

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Stewardship Team Minutes September 10, 2020

Members present: Luanne Crockett, Barbara Cranfill and Susan Prosser
Devotion – “Faithful Stewards in a Time of Uncertainty” by Melissa Spas
Consider 2021 Stewardship Theme(s) –

- Team discussed having theme refer to uncertain or changing times or circumstances; maintaining faith; being ready/prepared to follow God’s lead; highlighting the church’s ability to change
- Each member to give thought to possible theme(s) and be ready to share at next meeting – sharing before then encouraged since brainstorming helps the process

Proposed Fall 2020 Stewardship Campaign Dates and Schedule

- Stewardship Calendar proposal – October 18th Stewardship Kickoff, November 22nd Commitment Sunday
- Paper packets available at Drive-through Communion Sunday, October 18th with office pickup available afternoons Oct 19 – 21.
- Paper packets mailed Oct 22
- Forms for optional online completion (pledge card and Time and Talent) available Oct ? (Is this possible – can they be directed to Joan and Jaimie separately? Maintaining confidentiality most important with pledge forms)

Theme enhancements – selected music, special events, publications, studies, etc.

- Pastor’s role – last year asked for a year before giving a “stewardship sermon” – Sermon on Oct 18th or options could include writing the cover letter for the Stewardship packet or doing the first taped piece reflecting on the theme
- Stewardship offertory again this year based on excellent reception last year
- Taped individual statements or small group interviews instead of Temple Talks – ideas for topic “Where has God led me during the pandemic or something similar.
- Need to ask Pastor about weekly prayer petition versus including October 18 and Nov 22 only?
- Weekly eGrapevine Stewardship reflections – need to be short. Replace last years bulletin articles but Team feels that fewer people may be reading the online bulletins. More opportunities to have written versions like the taped messages used during worship.

Letters, inserts, forms, etc. – 2020 versions

- Team to review the 2019 pledge card and Time and Talent survey and propose changes before finalizing the 2020 versions

- Agreed that the pledge card should have a box to mark if you want envelopes. Envelopes will be labeled and made available in December. Those requested and not picked up will either be delivered or mailed.
- Team members shared that others have told them they do not read the material that are sent with the forms.
- Need to consider the value of extra inserts

Coordination with Financial Secretary and Office Manager – Labels, envelopes, document production, etc

- Financial Secretary Joan Brundage will need to be notified of the planned campaign dates so she can order delivery of the giving envelopes and produce the mailing labels used for the Packets
- We should ask for the labels from Joan early enough that we can check it against the 2020 church directory to add the names of others who are not yet in the giving system.
- We will need to ask the Church Office Manager to help with labels for this extra list
- Decide on office supplies needed for packet and form production and meet with Carol Browning, Office Manager to discuss her schedule and how much advance notice she will need to meet the intended Stewardship campaign schedule.

NEXT MEETING DATE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH , 2 PM AT THE CHURCH

Mount Cross Lutheran Church Stewardship Team

Summary Meeting Minutes September 26, October 10, 17, 24 and November 12, 2019

Present: Cy Johnson, Karen Cherry, Luanne Crockett, and Susan Prosser

Meetings generally opened with the LIGHT OF CHRIST AND A DEVOTION

JOYFUL GIVING STEWARDSHIP SEASON & PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Rather than minutes of each of the meeting dates listed above, the following presents a summary of the schedule and activities undertaken during October and November 2019.

INTRODUCTORY STEWARDSHIP LETTER MAILING – Lead Cy Johnson

The four members of the Team divided a mailing list of over 260 addresses in order to hand address and stamp envelopes for a letter outlining the Stewardship theme and season plans. This year we undertook the month of October as a period of contemplation and learning prior to being asked to consider commitments in November. The focus of this time was to explore the many ways we are to serve as Stewards and to be remind ourselves that all the we have been entrusted to us by God. No forms were included with

this letter. Team members provided the postage and the mailing took place from Camarillo on October 4th.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON WORSHIP - the Team

Beginning October 6th and continuing through November 17th the Team arranged with Pastor Julie to add special stewardship elements to the worship services.

- “We Are an Offering” was sung at both services as the offertory selected because the lyrics spoke so strongly to stewardship responsibilities.
- A special stewardship intersession was written and used in the prayers each Sunday
- Stewardship Reflections with associated Bible verses were included in each week’s bulletin insert
- Temple Talks were scheduled when no other special stewardship worship element was scheduled

TEMPLE TALK SCHEDULING AND RECRUITMENT – Lead Susan Prosser

Temple Talks were used to provide sharing from congregation members about their experiences as a steward. Each were given a prompt from which to speak and brought a different perspective to our thoughts on stewardship.

