

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

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Pastor's Pen

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Has it been 500 years already? How time flies! It's hard to believe that five hundred years ago Martin Luther, the Augustinian monk of Wittenberg, encountered the gospel in the pages of the Bible, there in the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. How strange that it was the apostle Paul's letter to the Roman Christians of the first century A.D. that almost 1,500 years later lit the flame of faith, of pardon and peace in Christ alone in the heart of Brother Martin. It is strange because shortly before Martin encountered the gospel in Paul's letter to the Romans in the Bible, Martin's father superior (of the monastery where Martin lived) sent him on an assignment and pilgrimage to Rome, the city of the pope, with the intent to inspire Martin's heart and relieve his soul burdened with fear and guilt from an ever-increasing awareness of his sins. What Brother Martin saw there in "the Eternal City" of Rome was hardly inspiring or relieving to his heart. Everywhere he turned he saw superstitions, the sale of indulgences making the holy places a market for money and a den of thieves, questionable relics of saints for the common people's veneration, all in the hopes that they or their deceased loved ones would be relieved of time in purgatory, or even receive the remission of sins from these practices. He saw immorality among the priests.

Continued on next page →

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ Oct. 1: LWML Sunday
- ◇ Oct. 3: FUN Night
- ◇ Oct. 4—6: Fall break for MLS
- ◇ Oct. 7: Coats for Kids fundraiser
- ◇ Oct. 10: JULIETs lunch
- ◇ Oct. 12-15: Carol Moore is on vacation
- ◇ Oct. 21: Bike/Trike-a-Thon
- ◇ Oct. 28: Reformation Walk at Ascension in El Paso
- ◇ Oct. 29: Reformation Sunday



Somehow, these experiences did not relieve the conscience of the monk heavy-laden in heart.

But all was not lost. "God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it."¹ The Word of the Holy Spirit, spoken by his servant, the apostle Paul, and faithfully penned, had already burned brightly in Rome, and from there spread now the world over. It reached a library in a monastery in Germany, and there, in the heart of Martin, it ignited the light of faith in Christ Jesus. Thankfully, his father superior, the abbot of the monastery, had urged him to seek the mercy of Jesus and the Word of God. From there the Word continues to spread the fires of repentance and faith in Jesus throughout the world. The words of Jesus continue to happen,

the hour is coming when neither on this mountain [Gerizim in Samaria] nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father... But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:21, 23-24)

Much more can be said to expound the words of the Lord Jesus, but for another time and place. Yet one could add, "when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem" nor on Vatican hill will you worship the Father. It turns out that the spiritual Mount Zion, the gathering of God's people around the Word of God and the Sacraments of Christ rightly administered, wherever and whenever that may happen, is the time, place and dimension where the heavenly Father is worshipped in spirit and truth.

As I mentioned, it was *only* five hundred years ago that God, apparently and obviously, led Martin Luther, through the means of a horribly troubled conscience that was rightly terrified by God's unyielding Law, to read the words of the gospel in Romans, chapter 1:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (verses 16-17)

The heavens opened to him, as they do for us who read, listen to and receive that Word written and preached.

Yet why do I say that it was only five hundred years ago that this happened? Is that not a long time ago? The reason for saying so is that things have hardly changed, even while they change so quickly. As Solomon says in Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. The light of the sun rolls over the whole earth continuously and therein sees the same things repeated. How are we in the same or similar position as Brother Martin Luther? How are these days like those of Martin Luther? What challenges did he face that we also face, after 500 years, in preaching and believing the gospel? Why is the prayer that he prayed, "Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; curb those who by deceit and sword would wrest the kingdom from Your Son and bring to naught all He has done"² *our* sincere prayer?

We, through the Word and Sacraments, have come into God's kingdom in Christ Jesus for such a time as this. One of the best ways that we can celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is to preach the Word, with the others being to pray the Word, to live the Word and to share the Word. With the spark ignited on the Lord's Day, 29 October, in this Year of our Lord 2017, we shall begin to encounter anew the very same reforming truths, which Martin Luther and the preachers of the Gospel rediscovered and preached from the Bible, on that day and the following Sundays to the end of the Church Year. God grant us the peace of Christ as we journey together in the Word.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robert Carabotta

¹Lutheran Service Book, 656 and 657.

²Lutheran Service Book, 655.

Mission Lutheran School's Trike/Bike-A-Thon Fall Festival

What is it?

This event is a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Children collect donations from sponsors to ride trikes, bikes, or scooters around a set course. Families may also participate in games, crafts, and fun. Snacks will be provided! Appropriate costumes are welcome. Free will donations are welcome, everything will be donated to St. Jude!

