

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

2011 - 2012 Confirmation Handbook

-- Parent's Edition --



Sharing & Understanding Real Faith

CHECKLIST

Have you...

- Turned in the medical release form for the current year?
- Turned in a Registration Form?

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1. Confirmation Calendar

2011-2012

Aug 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sep 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Oct 2011

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Nov 2011

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27	28	29	30			

Dec 2011

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September

- 21 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Confirmation
Guides Orientation
- 7:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
Orientation (ALL Confirmation
Students and Parents)
- 28 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation

October

- 5 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 12 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 19 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 26 NO CONFIRMATION - Guides
Huddle 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

November

- 2 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 9 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 16 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 23 Thanksgiving Holiday (No
Confirmation)
- 30 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation

December

- 7 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 14 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 21 Winter Break (No Confirmation)
- 28 Winter Break (No Confirmation)

January

- 4 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 11 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 18 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 25 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation

February

- 1 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 8 NO CONFIRMATION - Guides
Huddle 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- 15 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation

- 22 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
(Ash Wednesday Service)

- 29 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation

March

- 7 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 14 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 21 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 28 NO CONFIRMATION - Guides
Huddle 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

April

- 4 No Confirmation (Spring Break)
- 11 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 18 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 25 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation

May

- 2 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 9 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 16 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Confirmation
- 20 10:45 AM Rite of Confirmation

Feb 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29		

Mar 2012

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Apr 2012

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2012

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Jun 2012

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jul 2012

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 - Wednesday Schedule

The basic schedule for Wednesdays is very simple: Be at church no later than **6:00 PM** each Wednesday. Plan to be picked up at 8:00 PM each Wednesday. **Parents, please plan to arrive at 8:00 PM** (that is, don't ask your child to call when they are ready to be picked up). If there are exceptions we will do our best to communicate these to you as far in advance as possible.

The content of each Wednesday session will vary, mixing food, study, service and fun. The whole group will gather for an opening time, followed by instruction in the large group and processing in the small group.

3 - Dinner

We start each Wednesday session with dinner from 6:00 PM until 6:30 PM. **This is not an optional part of our program.** Fellowship over meals is an important way that God's people are knit more tightly together as a family of faith.

Each week's dinner is provided by one of the students (i.e., their family). See the schedule below for your date. If there is a conflict, please arrange to trade with someone else on the list. Please make trades as far in advance as you can. Please contact Pastor Erik with changes.

On your date, please arrange for dinner (for about 25-30 people) to be ready to be served in the church kitchen at **6:00 PM sharp**. We will usually leave the kitchen open so that you can get in to prepare as needed.

You are welcome to come and cook at church, cook at home and bring to church, or arrange to have some sort of "fast food" brought or delivered to the church. Pizza and soft drinks is the easiest dinner to prepare. Call Dominos and let them know it is for a church youth group and you will get a discount. For example: You can drop off cans or bottles of drinks on Sunday and then charge a pizza delivery to arrive by 6:00 PM. If you want to leave a check with Pastor Erik so he can pay with the pizza arrives, this is fine, too.

Providing dinner for 25-30 may seem like a large expense, but remember that most of the other weeks of the year, someone else is providing the meal for your child.

2011/2012 CONFIRMATION - DINNER SCHEDULE

Dinner #	DATE	BRINGS DINNER
1	9/28/11	Vieira
2	10/5/11	Tingle
3	10/12/11	Thomton
4	10/19/11	Specht
	10/26/11	<i>No Confirmation, Huddle</i>
5	11/2/11	Sheller
6	11/9/11	Schneider
7	11/16/11	Phipps
	11/23/11	<i>No Confirmation, Thanksgiving</i>
8	11/30/11	Peoples
9	12/7/11	Jones
10	12/14/11	Griffis
	12/21 & 12/28	<i>No Confirmation - Winter Break</i>
11	1/4/12	Goebel
12	1/11/12	Friederichs
13	1/18/12	Fickenscher
14	1/25/12	Duran

