

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

O LORD, You have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You. For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with You. (Psalm 139:1-18)

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## Important Dates:

June 7–9: LWML District Convention  
 June 9: Voters' Assembly  
 June 16: Father's Day



I think that a lot of us are people who are accustomed to making plans. Some of us attempt to keep track of our plans by penciling in appointments and events on a paper calendar (which is my preferred method). Others use an assortment of electronic apps to plan out our days, which has the advantage of being able to be shared with others so that they can know your schedule as well. Many, if not most, of us budget our time without much room to spare. Whenever I'm driving to or from work, I know what my good times and my not-so-good times are. And if something doesn't go as planned, like road construction or a particularly slow vehicle in front of me, it can throw my timing off. And as I look at the drivers in the vehicles around me, the thought occurs to me that it's highly likely that most of them are just as concerned about the time as I am.

The wearing of wristwatches is not as common as in times past, but in no way does that mean that we are less concerned with the time than we used to be. It's simply that cell phones have largely taken over the role that watches once filled, with the added bonus of automatically updating for daylight savings time. And speaking of daylight savings time, we are so accustomed to the thought of being in control of our time that we adjust the clocks back and forth by an hour twice a year just so we can optimize the "ideal" amount of daylight during the hours we prefer the sun to shine.

Our proclivity for preciseness with time is even interwoven within our language. Many other languages are not nearly as precise and varied as English. English can do things with time that few, if any, other languages can. For example, I can use the future progressive perfect to describe a future time in which a past action is still ongoing. For instance, at nine in the morning I could say something like, "By 10:00 am, I will have been running for more than half an hour."

But for all our obsession over time, our illusion of control is inevitably shattered. I've been thinking about this a lot more lately because of two things that are happening simultaneously: my maternal grandfather being in his last days, and my wife being less than a week from her due date. Over the last several months, various doctors have tried to estimate how much longer grandpa might have left in this world, and how that timeline might be altered were he to try this or that treatment. About three months ago, we thought that things were imminent. But then things turned around, and we wondered if he might last another year. Now we think we're down to days, but maybe weeks. We're not sure. No one is.

Predicting the timeline for the birth of a child is usually a bit more accurate, but still far from precise. Ask anyone who has had a child before, and they'll tell you that due dates are really due guesses. Family members wishing to take time off to be around to help when the baby is born often find themselves frustrated by not being able to make plans. There have been times when mothers have wanted to schedule being induced just so they can make their plans. But Emily and I have seen notices at hospitals advising that early inductions should not be done unless medically necessary, their reasoning being that the baby needs the proper amount of time for in-utero development.

These times, natural birth and natural death, can be more than a bit confounding to the best laid plans of us who love to imagine that we control our time. But in times like these, we can lean on the many promises of God, including the promise expressed by David, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:16). The Lord knows all of our days. He knows exactly how many days we ought to have in this life. He planned them out precisely. And He's in full control of our times.

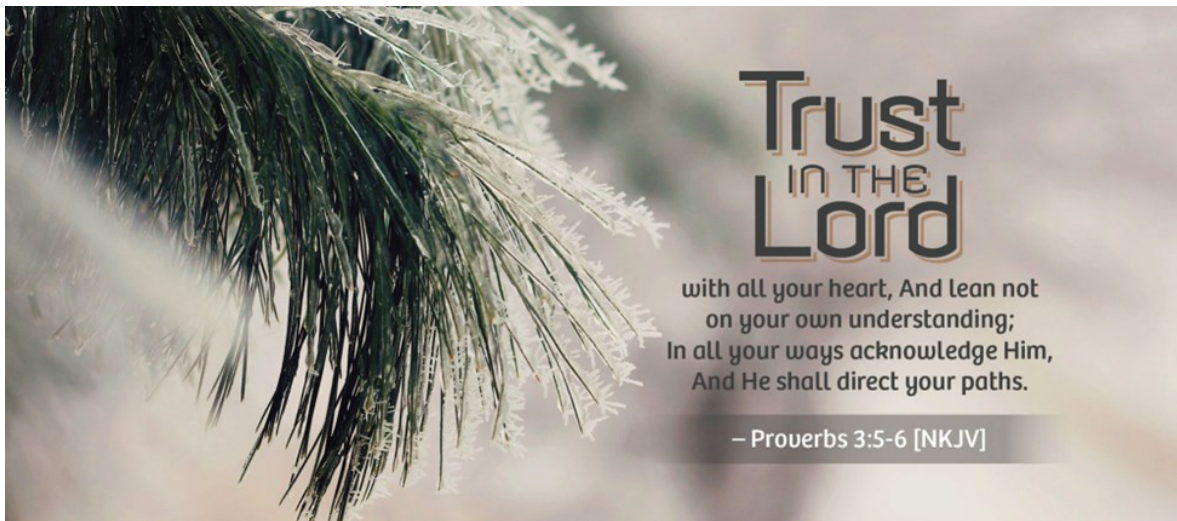
We might have an idea of what we think timelines for certain events ought to be. But the Lord knows far better. His clearest demonstration of this is seen in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, at just the right time in human history. As the Apostle Paul writes, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4). Whatever anyone might have thought about when the Messiah ought to have come, God knew exactly when the right time would be.

