

2021 February Council Report

Youth Programs

- Youth programs have been online. Looking at a small group model to minimize exposure.
- High School Youth Group - Sundays at 6pm.
- Confirmation - Wednesdays at 6:30pm.
- Fun With Faith - Wednesdays at 5pm.

He-Brews - February 23rd @7pm

- Men's Pub Theology hosted by Joe Zimmerly this month.
- Will be talking about "Hops" and the Road to Emmaus.

Family Bingo Night - February 21st - 7:00pm on Zoom

- Join us on Zoom for Family Bingo Night at 7:00pm on February 21st.
- All families are invited to join.

Small Groups - For Children and Youth

- We are creating a small groups program that will meet regularly (once or twice a month).
- We will be doing High School Groups, Middle School Groups and Elementary School Groups.
- There will be 2 adults per group (not just staff members).
- Looking for members of the congregation to be group leaders.
- Focus: Building our children's relationships with God through intentional adult mentorship and community.

Youth Ministry Interns - Cal Lutheran

- Our Youth Ministry Interns have started and we are so glad to have them! Jaclyn and Noami are both Cal Lutheran students who have been working behind the scenes as we integrate new programs during COVID.
- We look forward to having them around .

2021 Youth Council Members

- Our Youth Representatives for church council this year are Collin Edwards and Tiana Stouch.
- They will be meeting with Craig and Becky monthly to really teach them what it means to be on church council. Here, they will break down the agenda to help the kids create opinions on the discussion items for the meeting itself.

Joe's Report - March 2021

After meeting in person once again these past few weeks, we have noticed that our kids have enjoyed seeing each other face to face. At our Learning Committee meeting this month, we received great feedback in regards to performance and safety. We are always up for new challenges, and as we navigate through this middle area we will continue to keep safety a priority.

Youth Programs

- Youth programs are back in person.
- Small Groups have been allowed to meet starting this month.
- High School Youth Group - Sundays at 6pm.
- Confirmation - Wednesdays at 6:30pm.
- Fun With Faith - Wednesdays at 5pm.

Mount Cross Community Hike

- Youth Interns are planning a hike.
- Date TBD.
- All members of the church are invited to join.
 - Must wear a mask and maintain a distance of 6 feet or more from each other.

Youth Band - March 21st

- The Youth Band will be playing March 21st.

Easter Programs

- Virtual showing of the creation story.
- Kid involvement for all ages.
- Easter Egg Hunt on site socially distanced in quadrants using the parking lot/front lawn (time TBD).

He-Brews - March Date TBD

- The February event went well!
- 6 people attended. 3 of which had not attended the previous meeting.

Small Groups - For Children and Youth

- Small Groups will begin this month if they have not already done so.
- We will be doing High School Groups, Middle School Groups and Elementary School Groups.
- There will be 2 adults per group (not just staff members).
- Focus: Building our children's relationships with God through intentional adult mentorship and community.

Joe's Report - April 2021

As we approach this time of transition through phases, we will once again put caution at the forefront of our decisions. We have had family hikes, bike rides and even a beach day all of which have been fun to have. We are excited for better times ahead, however we know there is a long way to go.

Youth Programs

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- Small Groups have been allowed to meet starting this month.
- High School Youth Group - Sundays at 6pm.
- Confirmation - Wednesdays at 6:30pm.
- Fun With Faith - Wednesdays at 5pm.

Mount Cross Community Hike

- Hike at Hill Canyon was great! We had 13 people join for a fun day in the sun!

Summer Camp - 2021

- Summer camp at El Camino Pines is back! We will be attending June 26 - July 1 for grades 3-10. We are asking that everyone will send payment to the church so we can use the camp scholarship fund.
- COVID protocols will be released in the coming weeks.

Vacation Bible School - Interest Form is UP!

- VBS is back this year! We will be offering an *in-person (subject to change) program like we have in past years.
- As always, this could change due to another COVID-19 surge, so we are gathering interest at this moment **without** payment.

