

Pastor's Report for November Church Council

October 18, 2021 - November 30, 2021

- Sunday worship is the center of our community life. Thank you to all who participate as musicians and worship assistants. We are trying to improve the systems for assigning worship assistants and making sure there aren't any gaps. Our new Volunteer Coordinators, Kris Dawson and Vicky Edell, will be a big help in this regard. I consistently hear people express appreciation for the quality of our worship. All Saints Sunday was a special day of remembrance for those who have died. The candle-lighting was powerful and moving for those who participated and those who observed it. We also celebrated a joyful Baptism that day and received new members. It was a poignant symbol of the cycle of life.
- Pastoral care continues. I visit people in their homes, at hospitals, at assisted-living communities, and I meet with people in the church office, out in the community, or at their places of employment. It is my deep joy to sit with people and offer spiritual care and support. Many thanks to the Care Team, Health Ministry, Prayer Chain, and Home Communion Visitors who also provide important spiritual care to others.
- Joe, Cecelia, and I attended *Theoasis* October 18-20, a leadership conference for the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods. It was good to have Mount Cross well-represented at the conference, and it provided an opportunity for the three of us to reflect on and discuss ministry at Mount Cross.
- I attended the Synod Conference Gathering at CLU on October 24. Bishop Bos introduced her vision for the Synod, including the need for financial sustainability.
- We held Bob Edell's funeral Saturday, October 30. God continue to give strength and comfort to Vicky in her time of grief.
- I completed the annual job reviews for Carol Browning and Carina McVeigh. The process included a self-evaluation and solicited feed-back from church members who work closely with them, along with my evaluation. I compiled a narrative report, submitted it to the Personnel Committee, and filed it in their personnel files.
- We have a Deacon-Elect! Mount Cross called Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson to serve as a Deacon in our congregation. She will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 12 at Mount Cross. Please plan to join us for this special celebration.
- I was away Nov. 22-29. Thank you to the staff for covering for me in my absence and for the Rev. Susan Klein for preaching and presiding on Nov. 28. Pastor Lynn Enloe had been scheduled to supply but was unable to be there because of medical issues.
- Christmas Eve services will be at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, December 24. The liturgy and music will be the same for both services. The 5 p.m. service will be livestreamed and available for viewing anytime later in the day.