

# The Grapevine



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

No. 357

April 2022

## OUR HOLY DAYS

Holy Week is our annual pilgrimage to the heart of our faith.  
In Jesus' death and resurrection, we experience  
the triumph of goodness over evil and the victory of life over death.  
**Come and be renewed by the saving acts of God.**

### **Palm Sunday, April 10**

\*9:30 a.m. worship at Mount Cross with a palm procession and the reading of the Passion.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 14**

Noon at St. Columba's Episcopal Church for those who need a daytime service.

\*7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship at Mount Cross. We remember the last supper, hear Christ's commandment to love one another, celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, and strip the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

### **Good Friday, April 15**

Noon Stations of the Cross outdoors at St. Columba's Episcopal Church.

\*7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") at Mount Cross. Candles are gradually extinguished as we read the Passion, interspersed with music to aid our contemplation of the suffering and death of Christ. There will be an opportunity to reverence the cross.

### **The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 16**

7:00 p.m. at St. Columba's Episcopal Church. Meet at the outdoor fire pit for the lighting of the new fire of Easter. We will process into the church to hear the foundational stories of our faith, proclaim the Easter Gospel, and celebrate Holy Communion on this night when Jesus passed over from death into life.

### **Easter Sunday, April 17**

\*9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday worship at Mount Cross followed by an Easter breakfast.

**Alleluia, He is Risen!**

If you need transportation to any of these services, please contact the church office as soon as possible, 805-482-3847 or [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com).

*\*denotes the services that will be livestreamed.*

St. Columba's Episcopal Church is located at 1251 Las Posas Road in Camarillo.

# Spiritual Growth at Mount Cross

## Adult Education

There are several opportunities at Mount Cross to study the Bible along with your friends in Christ. All are welcome.

### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study *(No meetings April 12 & 19)*

† Women's Bible study meets on **Tuesday, April 5 & 26, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.** in the sanctuary. All Mount Cross women and their friends are welcome to attend.

### Bible Study for All: Wednesday Evenings, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. *(Lenten Study, April 6; No meeting April 13)*

† For the month of April, the Wednesday Evening Bible Study is at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

† We will meet **April 7** and **April 21** at **Marie Callender's** (185 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo).

† A \$15 donation covers breakfast and a tip, but don't let the cost prevent you from attending. What matters most is that you join us. No RSVP necessary, but reach out to Randy Churchill (hrchurchill@verizon.net) if you have questions.

### Afternoon Chapel

*The world and all that is in it belong to the LORD; the earth and all who live on it are his. (Psalm 24:1)*

Join us for afternoon chapel on **April 21 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Mount Cross Sanctuary as we commemorate Earth Day.

This shortened Worship Service is complete with Communion, singing, prayers, and fellowship. Contact the Mount Cross office at 805-482-3847 if you need a ride to the Chapel Service or for more information. Please join us as we celebrate God's magnificent earth.

*"Mother Earth is not a resource, she is an heirloom."* -David Ipina, Yurok Native American Tribe



### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

This month's Labyrinth Prayer Walk will be on April 30 at 10:00 a.m. Keep an eye on our weekly emails for the location. See you there!



***If you are not receiving emails from Mount Cross, please contact the office so we can add you to our email list or add you to our call list! Make sure you also double-check your spam folder and add office@mountcross.com to your contacts so you have the most up-to-date information possible. Thank you!***

### Sign Up to Donate Lilies for Easter

Easter is Sunday, April 17, and we want to be sure our worship environment reflects the joy of the celebration with beautiful pastel calla lilies as part of our decor. If you would like to dedicate a calla lily in honor or memory of a loved one (or for some other dedication), we have a SignUp form online: <https://bit.ly/EasterLilies2022>.

The lilies are \$8 and can be paid online or by check (marked for "Easter lily"). Please sign up by April 4.



