

The Grapevine



No. 333

April 2020

A Message from Pastor Julie:

Dear Mount Cross Family,

We find ourselves in challenging, painful and uncertain times. Even as we all do our best to give thanks for what we have and to see the hidden gifts in the midst of so much turmoil and disruption, we have to admit that our world is in a rough place right now. The Bible is a great resource for us always, but especially today. As we read scripture, we recognize that our ancestors in faith also lived through times of uncertainty and separation. For example, remember the newly-freed Hebrew slaves journeying through the wilderness and, much later in Israel's history, the Babylonian Exile. Both of these were decades-long experiences for the People of God. We hope our global pandemic situation will be resolved within weeks or months, but we can still lean on these sacred stories for guidance and hope.

The particular story that keeps coming to my mind is the story of manna in the wilderness in Exodus 16. The people were hungry. They missed their familiar foods. They even wondered if being back in Egypt might be better than living with so much precarity and so many unknowns. God met them in that place with bread from heaven, called manna. Manna literally means "what is it?" It was new to them. Each day there would be enough manna for everyone -*just enough*. If they gathered more than a day's portion, the extra would rot. God fed them this way for forty years, until they came within view of the promised land. The messages for us are simple, but hard to practice: be open to new ways of being nourished, new ways of connection with others, new ways of working, living and worshipping together; and recognize that, through the grace of God, there is enough for today. Attempts to hoard and stockpile more than we need will go bad. Gather what you need but leave the rest for others. We are told God fed the people with manna daily, for forty years, until they came within view of the promised land. Surely it was this story that inspired Jesus to teach us to pray, "Give us this day, our daily bread."

Thank you for continuing to be the church in this wilderness time by loving, praying, serving and giving as you can and where you can. I am praying for you and available to you. You can reach me by email at pastorjulie@mountcross.com. In the case of any urgency, please call my cell phone: (805) 312-1978. You will read in this newsletter the tentative plans we have for online Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Check our website for updates, as we may have to make changes. Also, if you are not receiving weekly emails from us, please email the church office at office@mountcross.com to sign up for our emails. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Julie +

The Grapevine is a monthly publication of Mount Cross Lutheran Church, 102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010 • (805) 482-3847
website: www.mountcross.com • email: office@mountcross.com • Pastor: Julie Morris • Editor: Carina McVeigh
Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MountCross) or Follow us on Twitter (@MountCrossCam).

Children and Youth

See below for scheduled children and youth activities! If you have any questions, please email Joe.

- Fun with Faith** - Wednesday Nights at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom & Padlet
- Confirmation** - Wednesday Nights at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- High School Youth Group** - Sunday Nights at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom
- Morning Devotion** - Monday through Saturday at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom
- Open Zoom Hours** - every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by request



Be a Part of a Community Garden!

Dear Friends,
Our recent challenges may have you getting creative and finding resources to provide food for your family. Maybe you have contemplated your own garden, but don't have the room to truly feed your family with what one or two plants might produce. We have a resource right here in the middle of Camarillo you may not know about.

First Baptist Church on Temple Ave. has a community garden. It is run by a board of directors, and is very reasonable. For \$85 a year, starting in July, and prorated until then, you can lease a 5 x 20 bed. These are organic beds, there are tools for you to use, and water for your garden if free. It is a wonderful opportunity to be in the sunshine, have a gentle breeze, provide food for your family and friends, and still easily stay six feet from each other. It's not too late to get your hands dirty and get spring planting started.

If you would like more information about how to become a FBC Community Garden Member, please call Lisa Higginbotham, (805) 910-5048, and she will give you more details and tour the garden.

Volunteer Opportunity

2-1-1 Ventura County is in need of call center volunteers to begin service immediately. You can sign up directly by going to http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/detail/?need_id=508264

Fun and Fellowship Weekend

The dates for the 2020 Fun and Fellowship weekend up at River Creek Golf Course in Ahwahnee are **October 16-18**. The Comfort Inn of Oakhurst has offered the discounted rate of \$80.00/night+tax and will take reservations now. They have a same-day cancellation policy at the hotel so even if you are not sure that you can attend the weekend, I encourage you to go ahead and make your reservations now as the hotel does tend to sell out in October. Remember to mention River Creek Golf Course when making your reservations so that you receive the discounted room rate. The hotel phone number is 559-683-8282. It would be helpful to let us know that you have made a reservation so that we have an idea of how many will attend the event. Thank you!

