

# MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

## Pastor's Pen

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Another October is upon us, and October is considered by some to be "pastor appreciation month." And while I am currently called to be the pastor here at Mission, I also have had and continue to have pastors in my own life for whom I am thankful. And so I thought I would share a bit about some of the pastors in my life and why I am thankful for them.

As I've said to many of you before, I was not raised Lutheran. The first pastor I remember as a child was the pastor of a Southern Baptist congregation in northern Arkansas. I don't remember much about him specifically because I was quite young, but I am thankful for him because he baptized me. Granted, the Southern Baptist church has a different theology about baptism than the Lutheran church, and so I wasn't baptized until I was seven and had made a "profession of faith." But even if I now disagree with the practice of withholding baptism from babies, we still recognize that a baptism done in the Triune name of God is a proper baptism and is His work for us. And so I am thankful for that pastor whose hands God used to wash me in the waters of Holy Baptism.

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## Important Dates:

September 30 thru October 11: MLS Fall Break

October 6: LWML Sunday

October 8–11: Breckenridge Conference

October 10: JULIETs lunch

October 31: Reformation Day



Another pastor for whom I am very grateful came to us when I was about ten years old. We had become a small, independent church. We became so small that for a number of years we held services in my parents' house! I have no idea how we were able to support this pastor, but he came and served us for several years. And what particularly stands out to me about him was his ability to teach. When he came to us, our theology was still very much in line with what one might find at a typical Southern Baptist church. But over time, he patiently led the congregation to significantly re-shape our Biblical understanding. By the time he left, we no longer held to the pre-millennial dispensationalist view of the End Times, but rather had an understanding akin to our Lutheran theology. We had rejected the notion that the Lord's Supper was merely symbolic and had embraced a view of Christ's spiritual presence (if only we had gone one step further and embraced His true presence!), and we were baptizing babies. Such a shift in theology is no small thing, but this pastor led the congregation through patient and thorough examination of the Word.

And words fail me to express how thankful I am for the pastor who led me to become a Lutheran. I had just been discharged from the military, and I was about to start college. I had moved to a new home in Missouri, and I felt a great need to get back into church. (I wasn't as diligent in my church attendance when I was in the military as I should have been.) I didn't know much about Lutheranism; I had no idea at the time that there are multiple Lutheran denominations. But I found this small LCMS church in town and walked in one Sunday morning in order to check out their services. On my way out, I asked the pastor if the church had a statement of faith or something else explaining what they believed. He said, "Wait just a minute," walked into his office, and came back out and handed me a copy of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*.

I took it home and read through it. It was only a couple days later that the pastor called me and invited me to join the adult catechism class he was currently teaching. After going through the class, I was accepted into membership.

That pastor has tried to downplay his significance in my spiritual formation, but I strongly disagree. He was the kind of pastor who loved to teach, and who helped me to understand more deeply how all the Scriptures not only form a cohesive whole, but more importantly how they all bear witness about Christ. He made sure that I had a place in the congregation, encouraging me to work in various capacities. He often invited me to join his family for celebrations like Easter dinner just make sure a young, single man like myself wasn't left out. And he prayerfully helped me to discern the Lord's prompting to go to seminary to become a pastor myself. And I could think of no one better to invite to preach the sermon at my ordination.

Certainly, there are several other pastors for whom I am thankful. The campus chaplain at seminary, my vicarage supervisor, and those who have served and continue to serve as my father confessor, are all pastors who have led and guided me using God's Word. The various pastors that have been in my life were men who answered God's call to speak the God's Word of life into the lives of His people, including me.

