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During 2018 we celebrated the gift of Eternal Life for these fellow members of the body of Christ.

Donette "Brooke" Dinges

March 14, 1950- February 13, 2018

Lorraine Carpenter

September 18, 1932- March 20, 2018

Gordon Bergh

January 28, 1933 - September 28, 2018

Roni White

October 13, 1941- October 16, 2018

Karen Bergh

October 18, 1934 - November 25, 2018

Homer Valle

January 13, 1930 - December 29, 2018

A G E N D A
for the **ANNUAL MEETING**
of

MOUNT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Call to Order and Welcome..... Brian Edwards, President

Opening PrayerPastor Jim Bessey

Approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of the March 4 and October 7, 2018 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

MET Report

Presentations - Pastor and Director of Ministries

Treasurer's 2018 Financial Report

Approve 2019 Budget

Elections

- Nominating Committee
- Voting Members to the Synod Assembly
- Mediation Board
- Audit Committee
- Endowment Committee
- Church Council

Old Business

New Business

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer & BlessingPastor Jim Bessey

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 28, 2018

Having been determined that a quorum of 67 voting members was in attendance, the meeting was called to order in the sanctuary at 1:20 by President Stan Patscheck.

Pastor Jim Bessey opened the meeting with a prayer.

Stan informed those in attendance that the order of the agenda would be changed. The voting matters would be moved to the top of the agenda to accommodate those who might need to leave the meeting early. Reports would be given after the voting was concluded.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED 2018 BUDGET: Keith Selbrede presented the recommended 2018 budget to the congregation. The budget has been prepared in a new format this year that should make it easier to track funds from each line in the budget and see where the funds for each line item are coming from. It has also resulted in significantly fewer pages in the budget hopefully making it easier to read.

An incorrect version of the budget was originally given to the congregation, so all were asked to be sure that they had the correct version of the budget to look at during the meeting. The correct version of the budget is the version dated January 9, 2018.

Keith informed the congregation that there was new, updated pledge information available since the budget was approved by the council on January 9th. There are currently a total of 91 pledges received and a total pledged amount of \$275,998.

Budget Discussion: There was discussion regarding the new budget format and it not having any information from the 2017 budget for comparison purposes. Our previous budgets have shown actual and budgeted amounts for each line item from the previous year so the congregation can see how the current year amounts compare to the previous year. There was also a question regarding whether the church ended 2017 with a deficit. Keith replied that 2017 did not end with a deficit.

There was a question regarding line #50600, Special General Giving (LCO) in the amount of \$11,000. That money had previously been included in with the total pledged amount, but has now been broken out to have its own spot in the budget.

There was a lengthy discussion about the negative balance of \$82,869.43 shown at the bottom of the budget (Net income & Fund Sources) and having line item # 70400, Contingency in the amount of \$30,000 and line item # 70200, New Storage Building in the amount of \$25,000 in the budget and added in to the expenses even though both note they will need a capital campaign for funding. With those 2 items excluded, the negative balance would be \$27,869.

The discussion of the capital campaign projects included in the budget led to a discussion of the current Patio Pavilion Project. There was a question raised as to why there was \$25,000 being allocated in the budget for a new storage facility when the first phase of the patio project has not been completed and the second phase has not been started. At the special congregational meeting in June of 2017, the congregation approved completing both phases of the patio project. It does not seem right to be moving ahead with other projects before that project is completed.

There was a question regarding line item # 70400 in the amount of \$30,000 and exactly what that line was for. That is the money that is needed to be raised from a capital campaign for the patio project.

Questions were raised regarding the completion of the patio project and the estimated timeline for completion. It was noted that the original motion approved by the congregation had Phase I being completed in 2017 and Phase II being completed in 2018 but at this point in late January of 2018, Phase I is still not complete. There was no information on Phase II at this point, since Phase I is still in progress.

There was a question raised about money that has already been donated to the patio project and where that money has been allocated on the budget. Any money that has been donated for the patio project has been added to line item #70300, Special Funds Patio Project, Construction.

Stan was asked to provide information on the current amount spent on the patio project. To date, \$111,620 has been spent on the project (including the design phase) and there is currently \$30,988 left in the fund for the project. Stan was not able to give an exact cost to finish the project, but did note that due to the flooding issue encountered during construction, the project is approximately \$30,000 over budget at this time. During further discussion of the project, Stan estimated it would cost an additional \$61,000 to finish Phase I of the project. Adding that to the \$111,000 already spent would bring the cost of Phase I to \$172,000 up from the original estimate of \$120,000 for Phase I. It was noted that the estimate of \$120,000 for Phase I did not include the design phase of the project. With the design costs removed from the total costs, the total for Phase I would be \$167,000 vs. the estimate of \$120,000 at the beginning of the project.

Regarding Phase II of the project, Stan has not even started to get bids on that phase yet since the first phase is still in progress.

There was a question and discussion on why the capital projects were included in the budget when there were no hard numbers for them at this time and they were reliant on capital campaigns to fund. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to remove all of the “other expenses”, (line item numbers 70000,70100,70300,70400, and 70200) from the 2018 recommended budget. During discussion for this motion, it was noted that line item # 70300 is actual money that has been donated for Phase I of the project and needs to be in the budget to pay for pending or continuing expenses for the project. This will also have the effect of increasing the amount approved at the June 2017 special meeting for the patio project of \$120,000 to \$135,000.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to amend the above motion to only remove line items 70400 and 70200 from the 2018 recommended budget. After discussion and explanation of exactly what this vote would be doing, the question was called and the vote was taken. The amendment to the motion passed.

The first motion, with the amendment, was then read prior to voting. “It has been moved and seconded to remove all of the “other expenses” (line item numbers 70000, 70100, 70300, 70400, and 70200) from the 2018 recommended budget with the amendment that only line item numbers 70400 and 70200 be removed from the 2018 recommended budget. The motion passed.

It was then moved and seconded to approve the recommended 2018 budget as amended.

During discussion there was a question regarding the auto and cell phone allowances for the DOM and why they were so much higher in the 2018 budget than was paid in 2017. Keith

explained that since the DOM position was approved toward the end of 2017 those expenses were only incurred for 3 months in 2017. The budgeted amount for 2018 is for all 12 months.

It was noted that Benevolences paid by Mt. Cross to 5 organizations that Mt. Cross has historically supported in the past were not a part of the 2018 recommended budget. There was a suggestion that the new council be directed to find \$2100 in the budget to continue funding those 5 organizations. Other comments felt the money should be included in the budget and not left to the council to add in at a later time. It was noted that the Endowment fund does give to some of the same organizations, but those donations are in addition to what Mt. Cross gives as benevolences. It was also noted that the Service & Mission Committee has requested \$1000.00 in the budget for Many Meals, one of the organizations that receives money from the benevolences. That money is used to purchase food and is separate from the benevolence amount.

There was a comment requesting a clear statement of income vs. liabilities. Keith responded that the current income, with the new pledges, is \$451,324 which leaves the budget with a shortfall of \$16,702. There was a request to put the newly adopted budget on the church website so that it is available for the entire congregation to see. Keith will have it on the website by the end of next week.

The discussion returned to the oversight of not including the benevolences to the 5 organizations in the budget. It was moved and seconded to amend the 2018 recommended budget to include the following under Benevolences: Lutheran Bible Translators--\$400, Lutheran Social Services--\$400, Many Meals--\$600, Maritime Ministries--\$400, and Pacific Lutheran Seminary--\$400. During discussion the question was asked where this additional \$2200.00 was going to come from. It will be added to the deficit amount in the budget. The question was called and the vote was taken. The amendment to the budget passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2018 recommended budget as amended. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018

A printed ballot was provided to each member in attendance at the meeting.

Nominating Committee: There were only 2 names printed on the ballot out of 5 names needed for the committee. The floor was opened for nominations. Gayle Johnson, Gordon Henry and Jim Prosser were nominated and all accepted the nominations. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion passed.

Synod Assembly: The minimum required names were printed on the ballot. The floor was opened for further nominations. No nominations being received, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion passed.

Mediation Board: The minimum required names were printed on the ballot. The floor was opened for further nominations. No nominations being received, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion passed.

Audit Committee: The minimum required names were printed on the ballot. The floor was opened for further nominations. No nominations being received, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion passed.

Legacy Giving Team: The minimum required names were printed on the ballot. The floor was opened for further nominations. No nominations being received, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion passed.

