

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

In this issue:

- Prayer Ministry newsletter
- Stewardship
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- Council meeting minutes
- Treasurer's Report

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ **July 4: Independence Day celebration**
- ◇ **July 13: MLS ice cream social**
- ◇ **July 15: Prayer ministry gathering**
- ◇ **July 26: MLS summer story time**

Normally we don't publish a church newsletter in July, but in order to distribute a few items of interest, such as the prayer ministry newsletter and the lists of birthdays and anniversaries, a shortened version of the newsletter has been created. Enjoy!





Praise God for His Answers

- **Answers to prayers that we may not recognize** or know about.
- **Vacation Bible School** enrollment was 86. Forty-four (44) children were from our community; 10 from MLC; 32 from MLS.
- **Mary Martin and Shilo Smith were the VBS Coordinators.** They organized the whole program and volunteered their organizational skills to make everything run smoothly. Many volunteered to bring snacks. Many volunteered to be team leaders, center leaders and helpers. Miracles happened throughout the week at VBS. MLC can be so excited about how many hearts were touched through this outreach! PTL!!!
- **Thank the Lord for the Pastors and Elders** that are keeping things going smoothly in Pastor Carabatta's leave of absence.
- **Several current officers** have consented to serve in their same position for next year.
- **Many volunteered to prepare and deliver** meals for Pastor Carabatta's family. Others volunteered to prepare meals for Jerry and Arne Stickles.
- **Someone has come forward to fund the Preschool Program** even if there are no more than three students.
- **Joint youth venture between Faith and Mission** saw a successful car wash earning over \$400. Thanks to Karen Jensen and Vicar Perry.

Prayer Requests

- **Vacancy on Board of Elders.** Lord would move someone to step forward.
- **Pray for all the children that attended VBS.** Pray that the Holy Spirit would move in their hearts and strengthen their faith. Pray that some families would enroll their children in MLS in the fall.
- **Friends in hospice** with cancer. Others in hospitals and are ill.
- **Comfort for a friend** whose wife just passed away.
- **Increase people attending** the daytime Bread Breakers group.
- **Increase in attendance** at Mission and Faith Lutheran Churches.
- **Patricia French needs our prayers** for many concerns.
- **Soup Kitchen** needs more volunteers to help prepare/serve/clean up.
- **Protection for government officials,** unity in our country and that we not give in to fear. Government leaders to trust in God's provision.
- **Blessings on the July 4th picnic/movie/fireworks.**
- **Jill Smith's upcoming knee replacement surgery/recovery.**

UPDATE Prayer Ministry Team

Next Prayer Ministry Team Gathering is **Saturday, July 15th, at 10 a.m.** in Luther Hall. Please bring your praise reports!

Praying for America's Authorities

On July 4 millions of Americans will celebrate Independence Day. It's a Federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence 241 years ago on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the 13 American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and were no longer part of the British Empire.

Now, in today's turbulent times across our nation and the world, we Christians need to follow the Apostle Paul's instructions in I Timothy 2:1-8, *I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.* The Bible commands us to pray for those in leadership over us; pray for their salvation in Jesus Christ; for God's wisdom to lead and govern with commitment to highest standards and character.

God commands us to faithfully pray for our country's leaders and elected officials, even those whose views differ from ours. Why? Actions and decisions made by people in authority create a significant impact on those in their spheres of influence – both good and bad. And God still uses imperfect authorities to carry out His perfect purposes. (John 19:11, Acts 4:23-31, Genesis 50:15-21).

Heavenly Father, all authority is from You. We pray for each church leader and government leader you have placed over our lives. Please draw each of them to Jesus Christ, and to trust Him as their personal Savior and Lord of their lives. Give each a fear of You, Lord, and Your wisdom in all their decisions. Use them to guide and protect our nation, so that Your Kingdom will come and Your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. Pour out the Holy Spirit across America and cause repentance of sin to sweep across our country, and turn our nation back to You and biblical values. In Jesus' powerful name we pray. Amen.

Pastor Glenn Weber

Stewardship

“I will bless you ..., so that you will be a blessing” (Gen. 12:2). The Lord blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing. How did He bless Abraham? He promised that from His seed would come the savior of the nations. And Abraham believed that promise, trusted that the Lord would provide it just as He had promised. Thus, everything Abraham did was colored by that promise. He willingly gave of himself and his household in service to the Lord in view of that promise.

