

MOUNT CROSS CHURCH COUNCIL
PASTOR'S REPORT, JULY & AUGUST

1. Pastoral Ministry: 14 worship services, 1 adult baptism (Jessica Easter), 4 pastoral counseling, 3 Men's Bible study, 5 Wednesday Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, 5 Sunday Bible studies, MET Team, Worship & Music, CLU Board of Regents retreat and Trusteeship committee, Collegium, Synod Rostered Leaders taskforce.
2. Thank you for my vacation time in July. Although I didn't accomplish all the tasks I had planned, this was a refreshing "Staycation". I appreciated this time for reflection and renewal.
3. Vacation Bible school was a wonderful success and a tribute to good planning and remarkable volunteer support. Thank you to all who contributed to this annual event. With 130 in attendance, our facilities were used to the maximum. We used the Pavilion for crafts and experienced the blessing this space will be for our campus. This is a signature service event for our community each year, but we anticipate making some changes for next year. I was proud to be part of such a remarkable program.
4. Confirmation will begin right after Rally Day as part of our educational program for youth each Wednesday night. We propose to charge tuition to cover our costs of some supplies and the weekly meal.
5. Devin Milligan, our Praise Team director, has submitted her resignation to accept a position teaching music at Ascension Lutheran School in Thousand Oaks. Her last day with us will be Sunday, September 9. We'll plan to wish her Farewell and Godspeed on that day and have a reception following the 2nd service.

MOUNT CROSS CHURCH COUNCIL – PASTOR’S REPORT – JUNE, 2018

1. Pastoral Ministry: 10 worship services, 3 pastoral counseling, 2 Confirmation classes, 2 Men’s Bible studies, 4 Wednesday Bible studies, 4 Sunday Bible studies, MET Team meeting, Southwest California Synod Assembly, California Lutheran University Board of Regents, 1 meeting at CLU.
2. Thank you to our Mount Cross delegation who attended the recent Southwest California Synod Assembly held June 1 & 2 at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks: Bill Greason (substituting for Robert Brickley), Allison Johnson, Denise Sobolik, Meredith Smith, and myself. You can access minutes and decisions on the Synod website: www.socalsynod.org.
3. Please remember that on Sunday, June 24 there is one worship service at 10 a.m. We celebrate the baptism of Jessica Easter, one of our High School students, as well as the blessing of 50th wedding anniversaries for Herb & Jo Holler and Nils & Beverly Rueckert. A pot-luck luncheon on the patio follows our worship.

MOUNT CROSS CHURCH COUNCIL – PASTOR’S REPORT – MAY, 2018

1. Thank you for the continuing education time granted me last month to attend the annual Liturgical Conference at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN. The conference theme this year was: Baptism and gathered almost 300 pastors, deacons, musicians, seminary and university professors and students. I found the plenary lectures and workshops to be very helpful and engaging. Following the conference, I was able to visit with my nephew and his wife in Chicago prior to my return to Camarillo.
2. Pastoral Ministry: (combined report for March/April) 18 worship services, 5 pastoral counseling, 8 Confirmation classes, 4 Men’s Bible study, 5 Wednesday Bible studies, 6 Sunday Bible studies, 2 Pastoral Installations at Ascension, Thousand Oaks and Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley, 1 Conference Collegium, 2 meetings at CLU.
3. The newly-elected Dean of our Channel Islands Conference is Pastor Jennifer Chrien of Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley. Pastor Chrien will serve a 3-year term as our Dean.
4. Worship & Music committee has reviewed our worship services for Holy Week & Easter. The revised liturgies for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil were appreciated and provided new options for our worshippers. Again, I express my thanks to the many Mount Cross

members whose efforts, participation and leadership made our Easter worship opportunities so vibrant.

5. Our MET team is moving forward with their assignments. Tomorrow evening is the final opportunity for anyone to complete a Congregational Vitality survey. Chair Susan Prosser will provide a detailed report to Council, but I want to express my thanks to this committee for their fine work in completing the survey in such a comprehensive way. We are on schedule for all of their work!

MOUNT CROSS CHURCH COUNCIL – PASTOR’S REPORT – FEBRUARY

1. Thank you again for graciously welcoming me into your midst. We are one month into the Interim and things are settling down. Full staff meetings have been a challenge due to travel and illness. We’re getting things done on the run.
2. Pastoral Ministry: 8 worship services, 1 memorial service (Donna Hollingsworth), 3 pastoral counseling, 4 Confirmation classes, 1 Men’s Bible study, 4 Wednesday Bible studies, 3 Sunday Bible studies, Annual Meeting, and Interim Pastor’s meeting with the Bishop.
3. Interim Pastors in our Southwest California Synod meet three times a year with Bishop Erwin. Last week’s meeting had some information I want to share with you.
 - a. With declining congregation numbers and anxieties that face our congregations there are new challenges for Interim Ministry.
 - b. 50% of our 115 congregations may not exist in a decade.

- c. There are twice as many Uber drivers as there are Lutheran in So. California. There are twice as many homeless. We are a small tribe.
 - d. There is anxiety from the fear of failure. Interim Pastors can help the congregation understand their own narrative.
 - e. 10% of our congregations are fully functional.
 - f. Ministry Evaluation Team (MET) documents are being revised. We will use the most current forms for our Mt. Cross process.
4. Ash Wednesday worship is February 14, 7:00 p.m. here at Mount Cross. Our guests will be parishioners from St. Columba's. I hope you can be with us.

CHURCH COUNCIL – PASTOR JIM'S REPORT – JANUARY 9, 2018

1. As I conclude my first week as your Interim Pastor, there are many thanks to share. First of all, thank you for welcoming me in such a genuine way. It was wonderful to meet so many of our members at worship and receive their greeting. Thank you to our staff and members of the Council who have assisted in my orientation. Thanks to Brian and Ben Fisher for their welcomed assistance as I moved into my apartment and to Randy Churchill for his help in securing it. And thank you for the altar flowers as I began my first Sunday. I look forward to our work together!
2. Look for an interview and some pictures in an upcoming edition of the Camarillo Acorn. One of their staff reporters and a photographer were here last week to interview me. Let's hope the details are correct!
3. This coming Sunday, January 14, members of our Synod congregations will gather to celebrate the 38th annual commemoration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The service of Holy Communion begins at 3 p.m. at Westchester

Lutheran, 7831 S. Sepulveda, Los Angeles, 90045. Bishop Guy Erwin is the preacher. You are all welcome to attend this spirited and joyful worship service. A reception will follow worship.

4. Our first staff meeting will be tomorrow. We'll review our parish calendar to be sure we are including all meetings and events. Please call the office if you are aware we have missed something as we strive to improve our accuracy.
5. I am planning to work Tuesday – Sunday each week. Monday will be my day off. You are welcome to call the church office and leave a message for me.