

Meredith's Council Report: April 17th - May 21st

Weekly Programs:

- Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (5/5)
- High School Youth Group (3/5: No YG on Easter & Mother's Day)
- Wednesday Evening Programs: Lent Schedule (3/5: No WP during Holy Week, & on vacation the next one)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

- April 18th: Maundy Thursday Worship
- April 19th: Good Friday Service
- April 20th: Setup for Easter & Easter Vigil Service
- April 21st: Easter: Breakfast, Egg Hunt, & 2 worship services
- April 22nd - 25th: Vacation Days
- April 28th: Endowment Committee Meeting
- May 2nd: CDC Chapel
- May 3rd: 3D- Presenter was from Harbor House
- May 5th: High School Beach Day
- May 6th: Learning Committee
- May 9th: Quilting & Many Meals
- May 15th: Last Wednesday Programs for the School Year
- May 16th: Chapel for the CDC
- May 16th: Youth Workers Dinner
- May 19th: Confirmation Day & Endowment Committee Meeting
- May 21st: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-Easter this year had some changes: went from 3 to 2 worship services, only had a one hour sitting for breakfast & the egg hunt in between worship, and we only used the patio and the Parish Life Center. The changes went well. We had a hard time getting youth volunteers due to many family being gone/busy since it is Spring Break.

-I took a short vacation to meet my new niece in Omaha, Nebraska.

-Confirmation day was a little different this year with only having one church service at 10:00AM. We also did a video this year in place of the students live faith story. Everything went well, minus some technical issues.

Meredith's Council Report: March 13th - April 16th

Weekly Programs:

- Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (3/5- I was on vacation for one Sunday & at a conference for another Sunday)
- High School Youth Group (3/5- I was on vacation for one Sunday & at a conference for another Sunday)
- Wednesday Evening Programs: Lent Schedule (5/5)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

- March 14th: Interfaith Harvest Committee Meeting
- March 17th: Joint Youth Group with Trinity Ventura
- March 20th: Learning Committee hosted Lenten Soup Supper
- March 21st, 22nd & 24th: Vacation Days
- April 4th-7th: "Why Christian" Conference in San Francisco
- April 8th: Learning Committee Meeting
- April 11th: Quilting & Many Meals
- April 12th: Funeral- Sound Room
- April 14th: Palm Sunday Work Day
- April 16th: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

- Learning Committee has been working diligently to fulfill our mission and continue to be a welcoming church for young families. We have had some unexpected setbacks in our process this year, and please keep our committee in your prayers as we look for permanent solutions.
- I took a short vacation to attend my cousin's wedding in Philadelphia, PA.
- I went to the 4th Annual "Why Christian Conference" in San Francisco. During the conference we heard people from different denominations of Christianity share their stories of why they are Christian. We also had breakout sessions where we learned about recognizing what we need in terms of expressing our faith. I am grateful for the experience to attend this conference and think deeply about my own faith journey.

Meredith's Council Report: January 9th - March 12th

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (6/9- three of the Sunday's I was at winter retreats)

-High School Youth Group (6/9- I was at winter retreats for three of these Sunday's)

-Wednesday Evening Programs (7/8- we did not have regular programs on Ash Wednesday, March 6th)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

January 19th-21st: Family Winter Retreat at El Camino Pines

January 27th: Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

February 1st: 3D (Dessert, Discussion & Devotions)

February 1st-3rd: High School Winter Retreat at El Camino Pines

February 4th: Lead a group with Holy Trinity to Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber's book signing in Pasadena

February 5th: Learning Committee Meeting

February 8th-10th: Middle School Winter Retreat at El Camino Pines

February 12th: Youth Workers Meeting

February 17th: Meeting with the Nursery Staff

February 20th: Worship and Music Committee Meeting

February 24th: Joint Middle and High School Youth Group with Camarillo United Methodist Church

February 28th: Quilting Group

March 1st: 3D (Dessert, Discussion & Devotions)

March 4th: Learning Committee Meeting

March 6th: Ash Wednesday Service at St Columba's

March 7th: Chapel for the Child Development Center

March 10th: CROP Hunger Walk

March 12th: Youth Workers Meeting

March 12th: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-I would like it to be considered to change the Leadership Retreat to another weekend next year. Historically this weekend has been the High School Winter Retreat, and I believe it is important to have our high school representative(s) and myself at the Leadership Retreat. In my over four years working here I have not been able to attend one because of the date.

-I went to El Camino Pines for three winter retreats this season. Mount Cross sent 10 people to Family Winterfest (5 adults, 5 youth), 8 people to the High School Winter Retreat (1 adult, 7 youth), and 13 people to the Middle School Winter Retreat (2 adults, 11 youth).

-High school youth group changed their time from Sunday evenings to Sundays from 11:30AM-1:30PM due to the homework constraints of it's members.

-On February 17th I had a meeting with the Nursery Staff, Kayla Lindquist and Shaun York, to let them know that unfortunately our church is unable to continue with their services due to financial issues within the church. Their last day was March 10th where we presented them with a gift and card from the congregation.

-Learning Committee has been working diligently to fulfill our mission and continue to be a welcoming church for young families. We have had some unexpected setbacks in our process this year, and please keep our committee in your prayers as we look for permanent solutions.

Meredith's Council Report: December 19th – January 8th

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (3/3)

-High School Youth Group (2/3)

-Wednesday Evening Programs (1/3 since we took 2 weeks off due to Winter Break)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

December 19th: Annual Christmas Caroling

December 21st: Child Development Center Christmas Party

December 23rd: Youth Group Christmas Party

December 24th: Christmas Eve Services

December 25th-December 29th: OFF thanks to council decision

January 3rd: Hanging stars for Epiphany

January 3rd: Making blankets with youth from ACHS for the Children's hospital

January 4th: 3D (Dessert, Discussion & Devotions)

January 4th: Parent's Night Out

January 6th: Service Trip Meetings

January 7th: Learning Committee Meeting

January 8th: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-Christmas caroling was a success, and this year we had a good group of younger children who joined us. The younger children loved caroling, and Learning Committee discussed that in the future we could do dinner and caroling a little earlier in the evening to accommodate for earlier bedtimes of the younger children.

Meredith's Council Report: November 28th – December 18th

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (3/3)

-High School Youth Group (3/3)

-Wednesday Evening Programs (3/3)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

November 29th: Quilting

December 2nd: Put together all the cookie jars for our annual fundraiser

December 3rd: Presentation on service trip to the Service and Missions committee

December 5th: Youth workers lunch meeting

December 7th: 3D making Christmas Cards with Cathy Channels

December 8th: Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas

December 9th: Middle & high school joint youth group with Camarillo United Methodist Church

December 12th: Dress rehearsal for Christmas Musical

December 13th: Quilting

December 13th: Many Meals

December 13th: Child Development Center Christmas Program

December 14th: Worked the sound room for Karen Bergh's funeral

December 16th: Christmas Concert

December 18th: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-Our first joint youth group with the Camarillo United Methodist Church was a hit! We plan to do another in February and that time we will also invite St Columba's Episcopal Church!