Even though I am currently serving as your pastor, very few if any of you have only had me as a pastor. Some of you have been Missouri-Synod Lutherans all your life. Some of you have come from different churches. But all of us have had multiple people who have spoken God's life-giving Word to us, who have declared to us the free forgiveness of sins that we have in Christ Jesus, and who have administered the Sacraments on our behalf. So, during the month of October, I invite you to remember and give thanks to God for those men He has placed in your lives. Think about how they exhibited the qualities listed by St. Paul in the above passage from 1 Timothy and the example that they gave you. Take a moment to reflect on the significant times in your life that they shared with you: your baptism, confirmation, wedding etc. And pray to God that He would sustain those who are currently serving and raise up more men to continue serving in His Church. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Cave





## Mission Lutheran Church and School Prayer Ministry

### Let's pray for our government leaders!

Although the first month of the year in the Old Testament changed in Exodus 12 to Abib (April to us now,) earlier, autumn began the first month of the year! This time of year, Tishri or Ethanim, marked the reign of kings and the first day was known as “the Feast of Trumpets,” a holy day. The beginning of a king’s reign was honored at this time of year, although his reign may have begun earlier in the year. Interestingly, much later October was adopted as the first month of our government’s year.

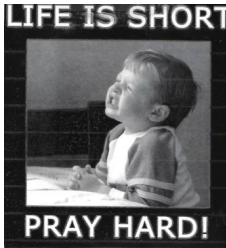
This seems to be an appropriate time to focus on and pray for our government leaders. Let’s pray for our mayor, city council, county leaders, sheriff and other local leaders. Let’s pray for our governor, state legislators, judicial system and other state leaders. Let’s pray for our president and vice-president, senators and congress and Supreme Court. Pray for all current and potential government leaders!

Hopefully, the following scriptures will inspire your prayers for government leaders throughout the community, state and nation:

- ◆ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. – *Romans 13:1*
- ◆ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. – *1 Timothy 2:1-2*
- ◆ For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations. – *Psalms 22:28*
- ◆ ... Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. – *Luke 12:48*
- ◆ When a land transgresses, it has many rulers,  
but with a man of understanding and knowledge,  
its stability will long continue. – *Proverbs 28:2*
- ◆ He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? – *Micah 6:8*
- ◆ The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;  
he turns it wherever he will. – *Proverbs 21:1*
- ◆ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – *Philippians 4:6*

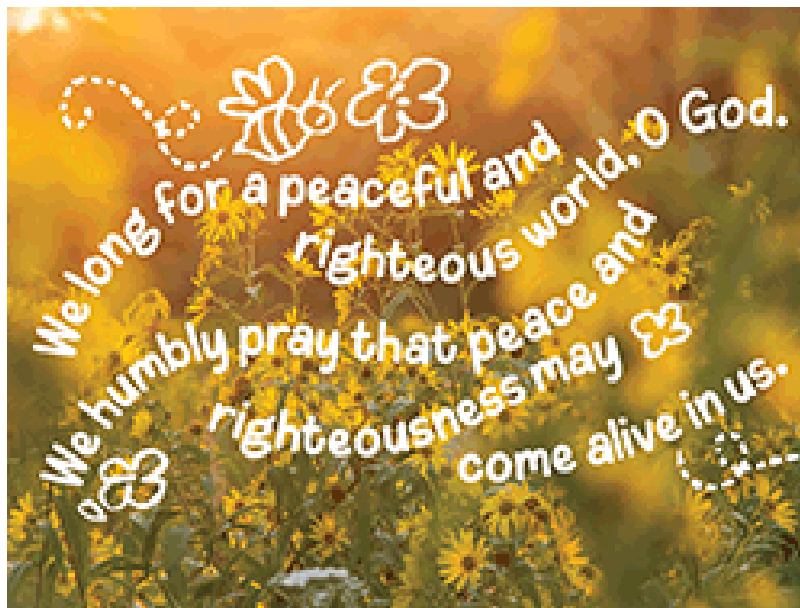
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- ◆ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. -*Colossians 1:16-17*



*“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 Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”<sup>1</sup> Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace  
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,  
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face  
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

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

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<sup>1</sup>Martin Luther, “Preface to Georg Rhau’s *Symphoniae iucundae*,” in *Luther’s Works*, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, Helmut T. Lehmann, and Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 53 (Philadelphia and St. Louis: Fortress and Concordia Publishing House, 1955–), 321–322.



