

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

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Pastor's Pen

Please see the next page for Pastor's Pen.

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ **June 12—16: Vacation Bible School**
- ◇ **June 18: Fathers' Day**
- ◇ **June 21—25: LWML 75th National Convention**



Stewardship

One of the best known and beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm. There we learn that the Lord is our shepherd. And since He is our shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

How do we do this? We do it when we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving the gifts that He won for us on the cross, a violation of the First and Third Commandments. We do it when we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we think we don't know what the future will bring, even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters. We do it when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves, we do this because we have a mind set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We do this because we have stopped hearing the call of our shepherd, which comes through His Word.

The Word of God is how our shepherd calls us to himself. Through that Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through that Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead you to your true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the good news: The Lord is your shepherd still, even, and especially, for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the shepherd that lays down his life for His sheep. The Lord is your shepherd. Let us live then as His sheep.

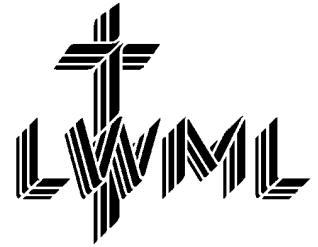
LCMS Free Stewardship Resources



LWML

The WINGS (Women IN God's Service) chapter of the LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) meets once each month from September through May at 6:30 pm in Luther Hall. We have been meeting on Thursdays but will change the day to Tuesday when meetings start up again in September. Stay tuned for more information. All women who are communicant members of an LCMS congregation are automatically members of the LWML. We keep our meetings brief but meaningful, and we have many activities planned throughout the year.

Questions? See Carol Moore in the church office, or call Jacki McCurley at 526-9182.



Time and Talent

While it seems the year has just begun, it isn't too soon to begin thinking about ways in which each of us can share our time and talents with Mission Lutheran Church, not only now but for next year.

Sometime in the Fall we will be electing new officers and board members. Jim Vance, as Vice President of the Congregation, has already begun looking to fill the many positions available.

There is a document available in the church office that describes the various elected positions, including the different Boards.

In addition to the elected positions, there is a need for people to sign up as greeters and ushers. We also are in urgent need of someone to schedule acolytes and crucifers. And there is a great need for someone to volunteer to lead the Altar Guild. Ruth Staffeldt and Ruth Jakcsy have led the altar guild for many, many years and both have health issues that prevent them from carrying on those tasks.

As you can see, there are many, many ways in which you can contribute to the health and well-being of our church. Please prayerfully consider how best to use your time and talents. And yes, we all have talents that are important to our congregation.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Vance, your elder, or the church office.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

June Birthdays

Miller	Shirley	7
Vance	Jim	9
Provencio	Mary	14
McCollum	Del	15
Carabotta	Eva	19
Staffeldt	Chuck	21
Scaling	Bev	22
Siffring	Connie	26
Buls	Milt	28
Smith	Red	28
Carrera-Little	Amy	30