### Caring for Our Caregivers

Jesus teaches that we are all part of One Body, and what benefits one, benefits us all (1 Corinthians 12:26, Romans 12:4-5). As a matter of fact, when we care for one another, it is our Lord we serve (Colossians 3:24, Matthew 25:34-36).

We offer these suggestions for ways that you might let a caregiver know that you see them and know the good work they are doing:

- Send them an encouraging note. Give them a pat or a hug and ask how they're doing.
- Put the caregiver on your prayer list—not just the person who's sick.
- Offer to go to where the caregiver is (home or hospital) to simply be with them and their loved one. Not being afraid of disease or disabling conditions relieves the sense of isolation.
- Listen. This is as simple as a phone call or chat over a cup of tea. Listening lightens the load more than you know.
- Take food, magazines, or books that the caregiver specifically might enjoy.
- Offer to care for their loved one for a couple of hours while they spend time away.
- Offer to escort the caregiver and their loved one to appointments. Dropping them at the front door, helping everyone get into the office and parking and retrieving the car is a huge blessing.



### Updated Worship Guidelines

Thanks be to God, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are declining in our community. Below is the updated COVID-19 guidance from our Mount Cross Re-Opening Committee:

For indoor worship at Mount Cross: As a caring community, we request that you wear a mask if you will be singing in worship. If you will not be singing, masks are strongly encouraged. In all other indoor settings at Mount Cross, masks are strongly encouraged.

There may be situations in the life of our community where we will require masks out of concern for vulnerable people.

When committees, groups, or individuals meet indoors, please defer to the needs of those who are immune-compromised or are at greater risk of serious illness, or those who live with them.

Thank you for the goodwill, patience, cooperation, and love for your neighbor that you have displayed throughout the pandemic.

# Meet Our New Members!



Brendan, Jennifer, Brendan, Jr. & Jordan Garrett



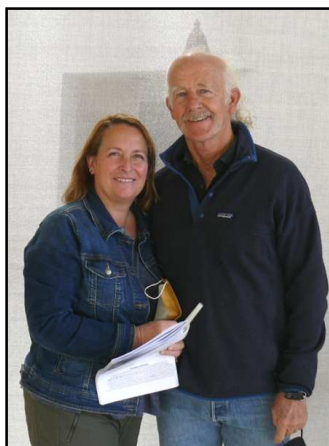
Becky & Dave Gilbertson  
(Associate members)



Lyndsay, Amanda, & Owen Montour



Cheryl Wolfe



Jeanne & Doug Wilde



Patricia (Tricha) Lewis



Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff

# Service & Missions

## Peace & Justice and Anti-Racism

The Peace & Justice and Anti-Racism Teams will meet on **Tuesday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom. The Zoom link is <http://bit.ly/MCPeaceandJustice>.

## 2022 DIY Earth Day Clean-Up

Make a plan with your household or friend group and decide when and where you want to make an impact this April. It can be anywhere! Your own street, a local playground, or a state park or beach within driving distance are all great options. Go there and do some cleaning, especially of little items like cigarette butts and small bits of plastic. If you keep track of how many bags of litter you collect, you can record it at [calparks.org/virtualearthdayform](http://calparks.org/virtualearthdayform) OR download the Clean Swell app on your phone and record as you go. Tracking the litter collection takes time, but it provides important data to organizations trying to reduce litter and waste. Help them to help our planet!



## Easter Earth Day

This year, Earth Day falls on the Friday after Easter. If one of your Lenten practices was giving up plastic, try and keep it up—at least for another week! Even if it wasn't, maybe think about trying to do so for Easter, as it is a celebration of renewal, so use that thought to guide your Easter basket purchases. Skip the cheap plastic basket and buy one you can reuse every year (or find one in your home!). Rethink the plastic grass that gets used once and tossed—shredded paper works well and can be recycled. Use candies that don't come in single-use plastic wrappers. Chocolate in foil or paper, jelly beans in milk cartons are all available. Buy (or dig through your cabinets and find) a reusable water bottle and cloth grocery bag—and put them in the basket to gift to yourself or someone you love.

