

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Stewardship Committee Minutes
May 24, 2016

Mission Statement:

Rooted in God's grace to joyfully witness and serve.

Call to order: The Christ candle was lit and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Craig Blois, Bev Rueckert, Alison Elk, Mike Carpenter

Caring Conversations: A caring conversation about people's schedules occurred.

Action Items:

- Stewardship Goals
 - Meet all of the financial obligations of the church for the next year without utilizing reserve funds, including the projected budget requirements to keep the staff which were added this year. This will require an approximate \$60,000 increase in the amount of pledged giving.
- Stewardship Plan
 - Brainstorming
 - Start Early – August?
 - Involve Staff in Stewardship Campaign
 - Stewardship from the Pulpit – Story of the Talents
 - Create a program to talk about Finances (Personal Stewardship)
 - Contact Synod, Thrivent about Stewardship Materials
 - Small Meetings to Present Stewardship Campaign
 - Hosted Dinners, Coffee Hours, Brunch at Church
 - Involve other Committees such as Fellowship
 - Include a Stewardship Campaign message in July's Grapevine
 - Name "2016-2017 Stewardship Campaign"
 - Conclude Stewardship Campaign with some kind of time sensitive signup (like baskets or something in that vein)
 - Using Plastic Tokens for Electronic Givers
 - Model Stewardship for others
- Stewardship Calendar
 - Introduce "2016-2017 Stewardship Campaign" including Goal in July Grapevine/emails
 - Host an initial Stewardship Campaign dinner in late July/early August to train more hosts
 - Host more dinners/coffees/brunches throughout August/September
 - Provide Stewardship Seminars ??? (Sept)
 - Follow up Stewardship Campaign with emphasis from the Pastors (Aug/Sep)

- Provide Stewardship Materials for any who would like them early (Sep/Oct)
- Conclude Campaign with time sensitive collection period of materials

Next Meeting: In early July, after 7/4, and before 7/13.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes 4 PM, Sunday, March 6, 2016

Attending: Craig Blois, Barbara Burke, Lorraine and Mike Carpenter, Alison and Norm Presecan, Susan Prosser and Bev Rueckert

Lighting of the Christ candle and opening devotion and prayer

Caring conversation: What did you enjoy most about the Stewardship Program at Mount Cross in 2015?

Report of ending numbers involved in the 2015 campaign:

Susan Prosser, Budget and Finance committee chair, presented a 2016 Mount Cross budget fact sheet report.

A total of 93 pledges were received this year compared to 98 pledges last year. However, the average pledge increased 10% this year, which rivals the average in 2013, the highest average pledge since 2011.

Discussion:

There was an active question and answer period covering a wide range of topics. The goal is to increase the number of pledges by increasing the membership and thus the number of people pledging. The various forms of giving were examined, emphasizing how we did need and appreciated these variances. Where we go from here in 2016 was discussed throughout the dinner meeting. Some attention was given to starting the campaign earlier in the year and beginning, perhaps, with small informational social gatherings.

Thank you to the 2015 committee: Bob and Joan Brundage, Barbara Burke, Mike and Lorraine Carpenter, Don Hauser, Dan and Karen Nelson, Mary O'Donnell, Alison and Norm Presecan, Bev Rueckert and Pastor John. (Many thanks to Susan Prosser and Gayle Johnson as well for their continued support).

Plan to meet again in late April or early May, date to be determined.

Adjourned at 6:15 PM

Bev Rueckert

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Stewardship Committee Meeting

The stewardship committee met mid-October to label and pack pledge envelopes for the baskets.

The other new pledge materials were completed, copied and put into the envelopes and baskets by Susan Prosser and Beverly Rueckert at the end of October checking for accuracy of membership and number system. We also made packets for those wishing to preview a pledge packet and its contents for information about Mount Cross.

Our committee has not had a scheduled meeting, but our committee members have served many hours in service to make this pledge session eventful and successful on many levels. Our goal is to involve everyone whether or not they pledge. Our question cards each week have been well responded to and the posters featuring the responses are heartwarming to read. Three of our members have given thought provoking temple talks. Many thanks to Loraine Carpenter, Dan Nelson and Alison Elk who have provided both services with personal testimonies that touched so many of our hearts. We applauded them and made us eager to hear more stories which our group intends to supply during the year.

Each week, since November first, we have had the pledge baskets on the patio with our team eagerly assisting the distribution of packets. We have received many positive comments about this system. The packets that are not picked up this third week will be delivered to as many as possible homes by the stewardship committee members this week. Those that we cannot deliver will be mailed.

Our waiting list to pledge has grown. And in the first week there has been an enthusiastic early return of pledge envelopes. We continue to pray that hearts and minds will be open to support our congregational vision and goals.

Submitted by,
Beverly Rueckert

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Stewardship Committee Meeting

Minutes – October 11, 2015

Present: Barbara Burke, Bob Brundage, Joan Brundage, Alison Elk, Mary O'Donnell, Don Houser, Dan Nelson and Bev Rueckert.

