

The Grapevine



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

No. 361

August 2022

Summer with CYFM!

Updates from our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Joe Zimmerly:

Recently our kids went to the Luther Glen Farm for summer camp. Our journey was full of many twists and turns, starting off with a complete switch of camp sites one day prior to when we would leave for camp because of facility repairs needing to be made. Even our van broke down. Yes, the famous church van. After getting to camp, I was so worried that the kids wouldn't have a great time. That is always my biggest worry, but no changes phased our kids. They rolled with them and it seemed as if everything was normal. After a great week and after being home for a few days, I learned that one of our kids who attended camp for the first time told their parents that they wished they were back at camp. Even though I can't tell that our kids are having a good time or bad time, it makes me happy each time I hear that they love camp. Camp, no matter where it is, has a special place in many people's hearts. It even is where we have our best memories. For me, it is one of the most formative places I have ever been part of, and for that, I will always be grateful. Camp changes kids' lives and gives them memories that will last a lifetime. This is where ministry starts and continues for many people, and I am thankful that Mount Cross is supportive in sending kids to camp, making it possible for them to attend.

Mount Cross has been a staple in the community for quite some time. People all around Camarillo and even across Ventura County seem to have an image of Mount Cross, always in a positive light. Whether they live close or far, people know that Mount Cross cares. Recently, we had someone who had never heard of us receive that heartfelt touch from those in our congregation. We had the fortunate gift of hosting a local youth who needed to complete some community service hours. This youth had never heard of Mount Cross, but lived nearby and knew of our church as "the church with the cross." After being very persistent, he was able to touch base with Carol, Pastor Julie, Amy Vega, and myself to complete his service hours. Over the space of a couple of weeks, he completed his hours and even did more than what was expected. This story isn't being shared because we want people to know that we host community servers. It is told because this kid felt loved and supported here. He's stopped by a few times since then and is no stranger to us. Not only did the youth learn from this experience, but so did Mount Cross and our staff. We want to be a welcoming place to all who walk into, by, and through our campus. Mount Cross cares, and this is one example of how we can be caring to kids in our community.



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

- † This month, we will meet **August 16 at 9:00 a.m.** at Camarillo Grove Park (6968 E. Camarillo Springs Rd.) for a gentle hike and Bible study. Children, strollers, and dogs are welcome. Email pastorjulie@mountcross.com for more information.

Bible Study Resource

- † To study the Bible on your own or with a group that you gather at home, go to elca.org/resources/bible-studies. (We are in Year C—Time after Pentecost.)

1st and 3rd Thursdays Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

- † We will meet **August 4** and **August 18 at Marie Callender's**.
- † 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.

All are welcome to join a **Women of the ELCA Gather Bible Study** on Zoom (the 4th Monday of the month) - **August 22, 6:30 p.m.** Pacific Time (US and Canada) / Zoom: <https://bit.ly/ELCAGatherBibleStudy>, Meeting ID: 881 8617 7960 / Passcode: 882551

Afternoon Chapel

The Holy Spirit has descended upon us, and we are filled and equipped to carry forth the teachings of Jesus.

Join us for **Afternoon Chapel** on Thursday, August 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the Mount Cross Sanctuary.

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 Christian fellowship.



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!

SAVE THE DATE!

Worship in the Park & Church Picnic
Sunday, September 18 at 9:30 am

Join Us for Park Worship!
In the covered picnic area at Bob Kildee Park
(1030 Temple Ave. in Camarillo)

Bring your most comfortable lawn chairs (some folding chairs will be provided). We will have sandwich sack lunches available. We encourage those who enjoy a more elaborate picnic or who have special dietary requirements to bring your own.

We will all eat together after worshipping together and then enjoy games and fellowship. Invite your families, neighbors, and friends!

Sign-up online at <https://bit.ly/MCPicnic> or at church on Sundays or call or email the church office at (805) 482-3847 or office@mountcross.com.