Meredith's Council Report: October 24th - November 27th

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (4/5 weeks- on vacation for one Sunday)

-High School Youth Group (4/4- we didn't have YG the Sunday before Thanksgiving)

-Wednesday Evening Programs (3/3- no normal Wednesday programs on Halloween or before Thanksgiving)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

October 24th: Taught Child Development Center Chapel

October 25th: Taught CDC Chapel

October 25th: CDC Back to School Night- worked sound room & spoke about church programs & worships

October 28th: Bible blessing during both worship services

October 28th: Worked sound room for funeral

November 2nd: 3D with Cindi from Flower Power

November 2nd: Parent's Night Out

November 3rd: Worked sound room for funeral

November 5th: Learning Committee Meeting

November 8th: Chapel at CLU after the shooting at Borderline

November 8th: Many Meals

November 12th: Meeting with middle & high school families to talk through the recent shooting & fires

November 13th: Youth worker's meeting

November 14th: Youth came with me to help at World Central Kitchen

November 18th: Vacation Day

November 20th: Hike to the cross in Ventura

November 21st: Thanksgiving Eve Service (sound room) & pie social

November 25th: Quilting during hospitality and YG for CLU students effected by the Borderline Shooting & fires

November 26th: Meeting on our cookie jar fundraiser & took quilts to CLU

November 27th: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-Presentation on Mission Trip to Miracle Ranch for Summer 2019

Meredith's Council Report: September 19th- October 23rd

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (5/5 weeks)

-High School Youth Group (4/4- we didn't have YG the day after the MBC)

-Wednesday Evening Programs (5/5)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

September 19th: Lutheran World Relief Night during Fun with Faith and Confirmation

September 20th-22nd: Youth Workers Retreat at Luther Glen Camp

September 27th: Baking party for MBC

September 28th: Movie Night in the tent

September 29th: Make Bake Celebrate

September 8th: One service with hot dog lunch after

October 5th: First 3D program of the school-year

October 6th: Lutheran Social Services walk to end poverty at CLU

October 7th: Congregation Meeting

October 8th: Learning Committee Meeting

October 10th & 14th: First Session of Introduction to the Bible Class

October 11th: Quilting Group- packaging quilts for LWR

October 11th: Many Meals

October 14th: Lutheran World Relief Sunday during worship

October 17th & 21st: Second Session of Introduction to the Bible Class

October 18th: LWR kits & quilts dropped off from churches in the area & picked up by a semi truck at Mt Cross

October 21st: Pumpkin Patch with Mt Cross families

October 22nd: Lunch meeting with youth workers about HS summer trip

October 23rd: Breakfast meeting the CDC staff

October 23rd: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-13 kids are in our Intro to Bible Class that is held on both Wednesday & Sunday!

-Sheri & I are working on a 2019 calendar of events for Church Council to use as a reference so we are not planning church events and one worship Sundays last minute.

Meredith's Council Report: August 22nd - September 18th

Weekly Programs:

- Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (4/5 weeks because of day off)
- High School Youth Group (2/2 since we just began the new school year)
- Wednesday Evening Programs (1/1 since we just began for the new school year)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

- August 26th: Worship & Picnic in the Park
- September 2nd: Super Volunteer Training & Setup for Interfaith Harvest
- September 4th: Labor Day Interfaith Harvest
- September 7th: Make Bake Celebrate Meeting
- September 9th: Rally Day & Devin's Last Service with Reception
- September 9th: 1st Day of High School Youth Group
- September 10th: Learning Committee Meeting
- September 12th: Youth Workers Lunch
- September 12th: "Back to Church Night": First night of Wednesday Programs
- September 13th: Quilting & Many Meals
- September 16th: Lutheran World Relief Night at Youth Group
- September 18th: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

- I was out of the office at the end of August due to a back injury.
- The end of August and beginning of September was spent getting organized and planning out dates for our programs for the school year.
- Pastor Jim & I met about Confirmation and finalized our course load and changed up our weekly schedule.
- Youth group has met twice so far at our new time from 5-7PM on Sundays. We have added on to our group with watching videos to create important discussions. Our group has decided to make goals for ourselves. Our first goal is to "Work on loving ourselves."
- Wednesday programs started back on September 12th and this year we are proud to have 17 Confirmation Students! We have also implemented a suggested donation for dinner of \$5, \$95 for the year (30 meals), or \$250 for a family for the year. Everyone was very pleased to have the burden taken off their shoulders of bringing dinner, and everyone was also grateful to have John Colby IV as our chef for the year!

Meredith's Council Report: July 18th - August 21st

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (4/5 weeks because of day off)

-Sunday Youth Group Brunch (each week after the 10am worship)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

July 15th-20th: Summer Camp at El Camino Pines

July 22nd: Workday after worship

July 25th: VBS workday

July 29th: VBS preregistration & volunteer training

July 30th-August 3rd: Vacation Bible School

August 2nd: Annual VBS Children's program with cupcake social

August 8th: Youth Day at the Fair

August 9th: Quilting & Many Meals

August 11th: Parking Lot Sale

August 15th: Youth workday at a school in Oxnard

August 19th: Last Youth Group Brunch for the Summer

August 21st: Church Council Meeting

Important Notes:

-I went to summer camp the week of the last meeting. We took 13 children & youth!

-We had VBS with 130 children & approximately 50 youth & adult volunteers!

-Youth group decided to meet in fall from 5:00-7:00PM on Sundays. We have decided to start a video series of curriculum to bridge the gap from their everyday lives and their faith. We will start back with youth group on September 9th!

-Wednesday programs start back on September 12th!

Meredith's Council Report: June 12th - July 17th

Weekly Programs:

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (3/5 weeks because of vacation and being at the youth gathering)

-Sunday Youth Group Brunch (each week after the 10am worship)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

June 12th: Church council meeting

June 14th: Quilting & Many Meals

June 19th: Dinner meeting

June 24th: One Service: baptism, 50th wedding anniversaries, blessing of the youth going to the ELCA youth Gathering, & potluck!

June 26th-July 1st: ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston!

July 5th: Sick Day

July 8th: Youth Ventura Harbor trip

July 9th: Learning Committee Meeting

July 11th: Chapel & Lutheran Social Services meeting

July 12th: Quilting & Many Meals

July 13th: Movie Night in the park

July 15th-20th: Summer Camp at El Camino Pines

Important Notes:

-I have been gone 2 of the past 5 weeks at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, and now I am at summer camp at El Camino Pines. Both of the weeks have been successful with deepening the faith of the children and youth!