Small Groups - For Children and Youth

- Small Groups will begin this month if they have not already.
- We will be doing High School Groups, Middle School Groups and Elementary School Groups.
- There will be 2 adults per group (not just staff members).
- Focus: Building our children's relationships with God through intentional adult mentorship and community.

Joe's Report - May 2021

As we approach summer we will be "changing the rhythm." Our weekly programming will be ending at the end of May and we will move into an event based model. This is much needed as we continued to have weekly programming throughout last summer leading into the school year. This will allow the staff to plan and re-think some of the core elements of our program as we prepare for the new school year.

One big update in our children, youth and family program is that we will be losing Inger Smuts, one of our children and youth assistants. We are sad to see her leave, but are excited for her as she begins her career journey. As for staffing, we will be waiting until August to post the job opening. This will give us time to reflect on what has worked and what the need might be as we transition out of COVID. The Learning Committee has already conducted an exit interview/conversation and provided some feedback from Inger. This is a "see you later" as she will still be in the area and has expressed interest in volunteering once she settles into her new job. She will be celebrated this Sunday during the confirmation service. We will dearly miss her and are grateful for what she has done with our programs!

Youth Intern Celebration - Cal Lutheran Interns

- May 23rd at 9:30am.

Volunteer Core

- With staffing transition, we will be taking the next few months to recruit and develop a dedicated volunteer core.
- If you have any volunteer suggestions, please contact me and I would love to connect.

Small Groups

- Small Groups have been great! Kid and parent feedback has been exceptional! •
 - The Middle School Girls group will start meeting twice a month.
 - Looking for more leaders. I have a few who are prospective candidates.
 - Family Small Groups will begin this month and will follow the "Faith 5" (program/structure). •
- Focus: Building our children's relationships with God through intentional adult mentorship and community.*

Summer Camp - 2021

- Summer camp at El Camino Pines is back! We will be attending June 26 - July 1 for grades 3-10. We are asking that everyone will send payment to the church so we can use the camp scholarship fund.
- 10 kids currently are registered.
- COVID protocols have been released in the coming weeks.

Vacation Bible School - Interest Form is UP!

- I have capped off our VBS registration from the public at the moment at 43 kids. This was to allow more of the Mount Cross families to register.
- As always, this could change due to another COVID-19 surge, so we are gathering interest at this moment **without** payment.

Summer Program Staples

- ALL Church Beach Day - first Sunday of the Month (Second Sunday for July). •
- Movie Nights - Third Friday of the month.
- Small Group meet ups.

Joe's June Report

Confirmation Sunday - May 23rd

- Was a success thanks to Lisa Saner and Lorraine Carpenter!
- Four confirmands.
- Intern/Staff send off celebration.

Graduation Sunday - June 6th

- 20 Graduates - PreK-College.
- Synod Grad Service is online! Joe and Addie (Ascension Lutheran) put together.

Volunteer Core - Update

- With a new phase of the pandemic upon us, we have seen an increase in volunteer activity:
 - Peter Johnson - Middle School Boys Small Group.
 - Emma Griffis - Middle School Girls Small Group & Children's Ministry.
 - Ben Nathanson - Music & Youth Ministry.
 - Zach Lotshaw - High School Boys Small Group.

Movie Night - June 18th

- 7:30pm - Movie starts at 8pm.
- We will be watching "Cars".
- \$10 suggested donation per car.
- *Possible S'mores station (Tables, gloves, masks, individual skewers, etc).

Summer Camp - 2021

- Summer camp at El Camino Pines is back! We will be attending June 26 - July 1 for grades 3-10. We are asking that everyone will send payment to the church so we can use the camp scholarship fund.
- 10 kids currently are registered. 1 more pending.
- I will be driving up one group in the van accompanied by a parent driving the other group.

Vacation Bible School - August 2-6

- We have raised the current registration of VBS to 75 kids. At the moment we have 53 kids (pending a few registrations).
- With volunteers, we will be looking at having ~125 people on site.
- Volunteer information meeting on June 23rd @ 7pm on Zoom. Details in Grapevine.
- We are currently accepting payment at \$55 per child.