Who can participate?

Preschoolers-8th Graders can participate as riders through the obstacle course. Anyone can sponsor a rider.

How do I participate?

- Pick up a donation envelope (in Narthex) for your child (pre-8th grade).
- Turn in registration/permission for in the narthex.
- Begin collecting donations.
- Have your child bring his/her helmet and bike or trike to MLC's parking lot on the day of the event.
- ***Don't have a child?*** Anyone may sponsor a rider. Contact Miss Smith if you would like to sponsor a rider.

Why should I participate?

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a world leader in the fight against childhood cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Families without insurance are never asked to pay for treatment.

When is the Trike/Bike-A-Thon?

- Saturday, October 21st
- 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- Mission Lutheran Church parking lot.



Stewardship

We are nearing the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, All Saints' Eve, 1517, when Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows" (Galatians 6:6-7).

"The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages'" (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

When Paul says "all good things," this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. . . . The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: "God is not mocked." . . . All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: "Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages"; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13-14): "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel." It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages . . . it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office. (LW 27:125-126).

In other words, pastors are not to suffer from low wages just because they are servants of Christ and the Word. They are to share in the livelihoods of all to whom they preach the gospel and instruct in the faith, so that the Word can be proclaimed and the faith carried from one generation to the next.



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For 75 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries

and to support global missions.

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

At Mission our LWML is WINGS - Women IN God's Service. We support the vision statement as the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

WINGS meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. All women of Mission Lutheran Church are invited to join us for an evening of devotion, fellowship and planning mission projects. Our meetings typically last no more than one hour.

Our next meeting will be on October 10th in Luther Hall. If you need a ride to any of the meetings, please contact Jacki McCurley at 526-9182.



JULIETS: The Juliet's are Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together. We meet once a month for fellowship and prayer. Join us at Bite of Belgium on Tuesday, October 10th, at 11:30. If you plan to attend, please contact either Jacki McCurley at 526-9182 or Ruth Jakcsy at 522-8637.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

October Birthdays

Eisenbraun	Joanie	3
Poppy	Mark	4
Fant	Beth	5
Guenther	John V.	9
Waters	Yvonne	9
Smits	Robert	10
Peyton	Jan	18
Buls	Karen	20
Carabotta	Lourdes	22
Aguilera	Jeannette	23
Duever	Doug	23
Dunivan	Guy	23
Lee	Winnie	24
Ryberg	Jacalyn	24
EGgebraaten	Asher Elliot	28
Staffeldt	Scott	30

October Anniversaries

		Date	# of yrs
Carabotta	Rev. Robert & Lourdes	5	21
Johnson	JR & Karen	8	57
Carrera-Little	Jerry & Amy	15	29
Buls	Art & Dolores	16	69



*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.

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Voters' Assembly

May 21, 2017

Please note: where attached files are referenced, those files are available from the church secretary.

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Doug Lorenz opened the meeting with devotion and prayer. There were 38 of 62 voting members present.

Robert Scaling moved, and Carol Moore seconded, that the minutes of the February 26 meeting be approved as emailed. The motion passed.

Robert Scaling moved, and Yvonne Waters seconded, that Joanie Eisenbraun and Fran Gunderson be accepted as new voting members. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report will be included with the Elder's Report.

Treasurer's Report: see attached financial report and proposed budget provided by John Guenther. John reported that for the current year, revenues for both church and school are running behind. Robert Scaling asked if John believed the shortfall would be made up before the end of the fiscal year. John said that is unlikely.

John discussed the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. John explained that contributions of \$5,500 per week were included in the current budget, and we are receiving \$5,000 per week. The proposed budget includes contributions of \$5,105 per week, so this provides a challenge. The budget assumes that the school will include preschool operations, which may not be the case. Preschool options will be discussed later in the meeting. Robert Scaling moved, and Carol Moore seconded, that the proposed budget be approved. The motion passed.

Vice President's Report: Jim Vance reminded us that we would be electing new officers and board members later this year. At the moment, we need a President, Vice President and Secretary, and have many openings on the various boards. Jim asked everyone to consider serving, as he will be recruiting for these positions beginning in July. Council meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. It is an open meeting and Jim invited everyone to attend and learn how the Council operates. Greg asked each person to pray and ask God's advice regarding serving in an officer or board position.

Elders' Report: Doug Lorenz reported that the Elders met on May 10. He thanked Pastors Buttke and Weber for conducting services and visiting shut-ins while Pastor Carabotta is on leave. Pastor Carabotta did attend the meeting to discuss how he is doing while on leave and if he needed any assistance. Lourdes' health is improving. David Maestas has resigned his position as Elder. The next meeting will be held June 14.

