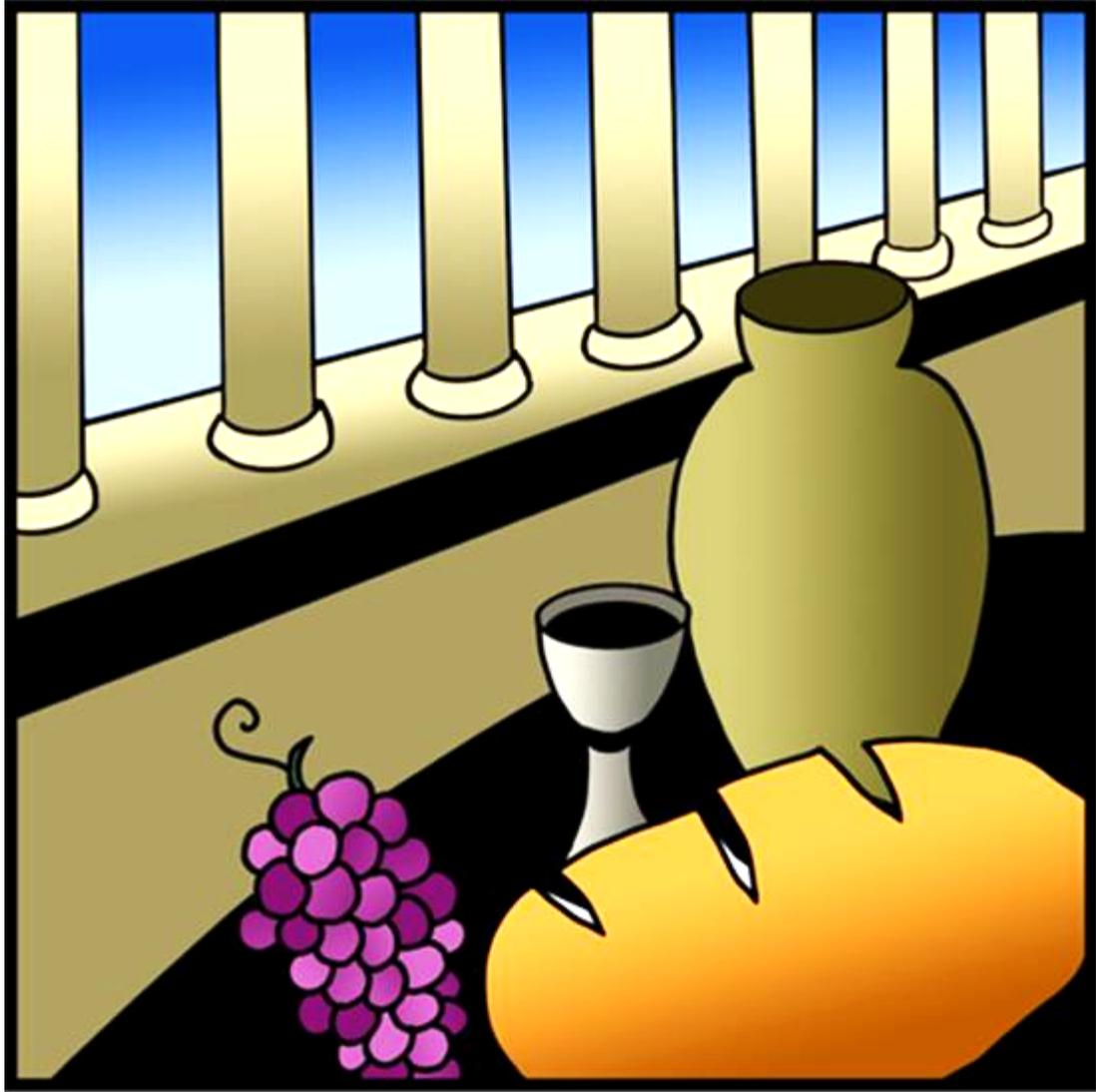


Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com



*For those of you worshipping with us in person,
thank you for wearing your mask (indoors required; outdoors optional).
and social distancing outdoors when singing.*

*Let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card:
<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.*

**12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 15, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "This Is God's House" (sing 3 times)

As able, the assembly stands.

This is God's house and God is here to - day.