Care Team

HEALTH MINISTRY EDUCATION SERIES - PLANNING FOR END-OF-LIFE ISSUES

Sunday, September 11, at 1:00 p.m. - Final Session
DECISIONS & DOCUMENTS

Have you given adequate thought to important matters that may affect decisions that need to be made upon your death or if you should become temporarily or permanently incapacitated? There are ways that you can make many decisions in advance and other ways to share your values, beliefs, and preferences. Knowledgeable presenters will share ways to organize your thinking, aid in decision-making and document decisions and preferences. There will be plenty of time for questions from those attending.

All are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. There is no target age or gender! Refreshments and takeaways provided.

If you have questions contact Mount Cross Care Team members Evonne Kuchera, evonnemk@aol.com, or Susan Prosser, prosser1@sbcglobal.net, for more information.

Mark your Calendar for Upcoming Health Ministry Events:

Sunday, August 21 - 2nd Annual Health and Healing Sunday

Sunday, October 2 - Mental Health Forum at Mount Cross

Alene Campbell-Langdell, Episcopal priest and social worker, presenter
Watch for more details.

Health Ministry Tips on SUMMER SUN SAFETY

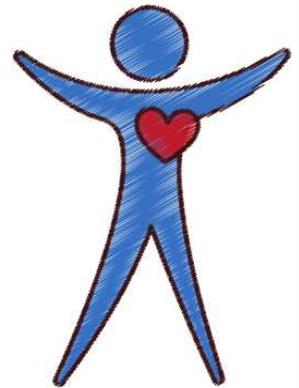
UV rays are stronger during spring and summer months so take precautions to protect yourself from skin and eye damage caused by excessive exposure. If outdoors, seek shade, especially between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., when the sun's glare is most intense. If you are going to be in the sun, the American Cancer Society recommends you "Slip, Slop, Slap, and Wrap":

- ◆ Slip on a shirt. Remember clothing with darker and more vivid colors will absorb more UV rays than white or pastels.
- ◆ Slop on broad-spectrum sunscreen with a protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
- ◆ Slap on a hat, preferably one that is wide-brimmed.
- ◆ Wrap by wearing wrap-around sunglasses to protect your eyes and the skin around them.

By taking the right precautions, you can enjoy the outdoors safely.

New Mount Cross CARE BAGS Are Now Being Delivered

Five of the **Care Bags** specifically packaged for persons receiving medical treatment and/or in the process of a lengthy healing period have been recently delivered during pastoral visits. The items included in these bags were selected to enhance personal comfort and serve as a token of caring from Mount Cross. Recipient feedback has been very positive. Ten bags were made for the original test. Once most have been distributed, more will be assembled. The bags are suitable for use in hospitals, care facilities, and at home. For more information, you can contact Karen Diehl at karendielh16@aol.com.



Service & Missions

Lutheran World Relief School Kit Collection

Want to make a difference in the life of a child? Help them attend school and get an education! It sounds complicated, but in some countries, school is only open to students who can bring their own basic supplies ... so let's provide those. The list is simple, but the benefits are many.

Here's what they need:

- † 70-sheet notebook, wide or college rule (need 4 per kit)
- † blunt scissors (rounded tip, not pointed)
- † unsharpened #2 pencils
- † black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink, please)
- † 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 Target and Staples ads - every week they have some of these items on special for under \$1. You may bring your items to church anytime in August and September. Melissa Henry is again willing to serve as personal shopper, so an alternative is to give a donation marked "LWR Backpacks," and she will happily find the best deals to stretch our dollars. We have a goal of 125 backpacks filled this year, so please help us complete it.



Lutheran
World
Relief

“Our Christian life is not just a question of finding a way of getting through our lives. Every word of the New Testament suggests to us that it is of supreme importance that we live our lives in a state of continuous expansion, expansion of heart and expansion of Spirit, growing in love and becoming more firmly rooted in God.”
- from Moment of Christ
by John Main

Lutheran World Relief Schoolbags

Mount Cross got a bunch of fabric donated - so we'll be looking for volunteers to sew drawstring backpacks this month, in preparation for filling them with school supplies in August and the fall. Each bag contains the pieces for 5 simple drawstring bags - essentially a square bag with casing at the top and tabs at the bottom. Directions are included - and it is usually possible to complete the sewing for all 5 bags in under an hour. Look for the basket in the back of the sanctuary to sign one out. We are also ready to start stringing rope into the sewn backpacks. Cutting rope or tying knots are easy skills to share - look for the table on the patio to help out with this portion! If you have any questions, ask Melissa Henry.