Because of this, we can trust that God knows exactly when certain events should happen in our lives. We can trust that He is working out all things for our good, and knows exactly what we need and when. We can echo the following words from one of our hymns:

Be patient and await His leisure  
    In cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure  
    And His discerning love hath sent,  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known  
To Him who chose us for His own.

God know full well when times of gladness  
    Shall be the needful thing for thee.  
When He has tried thy soul with sadness  
    And from all guile has found thee free,  
He comes to thee all unaware  
And makes thee own His loving care. (LSB #750, vs. 3-4)

Pastor Andrew Cave



# Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

June 2024

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



**Summertime!** Whether we long for summer as a time for fun, adventure, relaxation or a time to try to stay inside with cool AC, summer is always a time to take a pause. The busyness of Holy Week, the Easter season and graduations are behind us. We *can* take a pause. Maybe it will be time on a mountain or beach vacation, a morning on the patio with a cup of coffee or a quick time out of a (continuously) busy schedule. Wherever you can, intentionally find a moment, an afternoon or maybe a whole day! Whatever your pause or mine looks like, let’s take time this summer to spend time with your Lord and mine, knowing He is the refuge we need! As we mentioned in last month’s article, our Lord most likely loves our prayer that reflects the scripture He has given us. As we finish taking in what these scriptures mean to us personally, let us pray for those for whom we wish to have that same, relaxation in the Lord!

**“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”** - Psalm 46:10

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,  
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. – Isaiah 32:18

The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing. – Zephaniah 3:17

**“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

## *The Gift of Contentment*

As children grow up, they often feel cramped by their parents' restrictions. Dad says to be home by 11. But why can't I say out 'til midnight? Mom says to clean your room on Saturday morning. But I want to sleep in late, then roll out of bed, hop in the car and go to my friend's house without delay. I want to do what I decide is best.

The older we get, and especially when we have kids of our own, we begin to see the truth. Mom and Dad were not cramping our style or trying to crush our personal freedom – they were looking out for us, providing for us and teaching us a better way of life.

If that's how it is with fallible human parents, how much more so with our Heavenly Father! We sinners often feel cramped by the Law of God. Our sinful flesh wants to go its own way, do its own thing and be in charge. But in our heart of hearts, we know how foolish this is. We know that God loves us, and therefore all of His commands are for our benefit. Each one of His commandments is meant to bless us. Consider the last two commandments:

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it. (SC II)

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty. (SC II)

The commandments against coveting are warning us against losing one of the greatest gifts we can possess: contentment. Being content and thankful with what God has provided for us is a necessary building block of living a happy life. Unthankful coveting of what we have not been given will only make us miserable, so God warns us against it.

God has proven His love for us in sending His only begotten Son to shed His blood for us, cleanse us of our sins and brings us back into His family. If He loves us this much, then when percentage of His commandments do you think are meant to harm us? Probably no more than one or two percent, right? Of course that's absurd. God means to bless us with everything He says to us. The Law of God simply describes what a truly happy life, lived in thankfulness to Christ, looks like: It's a generous, merciful, contented life that uses all of the resources God has given us for His purposes.