Dinner #	DATE	BRINGS DINNER
15	2/1/12	Churchill
	2/8/12	<i>No Confirmation, Huddle</i>
16	2/15/12	Arevalo
17	2/22/12	Ash Wednesday - Carty
18	2/29/12	<i>Lenten Supper</i> - Mount Cross
19	3/7/12	<i>Lenten Supper</i> - Guzman
20	3/14/12	<i>Lenten Supper</i> - Geary
21	3/21/12	<i>Lenten Supper</i> - Mount Cross
	3/28/12	<i>No Confirmation, Huddle</i>
	4/4/12	<i>No Confirmation, Spring Break</i>
22	4/11/12	Priest
23	4/18/12	Campbell
24	4/25/12	Angelastro
25	5/2/12	Abernathy
26	5/9/12	Spandrio
27	5/16/12	Last Confirmation - Lu
	5/20/12	Rite of Confirmation (10:45 AM)

Confirmation Dinner Ideas

Fried Chicken – 100 pieces mixed + 25 extra
breasts – ½ left over – legs were preferred
Salad Bar – 3 pre mixed bags serves 16 – 2 left over
Potato Salad – 9 lbs – ½ left over
Rolls – 4 doz – 1 doz left over
Tater Tots – 3 bags

Spaghetti – 5-2lb packages – 1 left over
Meatballs – 200 balls
Sauce – 7-26oz jars – 1 left over
Salad – 7 bags
Bread – 3 french loaves (long)
Brownies – 2 pans

Subway
6' sandwich and 1 large platter (2 round trays) – just
barely enough
Chips – 3 bags - 1 left over
Drinks – 4 2 liter bottles - not enough
Cookies – 2 bags - just enough

BBQ Hamburgers – 50 large patties
BBQ Hot dogs – 16
Watermelon – large melon – just enough
Baked beans – 2 large cans and 2 small cans –
leftovers

Presto Pasta
Pasta w/Alfred sauce – 30 people size - 20 size
would have been enough
Pasta w/marinara sauce – 30 people size – 20 size
would have been enough
Garlic bread – 2 pans - not enough
Salad – 30 people – 20 would have been enough
Drinks – 3 2 liter bottles juice – not enough

Burrito's
10-12 lbs meat w/ Lawry's seasoning – just barely
enough
refried beans – 2 large cans – good quantity
Mexican rice – 5 packages – good quantity
Lettuce – 2.5 heads chopped – 2 would have been
plenty
Tomatoes – 9 small – 6 would have been plenty
Sour cream – 1 medium tub – just enough
Salsa – 1 jar – just enough
Tortilla chips – 2 bags – just enough
Oreo cookies – 2 packages – just enough
Drinks – 9 2 liter bottles (lemonade, rood beer,
sierra mist) - just enough

Chili – 3 5 qt crock pots – barely enough
Salad – 5 bags – 4 would have been good
Cornbread muffins – 2 dozen – good quantity
Rolls – 1 package of 28
Cookies – 4 packages – 3 would have been good
Water bottles – 1 doz
Soda – 2 cases – not enough

Pizza – 14 large from Little Caesars, half Cheese,
half pep. – 3 left over
Brownie bites – 2 boxes – good quantity
Milk – 4 gal – one was enough
Apple juice – 2 gal – one was enough
Lemonade – 4 qts – not enough
Salad – 3 bags – not enough

Pasta from Sam's Club – serving for 40 people –
just barely enough
Alfredo – 10 servings
Spaghetti with meat – 10 servings
Rigatoni – 20 servings
Salad – 1 large bag – not enough
Bread – 5 loaves – not enough
Fruit punch – 2 gal – one was enough
OJ – 2 gal – one was enough
Cookies – 2 packages

4 - Sundays

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP [8:15 AM Traditional, 9:30 AM Traditional, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:45 AM Prayer & Praise Service]

Our Confirmation program is designed to prepare young people for full participation in the life of the church. Worship is an important part of our life together, and it is expected that the young people will take an active part in worship. From time to time the young people will also have opportunities to assist with the sermon or other parts of the service.

ACOLYTING

The first and second year classes are also expected to assist in the worship service by acolyting (lighting candles, receiving the offering, assisting with Communion, etc.). Many have already been trained for this. I will provide training on an as needed basis, usually on the Wednesday before their first assignment. Below are the instructions for Acolytes.