- Oct 6- INTRO THEME – Susan will introduce theme of Joyful Giving
- Oct 13 – Bill Stoll
- Oct 20 – Mary Goodenough
- Oct 27 – Blessing of the packets – no separate Temple Talk
- Nov 3 – Craig Blois
- Nov 10 – Denise Sobolik
- Nov 13 – Blessing of commitments – no Temple Talk

Thanks are due to each of our speakers for their willingness and what they added to the stewardship season.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP CONTEMPLATIONS – Lead Luanne Crockett

Brief thought-provoking pieces were written to be included in each Friday electronic version of the Grapevine. Several Bible verses were provided for those who would like to further consider the topic. This same material appeared each Sunday in the bulletin insert.

FAMILY FINANCIAL WORKSHOP AND DINNER Oct 13th 5 pm – Lead Karen Cherry along with Learning Committee/Stewardship Team

Team members provided support with setup, cleanup, and meal service. Member Karen Cherry who is also a member of the Learning Committee played a key role in the bringing this program to Mount Cross.

COMMITMENT/PLEDGE PACKETS – Lead Susan Prosser

October 27 – Blessing of the packets and distribution to those attending worship – Blessing built into children’s sermon with children carrying the baskets of packets out of the church as they left for Children’s Church.

October 28 – mailing of packets remaining after Sunday – 230+ mailed

Content of packets: Cover letter, FAQs re pledging and how church spends the money, Giving Guide, Pledge card and return envelope and Time and Talent form(s). All folded in half and place in half sized manila envelope with address label and Mount Cross return address label for mailing. Collating, folding and stuffing done by team together. Team

divided the list to prepare envelopes. Extra unlabeled packets prepared to be responsive to requests.

GIVING ENVELOPE BOXES – Lead Cy Johnson

Envelopes boxes were matched with preprinted labels provided by Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary. Team members along with volunteers Mary Goodenough and Jan Gerck completed this task so that the boxes could alpha sorted and put out for pickup on Sundays Nov 3 through 17th.

Team members agreed to a schedule for setting up tables and displaying the envelopes on Sunday mornings. After Nov 17th any remaining boxes will be returned to Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary. There will be no mailing of giving boxes.

ADULT EDUCATION STEWARDSHIP INTERFACE -

- SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY TAKE-OVER – Mark Storer recruited by Cy to lead a study on being stewards of the earth on October 27th
- WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY TAKE-OVER – Susan Prosser to lead a study on stewardship as found in 1 Corinthians on November 13th

HARVEST GATHERING HOSPITALITY – the Team

Commitment Sunday , Nov 17th with commitment to serve after both services. Theme set because commitments and pledges will be “gathered” that day. We will play off our pumpkin spice newsletter article and offer treats and beverages that are pumpkin, apple, etc.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY RESPONSE OUTCOME AND FOLLOWUP – the Team

Luanne to draft a brief thank you that can be used to hand write our thanks to each respondent.

Susan will work with Joan Brundage to secure a mailing list for reminder letters/notes to non-respondents encouraging them to participate.

We will work with Carina on the Time and Talent forms. Responses in some areas may need to be distributed more immediately than others.

Thank you article needed for the December print newsletter. Should we include results?

NEXT MEETING DATE TO BE DETERMINED – FOLLOWING TABULATION OF RESPONSE OUTCOME

Submitted Susan Prosser

Mount Cross Lutheran Church Stewardship Team
Meeting Minutes September 26, 2019

Present: Cy Johnson, Karen Cherry, Luanne Crockett

Absent: Craig Blois and Susan Prosser

Meeting opened with A DEVOTION

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING were made available as reference for meeting items

JOYFUL GIVING STEWARDSHIP SEASON & PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

INTRO MAILING – Lead Cy Johnson

- Carina will have letters and envelopes available Friday, September 27, for pickup. Cy distributed addresses to each member of the committee to use for addressing envelopes. Destroy lists after use. Deadline for mailing is October 4 from Camarillo.
- REMEMBER BY EARLIER AGREEMENT - EACH TEAM MEMBER IS BUYING POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE ENVELOPES THEY ADDRESS. STAMPS ARE TO REPRESENT SOMETHING IN NATURE.
- COPIES of the letter will be NEEDED FOR CHURCH NARTHEX/OFFICE for regular visitors and those considering membership.