-Between the gathering and camp, I have also been working on Vacation Bible School that is coming up in a few weeks. Everything is coming together well with VBS!

Meredith's Council Report: May 8th - June 11th

Weekly Programs:

-Wednesday Evening Programs: Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation (2 Wednesdays due to the end of these programs for summer)

-1 additional Wednesday Evening program with just Adult Education.

-Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm (2 due to Mother's Day and changing the time for summer)

-1 additional Sunday youth group after the 10AM service at its new summer time.

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (4 times)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

May 8th: Church Council Meeting

May 9th: Youth Workers Lunch

May 10th: Lead CDC Chapel

May 13th: Special Mother's Day project in Children's Church

May 16th: Cooked dinner for the last day of Fun with Faith and Confirmation!

May 18th: Middle School Midnight Madness

May 20th: Confirmation Sunday with reception after the 10AM service.

May 24th: Lead CDC Chapel

May 27th: End of the year high school celebration.

May 29th: Taught at Men's Bible Study

May 31st: ELCA Youth Gathering meeting

June 1st & 2nd: Synod Assembly at CLU (all day)

June 3rd: Blessing of the High School Seniors & CDC kids going to Kindergarten

June 3rd: 1st Sunday of "Youth Group Brunch" after the 10AM worship service.

June 6th-10th: Vacation

Important Notes:

-For the first time, I prepared our 4 girls for Confirmation day. We had 3 meetings where we discussed what being Confirmed means, responsibilities of being an "adult member" in the church, rehearsed the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism, and helped brainstorm ideas for their faith story. For Confirmation Day I also got a cake from Vons for the reception, and made them a "Survival Kit from God" as a gift.

-I am headed on vacation in Yosemite for some much needed time off!

-June 24th we are doing one service at 10AM and we will have a BBQ potluck after. Please sign up to bring something for the potluck! Hot dogs and brats will be provided.

Meredith's Council Report: March 13th - May 7th

Weekly Programs:

-Wednesday Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation (6/8 Wednesdays due to no regular programs for Spring Break and my Puerto Rico trip)

-Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm. (6/8 of the Sunday's due to taking one week off for Easter and being in Puerto Rico)

-Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (7/8 Sundays because of being in Puerto Rico)

Special Events & Important Meetings:

-March 14th & 21st Lent Wednesday Evening Programs

- March 15th: Ventura County Youth Worker Meeting
- March 21st: Middle School Overnighter Meeting
- March 28th: Youth Workday- 6 youth helped with prepping and getting supplies for Easter festivities.
- March 29th: Youth Workday- 10 youth helped with setting up for the Easter Breakfast and prepping the food!
- March 29th-31st: Helping with setup, the sound room, and with the services for Holy Week.
- April 1st: Easter Sunday! Worship services, breakfast (made approximately \$800), & egg hunt!
- April 2nd-8th: Puerto Rico Trip!
- April 12th: Quilting Group & Many Meals
- April 15th: Autism Awareness Sunday- Approximately 35 people came for our Q&A session with Allison Johnson.
- April 22nd: Endowment Committee Meeting
- April 24th: Special Council Meeting
- April 28th: Interfaith day at Habitat for Humanity in Oxnard
- April 29th: Take-A-Hike for LRCC at Paramount Ranch- 20 people attended from Mt Cross!
- April 30th: VBS registration started online and filled up in 3 days!!
- May 4th: 3D- I presented on my trip to Puerto Rico- 10 people in attendance
- May 4th: Parents Night Out for children and youth- 2 adults, 9 youth & 13 kids
- May 6th: Workday after church
- May 7th: Learning Committee Meeting

Important Notes:

- National Youth Gathering funding is complete! Thank you to everyone who donated their time and money to sending 8 of our youth and 2 adults to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas!
- Puerto Rico Trip (April 2nd-8th): Thank you to the church council and Mt Cross community for sending me to Puerto Rico. I was welcomed into the homes of many family members of our group leader, and we were able to get to know the people and their stories. We did some relief work in their homes, and also helped out at the local ELCA camp and synod office. From this trip we have made connections with the synod office staff and local church workers. We are planning on a trip through our synod office for anyone interested and available at Mt Cross during winter break. I will have more information on this trip for our next council meeting.
- Confirmation Sunday is coming up on May 20th! Join us at the 10AM service as we have four girls share their faith stories, and get Confirmed. After worship we will have a cake reception!
- VBS Registration filled up in 3 days with 129 kids! Now we are on the hunt for adult volunteers, particularly teachers, to make our week safe and successful! If you have any ideas of people we should ask please let me know!

Meredith's Council Report: January 9th - March 12th

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation (8/9 Wednesdays due to no regular programs on Ash Wednesday)
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm. (7/9 of the Sunday's due to taking one week off because of HS Winter Camp and this past Sunday for the Variety Show)
- Sunday Morning: Oversee the sound room youth, Katie, and the nursery staff on Sunday Mornings (6/9 Sundays because of being on retreats to HS and Family Winter Camp, as well as The Youth Workers Conference)

Special Events:

- February 3D: we had a speaker come in to talk about her goat farm where she makes soaps and lotions.
- March 3D: we had a speaker from the City of Camarillo on safety and preparedness through natural disasters.
- In January I went to Family Winter Camp at EL Camino Pines with 10 people from Mt Cross
- In January I went to Houston for 5 days for the Extravaganza ELCA Youth Workers Conference. This was continued education time to get myself ready and prepared to take youth to the Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this summer!
- In February I took 11 youth to High School Winter Camp at El Camino Pines.
- On Valentine's Day I brought 5 women flowers who have husbands who are deployed, have lost their husband recently, or have been sick and homebound recently.
- In March I attended the Crop Walk at CLU with 10 people from Mt Cross.
- Worked the sound room for a funeral. Found that we need a person in the sound room for all funerals or special services.
- In this time period I did Visitation 5 times to the home or hospital.
- Learning Committee Meetings on February 13th and March 5th.
- In January I attended the Women's Interfaith Committee for Camarillo.
- I helped out at Many Meals twice.
- Made 3 Sunday's of announcements on our Variety Show.
- Had a setup day and baking day for our Variety show all day on March 10th.
- Held our First Annual Variety Show and Dinner Fundraiser to benefit our youth on March 11th!

Important Notes:

-I am very pleased how our Variety Show and Dinner Fundraiser went this past Sunday. We had approximately 120 people attend, and 10 different acts with around 30 people involved. There has been much talk about making this an annual event! Through this fundraiser and our ask for funds for our youth through our church services, we have raised around \$4,000 toward our trip (I will come up with a final number to announce at church on Sunday as an update). We have asked for any donations toward our trip through April 15th. I am confident we will raise enough funds for our trip, and if we need more financial help I will turn to the endowment committee (they have given funds to our youth trips the past 3 summers since youth is one of the designations for our endowment funds).