God hears each song of praise and lis - tens while we pray.

Words: Louise M. Oglevee.

Music: W.G. Oglevee, from "Songs for Little People" by Danielson and Conant,
© 1922, The Pilgrim Press.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(Silence for reflection)

C Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open, all desires known.
We come to you, confessing our sins.
Forgive us in your mercy,
and remember us in your love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

P By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ,
God forgives you all your sins.
The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life.

C **Amen.**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris

CHILDREN'S SONG - "Thank You, Thank You, My Heart Sings"



Thank you, thank you, my heart sings, my heart sings, my heart sings.



Thank you, thank you, my heart sings. Thank you, God. for ev-'ry-thing. A men.

© Unknown.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, ⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, ⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE - "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" - ELW 815 -
verses 1 & 3

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

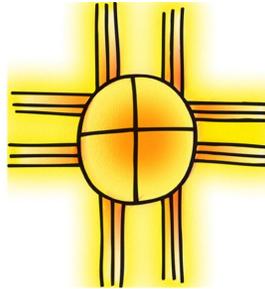
Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.



SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “Alle, Alleluia” (Schaner/Keil)

Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and music, © 1996, Bernadette Schaner and Kevin Keil.
Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

P The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The [crowd] then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON – Pastor Julie Morris

As able, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

SONG OF THE DAY - "Be Thou My Vision" - ELW 793 - verses 1 & 2



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of wildfires, hurricanes, or tropical storms. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of peace and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all ages, we ask your blessing on Cathy and Glenn Channels in Cathy's retirement as director of our Child Development Center. We give thanks for her vision and dedication. We celebrate her and Glenn's care and commitment for the past thirty-three years at Mount Cross. Protect and guide them in this new season of their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia and give stamina and patience to their caretakers. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer, especially (*those on our prayer list*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud (pause) ... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG - "Give Thanks" (Smith)

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

Text and music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. International © secured.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**



As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for you are the source of light and life,
you made us in your image,
and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

P We praise you, all-holy God,
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation;
in the calling of Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all
in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

P On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ, and renew the world with your mercy.
We praise you, all-holy God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit today, tomorrow, and forever.

C Amen.

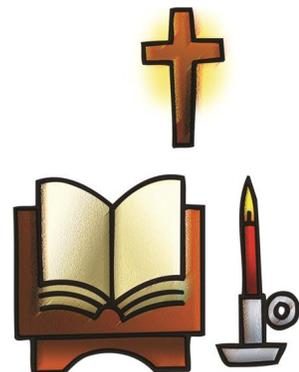
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

P Taste and see that the Lord is good!

The assembly may be seated.



LAMB OF GOD - "This Is the Body of Christ" (Bell)

This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be
whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,
cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
© 1998, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (for our Livestream viewers)

A spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. As Martin Luther once wrote: "I can enjoy the sacrament ... every day if only I keep my eyes on the promise, that is, on the words and promise of Christ, which feeds and strengthens my faith."

As we distribute Holy Communion to the congregation here, we invite those on the livestream to offer the Prayer of Spiritual Communion displayed on your screen:



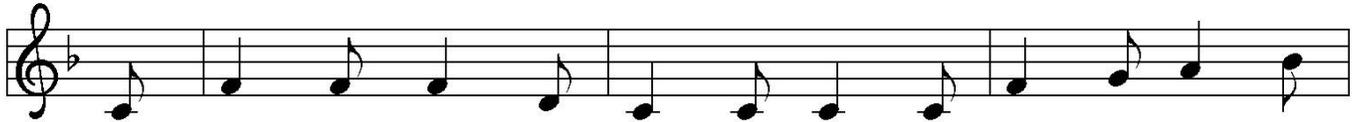
I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart.

(We pause for silent prayer).

Fill us all with your love and grace, and strengthen us to serve the world in your name. Amen.¹

¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

COMMUNION SONGS - "I Come with Joy" - ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

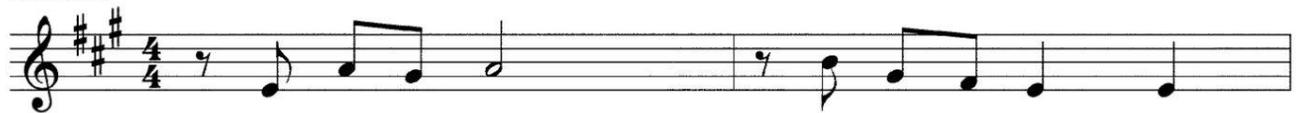
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



“Bread for the World” (Farrell)

Refrain



Bread for the world: a world of hun - ger.