Church Council: There were six names printed on the ballot leaving one spot open. The floor was opened for further nominations. Susan Prosser was nominated and accepted the nomination. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded that the recording secretary be directed to cast a unanimous ballot for the Nominating Committee, Voting Members to Synod Assembly, Mediation Board, Audit Committee, Legacy Giving Team and Church Council. All those on the ballot who were present at the meeting were asked to stand and be named prior to the vote. By a show of hands, the motion passed.

Those voted into office were:

Nominating Committee:

Mike McClary (outgoing council member)
Brian Fisher
Gayle Johnson
Gordon Henry
Jim Prosser

Voting Members to Synod Assembly:

Denise Sobolik
Allison Johnson
Bob Brickley

Mediation Board:

Marion Cole
Nils Rueckert (re-election)
Becky Riley (re-election)

Audit Committee:

Don Hauser
Herb Holler

Legacy Giving Team:

Nils Rueckert
Lisa Higginbotham

Church Council:

Tina Riley (1st term)
Keith Selbrede (2nd term)
Craig Blois (2nd term)
Joan Brundage (1st term)
Ivan Fernandez (1st term)
Allison Johnson (1st term)
Susan Prosser (1st term)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING AND THE JUNE 4TH

SPECIAL MEETING: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting and the June 4th Special Meeting with one correction to the minutes from the June 4th special meeting. The minutes show that Brian Edwards was a member of the Legacy Giving Committee. He was not a member of the committee.
The motion passed.

CYFM DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Meredith Gardner was not able to attend the meeting. She was in Houston, TX attending a church sponsored event.

PASTOR'S REPORT: No Pastor's report was given.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No President's report was given.

TREASURE'S REPORT: Treasurer Keith Selbrede reported the church's cash reserves are in good shape. They are currently at \$99,000 and it is recommended they stay above \$50,000. There was approximately \$133,000 given to the Endowment fund during the past year. Approximately \$85,000 was moved from the Money Market account for the Patio Project. The reserves have increased from \$96,854 to \$109,935. Pledges received were at 95.3% of anticipated and expenses (not including the patio project) were at 93.1% of budgeted.

PATIO PROJECT UPDATE: Stan reported that to date, approximately \$111,000 has been spent on the project (that number includes the design phase of the project). The project is currently over budget due to a flooding issue that happened and the need for more concrete and labor than was originally anticipated. Stan did not have a budget analysis or exact expenses to report to the congregation. The project has been on hiatus since last November due to other activities happening at the church and the holidays. Stan had hoped to resume the construction the first week of January but is now having a hard time finding a framing contractor for the next step of the project and is finding that current bids are significantly higher than the original estimates. He is estimating anywhere from a \$22,000 to a \$36,000 cost increase for the framing portion of the project. He is estimating that the total costs for both Phase I and Phase II will be between \$160,000 and \$170,000. In addition, he noted that he is looking into new fencing options for the required CDC fence. That may add approximately an additional \$14,000 to the project. He was asked for a timeline on finishing Phase I/the roof but said that without a start date set for the work yet, he can't estimate when it will be completed. He did say that once it

was started it should take 5-6 weeks to complete. After that, it will need to be have stucco applied and be painted. He estimates that once work resumes, Phase I will be completed in approximately 3 months.

Regarding the Capital Campaign to fully fund the project, Brian Edwards has volunteered to be in charge of that. He was not able to attend the meeting today, but will be getting information to the congregation soon about his plans to raise the needed money to finish the project.

INTERIM PROCESS UPDATE: Stan informed the congregation that the formation of a MET team (Mission Exploration Team) will be the next step in the process. This will be a volunteer group appointed by the council. Stan is working with the Bishop's office to get the needed information for this. Watch for announcements and information on this to be coming soon. A member of the congregation asked that the information on the MET be posted to the church website. Stan replied that he would see that the information is added to the website. The Call Committee will be formed when the MET has completed their work. Call Committee members will be elected at a congregational meeting.

Pastor Bessey gave a brief overview of the MET and Call Committee process. He hoped that at the upcoming council retreat the first possible names for the MET would be produced. He assured the congregation that the entire congregation would be asked to participate in the MET process through a church meeting led by a member of the Synod staff.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. It was noted that Old and New business had yet to be covered. **The motion failed.**

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business on the agenda and none was brought forward from the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS:

A member of the congregation asked that the council be implored to have a wide variety of people appointed to the MET for the best possible representation of Mt. Cross and its needs.

A member of the congregation asked that the minutes from this meeting be put on the church website as soon as possible so the members would not have to wait for a year to review the minutes and make comments on them. Denise replied that she would send them to Sheri as soon as they were completed and ask that they be put online. If any corrections are needed, please contact a member of the church council and alert them so the correction can be put into the council minutes for review at next year's annual meeting.

There being no more business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Pastor Bessey closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the Parish Life Center for a potluck meal.

A full copy of the 2017 Annual Report can be seen online at: <http://www.mountcross.com/church-council.html>.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Sobolik, Recorder

**Mount Cross Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting
Minutes Sunday, March 4, 2018**

Having been determined that a quorum of 68 voting members (66 needed) was in attendance, the meeting was called to order in the sanctuary at 11:15 AM by President Brian Edwards.

Pastor Jim Bessey opened the meeting with a prayer.

President, Brian Edwards welcomed the members. He emphasized that the only topic on the agenda was the Patio Pavilion Project. He had a power point slide presentation that he referred the congregation to as he gave a brief history of the pavilion project. Brian, explained that because of unexpected flooding due to a broken pipe, the cost to complete the pavilion project has increased. He shared three power point slides to help the congregation visualize the extent of the damages.

At the end of the power point presentation Keith Selbrede moved that the church congregation approve the 2018 spending of \$85,975 on Phase I of the patio pavilion project and \$30,000 on Phase II plus a contingency fund of \$5,655, totaling \$121,630. These expenses to be paid out of account # 70300 – Special Funds Project/Patio Pav Constr 1, and that the church congregation also approve the church council to use up to \$40,000 from reserves as working capital, to be repaid from the Capital Campaign Contributions. The church congregation also approves a Capital Campaign in the amount of \$135,000. The motion received a second from Allison Johnson. President Brian Edwards accepted questions from the congregation. There was a question about Child Development Center (CDC) fencing. The CDC will replace the fencing as part of their normal business expense.

Another question was raised about the capital campaign and why it was not started sooner. Stan Patscheck (past church council president and current pavilion project manager) responded to the question. His response was that no one from the congregation stepped forward to run the capital campaign. There was a question directed to Brian stating that we are moving forward without the funds and Brian replied, yes, we are moving forward on faith. The funds will come. There might have been other questions, but if the person asking the question did not speak into the microphone or repeat the question, the recorder was unable to record the question. There were also additional comments for example, phase 2 will need more than \$30,000; a hospitality bar is not really needed, but the comments were not questions directed to the council president. A church member “called the question” and another church member wanted to amend the motion. A vote was taken to either end the debate or to continue the debate. By show of hands 36 church members voted to end the debate and 16 church members voted to continue the debate. The debate ended.

Using paper ballots, the congregation then voted on the motion. The motion passed with 58 in favor of the motion and 8 opposing the motion. The special congregational meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.

- Cecelia Travick-Jackson-Recorder

Mount Cross Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting
Minutes October 7, 2018

Sanctuary 11:10 AM

2018 Church Council Members: Craig Blois(Stewardship, Oversight), Joan Brundage* (Financial Secretary, Property), Brian Edwards* (President, Oversight), Betty Ertel (CDC Representative), Ivan Fernandez(Learning), Allison Johnson(Caring), Stan Patscheck(Fellowship), Susan Prosser(MET, Personnel), Tina Riley(Worship & Music), Keith Selbrede* (Treasurer, Budget & Finance, Endowment), Denise Sobolik* (Vice- President, Service & Missions), Cecelia Travick-Jackson* (Secretary, Adult Education), Norman Williamsen, Youth Representative (to be announced), Meredith Smith (Director of Ministries), Jim Bessey* (Pastor). *Executive Committee

Quorum established and meeting proceeded- 84 members present (66 needed for a quorum)

Call to order: President, Brian Edwards

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jim Bessey

Background:- Brian gave a brief background and history of where we are and how we got to this point.