Instructions for Acolytes

1. The schedule for all worship assistants will be either e-mailed or if you don't have e-mail, mailed to you the month prior to serving as an acolyte. The schedule will also be available at our website at: <http://www.mountcross.com/assistants.htm>. You will be reminded by e-mail during the week before you are supposed to serve. If you are unable to serve on your assigned date, first try to trade places with someone. Use the schedule in the Grapevine to do this. You can also use the roster at the end of this section to find someone to substitute for you. If you succeed, please notify the church office of the change. If you can't find someone with whom to trade, call the church office (482-3847) to let us know, even if it is early Sunday morning and you only get the answering machine.
2. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start of the service.
3. Before the service. **When you arrive:**
 - Check the wicks on the candles,
 - Check to make sure there is a hymnal and worship folder on your seat,
 - Check in with the pastors for any special instructions,
 - Put on a robe, rope and cross
 - Get out a lighter and some matches,
 - Join the pastors and assisting minister in a prayer.
4. **Lighting the altar candles.**
 - Light the lighter and enter the church to light the candles.
 - Go to the front opening in the altar rail, pause for a moment and give a small bow.
 - Then enter the altar area and light the two candles.
 - You will usually sit in the seat closest to the flags.
 - Slide the lighter under your chair.
5. **The Offering**
 - When the ushers finish collecting the offering the congregation will begin singing the Offertory as the come down the center aisle.
 - walk over and stand in the opening in front of the altar
 - first take the **wine** from one of the ushers and place it on the altar.
 - next take the wafers (in the ciborium) and place them on the altar
 - last take the offering plates and place them on the table against the wall
6. **Communion**

After the Lord's Prayer, join the assisting minister and the communion assistant to receive Communion. Most of the time we kneel behind the altar. Sometimes we receive Communion standing in front of the altar.

When we use 2 chalices or when we have Communion standing in front of the altar rail...

- you may return to your seat.

When we use 1 chalice and individual glasses in the trays...

- take an empty tray and follow behind the pastor, communion assistant and assisting minister, collecting the empty glasses.
- when your tray fills up, take it to the altar and trade it for an empty one.
- when Communion is over, re-stack all the trays on the table against the back wall and replace the cover.
- return to your seat

7. End of service

- At the end of the service, the pastors and Assisting Minister will walk out during the last hymn.
- At the same time that they turn and begin walking out of the church, you go back to the altar and put out the candles.
- Return to the Sacristy and hang up your robe, robe cross and lighter.

8. **Thank you for helping in this important way in the worship life of Mount Cross.**

SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION CLASS (9:30 AM)

Another part of the total package, which is Confirmation, is the Sunday morning discussion group. Usually fueled with donuts, the class looks at contemporary issues, movies, music and their connection with the faith and the Bible. The class meets during the Sunday School hour in the Parish Life Center.

5 - Behavior

We expect that behavior and language will be appropriate to a community of faith who gather in Jesus' name and seek to live and care for each other following His style:

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you."

Matthew 7:12

We have set up a few basic boundaries in which the group works and plays together. The boundary has been crossed if you:

- use foul or abusive language, including racial slurs
- use physical violence against another person
- fail to respect the property and contents of the place we are meeting (whether it be church, a home, or park)
- if you fail to clean up the mess

We shouldn't have to set consequences for crossing these boundaries but if they are crossed parents/guardians will be contacted and consequences will be discussed.

6 - Friends

Friends are always welcome! The only time you will need to ask permission to bring friends is if there is any reason there might not be supervision or transportation enough for all. But you'll know about this in advance.

In addition, we don't expect friends who come now and then to do the memorization...unless they want to. When friends attend, however, they will be included in all of the day's learning and fun activities. We will also insist that the same standards of behavior be observed by all.

7-Camp Experience

During his time on earth, Jesus would take time to go away either by himself or with his disciples to a quiet place in order to pray. It is important as Christians that we too take time out to focus on our faith by ourselves and with other Christians. Therefore, as part of the confirmation ministry we are requiring that youth participate in at least one summer *and* one winter camp experience. This may include going to El Camino Pines, Beach camp, or a Servant trip in the summer, *and* going to winter camp or a church-sponsored overnight retreat during the school year.

8-Family Check-in

At Mount Cross, we do not require our students to take sermon notes, but we are going to ask them to do a family check-in time. This will involve a time of reflecting on events of the week, a portion of Scripture, and taking a moment to prayer together as parent and child. It is our belief that confirmation does not take the place of the faith formation that happens in the home, but supports the formation that hopefully happens in the home. This is because family is so influential in a young person's life. (See section 11 "Parent Participation") We ask that both the parent and the student sign off on the weekly check-in time. You are encouraged to do a daily check-in, but only required to do it once a week.

9 - What is Confirmation

Before the world was created, it was decided that you should become God's child in Christ.

