

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

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Pastor's Pen

"We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift."

Familiar words of thanks to our heavenly Father are these, words which from our hearts we speak to God for the gift of the body and blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, which we eat in the Lord's Supper. This Lenten season we will journey, in the Lord's midweek services of the Word, through the Word of the Lord that brings us to faith in the words of Jesus' testament, "given and shed for you for the remission of sins," so that we may receive His body and blood well prepared with thanksgiving to God for this marvelous mystery.

The title of this Lenten series is "The Salutary Gift." So much of this mystery of Jesus' body and blood of His Holy Meal we have yet to discover from the Word of the Lord. Consider these statements from the midweek of Lent 3 introduction:

St. Paul writes regarding the Lord's Supper: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:14-22) These words remind us that to participate in the salutary gift of the Lord's Supper is truly to participate in a "blest Communion" (*LSB* 617:3)---first and foremost, communion and fellowship with Christ. But this communion with Christ also results in another fellowship---a fellowship with those who commune at table with us. This is reflected in St. Paul's words to the Corinthians: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ **March 1: Ash Wednesday services at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm**
- ◇ **March 5: Movie Night at 6:00 pm**
- ◇ **March 6: Kapelle choir in El Paso — Zion at 7:00 pm**
- ◇ **March 7: Kapelle choir in El Paso — Ascension at 7:00 pm**
- ◇ **March 8: Mid-week Lent service at 6:00 pm**
- ◇ **March 12: Daylight Savings Time begins**
- ◇ **March 14: JULIETs lunch**
- ◇ **March 15: Mid-week Lent service at 6:00 pm**
- ◇ **March 22: Mid-week Lent service at 6:00 pm**
- ◇ **March 29: Mid-week Lent service at 6:00 pm**



the one bread” (v. 17). Finally, in this Holy Meal, we also have fellowship with the “whole company of heaven” as we learn in the Proper Preface of the Communion liturgy. Besides the chief spiritual benefits of “forgiveness, life, and salvation” (Small Catechism), recipients of this holy gift also enjoy the comfort of being surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1), including those they love who have departed in the faith.¹

Our Lenten daily devotions also correspond to this service series. For our weekly preparations to come to the Sunday feast of the Lord’s Holy Supper, we recall the words of the apostle Paul:

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7b-8)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robert Carabotta

¹Rev. Paul Beisel, “the Salutory Gift,” Midweek of Lent 3, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2016, p. 1.

Hollywood: Entertaining Ourselves to Death

By Franklin Graham

Whether or not we realize it, we all have been influenced by the entertainment industry more than we might think. When I was a young boy, about the most risqué thing I remember watching on television was Miss Kitty on *Gunsmoke*. Just a decade later, far more explicit and suggestive scenes were commonplace. Now, even watching the advertisements on television or viewing the trailers for movies is enough to make you blush.

Like a frog in boiling water, our culture has been so desensitized to immorality and debauchery that we have lost even the semblance of a moral compass.

The Bible says: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves ... blasphemers ... unholy ... without self-control ... despisers of good ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God ... And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives ... for their *folly* will be manifest to all" (2 Timothy 3:1-9, emphasis mine).

What a description of our world today and its godless entertainment. Are we turning away or applauding what "Follywood" is pumping out?

Have you ever gone to a movie and felt out of place when a bawdy scene flashed across the big screen and asked, "What am I doing here?" Or perhaps you've been home watching television when all of a sudden lewd language or erotic behavior causes you to raise an eyebrow at these despicable acts that celebrate lifestyles void of morality.

Such scenes should trigger righteous anger, but many parents do not regulate entertainment for their children or themselves. Do we willingly spend our hard-earned money on Hollywood films that instill in us the opposite of what the Bible commands? Do we welcome into our homes the flaunting of sin that glorifies the flesh and curses the Name of Jesus while on Sundays we glorify Him at church? (Matthew 22:37). Is it possible to obey God with the whole mind while feeding on godlessness? The answer is no; yet we do let strangers "creep" into our homes and minds.

The late Michael Landon, often described as the paragon of family entertainment, once said to the Hollywood elite at a Dean Martin Roast, "Let's face it, television is an invention where you're entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your house!" The self-inflicted jab stirred a mixture of laughter and chagrin from the biggest stars of the day in 1975 as they all nodded in shameful agreement. Truth yanks out of us what we try to hide—the reality that carnal minds find corruption amusing.

Michael Landon Jr. grew up in the industry. When asked how Hollywood has changed since his father's series *Little House on the Prairie*, he observed that Hollywood no longer abides by any restraint when it comes to infiltrating programs with provocative content. He said, "When you are immersed in this dark, edgy constant flow of entertainment, there's no way it can't affect you."

