

MISSION FRONTIERS

Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

In this issue:

- Pastor's Pen
- Prayer Ministry newsletter
- LWML news
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- Council meeting minutes
- Treasurer's Report

Pastor's Pen

WHO DOES WHAT?

In our world today, we hear many people talking about the way to heaven. For those of us who have been fortunate to hear God's Word proclaimed in truth and purity, we can quickly respond that we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus. That faith is a gift to us by our Gracious Lord.

That is made clear in the following passage: "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." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

One of the things most of us have is the abundance of messages about Jesus on our televisions, our tablets and our smart phones. We also hear messages in hymns and songs. Living in an age that promotes the Ecumenical movement, a common response for most of us is to listen or look for the name Jesus in these messages.

It is indeed important to listen for a reference to Jesus since we know that it is only through Jesus that we can be saved. (See Acts 4:12) However, it is important that we listen to just how the name of Jesus is used. Dr. Norman Nagel reminds us that simple grammar is important. He asks, "Who is driving the verbs?" He points out that there is a difference between a message that says "I love Jesus" and one that says "Jesus loves me."

Continued on next page →

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ **September 4: Labor Day Holiday**
- ◇ **September 5: FUN Night**
- ◇ **September 11: 9/11 Remembrance**
- ◇ **September 12: JULIETs lunch**
- ◇ **September 12: LWML meeting**
- ◇ **September 12: Youth confirmation class begins**
- ◇ **September 16: Church & School family BBQ**
- ◇ **September 23: Discover the Faith! class begins**
- ◇ **September 23: Prayer Ministry retreat**
- ◇ **September 24: Voters' Assembly**



When we look at the difference, we see that the first is pointing to us and what we do, the other is talking about Jesus and what He does. Likewise, there is a difference between, "Give your life to Jesus" and "Jesus gave His life for you."

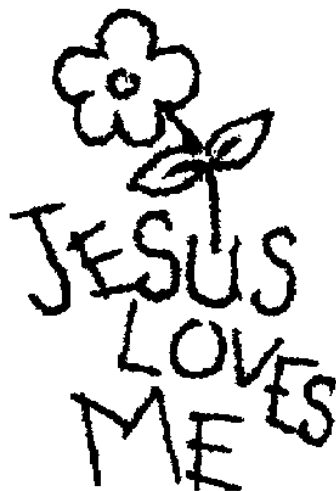
Scripture makes it clear that we are helpless, completely incapable of saving ourselves. May we always remember that our salvation comes from what God has done for us through Christ, not what we can do for Him.

Let us give thanks to God for the precious gift of faith and the gift of a Savior who has opened the door of salvation to us. It is when we realize our need for a Savior and the fact that He has reached down to us, that we can now live our lives in gratitude for all our loving Lord has done for us and let that gratitude show in our daily lives.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kerry Buttke



Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

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

"More Than Enough Room"

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

By the Act of March 1, 1872, Congress began what would become the National Park Service.

This it did by carving out chunks of Montana and Wyoming to make Yellowstone National Park. The law said it wanted this area to be "a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and placed it "under exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior."

A pleasuring ground for everyone sounds like a crackerjack idea, and it is.

The only problem with that line of thinking is this: in 2017 there are a lot more *everyones* than there was in 1872. Just as significantly, the numerous everyones of 2017 can travel farther and faster to see these national parks than could their ancestors.

And those two facts, my friends, can make for an overcrowding problem.

Indeed, for the first time in the U.S. National Park System's history, there is a movement to use a reservation system to limit the number of people going into some of the parks at any given time. The first park on that list is Zion in Utah. Last year 4.3 million people surged into that bit of beauty -- most of those visitors confining themselves to the park's main canyon.

Those who study the park say it's too much of a good thing and must be limited.

You know, we Christians ought to be very thankful. By midnight on the first Pentecost there were only a few thousand believers. Put all those people together and you've got a small town. Today, 21 centuries later, there is an estimated 2.2 billion believers in the world, and Christianity is the single largest movement in the world's history.

