"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22–23).

October 18, 2026

Dear Mount Cross Community,

As you may have read in the October newsletter, I had the opportunity to share my faith story as part of last month's "Faith Journeys" program with our sister congregations, St. Columba's Episcopal Church and Camarillo United Methodist Church. Every time I tell it, I notice something new about God's presence and provisions in my life. This time, I became especially aware of how much the Church has truly mattered and continues to matter to me. Many congregations, and many people within those congregations, have been the places and faces through which God's grace has reached me. I give thanks to God for the many expressions of the Church that I have experienced, and today I am abundantly grateful for you and our life together at Mount Cross Lutheran Church.

This month, as we celebrate Mount Cross' 60th anniversary, I have been reflecting on the stories you have shared with me about how much Mount Cross matters to you. More times than I can count, I have heard, "I don't know what I would do without my Mount Cross family" or "I don't know how people make it through challenging times without a church community." Mount Cross is where you hear the Word of God and gather at the Lord's Table, where you meet faithful people from backgrounds and generations other than your own, and where you find ways to serve and grow as disciples of Jesus. I have seen that Mount Cross is the place you turn to for support, connection, and friendship. Mount Cross is where you want your children and grandchildren to encounter Christ and begin their own faith journeys; it is where you give thanks for and remember your loved ones who have died; and it is the community you trust to pray for you and those you care about when life hurts. It is especially moving to me when you share that you are proud of this congregation because of our commitment to inclusion. As someone said recently, "At Mount Cross, our arms are wide open to everyone, just like Jesus."

Because Mount Cross matters so much to so many of us, we cannot take it for granted. Those who came before us gave so that Mount Cross would be here for us, and our generosity now will help ensure it is here for the generations to come. God provides for our congregation and our ministries through each of us offering what we can of our time, our talents, and our resources. I ask you to prayerfully consider what you can share with Mount Cross in the coming year. **Please return your Pledge/Estimated Giving Card and Time and Talent Form by Sunday, November 15, so our Church Council can prepare a faithful budget for 2027.**

Thank you for every dollar, every hour, and every gift of yourself that you offer to Mount Cross.
God bless you!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Julie Morris ✝