Wine for all peo - ples: peo-ple who thirst. May we who eat



be bread for oth - ers. May we who drink pour out our love.

Verses



1. Lord Je - sus Christ, you are the bread of life, bro - ken to
2. Lord Je - sus Christ, you are the wine of peace, poured in - to
3. Lord Je - sus Christ, you call us to your feast, at which the



reach and heal the wounds of hu - man pain. Where we di -
hearts once bro - ken and where dry - ness sleeps. Where we are
rich and pow'r - ful have be - come the least. Where we sur -



vide your peo - ple you are wait - ing there on bend - ed
tired and wea - ry you are wait - ing there to be the
vive on oth - ers in our hu - man greed you walk a -



knee to wash our feet with end - less care.
way which beck - ons us be - yond de - spair.
mong us beg - ging for your ev - 'ry need.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING AND APPRECIATION OF CATHY CHANNELS

FINAL BLESSING

P Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Holy eternal Mystery, † Holy incarnate Word, and Holy abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A Rooted in God's grace,

C **we joyfully witness and serve.**

POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

***Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God
by Rosanne and Scott Stevens in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary
and by Mount Cross Lutheran Church in gratitude
to Cathy & Glenn Channels for their dedication and service
to our Child Development Center.***

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-722573 and CCLI License m#2022482. Images from sundaysandseasons.com used with permission from Augsburg Fortress.

If you haven't already done so today, let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card: **<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>**.

Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!
Today, we'll continue the celebration of Cathy & Glenn Channels
in the pavilion after worship.

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**. If you are unable to come inside, we will serve Communion to those who prefer to remain in their cars.

Please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate.

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for **Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter, Crista and Bonnie** (niece and sister of Karen Cherry), **Gail Cline** (daughter of Karen & Jim Gramacki), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Steve Engh** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **Bob Edell, Betty Ertel, Natalie Faltin, Linda Frantz, David Gale** (friend of Herb & Jo Holler), **Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Michelle Kolder** (daughter of Karen & Joe Diehl), **Emilie** (friend of Carina McVeigh), **Karen** (mother of Julie Merrick), **Lucille Miley, Norm Morgan, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Anna and John** (sister of Mona Neuhaus and her sister's partner), **Mia Ranson** (granddaughter of Evonne Kuchera's friend), **Bob Sharp** (grandfather of Jaimie Marroquin), **Maria Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **Jerry Warren, the family of Toy White** (friend of Becky Riley), **Howard Wullschleger, the family of Wade Young** (father of Kevin Young).

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 or call 805.482.3847.

The Week at a Glance

TODAY, August 15, 2021

Children's Church Zoom, 9:00-9:20 a.m.
Contact Joe (joe@mountcross.com)
for the Zoom information.

Care Team, 1:00 p.m.

The Care Team meets at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center.

Reception for Cathy & Glenn Channels,
after worship

Please enjoy refreshments in the pavilion and continue
the celebration of Cathy Channels.

Next Sunday, August 22, 2021

Health and Healing Sunday, 9:30
a.m. Worship

Our Health and Healing Sunday at Mount Cross will offer a time to acknowledge the connection between faith and health, with elements of worship and hospitality afterwards highlighting this focus. Our Mount Cross Health Ministry Team - Evonne Kuchera, RN, and Jennifer Christeson, MSW - will be commissioned and blessed during worship. There will be the opportunity for individual prayers for healing with Pastor Julie.

You will have the chance to complete a Care Team survey regarding interest in future health and wellness learning opportunities. The Fellowship Team will provide healthy refreshments for all on the patio after worship, and Health Ministry team members will have resource materials available. We appreciate the support and prayers of our Mount Cross congregation in providing continued encouragement to this relatively new ministry here. Family and friends are most welcome to this service also.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Church Council, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Council meets at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

"Stories Around the Campfire" Bible
Study at St. Columba's, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Come to the labyrinth area behind St. Columba's Church for "Stories Around the Campfire," Wednesdays in August from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to discuss the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. See more information below.

