



Pastor's Report for March 2026 Council Meeting
Feb. 25 – March 14, 2026

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!

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.

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| <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). | | |

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

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.

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.