Pastor Reg Schultz-Akerson (Assistant to the Bishop for Rostered Leadership) met with the executive council in late August to reflect and discuss where we are as a congregation, what our strengths are, what is working, and what could work better. He suggested that since we were nearing the end of the Mission Exploration Team (MET) process, it was time for us to begin the process of establishing a call committee. He suggested that we come up with a slate of names representing a broad spectrum of the congregation to make up the call committee. He offered suggestions related to age, gender, worship, music, stewardship, social ministry, education, and length of membership as examples of call committee considerations.

The Mount Cross Constitution stipulates, *C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of nine voting members shall be elected by the congregation at a special congregational meeting. Term of office will terminate at installation of the newly-called pastor.*

Categories for the call committee were designated and the suggested call committee slate of names was approved by the church council to be brought to the congregation. The slate of names is only a suggestion and nominations will be accepted from the floor.

There are two names and call committee positions that are non-negotiable, that of MET chair and the youth representative. The chair of the Mission Exploration Team is automatically a member of the call committee (synod rules for consistency between the MET process and the call

committee) and that of the youth representative. The youth met and elected the person they would like to have representing them.

It should also be noted that there were more categories mentioned than the nine that are listed. Several individuals fell into more than one category.

Procedure for floor nominations: When a listed category is brought forth, nominations from the floor will be accepted. Each nominee will have two minutes to speak to their nomination. All nominations for that category will be voted on by the congregation. The two names receiving the most votes will then be voted on and the person receiving the most votes from the congregation will be the call committee representative.

MET CHAIR- Susan Prosser

Youth Representative- Tabitha Ebright

Category	Council Recommendation	Floor Nomination	Vote
Mount Cross Member greater than 10 years	Melissa Henry	Receiving no nominations from the floor Randy Churchill moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Melissa Henry as the member over ten years. The motion received a second	Passed unanimously
Mount Cross Member less than 10 years	Sonja Demeter	Receiving no nominations from the floor Randy Churchill moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Sonja Demeter as the member less than ten years. The motion received a second.	Passed unanimously
Household with children	Henry Moraga	Receiving no nominations from the floor Joe Swindle moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Henry Moraga as the member with children in the household. The motion received a second.	Passed unanimously
Primarily attends the traditional service	Bill Stoll	Receiving no nominations from the floor Randy Churchill moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Bill Stoll as the member who primarily attends the traditional service. The motion received a second.	Passed unanimously
Primarily	Herb Holler	Receiving no nominations from the floor	Passed

attends the contemporary service		Randy Churchill moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Herb Holler as the member who primarily attends the contemporary service. The motion received a second.	unanimously
35-49 years old	Brian Stouch	Receiving no nominations from the floor Randy Churchill moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Brian Stouch as the member who is 35-49 years old. The motion received a second.	Passed unanimously
50+ years old	Becky Riley	Receiving no nominations from the floor Randy Churchill moved that the nomination be closed and that we leave Becky Riley as the member who is 50+ years old. The motion received a second.	Passed unanimously

Jim Prosser moved that we cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of names as written. The motion received a second. Passed unanimously.

Mount Cross 2018 Call Committee:

Susan Prosser	MET Chair and Church Council representative
Tabatha Ebright	Youth
Member of Mt Cross over 10 years	Melissa Henry
Member of Mt Cross less than 10 years	Sonja Demeter
Primarily attends traditional service	Bill Stoll
Primarily attends contemporary service	Herb Holler
children in household	Henry Moraga
Age range 35-49	Brian Stouch
Age range 50 and older	Becky Riley

Duties of the Call Committee:

The question was asked what the duties of the call committee are. Pastor Jim gave a brief description of their duties

- † The committee will meet with Pastor Reg Schultz-Akerson (Assistant to the Bishop for Rostered Leadership). He will be guiding the call committee
- † They will review the MET committee work
- † They will put together a congregational and leadership profile to be sent to the synod office
- † This profile will be made available to any pastor to review who might be seeking a call
- † The Synod office will submit the resumes of pastors who are interested in Mount Cross to

the call committee

- † The call committee will choose about 3 pastors for further review
- † To save money the first round of interviews are often done on-line
- † The call committee will decide who should be brought to Camarillo
- † The council then receives the call committee's recommendation
- † The council then schedules a special congregational meeting to vote on issuing the call

The timeline for this process is about 6 months. Pastor Bessey's contract ends December 31, 2018, but has been extended for 6 months as we go through the call process.

It is important to remember that the work of the call committee is confidential.

If a member of the congregation wants to submit pastoral names for consideration, they can be given to the call committee and the call committee then submits those names to the synod office. The synod screens all names on behalf of the call committee. It is important to know that the call committee does not screen pastors. All pastors who are interested in a call at Mount Cross are screened by the synod.

For those who are seeking more information the synod website has a booklet entitled "Southwest California Synod Pastoral Call Process Handbook for Congregational Call Committees"

Call committee vacancy: Brian brought up the need to fill a vacancy on the call committee should the need arise.

Randy moved that in the event a Call Committee member needs to step down, that the Church Council be empowered to name a replacement. The motion received a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Keith moved to adjourn the congregational meeting. Motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Adjourn -11:43 AM Closing
Prayer-Pastor Jim

Respectfully submitted
Cecelia Travick-Jackson Recorder

PRESENTATIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Pastor Report: Pastor Jim Bessey

Dear Members of Mount Cross Lutheran Church,

Working with you as an Interim Pastor has been my privilege. We have accomplished much in this past year and I want to reflect with you about our progress.

First of all, I'm thankful for the staff with whom I work. Sheri Groenveld, our Office Manager and Meredith Smith, our Director of Ministries, are wonderful colleagues. Their expertise and insights contribute much to the daily process of ministry at Mount Cross. I have learned to rely upon their knowledge and suggestions as we serve.

A major focus in 2018 was the work and report of our Mission Exploration Team (MET). The comprehensive report will inform the Call Committee as it begins the search for the next pastor at Mount Cross. The MET report highlights several vital options for outreach and service which we will address early in 2019. Thanks are extended once more to the members of our MET Team: Karen Cherry, Mary Goodenough, Gordon Henry, Gayle Johnson, Susan Prosser (chair) and Joe Swindle.

There were sad occasions for us this year as we gathered to mourn the deaths of members. Memorial services were conducted for Donette "Brooke" Dinges, Lorraine Carpenter, Gordon Bergh, Roni White, Karen Bergh and Homer Valle (Homer's service was hosted by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox church, Camarillo). We thank God for the life and witness of these saints as they are surrounded by everlasting light.

The completion of the Pavilion was another major accomplishment this year. With major set-backs and adjustments to deal with, we persevered and completed this project. It is a major addition to our campus and will allow us new options to use and service we did not enjoy previously. I join you in expressing thanks to all who provided financial gifts, large and small, to enable the construction of this structure. We are blessed to have this unique space!

Finally, as we move forward with the Call Committee and its deliberations, please join me in thanking them and the members of our Church Council for their willingness to lead and serve. As we enter this new chapter in Mount Cross' life, support them with your prayers and volunteer energy. We are indebted to each of them.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for the privilege of serving as your Interim Pastor. To God alone by the glory!

Pastor Jim Bessey

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES: MEREDITH SMITH

Thank you to the entire Mount Cross congregation as you have shown me so much love and support this past year. This has been my fourth year at Mount Cross, and has been extremely challenging in the midst of this time of transition. I truly appreciate all those who have had to make difficult decisions, those who have participated in hard conversations, and for all our Mount Cross family for showing up through this challenging year. My hope and faith is strong for our future as we go into another year together and look forward to a new pastor for our congregation.

Fondly, Meredith

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

WOW! What a year 2018 was at Mount Cross. The church and congregation have been extremely busy in many different areas of service to the community and in areas of church growth and development. I want to thank all those members who have served the church throughout the year whether just volunteering during a service to serving on a committee or church council. Without you and the willingness of members to serve, Mount Cross would not be the amazing church that we are. I have learned so much and have been truly appreciative of the support that I have received while serving this year as council president. THANK YOU!!