Peace & Justice

The Peace and Justice Team will meet on **Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom. The Zoom link is bit.ly/MCPeaceandJustice.



Harbor House Save the Date

October 1 will be a fantastic concert and fundraiser for Harbor House. Mark your calendar now for a fun evening of music and support their mission to reduce homelessness in Ventura

County. They are also looking for auction items for their silent auction. If you have something to contribute, please contact Melissa Henry.

Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive is **August 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Vitalant will have the bus in the parking lot to facilitate donations. If you aren't available on August 7, visit www.vitalant.org and click the donate button to find a location near you.



CRITICAL BLOOD SHORTAGE
BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Amazon Smile

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

**Church Work Day**

All hands on deck! Mark your calendars for our next church work day this summer, scheduled for **Saturday, August 27**, from **8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**. Come for any part of the morning; no need to sign up in advance. No time is too short, and no job is too small! We welcome and appreciate your help.

Projects include: weeding hillsides and around the property, pruning, sanding/ painting exterior door on sacristy, cleaning Parish Life Center, sanctuary, and kitchen areas, as needed. There is a lot to do and many hands make light work! Please bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, pickaxes/mattocks, loppers, shears, and work gloves. *Donuts and coffee will be provided!*

If you have any questions, stop by the table on the patio after worship the week before the work day or contact Cy Johnson at 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.

Connect with Us!

Do you have a YouTube or Facebook account? We'd love to get connected! Make sure to follow **Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo, CA** on Facebook or subscribe on YouTube to stay updated on all the latest worship recordings and Mount Cross news.

**Altar Flower Price Increase**

Effective August 1, the price for altar flowers increases to \$40 per arrangement. To sign up to donate altar flowers, please visit mountcross.com and click on the green tab that says "Serve With Us."

**Wonderful News from the Mount Cross Council!**

As you may or may not remember, at the time that Mount Cross issued its call to Pastor Julie—August 1, 2019—we were limited by the Bishops of the ELCA synod and the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese to a three-year contract. One of the terms of the contract was that, prior to the end of that contract, a meeting would occur between a representative of the Mount Cross Council, Pastor Julie, and the Bishops to determine if there was agreement for the call to continue.

Council President, Becky Riley, was authorized to participate in that meeting with the full authority of the Council. We are extremely happy to report that we, Pastor Julie, and the Bishops agreed that the call can go forward as a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, pursuant to the provision C9:05 of the ELCA Model Constitution, no longer under the arrangement of a term.

To say that there was a great deal of happiness and enthusiasm from all involved in that meeting would be an understatement. We are so very blessed that Pastor Julie is happy to continue with us. The Bishops are in agreement that the "experiment" has been a success and that we are in God's hands as we go forward to explore more opportunities for growth.

Notes 'n' News

Generosity Is Year-Round

Be Biblical. Let God do the talking.

“...freely you have received, freely you give...”
Matthew 10:8

The Endowment Committee, comprised of elected committee members, holds fiduciary responsibility for the administration of the Mount Cross Endowment Fund, Memorial Gifts, and other gifts. The purpose of the Mount Cross Endowment Fund, which was first established in 2003, is to enhance the mission of Mount Cross Lutheran Church apart from the general operation of the congregation. It is the desire of Mount Cross to encourage, receive, and administer gifts in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion to our Lord, expressed by donors, and in accordance with the policies of this congregation.

The Endowment Fund and Endowment Committee is governed by a detailed section of our Mount Cross by-laws and seeks to provide a perpetual source of income to benefit five current categories (not in order of importance):

- † Missions: local, regional and world projects.
- † Education: college and seminary scholarships.
- † Children and Young Adult Ministry.
- † Worship and Music: support for the worship life of Mount Cross.
- † Capital Projects: major renovations and building of new facilities.

Ministries of Mount Cross which have received Endowment distributions include College Scholarships, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, LRCC (Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences), camp scholarships, shipping costs for personal relief kits and school backpacks with Lutheran World Relief, and many other ministries over the years.

