



Rooted in God's grace, we joyfully witness and serve.

Core Values

*Intimacy With God
Inspiring Worship
Intentional Faith Development
Compassionate Outreach
Caring Community*

Draft Church Council Meeting Minutes
03/17/2026

2025 Elected Church Council Members	Executive Committee	Voting Representatives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ken Riley (President) 2. Tracy Blois (Vice President) 3. Amanda Honda (Secretary) 4. Jim Prosser (Treasurer) 5. Vicky Edell 6. Ralph Midtyling 7. Tom Neuhaus 8. Maria McDonell 9. Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff 10. Gayle Johnson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Riley (President) • Tracy Blois (Vice President) • Amanda Honda (Secretary) • Jim Prosser (Treasurer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Moraga (CDC Liaison) • Marli Saner (youth rep)* • Miera Stouch (youth rep)*

*1 vote between both youth representatives

Call to Order

The meeting was held via In-Person with Zoom Option. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Ken Riley.

Council Members Present

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ken Riley (President) 2. Tracy Blois (Vice President) 3. Amanda Honda (Secretary) 4. Jim Prosser (Treasurer) 5. Vicky Edell | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Ralph Midtyling 7. Maria McDonell (via phone) 8. Tom Neuhaus 9. Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff 10. Gayle Johnson |
|--|---|

Voting Representatives Present

1. Henry Moraga

Staff Members Present

1. Pastor Julie Morris

Devotion: Led by Marli Saner and Miera Stouch

Determination of Quorum

(C12.06) majority of members of the council-majority is defined as one over one-half (5).

- Number of council members present: 9



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- Number of voting representatives present: 2
- Number of council members and voting representatives present: 11 of 13

Caring Conversation: What phrase from the Leadership Covenant is meaningful to you?

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Henry Moraga: *"to approve the minutes from the February meeting"*

- Second by Gayle Johnson
- The minutes are approved via a hand vote, none opposed.

Acceptance of Staff and Committee Reports

Motion by Jim Prosser *"to approve John Lu, David Dupuis and Lynn Osslund to the Audit Committee"*

- Second by Tom Neuhaus
- Motion approved via a hand vote, none opposed

Motion by Henry Moraga *"to accept the Staff and Committee Reports for March"*

- Second by Tom Neuhaus
- The Staff and Committee Reports are accepted via a hand vote, none opposed

Action: Call for Pastor Marc

Motion by Jim Prosser *"to approve the final call and job description for Pastor Marc Mohr"*

- Second by Gayle Johnson
- The motion is accepted via a hand vote, none opposed

Discussion Item: Use of Parking Lot for Events

- Pros and cons presented by Jim Prosser and Tom Neuhaus
- Discussion and review of Terms and Conditions for Use of Parking Lot

Motion from Henry Moraga *"to deny use of Parking Lot for further events from Colony Venue other than the 2 events already scheduled"*

- Second from Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff
- The motion is accepted via hand-vote, none opposed



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- Gayle suggests that each facility request comes through Council

Motion from Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff *“that all new third party use of the Property goes through Church Council moving forward”*

- Second from Gayle Johnson
- The motion is accepted via hand-vote, none opposed

- Jim tasked with adjusting Terms and Conditions for future events

Action: To Approve New Member

Motion by Henry Moraga *“to approve Tom Laquidara as a member at Mount Cross Lutheran Church”*

- Second by Tracy Blois
- The motion is approved via hand-vote, none opposed

Information: Update on Audit Committee

- Covered in Treasurer's Report

Information: Outdoor Space Update

Motion by Tracy Blois *“To authorize Executive Committee to spend up to \$1500 for a visual plan for the Outdoor Space Redesign to come from account 35366 Playground Improvements”*

- Second by Maria McDonell
- The motion is approved via hand-vote, none opposed

Information: Pastor Julie's Vacation

- Discussion about the dates April 17 - May 15 - additional details provided in Pastor's Report below

Information: 60th Anniversary Planning

- Update about the Sandwich Program for the Sandwich Generation
- Workshop for Community Members Supporting Trans Youth



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- Make, Bake, Celebrate with Celebration of 60th Anniversary
- Special Church Service following MBC

Information: Update on Generosity Program

- Gayle requests assistance for Generosity Committee

Information: Next Meeting Date on April 21st at 7pm via Zoom only

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Henry Moraga *“to adjourn meeting”*