With the Christ candle lit, the meeting began with discussing 1 Peter 4:10. It was unanimously agreed that this verse best exemplified the stewardship mission and should be printed on the pledge letter.

The importance of each item in the pledge packet was discussed.

- ✓ The time and talent sheets will be in packets of people who have not responded as yet
- ✓ A ½ sheet labeled Giving Guide showing a chart of recommended giving % or steps
- ✓ A one page FAQ' s:

Giving Questions: methods of giving with necessary explanations, perhaps a pie graph or other visual of where the money goes, how much stays at church and what % goes to other outside missions, a brief budget recap, trends of giving over recent years

Pledging Questions:

Define it as a statement of giving intent and used by the church to allow leaders to make financial plans

Confidentiality. Only the financial secretary sees the pledges

What if I can't meet my pledge?

What if our pledges aren't enough to meet our financial needs?

- ✓ The Pledge letter encourages pledging and, if at all possible, a % increase.

The meeting concluded reviewing the 4 week stewardship plan and the responsibilities of each of the members. This will be e-mailed those not present so that all can participate.

A packet assembly meeting is planned for 4 PM Wednesday, October 14, 2015 to begin the organization for distribution. Alison volunteered to take 100 envelopes and labels with her so that there would be 100 envelopes ready to begin placing the offering boxes into the designated envelopes.

Submitted by:

Beverly Rueckert

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Stewardship Council Meeting

Minutes - August 16, 2015

Present: Barbara Burke, Bob Brundage, Joan Brundage, Mike Carpenter, Lorraine Carpenter, Alison Elk, Norm Presecan, Susan Prosser and Bev Rueckert. (Nils Rueckert assisted with the children on the playground).

The temple talk by Lorraine Carpenter was acknowledged by applause, praise and gratitude.

Bob Brundage gave devotions which included a musical grace.

Bev Rueckert presented the highlights from the research done by Susan Prosser on trends, successes and other considerations when planning a stewardship program. Susan, a member of the budget and finance committee, was able to answer questions and clarify financial concerns and questions.

A history of stewardship at Mt. Cross authored by Pastor John, as well as discussion of the research done by Susan, provided the basis for discussing a stewardship plan for the coming year. This plan, to be taken to the executive council next month and then to the council for approval, will be positive, Biblical, and stressing the vision for our future years. It will acknowledge pledge givers with a thank you. It will be a 4-week program with a multi-faceted approach to distribution of the stewardship packets. More details will available after council's approval.

It was also decided that there should be a stewardship table at Rally Day, September 13th. It will be manned by the Presecans after the 8:30 service and the Rueckerts after the 10:00 service. Dan Nelson will do a temple talk that day.

October 25th is the kickoff Sunday for the year of our 50th anniversary.

November 22nd will be Commitment Sunday when all pledges will be brought forward to the altar.

Next meeting will be at 11:15 (a change from the original 12 noon time) on Sunday, October 11th at the church. Members will bring their own lunches.

Submitted by: Beverly Rueckert

**Mt. Cross Lutheran Church
Stewardship Committee Meeting
July 26th, 2015
At the home of Bev Rueckert**

Minutes

Present:

Pastor John, Bob Brundage, Joan Brundage, Mike Carpenter, Lorraine Carpenter, Don Hauser, Alison Elk, Norm Presecan, Karen Nelson, Dan Nelson, Mary O'Donnell, Beverly Rueckert

Absent: Barbara Burke and Alex Mathis

Bev Rueckert opened the meeting with devotions.

Pastor John gave overview of what stewardship is and his support for this committee to develop a new plan for the upcoming year.

Discussed and approved 50th anniversary theme for stewardship "Jesus yesterday, today and forever".

Brainstorming began with these suggestions:

Tear-off fringe on the Sunday bulletin - opportunities for involvement
Encourage outings such as Hollywood Bowl
Follow-up contact on completed Time and Talent sheets
Committee chairs should make contact calls
Incentives for filled-in T & T sheets
Handout T&T sheets at each service
Electronic T&T forms (contact Sheri G. and Kate Fischer)
Communicate follow-through and thanks
Council members talk with their committee groups
Refer to stewardship as opportunity giving (Care of House)
Dinner groups in neighborhoods
Pie with Pastor
Mission groups explain where and for what charities are receiving our funds
Performing skits in the future

Decisions and schedule for the next month:

August 2nd: T&T sheets will be passed out again. Guidance will be given by Pastor John and time given to allow completion at the end of the service.
1st service T&T sheets distributed by Bev and Nils Rueckert
2nd service Alison and Norm Presecan and children

August 9th: The meaning of stewardship will be demonstrated in active play by children and Pastor John

August 16th: Lorraine Carpenter temple talk

September 13th: Dan Nelson temple talk

Next Meeting: August 16th after 2nd service in Parish Hall. Lunch will be sub sandwiches. Discussion will focus on Rally Day and possibilities of connecting activities with the anniversary committee.

Submitted by Bev Rueckert