Mount Cross Music Ministry Notes

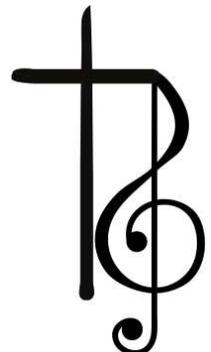
This summer has been fun but also a bit of a challenge. Our wonderful accompanist, Guy Ervin III, has been dealing with some medical issues, both himself and with his family, so we're making do without him for the time being. We certainly miss his wonderful musicianship and his humor! A big thank-you to Miriam Hoffmann who has added organ on some Sundays. It was so good to have Jessie Masek and her beautiful finger-picking guitar back, along with Jerry Warren. Because it's summer, Ben Fisher is home from college and has added his electric guitar a couple of times. I hope you've been enjoying the special music that our song leaders have shared – Dan Nelson, Evonne Kuchera, Arlene Kochans, Becky Riley, Gayle Johnson, Barbara Recker, Melissa Henry, and Miriam Hoffmann. We also had a visit from some friends of mine from Arizona, Mark and Carol Mellis, and are grateful for their sharing their gifts of music!

This month, we have more special music with Jennifer Moraga offering her talents on trumpet – how wonderful! I will be out of town at the end of August but am confident that our music ministry folks will continue leading our congregation in song while I'm away.

I hope you had a chance to hear Melissa Sobolik with the Camarillo Community Band in their Thursday night concerts in the park. The group rehearsed on Wednesday nights for July so with Melissa and Guy both out, we've relied on lots of subs for our bell rehearsals. Thanks to Elliott Ripley (also known as Abigail's dad) and Fr. Greg Larkin, along with friends from St. Mary Magdalen, for filling in!

The COVID numbers have been rising – I pray that you all stay healthy! And stay hydrated with the heat we've had! May the rest of your summer be blessed!

In Christ,
Carol Browning, Music Director



Upcoming Meetings

Service & Missions Committee:

Mon., August 1, 6:00 p.m.

Learning Committee:

Mon., August 1, 7:00 p.m.

Peace & Justice Team:

Tues., August 2, 7:00p.m.

Executive Committee:

Thurs., August 4, 7:00 p.m.

Property Committee:

Thurs., August 4, 7:00 p.m.

Afternoon Chapel Committee:

Fri., August 5, 2:00 p.m.

Care Team:

Thurs., August 11, 2:00 p.m.

Quilters:

Thurs., August 11 & 25, 2:00 p.m.

CDC Board Meeting:

Mon., August 15, 7:30 p.m.

Church Council:

Tues., August 16, 7:00 p.m.

Worship & Music Committee:

Wed., August 17, 1:15 p.m.

Afternoon Chapel:

Thurs., August 18, 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship Committee:

Tues., August 23, 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 office@mountcross.com.

We pray for Tonna Brodie (friends of Becky Riley), **Barbara Burke, Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Niki Carmichael** (friend of Melissa Henry), **Marion Cole, Guy Ervin III, Doria and Vladimir Fanning** (sister and brother-in-law of Barbara Burke), **Johnathan Hammersley** (great-nephew of Marni Engh), **Kelli Hernandez, Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Betty Hough, Nancy Jaeger, the family of Eunice Krieger** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Joyce Larisey** (mother of Val Starkgraf), **Tyler Law** (great-nephew of Sandy Fox), **Paul Marigonda** (friend of Becky Riley), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Lucille Miley, Tom Morelli** (stepdad of Tracy Blois), **Karen Nelson, Ellie Ranson** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Maria Riley** (daughter-in-law of Becky Riley), **Norb and Marilyn Rud** (friends of Scott Fajnor), **Byron Selbrede** (brother of Keith Selbrede), **Amar Shaw** (nephew of Gordon and Melissa Henry), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris Truchan** (friend of the Burke family), **Mike Valen** (brother-in-law of Bill and Nancy Rowley), **Chris Valenzano** (grandson of Herb & Jo Holler, on active military deployment), **the family of the Rev. Howard Wennes, Jessica Willis** (sister-in-law of Carol Broderick), **Cheryl Wolfe**.

