



September 21, 2023

Dear Mount Cross Community,

Thank you is the first and last word I want you to read in this letter.

Thank you for the generosity you display on a daily basis in your lives. Thank you for serving and giving so generously to Mount Cross Lutheran Church. Because you choose to live out your Christian faith among us, Mount Cross continues to be a vibrant church where love of God and others is made real. I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude and joy for the privilege of being your pastor and for the incredible community we have nurtured together.

As a congregation this year, we have witnessed countless moments of God's grace. We have gathered at the Lord's table, celebrated births and baptisms, welcomed new members, commended our beloved friends to God's care at the end of their lives, and comforted each other in times of sorrow. Each moment of grace invites us to be grateful and faithful stewards of God's gifts.

I hope you will take some time to think about the joy that comes from being generous stewards of the resources God has given you. Stewardship is not just about financial contributions. It is also about offering our time, talents, and treasures to God's work. It is about nurturing the seeds of love, compassion, and service that God has planted within us. It is about fostering a spirit of gratitude in every aspect of our lives.

When I read the enclosed Narrative Budget and Caring Ministries brochure, I was astonished to realize how much our relatively small congregation does on a daily and weekly basis to glorify God and love God's people. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our staff works in partnership with our members to truly be the Body of Christ in this time and place.

Please continue your generous support of Mount Cross Lutheran Church and take a few minutes to fill out the Estimated Giving/Pledge Card and Time & Talent Form. (You can also do this online at <http://www.mountcross.com>). We will bless these generous commitments on All Saints' Sunday, November 5.

For all that you have already done and given to Mount Cross, and for all that you intend to do and give in 2024, thank you!

Sincerely,

Pastor Julie Morris

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805-482-3847 * www.mountcross.com * office@mountcross.com

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" 1 Peter 4:10

Your 2024 Stewardship Packet

The contents of this packet include:

- Pastor Julie’s message on the importance of Stewardship in this unique time for the church and how we are called to serve.
- 2024 Mount Cross Pledge/Estimated Giving Card—This provides you an opportunity to plan for and commit to supporting our church and its ministries with a portion of your financial gifts. Every pledge makes a difference and every amount matters. Determining the right amount is between you and God.
- Time and Talent Survey 2024—This form asks you to indicate areas of service in the church and community where you have abilities and interest. Every bit as important as giving of our treasure is the commitment of our time and talent. Each member is asked to complete a survey hoping every person finds at least one area of interest.
- A return envelope for your Pledge/Estimated Giving Card and Survey. **Please note:** One first class stamp is needed if mailed. The envelope will be opened ONLY by the Financial Secretary to ensure confidentiality. Surveys will be sorted out and directed to the Volunteer Coordinator, Vicky Edell.
- Care Team and Narrative Budget brochures

If you prefer, online versions of both the Pledge/Estimated Giving Card and Time and Talent Survey are available at the church website, <http://www.mountcross.com>.

Questions about the Stewardship “Generosity” Campaign?

Contact Luanne Crockett at lsrockett@roadrunner.com 805-388-5220

Barbara Cranfill at ebarby1@gmail.com 575-707-1509

or Joan Brundage at jbrundage@roadrunner.com 805-586-5553

STEWARDSHIP FAQ’S

WHAT IS A PLEDGE? When a church asks its members to “pledge,” it seeks statements of estimated giving intent for the year to come. For each giver, this sets a giving goal for the coming year. Every member is asked to consider tithing (giving 10% of their income); or if not able, to make a yearly increase in their giving with tithing as a goal. The congregation’s collective pledges assist church leaders in making financial plans for the church and its many ministries.

WHAT IF I CAN’T MEET MY PLEDGE? It is understood that circumstances change before or during the year. You will **never** be contacted about the status of your giving. Giving reports are provided for your information only. Every gift is a blessing.

IF I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE A PLEDGE SHOULD I STILL COMPLETE THE CARD? The pledge card offers the option of committing to supporting Mount Cross without making a specific dollar amount pledge. This is a significant personal commitment and states that while there is uncertainty in your current circumstances, it is your intention to give to the church within your means.

HOW IS MY PRIVACY ASSURED? Use and seal the provided response envelope. Only the Council-appointed Financial Secretary sees submitted pledges and manages a separate system for recording pledges, tracking giving, and producing giving reports. Not even the Pastor has access to this information.

WHAT IF TOTAL PLEDGES ARE NOT ENOUGH TO MEET FINANCIAL NEEDS? The Church Council would develop options to propose to the Congregation if this should occur. Church leaders first work to make the most effective use of available resources. The clearer the information they receive regarding estimated giving for the year, the easier it is to draft a reasonable budget.

WHERE IS MY BOX OF GIVING ENVELOPES? This year, giving envelopes were not ordered. Instead, we are using old supplies of envelopes. If you would like to use a box of surplus giving envelopes for 2024, contact Joan Brundage at jbrundage@mountcross.com.