

**Pastor's Report to Church Council for March 2020 Council Meeting**  
**February 19 – March 17, 2020**

**Worship at Mount Cross:** There were 4 Sundays in this report period, with 8 Sunday worship services. I presided at all of them and preached at 6 of them. The Rev. Susan Klein preached on March 15. We transitioned into Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26. Mount Cross hosted St. Columba's. The Rev. Greg Larkin preached and I presided at the 7 pm service which included the distribution of ashes. We also offered "Ashes to Go" for preschool families and others who could not attend the evening Ash Wednesday service. At least 20 people came to the patio or church office during the day for a prayer and ashes. Joe Zimmerly and Carina McVeigh assisted with "Ashes to Go" and it was well-received by all who experienced it.

Accompanied by Guy Ervin, we offered Holden Evening Prayer following the Lenten Soup suppers on March 4 and 11. On March 4, Jayne Pompey and Allison Johnson led the singing for the prayer service, Confirmation students were worship assistants and I gave the message. On March 11, Carina McVeigh and Sarah Dagnan led the singing, Confirmation students were the worship assistants and Carina McVeigh gave the message. We have people assigned to lead and give the message for the remaining Wednesdays in Lent, however the coronavirus response will change the nature of these services.

I met with the Worship and Music Committee and Contemporary Worship Focus Team separately on March 5. We discussed the Holy Week schedule, which will likely be modified in response to the coronavirus response. The planned schedule was Maundy Thursday at 7 pm, Good Friday at noon at Mount Cross and at 7:30 pm at St. Columba's, Easter Vigil/Sunrise services Easter morning at 6am at Mount Cross (with St. Columba's) and 8:30 am and 10 am "blended" worship at Mount Cross.

**Pastoral Care:** I met with 3 people for "Get-to-Know-You" conversations this month, bringing the total to 70. I had 6 pastoral care sessions, including 2 home communions. We offered the second "Communion with Community" on March 11. 8 people attended. I am working with the Care Team to make sure our entire congregation receives caring calls in response to the coronavirus.

**Adult Education:** The well-received video series "The Lives of Great Christians" concluded on February 23. On March 1, we began a new Sunday Adult Education series on "Ways to Pray." In the first class we discussed "What is Prayer?" In the second class on March 8 we discussed and experienced praying with scripture. The class on March 15 was cancelled due to increased social distancing related to the coronavirus. The class is now postponed for the time being.

Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study met 4 times. We began a Gather study on Forgiveness and Reconciliation for Lent. Our March 17 meeting was held on Zoom video conferencing and we will continue to meet that way during this time of social distancing. I attended Mary's Circle women's bible study on March 3 at the home of Judy Winters.

Men's Bible Study met Feb. 20 at Denny's. Bill Greason led the study in my absence. The location was changed to Marie Callender's, beginning March 5, to better accommodate the size of the group. I attended 3/5 and Brian Rubin facilitated the study. Beginning this week and throughout the duration of social distancing, Men's Bible Study will be held on Zoom.

Two "Companions on a Journey with Jesus" spiritual direction groups met, facilitated by Dr. Luisa Johnson. These are monthly groups, one held on Monday afternoons and one on Tuesday mornings.

**Peace and Justice:** The Peace and Justice Team met on March 10. We are planning to be trained in the Alternatives to Violence Program in June. Our goal of contributing 40 phone banking hours to Everytown for

Gun Safety by Easter may be a bit ambitious, but we are proud of team member Karin Grennan for leading the way in this.

**Wider Church Involvement:** Mount Cross has been asked to have a ministry intern from Wartburg Theological Seminary. The seminarian lives locally and would serve at Mount Cross about 25 hours per week for one year. Normally the stipend is \$21,600 for a full-time intern. We are not required to pay a stipend because of the seminarian's geographical restrictions, but we may offer a stipend. We are required to pay an administrative fee of \$1,000; contribute to a travel pool for seminarians of \$500, reimburse mileage incurred in performance of duties; and pay up to \$1,000 towards registration at synod assembly and other conferences.

I met with my clergy women's support group at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino on March 2 and walked in the local Crop Walk on March 8.

I wrote a devotion of the California Lutheran University Online Lenten Devotional and it was published March 13, 2020. You can view it here <https://blogs.callutheran.edu/lenten-devotions/2020/03/13/>

**Full-Communion Partners and Ecumenical Involvement:** I have a meeting planned with Fr. Greg Larkin of St. Columba's Episcopal and Pastor Gary Keene of Camarillo United Methodist Church on Thursday, March 19 to discuss ways to collaborate.

**Community Involvement:** The Camarillo Acorn interviewed me about my favorite movie or TV show and published the column March 6. It can be viewed here <https://www.thecamarilloacorn.com/articles/pastor-inspired-by-leaders-in-star-trek/?fbclid=IwAR2LQVcLNob4D5NrK15sf4f3YG-hN9nC-qmoG0UbcNmz07rqVmxXv9bowJs>.

**Coronavirus Response Plans:** Presented verbally in the meeting for discussion and Council decisions.

God bless you all and our whole community as we do our best to love and serve God and neighbor in these unsettled times. Thank you, Church Council, for your wisdom and prayerful leadership!