June Anniversaries

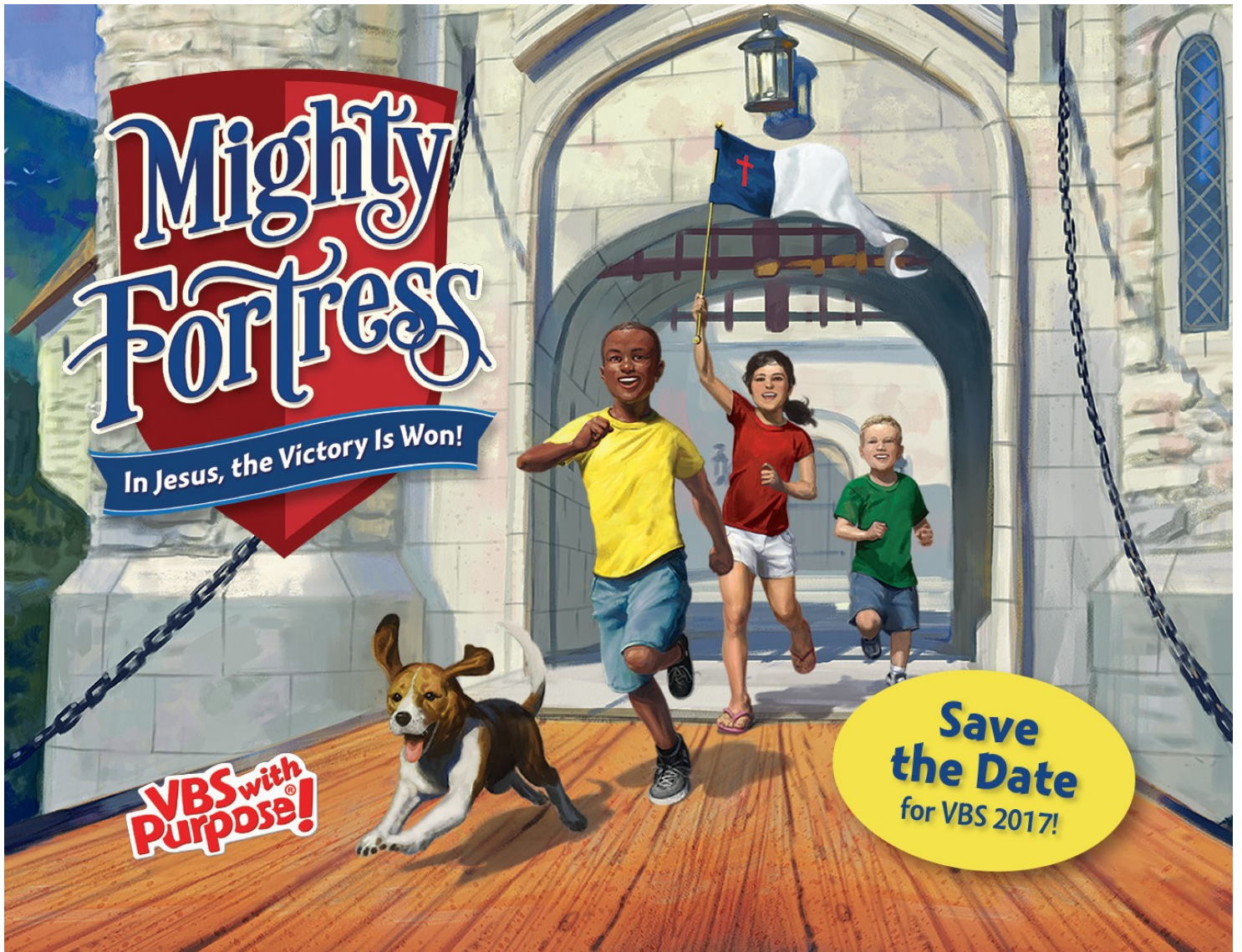
		Date	# of years
Turquette	James & Phyllis	4	40
Poppy	Mark & Holly	6	36
McCurley	Dan & Jacki	20	30
Quinlan	Pat & Jean	22	53
Siffring	Al & Connie	26	61



*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.



*Vacation Bible School will be held Monday,
June 12, through Friday, June 16,
from 9:00 am to 11:30 am.*

Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

By Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**

"How to Treat Others"

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

There is an organization known as the George Barna Group.

The George Barna Group generally goes to Christians and asks them questions to which I really don't want to know the answer. By that I mean Barna surveys reveal information that makes me feel very uncomfortable. Let me give you an example:

A recent Barna Group survey has found there is a great difference between church-going and non-church-going Christians. That difference can be summed up in two sentences:

1. Non-church-going believers say they are "spiritual, but not religious."
2. Non-church-going believers say they "love Jesus, but not the church."

Now the other thing you probably don't want to know is this: the non-church-going group of believers is growing. That's right. In 2004 that segment of believers was around seven percent. Today, that number has jumped to 10 percent.

Now a lot of church-going believers I know would say, "If you are a Christian, you go to church. That's what Christians do." To that statement, the non-church goers would reply, "Look, we believe in the Triune God. We believe He is all-powerful, all-knowing, the Creator and Preserver of the universe. Along with that, we love the Savior who died and rose for our salvation."