- Second by Tom Neuhaus
- The motion passed unanimously by hand count, none opposed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38pm

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Pastor's Report- Julie Morris

Lent at Mount Cross is off to a strong start, with Wednesday Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer both drawing good attendance. Various ministries, along with helpful individuals, have sponsored the soups, along with set-up and clean-up. People appreciate the creation care messages at Evening Prayer. Thank you to Carol Browning and all our musicians, and to our speakers – Christie Johnson (2/25), Gordon and Melissa Henry (3/4), Jim Dinges (3/11), Rachel Zook-Brimer (3/18), and Dave Gilbertson (3/25)! Offerings to the Ventura Land Trust have been generous. About 12 people have been attending the Creation Care course after worship on Sundays. Rather than conclude on March 22, we will skip that Sunday so people can attend the informational meeting about calling Pastor Marc. Instead, “Calling a Wounded Earth Home” will conclude with a brief wrap-up after the Special Congregational Meeting on March 29. Sunday Sermons in Lent so far: “From Careless to Careful” (2/22), “Unsettled” (3/1), and “Sister Water” (3/8). Thank you to Pastor Ralph for preaching and presiding on 3/15!

Pastoral Care: In addition to many pastoral visits, calls, emails, and texts, I am working with two couples preparing for marriage. I typically meet with each couple 4 times – 3 sessions focus on the Prepare and Enrich pre-marital counseling program and 1 session focuses on ceremony planning. I officiated at the funeral of Nancy Kent-Barber (Kathleen Jones' mother-in-law) at Conejo Mountain Cemetery on Saturday, February 28, and I am working with Jean Scott to plan Alan Scott's memorial service on Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. at Mount



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Cross. Thank you to all in our congregation who pray for and reach out to people who are struggling in any way.

Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. Please plan to attend the Great Three Days services with the Three Congregations and then celebrate Easter grandly with Mount Cross on April 5 at 9:30 a.m. Postcards with our Holy Week and Easter Schedule, see below, will be mailed to all who normally receive our newsletter. Thank you to Carina McVeigh for the design.

<h1>Holy Week & Easter 2026</h1>		
Palm Sunday March 29, 9:30 a.m. Mount Cross Lutheran Church (102 Camino Esplendido)	Good Friday April 3, 7:00 p.m. Camarillo United Methodist Church <i>Alternative Service Time:</i> 2:00 p.m. at St. Columba's Episcopal Church	
We will join as Three Congregations for the Great Three Days		
Maundy Thursday April 2, 7:00 p.m. St. Columba's Episcopal Church (1251 Las Posas Road) <i>Alternative Service Time:</i> 2:00 p.m. at Mount Cross Lutheran Church	Easter Vigil April 4, 7:00 p.m. Mount Cross Lutheran Church	
Good Friday Children's Service April 3, 4:30 p.m. Mount Cross Lutheran Church		Alleluia! He is Risen! Easter Sunday April 5, 9:30 a.m. Mount Cross Lutheran Church Easter Breakfast before and after worship Children's Easter Egg Hunt! Don't forget to bring a flower to add to the cross!
Good Friday Cross Procession April 3, 5:00 p.m. Begin at Mount Cross. Together, we will walk 2 miles to Camarillo United Methodist Church (291 Anacapa Drive).		

Studies I've facilitated this month: Creation Care on 2/22, 3/1, and 3/8; Women's Bible Study on 2/24, 3/3, and 3/10; Rooted on 2/25, 3/4, and 3/11; and Men's Bible Study on 3/5.

Meetings I've attended this month: The Colony Estate regarding parking lot (3/4); Three Congregations (3/5); CDC (3/10); and Executive Committee (3/12).

Webinars: On Feb. 26, I attended a 90-minute "Intergenerational Small Groups" webinar from GenOn Ministries. Deacon Cecelia and Melissa Henry also attended this. We are hoping to experiment with intergenerational small group experiences on occasional Wednesday evenings, combining Fun with Faith and Rooted, and inviting all who may be interested. On March 12, I attended an hour-long webinar "What is Full Communion?" presented by the Ecumenical and Interreligious Office of the Episcopal Church.



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Out in the Community: The Crop Walk on 3/8 was great fun with other Mount Cross members and several Camarillo churches. Early reports suggest about \$30,000 was raised to respond to local and global hunger.