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ
before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.**

Ephesians 1:3-4

When you were baptized this relationship of love was publicly made official. Kind of like a wedding. When two people are married, there is already a love relationship that exists; the wedding service makes it official.

Many of us were baptized as infants. Our parents brought us in faith and answered for us that they would like us to grow up in God's family, knowing the relationship of love that God started.

In the Lutheran Church, we provide an opportunity for young people, most of whom were baptized as infants, to say for themselves, *Yes! I want to continue in this loving relationship that God started with me when I was baptized.* The moment this Yes! is spoken is called Confirmation day, which we celebrate on the last Sunday of October each year.

Our combination of instruction and youth group on Wednesdays and Sundays is designed to prepare young people for Confirmation Day, so that when asked, "*Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism...*" these young people will be able to say YES! with as much knowledge, understanding, enthusiasm, spirit, and feeling as is possible. To get to that yes participation in Sunday morning discussion class and worship (including service as Acolyte) and the Wednesday time of instruction and fellowship is important and expected.

10 - What do we cover in three years of Confirmation?

We use a curriculum developed by FAITH INKUBATORS that involves a three year cycle of topics. Over the course of Confirmation the students will go through all the topics. When they study them will depend on what year they start. The topic and what they cover are as follows:

Living Scripture:

Survey of the Old and New Testament, The Life of Jesus. This year the rotation finds us on the topic of "Living Scripture." The curriculum we use is designed to engage students at various levels while at the same time giving them a good overview of the basics of Christianity so that they will hopefully be strengthened in their relationship with God and be encouraged to continue in their journey of faith.

Living Lutheran:

Luther and The Small Catechism, The Apostles Creed, Lutheran Life (sacraments and worship)

Living Faith:

Ten Commandments, Hot Topics and The Lord's Prayer

11 - A Philosophy of Small Group Confirmation

The basic philosophy of this system of faith education places one caring Christian adult mentor or "Guide" with 4-6 youth on a journey of learning, serving, playing, praying and growing throughout the adolescent years. Parents and other impact adults serving as Guides create a vision team to work with the pastor in creating an atmosphere of personal care and a network of nurturing relationships to surround the lessons of confirmation. In building and refining the program together, these volunteers become a team of youth ministers who bring about the renaissance as they blend youth group and confirmation ministries into a holistic faith experience. Learning events are interactive, with students participating in skits, art, video clip production and servant projects to help teach each lesson. Fellowship, prayer and discussion follow all presentations as key parts of the learning process, but small groups also spend time doing weekly pastoral care for members in their group. Pastors still teach the Catechetical content, but a third of everything taught is presented by small groups for small groups through the interactive learning activities. The new role for pastors is to serve as mentor to the mentors and to equip them for a ministry of modeling and care. "In this system the pastor's job is to build and coach a team of youth ministers," Melheim says. "They are not expected to play every position."

"To do more ministry more effectively more often with more kids we need more help. For this to happen, we must discern the gifts of people suited for youth ministry, call them to the task, train them for ministry, give them a bite-sized chunk (a small group) of work to do and then get out of their way."

"Pastors join in out-of-class service and fellowship activities as participants, not as the ones who have to plan and organize everything (small groups have the ownership there). Meeting monthly with the new youth ministry team to look back, look ahead, and deal with special issues of the moment, pastors commit to becoming the best ally parents ever had. Parents volunteers commit to building the program with the pastor and to refining the program month by month. And youth commit to learning/bonding experience where they'll grow closer to God, to their mentors and to a handful of their classmates.

Prior to arriving at his second call, a 5300 member parish in Stillwater, MN, Melheim admits to doing what he calls "pied piper" youth ministry, trying to make everything happen by himself. Adult volunteers in his old system were often enlisted as chaperones and chauffeurs, but it was difficult for him to let go and share the role of youth minister with others. Upon taking his second call, Melheim knew he needed a system that spread the pastoral care aspects of youth ministry among a much larger group of committed adults. In developing the model, the former Bible camp counselor combined what he knew worked best at Bible Camp (small groups, relational ministry, experiential learning, multiple teaching methods) with a little from Carl George (Meta Church Model), a little of the educational philosophy of William Glasser (The Quality School), a little of the business sense of MIT's Peter Senge (The Fifth Discipline) and a piece of his own research on how the brain actually learns.

The results? A systems approach to adolescent faith education that focuses on bonding students into the body of Christ rather than simply educating them into the doctrine of the church.

