

**Pastor's Report and Deacon's Report for September Church Council Meeting
August 16, 2022 – September 20, 2022**

Our wonderful and joyful worship in the park and picnic officially concluded summer at Mount Cross. Thank you to all Council members who made invitation calls to church members and friends listed in our directory, and thank you to all who helped make the event happen. It was a beautiful Camarillo day, and the majestic Shamel Ash tree made a lovely canopy over our altar.

Our Fall programs resumed the week of September 12. In addition to our CYFM programs (see Joe Zimmerly's report), and our 3 Bible studies (Tuesday morning Women's; Wednesday evening all; and 1st and 3rd Thursday Men's), we are experimenting with a new program I am calling "ROOTED" for parents of Fun with Faith children and all interested adults. The first week was off to a good start.

On August 17, I attended a *Faithful Innovation* webinar hosted by Luther Seminary called "Getting Clear on the Why of Your Church." Churches across the country are facing existential questions about survival. In the face of tremendous cultural change regarding church affiliation and attendance (exacerbated by the pandemic) congregations need to do a lot of soul-searching about our core purpose. We were encouraged to start conversations in our congregation about why we are Christians and what difference it has made in our lives to be followers of Jesus. Being disciples of Jesus and helping others to become disciples of Jesus is our why. Wanting to lead by example, I used the September newsletter to share a little bit about why I am a Christian and what difference it makes to me. Here is an excerpt of what I wrote:

I am a Christian because Jesus invited me into his open, gentle, and humble heart offering rest, grace, guidance, strength, and a deeply meaningful life. He was and continues to be true to his word. As I follow Jesus, I notice my own heart expands. I care more for others; I want all people to experience belonging and love; I appreciate the beauty of the earth and the wonder of life; my priorities become clear; I recognize the world's empty promises; I find friends and companions with whom I can share burdens and joys; and I can face risk, suffering, evil, and death through the lens of the cross, trusting in the ultimate victory of goodness and life. Although I doubt I'll get beyond beginner status, I aspire to embody Jesus' way of self-giving, down-to-earth love and service wherever I find myself. Knowing Jesus has led me to encounters with the most wonderful people, from living Christian saints to holy men and women of other faiths. I have learned that God-shaped people and places are full of gratitude, generosity, compassion, justice, and joy. I want to be around them forever.

I hope you, as Church Council members, will practice answering the questions: Why are you a Christian? What difference has following Jesus made in your life?

I continue with Sunday worship and preaching, pastoral care, committee work, staff supervision, and collaboration with the Child Development Center. It was great to return to preschool chapel this week. My service to both the Southwest California Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles will increase this year. For the synod, I will continue mentoring a candidate for the diaconate and will also take on supervising a candidate for Word and Sacrament. For the diocese, I am helping to create a system for licensing lay leaders and will be part of the planning team for two discernment gatherings in the spring for Episcopalians interested in serving in lay or ordained leadership roles.

Life and ministry feel very full. Some days I wonder how it all gets done. Some days it does not all get done, but the grace of Christ always charts the course and fills in the gaps. Thanks be to God!

Below is a report from Deacon Cecelia Travick Jackson as she comes close to her one year anniversary serving with us. She is also on staff for the synod. Talk about a full plate! God bless Deacon Cecelia.

Report Church Council

(Excerpts from) ELCA CONSTITUTION As of April 2022

MINISTRY OF WORD AND SERVICE

7.54.01. Ministers of Word and Service shall be known as deacons.

7.61.02. Responsibilities. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall: a. be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service; b. advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world; c. speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;...