Today parents can buy software to filter such programming. My mother was the filter in the Graham home. We were allowed to watch some Disney programs and westerns, including an occasional John Wayne movie where good overcame evil, but after two hours of television a week, at the most, my mother turned the hardware off!

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To consider how far we've come in just 60 years is disturbing. Suggestive jokes in the 1970s are today fully demonstrated in speech and acts, conditioning the carnal mind to openly celebrate shameful behavior. Even Disney World is preparing for Gay Day at the Magic Kingdom in June, exposing thousands of children to a lifestyle that the Bible calls corrupt. In an article on Breakpoint.org titled *Why the USA Went Gay*, John Stonestreet said that "the hearts and minds of Americans—especially our young people—are being changed when it comes to same-sex 'marriage' and homosexual practice because of entertainment."

A Bible verse my mother helped me memorize as a boy is still engraved in my mind—the King James Version, of course: "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not" (Proverbs 1:10). But my mother had her own paraphrase: "If bad boys try to get you to do bad things, say no." Do we let God's Word permeate our thinking, or do we let the follies of Hollywood take up space in the control center—the mind? Christians are told to be guided by God who will guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7). "For the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him ... but we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Scripture tells us how to be self-controlled, by thinking on whatever is true, noble, just, pure and lovely, and to "meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Even the secular world recognizes the lowering of the bar. Educator Neil Postman wrote a book titled *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. He posed the question, "Who is prepared to take arms against a sea of amusements?"

Again the Bible declares, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds ... bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

The Bible has a lot to say about amusing ourselves, and you may be surprised to learn that it isn't good. King Solomon searched out ways to gratify the flesh with wine, folly, possessions and entertainment, "to see what was good for the sons of men," and declared, "Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure." And even in the night he found that his heart took no rest (Ecclesiastes 2: 3, 7, 8, 10, 23).

Sinful entertainment deposits rubbish in the mind, giving Satan a foothold in our lives (Ephesians 4:27, KJV). Once there, he thrashes around even as we sleep. Whatever has entered the theatre of the mind crosses the welcome mat as a thief and begins its lethal work of breaking down defenses. The moral compass that once guided our nation's people has been ridiculed and rejected, making sin the national sport and pastime.

What happened? Removing God-consciousness from society has given way to self-gratification, chasing after the "sin which so easily ensnares" (Hebrews 12:1). The Bible calls it folly. What is the antidote? "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts" (Romans 13:14).

The FCC claims to regulate public airwaves with regard to objectionable language and content, particularly in prime time. Such regulation, however, seems suspect when, at any time of the day, even advertisements contain offensive messaging. The late senator Jesse Helms once stated: "This filth ... has no business being broadcast on the public airwaves ... Garbage is garbage, no matter what the time of day may be."

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So we ask: How has a society that was founded on biblical principles gotten so far away from the command “Set nothing wicked before [your] eyes”? (Psalm 101:3). We’ve gotten here by setting our minds on earthly things instead of on things above (Colossians 3:2). The Bible is not a book of suggestions. It clearly states, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ... finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them ... see then that you walk ... not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:8-16).

Almighty God spoke the world into existence and He will have the last word. The day is coming when the heavens will become His grand theatre for the drama of the ages. He will split the canvassed sky wide open and all who have ever lived will behold when “the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints ... to convict all who are ungodly” (Jude 14-15).

But until that day, let’s not run after ungodly amusement. Let’s be about our Father’s business as genuine believers testifying of the Savior who lives to redeem lost and wandering souls for His Kingdom. ©2014 BGEA

“Hollywood: Entertaining Ourselves to Death?”
By Franklin Graham, *Decision* magazine, April 2014
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Dear Friends in Christ,

Our sister in Christ, Norma McCorvey, died on February 18, 2017, to be with our Lord. As to who Norma McCorvey is, please read the following article from the Family Policy Alliance about her life and about God’s grace in Jesus to her, even as we give God thanks for that same amazing grace in Jesus that has saved us from our wretchedness and brought us together to Him in the fellowship of His holy Christian Church.

Pastor Carabotta

Norma McCorvey died Feb. 18 from heart failure at age 69 in Katy, Texas.

McCorvey was known as “Jane Roe” in the *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision that came down from the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973.

In 1970, McCorvey was homeless and living on the streets. She found herself facing an unplanned pregnancy and sued the state of Texas, because abortion was illegal at that time. When lawyer Sarah Weddington approached her about using her case to push for legalization of abortion, McCorvey agreed.