## Easter Bags Notes

We are helping provide Easter Bags to Ventura Youth Correctional Facility youth. We have an opportunity to get creative. Included in those bags will be a 4" x 6" notecard (or quarter of letter-size sheet) with a drawing, inspirational messages, or quotes. No glitter or stickers, please. The youth appreciate artwork of all levels, so come visit the table on the patio and write a note. Or create them at home and drop them off with Melissa Henry.

## Meals for Harbor House

Every day at 5:00 p.m., Harbor House hands out bagged meals to our homeless neighbors in Thousand Oaks. You can sign up to bring 10 meals on any day that is convenient for you at [harborhouseto.org](http://harborhouseto.org) (scroll down to the info about lunches and click the link). If you would like to sponsor this ministry, or if you would like to form a group to start making these meals once a month, please contact Mary Goodenough at [mwgoodenough@gmail.com](mailto:mwgoodenough@gmail.com) for more information.

## Monthly Fair Trade Sale

Melissa Henry will be stepping away from this ministry in the next few months. If you feel moved to see this ministry continue at Mount Cross, please contact her to find out about the work. Meanwhile, the sales will continue the first Sunday of the month—that's **April 3** this next month.

**MAKE IT HAPPEN  
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE**



*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*  
- St. Francis of Assisi

## Blood Drive a Success!

We had 20 donations at our Vitalant Blood Drive in February. Mark your calendars—the truck will be back at Mount Cross on Sunday, August 7. Give the gift of life!

## Church Work Day

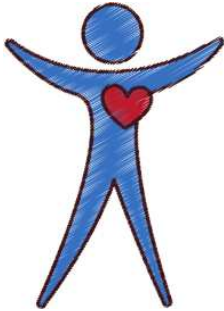
All hands on deck! Help us maintain our beautiful church and get to know other church members even better. A Church Work Day has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 2, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**. Projects will include: raking and cleaning the junipers, spreading mulch, weeding the property, sweeping the gutters, sanding/painting the sacristy door, cleaning the kitchen, and polishing the brass and woodwork in the church. Please bring your rakes, hoes, shovels, rags, and work gloves. There is a lot to do and many hands make the work go much faster (it's more fun too!). Plenty of snacks, juice, and coffee will be on hand for everyone. Come for any part of the morning; no need to sign up in advance. If you have any questions, please contact Cy Johnson at [clopsj@gmail.com](mailto:clopsj@gmail.com) or 805-388-3293.

***Let's come and serve the Lord together as one in a body-wide expression of gratitude for these grounds and this facility that He has given to us.***

# Care Team

## An Opportunity to Be a Caregiver

Student Volunteers and Youth Leaders Needed



VC CAREGIVERS intergenerational program, "Building Bridges," brings high school students into the homes of frail elders to visit and to assist them. Building Bridges was established in 1992 with funding from foundations in addition to gifts from individual donors. Today, the Building Bridges program is going strong with high school students visiting seniors every day after school. More than 40 students are currently participating and the program is looking for ways to expand through the help of adult volunteers. Students in the Building Bridges program go through orientation and training that helps sensitize them to the challenges seniors face daily. Students can work in teams and have developed an excellent reputation for big projects like yard work, decorating for the holidays, cleaning up after the holidays, or spending the afternoon sharing their views on current events and economics.

Student Volunteers visit under supervision and may be able to provide:

- † Friendly Visits.
- † Clean Up around the house, such as washing windows, vacuuming, dusting, and mopping.
- † Yard Maintenance such as weeding and pruning. (We use no power tools!)
- † Home Organization.