Ministers of Word and Service are relatively new to the ELCA; therefore, it is good to be reminded of what a deacon is and their call to service. I have the pleasure of walking and serving in these worlds. It is especially

gratifying to experience the connection and interconnectedness of these worlds. I serve in my local church (Mount Cross), I serve in the Southwest California synod as an Assistant to the Bishop, I serve on the Board for California Lutheran Homes (St. John's Manor), Deacon formation committee for the Rostered Ministers' Gathering in 2023, and the Deacon Dialogues book discussion group, and newly added, in October I will bring a monthly worship service to one of our assisted living communities in Camarillo and I also provide pastoral and spiritual guidance to this same residential home. In each of these groups and gatherings I speak publicly and boldly of adult senior citizens and their gifts especially the gifts that through God's Grace only age and experience can bring.

I will break down each of these areas and my contributions since my ordination on December 12, 2021.

Mount Cross

What this report will not include is time spent on sermon preparation, reading, phone calls to congregation members, e-mails, texts, other work-related correspondence.

The following are recurring meetings and responsibilities

- **Weekly Staff Meetings**
- **Weekly Meetings with Pastor Julie for Pastoral care and counseling**
- **Attend Monthly Care team meetings**
- **Attend Monthly Mary Circle Bible Study**
- **Monthly Submission to the Grapevine**
- **Chair Monthly Senior Adult Ministry Committee Meetings**
- **Preside and Preach Monthly Chapel Service**
- **Assist in Sunday Worship Service**
- **Assist Sunday Drive Through Communion**
- **Contact person when Pastor Julie is away**
- **Preach at Mount Cross three times a year**

Following are the tasks related to Diaconal Ministry

December 2021

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
12/15-Bible Study and Dinner 12/18-Hanging of the Green 12/19-Christmas Concert 12/23-Tech rehearsal for New Hope Lutheran 12/24 Two Christmas Eve Services 12/26-Guest Preacher-New Hope 12/30-Funeral	12/15-Synod Executive Council 12/21-Budget and Finance Committee		

January 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
1/6 – Take down Christmas decorations from church 1/9 – Attend new member class	1/4- Planning for Policy & Governance meeting 1/5 – Policy and	1/4 -Practice Epiphany for Deacons 1/6 – Deacons Epiphany Worship Service	1/2-Pastoral call to grieving family in the community

<p>1/9—Cemetery interment for Mount Cross member</p> <p>1/30-Annual meeting</p>	<p>Governance meeting</p> <p>1/14-Policy and Governance meeting</p> <p>1/18-Budget and Finance meeting</p> <p>1/19-Meeting with Bishop Brenda</p> <p>1/20- Mutual Ministry meeting</p> <p>1/21-Pre-nominating committee meeting</p> <p>1/25-Budget and Finance meeting</p> <p>1/29-Synod Council meeting</p>		
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February 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
<p>2/18- made 3 home communion visits</p>	<p>2/2 Meeting with Bishop Brenda</p>		<p>2/20-pastoral care visit to person just</p>

2/26 Funeral for Mount Cross member	2/3 Mutual Ministry 2/4, 2/5, 2/9 – Policy and Governance 2/7- Meeting with Pastor Toni 2/16-Executive Council		released from hospital
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March 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
3/2- Ash Wednesday service 3/4- Funeral for Mount Cross Member 3/5-Funeral for Mount Cross Member 3/13-Pastoral care meeting with member of the congregation 3/16-Lenten Service	3/8- Executive Council 3/9-Mutual Ministry 3/9-Lenten Service 3/10-Mutual Ministry Meeting 3/11- Nominating Committee 3/15-Policy and Governance	3/24- 3/27 Deacon Bridge (formation) Event	

3/30-Lenten Service	3/19-Council meeting 3/30-Meeting with Pastor Toni		
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April 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
4/6-Lenten Service	4/5-Executive Council		
4/7-Channel Island Colloquy	4/12-Meeting with Bishop		
4/9-Help decorate church for Palm Sunday			
4/12-Christm Mass			
4/14 Maundy Thursday Service at St Columba's followed by planning meeting for Good Friday and Holy Saturday			
4/15-Stations of the Cross-St. Columba's			