TEMPLE TALK SCHEDULING AND RECRUITMENT – Lead Susan Prosser – will contact suggested speakers and schedule the dates – per Pastor Julie’s request no talk will exceed 400 words and will be given at the start of the service. Goal to have Oct 13th Talk scheduled by Oct 1st. Others as soon as possible.

- **Oct 6- INTRO THEME –** Susan will give
- **Oct 13 –** Susan will get someone
- **Oct 20**
- **Oct 27 – Blessing of the packets – no separate Temple Talk**
- **Nov 3**
- **Nov 10**
- **Nov 13 – Blessing of commitments – no Temple Talk**

WORSHIP PRAYER PETITIONS – Lead Susan Prosser – Susan submitted to Office a petition that could be used through the entire Stewardship period. Pastor Julie approved it to use each Sunday.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP CONTEMPLATIONS – Leads Susan Prosser and Luanne Crockett – Susan sent first Stewardship Reflections to Carina for publication in e-Grapevine October 4 and Sunday October 6 Bulletin. Luanne is working on the rest of the Stewardship Reflections for the remaining weeks in October and November.

FAMILY FINANCIAL WORKSHOP AND DINNER Oct 13th 5 pm – Lead Karen Cherry – Stewardship Team members will support with setup, cleanup, and meal service. Karen will notify Team members of scheduling and assignments. Tracy Blois is in charge of food. Sample dessert snacks were brought by Karen and enjoyed by committee members.

PRODUCTION OF PLEDGE PACKETS – DEADLINE OCT 27 FOR DISTRIBUTION – Lead still needed

- COVER LETTER – Susan to prepare draft
- FAQ- last year’s version was reviewed and Team agreed that something like this should be included again. Suggested addition regarding accountability. Will mention financial reporting to the congregation. Susan to prepare
- GIVING GUIDE with info about tithing
- PLEDGE CARD AND RETURN ENVELOPE
- TIME AND TALENT FORM – Susan is distributing to church groups for input
- MANILLA ENVELOPES AND LABELS (SAME AS GIVING ENVELOPE BOX LABELS)

- MAILING OF THOSE REMAINING ON OCT 28TH
- Discussed need for unlabeled packets for regular visitors and potential new members – will need them available at church

PREP OF GIVING ENVELOPE BOXES – DEADLINE OCT 27 – Cy taking lead – could also work with other volunteers from Time and Talent list once we have a date. Cy explained the process.

- GET LABELS PRINTED (SAME AS FOR MANILLA ENVELOPES)
- ADFIX LABELS TO BOXES
- ALPHA SORT BOXES
- WHO TO HANDLE WEEKLY DISTRIBUTION TABLE(S) OCT 27, NOV 3, 10, 17 - Team members?

ADULT ED INTERFACE - Lead still needed – plenty of materials available once dates are selected

- SUNDAY MORNING – CONTACT PASTOR JULIE TO COORDINATE A DATE
- WEDNESDAY EVENING – COORDINATE WITH PASTOR TO SELECT A DATE
- DETERMINING LESSONS AND INSTRUCTORS

SPECIAL HOSPITALITY – Team signed up for hosting Hospitality on Nov 17th with commitment to serve after both services. Have labeled Harvest Gathering Hospitality in keeping with the fact that it is Commitment Sunday and pledges will be “gathered” that day. We will play off our pumpkin spice newsletter article and offer treats and beverages that are pumpkin, apple, etc. Cy suggested having ice cream cones.

Next meeting Thursday, October 10 at 1 pm at the church.

Mount Cross Lutheran Church Stewardship Team
Meeting Minutes September 19, 2019

Present: Cy Johnson, Karen Cherry, LuAnne Crockett, and Susan Prosser

Absent: Craig Blois

Meeting opened with the LIGHT OF CHRIST AND A DEVOTION

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING were made available as reference for meeting items

The Team welcomed NEW TEAM MEMBER LUANNE CROCKETT

JOYFUL GIVING STEWARDSHIP SEASON & PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

GRAPEVINE PRINT NEWSLETTER – DEADLINE 9/19/19 - agreed that the draft “Pumpkin Spice Season” article to be submitted for the October print newsletter. Susan to submit

INTRO MAILING – Lead Cy Johnson

- Cy provided a prototype of an envelope with the joyful giving logo which was enthusiastically accepted. These envelopes and the mailing list will be made ready for distribution to Team members for addressing and stamping. The mailing date will be Oct 4th from Camarillo so that all will be received on the same date. **Cy will need to designate each person’s section of the mailing list and the number of envelopes and letters each should take.**

- LETTER – the final version of the letter will be submitted to the office for printing and folding. If the letters are not ready at the same time as envelopes, other plans for stuffing and sealing will need to be made. REMEMBER BY EARLIER AGREEMENT - EACH TEAM MEMBER IS BUYING POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE ENVELOPES THEY ADDRESS. STAMPS ARE TO REPRESENT SOMETHING IN NATURE.
- COPIES of the letter will be NEEDED FOR CHURCH NARTHEX/OFFICE for regular visitors and those considering membership.