Then they add, "We are a lot like you, but we have lost faith in the church."

And if you asked the non-church-attending believer why he feels the way he does, and if he were being honest, he would say, "It's because in the church I have met hypocrites. They say they love as Jesus did but, no matter how long I worship with them, I'm still a stranger."

They can go on pointing out that we talk more about money than lost souls, that we're always fighting rather than loving, that we seem more concerned about silly things and not spiritual things that ... well, you get the idea.

Now you know why the Barna Group's revelations make me feel so uncomfortable.

What bothers me even more is that I can't argue against the criticisms of those non-church goers. I can't deny what they're saying because they are speaking from personal experience. Churches and church-going believers can sometimes be as bad as these folks suggest ... sometimes.

Is there an answer to all this? Sure, to love as Jesus loved. In that spirit

1. To the non-church goers, I would say the Bible always encourages God's people to be as one. We are to support each other; bear each other's burdens, commune, and do mission work together. Generally speaking, non-church goers don't do all those things.
2. To church-goers I would say remember that we are always the Lord's representatives, and it is our job to do the things listed above. Neither a new guest nor an old-time member should ever leave us -- or our church -- feeling that Christ's church no longer looks like Jesus.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, help me love others as You have loved me. In Jesus' Name, I ask it. Amen.

The story upon which this Daily Devotion is based was written by Veronica Neffinger for ChristianHeadlines.com on Monday, April 10, 2017. The website where the parent article can be found is: www.christianheadlines.com/blog/study-increasing-number-of-americans-love-jesus-but-not-the-church.html.



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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS

For some of us, when uncertainty and worry creep into our lives, we hold tightly to our resources. We cling to our earthly possessions believing it is the only way we can guarantee financial security.

The concept of living with open hands goes against both what we may have been taught and what we may think of as plain old common sense, but there can be great rewards in living with our hands open.

Throughout scripture we are encouraged to share what we have with others. In Deuteronomy 15 it reads, “You shall not ... shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him.” This idea is great in theory, but becomes uncomfortable when it’s time to put it into practice in our own lives. Perhaps it’s worth considering how keeping open hands may enrich our own lives.

Need a few ideas to help you get started?

- **Embrace gratitude:** Writing in a gratitude journal can be a fulfilling spiritual practice. Many studies have shown that writing three things you are grateful for each day has the power to transform your outlook and help you appreciate the fullness of your own life.
- **Value contentment:** Be on the lookout for things that bring a smile to your face. Maybe it’s waking up to birds singing, the sound of a baby’s laughter or watching God’s daily artistry in the sunrise or sunset. None of these things can be bought or owned, yet they bring joy to your life in awesome ways!
- **Live generously:** The art of giving may take a while to learn, so here’s an idea: Try adding a “giving” line item in your monthly budget to help make it a normal part of your monthly expenses. The more consistently you give, the more natural it will become.

By living in response to God’s grace with an open hand, you can look forward to experiencing an emotional and spiritual return that will come your way, pressed down, shaken together and running over!

This article provided compliments of Thrivent Financial and Joann Rodriguez, FIC, 575-523-1879, joann.rodriguez@thrivent.com.

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MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Voters' Assembly
February 26, 2017

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Pastor Carabotta opened the meeting with devotion and prayer. There were 34 of 63 voting members present.

There were no changes requested to the minutes for the November 20, 2016, meeting, so those minutes stand as distributed.

Jerry Stickles moved, and Don Hallem seconded, that Erin Nicholson and Anne Stickles be accepted as new voting members. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, March 1. There will be two services, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The children will be singing at the morning service. Communion will be held. Devotional booklets are in the Narthex.

Four individuals will be confirmed at Divine Services on March 5, 2017.

Treasurer's Report: see attached report provided by John Guenther. John noted that two capital projects are being funded from savings, so there is no impact on the annual budget.