Thursday, August 19, 2021

(Newsletter Deadline)

Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study meets at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Marie Callender's (185 E Daily Dr, Camarillo). If you plan to attend, please let Randy Churchill know, (805) 469-9902 or hrchurchill@verizon.net.

Announcements

Sunday Worship

The Re-Opening Committee met on August 5 to review our COVID precautions. No changes were made since the last meeting. We continue to require masks for indoor worship. Masks are optional for outdoor worship in the pavilion, but please maintain social distancing.

We also need worship assistants:

<https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep Mount Cross safe!

Help with Drive-through and Sanctuary Communion Reception

We are looking for help to make Sunday Sanctuary and Drive-through Communion possible. If you would like to help set up or as a parking lot usher, greeter, or communion assistant, please sign up at

<http://bit.ly/WorshipandCommunionAssistants>

or call the office at (805) 482-3847.

Children's Church (Sunday School)

Join us Sundays on Zoom from 9:00-9:20 a.m. for Children's Church with a fun story and gathering! Please print out your children's bulletins before the meeting.

If you need a hard copy, please message Joe at joe@mountcross.com.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Most of our programs are on summer break. Email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for details or questions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl ministry could use additional helpers to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to those in need of comfort. To give a shawl or for instructions to knit or crochet one, contact Diana Hagen (805-482-6411).

Anti-Racism Work of the Week:

These links are offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill to those who are seeking to learn from diverse voices and take action towards reconciliation and healing. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations as we learn together.

A short video for this week's work - [White Backlash Against Progress: The 3rd Reconstruction](#) Rev William Barber explains the challenges and opportunities in the 1st, 2nd, and now possibility 3rd reconstruction period (7 mins).

Vaccine Sign-up Site

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or for walk-ins.

Locations available throughout the county!

Vitalant Blood Drive

Join us **Sunday, August 29**, from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** for a blood drive at Mount Cross, benefitting Vitalant. Sign up at

<https://bit.ly/MCBloodDriveAugust29>.

There is a huge shortage of blood right now, so please consider signing up for a time and sharing the information with your friends and family!

Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship:

<http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost remains \$35.00; you are welcome to take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Sanctuary/Drive-through Communion. If you are not present but would still like flowers, please let us know and we can deliver the arrangement to a homebound member to enjoy.

More Ways to Give

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the generosity you have shown in these times of trial!

To give to Mount Cross on your cell phone or tablet, download Vanco's free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, enter zip code 93010, and choose Mount Cross. Please email any questions about giving and/or statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at jbrundage@mountcross.com.

The Executive Committee has approved a request by Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary, to email rather than mail periodic Contribution Statements to donors starting with August YTD to all those donors for whom she has email addresses and continue to mail Contribution Statements to those for whom she doesn't have email addresses and for 2021 Yearend to all donors. Please review your email addresses in the latest church directory and if you see any changes to be made, please notify Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary, at jbrundage@mountcross.com at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Amazon Smile

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on smile.amazon.com so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

St. Columba's Food Pantry

Each Sunday, we have a bin where you can bring non-perishable food for St. Columba's Project Hope food pantry. Canned vegetables or proteins are always a good choice. Thanks for your support!

Altar Guild Opportunities

Do you have an interest in the preparation of the Lord's Supper? Are you looking for a behind-the-scenes way to serve the church? Are you looking to meet new and old members of the congregation? Please consider volunteering for the Altar Guild. We are getting back to a new normal for set-up and clean-up and are looking to revitalize the Altar Guild. There will be a **training** for all by Pastor Julie on **Saturday, September 18**, at **10:00 a.m.**, on the procedures to follow. Please let Carol Broderick (805-444-2898, cell, or carolbroderick@msn.com) or Carol Browning (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847) know if you are interested in this opportunity.

Worship Guidelines

The Re-opening Committee met and has decided to stay the course for our worship.

Masks are still required for indoor worship. Although some places have chosen to make masks optional for those who are vaccinated, we, as Lutherans, love to sing and there are concerns about singing indoors and keeping people safe, which is our first priority. Because we love to sing and out of respect to those in our congregation who cannot yet be vaccinated (including children under 12), masks are required indoors for worship. Masks are optional **outside** and we offer seating in the pavilion outdoors, but we ask you to keep socially distanced from those not in your household.