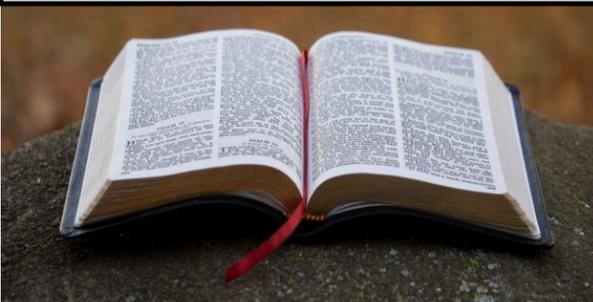
Also, please share an invitation to others to attend the event ~ all are welcome!

Have a wonderful day,
Steve and Jeanne Michel
(805) 252-2525 or (805) 377-5829

If you are not receiving emails from Mount Cross, please contact the office so we can add you to our email list or add you to our call list! Make sure you also double check your spam folder and add office@mountcross.com to your contacts so you have the most up to date information possible. Thanks!

Educational Opportunities

With the exception of Sunday morning Adult Education, all bible studies will continue as scheduled via Zoom. Please see below for dates, times, and access instructions. Thank you!



Men's Bible Study: April 2, 16, and 30 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

We study and discuss the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. To join us on Zoom on your computer or smart device go to <https://zoom.us/j/122561229> OR from your phone dial **1 669 900 6833**. You will be asked for a meeting ID number. Enter **122 561 229** and then push pound (#).

Women's Bible Study: April 14, 21, and 28 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study will not meet on April 7. Beginning April 14 and continuing weekly, we will be reading *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life* by Joyce Rupp. "Through this six-week personal transformation process for developing and deepening compassion, Rupp nudges, encourages, and inspires you to grow in the kind of love that motivated Jesus' life and mission for his disciples." Let Pastor Julie know if you need help ordering the book. To join us on Zoom on your computer or smart device, go to <https://zoom.us/j/718448990> OR to call on your phone dial **1 408 638 0968**. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID which is **718 448 990** and then push pound (#).

Praying in the Wilderness

Now may be a good time to explore new digital resources for supporting your prayer life. Pastor Julie recommends:

1. *Pray as You Go*. You can visit their website <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or download the app. They offer recorded guided prayers each day lasting about 10-12 minutes. You can listen to them while you walk or anywhere you have access to the internet.
2. *d365 Daily Devotional*. These are written primarily for youth and young adults but are good for all ages. They are available on their website d365.org.
3. *Bishop Guy Erwin's Daily Prayer Videos*. During this pandemic, Bishop Erwin has been recording Morning and Evening prayer videos and posting them on the synod website. Find them at <https://www.socalsynod.org/2020/03/24/>

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

April 15, 22 and 29 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Open to all, we study the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday on Wednesday evenings. On your computer or smart device go to <https://zoom.us/j/861819171> OR to call on your phone dial **669-900-6833**. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID which is **861 819 171** and then push pound (#).



Service & Missions

Be God's Hands and Be Healthy

Friends of Mount Cross - we are praying for your health - for your body and your soul! Continue to hold each other up in prayer and in phone calls. Reach out to the church office if you need help - but also reach out to someone else and let them know you are there for them. In these times of physical distancing, a phone call from a friend can be a life line. Soul care - praying for each other - is vital. God's hands can do something as easy as dial a phone number!

Harbor House Help

Although the winter shelter has been closed - the work of Harbor House continues. They are still meeting one on one with clients (very safely over the phone!) and helping people get assistance. They are also serving bagged lunches every day out of the Holy Trinity parking lot in Thousand Oaks. You can find the sign up/donation link on their website if you would like to help at www.Harborhouseto.org. Cash donations are also needed (donation information is on the website as well), as they are doing their best to help house those who would otherwise be sleeping in the overnight shelter.

