



September 26, 2022

Dear Mount Cross Community,

I recently spoke to a member of our church who said, “I have always believed in God, but I wasn’t sure I believed in the church, until I experienced the care of Mount Cross.” This comment caught my attention. I rarely think about believing *in the church*, but we certainly profess it each week in the Apostles’ Creed when we say, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church....” (Here catholic means universal).

To hear someone say that the care he experienced from the people of Mount Cross affirmed his faith in the church brought me to a place of awe and gratitude. It is a wondrous thing that God uses us, as imperfect as we are, to be the Body of Christ for others. As a pastor, my hope and prayer is always that people will experience the grace and love of Christ in our worship, programs, ministries, and service to others. Several times each week, I hear people share with me that this is indeed happening here at Mount Cross. The thanks goes to you.

**Thank you.** Throughout the year, I have witnessed your incredible generosity as you contribute your ideas, your funds, and your time to Mount Cross and beyond. When we have strategies that need to be developed, or committees that need to be staffed, or problems that need to be solved, or worship roles that need to be filled, or care that needs to be given, you answer the call of your church, and share your time, love, money, skills, and experience. Your generosity is not only evident in the life of our congregation, it is also expressed in the ways you serve your families, pursue your careers, participate in the civic life of our community, and give your time to schools and important social causes. We are called to be the Body of Christ, and I have seen YOU be the hands, heart, and mind of Christ in our community. Inspired and informed by your faith, you give so much to the church and the world. **Thank you.**

Today, I am asking you to consider what you will pledge to Mount Cross Lutheran Church in the coming year to sustain our ministry and to serve our neighbors. Every gift of wealth, works, and wisdom goes toward our ministry and mission, and yours is essential to us. Please also pray with me and our Generosity Team as we launch our annual gathering of gifts and gratitude. Our Generosity Season officially begins October 9, and we hope to receive all Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Forms by **All Saints’ Sunday, November 6**. With your help, we will receive all that we need to continue the work God has called us to do.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Julie Morris

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*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10*

## Your 2023 Stewardship Packet

The contents of this packet include:

- Pastor Julie’s message on the importance of Stewardship in this unique time for the church and how we are called to serve.
- 2023 Mount Cross Pledge/Estimated Giving Card – This provides you an opportunity to plan for and commit to supporting our church and its ministries with a portion of your financial gifts. Every pledge makes a difference and every amount matters. Determining the right amount is between you and God.
- Time & Talent Survey 2023 – This form asks you to indicate areas of service in the church and community where you have abilities and interest. Every bit as important as giving of our treasure is the commitment of our time and talent. Each member is asked to complete a survey, hoping every person finds at least one area of interest.
- A return envelope for your Pledge/Estimated Giving Card and Survey. **Please note:** One first class stamp is needed if mailed. The envelope will be opened ONLY by the Financial Secretary to ensure confidentiality. Surveys will be sorted out and directed to the Volunteer Coordinator, Vicky Edell.

If you prefer, online versions of both the Pledge/Estimated Giving Card and Time & Talent Survey are available at the church website, [www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com).

Questions about the Stewardship “Generosity” Campaign?  
Contact Luanne Crockett at [lsrockett@roadrunner.com](mailto:lsrockett@roadrunner.com) 805-388-5220  
Barbara Cranfill at [ebarby1@gmail.com](mailto:ebarby1@gmail.com) 575-707-1509 or  
Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbrundage@roadrunner.com) 805-586-5553

### STEWARDSHIP FAQ’S

**WHAT IS A PLEDGE?** When a church asks its members to “pledge,” it seeks statements of estimated giving intent for the year to come. For each giver, this sets a giving goal for the coming year. Every member is asked to consider tithing (giving 10% of their income); or if not able, to make a yearly increase in their giving with tithing as a goal. The congregation’s collective pledges assist church leaders in making financial plans for the church and its many ministries.

**WHAT IF I CAN’T MEET MY PLEDGE?** It is understood that circumstances change before or during the year. You will **never** be contacted about the status of your giving. Giving reports are provided for your information only. Every gift is a blessing.

**IF AM NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE A PLEDGE SHOULD I STILL COMPLETE THE CARD?** The pledge card offers the option of committing to supporting Mount Cross without making a specific dollar amount pledge. This is a significant personal commitment and states that while there is uncertainty in your current circumstances, it is your intention to give to the church within your means.

**HOW IS MY PRIVACY ASSURED?** Use and seal the provided response envelope. Only the Council-appointed Financial Secretary sees submitted pledges and manages a separate system for recording pledges, tracking giving, and producing giving reports. Not even the Pastor has access to this information.

**WHAT IF TOTAL PLEDGES ARE NOT ENOUGH TO MEET FINANCIAL NEEDS?** The Church Council would develop options to propose to the Congregation if this should occur. Church leaders first work to make the most effective use of available resources. The clearer the information they receive regarding estimated giving for the year, the easier it is to draft a reasonable budget.

**WHERE IS MY BOX OF GIVING ENVELOPES?** This year, giving envelopes were not ordered. Instead, we are using old supplies of envelopes. If you would like to use a box of surplus giving envelopes for 2023, contact Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@mountcross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com).