Now 2.2 billion people would destroy the infrastructure of the world's most far-sighted municipality. Thankfully, those numbers cause no problem for the Lord. Think about it:

1. God loved the world and every person who would ever live in it.
2. God sent His Son to carry the sins of -- and die for -- every sinner.
3. God would have all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.
4. Jesus, the perfect Savior, has gone to prepare a place for every person whose name is written in the Lord's Book of Life.

In short, Daily Devotioner, as long as your faith is in good shape, you don't have to worry about whether there is going to be room in heaven for you.

Continued on next page



That's the good news. The bad news is that the world today holds 7.5 billion people, and that means there are 5.3 billion people who aren't headed for heaven. That means two out of every three people you see aren't going through the pearly gates.

And that's a shame because the Lord has done everything necessary to bring them home.

It's time for us to help.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, You sent Your Son to seek and save the lost. I was once one of those lost, but now I have been found. Although I cannot reach out to 5.3 billion people by myself, use me to share the Savior's story of salvation with the lost around me. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth R. Klaus".

Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker Emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**
Lutheran Hour Ministries

Consider this ‘TIP’ to help you save for college

If you're trying to save for a child's college education, here are some college funding options you may not be aware of. An easy way to remember them is with the acronym "TIP."

- **Trusts:** Trusts can be used for education and other purposes.
 - While contributions to a trust have no minimum or maximum amount, exceeding the annual gifting limit could reduce the donor's lifetime gift and estate tax exclusion amounts.
 - When a family creates or uses a trust for any purpose, it can affect a student's eligibility for need-based financial aid.
 - Contact an attorney to see if a trust could be right for you.
- **IRAs:** While primarily used for retirement savings, traditional and Roth IRAs allow you to withdraw funds penalty-free if used for qualified education expenses.
 - Your contributions can grow tax-deferred until withdrawal. And with a traditional IRA, they may also be tax-deductible.
 - Using IRAs for college funding can affect your retirement strategy and need-based financial aid eligibility, so be sure to contact a financial representative about this option.
- **Permanent life insurance:**
 - If something should happen to you, a permanent life insurance contract can help ensure that financial goals like education funding can still be met.

Permanent life insurance contracts may accumulate cash value that can be used during your lifetime and also provide additional flexibility for other funding avenues as well.

Make wise decisions about your money

The TIPs here may or may not apply to you, so if you want help figuring out what you should do, contact your Thrivent Financial representative, who can help you make smart college funding choices. Your representative can also team up with other financial representatives who are Certified College Planning Specialists to help you with your overall college planning challenge. Visit Thrivent.com/uplan for more information.

To learn more about saving and paying for college, contact Joann Rodriguez, FIC, at 575-523-1879 or joann.rodriguez@thrivent.com today.

Offered through a brokerage arrangement with Thrivent Investment Management Inc. Funds invested in 529 college savings plans have no bank guarantee, are not FDIC-insured and may lose value.

You are advised to consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses associated with 529 college savings plans before investing. More information on 529 college savings plans is available in the issuer's official statement. Read the official statement carefully before investing.

You should investigate whether your state or your beneficiary's state offers a qualified tuition plan for its residents and consider what, if any, potential state income tax advantages or other benefits it offers. Please consult with a tax professional to receive tax analysis of the investments.

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent.

Thrivent Financial and its representatives and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative and, as appropriate, your attorney and tax professional for additional information.

For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

Stewardship

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl. 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil—those who live contrary to God’s will—and to reward those who do good—those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will. Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are to support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God places a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence, our prayers, and on our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, for your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

LCMS Free Stewardship Resources





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 first meeting this year will be on September 12th 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. We took a break during the summer but will resume in September. Join us at St. Clair Winery and Bistro on Tuesday, September 12, at 11:30. If you plan to attend, please contact either Jacki McCurley at 526-9182 or Ruth Jakcsy at 522-8637.

Faith Comes By Hearing

We will have another opportunity this month to support Faith Comes By Hearing, an organization in Albuquerque that provides military Bible sticks to our service men and women wherever they are.

Following is some of the feedback they have received both from chaplains and service members.