Day School Report: Mary Martin reminded us that the next week is the final week of the current school year. For next year, enrollment in the elementary grades is holding. Preschool enrollment is quite low and that program may not be viable for next year. The staff is fully aware of the situation.

Closing chapel is next Friday and will be led by Vicar Andy Perry. Cake and punch will be served to celebrate the end of another successful school year.

Mary said she has been cleaning house at the school and has some heavy items needing disposal. She asked that someone with a pick-up truck or trailer help her make a dump run.

Approximately \$11,000 in Angel Scholarships will be awarded next week. This program is separate from financial assistance.

Christian Education: Dianne Wensel reported that Vacation Bible School is the week of June 12. Volunteers are coming forward, and a preschool leader is still needed.

Trustees' Report: Frank Brennan reported that the lighting in the parking lot is greatly improved. The lights above the goal post should be done by Wednesday of next week. Painting will continue when school is out. Frank asked what color he should use in the hallway outside Carol Moore's office. The group agreed that a light color would be best.

Evangelism Report: Carol Cooper reported that one visitation was conducted since last meeting. Fran Gunderson is sending cards to all visitors. Carol asked that each person pray and ask God's guidance about working with the Board.

Christian Service and Missions: see attached report by Ruth Staffeldt, which was read to the voters by Greg.

Stewardship Report: Jerry Stickles reported that temple talks would begin next quarter.

Fellowship Report: Robert Scaling said that a July 4 event would be held with dinner at 6:00 p.m., to include world famous hot dogs and pasta salad. At 7:00 p.m., a half-hour of music will be followed by a movie, and at 9:30 p.m., fireworks will be viewed from the parking lot. Faith Lutheran is invited to join us.

Endowment Report: Robert Scaling provided information for the two endowments as of March 31, 2017. The Strasser endowment for the school experienced a gain of approximately 5% and had a balance of \$48,815.69. The general endowment experienced a gain of 3% and had a balance of \$83,147.67. The general endowment is 60% fixed-income and 40% equities.

Unfinished Business:

Greg Fant presented two possible changes to the bylaws. The first was a suggestion to change the wording for those Boards that require two elected board members to read two or more elected board members. After discussion, the voters decided this change is not necessary.

The President serves as the second signature on the church checkbook. This duty is not documented in the bylaws. The voters agreed that this duty should be documented in the bylaws. The process to incorporate this change will begin at next quarter's meeting.

New Business:

Carol Moore explained that she had visited another church where the mailboxes are assigned in alphabetical order rather than assigning box numbers to individuals. She said the name is affixed to a clip so that it becomes easier to move the names when required. The voters liked this idea.

Doug Lorenz said that Jerry del Bosque had called and informed him that there is no plan to move forward with the Rey de Reyes ministry, so the church should use any funds leftover as it wished. Doug moved that the \$40,000 be given to Faith Lutheran at \$1,000 per month to support their Hispanic ministry. The motion was seconded by Alma Lorenz. Lively discussion ensued which asked if Faith had a need for additional funds and suggested that other Hispanic ministries should be considered as well. The motion failed and the group indicated that this topic requires further investigation. Doug thanked the group for the open discussion.

Robert Scaling moved, and Carol Moore seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

MISSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting
August 15, 2017

Please note: where attached files are referenced, those files are available from the church secretary.

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, Pastor Carabotta, Jim Vance, John Guenther, Beth Fant, Megan Wood, Robert Scaling, Frank Brennan, Doug Lorenz, Ruth Staffeldt, Jerry Stickles, Carol Cooper, Jan Peyton, and guest, Carol Moore. Doug Lorenz led devotion and prayer based on 1 Timothy, chapter 2, verse 5.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as emailed.

Vice President's Report: Jim Vance reviewed the positions up for election for 2018. Volunteers for President and the Boards of Elders, Evangelism, Christian Services, and Day School are needed.

Elders' Report: see attached report submitted by Doug Lorenz.

Day School Board Report: see attached report submitted by Megan Wood. The coat hook proposal generated lengthy discussion with safety being a major issue of mounting hooks in the hallway. Council asks the teachers and the Board to look for options other than using the hallway.

Trustees' Report: Council members told Frank that the narthex and hallways look good after painting.

Frank Brennan reviewed information and prices he has concerning replacing the carpeting in the church building. Frank will continue investigating options.

Frank will contact RT Electric immediately as the outside lighting was to be completed today and no one showed up.

The cement slab under the basketball basket is a safety hazard. Doug Lorenz will contact cement contractors to give us an estimate to cut the slab out, remove the tree roots, and put in a new slab.