Accomplishments this year include:

- Completion of the Patio Pavilion – Windscreens should be installed January 2019
- Installation of Pastor Jim as Interim Pastor
- Completion of MET Report
- Installation of Call Committee
- Hiring of our new Praise Band Leader
- 13th Season of the Classical Concert Series
- Make Bake Celebrate 2018 was a huge success with a major turnover in leadership of event

Looking forward in 2019

- Completion of Call Process and welcoming a new pastor to Mount Cross
- Continued Outreach to community
- Challenging ourselves to not accept “that’s how it’s always been done”

- Make Bake Celebrate 2019

As we move forward this year, I am so excited about the possibilities that can occur with the selection of a new pastor. It has been a long time since Mount Cross has had new leadership and I challenge everyone to be open to the possibilities that occur during this time of change. Thank you again for your support and service this last year.

God Bless,

Brian Edwards

ADULT EDUCATION

Below is a list of 2018 Adult Education opportunities led by the Pastors, guest speakers, and members of the congregation.

- † A variety of Bible studies continued and grew:
 - † 11:10 Sunday morning Bible Study
 - † 5:00 PM Wednesday evening Bible Study, also 6:30 session for part of year
 - † House Missions – suspended later in year
 - † Men’s Bible Study – switched from every other Tuesday to every other Thursday morning
 - † Meditation Mondays

Additional opportunities for Christian growth included:

- † How Lutherans Interpret the Bible- a seven week video and discussion group on how Lutherans understand Biblical text
- † Christmas in July-Viewing and Biblical Discussion of the movie “A Christmas Carol”

Attendance at Adult Education activities remained stable in many cases, and even grew in other instances.

For future offerings, the committee explored other DVD series, possible books and magazines, Theology on Tap, an ecumenical study, religious movies, and single topic discussion sessions. It was also recommended that those gathering for the 4th week movie could have a short discussion following the movie on what Christian aspects or teachable moments were found in the movie.

The Adult Education Committee is on sabbatical until September 2019. We would encourage the participation of new members on the committee.

These will continue throughout 2019:

- † Our Sunday and Wednesday Bible Studies
- † The Men's Bible Study
- † Meditation Mondays
- † Occasional additional options

-Cecelia Travick-Jackson-Chair

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

Financial (end of year) Highlights:

- Pledge Giving: 92.3% of budget (\$21,142 short)
- Operating Income: 89.9% of budget (\$45,428 short)
- Operational expenses: 97.7% of budget (\$10,847 under)
- Operational loss: \$53,483
- Operational Reserves: \$36,564 (down \$48,102)

Key Discussion Points:

- All bills are current.
- Mortgage payments of \$15,106 bring our balance down to \$310,367. An interest rate increase due in April will slow further reductions in 2019.
- Amendments to the 2018 Recommended Budget at the Annual

Meeting had us projecting an operational loss of \$18,902. This was accepted since reserves, \$84,666 at that point, were considered adequate.

- A bank reconciliation completed in March identified an approximate, negative difference of \$28,000 bringing our reserves down to the amount shown above. The sources of this difference were identified and a routine reconciliation procedure, consistent with ELCA guidelines, put in place.
- In April, due to a dangerously low checking account cash position, it was recommended and agreed to by council to liquidate our Fidelity securities.
- Due to continuing income shortages, brainstorming meetings were held starting in August including the B&F committee and Executive committee to identify action plans. In September, reserves had dipped to around \$16,000. At that point council approved moving some portion of several unused dedicated accounts, undesignated memorial accounts and the internal portion of the MBC fundraiser to reserves.
- Work on the 2019 budget has proceeded on schedule. However, efforts to achieve balance have not been successful. At this time, work continues to achieve this goal.
- Thanks to solid giving in December, reserves have improved (but still very low) to \$36,564.

Keith Selbrede
Treasurer

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Our preschool, as always, has the best staff ever and an age appropriate curriculum that is fun, interesting and creative. We hear from parents and Kindergarten teachers that the Mount Cross students are well prepared! Being in a Christian environment is wonderful for our students. We appreciate Pastor Jim leading us at chapel time.

Unfortunately, it has been a struggle financially for us this year. When parents were touring preschools for this fall, our school was still behind construction fencing, there was a hole in the wall in our hallway and our school did not look clean and inviting. Our enrollment is low this year. We also were responsible for financing the replacement of the hall fencing.

We are now looking very clean and inviting with the pavilion being completed and are adding new students. We are also increasing advertising and having to cut staff hours. We have not missed paying our monthly facility use to the church and are hopeful that things will financially get better for us.

We are saddened by Karen Bergh's passing. She helped start our school in 1988 and was a loving teacher here for over twenty years.

Please keep our school in your prayers. It is such an important mission of our church.

- Cathy Channels

LEGACY GIVING/ENDOWMENT

As of March 31, 2018, the Endowment Fund was valued at \$488,652. Using our allocation formula, the Legacy Giving Team recommended an annual distribution of \$16,500. This was approved by the Church Council, as follows:

Scholarships (3 x \$1,500)	\$4,500
Camp Scholarships	2,000
Pastor's Discretionary (includes	3,000
Capital Project – Pavilion Cover	4,700
Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences (LRCC)	750
Lutheran Social Services	750
CDC Tuition Assistance	500
Quilters - Shipping	300
Total	\$16,500

The college scholarships were awarded to three excellent students: Jason Lu, who will be attending Pomona College; Brandon Duran, Georgetown University; and Julia Fickenscher, Syracuse University.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Legacy Giving Team,
Rick Gardner

FELLOWSHIP

Mount Cross Fellowship activities and events are designed to integrate new members with established members of the congregation, and provide social opportunities to engage the collective church family in sharing experiences. To bring in the 2018 year, we held a special Hospitality event in early January to welcome Pastor Jim as he began his interim pastoral post at Mount Cross. Offering assistance to the 2018 Church Council, we helped to organize the Annual Meeting Potluck later the same month. In February, just following Ash Wednesday, Fellowship orchestrated the annual Lenten Soup Suppers before the Wednesday night church service. We have some amazing soup chefs in our midst at Mount Cross and we appreciate everyone who contributed delicious food items or much needed manpower.

In April a large group of MC folks attended a showing of the play “Sylvia” performed by the Camarillo Skyway Players. Several play-goers also gathered at Yolanda’s Mexican Café afterward for a delicious meal and friendly conversation. Look for announcements in 2019 for another offsite entertainment event, or two. We attempted to repeat the Bowling event of 2016 that was so successful in the past but we found that our timing was not optimal for most so we may try that again in the coming year, but earlier in the summer.

Hospitality between services presents another opportunity for Fellowship to recognize holidays and summer themes throughout the year. In May we celebrated Memorial Day with patriotic decorations and later in the summer we hosted the Hawaiian Luau, complete with Island treats, décor, and music. As with the Annual Meeting Potluck, we again assisted Church Council in organizing the Annual Service in the Park in late August, quickly followed by Rally Day on the patio in September where we display mementos from past events and survey congregants for new event ideas we can offer in the future. We also invite and encourage parishioners to join our fun and friendly committee!

In November Fellowship provided hospitality between services in honor of Veteran’s Day, celebrating our many veterans who are serving or have served our country. We also hosted the annual Thanksgiving Pie Social following the Thanksgiving Eve service. This year the Pie

Social provided the opportunity for attendees to gather and assist Lutheran Social Services in tying fleece quilts to donate and offer comfort to the victims of the recent heartbreaking and life changing events in our area. We wound up 2018 by providing a sandwich bar for members of the MC Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Band and Church School children participating in the “Poetic Christmas” concert, followed by a dessert potluck reception for concert-goers after the concert.

We encourage anyone interested in joining our Fellowship committee, or to provide suggestions for future activities, to contact the church office or any member of the committee. We meet at 7:00 PM at the church office on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We wish all a very meaningful and hopeful New Year in 2019!

Submitted by:
Henry Moraga, Dan Nelson, Valerie Patscheck,
and Bev Rueckert
2019 Mount Cross Fellowship Committee

CLASSICAL CONCERTS AT MOUNT CROSS

As the 13th Season of Classical Concerts at Mount Cross commences, the following is a short history of its inception. I met with Pastor John suggesting that the performance of classical music be an outreach to the community and thereby attract residents of the community to Mount Cross. As this idea was unfolding, a pledge was written by Pastor John indicating the following which is printed on all programs, flyers etc.

WHILE MOUNT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS PLEASED TO HOST THESE PRESENTATIONS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AS AN OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL OF THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM TICKET DONATIONS AND FROM SPECIAL GIFTS IS USED SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND EXPAND THE CONCERT SERIES AND IS SEPARATE FROM CHURCH OPERATING INCOME.