"Bond them into the body in Junior High and you have them in Senior High," says Melheim. "If you don't create the bond during those formative years, you can say 'good-bye' to the majority of students in senior high."

"There's a line from Oswald Chambers which reads, 'the purpose of prayer is not to find the answers, but to find God.' We'd like to shift the purpose of confirmation from knowing the catechism answers to knowing Christ," says Melheim. "To accomplish this, we need more than workbooks and weekly lectures. We need an incarnational, relational ministry approach. We need small group bonding. We need one of every five or six parents committed to doing a significant ministry with their pastor and a handful of children. That's the system we are creating and recreating in this experiment. And that's why it is working so quickly, so well."
 (from "A *Quiet Revolution*" by Rich Melheim)

12 - Parent Participation

The Guides and the pastor are assistants to the parents in the raising up of a child in the way he or she should go (see Proverbs 22:6). We aren't doing this *for* you; we're doing this *with* you. And we want what we do on Wednesdays and Sundays to be supportive of what you are already trying to do at home.

While the work of the Guides is one of the most significant gifts of time and effort made to this program, the Guides cannot be the only ones who give time and support to Confirmation. Our success will begin with the interest you take at home in what the students are doing. We also need your support and participation in a variety of ways. Please make sure you let us know how you will help on the Parent Support Survey.

13 - Memorization - Books of the Bible

During this year we will expect the students to memorize all of the books of the Bible *in order*. This assignment is due in two parts: memorization of the Old Testament books (in order) by December 7, 2011 and memorization of the New Testament books (in order) by May 9, 2012. Students may write or recite in the presence of parent, pastor or youth director. If the work is done with parents, a signed note from home will provide completion of the assignment. Students may break this assignments into two parts, demonstrating knowledge of the 39 Old Testament books in order at one time and the other 27 books of the New Testament at a separate time.

OLD TESTAMENT

1. GENESIS
2. EXODUS
3. LEVITICUS
4. NUMBERS
5. DEUTERONOMY
6. JOSHUA
7. JUDGES
8. RUTH
9. 1 SAMUEL
10. 2 SAMUEL
11. 1 KINGS
12. 2 KINGS
13. 1 CHRONICLES
14. 2 CHRONICLES
15. EZRA
16. NEHEMIAH
17. ESTER
18. JOB
19. PSALMS
20. PROVERBS
21. ECCLESIASTES
22. SONG OF SOLOMON
23. ISAIAH

24. JEREMIAH
25. LAMENTATIONS
26. EZEKIEL
27. DANIEL
28. HOSEA
29. JOEL
30. AMOS
31. OBADIAH
32. JONAH
33. MICAH
34. NAHUM
35. HABAKKUK
36. ZEPHANIAH
37. HAGGAI
38. ZECHARIAH
39. MALACHI

NEW TESTAMENT

1. MATTHEW
2. MARK
3. LUKE
4. JOHN
5. ACTS

6. ROMANS
7. CORINTHIANS
8. CORINTHIANS
9. GALATIANS
10. EPHESIANS
11. PHILIPPIANS
12. COLOSSIANS
13. 1 THESSALONIANS
14. 2 THESSALONIANS
15. 1 TIMOTHY
16. 2 TIMOTHY
17. TITUS
18. PHILEMON
19. HEBREWS
20. JAMES
21. 1 PETER
22. 2 PETER
23. 1 JOHN
24. 2 JOHN
25. 3 JOHN
26. JUDE
27. REVELATION

14 - Confirmation Day 2012

Confirmation Day for this year's Third Year Class (**8th Graders**) will be **May 20, 2012 at 10:45 AM**. Immediately following the service (Noon) we traditionally have a cake reception hosted by 2nd year students and parents.

The second year parents and students help coordinate some of the features of the day including: ordering and picking up the cake, serving the cake, coffee and punch at the reception following the service, photographs of the Confirmation Class, picking up and returning the robes used in the service, etc.

Please indicate on your **PARENTAL SUPPORT SURVEY** how you might be willing to help.

15 - Phone numbers & E-mail addresses

Church office: 482-3847 Church e-mail: office@mountcross.com Web: www.mountcross.com

Pastor Erik

Church office - 482-3847

Home: 383-9979

E-mail at church: erik@mountcross.com

Pastor John

Church office: 482-3847

Home: 384-2399

E-mail at church: pastorjohn@mountcross.com