TEMPLE TALK SCHEDULING AND RECRUITMENT – Lead Susan Prosser – will contact suggested speakers and schedule the dates – per Pastor Julie’s request no talk will exceed 400 words and will be given at the start of the service. Goal to have Oct 13th Talk scheduled by Oct 1st. Others as soon as possible.

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WORSHIP PRAYER PETITIONS – Lead Susan Prosser -Oct 1st deadline for submittal to Office a petition that can be used through the entire Stewardship period. May submit additional weekly secondary petitions of Pastor Julie open to having two petitions each week focused on Stewardship.

Sample petition that could be used for the duration was considered. Will work on something like this to submit.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP CONTEMPLATIONS – Leads Susan Prosser and LuAnne Crockett – Deadline Oct 1st or sooner for the first week – submitted for use both eGrapevine and Bulletin each week of the Stewardship period. Susan will forward the topics and the first example to LuAnne for completion using the Stewards of God’s Love resource. Submittals to the office need to have dates for use indicated.

FAMILY FINANCIAL WORKSHOP AND DINNER Oct 13th 5 pm – Lead Karen Cherry – Stewardship Team members will support with setup, cleanup, and meal service. Karen will notify Team members of scheduling and assignments.

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Next meeting Thursday, September 25th at 3 pm at the church.

MOUNT CROSS STEWARDSHIP TEAM
MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

Members Present: Karen Cherry, Cy Johnson, Susan Prosser Absent: Craig Blois

Meeting opened with the sunshine as the LIGHT OF CHRIST and a DEVOTION

The MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – AUGUST 22, 2019 were distributed

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW TEAM MEMBER – Cy Johnson announced that he has recruited Luanne Crockett to join the Team as of our next meeting. We will send a welcome and thanks to Luanne and add her to all Team communications.

FALL CAMPAIGN DETAILS – Joyful Giving “...by this they will know that you are my disciples” John 13:35

FIRST MAILING PRODUCTION – mailing date 10/4/19 - Cy lead person

- LETTER – **Cy** will contact Carina to determine what date she will need the letter for production
- CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE – to be included on back of letter
- ENVELOPES – will be hand addressed – **Cy** will check with office for an all active members mailing list – use envelopes with preprinted return address – **all Team members** to share addressing duty

- STAMPS – **Team members** will buy stamps for the envelopes they address – agreed to purchase stamps with a nature theme
- GRAPHIC FOR ENVELOPES -**Cy** will work with Carina to test the application of the logo

TEMPLE TALK SCHEDULE – Weekly with agreement from Pastor Julie – **Susan** lead person

- TOPICS – see attached proposal
- SPEAKERS – Team will recruit suggested speakers based on agreed topics
- Ask PASTOR JULIE if she would want to speak on one of the topics (or other topic)
- We need to have Pastor provide info on suggested amount of time and when in service

WEEKLY BULLETIN/EGRAPEVINE STEWARDSHIP “CONTEMPLATIONS”

- SHORT THOUGHT PIECE AND RELATED SCRIPTURE(S) – See attached

PLEDGE PACKET PRODUCTION – Done 10/20

- LETTER – Susan to prepare initial draft
- TIME & TALENT FORM – Susan to circulate
- GIVING GUIDE (% TO INCOME) - **Cy** to pursue -? any ELCA resources
- PLEDGE FORM AND RETURN ENVELOPE – Need modification with new theme and logo; change giving lines to make available space for amount increasing and new total
- OUTER ENVELOPE AND LABEL – **Will need office assistance with label production**
- LOGISTICS – BLESSING SUNDAY AND HANDOUT – 10/27 – Ask for blessing early in worship service so packets can be taken to patio for handout
- MAILING FOR THOSE NOT PICKED UP - 10/28