“Many believe that she was very much coerced into that situation,” Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, told the Catholic News Agency, “and was encouraged to lie about the situation being the result of a rape.”

McCorvey never did abort her child, but her pseudonym became forev-

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linked to the case that wrongly created a constitutional right to abortion through all 9 months of pregnancy.

In the 1990s, Norma was working for an abortion facility in Dallas when she met a young girl named Emily Mackey, whose family worked with a pro-life clinic in the same building. Emily began asking her to come to church. Eventually, McCorvey would take her up on that offer, and it was there that she gave her life to Christ.

“Ultimately, Norma’s story after Roe was not one of bitterness, but of forgiveness,” said Marjorie Dannenfelser with the Susan B. Anthony List. “She chose healing and reconciliation in her Christian faith. She overcame the lies of the abortion industry and its advocates and spoke out against the horror that still oppresses so many. Of Roe she said, ‘I am dedicated to spending the rest of my life undoing the law that bears my name.’ In her memory and in her honor, we will carry on that work.”

McCorvey’s life was not easy after becoming a Christian. Many who had hailed her as a hero began to deride her as a traitor.

For McCorvey’s part, she embraced forgiveness for Weddington and others. When asked by Clement some years later whether she knew what happened to the lawyers in Roe, especially Weddington, McCorvey was candid.

“I haven’t heard from them in years,” she told Clement. “They were not nice women. They were not nice to me. I heard she (Weddington) has breast cancer. I pray for her.”

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life was a close friend of McCorvey for more than 20 years. He summed up her life and her ultimate mission.

“This moment can be one more step forward in America’s realization that *Roe vs. Wade* has never been, nor can it ever be, a solution to our problems, but rather that the only proper response to *Roe vs. Wade* is the response that Roe herself ultimately had to it.”

McCorvey had been in failing health for some time. She had a large and loving family who are grieving their loss, including 3 daughters.

“Losing a loved one is always a difficult time for a family,” the family wrote in a statement. “Losing a loved one who was also a public figure at the center of a national controversy brings additional challenges. It also brings additional consolations.

“We are, therefore, grateful to so many people across America and around the world who, in these days, are expressing their condolences, their prayers and their gratitude for the example Mom gave them in standing up for life and truth. Though she was the Jane Roe of *Roe vs. Wade*, she worked hard for the day when that decision would be reversed.”

Reprinted from familyalliancepolicy.com

Stewardship

Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God’s Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor” (Gal 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ’s death and resurrection. The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ’s atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 8:12), and generously (2 Cor 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen 4:4; Prov 3:9; Lev 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7), and love (2 Cor 8:23).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that’s it. That’s what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God’s word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God’s Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.

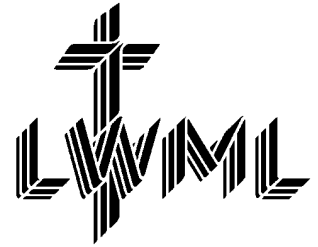
LCMS Free Stewardship Resources



LWML

The WINGS (Women IN God's Service) chapter of the LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) meet the second Thursday of each month (September through May) at 7:00 pm in Luther Hall. 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. At our March meeting (moved to Tuesday, March 14) we will discuss the Spring luncheon, the Spring Zone Rally, and the convention. Hope to see you there!

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



#7 Prices

Did you know there are things that you do everyday that can help support Mission Lutheran School? Praying, shopping, searching the internet, etc.

Collect Price's caps and send them to school. The school will earn money and supplies.

In addition, Price's Give 'Em Five donates money from each purchase. The funds are given out as grants to local schools. Two years ago Mission Lutheran School was awarded an \$800 grant that was used to purchase science materials.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

March Birthdays

Patterson	Emmalee	4
Guericke	Roger	5
Monica	Josephine (Jo)	5
Bachmeier	Bev	7
Quinlan	Jean	7
Roof	Levi	9
Lujan	Becky	11
Franz	Peter	16
Smith	Shilo	18
Koch	Dustin	20
Provencio	Ross	20
Aguilera	Oscar	21
Carabotta	Rev. Robert	27

March Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Smits	Robert & Tiziana	11	24
Ryberg	Jan & Jacky	15	37
Persing	Peter & Jan Peyton	17	31
Weber	Glenn & Susan	22	47



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

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.

Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

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

"Good and Bad Reasons"

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Experience has taught me that there are all kinds of reasons not to go to church.

Now, before you start shooting all kinds of outraged e-mails to the Lutheran Hour Ministries headquarters, remember, I didn't say these were *good* reasons. For example, the Sunday after Christmas and Easter most pastors can be pretty sure attendance won't be standing room only.

