

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

Tending The Vineyard

"Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." John 15:2



2011 Stewardship Resources

Mount Cross' Mission Statement

To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

CORE VALUES:

Intimacy with God

Inspiring Worship

Nurturing the Next

Generation

Compassionate Outreach

Caring Community

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1. A PIGSTY STORY

When the translators of the Bible from Latin into English were looking for a word to translate οἰκονομία (oiknomian - see Luke 16:2), they looked out the window into the English countryside and said: AHA! There it is; just what we need for our word! And what they were looking at was the pigsty, of all things! Centuries ago when the survival of a community was often in danger if the crops failed or could not produce due to weather or circumstance, a person was chosen to care for another resource of food, the pigs. This Sty Ward(en) would take good care of the pigs so that the household and community could have a certain and sure food supply, so that there would not be starvation, so that everyone would have access to the food table. The sti-ward (steward) was a critically important person in the community. And so for us, 'steward' is a critically important understanding for our lives. We too are caretakers of someone else's property (God's), and it is our 'stewardship' to see that God's economy works here on earth: that everyone has access to God's table, that there are no human barriers for any of God's children to the necessities of human life. Such is our work as stewards, to which we signed on at our baptism.

2. A TREE AND ITS LEAVES

A church is like a tree and its members are like leaves. Leaves make food for the tree, using water, light, and carbon dioxide. Without all three of these things, the tree cannot grow or even live. A church, without constant donations of time, talent and treasure, will suffer and may not survive. However, with careful stewardship, the church will flourish. And like a healthy tree, it will benefit others. It can be a source of food, shelter and inspiration, too. Remember this as you decide how you can provide your time, talent and resources to make the "tree" flourish."

"Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."

Psalm 1:1-3

3. GIVING AND PLEDGING

There is a difference between giving and pledging? They are both important words and they are related to each other, of course. Pledging is a special way of organizing and planning your financial giving to the church. So let's start with giving.

4. YOU NEED TO GIVE

There is a famous lake in Israel called the Dead Sea. It is dead because while water flows into it from the north, nothing flows out of it. If a lake only receives, it dies. It is like that with people, too. In Christ, through the Holy Spirit, God continuously sends blessings in your direction. But if a believer only receives, they die. When it comes to God, we can never "pay it back." So we need to give, we "pay it forward."

5. FOUR BIG WORDS

There are four very important words that should guide you in your giving? They are right, proportionate, sacrificial and planned.

6. RIGHT GIVING

The first word is *right*. Right as in not left, as in left over. Many people give to God and God's work after they have given to their other needs and wants. When they do this, they find that God gets the **left**-overs. What is **right** to give is the first portion. We are taught to give off the top—the Bible calls it "first fruits giving." We love and thank God by giving first...before the mortgage or rent, the car payment, even food. Giving first, whenever we receive income, is a sign of trust that is even more important than how much we give.

"Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9

7. PROPORTIONATE GIVING

You need to give proportionately. There is no “right” amount for your regular offering, but there is a Biblical way to give. We are to give in proportion to what we receive. The Biblical guideline is tithing (10%), but the percentage itself is less important than the commitment to give proportionately. If you’re new to proportionate giving, you can use the percentage chart on the other side of this card to determine a place to start.

“All tithes of herd and flock, every tenth one that passes under the shepherd's staff, shall be holy to the LORD.” Leviticus 27:32