CROP Hunger Walk

If you joined us on March 8, we thank you! If you donated to a participant, we thank you! The 37th annual CROP Hunger Walk was a success thanks to you! It was a beautiful day for a walk through Camarillo - whether you did the short or long route. The walk raised more than \$18,000 - a quarter of which stays here in the county to support local hunger work.

Monthly Fair Trade Sale

This monthly sale will be postponed - but that doesn't mean you have to live without your favorite fair trade items. Contact Melissa Henry to arrange a porch drop of your favorite item... within Camarillo city limits, please.

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” -Mr. Rogers

Food Pantry Collection Point

Some food pantries in the county have had to close - but the ones who haven't are facing a shortage of donations.

Let's help with that by hosting a "drive-through" donation operation on April 7, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in the church parking lot. Here's how:

1. We ask that you bring items you have already purchased. Please do not go out to the grocery store to pick up items to donate.
2. Put your donations in the trunk, our gloved coordinators will take the donation items from your trunk, so no need to leave your car!
3. Our coordinators will disinfect donated items. Items will also be stored for two days before being brought to the food pantry.

Thank you!

Potluck and a Movie

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the showing of "The Human Element" will be postponed. But while you are at home, try watching some documentaries in between your typical television watching - National Geographic is a good choice for beautiful videos if you need a little nature binge.

Blood Donations Needed

Yep, you guessed it - blood donations are down as we've all been "safer at home"... and the blood drive we planned has been postponed. But - Vitalent (formerly United Blood Services who runs the bloodmobile) is open at their location in Ventura and welcomes donors. Visit www.vitalent.org to schedule a donation time that works for you. They have added extra precautions to keep us donors safe in the time of COVID-19.

Mount Cross Cares

Staying connected with you is important during this time of imposed isolation. An attempt was made to reach as many Mount Cross member households by phone as possible. Letters were sent to some people for whom a phone connection was not successful. If you are receiving this newsletter and have not received a phone call or letter from the church, we strongly encourage you to contact the church office at 805-482-3847 or office@mountcross.com. **We want to know how you are doing and what we might do for you.** Confidential referrals of others who may benefit from some care or support may also be made by contacting the office or Pastor Julie.

- We have a team of Caring Callers to make check-in calls.
- We have church volunteers who will run errands like picking up drug store or grocery orders.
- The Mount Cross Prayer Chain continues to pray for existing and new requests for prayers from members and friends. Requests can be called or emailed to the church office with as much or little detail as you wish to provide.
- Pastor Julie remains available to provide spiritual support and encouragement and will respond to urgent needs. Contact her at pastorjulie@mountcross.com, 805-482-3847, or her cell phone in urgent need 805-312-1978.
- Our Card Ministry continues with card partners assigned to some and plans for mailings for Easter and in special circumstances.
- The church staff can assist you with additional instruction in connecting to live streaming or recorded Worship Services or virtual Bible studies and group gatherings.
- If you have a need not addressed here, do not hesitate to contact the church. If we cannot directly assist, we will try to give you a referral.

If the COVID 19 restrictions remain in place for an extended period, there is no doubt that additional needs will arise and further ways for Mount Cross to respond will be considered. Our hope is that everyone can be safe and well. We want you to know for certain that Mount Cross is your church home and your church family.

Mount Cross Care Team and Volunteers

<u>Care Team</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>		<u>Staff</u>
Luanne Crockett	Vicky Edell	Tracy Blois	Jessica Easter
Gayle Johnson	Melissa Henry	Pr Lynn Enloe	Carina McVeigh
Evonne Kuchera	Patricia Lewis	Mark Storer	Jayne Pompey
Becky Riley	Julie Merrick	Judy Winters	
Beverly Rueckert	Jim Gramacki	Zach Lotshaw	
Susan Prosser	Karen Gramacki		

Many Meals Update

Many Meals is closed for the time being. Watch for updates in our emails. Meals on Wheels **will deliver a sack lunch** to those 60 and older who are homebound:

Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Contact: Bridget Elliott

Phone: (805) 496-2009

Notes 'n News

An Invitation to The Great Three Days

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are called the “Great Three Days.” As a community, we enter into the saving experience of Christ’s death and resurrection. This year will be different because we will be gathered virtually. Still, the grace of these days will transcend our limitations and we invite you to join Mount Cross in prayer and worship.