However, because of the dire need of money at Mount Cross, a special onetime only donation from the concert funds was made to assist in the amount of two thousand dollars. Future similar requests will not be honored. The pledge will not be broken on my watch.

Barbara D'Addario
Music Director and Founder
==

LEARNING COMMITTEE

Major events executed this year:

- Committee met 10 times in 2018 – huge thank you to our committee members for their discussion, ideas, and engagement!
- Inaugural Variety Show – fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering
- ELCA Youth Extravaganza
- Make Bake Celebrate
- Parents Night Outs
- LC and youth participated in a Lenten Soup Supper
- Re-instated bible class – leveraged a Thrivent action team grant to purchase new bibles (improvement for next year will include inviting all VBS families)
- VBS – reached max registration in just 3 days!; theme of ELCA world hunger with emphasis on giving was a huge success (even my 2 year old continues to sing the theme song in her carseat 6 months later!) ; will explore flexible volunteer/staffing options next year to prevent volunteer burnout
- Plus more!

Improvements made:

- Leveraged VBS survey – one to volunteers, one to families – to focus on what works well and what can be even better
- Offered programming on both Wednesday evenings and Sunday to offer multiple options for families that can't attend Sunday mornings and vice versa
- Implemented an improved dinner process for Wednesday night programs with an individual and family donation to cover the costs of a chef (thank you John Colby Jr!).
- Excited to be planning for a 2019 missions trip!

Peacefully submitted, Tracy Blois

MINISTRIES

Children's Ministries: Preschool-5th Grade

Fun with Faith (approximately 10-15 children each week)

Every Wednesday (minus some holidays and the summer months) we had Fun with Faith available to our Mt Cross Kids! Fun with Faith runs from 5:00-6:00PM as part of our Wednesday Night Programs. Katie Robinson is our Children and Youth Ministries Assistant and she creates a curriculum each week that goes along with the church's lectionary. Every Wednesday we celebrate birthdays, sing songs, and have time for highs and lows together and to hear the message at their own level of understanding. We play games to go along with the message, and have them act out the message in skits, and do crafts for the various holidays and messages. After Fun with Faith we gather the children together to have dinner with their families and the other Mt Cross families.

Children's Church (5-10 children each week)

Every Sunday morning we have Children's Church during both the 8:30AM and 10:00AM services. After the Children's Message in the church service, the children exit with Meredith and/or Katie and any youth helpers to gather together in Meredith's office. We read the gospel message out of our colorful Spark Children's Bibles, we have time to check in with each other, and then one of the children does a closing prayer. We go back into the service before communion. The whole point of Children's Church is to teach the children about what is being talked about in the sermon, but in a more age appropriate way. This also gives a little time for the children to be active during the service and get out their wiggles!

Vacation Bible School (130 children, 30 middle and high school youth, 20 adults)

Vacation Bible School this year had the ELCA World Hunger theme of "God's Good Creation" and was July 30th- August 3rd. ELCA World Hunger sent us all of the curriculum for free, and each day had the theme of a different animal and place in the world where they send animals. We decorated with a big barn and animals that we used for each of the day's themes. We asked for school supplies for school kits through Lutheran World Relief, canned goods for the food pantry at St Columba's, and asked for offering to send animals all around the world through ELCA World Hunger. We raised over \$1000 to purchase animals throughout the world. The children were so motivated that Meredith let the youth pie her in the face in front of all the children on Friday.

Summer Camp at El Camino Pines (2 children and youth)

Summer Camp is always a great experience at El Camino Pines! This summer we brought 12 children and youth to camp. They had a great experience spending time with their counselors and

growing in their faith. This ministry is long standing at Mt Cross, and is sacred time for all that attend.

Middle School Ministries: 6th-8th Grade

Confirmation (20 youth registered, 3-5 adults)

Every Wednesday evening (minus summer and holidays) we gather our middle school youth together to learn more about our beliefs as Lutherans. Our curriculum is all written by the pastor and Meredith, and runs in a three year cycle (Old Testament, New Testament, and Lutheran Beliefs and Traditions). In the Spring used some YouTube videos on a channel called “The Bible Project” to teach the youth about the New Testament. This Fall we have used a website called “Luther House of Study” to teach the youth about our Lutheran traditions. Pairing these videos and our own research has been very successful and we plan on continuing this plan.

Service Projects

During Confirmation we have done multiple service projects. Every Fall we put together Health and School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We also have a long standing tradition in Confirmation to go Caroling at Christmas time to some of our elderly or sickly members. This tradition has always been a favorite of our Confirmation students, and this year we also went caroling at Rolling Pin Donuts!

Summer Camp at El Camino Pines (12 children and youth)

Summer Camp is always a great experience at El Camino Pines! This summer we brought 12 children and youth to camp. They had a great experience spending time with their counselors and growing in their faith. This ministry is long standing at Mt Cross, and is sacred time for all that attend.

Day Trips

We have gone to the beach, on multiple hikes, the Dodger Game; and we have participated in both the Crop Walk for Hunger and the Lutheran Social Service Walk to End Poverty.

High School Ministries: 9th-12th Grades

High School Youth Group (2-15 youth)

From January-June our youth group met on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00PM. In the summer we tried “Youth Group Brunch,” which met from 11AM-1PM on Sunday after worship. Then when the school year started we went to 5:00-7:00PM. We start out with making food together. Everyone pitches in and helps, and then we enjoy our food together in fellowship time. Then we sit around and reflect on the past week. We do high’s, low’s, and prayer concerns. Our youth are open, honest, and vulnerable in these moments, and this group has become more like a support group because of that. We talk about real issues going on in their own lives, the lives of the people around them, and what is going on in our community and world. We have added in more recently watching short videos with a discussion element on themes such as forgiveness. We end the night by praying for all the things we discussed and lift everything up to God.

ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas (7 youth, 2 adults)

This summer we attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. The theme of the gathering was “This Changes Everything,” and was centered around how God’s grace really works in the lives of His people. We went with four different churches in our synod that comprised of a group of 45 adults and youth. We went to the Houston Space Center before the gathering started as the start to our trip. Each of the five days of the gathering had a large worship session with multiple

speakers at each talking about their own life and the struggles they have had on their faith journey. There was music and praise each night by the house band and multiple other special bands and singers. The three full days of the gathering each had a different theme with different activities included. Our first full day was our “synod day” where we got together with all of the other youth and adults from our synod to bond and worship. Our second day was our service day, and we were sent to a high school in a low income neighborhood in Houston to help with cleaning out and organizing their athletic equipment. This is a famous high school for their band (that is even featured in the movie “Thunder Soul”), but is in the process of being shutdown because of low test scores. The youth had a good experience learning more about how the economics in the area impacted the education the children got. The last full day was our interactive learning day. The youth went around two large industrial buildings full of interactive games, zip lining, the ability to donate their hair and blood, and booths for all of the different ministries the ELCA has to offer. The gathering ended the last morning with worship and the big reveal that the next gathering in 2021 will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota!

Winter Camp at El Camino Pines (11 youth)

Winter Camp this past year was fun as we went up to the snow. The youth always look forward to this weekend, and we took 11 high school students. They immediately made friends from other youth from around our area, and caught up with friends from previous camp experiences.

Day Trips

We have gone to the beach, on multiple hikes, the Dodger Game; and we have participated in both the Crop Walk for Hunger and the Lutheran Social Service Walk to End Poverty.

3D: Desserts, Discussion & Devotion: Senior

In 2018 I have been blessed by the opportunity to lead our senior group 3D (Desserts, Discussion & Devotion). We meet during the school year on the first Friday of the month at 1:30PM. Thank you to Lisa Higginbotham who arranged speakers for part of 2018. In the Fall of 2018 we started using a devotional book called “Keep Calm and Trust God,” and this devotional has been a good way to check in on things going on in our lives and reflecting. 3D is a great group of seniors who are interested in learning new things and spending time together in devotion. We have had many fun speakers come to talk to our group about a variety of things relating to seniors. Thank you to all of our devoted members for joining us each month as we learn and share with each other.

Family Ministries: Everyone!