8. PROPORTIONATE GIVING CHART

Weekly Incomes	Weekly Giving = 1 ^{%x}	3 [%]	5 [%]	7 [%]	10 [%]	12 [%]	15 [%]
\$200	\$2	\$6	\$10	\$14	\$20	\$24	\$30
\$400	\$4	\$12	\$20	\$28	\$40	\$48	\$60
\$600	\$6	\$18	\$30	\$42	\$60	\$72	\$90
\$700	\$7	\$21	\$35	\$49	\$70	\$84	\$105
\$800	\$8	\$24	\$40	\$56	\$80	\$96	\$120
\$1,000	\$10	\$30	\$50	\$70	\$100	\$120	\$150
\$1,250	\$12 ⁵⁰	\$37 ⁵⁰	\$62 ⁵⁰	\$87 ⁵⁰	\$125	\$150	\$187 ⁵⁰
\$1,500	\$15	\$45	\$75	\$105	\$150	\$180	\$225
\$1,750	\$17 ⁵⁰	\$52 ⁵⁰	\$87 ⁵⁰	\$122 ⁵⁰	\$175	\$210	\$262 ⁵⁰
\$2,000	\$20	\$60	\$100	\$140	\$200	\$240	\$300

9. SACRIFICIAL & PLANNED GIVING

The one and only sacrifice that was able to restore a right relation between God and the world was made for us by Jesus on the cross. All of our giving is marked by thanksgiving for all the benefits we have received because of Christ.

“Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.” Psalm 107:21-22

10. PLANNED GIVING WORKSHEET

1. Current weekly giving: \$_____

2. Divide by weekly income: \$_____

3. Equals **current** percentage: _____%

Consider **growing** by at least 1 %

Enter new percentage here: _____%

6. Use the Proportionate Giving Chart to determine your new weekly giving amount: \$_____

7. When you receive your new Plan for Giving card, enter this new dollar amount.

11. DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE

When you have decided the right way you need to give (first fruits) and planned a proportionate amount, where do you put your money? One choice is to place cash in the offering in the plate. This kind of anonymous giving honors the fact that what you give is between you and God. Another choice is to use the offering envelopes that our church provides its members. Those who use envelopes for their giving receive quarterly reports of their giving that help when calculating charitable giving deductions on income

tax forms. These reports also help those who pledge keep track of how they are doing during the year (more on pledging on the next card).

“With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.”
Psalm 54:6

12. PLEDGING IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR CHURCH

Try to imagine this: you start a new job and you are told that you will be receiving a salary. You ask, “How much?” and are told, “Don’t worry about how much, you’ll get your money.” And when you ask when you will get paid you are told, “Don’t worry. You’ll get your money.”

This is a little like the situation in which the leaders of your church find themselves from time to time. The people of Mount Cross have been good and generous givers; you only have to look around at the facilities and programs we have to know this is true. But the leaders of our church sometimes have to use guesswork to plan for the financial future of the church.

When people choose to pledge, they are letting the church’s leadership know of their giving intentions for the coming year. With these pledges from the congregation in hand, a budget can be prepared and plans made to accomplish the mission Christ has given to us.

13. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PLEDGING

• What if I cannot keep the promise I made on my pledge card?

A pledge card is not a promissory note. It is your estimate of your best intentions. But we know that people’s situations change and their ability to give changes, too. Your church understands this.

• If I fall behind on my pledge, will someone call me?

Everyone who pledges receives a quarterly report of their giving. It shows the amount they intended to give during the year and the amount given-to-date. You can use this to keep track of how you are doing. But no one is ever contacted personally about the status of their giving.

• What if the whole congregation is falling behind?

If this happens, we will send out a letter to the *whole* congregation, letting *all* of Mount Cross know that we are behind in our commitments. But we never single anyone out.

• What if the pledges the congregation makes are not enough to meet the budget?

On occasion we have asked the members of the church to pledge a second time to make up the difference.

14. GUIDE TO THE *TIME & TALENT REPORT*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Greeter

Welcomes people (especially visitors) on the way into worship, and stands with the pastor after worship to guide visitors to meet other members on the patio.

Usher

Duties include handing out worship folders and guiding people to seats, collect and bring forward Sunday offerings, guide people forward for Communion, record attendance, and certain opening and lock-up procedures.

Reader

Usually reads one or two lessons during one of the Sunday services. May be called to serve for special services, too.

Acolyte

This job is usually done by young people in the 1st and 2nd year Confirmation classes, although older youth can serve, too. Main duties include lighting and putting out candles; receive offering; helping with Communion.