Meredith's Council Report: December 13th - January 8th

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation (2/4 Wednesdays due to the winter break)
- Sunday morning services helping in the sound room and with Children's Church. (4/4 of the Sunday's, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve only one service at 10AM)
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm. (2/4 of the Sunday's due to the holiday break)
- Staff meetings on one Wednesdays (usually weekly)

Special Events:

- church council meeting
- Movie Day with 2 High School youth since there was no school.
- Annual Christmas Program during the 10AM service on December 17th.
- Annual Confirmation Caroling Night! We visited 3 households with members who are homebound. We also caroled at Rollin Pin Donuts.
- High School youth walked the neighborhood dropping off Christmas postcards to our neighbors, inviting them to attend our Christmas Eve Evening Services. Then our larger group dropped off a stack of these postcards at all of the shops in the neighborhood Ralph's parking lot.
- High School Overnighter on December 22nd in Huntington Beach. 7 youth attended and 1 adult.
- Worked the sound room for 4 services on Christmas Eve: 10AM, 5/8/10PM.
- Took two vacation days to complete all my vacation days for 2017.
- Welcomed Pastor Jim on his first morning and gave him a tour and the rundown of our schedule and programs on January 2nd.
- Youth hike at Charmlee Park in the Malibu Mountains on January 3rd. 11 youth attended and 2 adults.
- Trained 4 high school youth to run our sound room for worship services.
- Lead 3D program in a Devotion and Discussion.

- Visitation 2 times to the home or hospital.
- Learning Committee Meeting on January 8th.

Important Notes:

-During this time of transition I am going to work closely with Pastor Jim on how to make our programs more successful. If you have concrete ideas on how you think we can make improvements on any of our programs to make them more sustainable and successful please let me know.

Meredith's Council Report: November 14th - December 12th

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation (2/4 Wednesdays due to Thanksgiving and having to shutdown because of the fire)
- Sunday morning services helping in the sound room and with Children's Church. (4/4 of the Sunday's)
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm. (4/4 of the Sunday's)
- Staff meetings on three Wednesdays (usually weekly)

Special Events:

- church council meeting
- First Annual high school youth group "Friendsgiving" on November 19th.
- Youth hike to the Cross in Ventura during Thanksgiving break on November 21st. (what a coincidence since this is where the fire was)
- Parent's Night Out on December 1st
- Family Hike on December 3rd.
- Cancel Wednesday programs on December 6th because of the uncertainty around the fire.
- Youth work day on December 7th at Rancho Campana High School helping with their donation drive. Helped bring 2 van loads to the warehouse in Oxnard in our church van.
- Children and youth came over to the church since they had no school because of the fires to put together cookie jars on December 7th.
- helped sort through clothes at Mission Church on December 9th with some members from Trinity Lutheran in Ventura.
- helped for Many Meals in the kitchen
- Helped with 3D program.
- visitation 2 times to the home or hospital.
- Held a donation drive on December 10th and filled our van with supplies for Trinity in Ventura and the Red Cross.

Important Notes:

-I am working on a list of people that could use regular visitation with Sheri and Mary Goodenough (who in charge of our Communion Ministers). I am also going to become a communion minister so I am trained on how to properly do communion with the members I visit. This is not to replace our current communion ministers, but to be added on top of the people already visiting. We have a small amount of people on our "shut-in" list, but there is a greater need than just those people. I am also working on a survey for the people I visit to see what things they would like to include in my visitation i.e. bringing youth/children with me, bringing my dog, bringing communion, sharing a devotion together (I would prepare one per month to share with any of the people who would like to do this), and I am open to other thoughts. My goal is to have this list complete, talk with all of the people and/or care givers needed to make appointments, and **start this visitation by the end of December.** (I had to push this back with all of the outreach needed because of the fires)

Meredith's Council Report: October 11th - November 13th

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation each week (3/4 of the Wednesdays because of vacation)
- Sunday morning Children's Church in both services. (2/4 of the Sunday's due to vacation)
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm. (2/4 of the Sunday's due to vacation)
- Staff meetings on two Wednesdays (usually weekly)

Special Events:

- church council meeting
- service night during Fun with Faith and Confirmation putting together LWR health kits and school kits.
- Tristen Vance MFT came to talk to our high school girls about setting healthy boundaries and we had 10 girls show up!
- assisted with our annual LWR truck day where we gather quilts and school kits from all over the area to be picked up by the LWR truck.
- ACHS vs Oaks Christian football game at ACHS with our children and youth.
- Visit to the pumpkin patch with our families on a Sunday afternoon.
- 8 days off for my wedding and Honeymoon
- Learning Committee Meeting
- Many Meals running the kitchen
- Lead the devotion and discussion for our 3D group on one Friday.
- National Youth Gathering meeting with local youth workers planning to go together.
- visitation 2 times to the home or hospital.

Important Notes:

-We have 9 youth so far interested in going to the National Youth Gathering, which means we would need to raise approximately \$15,000. I will be developing a fundraising plan for our December Church Council meeting.

-I plan on attending 3D each month, not to be confused with running 3D since Lisa is doing such a good job at coordinating it. I believe it is important for me to attend as a staff presence and to keep up to date with the needs of our seniors.

-Katie is planning to run our Children's Church program on Sunday mornings so I can assist with the transition between our different interim pastors. This past Sunday there were a number of small issues in our sound room and with our acolytes needing help (things PJ used to do) that I was needed to help with.

-I am working on a list of people that could use regular visitation with Sheri and Mary Goodenough (who in charge of our Communion Ministers). I am also going to become a communion minister so I am trained on how to properly do communion with the members I visit. This is not to replace our current communion ministers, but to be added on top of the people already visiting. We have a small amount of people on our "shut-in" list, but there is a greater need than just those people. I am also working on a survey for the people I visit to see what things they would like to include in my visitation i.e. bringing youth/children with me, bringing my dog, bringing communion, sharing a devotion together (I would prepare one per month to share with any of the people who would like to do this), and I am open to other thoughts. My goal is to have this list complete, talk with all of the people and/or care givers needed to make appointments, and start this visitation by the beginning of December.

Meredith's Council Report: September 13th - October 10th

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and youth group each week
- Sunday morning Children's Church in both services every week.
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm every week.
- Staff meetings on two Wednesdays

Special Events:

- back to church night with parent meetings for Fun with Faith and Confirmation.
- church council meeting
- Rally Day running a booth for many of our programs and our Martin and Katie Luther photo booth.
- Preached at both services on a Sunday.
- Led the acolyte worship assistant training.
- Youth workers lunch
- National Youth Gathering meeting with local youth workers planning to go together.