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.

Update from the Child Development Center

Hello Everyone,

The Child Development Center had a successful summer school. The children were able to sell Lemonade at their Lemonade Stand. We had terrific support from their families. All donations from the Lemonade Stand went towards our Science Center.

Our theme this summer was "How Does your Garden Grow" and "Petting Zoo." To go along with our themes, we had visitors. Ms. Shanti, from The Abundant Table, came out and spoke to the children about where fruits and vegetables come from and what makes them grow. The children were able to taste the fruits and vegetables and make a salad for snack. To end our summer school, we had Tawnies Ponies and Petting Zoo. The children were able to feed the animals and take a pony ride.

We look forward to the new school year. Dates to Remember: Parent Orientation, August 25; Meet and Greet, September 1; First Day of School for Tuesday/Thursday children, September 6, and September 7 for Monday/Wednesday/Friday children.

Thank you, everyone, for your support through my first year at Mount Cross. I look forward to the new school year.

Warmly,
Amy Vega



Important Mental Health Info

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This dialing code is available to everyone across the United States as of July 16, 2022. Learn more at 988lifeline.org/current-events/the-lifeline-and-988. To find helpful tips for self-care, guidance on how to build healthy habits, how to honor feelings of anxiety and fear, and information on where to turn when it feels overwhelming, visit wellnesseveryday.org.

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The next newsletter deadline is Thursday, August 18, 2022
Please send all articles to carina@mountcross.com.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

- 2 Tabitha Ebright
- Kaitlyn Laskey
- 3 Katelyn Kienitz
- 4 Kelsea Bergh
- Roberta Bergman
- Kevin O'Farrell
- 6 Guy Ervin III
- Brendan Garrett Jr.
- Kay Koupal
- Cora Mathis
- Nanette Phipps
- Susan Storer
- 7 Mia Fernandez
- Joe McCormick
- 8 Steven Eckman
- 9 Barbara Cranfill
- 10 Robert Burrow
- Victoria Hatfield
- 12 Brianna Davis
- Daphne Lewis
- Brandon Priest
- 14 Judith Geary
- 15 Stuart Burke
- Eric Rueckert
- Jaymie Scott
- 16 Rebecca Gilbertson
- 17 Rachel Schneider
- 18 Cy Johnson
- 20 Mona Neuhaus
- 21 Allison Kenz
- Cecelia Travick-Jackson

- 22 Thomas Carr
- 23 Nathan Griffis
- Craig Scott
- 24 Eric Bergh
- 25 Douglas Wilde
- 26 Lily Friederichs
- 27 Brendan Garrett
- Emma Griffis
- 30 Laura Brickley
- Makenna Carpenter
- Luanne Crockett
- Kevin Fickenscher
- Lisa Saner
- 31 Susan Prosser
- James Purcer

Happy Anniversary to...

- 2 Craig & Ann Abernathy
- 13 Monica & Jesus Duran
- 14 Stacy & Alex Mathis
- 15 Jennifer & Eric Christeson
- Todd & Holly Ebright
- Brendan & Jennifer Garrett
- Karen & Jim Gramacki
- Scott & Rosanne Stevens
- 17 Karen & Dan Nelson
- 22 Nancy & Gary Wikholm
- 25 Paul & Luanne Crockett
- 28 Kim & Gary Schmeichel
- 31 Terri & Bob Boyer

Happy Anniversary of Baptism to...

- 1 Mona Neuhaus
- Robert Boyer
- Kelly Bouchard
- 5 Tyler Michel
- 6 Ryan Broderick
- 7 Lorraine Johnson
- Madeline Bouchard
- 8 Grace Churchill
- 11 Zachary Schneider
- 15 Stuart Burke
- 16 Samantha Mathis
- 18 Steven Eckman
- Peter Johnson
- Emily Valencia
- 22 Holly Ebright
- Olivia Garman
- 23 Reagan Burke
- 24 Jeffrey Saner
- Marli Saner
- Ivan Tolley
- 25 Hannah Hall
- 27 Taylor Crawford
- Emma Griffis