Vice President's Report: If God is calling you to serve as an officer or board member, please contact Jim Vance.

Elders' Report: Pastor read Doug Lorenz's report. The Elders are finished reviewing the congregational rolls, contacting individuals who have not been attending services. Most of those contacted have transferred or been released. A short list of names was read identifying those the Elders were unable to contact. If anyone knows how to contact these individuals, please talk with your Elder or Pastor so further follow-up can be done.

Day School Report: see attached report provided by Dr. Robert Smits. Mary Martin thanked the Trustees for the great paint job in Luther Hall. The annual art show is Thursday, March 16, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The school's Easter celebration, with a cookie and punch reception, is April 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Christian Education: Carol Cooper reported that a few families attended the parent-teacher pizza party held February 11. There was interesting discussion which will be shared with all parents.

Trustees' Report: Frank Brennan reported that the painting in Luther Hall is complete. Greg Fant thanked Frank, John Guenther, Doug Lorenz, Karen Jensen and Don Hallem for the great paint job.

The air conditioning systems are installed and will be inspected next week. Once the inspection is passed, the warranty will be in force for ten years.

The stucco repair is nearly complete. About 70% of the cost has been paid, and the remainder will be paid when a few minor repairs are finished.

Frank has an estimate from RT Electric Co. to replace the exterior lights, including those in the parking lot.

A grounds clean-up day is scheduled for March 20.

Evangelism: Carol Cooper asked for volunteers to conduct visitations.

Christian Service and Missions: Greg Fant reported that we are helping several families. One father desperately needs a second job.

Stewardship Report: Nothing to report.

Endowment Report: Greg Fant reported that we are still waiting for the regular endowment to reach \$90,000 before we entertain using any of those funds.

Unfinished Business:

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of Mission Lutheran Church: Two changes to the bylaws were read at the November meeting and have been published in the church bulletin.

Jerry Stickles moved, and Frank Brennan seconded, that the change to section 7.4.6 be approved. The motion passed.

Carol Moore moved, and Frank Brennan seconded, that the new section 7.14 establishing a Fellowship Board be approved. The motion passed.

New Business:

Fellowship Board: Greg announced that he has appointed Robert Scaling, to a two-year term, and Kay Swedberg, to a one-year term, to the Fellowship Board. Jerry Stickles moved, and Yvonne Waters seconded, that the Voters ratify the appointment. The motion passed.

Replacement of Exterior Lighting: Greg brought a motion from Council to spend up to \$5,000 to replace the exterior lighting as described in the estimate from RT Electric Co. After discussion, John Guenther moved, and Carol Moore seconded, that the amount be increased to \$7,500. The revision was accepted and the motion passed.

Beth Fant asked volunteers to contact Eric Gunderson if you are available to serve as counters.

Pastor announced that Ruth Staffeldt and Ruth Jakcsy are resigning as Altar Guild coordinators due to health issues. We also need a coordinator for acolytes. Anyone interested in serving in either of these jobs, please contact Pastor, Carol Moore, or Doug Lorenz.

Jerry Stickles moved, and Yvonne Waters seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
April 21, 2017

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

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

Treasurer's Report: see attached report submitted by John Guenther, which includes a preliminary budget as well as the monthly financial report. John noted that MLS income is beginning to reflect the lower than budgeted levels.

John reminded Council that this year's budget included general contributions at \$5,500 per week, or \$286,400 for the year. This was to balance the budget. In the preliminary budget, general contributions are \$5,105 per week, or \$265,460, which will balance the budget and still represents a \$6-8,000 increase over the actual general contributions received this year.

There are only three students signed up for preschool next year. If preschool enrollment remains this low, MLS must consider dropping the program. John is keeping teacher salaries at 90% of the District salary recommendations. Peggy Scott is going on hourly worker status and will work only when needed. If we do not get enough students, teacher aides (hourly workers) will drop out. These decisions must be made by mid-June.

Greg asked everyone to review the preliminary budget and talk to John with questions or requested changes. The Council will review the budget again at the May meeting.