- visitation 5 times to the home or hospital.
- met with 2 youth 2 separate times about the sudden death of their friend.
- Went to vigil at Holy Trinity for the victims of the Las Vegas Shootings
- Youth Group at the Stouch's house.
- Lutheran Social Services Walk with our youth running the games
- Learning Committee Meeting
- Working in the kitchen and reading numbers for Many Meals.
- Help with 3D program
- Went to the Women's Interfaith Committee of Camarillo meeting.
- Attended and promoted a bone marrow drive at Ventura College.
- Met with a local MFT who is doing a workshop with our High School girls next Sunday on having healthy boundaries and coping with stress and anxiety.
- Met with the new caring committee
- Led Chapel for the CDC.

Meredith's June Church Council Report: May 9th-June 13th

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Joyful Noise, Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation each week.
- Sunday morning Children's Church in both services every week.
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm every week.

-Staff meetings on Wednesdays

Special Events:

- 1 endowment committee meeting
- 1 church council meetings
- Parents Night Out
- Confirmation Sunday
- Synod Assembly
- Day of Learning for synod assembly
- Youth workers lunch
- Congregational meeting
- LRCC hike
- Kidnapping the 8th graders into the HS youth group
- HS blessing for graduating seniors.
- 2 trips to the Kaiser in LA to visit a youth.
- 3 visits to Los Robles hospital to visit a youth.
- Attended a piano recital

Meredith's Church Council Report: March 15th-May 9th 2017

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Joyful Noise, Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation each week.
- Sunday morning Children's Church in both services every week.
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm every week.
- Staff meetings on Wednesdays

Special Events:

- 2 church council meetings
- 2 Learning Committee meetings.
- Middle school hike at Sierra Madre
- RAIN project work day.
- Youth work days during Spring Break.
- Easter Sunday: worship, breakfast, egg hunt.
- Middle and high school hike with nearby churches.
- Movie Night in the Tent
- Make Bake Celebrate
- Tent Sunday with hot dog lunch
- Camp Sunday
- Youth Hunger Banquet

Meredith and the Learning Committee challenge our church to start "Growing Young"!

- Join us as we read the book Growing Young and have discussions about the 6 strategies the research has to offer.
- Learning Committee will talk about each of these strategies and then present a discussion for church council each month to pick up on.
- Check out handout at CC meeting for more information on the 6 strategies.

Meredith's Church Council Report: January 1st- March 14th, 2017

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Joyful Noise, Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation each week.
- Sunday morning Children's Church in both services every week.
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm every week.

Special Events:

- 2 church council meetings
- 3 Learning Committee meetings.
- Annual meeting and dinner
- Parent's Night Out
- Synod Youth Committee planning meeting in LA.
- High school game night at Zanders.
- Family Winter Camp at El Camino Pines
- Middle school hike to Lizard Rock
- High School Winter Camp at El Camino Pines
- Middle School Winter Camp at El Camino Pines
- Shannon's Mock Trial Competition
- Speaker on "Parenting a Resilient Teen"
- First Communion class
- CROP Walk

Extra:

- Lutheran Social Services Board Retreat in Santa Ana.
- Hosted two informational meetings for people within our community to hear more about Lutheran Social Services.

-I started one "Gospels" class online through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in January. My goal is to take online classes toward getting my Masters in Theology and becoming a Deacon in the ELCA church.

Meredith's Church Council Report: November & December 2016

Weekly Programs:

- Wednesday Joyful Noise, Fun with Faith, Dinner with the Family, and Confirmation each week.
- Sunday morning Children's Church in both services every week.
- Sunday evening youth group from 6-8pm every week.

Special Events:

- Middle School Youth Gathering in Anaheim
- Dia De Los Muertos Festival in Oxnard.
- Parent's Night Out
- She Rises Christmas Party
- Caroling at Alma Via with the family.
- Christmas Program during worship.
- Joyful Noise in the Christmas Concert.
- Julia's performance in the Nutcracker Ballet with other high school girls.
- Morgan's performance at the Aerial Studio in Ventura.
- Middle and High School hike to the waterfall in Thousand Oaks.
- Caroling to the homes of families with confirmation and the families.
- Blessing of the bibles.
- Ventura County Youth Group Christmas Party!

Extra:

- I have joined the Board of Directors for Lutheran Social Services and I am excited to see how we can do more through LSS.
- I have applied to start seminary in February through online classes. The intention is to become a Deacon in the ELCA church.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 06/13/2016-08/09/2016

Meetings and Events:

- attended 2 middle school graduations and ACHS graduation!
- Helped with wedding anniversary photo booth
- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- Middle/High school youth group on Wednesdays
- Helping to coordinate our summer Wednesday program on days I have been here
- Camp for a week with 3rd -8 th grade youth.
- Youth workers lunch
- high school summer trip: five days of house boating and a weekend spent at PLTS doing community service in San Francisco
- Met with Learning Committee
- Parents Night Out -Middle and high school overnigher
- Middle school beach day
- Middle school Pokemon Go day at CLU
- Movie day with high school youth
- Week of setting up the entire church for VBS

- Pre-Registration day for VBS
- Week of VBS: Team Jesus
- Bowling afternoon with families from Mt Cross
- Vigil for shootings in Orlando -Week of VBS
- Thursday night VBS dinner and program. Extra Notes:

-All of our summer trips and gatherings have been a huge success! Thank you to everyone for all your support and prayers for our children and youth programs here at Mt Cross!

-VBS this year had approximately 130 kids, 35 youth, and 30 adults! I have gone over all of the evaluations and they came in overwhelmingly positive with some great feedback for small changes for next summer!