Looking Ahead: PLEASE save the date for our All-Church Leadership Retreat 11 a.m – 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 31st. This was re-scheduled from early February.

Time Away: I will be away April 17–May 15, including 4 Sundays. 2 weeks will be vacation, 1 week will be continuing education (“Stepping Up to Supervision” from Luther Seminary’s Faith+Lead Program; and a preaching course from Backstory Preaching, both online), and 1 week will be remote work. Pastor Marc will preach and preside on 4/19 and 5/3; Pastor Ralph will cover 4/26 and 5/10. Because he is the only other exempt employee, Pastor Marc’s cell phone number will be on my office voice mail to call in the case of pastoral emergencies. He will have the numbers of Deacon Cecelia, Pastor Ralph, Rev. Susan, Fr. Michael, and Pastor Elbert to call, if needed, as well as our Care Team and Health Ministry Nurse. I will attend the Zoom Council meeting on 4/21, Staff meeting on 5/5, Executive Committee on 5/7, and will be in touch with staff and the Executive Committee as needed.

Thank you, Church Council, for your faithful and generous service! God bless you and your families.

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Treasurer’s Report - Jim Prosser

Balance Sheet. The following is a snapshot of the financial position of Mount Cross Lutheran Church as shown in the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2026.

Assets

- Total assets amount to approximately \$2.36 million, up from approximately \$2.33 million as of January 31, primarily composed of fixed assets (about \$1.08 million) and cash assets (around \$1.27 million).
- Cash assets include various bank accounts, such as checking, money market, endowment, and investment funds.
- Fixed assets encompass land, structures, equipment, and furnishings, totaling just over \$1 million.

Liabilities and Equity

- Total liabilities are approximately \$203,369, mainly long-term mortgage debt (\$172,863)..



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- Current liabilities total about \$30,506 and consist of accounts payable and small amounts owed for payroll taxes and credit cards.
- Total equity remains constant at roughly \$2.15 million, including opening balances, unrealized gains/losses, and various restricted and unrestricted funds.
- Restricted funds include perpetual funds for property, mission, and social action, as well as numerous temporary restricted funds supporting specific programs, projects and ministries.
- The Endowment funds remains unchanged at over \$675,000, including unrealized gains.
- The net assets reflect a healthy financial position, with net income of approximately \$67,710.
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Budget vs Actuals Report. The following is a summary of the Budget vs Actuals report for February 2026, detailing income, expenses and net operating income, highlighting variances and overall financial health.

Income Overview

- Total income exceeded projections significantly, with actual income at approximately \$61,878 compared to a budget of \$41,115. This compares favorably versus the shortfall of \$6,247.91 in January. **But this was largely due to the receipt this month of some members full annual pledge.**
- Operating income was notably higher, for the same reason. Miscellaneous Income fell short for the second month in a row at 47% of budget.

Expenses Overview

- Total Expenses were under budget about \$3,183, coming in at \$51,311 versus budgeted of \$54,494. This compares to January's performance of \$6645 under budget.
- Total Salaries and Benefits came in at \$30,458, \$1,756 under budget. This is about the same as January where total salaries were \$30,706, \$1508 under budget.
- Operational expenses, including utilities, property maintenance, and outside services, were generally below budget. Some of this is due to the how utilities companies bill (i.e. there was no electric bill for February, it comes in early March).
- Insurance costs were substantially higher than budgeted due to the payment of our Worker's Compensation Policy premium for the year.



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Net Results

- The church achieved a positive net operating income of approximately \$10,567. Factoring in the use of Dedicated Funds we had a total net profit of approximately \$12,909.

Conclusion

The expectation is that giving will go up in the months of March and April (Easter). But we all need to encourage general giving by members, guests and friends.

Copies of the Balance Sheet and the Budget vs Actuals Reports were forwarded to council members under separate cover.

Not included in the budget, Service and Missions raised over \$633 which was contributed to the "Souper Bowl" project.

Progress on the Audit Committee

John Lu, David Dupuis and Lynn Osslund have each agreed to serve on the audit committee. **ACTION ITEM: Motion to appoint John Lu, David Dupuis and Lynn Osslund to the Audit Committee.**

New Credit Cards for Staff

There has been general discontent with the provider of our current credit cards for staff. We have made application for new cards through Citizens Business Back and should know within the next 10 days whether the application is approved.