President's Report: Greg discussed a request for a bulletin board for the Youth Group. It was decided that a bulletin board would be placed in the church building hallway for their use.

The City is sponsoring the Shop-with-a-Cop program as students get ready for school once again. Support of this program will be left to individual members.

The church mailboxes for shut-ins are not being emptied. Council members felt that all members should have a mailbox. Pastor will be asked to take their church mail to them when he visits.

There was further discussion regarding how to promote the work of the various Boards. No specific recommendations or decisions were made, with further discussion to be scheduled.

The Council agreed that the next Voter's Assembly meeting would be Sunday, May 21, at noon. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Day School Board Report: see attached report submitted by Megan Wood. Megan noted that the low enrollment for preschool is due to the many free preschool options available throughout the state.

Trustees' Report: there is no Trustee Report this month. Carol Moore noted that the outside light project is not yet complete.

Elders' Report: see attached report submitted by Doug Lorenz. Paul Vakselis reported that Pastor Carabotta would attend the May Board meeting to discuss how his leave time is progressing and future needs. Pastor Weber is willing to help ease Pastor back into his permanent role.

Christian Education Report: see report submitted by Dianne Wensel.

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

Stewardship Report: there is no Stewardship report this month.

Evangelism Report: see attached report submitted by Carol Cooper. There was discussion of the nametag proposal, which was greeted with lukewarm comments. Carol will refine the proposal for discussion at our next meeting.

Fellowship Report: see attached report submitted by Robert Scaling.

Leadership Shield: Jan Peyton noted that the Staff/Leadership Prayer Shield was held yesterday. She also encouraged Council to request prayer not only for specific work items but also for areas of difficulty, concern, or need for God's guidance. Megan Wood said that she and Mary Martin would be reviewing the Climate Survey grades from parents and asked for prayer that she and Mary would remain calm during this review, as even constructive criticism can cause stress.

Carol Cooper asked that Council review the Sword Drill idea documented in the Evangelism report. She is looking for volunteers to help. Megan Wood suggested that Sword Drill may be a candidate for an after school enrichment class.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

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

Report Preparation Date: May 15, 2017

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of April 2017</u>		<u>FY Thru April 30, 2017</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$27,750.00	\$24,302.00	\$244,200.00	\$215,013.64
MLS Total	\$14,730.00	\$10,765.67	\$189,970.00	\$171,646.20
Designated / Other	\$476.67	\$11,123.37	\$4,766.67	\$76,608.60
	<u>\$42,956.67</u>	<u>\$46,191.04</u>	<u>\$438,936.67</u>	<u>\$463,268.44</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$14,387.48	\$22,032.16	\$158,972.88	\$224,705.94
MLS Total	\$25,272.98	\$22,525.82	\$273,474.61	\$243,765.85
	<u>\$39,660.46</u>	<u>\$44,557.98</u>	<u>\$432,447.49</u>	<u>\$468,471.79</u>
Net Difference	\$3,296.21	\$1,633.06	\$6,489.18	-\$5,203.35

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

Church General Fund Contributions – FY 2016/17 (Through May 14, 2017):

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,550.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$5,000.75
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$230,034.64
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	<u>\$255,300.00</u>
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$25,265.36

Assets / Liabilities (As of May 15, 2017):

Current Assets:	<u>Checking:</u>	\$19,252.06
	<u>LCEF Savings:</u>	\$116,027.71
	(- Calls)	
	Rey de Reyes	\$40,031.06
	MLS	\$14,554.27
	Sabbatical Acct.	\$9,656.42
	Other	\$842.81
	Savings Available	<u>\$50,901.15</u>
Liabilities:	<u>Mortgage Loan:</u>	\$60,997.15

Notes:

1. 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.

2. MLS expenses less than budgeted due to hiring a classroom assistant versus hiring a new full-time teacher as originally budgeted.

3. Overall income minus expenses behind the budgeted amount by \$11,692.53 due primarily to low revenues from MLC and MLS.

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We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

It is easier to preach
 ten sermons than it is
 to live one.

“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		