



Mount Cross Lutheran Church Stewardship Campaign 2021

## Our Church in Changing Times – Ready to Go Where God Leads

*Perhaps you are here for just such a time as this. Esther 4:14*

October 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

Many things will be said about 2020. One thing is certain: we learned and are learning a lot. This year has taught each of us about our strengths and fears, our deep need for physical presence, and our interconnectedness with people across the country and on the other side of the planet. At Mount Cross, we have learned how to livestream worship services, offer virtual faith formation and Bible studies, hold meetings online, and care for each other and serve our community in socially distanced ways.

As your pastor for only one year, 2020 has given me the opportunity to get to know you more than a typical year would allow. I see your true colors. They are beautiful. You are faithful and honest. You are committed to Christ and the church. You value justice and community. You depend on worship and prayer. You love each other and want to be of help to others. You are generous and nimble.

The Stewardship Team chose one of my favorite verses to guide this year's effort to engage every Mount Cross member and friend in whole-hearted giving. When the Jewish people were in grave danger, Queen Esther was approached by her relative, Mordecai, who knew only she was positioned to intervene in a saving way. He said to her, "Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Esther's story reminds us that our privilege and prosperity, even if they seem modest to us, can be used by God in specific, life-giving ways. Our task is to make ourselves available to God and then follow the Spirit's lead. Every time I have been part of a Christian community offering ourselves to God *together*, I have been amazed by what happens. Nothing is more satisfying, interesting, and enlivening than being used for God's work in the world.

2020 is not over. Much remains unanswered and unresolved. We know the world is changing and the church is changing. Where do we go from here? With commitment and availability, with energy and joy, we will go *together* wherever God leads us. I cannot wait to see what that will look like. I want us to be ready to respond to every assignment God has for us and that will require us to be "all in." Your 2021 pledge to Mount Cross signals your availability to join me and your Christian companions in following wherever God leads.

Please see the reverse side of this letter and the contents of this packet for instructions on how to pledge your time, talent, and treasure to God through the ministry of Mount Cross Lutheran Church. Take time to pray about your offering. Thank you for being as generous as your circumstances allow.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Julie +*

Pastor Julie Morris