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 05/11/2016-06/12/2016

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- Confirmation on Wednesdays
- Last Wednesday of Fun With Faith and Confirmation celebrations.
- High School youth group every Sunday evening.
- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Last Sunday of SS picnic.
- Family community service project at the RAIN project.
- Youth workers lunch
- Lead a workshop for the synod assembly
- Helped with the synod youth team at the synod assembly
- Lead a workshop for the summer staff training for LRCC.
- Confirmation Day celebration.
- Baptism Day celebration.
- Kidnap breakfast for 8th graders going to high school.
- Met with Learning Committee
- Met with our new CLU intern

Extra Notes:

-We are officially getting a new intern for the fall named Cole McGlynn. He is creating goals for himself this summer, and then in the fall I will train him in the things that I do administration wise.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 04/13/2016-05/10/2016

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- High School youth group every Sunday evening.
- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Youth workers lunch
- Joint youth group at CLU for the Walk for Water.
- Channel Island Conference Assembly
- Confirmation on Wednesdays.
- Make Bake Celebrate!
- Family Movie Night in the tent.
- Helped with picnic on tent Sunday.
- Taught two Confirmation Wednesdays.
- Elementary School Youth Gathering at Luther Glen in Yucaipa.
- Met with Learning Committee

Extra Notes:

- After the medical emergency at the Make Bake Celebrate, I feel that we need to make an emergency action plan. We need to educate our members, especially our church council members, on how to deal with an emergency situation.
- We made \$3,000 in tips for teens so we are now taking our need for extra make bake celebrate off the table.
- Met with the Learning Committee about our usual stuff and also about keeping my position past next January when my contract is up. One of the pieces of my job description was to see how the job could expand with things that could be added to the program. I am putting together a list for our next meeting that talks about the ways I would like to see my job expanding to meet more needs of the congregation.
- I was approached about getting an intern from CLU to help 10 hours a week and learn from myself on how to be a youth leader through hands on experience.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 03/08/2016-04/12/2016

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- High School youth group now every Sunday evening.
- Tie Dying shirts for the MBC with the middle school and high school youth.
- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Middle School Magic Mountain Trip
- High School Magic Mountain Trip.
- Youth workers lunch
- Joint youth group at CLU with other youth groups and college students for Sanctuary Baseball.
- Third performance of Joyful Noise.
- Confirmation on Wednesdays.
- Parent's Night Out raising funds for 2016 youth trips.
- Game night with middle school youth.

- Easter Breakfast
- Easter Egg Hunt

Extra Notes:

-Our Parent's Night Out events have been a success! This has brought in new kids to our program that evening. The Youth have a wonderful time helping and babysitting the kids. We have decided to do these every-other month as a fundraiser and a purposeful time to get the youth and the younger kids together for fun!

-We made \$800 at the Easter Breakfast! We also made a list of all the items we used so that next year we have an idea of what we need.

-I helped with a candle light vigil for the youth who passed away suddenly in Thousand Oaks at Holy Trinity. This made me think that we as a church need to be a place that youth and people can go when these tragic things happen. I made notes of the things they did so we can have them ready for if there is a tragic situation that happens in Camarillo.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 02/09/2016-03/07/2016

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- High School youth group now every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00.
- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Middle School Winter Retreat
- Youth workers lunch
- Joint youth group at CLU with other youth groups and college students.
- Second performance of Joyful Noise.
- “Get Kids Internet Safe” training event with childcare for children.
- Thursday classes at CLU through “The Vine”

Extra Notes:

-Our “GKIS” training event for parents and childcare for children was a huge hit. We used our grant money for outreach to provide a Wood Ranch catered dinner as well as a guest speaker, Dr Tracy Bennett, to provide this important service to the community. We had around 100 people in attendance that night, and the youth helped with providing childcare to the younger children while the speaker was going. We had many emails afterward from thankful parents about having this important conversation available for them. Most of the families who attended were not members of Mt Cross, but people in the community. We had some families afterward interested in learning more about what Mt Cross has available for them and their families!

-I have also been a part of a class held at CLU for youth workers learning more tools that can help with my job. We learned more about different ways to use social media as a device to spread the gospel, and tools to help with budgeting.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 01/13/2016-02/08/2016

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- High School youth group now every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00.

- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Children's Choir on Wednesdays (started January 6th)
- High School winter retreat
- Practice Discipleship training
- Extravaganza Youth Workers Conference
- Youth workers lunch
- Family hike to wildwood with 12 people
- Middle school adventure to the cross with 5 middle school youth.
- First performance of "Joyful Noise," our new children's choir, with 12 children performing.

Extra Notes:

- Joyful Noise is going very well and now has in total over 20 members. Their second performance will be on February 28th.
- At next month's church council meeting I will report on what I learned at the extravaganza and my new role as a "Practice Discipleship Coach" for our synod.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 12/09/2015-01/12/2016

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- High School youth group now every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00.
- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Children's Choir on Wednesdays (started January 6th)
- Middle School and High School hike.
- Synod Youth Committee Planning weekend.
- Parent's Night Out: lead by high school youth and attended by Mt Cross kids.
- Confirmation caroling to shut-ins and other members of the church.
- High School Christmas Party with Trinity in Ventura.
- Went on vacation.
- Christmas Eve services. 5:00PM service with family and child/youth readers and helpers.

Extra Notes:

- At Parent's Night Out we had two young adults helping, five high school youth helping, and 16 children who attended. This was a huge success since the children and youth had a great time playing games and getting to know one another.
- After the last council meeting I spoke to the Learning Committee as well as Pastor John, and we decided to go ahead and start back up Children's Choir. We have Katie Robinson, who is already our Children and Youth Ministry Assistant, who also was in charge of our VBS music, who we have to be our Children's Choir Director. With the new-year starting and our programs starting back, Pastor John and I made the executive decision to start Children's Choir with it all on January 6th. The momentum lead by the Learning committee and our communication through our weekly emails, helped our first practice be a huge success with 14 children attending Children's Choir! This drew in children that we normally do not see on Wednesdays to be at Fun with Faith and the choir! We are excited to see what is in store, and our first performance will be on Sunday January 24th during the

10AM service. We will have the children's choir meet every week right after Fun with Faith, and once a month they will perform at the 10:00AM service on the fourth Sunday of the month.

-On Christmas Eve we had three families do readings, as well as the Valencia Twins, and Wyatt Phipps! This turned out to be a fun way to incorporate the children and the youth, and this brought back one of my favorite traditions we used to have at Mt Cross!

-This year has started out with a bang as we had 24 children attend Fun with Faith this past week (in the rain), 14 children attend our first Children's Choir Practice, 20 attend confirmation, 4 high school youth start off their term on the Synod Youth Team, and 6 attend High School Youth group this past Sunday evening.

-Our high school youth have decided they want to start a youth leadership team meeting once a month for a half hour prior to youth group. This team will discuss event ideas and any items that they feel a youth opinion is needed for the church council. Two youth, Shannon Storer and Julia Fickenscher, have decided they would like to share the role as the Youth Representative on Church Council. They will take any important items from the youth leadership team and report them monthly at the church council meeting.

-Another youth, Emma Griffis, has decided to join the Learning Committee as a youth voice. She has also volunteered to represent the Learning Committee on the Church Council.

-I am overwhelmed with excitement by the youth really wanting to step up in leadership roles at our church and in the synod at large!

Exciting Personal News:

-I have been spending time with going through the candidacy process to be a rostered leader in the ELCA church as an Associate in Ministry. This Thursday is my official "Entrance" meeting with my candidacy committee for our synod, and I am looking into the future with reapplying to seminary and taking some online courses for this position. I would then have a six month period where Pastor John would supervise me with a special project in mind at Mt Cross. My intention is to stay at Mt Cross and grow in my ministry to our congregation!