Communion Assistant

Helps Pastors and Assisting Minister give wine during Communion.

Assisting Minister

Serve at the traditional services. Duties include leading various parts of the service, preparing the altar before and after Communion, and giving bread or wine during Communion. NOTE: it is not necessary to be able to chant (sing) the service.

Media Tech

Monitor the microphone and speaker levels, control the tape recording of the service, and monitor the other electronics, including the devices that assist the hearing impaired.

Powerpoint Operator

Sunday mornings at the 10:45 AM Service. Operate the computer Powerpoint for the Contemporary Service by clicking through the song slides. No prior training required.

Soundboard Technician

Sunday mornings at 10:45 Service and some Tuesday evening practices. Must have a good ear for music. Experience in a band is helpful.

Worship Assistants Coordinator

Prepare the monthly Worship Assistant list. Keep track of the scheduling.

Altar Guild

Monthly teams prepare the sanctuary for worship (Sundays and special services), including setting up for Communion, changing the altar cloths, candles, water in baptismal font, and checking the pews for supplies.

Clean/press altar linens

If you like to do laundry, this is the job for you! The altar linens, and the many linens used for Communion need regular care.

Worship & Music Committee Member

Interested in serving as a member of the Worship & Music Committee.

MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening, beginning at 7:30 PM. They present musical offerings at the traditional services as well as other special music events like *The Hanging of the Greens*.

Bell Choir

The Mount Cross English Handbell Ensemble rehearses Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:20 PM. They present musical offerings at the traditional services as well as other special music events like *The Hanging of the Greens*.

Contemporary Service: singer (by audition)

Sunday mornings at the 10:45 AM service. Rotate with other singers on the worship team, as they lead the congregation in song. By audition. Ability to harmonize is helpful and must be vocally trained.

Contemporary Service: instrument (by audition)

Sunday mornings at 10:45 AM service. Guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, percussion, and more. By audition. Prior experience necessary.

Soloist

From time to time there is a need for solo voices during special musical or worship events, as well as for funeral or wedding music.

Men's or Women's Chorus

Would you like to sing in one of these ensembles? Let us know.

Play an instrument

From time to time there is a need for instrumental music for special musical or worship events (such as brass instruments on Easter morning).

FINANCE

Serve on Audit Committee

The financial books of the whole church must be checked each year. At the annual meeting, a committee of three is elected to a three-year term, one member replaced each year.

Endowment Committee

Help manage the Mount Cross Endowment Fund. Elected at the Annual Meeting.

Budget & Finance Committee Member

Interested in serving as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Help with annual Back-To-School Night barbecue

One of the biggest events of our school year is our famous tri-tip dinner followed by a special speaker. We need a lot of help with set up and take down of tables, decorating, etc.

Child Development Center Board Nominee

The CDC Board advises the director and helps to set policy for our preschool. Most members of the Board are required to be church members.

CARING

Angel Hands

Help people who need simple assistance. Can you fix simple household problems or direct people that need assistance in the right direction?

Call or visit (Shut-ins, hospitalized, inactive members)

Several members of Mount Cross are not able to regularly participate in the life of the church the way most of us take for granted. If you would like to call or visit those who are spending time in the hospital or convalescent homes, please circle this item.

Home care for elderly or those convalescing

Some people have the gift of compassion and the freedom to be able to help in short or long-term situations.

Participate in telephone/email prayer chain

When there has been a death, a surgery, or a reason to praise, this chain is activated to surround those in need with the power of prayer. If you would like to be added to this chain, check this item.

Deliver Sunday flowers to homebound or hospitalized

When those who provided the flowers for Sunday worship choose not to take them, we would like to have a few people available to deliver them to people who will enjoy them.

Drive non-drivers to worship and fellowship.

Give a ride to someone who may not be driving to worship or other church events.

Drive church van

Drive church van on Sunday mornings to pick up people. Also drive van on church activities/events. Must have a valid California Driver's license and be listed as a driver on the church's insurance policy.