Wednesday Dinners (approximately 30-40 people)

During the summer in 2016 we started a Wednesday night dinner and fellowship time. Since then we have decided to continue this program with a few changes for the school year. We meet from 5:00-6:00pm for both Fun with Faith (preschool-5th grade) and an adult bible study. Then from 6:00-6:30pm we have dinner. Then from 6:30-8:00pm we have the Confirmation teaching time and all the choirs practice. Dinner in the Spring of 2018 was provided by the Confirmation families. Since our group is comprised of many different age groups and families, we decided to change how do dinner for the Fall. We were given a donation to have a cook, and then we asked for a suggested donation from everyone (\$5 per meal, \$95 for the whole year, or \$250 for a family). This new way of doing dinner has been a huge success and now we have a self sustainable program. In 2019 we will be able to pay for the cook and the food through the suggested donation. We now have many more families joining in for dinner as well since they have contributed to the dinner funds. This

Wednesday dinner program has proven to be successful by creating a fellowship time for the adults, children and youth.

Service Events

In 2018 we made a point to support our Service and Missions committee with the events and projects they have promoted. The families have helped with walking in the annual CROP Hunger Walk and the LSS Poverty Walk. We also had many children, youth and adults that helped with tying blankets for those impacted CLU by the fires and the Borderline Shooting.

Day Trips

In 2018 we had a few events where the whole family was invited, and all of them were a hit. We had a trip to the pumpkin patch in October, had a movie under the tent the day before the Make Bake Celebrate in September, and we went on multiple hikes.

Family Winter Camp at El Camino Pines (3 families)

Family Winter Camp in 2018 was in January and we took 10 people in total. We joined along in worship, workshops (broken up with the adults in one group, children, and youth), and heard the camp staff speak.

Parent's Night Out (15-35 children, 10-20 youth at each)

While Parent's Night Out is a fundraiser for our youth trips, the nights we have together with our youth and children combined has been so precious to watch. The middle and high school youth have taken ownership of being in charge and making sure the kids are having fun while being safe, and the children love the time with the older youth and really look up to them. These nights have also been a great opportunity for parents to have some time to themselves or with their own friends! We did 4 of these evenings in 2018.

Fundraising

Parent's Night Out's

In December of 2015 we started a new kind of fundraiser called "Parent's Night Out." During these nights the youth babysit the children of our congregation and throughout the community. We have dinner, games, crafts, and a movie at the end. For these fundraisers we had a Thrivent Action Team that gave us \$250 for food and supplies for the night. Then we charged the parents \$20 per child to make money to go on our youth trips. These nights have been a fun and precious watching the older and younger kids at our church bond.

Easter Breakfast

Every year on Easter morning we have a simple pancake breakfast that is provided. We get a Thrivent Action Team to cover the cost of the food and supplies, and the ask for a suggested donation for breakfast. We have our middle and high school youth help in shifts with serving a busing tables. This year we raised approximately \$750.

Variety Show

2018 was a big year of fundraising for our summer trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering. We started a new fundraiser where we asked members from the congregation to do any kind of act in our show. We also played video of what we were to expect from the gathering. We collected \$10 per ticket that mostly went to feeding everyone Establos for dinner. Then during the dinner component we talked about donations needed for our summer trip. That evening we raised over \$3,000, and then following that evening we raised the extra funds needed. Instead of doing lots of small fundraisers,

we asked the congregation for what we really needed, and we were able to raise almost \$10,000 to cover the cost of the gathering!

Make Bake Celebrate

The Make Bake Celebrate in 2018 went well with a large number of middle and a few high school (same night as the Homecoming Dance) youth helping to serve. The youth did a great job at working together. We made over \$2,500 through “Tips for Teens” to go to our winter and summer trips.

Cookie Jar

In December we did our annual fundraiser making cookie jars for Christmas time. This was a huge hit and we sold over 70 cookie jars for \$10 a piece. All of the proceeds will go to our families going to Family Winterfest in January 2019.

Staff

Children and Youth Ministry Assistant

Katie Robinson has been employed at Mt Cross since October of 2015 and she has taken on a lot of responsibility. Katie helps with the planning and implementing of our Fun with Faith program. She works on Sunday mornings for Children’s Church, and assist with youth group on Sunday evenings. Katie ran the music piece of our VBS program. Katie has become a very important piece of our Mt Cross family.

Nursery Staff

Kayla Lindquist and Shaun York have been our faithful nursery attendants for many years. They are here every Sunday morning ready with fun activities for the youngest members of our church community. Many of the small children look forward to come to church to go be with Kayla and Shaun, and their dedication to be here every Sunday for so many years is appreciated!

Sound Room Youth

After Pastor John retired we realized that we needed more help in our sound room to help our services run properly. We hired and trained four of our high school youth (Andrew Johnson, Tabitha Ebright, Landon Stouch and Ben Fisher) to work in a rotation on Sunday mornings during both church services. Throughout this year these youth have made our sound and powerpoint operate successfully and we are grateful to them.

Thank you to everyone who has helped volunteer!

Learning Committee

A huge thank you to all who helped in any way with our Learning Committee! We meet once a month at 7:00PM at Yolanda's. These ladies have helped me greatly with planning events and giving feedback on our programs. A special thank you to Tracy Blois for being the chair of this committee. Thank you also to Heather Edwards, Patti Stouch, and Karen Cherry for all your support and help! Thank you Ivan Fernandez for being our liaison to the Church Council!

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all the people who make VBS happens! Putting on our VBS is a lot of work, and so many people help in different ways. If we did not have people who cared so much about this program then there is no way we could put it on. I am truly grateful to everyone who helped in any little or big way!

Confirmation Guides

Thank you to all of the guides in 2018! We have been blessed to have Patti Stouch, and Brian Fisher as trusted adults for our middle school youth. Thank you for your time and love for our Mt Cross youth!

Lastly, thank you to all of the people at Mount Cross who have made this such an enjoyable and exciting year for me! You are what makes our programs successful, and I looked forward to what we have in store for the future!

**Fondly,
Meredith ☺**

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Utility Conservation Update

Thank you all for conserving energy and water. In water conservation, our combined efforts have reduced our average daily cost from a high of \$19 in 2014 to only \$9 in 2018. In electricity conservation, our combined efforts have reduced our average daily cost from a high of \$20 in 2010 to only \$12 in 2018.

Our 2018 Maintenance and Repair Program

The Property Committee meets at 7 PM on the last Tuesday of each month. Throughout 2018, our committee members and many parishioners have given of their talents, energy and funds to maintain and improve our facilities and grounds. Their accomplishments are:

Recycling

Collection of all recyclables from the property

Maintenance

Prayer Garden and flower beds maintenance and planting

More mulch for the parking lot island

Hillside clearing, maintenance and planting

Lighting maintenance

Repair

LED upgrade of seven light fixtures along the covered walkway

New equipment

New doormats

New umbrellas (memorial funds)

Contracted Services, Maintenance and Repair

Tenting and fumigation of the sanctuary

Replacement of 172 fluorescent tubes with LEDs by SCE at no cost

Van maintenance and repair

Plumbing repairs (drinking fountain drain line; kitchen faucet)
Rebuild of Luther Hall door mechanism
Energy-saving film on the south office windows
Refrigerator repair
Janitorial services (incl. carpet cleaning)
Pest control
Fire extinguisher services
Grounds maintenance
Trash collection services

Respectfully submitted
Your Property Committee

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT ON PATIO PAVILION

The committee is pleased to report that with the installation of the windscreens in January 2019 the patio pavilion project is nearing completion. The committee is thankful to all those individuals who have dedicated numerous hours to this project. Without their many hours of hard work and help, we would not have this beautiful pavilion for Mount Cross to enjoy for many years to come. Below is an up to date accounting of the funds spent during this project.

Design	9,061.85
Demo	19,170.00
Concrete	57,117.00
Equipment	
Rentals	3,452.07
Elec/Lighting	6,355.28
Roofing	8,000.00
Lumber/Iron	31,891.14
Framing	38,965.40
Stucco	11,330.00
Plumbing	5,105.00
Windscreens	16,538.15
Paint	5,000.51
Site Prep	4,493.50
Misc. Materials	3,671.68
Promotion	322.75

\$ 220,474.33

The committee would like to thank the entire congregation for their generosity and giving. The project was entirely paid for by donated and memorial funds.