### About Building Bridges Current and Past Student Volunteers

- Work in supervised teams after school. Students may join an existing team with a CAREGIVERS coordinator or student groups and leaders may apply together.
- Attend workshops and trainings so they can be the best volunteers possible.
- Develop an appreciation for community service and earn service hours if required by school.
- Go on to pursue degrees at nationally recognized universities and colleges as well as professional schools.

Camarillo youth volunteers are badly needed NOW—requests for Building Bridges volunteers for Mount Cross members have been waiting for extended periods without an available youth to assign. If you or a youth in your family have an interest in this program, Joe Zimmerly, Mount Cross Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, can provide further information. VC Caregivers can be contacted directly at 805-658-8530.

For Health Ministry information or support, contact Evonne Kuchera, RN at 805-377-0808 or evonnemk@aol.com. For information about other Care Team programs or services, contact Susan Prosser 805-657-6222 or prosser1@sbcglobal.net.

### A Caregivers Psalm – Adapted from Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains of the work and chores  
I must accomplish each day.  
From where will I get the strength to get everything done?  
My strength comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
The Lord will not let me slip into fear, frustration, or anger.  
He who keeps me does not sleep,  
so I can sleep in peace and be renewed for the day ahead.  
He who keeps those I care for does not slumber  
but watches over them day and night.  
The Lord is my keeper.  
He will give me a heart of COMPASSION  
in response to His love for me.  
The Lord will keep my CONSCIENCE pure and holy,  
so I will show respect and value those who are in my care.  
The Lord will keep my COMMITMENT  
to give care with COMPETENCE as I continue to learn.  
The Lord will keep me in the caring COMMUNITY  
of my church, my family and friends, co-workers,  
and other caregivers,  
where we have COMPASSION and respect for one another  
as we become more COMPETENT in our faith, mission,  
and outreach.  
The Lord will be my strength from this time on and  
forevermore.

*Written by Phyllis Bruce (2004)  
Based on the 5 C's of Caring developed  
by Simone Roach (1986)*

# Notes 'n' News

See below for scheduled children and youth activities!  
If you have any questions, please email Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

**Sundays at 6:00 p.m.:** High School Youth Group (on site except 4/24; no meeting 4/17)  
**Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.:** Fun with Faith (on site; no meeting 4/13)  
**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.:** Confirmation Class (on site; no meeting 4/13)



## CDC Updates

Spring is almost near, and spring reminds us of new life. The children are showing that every day, they are changing and learning new things. Last month, we had a Scholastic Book Fair and See's Candies Fundraiser to help with our Outdoor Classroom. Thank you to all who donated.

In case you missed it, we are now enrolling for Summer Session and the Fall 2022-23 school year. Please stop by, email, or call if you have any questions. The summer session will be a 6-week program of hands-on fun, and includes a Kindergarten Readiness Class. This class is for all students entering Kindergarten in the Fall. Please let friends and family know if they have a little one ready for Preschool.

Last month, we highlighted Ms. Elizabeth Fox, Mount Cross CDC Assistant Director. Elizabeth studied at the University of LaVerne. She has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 20 years. For the past 10 years, she taught Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her family watching movies and playing softball. She enjoys her 3 guinea pigs and listening to her daughter read.

Please stop by the office and enjoy the art display from Mrs. Van Vorst and Mrs. Lee's class. We would love to say "Hello."

Amy Vega, Director  
Mount Cross Child Development Center

## Mount Cross Music Ministry Notes

Why don't we print music notes for all the songs we have in the bulletin? The answer has to do with copyright and legality. In general, original material is covered by copyright for the life of the composer, plus seventy years, and the owner of the copyright is entitled to compensation for the use of that original material. Music that is no longer covered by copyright is considered to be in the public domain, meaning we don't have to pay a licensing fee to print and stream it.