Write cards/make calls to homebound or hospitalized

Join with others in helping some of our members continue to feel connected to the rest of their church family.

Distribute Communion to homebound or hospitalized

After training, take the bread and wine from the altar after worship out to homes and hospitalized.

Serve on Caring Committee

Interested in serving as a member of the Caring Committee

Provide emergency meals

When someone has been in the hospital or there has been a death in a family and it would be a great help not to have to worry about cooking, it is usually through the efforts of ladies of the church that a good meal arrives at the door. If you would be willing to cook from time to time to meet this need, circle this item.

Helping Hands (Serve at Funeral Services & Receptions)

When there is a reception following a funeral or memorial service, we need help with serving the food, setup, etc. after the service.

Provide food for funeral receptions

Even if you can't serve the food, would you prepare some?

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl as you pray for someone who has lost a loved one or is recuperating from a serious illness.

Provide Meals for New Moms

Prepare a meal for a family that has had a recent new arrival.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

I want to serve as a Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministers are trained to be caring friends for those going through times of crisis or just needing someone who will listen and walk with them through a tough stage of life's journey. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training.

I want to serve as a Stephen Leader

Stephen Leaders are sent away for a week of extensive training and return to help lead the Stephen Ministry at Mount Cross.

HOUSE MISSIONS/BIBLE STUDIES

At-home Bible study & fellowship group

Participate in an at-home Bible study. Please specify what night you are available.

Lead an at-home Bible study

Lead an at-home Bible study. Please specify what night you are available.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Once a month on Tuesday, the Women's Bible study meets at a member's home at 1:00 PM. The Bible study is based on an article that appears each month in *Lutheran Women Today* magazine.

Women's Bible Study

Lead a Women's Bible Study for a 6-8 week time period. Choose the material and organize the study.

Participate in a New Study

Participate in a new Bible Study.

Participate in the Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

Participate in a every other week Men's Bible Study that meets at 6:30 AM at Denny's Restaurant in Camarillo. The study is based on the readings that will be used in church service in two weeks.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Participate in the Adult Bible Class that is offered on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 AM.

STAFF SUPPORT

Personnel Committee Member

Interested in serving as a member of the Personnel Committee.

Mediation Board nominee

In the event of a dispute between staff members, or between church and staff, the mediation board seeks a resolution. This board has never met, but it is important that it be in place in advance of need. Elected at the annual meeting.

Mutual Ministry Committee

Provides support to the pastors, helps them develop ministry goals and continuing education plans. Also monitors the mutual ministry of pastor and congregation.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Committee Member

Interested in serving as a member of the Stewardship Committee.

YOUTH

Adult Volunteer for Senior High

Sometimes the Pastor needs some extra eyes to keep track of the growing number of young people attending our activities. Like to help? Circle one or both of these items.

Provide rides for outings

With our growing youth group, transportation is sometimes a challenge. Let us know if we can call you now and then. You don't have to have a big van to be needed.

Confirmation Guide /Adult Volunteer for Jr. High

A Guide is an adult who spends a school year serving as a mentor for a small group of Confirmation kids. They participate in a three-part process with the students: learning, serving and playing. New guides are needed at the start of every school year.

I can tutor

Let us know if you feel confident to tutor in a subject or subjects.

I need a tutor

Let us know if you need help in a certain subject.

NEW MEMBERS

Visitation Team

When someone visits Mount Cross for the first time, we try to make a personal contact with them within 48 hours.

Sponsor new members

When new members join Mount Cross, each one is assigned a sponsor. This informal duty includes making sure that the new people know about some of the appropriate and enjoyable fellowship and recreational opportunities (for example, not everyone automatically knows what a *Flinke Handed* is, or what one wears when invited to a *Bonkers* event). Sponsors might make a point of inviting new members to an event such as *Make It/Bake-It* and showing them the ropes.