The United Postal Service has adopted these words as their creed: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Sadly, any of those climactic conditions, as well as others far less daunting, have the ability to sizably reduce a congregation's worship numbers.

Then, of course, there are lesser occasions that can diminish worship participation. You know the kind of occasions I mean: there is the opening of fishing and hunting season, and the last weekend before school starts at the end of summer. A fellow pastor, who has proofed this devotion, has reminded me that in our listings we dare not forget Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day weekends.

Now some of you, no doubt, are expecting the rest of this devotion to be heavily law oriented.

If that is what you believe, not so. Be patient and read on. No, this devotion was inspired by a news article carried in *The Jerusalem Post*. That story talked about a whole host of Christian pilgrims who, on Epiphany, managed to make it to the spot at the Jordan where the nation of that same name says Jesus was baptized.

I have to tell you their dedication impressed me. I'm impressed because I'm not that brave.

Let me explain. Qasr al-Yahud, the place where these pilgrims are visiting, was once a war zone between Israel and Jordan. The neighbors made peace in 1994, and the UN made it a World Heritage Site in 2015, but neither of those actions did anything to remove the mines that were buried there.

It is known that the area contains anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines, and a lot of unexploded ordinance. Altogether it is expected that there are about 4,500 such devices buried and waiting. Oh, I almost forgot, the churches in the area are also all booby trapped with explosives, too.

In spite of all this potential destruction, the pilgrims still came. They still wished to be at the place where Jesus officially began His ministry. They still wish, as much as they are able, to get closer to the Savior whose life was offered for our salvation and whose resurrection assures us we will also rise from the dead.

Theirs is an example I hope to remember the next time the devil tries to discourage my worship by putting mines of excuses in my path.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, You know there are legitimate reasons why we may not be able to worship with our fellow believers. On the other hand, not every excuse is good and not every reason to avoid worship is legitimate. Help me learn the difference. In the Savior's Name I ask it. Amen.

The story upon which this Daily Devotion is based was written for the Jerusalem Post on January 29, 2017. The website where the parent article can be found is: <http://www.jpost.com/Christian-News/Christians-flock-to-Jordan-River-baptism-site-despite-landmines-478901>



**THRIVENT
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BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Each year Thrivent Financial members make an impact in their local communities through Thrivent Choice®—Thrivent’s member-advised charitable grant program. Eligible members have the opportunity to recommend where Thrivent’s charitable outreach funds go, and many choose to give back to their own congregations.

Nearly \$51.3 million in Choice Dollars® charitable grant funds were distributed to churches and other nonprofit organizations in 2016. Growing Home, a nonprofit focused on breaking the cycle of generational poverty, helped a family in need using Thrivent Choice funds:

Seth, his wife, Amy, and their children were forced to live in their Jeep after their apartment was condemned. They stayed in Growing Home’s emergency shelter for 60 days until they were able to get back on their feet. “The very first night we were in the program, Growing Home was full of love for us,” recalls Seth. “My son Connor came in and told me that he had Spider-Man sheets and blankets on his bed. It was the little things that meant so much.”

While staying at the shelter, Seth got a new job. Seth and Amy also found an apartment, but didn’t quite have enough money for the deposit and first month’s rent. With funds from Thrivent Choice, Growing Home was able to step in, and provide them with what they needed to make their transition.

Want to make a difference in the lives of others and live more generously? Thrivent Choice® is just one of the benefits of being a Thrivent member. There are thousands of organizations you can support, including your own church. Visit www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to see program details and find charitable organizations to help.

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

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent’s mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program’s terms and conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
January 17, 2017

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, Jim Vance, John Guenther, Doug Lorenz, Frank Brennan, Carol Cooper, Megan Wood, Jerry Stickles, Ruth Staffeldt, Robert Scaling, Jan Peyton and guest, Carol Moore. Devotion and prayer were led by Doug Lorenz.

Minutes of the December 20, 2016, meeting were approved as submitted.

Greg Fant opened the meeting by asking that members review the officer and board responsibilities as documented in the bylaws. He also asked that as much information as possible be provided prior to the meeting so that Council discussions can be focused on action items.

Pastor's Report: No report this month. Greg explained that the ministry planning process is on hold until Pastor Carabotta is available to participate.

Vice President Report: Nothing new to report this month.

Treasurer's Report: see attached report submitted by John Guenther. General contributions continue to be less than budget. School revenues appear higher than they actually are, because some parents have paid in advance. We actually have fewer students than included in the budget, so John anticipates actual revenue will underrun budget.

Elder's Report: see attached report submitted by Doug Lorenz. Two donations have been received: 1) an iron and ironing board for use by the Altar Guild, and 2) an electric wheelchair.