MILITARY BIBLESTICK Testimonies



What Chaplains are saying

- The soldiers all love the bible sticks. We have new soldiers coming in all the time. Thanks for your time with the Army. God bless you ALL. - **Chaplain - US Army**
- Thank You the Bibles has been a blessing to the troops. - **Chaplain - US Army**
- I greatly appreciate your support of our mission and your service to us as we fulfill that The Bible stick is an essential tool to some of us so we appreciate it even more. **CH – USAF**
- Except for 15 Bibles sticks all of them have gone out. Our base looks for them. I have boxes all over the base with them. Places like our firehouse, maintainers, fitness centers and the headquarters building. I'll be placing them in our OPS building for our pilots, and crew chiefs next. So blessed to use this tool to reach many for the Lord. Would you please send us more? Please thank the donors and your team. **"Let's stick it to them--for eternity" :) Great news!!!"** **CH - USAF**

What Service Members are saying

- "Thank you for everything and the MP3 player. It helps understand so much!"
- "This Bible MP3 is wonderful. I can't see good but now I can listen to the Bible it a great thing. Thank you so much." Rank: E-4 Branch: U.S. Army
- "I am at Martinsburg VA for treatment and the Bible Stick allows me to stay focused, even at night while sleeping." Rank: TSgt Branch: Air Force
- "I enjoy listening to my Bible Stick can't see as well as I use too. But thank God there's nothing wrong with my ears."
- I enjoy listening to the BibleStick just before I fall asleep. The books of the Bible provide me peace of mind. Rank: SGT Branch: USMC



Anniversaries and Birthdays

September Anniversaries

		Date	# of years
Skelton	Irv & Marcelle	21	49

September Birthdays

Poppy	Holly	3
Weber	Glenn	3
Vakselis	Sheila	5
Wood	Nova	5
Buls	Art	8
Young	Robert	10
Cooper	Carol	12
Lessman	Susanna	12
Allison	Michele	13
Bonse	Jim	14
Jakcsy	Ruth	14
McCurley	Hannah	26
Gerdes	Bev	27
Johnson	Karen	30

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

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
Council Meeting
June 20, 2017

President Greg Fant called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Attending were Greg Fant, John Guenther, Beth Fant, Megan Wood, Robert Scaling, Dianne Wensel, Frank Brennan, Doug Lorenz, Ruth Staffeldt, Jan Peyton, and guest, Carol Moore. Doug Lorenz led devotion and prayer based on Exodus chapter 19, verses 3-6.

Minutes of the May 16, 2017, meeting were approved as emailed with the addition of Jerry Stickles to the list of attendees.

Elders' Report: see attached report submitted by Doug Lorenz. John Guenther asked if Mission could keep three Hispanic Bibles and hymnals for use by our congregation and Doug concurred. Doug noted that Dr. Smits has requested a public announcement regarding the gift of the Bibles and Hymnals to Faith Lutheran's Hispanic Ministry.

Fellowship Report: Robert Scaling reminded Council that the July 4 celebration would begin at 6 p.m. in Luther Hall. Kay Swedberg has posted a sign-up sheet. Faith Lutheran members are invited to join us.

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

Christian Education Report: Dianne Wensel reported that there were four children attending Sunday School on June 14. Vacation Bible School had over 80 children enrolled and an average attendance of 75 children per day. Mary Martin is identifying the unchurched who attended.

Evangelism Report: no report this month.

Day School Board Report: see attached report submitted by Megan Wood. A donation has been received to fund the preschool program for next year. With the anticipated enrollment, we probably will not have classroom assistants next year.

Trustee's Report: Frank Brennan advised that our internet service is going down frequently and Century Link is not restoring service for several hours. To change our service from Century Link to Comcast was reviewed, including cost. We would have to create a new website and email addresses would change for both church and school. A follow-up is needed to determine if Century Link would bill an early leave charge. If the decision is to change our internet provider, a detail plan is necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

RT Electric has completed the lighting in the parking lot and will be working on the driveway and the goal post areas next.

Painting in the church building will begin shortly. Frank and Karen will paint the hallway and the Narthex using an off-white color. Frank plans to hire a professional painter to paint the Sanctuary.

Frank asked that someone determine what needs to stay in the Narthex and hallway. Karen Jensen wants the Youth bulletin board to be in a prominent place. It would include a calendar of events and many photographs from the Youth activities.