New Members Committee Member

Interested in serving as a member of the New Members Committee.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School, Fun With Faith, and Vacation Bible School Coordinator

We have an active and growing Children's Ministry with a large staff. We need one (or more than one) person to oversee the three programs. If two people were interested, they could share this job and divide its responsibilities between them.

Sunday School, Fun With Faith, and Vacation Bible School Teacher

Sunday School –We offer classes for children ages 4 (those able to attend preschool) through high school. We try to provide each class with a **minimum** of two teachers (some grades have more) so that teachers are able to teach on an alternating schedule. Training is available.

Fun With Faith –For ages 1st through 5th grades

Vacation Bible School – Classes are offered for children from preschool age through sixth grade. Like our Sunday School, we try to provide each grade with at least two teachers. This is a great way to test the waters for teaching Sunday School.

Sunday School Substitute Teacher

To teach a Sunday School class on an occasional basis as needed.

Play an instrument for Sunday School or Vacation Bible School

It is nice to have the assistance of a piano or guitar or other instrument as we sing our songs at Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

Snack helper for Sunday School, Fun With Faith, and Vacation Bible School

Help with serving of snacks during Sunday School, at Fun With Faith and during the week of Vacation Bible School.

Music for Sunday School, Fun With Faith, and Vacation Bible School

Music is a very important part of the Vacation Bible School experience. The music leaders work with the children during a portion of each morning, teaching them the songs that go with their lessons.

Craft

Sunday School –Plan and organize craft to compliment lesson for the younger grade classes each week at Sunday School. The teachers will implement craft.

Fun With Faith – Organize a craft once a month for the Wednesday's class.

Vacation Bible School -- For many kids, Bible School is synonymous with the crafts they make and take home. Craft leaders help the children make a variety of lesson related crafts.

Recreation Fun With Faith, and Vacation Bible School

After a hard day singing and painting and listening to Bible stories, it feels good to play some games. We need people to lead this recreation time, too.

Helper/Assistant for Sunday School, Fun With Faith, or Vacation Bible School

Assist in teaching, crafts, or whatever is needed for in Sunday School, Fun With Faith, or Vacation Bible School.

Fun With Faith Participant

Students in first to fifth grade wanting to deepen their faith, enjoy activities, service, outings, and recreation.

Meets once a month on Wednesday afternoon from 4:00-5:30 p.m along with one fellowship activity a month.

Children's Ministry Team

Interested in serving as a member of Children's Ministry Team.

SERVICE & MISSION

CROP Walk Coordinator

Coordinate Mount Cross participation in the annual city wide CROPWALK for hunger. Recruit walkers and event volunteers. Work with other denominations to insure a fun event.

CROP Walker/Sponsor

Be a walker, sponsor or event staff as the Camarillo community joins together in March to raise funds to combat hunger locally and globally. The 5K or 10K course is set up through parts of Camarillo and the weather is always perfect.

Blood Drive Coordinator

Mount Cross hosts 3 blood drives a year. This job works with United Blood Services to schedule the Bloodmobile and recruit blood donors at the church.

Blood Donor

Giving blood or blood products (platelets) is one of the easiest ways there is of helping in a significant way. Watch for announcements and sign-up and there are always cookies after your donation!

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat's goal is to provide simple affordable homes. The homes are built with donated labor. Our local affiliate celebrated 25 years of service in 2008 and has a need for volunteers in the office and during all phases of construction. No construction experience is required and all tools are supplied. Mount Cross schedules work days through the year to help with the work.

Fair Trade Project Coordinator

Coordinate the Equal Exchange/Lutheran World Relief, Tea, Coffee Project effort. Order coffee and chocolate for the monthly sale & maintain financial accounting for the process.

Fair Trade Project - Help with a Sunday Sale

Set up and sell the coffee, etc. one Sunday a year to help support this ministry. Training provided.

Hickory House

Hickory House is a low-income nursing home located in Camarillo. People are needed to help with a Christmas party in December.