Tentative Worship Schedule for April

The schedule below is our **tentative worship schedule**. It is subject to change and we ask for your patience and flexibility. Also, please check our website www.mountcross.com and our email updates for the most current information.

All these services will be live streamed on Facebook.com/ Mount Cross. You do not need a Facebook account to watch our live streams.

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 10 Good Friday 12:00 Noon (simple service of prayer and reflection)

Friday, April 10 Good Friday 7:30 p.m. (The Liturgy of Good Friday with St. Columba’s Episcopal Church)

Saturday, April 11 The Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, April 15, 22, and 29 Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Sundays, April 19 and 26, Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Flowers



So that we can all see the congregation and see flowers on Easter Sunday, please send us pictures of YOU with flowers: cut flowers, trees in bloom, beautiful succulents, and anything lovely! We want to put together a slide show to screen on Easter Sunday morning.

In lieu of buying flowers for the church, we will be collecting donations for Food Share of Ventura County. If you’d still like to donate in honor of or in memory of someone, we will include your dedication in our Easter bulletin.



Legacy Giving/Endowment Team

The Legacy Giving Team is currently soliciting requests for distributions from the Endowment Fund. Requests may be made in the areas of Missions, Education, Children and Young Adult Ministry, Worship and Music as well as capital projects.. Please include requested funding amount and a justification statement. The Legacy Giving Team will consider all requests and will submit recommendations to the church council for funding. Provide funding requests to Carina in the church office by Friday May 1, 2020.

Fresh, Local, Organic Produce to Boost Your Immune System

The Abundant Table's CSA (\$30 produce boxes delivered weekly at drop off locations in Ventura County - free delivery to your house if you are sick) - <https://csa.farmigo.com/join/jointhefarm>. Their Farm Store in Camarillo (off Central and the 101) is open - <https://www.facebook.com/theabundanttablefarmstore/>

Stewardship

Making an Impact through ELCA in Action

Stewardship is not only year-round; it is also world wide! ELCA ministries have witnessed unprecedented growth since the launch of "Always Being Made New" in 2014. ELCA ministries received \$250 million to continue, strengthen, and expand their work here at home and with our global companions around the world.

This growth was made possible through the generosity of faithful members and friends of Mount Cross Lutheran Church like you! Thank you for being a part of this historic effort. Keep an eye out every month of 2020 for a new statistic about the work the ELCA is doing.

189 Lutheran women around the world gained access to networking opportunities and academic scholarships and training



PRAYER CONCERNS

The Burch family, Janet Colby, Steve Engh, the family of Arlene Fajnor, Amy Finley (niece of Jim and Susan Prosser), **Karen Guetschoff** (friend of Melissa Henry), **Norma Harvey, German and Connie Hernandez** (friends of Gil Valencia), **Edinson Hernandez** (friend of Stan Patscheck), **Hilary** (niece of Julie Merrick), **Karen** (mother of Julie Merrick), **Janet Kessler and Terry, Lorelai, Matthew, Cameron, and Brady**, (daughter and son-in-law of Judy Fisk), **Lee Patscheck, Ingrid Poehler** (friend of Pastor Lynn Enloe), **John Prosser** (brother of Jim Prosser), **Alan Scott, Steve True** (nephew of Ken and Becky Riley), **Paul Voskes**

Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please e-mail the church office at office@mountcross.com or call 805.482.3847.

From the Quilters at Mount Cross...

Thank you for your donations!

Fabric is now available for sewers to make the medical masks only at the church drop-off point under the pavilion.