Our Father in heaven has richly blessed us. Not only has He given us everything that we need to support this body and life, but He has also provided, that promised seed in His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the savior of the nations. He is the redeemer of the world. He is the one who has conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Just as we are richly blessed, we are also thereby freed to be a blessing. Since God has endowed us with His gifts, we are set to endow others. Thus, we give of the blessings we have received so that others may be blessed. We do this in our homes, our communities, and our churches. We press the blessings God has lavished upon us in service to those around us. We use our time, our talents, and our treasures to be a blessing even as they have been a blessing to us.

The Lord blesses us. And He enlists us to be a blessing to others. So, whenever you put that envelope in the collection plate, when you set out to serve at the local food pantry, when you sit down to help your kids with homework, think of this: The Lord has blessed you, so that you will be a blessing.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources



Anniversaries and Birthdays

July Birthdays

Guericke	Le	1
Peña	Johnathan	1
Vandiver	Verline	1
Castañeda	Victor	4
Eggebraaten	Noah	4
Aguilera	Oscar Yeshua	8
Peña	Jacinya	8
Dunivan	Loretta	9
Staffeldt	Ruth	11
Weber	Susan	11
Moore	Carol	15
Roof	Toni	15
Wood	Ben	15
Del Bozque	Carmen	19
Steinhaus	Phyllis	21
Scott	Peggy	23
Jensen	Karen	25
Jeter	Emmie	27

July Anniversaries

		Date	# of yrs
Hallem	Don & Janis	17	13
Scaling	Robert & Beverly	17	46
Smith	Red & Jill	24	46
Del Bozque	Jerry & Carmen	25	36

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

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.

Vacation Bible School

VBS - Mighty Fortress! was a wonderful success. God's Word was shared with an average of 75 students each day. From Opening & Storytelling with Pastor Weber to Bible Challenge, Reformation Challenge, Music, Crafts, and Snack, students learned of God's love through the gift of His Son, Jesus. More than 29 volunteers were on-site each day working to make the week a real adventure! Our offering goal of \$300 was exceeded and the funds will be sent to the *Sharing God's Mighty Word* project.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for the week and/or donated items. We are already looking forward to next year...Splash Canyon - God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride!, June 11-15!

Comments From this Year:

"As always, it was great!"

"I liked how engaged the volunteers were."

"Thank you for all you do! My boys loved it!"

"I liked how my kids would come home excited about what they had done!"



MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
May 16, 2017

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, Jim Vance, John Guenther, Beth Fant, Jerry Stickles, Megan Wood, Carol Cooper, Robert Scaling, Dianne Wensel, Jan Peyton, Doug Lorenz and guest, Carol Moore. Doug Lorenz led devotion and prayer.

Minutes of the April 21, 2017, meeting were approved as emailed.

President Fant said that Eric Gunderson has a special request for MLC to support Coats for Kids again this year. This involves a spaghetti dinner to raise monies. After discussion, it was agreed that the Boards of Evangelism and Fellowship would help with the dinner. A tentative date is September 23.

Treasurer's Report: see attached report submitted by John Guenther, which includes a proposed budget as well as the monthly financial report. The budget includes \$5,105 per week for contributions. The MLC budget includes 46 FTE students; current enrollment stands at 34. Preschool enrollment is only three students, which is not sufficient to support the program. The Day School Board is monitoring enrollment to determine if preschool will be offered and the necessary staffing for next year.

John moved that this proposed budget be submitted to the Voters' Assembly. Robert Scaling seconded, and the motion passed.

Greg thanked John for his dedication to budget development and an excellent proposal for MLC.

President's Report: The Concordia Wind Ensemble will be touring through the Southwest and would like to do a Thursday night performance in Las Cruces. Greg asked if MLC should sponsor a performance for the community. We would need to provide home stay for 48 people and a meal. The decision was to take this proposal to the Voters' Assembly.

There are two potential changes to the bylaws. The first, should those Boards requiring two elected members be modified to require two or more elected members. The second, should the bylaws reflect the President's duty to serve as second signature on the MLC checkbook. These proposals will be presented at the next Voters' Assembly.

MLC has received a letter from Synod President, the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison; a copy is attached to these minutes. MLC is asked to consider supporting a new Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) to provide a permanent presence in Washington, D.C. After discussion, Council decided that for now, MLC will pray for LCRL and see where God leads us.