Day School Board Report: Megan Wood reported that the students are participating in Sunday services on January 29. The preschoolers will be singing and other students will serve as ushers, etc.

An open house is scheduled for February 25 and will include a party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Non-church members will have an opportunity to register their children. The school does need to grow enrollment. Robert Scaling suggested that the school ask parents for written or video testimonials, as it is the best advertising you can get.

Financial consultants Rob and Dawn Cooksey will hold their sessions January 27-28. On Friday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Rob will hold a financial planning session while Dawn discusses student recruitment with Amie Springer. On Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Rob will hold a strategic planning session. Dawn will be discussing fundraising with Kathy Mailander.

Trustees' Report: Frank Brennan reported that Mesilla Valley Construction has begun the stucco repair. Frank showed us a photograph of the inside of the entry pillars to Luther Hall. The interior damage was extensive, so the overall cost will be greater than the \$12,000 included in the estimate.

The painting in Luther Hall is ongoing, to be completed during spring break, March 18-20. Ruth Staffeldt will arrange for food for the workers each day.

New window shades have been installed in Luther Hall.

A tree root is tilting a concrete slab near the basketball basket, causing it to be two inches higher than the adjoining slab. The root will be dug out, and the concrete slab leveled, for the safety of the children using the playground.

Christian Education: see attached report submitted by Dianne Wensel.

Stewardship Report: see attached report submitted by Jerry Stickles.

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

Evangelism Report: see attached report submitted by Carol Cooper.

Fellowship Report: see attached report submitted by Robert Scaling.

President's Report: Greg suggested that the next Voters' Meeting be scheduled for February 26 and the members agreed. Carol Moore has a bulletin insert documenting the two bylaw changes submitted and read to the Voters in November. Greg distributed the Synod's requirements for their review of Constitution and Bylaw Changes, copy attached, and their review and approval is required for bylaw changes. A vote on the two bylaw changes will be taken at the February meeting. The Synod has proposed three amendments to their constitution, which were read at the November 2016 Voters' Assembly. Discussion and a vote on these constitutional amendments is also scheduled for the next meeting.

A list of the Council priorities identified last year that require additional work this year was distributed. Greg asked members to review this list and identify additional priorities for discussion at the February meeting.

The next Council meeting will be held February 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Ruth Staffeldt reported that on Saturday, February 11, noon to 1:30 p.m., a pizza party would kick-off the first parent-teacher meeting.

Robert Scaling moved, and Jerry Stickles seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

**TREASURER'S REPORT – 1st QUARTER 2017 VOTERS MEETING
Mission Lutheran Church and School**

Report Preparation Date: February 25, 2017

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of January 2017</u>		<u>FY Thru January 31, 2017</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
Income:				
MLC General	\$27,750.00	\$23,163.90	\$172,050.00	\$153,371.93
MLS Total	\$22,980.00	\$21,295.04	\$138,280.00	\$136,586.95
Designated / Other	\$476.67	\$4,379.71	\$3,336.67	\$61,695.03
	<u>\$51,206.67</u>	<u>\$48,838.65</u>	<u>\$313,666.67</u>	<u>\$351,653.91</u>
Expenses:				
MLC Total	\$13,929.14	\$20,342.48	\$112,975.38	\$171,901.93
MLS Total	\$26,262.99	\$21,343.57	\$188,925.12	\$168,680.44
	<u>\$40,192.13</u>	<u>\$41,686.05</u>	<u>\$301,900.50</u>	<u>\$340,582.37</u>
Net Difference	\$11,014.54	\$7,152.60	\$11,766.17	\$11,071.54

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

Church General Fund Contributions – FY 2016/17 (Through February 19, 2017):

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,550.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$4,930.86
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$167,649.21
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	<u>\$188,700.00</u>
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	-\$21,050.79

Assets / Liabilities (As of February 25, 2017):

Current Assets:	<u>Checking:</u>	\$29,383.36
	<u>LCEF Savings:</u>	\$122,735.47
	(- Calls)	
	Rey de Reyes	\$40,031.06
	MLS	\$11,043.51
	Sabbatical Acct.	\$11,500.00
	Other	\$942.81
	Savings Available	<u>\$59,176.09</u>
Liabilities:	<u>Mortgage Loan:</u>	\$63,617.30

Notes:

- Actual figures reflect \$60,876.31 for designated revenues (from LCEF savings) and non-budgeted expenses for the two capital funded projects. Overall impact on approved 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.

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Elder on call: Jerry Stickles (575) 640-8436



LENT BEGINS

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

“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		