CALLING ALL SEWERS... We need your help to make medical staff masks. Instructions are below:

To make masks for Hospital workers with ties, see instructions at this link:

<https://www.instructables.com/id/AB-Mask-for-a-Nurse-by-a-Nurse/>

For questions on Medical Masks contact Valerie Patscheck at vpatscheck@yahoo.com

Making masks for Friends of the Fieldworkers; these are the masks that we were making with elastic.

See tutorial link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FB--BOyTiU&feature=youtu.be>

For questions on Fieldworker masks contact Marilyn Gardner at momgardner_722@msn.com.

If you have completed mask please drop them off in the box on Marilyn Gardner's porch. Her address is in the directory. If you need directions, please email her. She will take them to the central drop-off in Camarillo.

Thank you in advance from the Mount Cross Quilters!

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
102 Camino Esplendido
Camarillo, CA 93010-1717

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**The next newsletter deadline is Thursday, April 16, 2020.
Please send all articles to office@mountcross.com.**

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

- 1 Chloe Fernandez
Nancy Rowley
- 2 Landon Stouch
- 3 Linda Austin
- 4 Blair Bender
Jaci Corey
Betty Ertel
- 5 Taylor Jane Barrett
- 6 Paul Christensen
Avis Miley
- 7 Megan Burrow
Jennifer Churchill
- 9 Joan Brundage
Jordan Duran
- 10 Taylor Crawford
Brett Hall
- 11 Jeanne Michel
Rebekah Vorhis
- 12 Barbara Burrow
Jason Lu
- 13 Mike Carpenter
Jackson Fajnor
Erin Ramirez
- 14 Hailey Vieira
- 15 Scott Beat
Pam Hoffman
Matthew Johnson
David Lennox
- 16 Ric Kienitz
- 17 Cheryl Avery
Christine Rueckert

- 18 Janet Mann
Carina McVeigh
Stan Patscheck
Katarina Smith
- 19 Glenn Channels
Welles Hough
- 20 Tom LaCalamita
- 22 Brian Churchill
- 23 Randy Churchill
Brandon Duran
Kate Jones
Zachary Schneider
Kim Tasker
- 24 Rachel Ramirez
- 25 Chris Nelson
- 26 Ryan Peterson
- 29 Wendy McClary
Louise Stevenson
- 30 Alice Herbruck

Happy Anniversary to...

- 2 Bob & Judy Winters
- 4 Tom & Teri Crawford
Kelly & Tim Schneider
Keith & Dianne Selbrede
- 8 Michelle & Jerry Kienitz
Mike & Kim Tasker
- 11 Susan & Ron Baier
- 14 Karen & William Fanner
- 25 Cecilia & Robert Travick-
Jackson
- 28 Eric & Christine Rueckert

Happy Anniversary of Baptism to...

- 1 Rosanne Stevens
Darren Mason
Kari Warson
Charlene Sakioka
Shannon Casey
- 2 Evelyn Lacy
- 3 Lily Friederichs
Jaden Jones
Claire Sheller
Mateo Carpenter
Anna Chen
Jason Lu
Mandy Lu
Sarah Lu
Troy Rueckert
- 4 Brian Fisher
Nathan Mann
- 5 Doug Posthauer
- 7 Caleb Clem
Kaylie Clem
Evan Fanner
Morgan Fanner
Shenoah Rueckert
Rebekah Vorhis
- 8 Barbara Sletten
Scott Smith
- 10 Paul Christensen
Jaida Jones

- Eric Kienitz
John Pitsch
Madeline Sheller
Brian Stouch
Landon Stouch
- 11 Alexia Summers
Caden Clem
- 13 Megan Pitsch
- 14 Mary Goodenough
Paul Fickenscher
Katherine Jones
Christine Rueckert
Eric Rueckert
Jason Lu
- 15 Delaney Tingle
Maddie Tingle
Jackson Valencia
Sophia Valencia
Evan Artuso
Nathaniel Artuso
Wes Carpenter
- 19 Kira Guzman
Camille Mann
Natalie Mann
- 20 Stacey Frederick
- 22 Janet Mann
- 25 Phyllis Gallentine
- 26 Amanda Smith
Erik Johnson
- 29 Kelsea Smith