Summer Program Staples

- ALL Church Beach Day - first Sunday of the Month (Second Sunday for July).
- Movie Nights - Third Friday of the month.
- Small Group meet ups.

Joe's July Report

Summer Camp - 2021

- Summer Camp was a blast! We sent 12 kids to El Camino Pines for a fun filled week learning about the theme "Discover" and what that means in our own faith lives. I am tremendously appreciative of the church spiritually and financially supporting these kids each and every year! We were able to support every family by offering \$200 per child in scholarships through the Legacy and Memorials gift we received. I believe that this was a large factor helping make it easier for families to send their kids to camp especially after the financially tough year we all endured. All in all, we had tons of fun and can't wait until next year!



Vacation Bible School - August 2-6

- We have raised the current registration of VBS to 75 kids. At the moment we have 53 kids (pending a few registrations).
- With volunteers, we will be looking at having ~125 people on site.
- We look forward to our partnership with Zander's Game House for a VBS Game Night on August 3rd. All families are welcome and will cost \$5 per person.
- Thursday night is the VBS performance. Due to a few donations and sponsorships we are able to have some sweet surprises for the night!
- Friday is water day and we are excited to have a water slide as usual.

Church Beach Day

- August 8th at San Buenaventura State Beach at 4pm.
- Bring \$10 for parking.

Blessing of the Backpacks - August 29th

- All teachers and students are welcomed to join us for a special blessing on August 29th at 9:30am as they begin their new school year.

Children & Youth Assistant Hiring

- After approval of an updated job description from the personnel committee, we will be looking to hire a children and youth assistant to help with middle school and high school youth.

Joe's Report - August 2021

Vacation Bible School - August 2-6

- VBS was a blast! We had 73 kids & 40+ volunteers.
- Our daily themes were:
 - God Creates, God Provides, God Claims, God Protects, God Loves We Love.
- We had fun at Zander's Game House on Tuesday with over 50 people who attended between 5pm-8pm (open house style).
- We had 100+ people at the OUTDOOR VBS Program Thursday Night followed by Mister Softees and Kona Ice thanks to special donations.
- Friday we had our usual water day with a BIG water slide and water games.
- We had lots of fun and we are looking forward to the new families that will be joining us for our Fall programs!

Meeting with every family at Mount Cross!

- I have a goal to meet with EVERY family in our CYFM program at Mount Cross by the end of September to hear what our families need from the church and our program.

Cal Lutheran - Children, Youth and Family Ministry Intern

- This Fall we are lucky to have another CYFM Intern, Abby Viera.
- Abby is going to be focusing on middle school and high school ministry, but you may see her around on Sunday mornings from time to time helping with Children's Church.
- She will start next week and we are excited to have her join us for the semester!

Blessing of the Backpacks - August 29th

- All teachers and students are welcomed to join us for a special blessing on August 29th at 9:30am as they begin their new school year.

Fall Programs - September 15th

- We look forward to Fun With Faith and Confirmation coming back this Fall. With our children's safety we will be thinking about where it might be best to have these programs.

Children & Youth Assistant Hiring

- Inger Smuts is wanting to come back to Mount Cross as our Children & Youth Assistant. She left in May due to graduating college, starting a new job, and moving to Camarillo.

Joe's September Report

This past month I have been meeting with and listening to our families. What can we do as a congregation and as a children, youth and family ministry to support our families? With this in mind, I have been asking families these three questions:

- 1) What can the church provide/do for you and your family?
- 2) Is there something more you want to see in our ministry?
- 3) What are you mourning in these challenging times? What are you celebrating?

I have met with five of our 33 families. I will provide a write up of my notes and responses to share with the Learning Committee.

This month I have started a training in Keychain Leadership through Fuller Youth Institute (\$25), connected to Fuller Theological Seminary. Next month I will be attending Theosis Professional Leaders Conference in Palm Desert with Pastor Julie and Cecelia.

