psalm for our world today, keeping in mind those who lived in the past and those who may still live before Jesus’ return.

## Psalm 67

*May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah*

<sup>2</sup> *that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.*

<sup>3</sup> *Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!*

<sup>4</sup> *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah*

<sup>5</sup> *Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!*

<sup>6</sup> *The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.*

<sup>7</sup> *God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear him!*

In our prayer time this month, with Mother’s Day coming, let’s pray for mothers-to-be including our own Emily Cave. Let us also remember our own mothers in prayer. Perhaps you, like me, will be thanking God for your mother, although she is already with Him. I am including some scriptures that may lead us as we pray.

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*As one whom his mother comforts,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. –Isaiah 66:13*

*Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching,  
for they are a graceful garland for your head  
and pendants for your neck. Proverbs 1 8-9*

*Listen to your father who gave you life,  
and do not despise your mother when she is old.  
Buy truth, and do not sell it;  
buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.  
The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.  
Let your father and mother be glad;  
let her who bore you rejoice. –Proverbs 23:22-25*

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. –John 19:26-27*

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.  
–3 John 1:4*

***“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians: 16-18***



# Stewardship

## *More Than a Negative*

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people – we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)





# Birthdays of the Month

## May Birthdays

		Date
Michael	<b>Kaiser</b>	<b>3</b>
Chris	<b>Micklewitz</b>	<b>8</b>
Debra	<b>Tate</b>	<b>8</b>
Ashley	<b>Shaw</b>	<b>10</b>
Alexander	<b>Lyons</b>	<b>11</b>
Joanne	<b>Lenahan</b>	<b>12</b>
Gabriella	<b>Gucci</b>	<b>14</b>
Harvey	<b>White</b>	<b>15</b>
Richard	<b>Turk</b>	<b>18</b>
Fred	<b>Bork</b>	<b>19</b>
Stephen	<b>Kaiser</b>	<b>25</b>
Jeamy	<b>Carrera-Little</b>	<b>26</b>
Megan	<b>Wood</b>	<b>27</b>
Kathy	<b>Mailander</b>	<b>29</b>
Andrew	<b>Perry</b>	<b>29</b>
Ken	<b>Martin</b>	<b>31</b>

*Happy  
Anniversary*

## May Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Greg & Beth	<b>Fant</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42</b>
Ben & Megan	<b>Wood</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>
Nathan & Victoria	<b>Graff</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>
Robert & Pamela	<b>Kell</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>
Eric & Fran	<b>Gunderson</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</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.

# JULIETs

The JULIETs will be gathering for lunch again in April. All women in the church are invited. And bring a friend!

Thursday, May 9 — Hacienda de Mesilla  
1891 Avenida De Mesilla

We meet at 11:30 am.

So that the restaurant can be prepared, please notify Holly Poppy at least 2 days in advance if you plan to attend.

Call or text Holly at (575) 932-8517



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## WINGS/LWML

**Mark your calendars!** The mother/daughter tea will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 1:00 PM. All ladies are invited! There are sign-up sheets in both the school building and the church.

The next gathering of WINGS (Women in God's Service) will be on Monday, May 13, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided.

## MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Council Meeting

February 20, 2024

President Doug Lorenz called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Others attending were: Pastor Cave, Wade Echtenkamp, Vice President, Carol Cooper, Secretary, Brad Mueller, Treasurer, Carol Moore, Financial Secretary, Richard Turk, Board of Elders, Brad Springer, Sr., Trustees, and Brad Springer, Jr., Outreach/Fellowship/Stewardship.

Pastor Cave led us in opening prayer.

The minutes of the January 16, 2024, are attached and were approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cave's report is attached. Pastor Cave followed up on January discussion of creating videos encouraging new leaders and volunteers interested in building a Sunday School program. He emphasized that youth and Christian education needs to be a priority.

Vice President: Doug prefaced Wade's report, explaining that Wade is collecting information to be presented regarding Youth retreats. Wade added that he has spoken with Trinity Lutheran and Emanuel Lutheran Churches regarding the need and their interest in possibly working together to engage our youth.

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Brad Mueller advised in light of previous discussion regarding our youth that there is an Endowment for Youth in the amount of \$12,500.00. Otherwise, he had no report.

Financial Secretary: No report

Elders: Richard reported that the church directory has been updated for new elders. Breadbreakers groups are ready; Eric Gunderson has been coordinating the Breadbreakers groups. Richard addressed the question of whether alcohol use is permitted on church premises: Alcohol use must be discussed with and permitted by a Church Elder AND fully comply with Federal and New Mexico state law.