We have two copyright licenses—OneLicense.net and CCLI. OneLicense.net includes songs by Marty Haugen and John Bell, for example. CCLI, which stands for Christian Copyright Licensing International, covers the praise & worship songs we sing by writers like Chris Tomlin, Christy Nockels, Keith Getty, etc. The CCLI license allows us to print lyrics only, not the music to their songs. People who have grown up with hymnals can get frustrated by not having notes in front of them (I prefer reading the music myself), but through repeated use of these CCLI songs, we can develop other skills—learning to sing by ear, by hearing the melodies and joining in, or singing along on just the choruses until we learn the verses. We are blessed to have a wealth of music from which to choose—hymns, verse/chorus songs, Taizé-style refrains, and so on—and a congregation which loves to glorify God through sung prayer! Thanks be to God!

In Christ,  
Carol Browning, Music Director



### Upcoming Meetings

**Afternoon Chapel Committee**  
Fri., April 1, 2:00 p.m.  
**Service & Missions Committee**  
Mon., April 4, 6:00 p.m.  
**Property Committee**  
Mon., April 4, 7:00 p.m.  
**Learning Committee:**  
Mon., April 4, 7:00p.m.  
**Peace & Justice Team:**  
Tues., April 5, 7:00 p.m.  
**CDC Board:**  
Tues., April 5, 7:30 p.m.  
**Executive Committee:**  
Thurs., April 7, 7:00 p.m.  
**Care Team:**  
Thurs., April 14, 1:00 p.m.  
**Quilters:**  
Thurs., April 14 & 28, 2:00 p.m.  
**Church Council:**  
Tues., April 19, 7:00 p.m.  
**Worship & Music Committee:**  
Wed., April 20, 1:15 p.m.  
**Fellowship Committee:**  
Tues., April 26, 7:00 p.m.



### PRAYER CONCERNS

Did you know Mount Cross has an email Prayer Chain? If you would like to be a member of our Prayer Chain, or would like a prayer request sent to our Prayer Chain, please let Carol Browning know by emailing her at [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com).

**We pray for Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Ed and Tonna Brodie** (friends of Becky Riley), **Jackson Burke, Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter, Dwayla Carr** (cousin of Gayle Johnson), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Scott Fajnor, Doria & Vladimir Fanning** (sister and brother-in-law of Barbara Burke), **Linda Frantz, Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Paul Marigonda** (friend of Becky Riley), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Lucille Miley, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Maria Riley** (daughter-in-law of Becky Riley), **Jim Prosser, Byron Selbrede** (brother of Keith Selbrede), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris Truchan** (friend of the Burke family), **Chris Valenzano** (grandson of Herb & Jo Holler), **Mike Waldron** (brother of Denise Sobolik), **Marilyn Woody**, sister of Sonja Demeter.

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please e-mail the church office at [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com) or call (805) 482-3847.*

### Help Wanted! Helping Hands Ministry Additional Coordinator(s) Needed

Helping Hands is the Mount Cross service group that assists by arranging and serving at memorial/funeral receptions held at Mount Cross. Help is currently needed in the role of coordination. Training will be provided. We currently are in need of one or two additional co-coordinators for this ministry to continue. If you are interested in more information on serving as a co-coordinator for this important ministry, please contact Marilyn Gardner at 805-368-0554 or [momgardner\\_722@msn.com](mailto:momgardner_722@msn.com).



*To the Congregation of Mount Cross,  
Your continued support with cards, Prayer Shawl, flowers and love during Howard's final days were so helpful. To the Helping Hands Committee, the reception was wonderful. The service in the church, including the music and the video, was perfect; thank you, Carol, Guy, and Bill. To Pastor Julie, how to thank you. All the visits to our home, communion during this time, your prayers and kindness were appreciated.  
Bless you all,  
Joanna Wullschleger*

### Your Support at Work: Jubilee Scholarship at Luther Seminary

Mount Cross members financially support many causes, one of which is seminary education at various ELCA schools around the country. Recently, Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota, shared the news that it has put donations to good use through the Jubilee Scholarship, which has helped many people return to school and pursue a Master of Divinity (MDiv.) completely tuition-free. Here are some stats they shared with us:

- † Average student debt for our most recent graduates fell a full 39% since the implementation of the Jubilee Scholarship. This means we achieved our goal to reduce student indebtedness by one-third a full two years ahead of schedule!
- † 57% of students graduating in 2020–21 left without accruing any student loan debt at Luther Seminary—a historic high going back 20 years.
- † The total amount borrowed in 2020–21 across all students was the lowest Luther Seminary has experienced since we began tracking student loan data in 1998.