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 11/11/2015-12/08/2015

Meetings and Events:

- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Weekend up at camp El Camino Pines for the High School Leadership Retreat.
- Weekend at the Middle School Youth Gathering in Woodland Hills
- Youth workers lunch and meeting
- Preschool-Middle School Christmas Program.
- Fun with Faith on Wednesdays.
- High School youth group now every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00.
- Faith Journey's on Sundays.
- Attended the Christmas Concert with four of our High School youth.
- Edited the budget for 2016 and re-submitted.
- Went to the Youth Workers Retreat at LRCC's other camp, Luther Glen for the weekend.
- Went on vacation.

Extra Notes:

- Helped organize the making of several commemorative items for our 50th Birthday Celebration, which, should be ready to handout this Sunday.
- Planning weekly events and long term big events.
- Planned out big events through all of our summer trip dates.
- Spent time planning out more details for our High School summer trip.

Took five youth to the High School Leadership Retreat. We now have four youth on the Synod Youth Committee. The synod Youth Committee runs two retreats: the Elementary School Youth Gathering at Luther Glen on the weekend of April 15th, and the High School Leadership Retreat in November of 2016 at El Camino Pines. They also get together for a planning weekend at Luther Glen on the weekend of January 8th, and they represent the youth of our synod at the Synod assembly! Since we have four youth as a part of this group I have decided to be an adult advisor for the committee.

-I took seven girls to the Middle School Youth Gathering as well as one other adult Chaperone. This was the first time Mt Cross has attended, and we had a blast that weekend in Woodland Hills being with over 300 other middle school youth!

-I attended the Youth Workers Retreat at Luther Glen this past Thursday-Saturday. The theme was "sparking joy: decluttering your life and your ministry." We learned a lot about how to declutter and focus in on the things that work in our ministry and what we find joy in. One of the things I found most interesting is when we went over a study on what the ELCA has found to be the three most important things a striving ELCA congregation has. 1. A clear and simple purpose to their ministry. 2. The willingness to change and adapt to new culture and peoples. 3. Strong leadership not only with the pastor and paid people, but with the lay people of the congregation.

-We have also been practicing for the last month for our annual Christmas program which went very well this past Sunday morning during the second service.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 10/14/2015-11/10/2015

Meetings and Events:

- Fellowship Committee
- Learning Committee
- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Midnight Madness, middle school overnighiter meeting
- Youth workers lunch and meeting
- Joint youth group at Trinity at Mt Cross.
- Middle School Overnighiter and Midnight Madness.
- Bowling with 32 members of our Mt Cross families.
- Fun with Faith every Wednesday.
- High School youth group now every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00.
- Faith Journey's every Sunday.
- Meeting with other youth workers about our summer 2016 trip for High School.
- High School meeting with parents about our community service and house boating trip with 4 other churches from Southern California.
- Attended the Birthday Bash.
- Finished working on budget for 2016 and submitted.
- Planned with High Schoolers a fundraiser for December 19th: Parent's Night Out.

Extra Notes:

- Helped organize the making of several commemorative items for our 50th Birthday Celebration.
- Finished our budget for 2016 with the Learning Committee.
- Planning weekly events and long term big events.
- Spent a lot of timing planning out our High School Summer Trip for 2016. We are going up to the Bay Area to do community service, and then going to Don Pedro Reservoir for five days of house boating.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 9/9/2015-10/13/2015

Meetings and Events:

- Fellowship Committee
- Learning Committee
- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Midnight Madness, middle school overnigher meeting
- Youth workers lunch and meeting
- Joint youth group at Trinity in Ventura
- Middle School beach day.
- Fall Festival with elementary families.
- Fun with Faith every Wednesday.
- High School youth group every Wednesday.
- Faith Journey's every Sunday.
- Taught chapel for the preschool two days.
- Lead Fun with Faith, Confirmation, and High School students to make health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Extra Notes:

-We have hired our new Children and Youth Ministry Assistant, Katie Robinson!! Katie helped us this summer with VBS music, and currently is attending Moorpark College in hopes to become an elementary school teacher and/or music teacher. We are very excited to welcome Katie onto our staff at Mt Cross!

- Helped organize the making of the 50th Birthday T-Shirts which are ready for pick-up.
- Now organizing more commemorative items to be sold starting October 25th.
- Working on the budget for next year with the Learning committee.
- Planning weekly events and long term big events.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 8/12/2015-9/8/2015

Meetings:

- Middle School Overnighter
- High school camping trip at Two Harbors in Catalina
- Fellowship Committee
- Learning Committee

- Preschool teacher breakfast and meeting for the new school year.
- CDC Parent orientations.
- Updating facebook and posting pictures
- Church picnic games
- Midnight Madness, middle school overnigher meeting
- Youth workers lunch and meeting
- Mutual ministry meeting

Extra Notes:

- Camping in Catalina: we took 7 youth and had two other adult chaperones.
- Church picnic: we ended up hanging in the park with some of our families all the way until 2:00pm!
This was a wonderful day of fellowship!
- Helped organize the making of the 50th Birthday T-Shirts and sat out selling them last Sunday.
- I have been spending most of my time planning for the upcoming school year of events and programs.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 7/15/2015-8/11/2015

Meetings:

- National Youth Gathering in Detroit: 7/13-7/19
- Music and Arts Camp at El Camino Pines: 7/26-7/31
- VBS Decorating and orientations: 7/23 & 8/2
- VBS 8/3-8/7
- VBS Dinner and Program: 8/6
- Ventura County Fair with mostly middle school youth: 8/7
- Learning Committee
- LRCC Summer Banquet: 7/25
- fellowship committee
- Works on updating our facebook and posting pictures of events.

Extra Notes:

- VBS: We had approximately 120 children, 30 youth, and 20 adults.
- Detroit: Took two youth and we spoke about our experience in church.
- Music and Arts Camp: Took 11 children/youth
- Ventura County Fair: we had 9 youth go to the fair and one other parent attend. Then we went to the beach afterward to watch the sunset.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 6/9/2015-7/14/2015

Meetings:

- Learning Committee
- Youth Ministers Network Lunch
- Chapel for the CDC
- VBS Registration is closed due to high enrollment.
- VBS planning and organizing.
- Children's message in church

- Preached at both services.
- Led Men's Bible Study
- Picnic and water day at the park with elementary and younger. We played water games and did lanyards in the park with the families. Each person brought a snack and we ate together.
- Beach day with seven high school youth in Ventura.
- Middle School hike to the waterfall with seven youth.
- Elementary pool party at the Laskey's. We had 11 kids and 9 adults. We were supposed to go from 2-4, but had so much fun we all stayed until 6.
- I had three high school youth help me with cleaning out the closets in the parish life center and reorganizing.
- Sheri and I worked on organizing and going through resources for the resource center.
- Sheri and I reorganized in the office and got rid of unneeded furniture after moving things over to the parish life center.
- Counciled two youth about a death in their family.
- Joined the fellowship committee and helped put on both the hot dog Sunday and father's day ties.
- Works on updating our facebook and posting pictures of events.
- Went to Many Meals and helped in the kitchen.
- Planning the trip to Detroit with two high school youth
- Leave on Monday 7.13.15 for Detroit until Sunday 7.19.15.
- National Youth Gathering!