Brian Edwards, Craig Blois, Rick Mann

SERVICE & MISSIONS

How the year has flown by! 2018 proved to be another year of many accomplishments supported by the church, its members and many friends. A big THANK YOU to all who helped on the many projects that are coordinated by your "Service and Missions Team", including:

- The "Souper Bowl of Caring" was held in February. Funds raised were sent to ELCA World Hunger and all the donated food went to support Saint Columba's food pantry.
- In March the Camarillo CROP Hunger Walk joined forces with the Conejo Walk on the CLU Campus. Our fundraising monies supported hunger ministries in Camarillo.
- Another "food outreach" supported by many faithful volunteers from Mount Cross is the Many Meals program at Trinity Presbyterian which provides a hot meal on the 2nd Thursday each month in partnership with Peace Lutheran Church.
- The congregation collected and delivered 108 coats to go to Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in January, and gathered supplies throughout the year in our collection bin to support the good works they do.
- The coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil and other foods sold at the monthly Fair Trade sales supported farmers with a living wage.
- In July many folks supported the LWR Alternative Christmas by donating to purchase farm animals through the Good Gifts catalogue.
- In September the church turned out in force to raise funds for the Patio Project and host a church "rummage sale". Many people donated and shopped for some great bargains. The Service and Missions committee received 10% of the funds raised to support local outreach organizations.
- We continued to support Lutheran World Relief by creating school and health kits for them to distribute. Many thanks to the summer VBS by starting the collection of school supplies.
- The Habitat for Humanity build site in Oxnard of 6 new homes was completed with a great house blessing in late October. The new partner families celebrated Halloween in their new homes. Mount Cross sent several volunteer groups to the site to help with construction.
- The Hickory House Christmas party was a success again thanks to the generosity of many at Mount Cross.
- The 2018 Gifts of Hope project continues to be a wonderful alternative Christmas project. This year, we again supported Lutheran Disaster Response to help with their work around the world and in our local communities hurting from the recent wildfires.

The Service and Missions Committee meets each month. Please attend a meeting or contact one of our members if you would like to take a more active role in one of these ongoing missions or if you want to start a new outreach opportunity. We strive to uplift service projects that fulfill our mission statement, and that respond to needs brought forth during the year. Thanks to the committee members: Bob Boyer, Bill Stoll, Mary Goodenough, Cy Johnson, Melissa Henry and Denise Sobolik (council rep). Additionally, thanks to John Colby and John Colby Jr. for their help with St Columba's food donations and many others for the gifts of their time and talent in bringing these and many other projects to completion to help make the world a better place. Most importantly thanks to all of the members and friends of Mount Cross for their continued support both physical and financial in accomplishing so much this year.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Service and Missions Committee
Gordon Henry - Chair

MANY MEALS

Having completed eight years of service in September 2018, the Thursday night Many Meals program continues to serve a free dinner to the hungry in Camarillo. Numerous Mount Cross members and friends volunteer alongside partners from Peace Lutheran Church on the second Thursday of each month and at least one fifth Thursday. It is a true testament to faith and commitment to joyful service that this program continues with such enthusiastic volunteers. We are grateful to long term, faithful volunteers and excited about the new volunteers who joined the program this year.

Highlights for 2018:

- The first half of the year the number of dinner guests continued at roughly 80 persons per meal. Later in the year, the meals served grew to routinely over 90 and several times over 100.
- A partnership with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) begun this year made case management services available to persons dining on our Many Meals nights. A rent assistance grant received by LSS has directly benefited some Many Meal attendees.
- Through LSS, ten children of families from the Thursday Many Meals dinners were identified for a 2018 Christmas adopt-a-child gift program and were provided Christmas presents through the Mount Cross Many Meals volunteer network.

Goals for 2019:

- Continue to serve well-balanced home cooked dinners that leave our dinner guests feeling as though they have been served as a guest in our homes.
- Increase involvement opportunities for Mount Cross members and general awareness of the program throughout the congregation.
- In coordination with LSS, the Mount Cross Care Team and others, identify community service resources of potential benefit for Many Meals participants. Have resource information available at dinners.
- Work to have the various church coordinators for the Thursday nights communicate plans for support services and supplies in addition to meal planning.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35

Submitted by Karen Gramacki, Susan Prosser and Trish Whelan

MOUNT CROSS CARE TEAM

Following the 2017 Caring Task Force, the Care Team was established as an alternative to the long dormant Caring Committee. Primary responsibilities of the Team are to 1) assist in identifying areas where additional caring support is needed; 2) help identify and/or create caring responses to needs; 3) provide support and coordination as necessary to other caring efforts; and 4) to become a recognizable caring resource for the congregation. This effort has been supported by the Church Council and assigned a Council Liaison.

2018 Highlights:

- Card Ministry has been expanded to include volunteers who have been matched with 20 plus Mount Cross members and friends for regular communication. Additionally, attention has been given to sharing greetings at holiday times with additional persons who may appreciate the contact. (NOTE: this is in addition to the Card Ministry Program maintained by the Colby's reaching out immediately to members upon the report of a death

or a health issue). Twelve get well and four sympathy cards were sent out this year by Janet Colby.

- Care Note support materials were reviewed and purchased for limited topics. One goal of these materials will be to support Pastor in his pastoral visits. As another example, during the 2018 Christmas season more than a dozen persons or households received appropriate Christmas greetings and a Care Note on “coping with the first Christmas after losing a loved one” from Mount Cross.
- Pastor Jim has been able to meet periodically with the Team to share his impressions of areas of need. Team joined with Pastor to increase Pastor’s Discretionary Fund from Endowments Funds in order to have a source available should there be a caring need that needed a financial response.
- Church staff provides great support and a great deal of information in pursuing our goals and provide many of the Caring support services of the church. The Office Manager in particular has been very important to most of what has been pursued.
- Two gatherings were held for persons currently involved in Caring efforts at the church to permit a sharing of ideas, needs and concerns. These proved to be successful and consensus was that they should continue to be scheduled on a regular basis.
- Care Team members worked with the Stewardship Team to update the Time and Talent form for use with the 2019 Stewardship Campaign in the interest of securing new and additional volunteers.

2019 Goals:

- Complete an up to date listing of local support services that may be of use to Mount Cross members and work to create categorized listings to make available to members and others
- Establish the regular Caring Gatherings.
- Work with recent Time and Talent submittals and identified needs to match volunteers. Do further specific volunteer recruitments as necessary for unmet needs.
- Continue to solicit input and survey needs in the Caring area; provide support as appropriate to the various caring functions of the congregation; work with church staff in pursuit of goals; and remain a visible resource for Caring at Mount Cross.

Submitted Gayle Johnson, Susan Prosser, Becky Riley, Beverly Rueckert and Allison Johnson, Council Liaison

MOUNT CROSS QUILTERS



**Tied in Faith.
Sent in Hope.
Wrapped in Love.**

The **Mount Cross Quilters** make quilts for Lutheran World Relief’s “Mission Quilt” project.

Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That’s what we share through making quilts for the LWR Mission Quilt project. Recipients use the quilts in many

ways...to shield them from the cold and rain, for warm bedding, to wrap a baby, and they can also be purposed as a simple tent. In a combination of fabric, batting, and thread, we reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope that they are not alone.

In November of this year, the Mount Cross quilters (and congregation) answered a call by California Lutheran University for quilts and donated 12 prayer quilts to CLU students after the tragic Borderline shooting and the area wildfires. In addition, in October we shipped **101 quilts** to Lutheran World Relief.

There are many ways Mount Cross members can assist us in making quilts for LWR. We continually need donations of fabric, sheets and thread. Also...if you are a Thrivent Member, we have used Thrivent action grants to purchase thread and batting.

Please consider joining the Mount Cross Quilters twice a month on Thursdays to pin and tie quilts...no experience necessary. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM in the Parish Life Center.

Making quilts provides an opportunity for us to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbors in need.

Respectfully submitted,
The Quilters



HELPING HANDS MINISTRY



Helping Hands is the Mount Cross service group that assists by arranging and serving receptions when funerals or memorial services are held at Mount Cross. We prepare and serve the food, sets up the room for the reception, and help with assorted other details to relieve the family of this concern.

Help is needed to assist with the many tasks related to a reception. We can always use help with platters of desserts, sandwiches, fruit, veggies and cheese to serve at our receptions. Assistance is also needed with

for the last 6 years. We have explored a wide variety of music this year with varied techniques. This bell choir always amazes me by their dedication and attention to the details to whatever is put before them. The music they perform is very inspirational and a blessing to me personally as their director.