Vice President's Report: see attached report submitted by Jim Vance.

Elders' Report: see attached report submitted by Doug Lorenz. After discussion, Greg Fant will contact the District to insure they are aware that Pastor Carabotta is on leave and determine if the

President and Circuit Counselor have a role to help MLC and Pastor during this time.

Day School Board Report: see attached report submitted by Megan Wood.

Trustee's Report: there is no Trustee report this month.

Christian Education Report: there is no report this month.

Christian Service and Missions Report: see attached report submitted by Ruth Staffeldt.

Evangelism Report: see attached report submitted by Carol Cooper. Doug Lorenz discussed Item A, the Passion Play. He is going to call the sponsors of the play to see if there is going to be an Altar Call. If there is, we will not be able to support the play itself. Altar Call or not, our congregation is encouraged to pray for the Holy Spirit to be very active at this event, bringing those who don't know Christ to have their eyes opened to Christ's love for them.

Discussion surrounding Item D, now called a rally day for boards, determined that the Stewardship Board and Council Vice President should shepherd this effort.

Fellowship Report: see attached report submitted by Robert Scaling.

Stewardship Report: Jerry Stickles handed out an article titled "The Exalted State of Servanthood", copy attached to these minutes. He plans to use this article as the basis for a temple talk.

Robert asked the Board to consider if a Time and Talent Survey should be conducted to allow members to update their information.

Leadership Shield: Megan Wood asked for prayers regarding MLS enrollment for next year.

Our next Council meeting will be held June 20, 2017, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Greg proposed that he develop a standard agenda for the Voters' Assembly meeting to be held this Sunday, May 21. He asked that Board reports be kept concise and focused.

Jerry Stickles moved, and Jan Peyton seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 2017 COUNCIL MEETING
Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: June 19, 2017

Budget Status: Month of May 2017 FY Thru May 31, 2017

	<u>Budget-</u> <u>ed</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$22,200.00	\$26,159.00	\$266,400.00	\$241,172.64
MLS Total	\$19,780.00	\$9,933.59	\$209,750.00	\$181,579.79
Designated / Other	\$476.67	\$1,736.67	\$5,243.34	\$78,345.27
	\$42,456.67	\$37,829.26	\$481,393.34	\$501,097.70
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$15,145.52	\$13,573.20	\$174,118.40	\$238,279.14
MLS Total	\$25,072.64	\$21,539.84	\$298,547.25	\$265,305.69
	\$40,218.16	\$35,113.04	\$472,665.65	\$503,584.83
Net Difference	\$2,238.51	\$2,716.22	\$8,727.69	-\$2,487.13

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

Church General Fund Contributions – FY 2016/17 (Through June 18, 2017):

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,550.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$5,058.89
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$258,003.64
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$283,050.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$25,046.36

Assets / Liabilities (As of June 19, 2017):

Current Assets:	<u>Checking:</u>	\$17,443.02
	<u>LCEF Savings:</u>	\$116,150.23
	(Calls) Rey de Reyes	\$40,031.06
	MLS	\$21,054.27
	Sabbatical Acct.	\$8,432.78
	Other	\$952.81
	Savings Available	\$45,637.31
Liabilities:	<u>Mortgage Loan:</u>	\$60,033.12

Notes:

- Actual figures reflect \$67,708.81 for both designated revenues (transferred from LCEF savings) and for non-budgeted expenses for the two capital funded projects. Overall impact on approved portion of the annual operational budget is zero.
- MLS expenses less than budgeted due to hiring a classroom assistant versus hiring a new full-time teacher as originally budgeted.
- Overall budget behind due to low revenues from MLC and MLS.

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

**Don't wait for people to
 be friendly, show them
 how.**
 ~Henry James~

“Touching Hearts
 through God’s
 unchanging Word in
 an ever-changing
 world.”

Officers and Board Chairpersons for 2017

President	Greg Fant	Christian Education	Dianne Wensel
Vice President	Jim Vance	Sunday School Supervisor	Toni Roof
Secretary	Jan Peyton	Evangelism	Carol Cooper
Treasurer	John Guenther	Christian Service & Missions	Ruth Staffeldt
Financial Secretary	Beth Fant	Stewardship	Jerry Stickles
Elders, chairman	Doug Lorenz	Day School Education	Megan Wood
Elders, vice-chairman	Paul Vakselis	Fellowship	Robert Scaling
Trustees	Frank Brennan		