Frank indicated that the water fountain in the church has not worked correctly for several years. A replacement fountain would cost approximately \$400. Doug Lorenz moved, and Frank Brennan seconded, that the water fountain be replaced. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: see attached report submitted by John Guenther.

Evangelism Report: see attached report submitted by Carol Cooper. The Board will again invite the entire congregation to participate in praying for our neighborhoods and walking in our neighborhoods during announcements after Sunday service.

Christian Education Report: see attached report submitted by Dianne Wensel. Carol Cooper added that the Board will be handing paper invitations to the parents of Sunday School age children inviting them to Sunday School.

Christian Service and Missions Report: see attached report submitted by Ruth Staffeldt. Ruth said that three more requests for assistance had been received since she submitted her report. Bills for natural gas and El Paso Electric were paid. The third request was from someone with a Juarez ID card, so the bill could not be paid. However, this individual was given a bag of food.

Fellowship Report: see attached report submitted by Robert Scaling. Robert reminded us that FUN nights resume in September and are the first Tuesday of each month. The Fellowship Board provides a meal and the Elders provide the FUN program.

Stewardship Report: see attached report submitted by Jerry Stickles. There was discussion of holding Temple Talks after Sunday service. The service is long, 1 ½ hours, and some felt that people were tired of listening by that time. The last Time and Talent survey was completed in 2015. The question is should we update those surveys now. The Board will discuss these matters and come back with proposals.

President's Report: Council agreed that the next Voters Assembly meeting would be held on Sunday, September 24 at noon. Greg will be out of town and asked Jim Vance if he would chair the meeting. Jim is returning from vacation on September 23 or September 24, and he will check his schedule to determine if he can chair the meeting.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Greg will appoint an auditor to review the financial records for fiscal year July 2016-June 2017.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Carabotta indicated that he is continuing his transition back to pastoral duties. He will lead services this next Sunday with Pastor Weber delivering the sermon. There will be one adult confirmation and one joining our congregation by profession of faith.

Pastor will conduct the Youth Confirmation Class beginning on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. and Discover the Faith beginning on Saturday, September 23, at 10 a.m.

Pastor will give the sermon on LWML Sunday, October 1. For the rest of October, he will alternate weeks with Pastor Weber. October 29, a fifth Sunday in the month, is Reformation Sunday and will include communion.

In November, Pastor will be back for all services and will conduct the Sunday Bible Study class. Pastors Buttke and Weber are willing to step-in should an emergency develop.

Leadership Shield: Greg asked Jan to include the coat hook problem and other matters brought up during his meeting.

Pastor Carabotta led us in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – 3rd QUARTER 2017 VOTERS MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: September 24, 2017

<u>Budget Status:</u>	<u>Month of August 2017</u>		<u>FY Thru August 31, 2017</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$20,420.00	\$23,045.00	\$45,945.00	\$45,943.50
MLS Total	\$24,760.00	\$30,858.75	\$34,810.00	\$52,251.91
Designated / Other	\$212.50	\$6,566.29	\$325.00	\$6,725.96
	\$45,392.50	\$60,470.04	\$81,080.00	\$104,921.37
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$14,824.32	\$15,851.90	\$30,063.64	\$29,565.20
MLS Total	\$22,201.22	\$20,464.44	\$38,042.80	\$38,283.10
	\$37,025.54	\$36,316.34	\$68,106.44	\$67,848.30
Net Difference	\$8,366.96	\$24,153.70	\$12,973.56	\$37,073.07

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

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

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,105.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$5,105.40
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$61,264.80
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$61,260.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	\$4.80

Assets / Liabilities (As of September 24, 2017):

Current Assets:	<u>Checking:</u>	\$38,700.80
	<u>LCEF Savings:</u>	\$109,328.15
	(- Calls) Hispanic Ministry	\$40,031.06
	MLS	\$5,304.88
	Sabbatical Acct.	\$4,426.68
	Youth Activity Fund	\$988.42
	Hurricane Asst.	\$288.00
	Savings Available	\$58,535.11
Liabilities:	<u>Mortgage Loan:</u>	\$58,270.96

Notes:

1. \$7,073.32 used this calendar year for covering pastoral care during Pastor Carabotta's leave. Funded from sabbatical designated fund with no impact on overall budget balances.
2. Higher income figures due to an estate donation of \$5,000 and allocation of about \$11,300 of Angel Program funds which front loaded tuition revenues.

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Elder on call: Robert Smits (575) 522-5538

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

**Today I bent the truth to be kind,
 and I have no regret,
 for I am far surer of what is kind
 than I am of what is true.**

~Robert Brault~

“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		