Relay for Life Coordinator (American Cancer Society)

Coordinate the Mount Cross team effort at the annual walk to benefit the American Cancer Society. Recruit walkers and interface with the local Walk Committee. Put articles in the church bulletin and newsletters.

Relay for Life Participant

Participate in the American Cancer Society's annual walk with the Mount Cross team and raise funds to continue cancer research.

New Orleans Rebuilding Mission Trip

Be part of a trip to help with recovery after a major disaster. Past trips have included hurricane rebuilding in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Tijuana Mission Trip Coordinator

We need a coordinator with some knowledge of construction to assist in the building process. This position would include organizing before the trip, gathering volunteers and coordinating donations.

Tijuana Mission Trip Participant

This would include a family weekend in Tijuana to help with building humble homes for families in need and to help bring Christ to people in Tijuana through our caring and helping hands.

Interested in World Missions

Help to do more to build awareness of the work done by our missionaries in other parts of the world.

Lutheran Social Services Support

Participate in projects sponsored by Lutheran Social Services and help gather and deliver need items to their Thousand Oaks office.

Many Meals

Help by cooking, setup, serving or cleanup on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Trinity Presbyterian Church feeding meals to those in need.

Service & Mission Committee Member

Do you have a favorite cause that could benefit from working with a team? Interested in serving on one of the listed activities? Become a member of the Service & Mission Committee. Free cookies with every meeting!

LEADERSHIP

Serve On Church Council

Church Council members look after the month to month leadership of the ministry of the congregation. Each Committee has at least one representative to the church council. Council members are elected for two year terms. The council meets every Second Tuesday of the month to take care of the church's business between annual meetings and chart the course for the future. Elected at the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee Member

Help to seek out people to serve on church council, boards, and committees. Elected at the annual meeting.

Synod Assembly voting Member

Attend the annual meeting of our synod, usually at the end of May. Elected at the annual meeting.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee Member

The Property Committee meets once a month to keep track of the many maintenance and improvements needed in our facility. They organize regular work days throughout the year that call many members together, especially to clean. The list below represents some of the skills that are needed from time to time:

Painting, Carpentry, Electrical/lighting, Computer/networking/web design, Electronics/sound system, Plumbing, Gardening/Landscaping/sprinkler system, Help on church workdays.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Adult Fellowship

Some of the regular activities include an annual table hockey tournament, card night, and Bonkers tournament. The group is striving to be self-leading, that is, one or two from the group agree to organize one event, then the responsibility passes to some others, and so on.

Family Fellowship

Go fly a kite. An afternoon at the beach. A hike planned with shorter legs in mind. If you would like to participate in activities for adults **and** their children, mark this one.

CROSSBEAMS

Crossbeams is for adults who are able to get together during the day. Many are retired, but that is **not** a prerequisite for this group. Activities have included museum trips and regular pot luck lunches and programs at church. Group meets the first Friday of every month with the exception of July & August.

Set up for Crossbeams

Assist members of Crossbeams with set up for their monthly lunches the first Friday of the month.

Flinke Handed

No one is really sure what *Flinke Handed* means, but this is one of the most active groups in the church. They meet twice a month (2nd & 4th Thursday) in the mornings (9:30 AM). Sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Cook's Club

The Cook's Club prepares many of the meals that Mount Cross members have come to enjoy. The fellowship that happens while cooking and serving is an important ingredient in this group.

Food and other preparation for major events

If you like helping with the big events: planning, inviting, decorating, etc. let us know.

The Cook's Club handles many but not all of the cooking for church events. If you would like to cook once in awhile, mark this item.

Bread Breakers

Every other month small groups gather to share a meal (dinner, brunch, breakfast, a picnic) and get better acquainted. Singles, families, seniors, members, visitors—all are welcome.

Bread Breakers — Host a Meal

Host a Bread Breakers meal either at your home, a restaurant or other location. Coordinate the meal for that day and call the participants and assign them something to bring.