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





# Birthdays of the Month

## June Birthdays

	Date
Deborah Staffeldt	1
Victoria Graff	3
Shirley Miller	7
Jill Smith	11
Jan White	12
Taylor Grothman	15
Bev Scaling	22
Connie Siffring	26
Roberta Willett	28
Connie Johnson	29
Amy Carrera-Little	30

*Happy Anniversary*

## June Anniversaries

	Date	# of years
James & Phyllis Turquette	4	47
Mark & Holly Poppy	6	43
Bob & Janice Pfothauer	7	16
Vic & Heidi Babin	19	42
Dan & Jacki McCurley	20	37
Pat & Jean Quinlan	22	60
Al & Connie Siffring	26	68

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

*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 June. All women in the church are invited. And bring a friend!

Thursday, June 13 — Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant  
1753 E University Avenue

We meet at 11:30 am.

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

Call or text Debra at (901) 830-7216



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## WINGS/LWML

The next gathering of WINGS (Women in God's Service) will be on Monday, **June 17**, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided. Note the change in date. Several ladies weren't available on the second Monday of June.

**MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
(as amended 4/14/2024)  
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: Report is attached. 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.

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. It is his understanding that Brad Mueller will be proposing 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.

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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 L. 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  
COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2024**

President Doug Lorenz called the Mission Lutheran Church Council meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Other Council members present were: Pastor Cave, Wade Echtenkamp, Vice President, Carol Cooper, Secretary, Brad Mueller, Treasurer, Carol Moore, Financial Secretary, Brad Springer, Jr., Outreach/Fellowship/Stewardship, Amy Springer, Fellowship Committee, and Megan Wood, Chairman, Mission Lutheran School Board. Pastor Cave opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the February 20, 2024 Council Meeting are attached and were approved as corrected for a typographical error and absence of Carol Cooper's submission closing. After approval of the minutes, however, Brad Springer, Jr. noted that it was Brad Mueller, Treasurer, not Brad Springer, Jr. who suggested "a total of \$1,800 funding be voted on at the Voters' Assembly in March, \$1,200 for Mission Lutheran School advertising and \$600.00 for Youth Outreach." I would like to ask the Board to formally accept this additional correction to the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Mission Lutheran Church Council Meeting.

Council member reports were as follows:

Pastor's Report: Adult instruction will begin, tentatively, April 21.

Vice President: No report from Wade Echtenkamp.

Secretary: No report from Carol Cooper except explanation for requesting approval of additional correction to the Minutes of the February 20, 2024, Council Meeting.

Financial Secretary: Carol Moore reported that she had spoken with Roberta Willett after church, and Roberta indicated she is not ready to count the offerings yet.

Board of Elders: No report from Richard Turk.

Board of Trustees: No report from Brad Springer, Sr.

Outreach Committee: Brad Springer, Jr. reported that the hoodies have been ordered. Brad suggested correction to the February 20, 2024, minutes to clarify that Brad Mueller, not Brad Springer, Jr., made the suggestion regarding \$1,800 funding (including \$600 for Youth outreach) be voted on at Voters' Meeting. (Ultimately, the budget proposal for the Outreach Committee that will be voted on is \$2,400.)

School Board: Megan Wood reported the School Board is currently focused on Accreditation. The accreditation team will be on campus April 24-25, and the final report will be ready the following Friday. MLS goes through the accreditation process every 5 years. The school board is still actively searching for a 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher as well as an administrator since Darcy Grothman will be leaving in June.

President: Doug reported that he did get with Brad Mueller concerning the purchase of WIFI phones and video phones. Approximate cost of the phones would be \$2000 to change everything.

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Doug also requested that we produce 2-minute videos to interest church members in serving in positions on the Church Council. Shilo Smith asked for scripts, and Pastor said he would have one in the next three weeks.

Doug discussed “digital tithing”, explored by Wade Echtenkamp and Carol Moore. After discussion, Megan Wood made the following motion: “I move that we set up a “cash app” for donations to the church and school. The financial secretary will be the administrator.” Brad Mueller seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was amended to substitute “digital payment app” for “cash app”. All council members were in favor of the motion.

Pastor Cave moved to adjourn, and Brad Mueller seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Cooper, Secretary







*Father's Day is June 16*

*Mission Lutheran Church and School*

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*Elder on Call: Richard Turk (575) 621-3497*

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