4/15 Tenebrae service at Mount Cross			
4/16- Great Vigil of Easter-St Columba's			
4/28-Channel Islands Conference Assembly			

May 2022

Mount Cross 5/2 Bishop's Colloquy	Synod 5/17 Candidacy Cultivation Experience	ELCA 5/18 Ministers of Word and Service- A Time to Gather	Wider Community 5/16 – 5/20 Festival of Homiletics
5/3 First Call Theological Education	5/25-Synod Assembly Logistics Meeting		
5/4 Channel Island Colloquy			
5/7 Funeral for Mount Cross member	5/31-Have sample sermon completed for Synod Assembly		
5/9 Liturgical Ministry Training			
5/14 Pastoral care Assisted Living Visit			

5/14 Pastoral care Home Visit- Communion			
5/16-5/20-Festival of Homiletics			
5/18- Pastoral Care Assisted Living Visit			
5/22-Confirmation Sunday			

June 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
6/2 Active Shooter training	6/2 Channel Islands Conference Assembly		
6/5-End of Life Issues- Grief			
6/7-Pastoral Care hospital visit	6/10 Boundaries Workshop		
6/16-Pastoral Care home communion visit	6/11 Synod Assembly 6/12 Visitation to Simi Valley Lutheran Church		
6/24-Funeral for Mount Cross member	6/14 First Call Theological Education		

	<p>6/21 Meeting with Pastor Jaeger</p> <p>6/22 Meeting with the Bishop</p> <p>6/23 Meeting with Pastor Abel</p> <p>6/23 The Haven Stillpoint Religious Presentation</p> <p>6/30 First Call Theological Education- Afternoon Tea</p>		
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July 2022

<p>Mount Cross 7/18-Pastoral Care hospital visit</p> <p>7/24-End of Life Issues-Palliative and Hospice Care</p> <p>7/25-Pastoral Care Home Communion Visit</p>	<p>Synod</p> <p>7/1-Zoom tutorial with Claudia</p> <p>7/3-St. Luke Lutheran Church (Woodland Hills)</p>	<p>ELCA</p>	<p>Wider Community</p>
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<p>7/28-Adult Senior Dinner and Social</p>	<p>7/6- Meeting with Pastor Abel</p> <p>7/8-Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church Bellflower</p> <p>7/20-Meeting with Bishop Brenda</p> <p>7/27- Meeting with Pastor Abel</p>		
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August 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
<p>8/8-8/12- VBS with therapy dog Sunshine</p> <p>8/13-Pastoral Care visit with congregation member</p> <p>8/27-Funeral for Congregation Member</p> <p>8/29- 30 First Call Theological Education</p>	<p>8/3-Meeting with Rev Danielle and Pastor Abel</p> <p>8/7-St Matthew Lutheran Church North Hollywood</p> <p>8/17 Meeting with Pastor Javier and Pastor Abel</p>	<p>8/25-Elected to the bord of California Lutheran Homes-St John's Manor</p>	

	8/19-Synod Deacon Gathering event		
	8/20-Synod Council Retreat		
	8/31 Meeting with Pastor Javier and Pastor Abel		

September 2022

Mount Cross	Synod	ELCA	Wider Community
9/6- Meeting with local care facility	9/1-Pandemic Pastoring Webinar	9/8- Deacon Pre-Gathering to Rostered Ministers Gathering	
9/11-Channel Islands Fall Conference Assembly	9/21-(scheduled) Meeting with Bishop Brenda	9/27-(scheduled) All Region Ministers of Word and Service	
9/13 In-person meeting with local care facility	9/21-(scheduled) Meeting with Pastor Abel		
9/13 Pastor care and home communion visit with congregation member	9/24-(scheduled) First presentation on Grief Series		
<i>The remainder of September has</i>			

<i>yet to be scheduled</i>	with Reverend Danielle 9/29 (scheduled Fe y Esperanza in South Gate)		
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