We have a NEW Children & Youth Ministry Intern from Cal Lutheran, Abby Viera. My goal is to give her as much exposure to what Youth Ministry is and can be in the 12 weeks we have with her. Recently, we have created a weekly video series called 5 Minutes of Faith where we talk about the Bible story for the upcoming week. Essentially, it is a pre-recorded children's message that gets uploaded to YouTube.

Here is a short description that Abby has provided about herself.

Hi everyone, I'm Abby! I am finishing up my last semester at Cal Lutheran, am graduating with a major in Psychology and a double minor in Theology and Sociology. The end goal is to become an Occupational Therapist! On Campus, I'm involved in student government, am a leader of a bible study, and work for the community service center. In my limited free time you can find me thrifting, crafting, or spending time with people I love. I am so excited to be interning at Mount cross, and have been so blessed to meet so many wonderful people!



Fall Programs began September 15th with great turnouts for Fun With Faith (11 Kids) and Confirmation (8 Kids). We will be restarting our Wednesday Night Meals on Wednesday September 29th with the help of our beloved chef, John Colby Jr.

Lastly, both Amy Vega and I have been planning a Trunk Or Treat event on October 29th for both the church and CDC families to attend. The cost is \$25 per car with best decorated car/costume contests, a pumpkin patch and Mister Softee. This will be a great event to look forward to.

Joe Zimmerly

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Joe's Report - October 2021

This past month I have been meeting with and listening to our families. What can we do as a congregation and as a children, youth and family ministry to support our families?

With this in mind, I have been asking families these three questions:

- 1) What can the church provide/do for you and your family?
- 2) Is there something more you want to see in our ministry?
- 3) What are you mourning in these challenging times? What are you celebrating?

I have met with eight of our 33 families. I will provide a write up of my notes and responses to share with the Learning Committee.

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Joe's Report - November 2021

In October we had our very first Trunk or Treat co-hosted with the Mount Cross Child Development Center. Our Trunk or Treat had over 200 people attend from the community, church and preschool. We will gladly have this again next year!



Our generosity campaign kids edition has raised well over \$100 for families in need of meals at our church. With the help of the Care Team, we will be working on how to distribute this money accordingly. Thank you to all who helped support our kids reach their goal.

December 7th is our Youth Fundraiser at Presto Pasta as we raise funds to send five youth and two adults to Minnesota for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. By June of 2022, we need to raise \$15,000 to send everyone so please make sure to join us December 7th as we try to chip away at our goal.

Christmas time is here and we are excited to have a fun filled season with some of our favorite traditions back! On December 19th, make sure to watch our Christmas children's program as well as musical performances from our own congregation members. Play practice begins Wednesday December 1st from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Lastly, we were able to participate in a service day at El Camino Pines. Whether it was digging a new trail to a cabin, parking lot maintenance or scrap wood removal it was a long day with lots of smiles. We were thankful to give back to a place so important to us.



Joe's Report - December 2021

We went caroling! As tradition holds here at Mount Cross, our middle school youth went caroling as we tried to spread some of the Christmas spirit with our homebound seniors. After visiting five houses, we finished the night at Rolling Pin with donuts treated by Pastor Julie, also part of the tradition.

In December we did lots of fundraising. Thank you to all who came to our dinner fundraiser at Presto Pasta on December 7th. We raised over \$200 for our high schoolers as we raise funds for the National Youth Gathering. We also had a bake sale where we raised over \$400 to help send families to Winter Camp at El Camino Pines. Thank you to all who supported our youth in many ways this past month.

We had a Christmas Program on December 19th! Thanks to Carol Browning and her creativity, we were able to have a Christmas play with our children. We had lots of fun and were thankful to have such a young group with us.

We also said goodbye to our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Intern, Abby Viera. She was a great joy to have around. Abby was a student at Cal Lutheran in the Theology and Christian Leadership Program. In coordination with the University, we were able to have her help in various parts of our ministry for 10 hours a week this semester. This was the second time we were able to have an intern and I truly believe that this is something the church benefits from greatly. We look forward to the time we are able to host another young person who is discerning a call to ministry.