Your musical servant in Christ,
Jayne Pompey

PRAISE BAND

The Praise Band is so excited for 2019 and the opportunities it holds for leading the congregation in worship through music. I for one feel incredibly blessed to be so welcomed by the members of Mount Cross as the new Praise Band Director, and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for the band and the contemporary service. We will continue to incorporate modern music into worship, while still respecting the traditions around liturgy, and of course we are always open to requests and suggestions! We would also love to have members of the congregation join us in the band, be it once in a while or regularly. If you would like to share your love of Jesus and worship music with the congregation on Sundays, or maybe just want to grab coffee and talk theology, please call, text, or email me!

"O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things" Psalm 98:1

Carina McVeigh - Praise Band Director
661.466.6386
carina@mountcross.com

MOUNT CROSS MISSION EXPLORATION TEAM

The Mission Exploration Team (MET) Report is included here in full for your review. This report has been previously endorsed by the Church Council (November 27, 2018) and submitted to the Call Committee at their first meeting. Copies of the report were made available to the congregation at the same time.

There will be a summary presentation of the Team's proposed future Mission Opportunities for the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Your questions will be welcome at that time. If you should have questions before then, please feel free to contact any member of the Team.

Grateful to have had the opportunity to serve,
Mount Cross MET Members-Karen Cherry, Mary Goodenough, Gordon Henry, Gayle Johnson, Joe Swindle; and Susan Prosser, Chair

Mount Cross MET Report

*Rooted in God's Grace to joyfully witness and serve.
Intimacy With God + Inspiring Worship + Intentional Faith
Development Compassionate Outreach + Caring
Community*

Guided by our Mission Statement and Core Values (listed above) and the directives provided by our Synod, the Mission Exploration Team undertook to identify connections our congregation can make with the community which may change or enhance its sense of mission /purpose and help clarify the type of pastoral leadership we need for the future. This is a step that precedes the Call Process.

As a congregation, Mount Cross expresses excitement about the future and is ready to try new things. We place great value on worship and relationships. We recognize the importance of helping all grow in faith, particularly children. Members view Mount Cross as a positive force in the community and believe that we have enough people to do ministry well. We are a congregation willing to use and commit our gifts. These strengths along with congregational staff and facility resources equip the congregation to move forward.

MET members collected information and input through survey, solicited input, demographic information, and reviews of community organizations, agencies and churches, and the assets of the congregation. Throughout the process we identified Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Resources. We have identified three mission opportunities where a new pastor can join this congregation in emboldening our ministry and what characteristics/traits in a new pastor would help support these pursuits.

Mission Opportunity I – We hope Mount Cross will commit to learning about the surrounding neighborhood in order to know, advocate for and serve our neighbors.

- Equip congregation with knowledge of the multicultural community that surrounds Mount Cross with resources for the total congregation and developed specifically for committees/functions
- Build discipleship and welcoming skills within the congregation to ready members for reaching out to our neighbors
- Undertake outreach activities to the near community with special focus on new growth areas
 - Use neighbor welcome, worship invitations, and surveys to Springville development and other new residential areas to make our availability known and learn what new residents need and want in support from their community
 - Broadly send welcome messages and worship invitations to area neighbors – 93010
- Connect with nearby schools, community social agencies & local government to aid in defining advocacy and service opportunities for Mount Cross
- Establish an ongoing partnership with our two communing partner churches in Camarillo and the broader faith community in order to strengthen our advocacy potential

Mission Opportunity II - We suggest that Mount Cross make use of people and facility resources to intentionally partner with faith based organizations and community agencies in bringing services to the neighborhood.

- Develop and host occasional and regular onsite programs through partnerships with area agencies such as Camarillo Health Care District & Lutheran Social Services to serve the community and members
- Develop and maintain comprehensive “Camarillo specific” community resource materials
- Partner with churches, social service and public agencies, service clubs, volunteer organizations and others to assist with broader distribution of information
- Organize and hold forums to bring information resources directly to our neighbors
- Become a visible presence at community events linked to community service and advocacy

Mission Opportunity III – In the very near future, we hope that Mount Cross will strengthen and/or reinvigorate elements of its foundation in order to best welcome and serve our neighbors.

- Bring vibrant leadership and support to every worship opportunity to insure inspiring experience for members and visitors alike
- Strengthen all children’s Christian education with specific need for a program for those under 5.
- Welcome Team needs leadership and program reestablished
- Adopt a broader approach to Stewardship and commit to addressing a year round ministry
- Rebuild an intentional relationship between congregation and Child Development Center (CDC)

Pastoral Characteristics/Traits That Would Support These Mission Opportunities

- Experience with community outreach in a multicultural community
- Evangelism and community discipleship experience and knowledge
- Outgoing, approachable and interested in working with a variety of people and organizations
- Open minded and innovative with an interest in learning, sharing and teaching
- Able to help us integrate our faith with the way we live our lives
- Proven effectiveness as a worship leader

This report is intended to present a limited number of suggested Mission Opportunities based on the data collected and the information considered. We have chosen to focus outward and on our readiness to welcome and serve our changing community. Recommendations are made with the goal to strengthen and renew Mount Cross with no intent to offend. We give recognition to the fact that other areas/programs may also merit review and renewal and are hopeful that the information collected in this effort will be useful in further efforts. Likewise, the pastoral characteristics are only those that support the presented Mission Opportunities and are not a final comprehensive list that will be considered by the Call Committee. All collected information will be provided as supporting documentation and will be available to the Church Council, Committees and members in a notebook in the Church Office.

MET members have served with a deep commitment to Mount Cross and give thanks to all who provided input and support to the process.

MOUNT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Jim Bessey 562-986-1418
Interim Pastor
Meredith Smith 805-558-5687
Director of Ministries
Sheri Groenveld 805-482-3847
Office Manager
Cathy Channels 805-482-9706
Director, Child Development Center
Guy Ervin III 805-495-8688
Organist
Jayne Pompey 805-479-6619
Sanctuary Choir & English Handbell Director

Carina McVeigh 661-466-6386
Praise Band Director
Joan Brundage 805-987-5369
Financial Secretary
Katie Robinson 805-908-9661
Children & Youth Ministry Assistant
Kayla Lindquist
Shaun York
Nursery Attendants

Church Council and Congregational Leaders – 2018

Church Council

Brian Edwards – President
Denise Sobolik—Vice President
Cecelia Travick-Jackson– Recorder
Keith Selbrede – Treasurer
Craig Blois
Joan Brundage
Betty Ertel—Child Development Center Representative
Ivan Fernandez
Allison Johnson
Stan Patscheck
Susan Prosser
Tina Riley
Norman Williamsen
Financial Secretary - Joan Brundage

Committee Chairs

Adult Education - Cecelia Travick-Jackson
Altar Guild – Jan Beat and Joanna Wullschleger
Budget and Finance – Keith Selbrede
Caring - Susan Prosser, Gayle Johnson & Bev Rueckert
Concert Series – Barbara D’Addario
Endowment/Legacy Giving - Brian Fisher
Fellowship – Valerie Patscheck
Learning – Tracy Blois
Personnel - Jim Prosser
Property – Rick Mann
Service and Missions – Gordon Henry
Worship and Music – Randy Churchill

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

	Baptized 932	Confirmed 661
Membership, end of 2017		
Members received during 2017		
By baptism (children)	0	0
By baptism (adults)	0	1
By affirmation of faith	0	0
By transfer from ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
From other sources and statistical adjustments	0	0
Total members received this year	0	1
Baptized youth confirmed in 2018		4
Members removed during 2018		
By death	6	6
By transfer	7	7
Total removed this year	13	13
Membership, end of 2018	919	649

2018 Sunday Worship Attendance

January	Average	Total	July	Average	Total
4 Sundays	163	651	5 Sundays	127	635
February	Average	Total	August	Average	Total
4 Sundays	146	583	4 Sundays	112	447
March	Average	Total	September	Average	Total
4 Sundays	134	534	5 Sundays	125	627
April	Average	Total	October	Average	Total
5 Sundays	157	784	5 Sundays	129	517
May	Average	Total	November	Average	Total
4 Sundays	150	600	4 Sundays	136	542
June	Average	Total	December	Average	Total
4 Sundays	147	588	5 Sundays	127	635

2018 Total Sunday Attendance:	7,143
2018 Average Sunday Attendance:	135

For a detailed Sunday-by-Sunday report, see
Current Year Statistics in the Church Council section of the Mount Cross website: www.mountcross.com