After years of dwindling applications and candidates, something completely unanticipated happened in 2021: with the removal of financial barriers, applications skyrocketed and more and more students answered the call to ministry. For the first time in the institution's history, Luther Seminary had to employ a waitlist of eager students hoping to further their education. Your support is one of the main reason over 400 students have received the Jubilee Scholarship and were able to gain the education and training necessary to be a church leader in the 21st century.

**Mount Cross Lutheran Church**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
102 Camino Esplendido  
Camarillo, CA 93010-1717

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**The next newsletter deadline is Thursday, April 21, 2022**  
Please send all articles to [carina@mountcross.com](mailto:carina@mountcross.com).

# April Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday to...

- 1 Chloe Fernandez  
Nancy Rowley
- 2 Landon Stouch
- 3 Linda Austin
- 4 Blair Bender  
Jaci Corey  
Betty Ertel
- 6 Avis Miley
- 7 Jennifer Churchill
- 9 Joan Brundage  
Jordan Duran
- 10 Taylor Crawford
- 11 Jeanne Michel
- 12 Barbara Burrow  
Jason Lu
- 13 Mike Carpenter  
Debbie Ervin  
Jackson Fajnor  
Erin Ramirez
- 14 Hailey Vieira
- 15 Matthew Johnson  
David Lennox
- 16 Ric Kienitz
- 17 Cheryl Avery  
Christine Rueckert

- 18 Janet Mann  
Carina McVeigh  
Stan Patscheck  
Katarina Smith
- 19 Glenn Channels
- 20 Tom LaCalamita
- 21 Owen Montour
- 22 Brian Churchill
- 23 Randy Churchill  
Brandon Duran  
Zachary Schneider  
Kim Tasker
- 29 Wendy McClary  
Louise Stevenson

## Happy Anniversary to...

- 2 Bob & Judy Winters
- 4 Tom & Teri Crawford  
Kelly & Tim Schneider  
Keith & Dianne Selbrede
- 8 Michelle & Jerry Kienitz  
Mike & Kim Tasker
- 11 Susan & Ron Baier
- 14 Karen & William Fanner
- 28 Eric & Christine Rueckert

## Happy Anniversary of Baptism to...

- 1 Amanda Montour  
Charlene Sakioka  
Rosanne Stevens  
Joe Swindle
- 3 Mateo Carpenter  
Anna Chen  
Lily Friedrichs  
Jaden Jones  
Jason Lu  
Mandy Lu  
Sarah Lu  
Troy Rueckert  
Claire Sheller
- 4 Brian Fisher
- 5 Doug Posthauer
- 7 Evan Fanner  
Morgan Fanner  
Sean Rose  
Shenoah Rueckert
- 8 Barbara Sletten  
Scott Smith

- 10 Jaida Jones  
Eric Kienitz  
John Pitsch  
Madeline Sheller  
Brian Stouch  
Landon Stouch
- 13 Megan Pitsch
- 14 Paul Fickenscher  
Mary Goodenough  
Katherine Rose  
Christine Rueckert  
Eric Rueckert
- 15 Evan Artuso  
Nathaniel Artuso  
Kenneth Lewis  
Nicholas Sawyer  
Jackson Valencia  
Sophia Valencia
- 17 Don Hauser
- 19 Mark Jones-Quartles
- 22 Janet Mann
- 25 Jack LaCalamita
- 26 Erik Johnson  
Amanda Smith
- 29 Kelsea Smith