The carpeting in the hallway and Narthex is worn in some places, creating a safety hazard, and needs to be replaced. Some would like to replace the carpeting in the Sanctuary at the same time, but others feel the Sanctuary carpet is in better condition and does not require replacement now. Council asked the Trustees to develop a recommendation to be discussed at the Council meeting in September.

In Luther Hall, the light fixture in the hallway by the kitchen will be replaced. The Bunn coffee maker has been replaced.

Treasurer's Report: see attached report submitted by John Guenther. John reported that general contributions have improved in June. He anticipates that the Net Difference for the fiscal year will be approximately -\$13,000.

Doug Lorenz noted that Council should develop a recommendation for the use of the Rey de Reyes funds to take to the Voters' Assembly.

President's Report: Greg announced that a fall theme is proposed, "Responding to God's Love", to challenge members to come up with ways to incorporate this into the work of the church. He asked us to pray and we will discuss at our next meeting. Greg will email Pastor Carabotta to get his input.

Doug Lorenz suggested that temple talks or bulletin inserts be used to tell the congregation what the Boards do, perhaps two or three each week.

Pastor Carabotta is planning to return the third week of August.

Vice President's Report: nothing new to report this month.

Stewardship Report: no report this month.

Leadership Shield: Greg asked that "Responding to God's Love" and the carpet replacement proposals be included in the Staff/Leadership Prayer Shield, asking for God's guidance. Jill Smith will be undergoing a knee replacement. In addition, thank God for the donation which funds the pre-school program next year.

After discussion, Council decided not to meet in July. Our next Council meeting will be August 15, 2017, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Greg led us in prayer and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice F. Peyton, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

Mission Lutheran Church and School

Report Preparation Date: August 13, 2017

Budget Status:

Month of July 2017

FY Thru July 31, 2017

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual*</u>
<u>Income:</u>				
MLC General	\$25,525.00	\$22,898.50	\$25,525.00	\$22,898.50
MLS Total	\$10,050.00	\$21,393.16	\$10,050.00	\$21,393.16
Designated / Other	\$112.50	\$159.67	\$112.50	\$159.67
	\$35,687.50	\$44,451.33	\$35,687.50	\$44,451.33
<u>Expenses:</u>				
MLC Total	\$15,239.32	\$13,713.30	\$15,239.32	\$13,713.30
MLS Total	\$15,841.58	\$17,818.66	\$15,841.58	\$17,818.66
	\$31,080.90	\$31,531.96	\$31,080.90	\$31,531.96
Net Difference	\$4,606.60	\$12,919.37	\$4,606.60	\$12,919.37

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

Church General Fund Contributions – FY 2017/18 (Through August 13, 2017):

Average Weekly Contributions Needed:	\$5,105.00
Average Weekly Contributions Received:	\$5,367.21
General Fund Contributions Year-to-Date:	\$37,570.50
General Funds Budgeted Year-to-Date:	\$35,735.00
Surplus/Shortfall Year-to-Date:	\$1,835.50

Assets / Liabilities (As of August 13, 2017):

Current Assets:	<u>Checking:</u>	\$19,226.53
	<u>LCEF Savings:</u>	\$109,270.15
	(- Calls) Hispanic Ministry	\$40,031.06
	MLS	\$3,804.88
	Sabbatical Acct.	\$5,937.52
	Youth Activity Fund	\$894.42
	Savings Available	\$58,560.27
Liabilities:	<u>Mortgage Loan:</u>	\$58,270.96

Notes:

- \$1,415.13 used this FY for covering pastoral care during Pastor Carabotta's family leave. Funded from sabbatical designated fund with no impact on overall budget figures.

Mission Lutheran Church and School
 2752 N. Roadrunner Parkway
 Las Cruces, NM 88011-8081
 Church Office: (575) 522-0465
 School: (575) 532-5489
 Emails: mlpastor@qwestoffice.net
 mlsecretary@qwestoffice.net
 mlschool@qwestoffice.net

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

We're on the web!

<http://missionlutheran.net>

<http://mlschool.net>

*A good character is the best
 tombstone. Those who loved
 you will remember. Carve your
 name on hearts, not on marble.*

“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		