Extra Notes:

- I spent much time on long term planning and coming up with calendars for all of our children and youth programs that goes through December 2015.
- I have also spent a lot of time over this whole month organizing and preparing for VBS. As of 7.14.15 we have 120 students registered and we are not accepting any more registrations. We have a waitlist in case some families drop out of their spot.
- A lot of my time went to organizing my office and the parish life center. I also helped organize the office with Sheri and moved things over to new homes in the Parish Life Center. Now in the old Sunday school closet you can access committee folders.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 5/12/2015-6/9/2015

Meetings:

- Learning Committee
- Meeting at Shepherd of the Valley with Youth Directors in the area to plan a high school overnighiter together.
- Youth Ministers Network Lunch
- Confirmation classes
- Fun with Faith
- Faith Journeys
- High School Youth Group
- Joint high school youth group with Trinity from Ventura at Mount Cross
- Chapel for the CDC
- Regular meetings with Harry as the youth rep
- grace bracelets for the girls getting Confirmed.

- High School overnighter (we had 9 high school kids attend)
- Bible challenge during Sunday school
- VBS Registration has started!
- Children's message in church
- High School kidnap breakfast
- Confirmation Sunday
- Led Men's Bible Study

Extra Notes:

- In the last month I have spent a lot of time planning and putting on our high school overnighter, and our Confirmation Sunday.
- I spent much time on long term planning and coming up with calendars for all of our children and youth programs that goes through December 2015.
- I have also spent a lot of time over this whole month organizing and preparing for VBS. As of 6.9.15 we have 75 children registered, and our limit for this year is going to be 130 children.
- We also brought back the tradition of kidnapping the 8th grade girls into our high school youth group. We brought them to Denny's for breakfast, then brought them to church where the high school youth gave them advice on high school, and then they attended church in their PJs.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 4/15/2015-5/12/2015

Meetings:

- Learning Committee
- Meeting at Mt Cross with Youth Directors in the area to plan a high school overnighter together.
- Youth Ministers Network Lunch
- Sunday School meeting
- Confirmation classes
- Fun With Faith
- Faith Journeys
- High School Youth Group
- Joint youth group with trinity in Ventura
- Family Movie Night (40 kids and 32 adults!)
- Make Bake Celebrate
- Helping Hands art project with CDC
- Weekly meetings with Harry as the youth rep
- Mother's Day Corsages
- Bible challenge during Sunday school
- VBS Registration has started!

Extra Notes:

- At our Family Movie Night we had 40 kids and 32 adults! Huge success! About 15 of those kids were from the CDC! :D
- We had our Sunday School Meeting on April 19th! We talked about changes to Sunday school and the future of our Children's ministry.
- Our High School youth did a great job as servers at the Make Bake Celebrate!
- A lot of time has been spent planning Confirmation, Fun with Faith, and high school youth group.
- We have our High School Overnighter on Friday night!
- Confirmation is this Sunday!
- In Confirmation we have spent a lot of time in prayer.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report 3/11/2015-4/14/2015

Meetings:

- Learning Committee
- Meeting at Mt Cross with Youth Directors in the area to plan a high school overnighter together.
- Youth Ministers Network Lunch
- Met with leader from Trinity Ventura about Godchicks
- Confirmation classes
- Fun With Faith
- Faith Journeys
- High School Youth Group
- Disneyland with the Junior High kids
- High School Winter Camp
- Lent gatherings, participating in sermons
- Easter Breakfast
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Palm Sunday Art Projects
- Prayer bracelets with CDC

Extra Notes:

- Most of my time has been spent preparing for the Palm Sunday craft of butterflies and our Alleluia banner. Also, I prepared for the Easter breakfast and the Easter egg hunt. Then putting everything together nicely for Easter morning took a lot of my time.

- A lot of time has been spent planning Confirmation, Fun with Faith, and high school youth group.
- I met with a leader from Trinity in Ventura about starting Godchicks. We want to create a group for women in the ages of high school and beyond to go over this book and create relationships with each other.
- I have also been reading "Let's Kill Sunday School Before It Kills the Church." I am trying to find new and innovative ideas for our future with children's ministry. We have a Sunday School meeting on Sunday, April 19th.
- Disneyland was a huge success! I brought 6 jr high girls and we had a great time.
- Lent soup suppers have been going well and the students have loved speaking during the service.
- In Confirmation we have spent a lot of time in prayer.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report January 29th-February 10th

Meetings:

- Pastor John
- Pastor Erik
- Learning Committee
- meeting with Youth Directors in the area to plan an overnighter together.
- CDC Chapel
- Confirmation classes
- Fun With Faith
- Installation and reception
- National Youth Workers Conference in Detroit.
- Meeting with Susan, Gayle, Patti, and Beverly about youth grants

Extra Notes:

- Detroit was a great experience to network and meet other youth leaders from our area. I was able to take workshops to help me successful in this position, and plane future events around the synod.
- Most of my time has been used to organize materials in the office, and make sense of all the resources provided.
- A lot of time has been spent planning Confirmation, Fun with Faith, and preschool Chapel time.
- This weekend we have 7 Jr High Students and myself going to Jr High Winter Camp at El Camino Pines.
- On February 22nd we are having a meeting after the 10am service to talk about our high school program.

Meredith Gardner's Council Report January 29th-February 10th

Meetings:

- Pastor John
- Pastor Erik
- Learning Committee
- meeting with Youth Directors in the area to plan an overnigher together.
- CDC Chapel
- Confirmation classes
- Fun With Faith
- Installation and reception
- National Youth Workers Conference in Detroit.
- Meeting with Susan, Gayle, Patti, and Beverly about youth grants

Extra Notes:

- Detroit was a great experience to network and meet other youth leaders from our area. I was able to take workshops to help me successful in this position, and plane future events around the synod.
- Most of my time has been used to organize materials in the office, and make sense of all the resources provided.
- A lot of time has been spent planning Confirmation, Fun with Faith, and preschool Chapel time.
- This weekend we have 7 Jr High Students and myself going to Jr High Winter Camp at El Camino Pines.
- On February 22nd we are having a meeting after the 10am service to talk about our high school program.