Bread Breakers: Help Coordinate

Help coordinate a monthly Bread Breakers. Divide the people that sign up into groups and designate a host for each small group. Instruction and help is available if needed.

Church picnic

Help in the coordination and preparation of our annual picnic.

Sunday Morning Hospitality: Coordinator or Host a Sunday

The time spent on the patio before and especially after worship is crucial to connecting people to the body of Christ. A cup of coffee or tea can be the means by which someone is greeted and friendships formed. If you would like to coordinate the schedule of those who host each week's hospitality center, or if you would like to take a turn hosting, please let us know.

Softball

Mount Cross currently has Co-Ed and Men's teams in leagues run by the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks. They offer Spring, Summer and Fall leagues. Circle this item and check the area of interest. Also indicate your best night to play.

Thanksgiving Pie Social: Organize and set-up event

Organize our annual Pie Social that takes place on Thanksgiving Eve following the service. Pie and coffee, tables set-up and take down, and cleanup.

Thanksgiving Pie Social: Donate a pie

Donate a pie for the annual Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social.

Fellowship Committee Member

Help keep the fellowship life of our congregation strong.

OTHER SERVICES OR INTERESTS

Make telephone calls

Occasionally we need help calling members of the church to let them know of a certain important event or collect information.

Fill in for secretary during vacations

When our secretary is away, we need a few people to answer phones, sign for packages from UPS, etc.

Help with copying/ mailing newsletter & other projects

The annual report and the booklet you are reading right now are examples of assembling, stapling and preparing to take to the post office.

Make copies of audio tapes for distribution to shut-ins

We have a machine that will make three copies of the Sunday service tape in just a few minutes. We need someone to make those copies so they can be distributed starting on Monday.

Christmas, Lenten & Easter Decorating Teams

Christmas Team responsibilities include the purchase, set up and decorating of the tree, garland, wreaths, etc.

Lenten Team responsibilities include decorating with palms for Palm Sunday. Easter Team responsibilities include the flower cross.

Make posters/banners

Do you have artistic ability that we could use from time to time for designing publicity posters, or even T-shirts?

Photograph or video tape church events, new members, etc.

If you like to be behind the camera, we could use you from time to time.

Work in nursery, Sunday morning & special events

We provide continuous nursery care for young children from 7:45 AM until after the third service ends. If you would like to be on the roster of those who help, circle this item. This is a paid position.

Own pick-up truck that can be used for special needs

When we have the next work day or another parking lot sale, we'll need you if you have a truck and can help us haul stuff.

Own van that can be used for church trips

Sometimes we need to transport members to church events or activities.

Participate in drama

Once in a while a short play or skit is needed for worship or at other times. Circle this item if we can call on you to help.

15. A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***To save on postage, we will send reminders via the e-mail whenever possible. With postage at .41, it adds up quickly. If you check your e-mail regularly, the church staff would like you to consider receiving reminders via the e-mail. Reminders for "All Church" -- Receive reminders for church activities, funerals, etc. *E-mail reminders are available for Youth Activities:* Sunday School, Fun With Faith, Confirmation, High School. *Reminders for Worship Assisting:* Lector, usher, acolyte, etc. If you select this, the readings/prayers will be sent via the e-mail and will be in MS word.**

16. SIMPLY GIVING

Simply Giving® is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently and consistently contribute to a Lutheran congregation. Through Simply Giving®, your gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift—weekly, semi-monthly or monthly—the option is yours. Your gift or payment is deposited into the recipient's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account—at no cost to you or the recipient.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers Simply Giving® to further its mission of serving Lutheran congregations and institutions.

Simply Giving® benefits to you and to your congregation. Simply Giving® is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your gifts through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings.

But you're not the only one that benefits. Your congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments

If you are interested in participating, please indicate on your pledge card.

NOTE TO THOSE ALREADY PARTICIPATING: When you increase your weekly giving amount, new paperwork will need to be sent to Thrivent to direct a new withdrawal amount. Contact the financial secretary, Jenny Christensen, for help with this.