Thanks for your continued cooperation in following these guidelines to help keep Mount Cross safe.

Lutheran Disaster Response

The 2021 wildfire season is devastating the western United States. A prolonged drought and extreme heat waves are causing wildfires to spread rapidly, which makes them difficult to contain. California is currently the hardest-hit state – the Dixie Fire, in Northern California, is already the second largest wildfire in the state's history, having burned over 505,000 acres. Tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders, and hundreds of buildings have been destroyed. The fires are not limited to California; more than 100 wildfires are now burning throughout 15 states. Smoke from these fires is carried across the country, a sign of the far-reaching effects of worsening wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with synods and social ministry organizations in California and other western states to develop a coordinated response to the wildfires. We anticipate that immediate needs will include food and other necessities. Long-term recovery will likely take years. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete.

Checks or money orders can be sent to: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Write "U.S. wildfires" on your check memo line.
Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or [online](#).

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Collection Begins

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is de-prioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Here's what they need:

- 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college rule (need 4 per kit)
- 30-centimeter rulers (can have inches too)
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt scissors (rounded tip, not pointed)
- unsharpened #2 pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink please, it doesn't transport well)
- boxes of crayons (16-24 size)
- rectangle erasers (the pink wedge kind)

These items are very specific and cannot have any religious symbols or messages, U.S. flags, patriotic/military symbols/armed forces/camouflage. Pay attention to the Target and Staples ads—every week they have at least one of these items for 25 cents. You will find bins in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary to sort your items, or just place the items on top of the cabinet and they will be sorted later.

If you would like the shopping done for you, please place your donation in the offering plate—making sure it is marked for LWR Kits. Melissa Henry is happy to make lots of Target and Staples runs! Last year, we assembled 197 school kits—let's see if we can break 200 this year!

August Book Study

We have **one more session** of our book study on the *NY Times* bestseller *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, on **August 26 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. via Zoom**, led by Tracy Blois, Jessica Easter, Becky Gilbertson, Tim Helton, and Pastor Julie. **Please come having read the final four chapters. RSVP to Bill Stoll at billstoll50@gmail.com. Zoom Link:**

<http://bit.ly/JustMercyMC21> Meeting ID: 849 0965 9726 /Passcode: 069721/Dial in by phone, 1 408 638 0968. For more information contact Pastor Julie (pastorjulie@mountcross.com) or Bill Stoll (billstoll50@gmail.com).

“Stories Around the Campfire” Bible Study at St. Columba’s

St. Columba’s Episcopal Church (1251 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo) invites Mount Cross to come to the labyrinth area behind the church, for our “Stories Around the Campfire” sessions on the Wednesdays in August (4, 11, 18, 25) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. **Bring a folding chair, your favorite beverage** (adult beverages permitted), and **join us** as we discuss the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.

Save the Date - Sunday, August 29, 2:00 p.m.

Mount Cross’ Music Ministry, in conjunction with our Classical Concert Series, is pleased to present an **afternoon program of flute and piano music on Sunday, August 29, at 2:00 p.m.**, featuring our own Mount Cross talented musicians. There is no charge but you may contribute to a freewill offering to support Classical Concert Series programming at Mount Cross, if you’d like.

The program will be in the sanctuary, with the doors open, and the flutists will play behind plexiglass shields. Since we will be indoors, mask usage will follow the Ventura County guidelines at the time. There will be a simple reception (punch & cookies, etc.) after the concert. **If you’d like to help coordinate or contribute to the reception, please contact Joan**

Brundage (jbrundage@mountcross.com) or Carol Browning (office@mountcross.com). Thanks to Joan Brundage and Barbara Cranfill from the Classical Concert Series for their support!

ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!

*Music to
Your Ears*

A program of flute solos
and duets with piano

featuring
*Justin Thai and Kate Fisher, flutes
and
Guy Ervin III, piano*

Sunday, August 29, 2021
2:00 p.m.
No charge (freewill offering)

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
102 Camino Esplendido
Camarillo, CA 93010
805-482-3847 / office@mountcross.com
www.mountcross.com