

Pastor's Report for the November 2022 Church Council Meeting October 19-November 22

Since the last Council meeting, we have commended our beloved church member, Marion Cole, to the arms of God, celebrated Reformation Sunday, honored all the saints and all Mount Cross members who have died this past year, and welcomed new members through Holy Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism, and transfer of membership. My ministry this month has centered around pastoral care and preparation for these services, as well as regular Sunday worship, ongoing faith formation programs, and administrative work.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches on Thursday, I give thanks to God for the collaborative and generous spirit that permeates the Mount Cross staff, Council, and general membership. The energy and joy at Mount Cross are noticed by newcomers. One frequent visitor to our Sunday worship recently said to me, "It feels like Easter here every Sunday." That is good news, as every Sunday is meant to be a "little Easter."

Other Notes:

- I completed most of my role on a committee working to develop regulations for licensing Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Los Angeles. I continue to work with the planning team for a day-long discernment gathering in the spring.
- I attended Ventura County Interfaith's annual "Feast of Faiths" on October 23 and offered the prayer before the meal.
- Joe Zimmerly and I continue to alternate leading Preschool chapel services. The theme for October was "God Creates.". The theme for November is "God Provides."
- It was a privilege to welcome Pastor Abel Arroyo Traverso, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation for the Southwest California Synod, as our guest preacher on Reformation Sunday.
- I was away Nov. 7-14 and grateful to all those who filled in for me in various capacities. Pastor John Santoro preached and presided at Sunday worship on Nov. 13. Pastors Lynn Enloe, Bill Knutson, and Kate Lewis were graciously on-call for pastoral emergencies but, thankfully, were not needed.

Advent begins on Sunday. I hope members of the Church Council will be able to participate in as many of our seasonal offerings as possible.

- Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. for the 4 Sundays of Advent Nov. 27, December 4, 11, 18
- Sunday, November 27, 11:00 a.m. - Advent Wreath Making and Potluck at Mt. Cross with St. Columba's
- December 3, 8:30 a.m.-Noon - Work Day to spruce up the property for the season
- Sunday, December 4, 2:00 p.m. - Viewing the Film *Emanuel* at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks. Carpool leaves Mount Cross at 1:15 p.m.
- December 11, 4:00 p.m. - Advent/Christmas Program for all ages, featuring our Youth and Music Ministry
- Sunday, December 18, after worship - Make sandwiches for Harbor House and trim the Mount Cross Christmas Tree
- Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve service with Carols, Candles, and Communion

- Sunday, December 25, 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Sunday Worship
- Sunday, January 1, 9:30 a.m. - Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion
- Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Star Service followed by a Dessert Potluck

I will be away December 26-January 4. The Rev. Kate Lewis, an Episcopal Priest and Director of Chaplain Services at St. John's hospitals in Oxnard and Camarillo, will preside at the Sunday service of Lessons and Carols on January 1.