# Birthdays of the Month

## October Birthdays

		<u>Date</u>
Joanie	<b>Eisenbraun</b>	<b>3</b>
Mark	<b>Poppy</b>	<b>4</b>
Beth	<b>Fant</b>	<b>5</b>
John V.	<b>Guenther</b>	<b>9</b>
Barbara	<b>Mueller</b>	<b>9</b>
Robert	<b>Smits</b>	<b>10</b>
Ryan	<b>Turk</b>	<b>12</b>
Heidi	<b>Babin</b>	<b>13</b>
Jo	<b>Wylie</b>	<b>15</b>
Matthiew	<b>Austin</b>	<b>18</b>
Jan	<b>Peyton</b>	<b>18</b>
Karen	<b>Buls</b>	<b>20</b>
Zackary	<b>Sanchez</b>	<b>23</b>
Winnie	<b>Lee</b>	<b>24</b>
Scott	<b>Staffeldt</b>	<b>30</b>

*Happy  
Anniversary*

## October Anniversaries

		<u>Date</u>	<u># of years</u>
<b>Robert &amp; Helen</b>	<b>Houck</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>JR &amp; Karen</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Jerry &amp; Amy</b>	<b>Carrera-Little</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Rev. Warren &amp; Elaine</b>	<b>Graff</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>

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

*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 Lunch

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

Thursday, October 10 — Pecan Grill  
500 S. Telshor Blvd.

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, October 14, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall. All women are invited for fellowship and Bible study. Dessert will be provided.

# MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

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

Report Preparation Date: September 1, 2024

<b><u>Budget Status:</u></b>	<b><u>Month of Aug '24</u></b>		<b><u>FY25 thru Aug '24</u></b>	
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
MLC General	\$19,132	\$49,910	\$62,936	
MLS Total	\$33,466	\$65,567	\$41,678	
Designated / Other	\$26	\$113	\$350	
	\$52,624 *	\$115,590 *	\$104,964 *	
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
MLC Total	\$17,049 *	\$32,444 *	\$32,727 *	
MLS Total	\$40,386	\$81,912	\$84,296	
	\$57,435	\$114,356	\$117,023	
Net Difference	<b>-\$4,811 *</b>	<b>\$1,234 *</b>	<b>-\$12,059 *</b>	

### **MLC General Fund Contributions – FY25 (Thru Aug 31, 2024)**

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$7,867
Average Weekly Contributions Received (FYTD) :	<u>\$6,273</u>
Average Weekly Surplus/ <b>Shortfall:</b>	<b>-\$1,594</b>
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$50,185
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	<u>\$62,936</u>
Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus/ <b>Shortfall:</b>	<b>-\$12,751</b>

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

<b><u>Investments:</u></b>	Morgan Stanley/E*Trade (as of Aug 31, '24)	\$120,812
	Mission Lutheran Endowment Fund (as of Jun 30, '24)	\$79,519
	Thrivent (as of Aug 31, '24)	\$470,784
	LCEF MLC Youth Development CD Account	\$13,074
	LCEF General Funds CD Account #1	\$52,295
	LCEF General Funds CD Account #2	\$51,613
	LCEF General Funds CD Account #3	\$51,207
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$839,304</b>

<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>	Shepherd's Staff Checking (as of Aug, '24)	<b>\$16,897</b>
	LCEF Checking (as of Aug 31, '24)	<b>\$48,324</b>
	Youth Activity Fund	\$3,766
	Youth Christian Development	\$12,500
	minus MLS Reg/Tuition Holding	\$0
	Angel Scholarship Program	\$0
	Dedicated COVID Grant	\$27,985
	Funds Apple Tree Donations	\$1,712
	Emergency Tuition Assistance	\$5,850
	School Security Grant	\$8,774
	Staffeldt Scholarship Fund	\$7,877
	<b>Total Checking Available After Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>-\$3,243</b>

**Liabilities:**                      None

### **Comments:**





*Octoberfest will be held on  
Saturday, October 19.*

*Mission Lutheran Church and School*

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*School: (575) 532-5489*

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*secretary@missionlutheran.net*

*office@mlschool.net*

*Elder on Call: Ken Martin (575) 650-3304*

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	Karen Springer