Trustees: Brad, Sr.-See Report attached. Other topics discussed were: 1) Possibility of having a directory with pictures; 2) Don Hallem's announcement that he will not be serving as trustee next year; 3) New HVAC for church sanctuary 4) Shed (donated by a relative of a former student) for Mission Lutheran School to be used for storage.

Outreach: Brad, Jr. discussed the "Martin Luther Hoody Project" which he will present at the Voters' Assembly in March. Brad is suggesting a total of \$1,800 funding be voted on: \$1,200 for Mission Lutheran School advertising and \$600.00 for Youth Outreach.

Voters' Assembly: Voters' Assembly is expected to be held March 20, beginning at 11:30 AM after Adult Bible Study. Action items and discussion topics:

Action item: Accept donation of the shed for ML School

Discussion Item: Phone System is waiting on information from Telstar to provide a wireless card for our fire alarm system. Without that card, we still need hard-wire phones.

Action Item: Present ONLY, with NO VOTING on possible changes to By-Laws 7.2.2, 7.4.2, and 7.5.2 (Council decided not to ask for revision of upper limit of Council spending (\$2,500) without Voter approval.)

Action Item: Present and vote on using Covid Grant money to pay for new HVAC



Action Item: Housing Allowance vote

Discussion Item: Moving expenses set at \$10,000

Council Retreat is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, April 14, 1:00-4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Cooper, Secretary

**Note:** Board Reports that are indicated as being attached are available from the church secretary upon request. They are not included in the newsletter in order to save space.



# MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

## Treasurer's Report for the Apr '24 Council/Voters Meeting

Report Preparation Date: Apr 1, 2024

<b><u>Budget Status:</u></b>	<u>Month of Mar '24</u>		<u>FY24 thru Mar '24</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
MLC General	\$17,960	\$218,650	\$230,600	
MLS Total	\$23,901	\$225,427	\$245,010	
Designated / Other	\$7,580	\$10,848	\$3,000	
	<u>\$49,441</u>	<u>\$454,925</u>	<u>\$478,610</u>	
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
MLC Total	\$26,592	\$161,885	\$161,077	
MLS Total	\$41,591	\$295,672	\$313,241	
	\$68,183	\$457,557	\$474,318	
Net Difference	<b><u>-\$18,742</u></b>	<b><u>-\$2,632</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,292</u></b>	

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY24 (Thru Mar 31, 2024)**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,765
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	<u>\$6,020</u>
Average Weekly <b><u>Surplus</u></b> /Shortfall:	<b><u>\$255</u></b>
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$240,322
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	<u>\$230,600</u>
Fiscal Year-to-Date <b><u>Surplus</u></b> /Shortfall:	<b><u>\$9,722</u></b>

### **Investments & Assets / Liabilities**

<b><u>Investments:</u></b>		Morgan Stanley/E*Trade (as of Mar 31, '24)	\$115,332
		Strasser Endowment (as of Mar 31, '24)	\$82,186
		Thrivent (as of Mar 31, '24)	\$451,037
		LCEF MLC Youth Development CD Account	\$12,875
		LCEF General Funds CD Account #1	\$51,501
		LCEF General Funds CD Account #2	\$51,039
		LCEF General Funds CD Account #3	\$50,640
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$814,610</u></b>
<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>		BMO Checking (as of Mar 31, '24)	<b><u>\$16,521</u></b>
		LCEF Checking (as of Mar 31, '24)	<b><u>\$48,196</u></b>
		Youth Activity Fund	\$3,766
		Youth Christian Development	\$12,500
	minus	MLS Reg/Tuition Holding	\$1,675
		MLS Angel Prog/TA Holding	\$4,680
	Dedicated	COVID Grant	\$35,874
	Funds	Apple Tree Donations	\$794
		Emergency Tuition Assistance	\$3,013
		School Security Grant	\$8,844
		Staffeldt Scholarship Fund	\$7,425
		Total Checking Available	<b><u>-\$13,854</u></b>
<b><u>Liabilities:</u></b>	None		

### **Comments:**



**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](mailto:pastor@missionlutheran.net)**  
**[secretary@missionlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@missionlutheran.net)**  
**[office@mlschool.net](mailto:office@mlschool.net)**

***Mother's Day is May 12***

**Elder on Call: Austin Nathaniel (571) 393-7055**

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

**Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2024**

President	Doug Lorenz	Elders, Chairman	Richard Turk
Vice President	Wade Echtenkamp	Elders, Vice-chairman	Nathan Graff
Treasurer	Brad Mueller	Trustees	Brad Springer, Sr.
Secretary	Carol Cooper	Outreach	Brad Springer
Financial Secretary	Carol Moore	Day School Education	Megan Wood