GIVING ENVELOPES PREP – NEED READY FOR 10/27 DISTRIBUTION

- NEED LABELS MADE BY CARINA – we should give her a date needed
- ASK JOAN TO ALERT US WHEN THEY ARRIVE – Susan to email Joan
- LABELS APPLIED TO BOXES TO MATCH NUMBERS – once we have supplies – look for volunteers
- EXTRA ENVELOPES AND HOW TO RECORD WHO TAKES THEM – Susan to ask Joan in email
- LOGISTICS – CHURCH HANDOUT – Which Sundays starting 10/27/19 – will need to set-up, take down and coverage of the tables

SUPPORT TO EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- CHECK WITH PASTOR JULIE RE ADULT ED AND WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE ANY BRIEFING WITH JOE NOW THAT HE HAS STARTED – Susan to ask in email with other questions
- WHAT SUPPORT WILL LEARNING COMMITTEE NEED FOR SUNDAY 10/13 WORKSHOP – Karen will be meeting with Learning Committee next Monday and make offer of assistance

OTHER PLANS?

- HOSPIUTALITY AT ANY POINTS IN THE PROCESS – Susan will check Hospitality calendar for any possible dates/opportunities
- HAS WORSHIP & MUSIC AND MUSIC STAFF BEEN CONTACTED RE OUR REQUEST FOR OFFETORY- Susan to add to email with questions to Pastor Julie

Stewardship Team Meeting Minutes 9/5/19 Minutes – Attachment I

Temple Talk Ideas – Stewardship 2020 Joyful Giving

Week 1 – intro the Stewardship Season Theme Joyful Giving – Stewardship Team member

Week 2 - How does the fact that I belong to God and all belongs to God change the way that I see myself and all that God has placed in to my care?

Week 3 – Share how you are using your gifts and talents to love God and one another through your vocation.

Week 4 -The best example of aligning my money with my values is

Week 5 – How is God calling you to use the resources that God has entrusted to your care to love God and your neighbor through the mission and ministry of your congregation?

Stewardship Team Meeting Minutes 9/5/19 Minutes – Attachment II

**BULLETIN/EGRAPEVINE STEWARDSHIP
CONTEMPLATIONS***

EXAMPLE:

STEWARDS OF CREATION

In creation., God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth and all that is in it. God is the owner; we are the stewards. Creation is our first stewardship. How might we steward and care for the earth so as to sustain it for future generations?

Genesis 1, Psalm 24:1, Psalm 8

OTHER TOPICS:

STEWARDS OF TALENTS

STEWARDS OF TIME

STEWARDS OF MONEY

STEWARDS OF STUFF

STEWARDS OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

STEWARDS OF CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY

STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE

- Stewards of God's Love key messages

Joint Gathering of Stewardship Team and Other Finance Area Committees
Minutes of Meeting - Monday, July 29, 2019

PRESENT: Karen Cherry, Stewardship; Craig Blois, Stewardship; Susan Prosser, Stewardship; Keith Selbrede, Treasurer and B&F; Bob Brickley, B&F; Brian Fisher, Endowment; Joan Brundage, Financial Secretary; Laura Brickley, interested member; and Kathleen Jones, interested member

The meeting opened with the Light of Christ and a devotion presented by Susan Prosser

The group reviewed the following topics as an opening to the discussion of an approach to Stewardship:

1. A look at Current Giving – last budget report
2. Will financial needs change significantly for 2020 – retaining status quo (once staff in place)
3. Relationship of financial reporting to Stewardship – if any
4. Relation to Rally Day – if any (currently on master calendar for Sept 8th) – after much discussion the group did not have a specific recommendation on whether to proceed with Rally Day. There was a good discussion of the Stewardship Team Shine-a-Light programs and how it can be enhanced to bring more information to the congregation about the church's missions locally, nationally and globally.

Stewardship Campaign – Fall 2019 for 2020 – Oct and/or Nov ?

- Financial pledges and Time and Talent commitments together? The collective thinking was that this year the two should be combined
- Thoughts on distribution methods for this year – agreement for use of the “streamlined” approach used in the most recent year
- Campaign Theme – Stewardship Team ideas for further development – consensus that whatever the theme the fact that **Stewardship is managing the gifts God gives us** needs to come through.
- Use of broader range of media – to share information about the church's mission – how is the money used – Shine A Light On underway to some extent
- Goals for a Congregation of Stewards proposed by Stewardship:
 - LEARNING – classes for adults & children, at church and home resources, on being good stewards of God's gifts
 - PLANNING – identifying our individual and collective gifts and the mission goals of the congregation
 - GIVING – committing to individual giving of time, talent and financial gifts
 - ACTING – finding ways for all to participate in the mission of the church
- Timeline – agreed that if broader goals were embraced makes sense to use OCT for Education and perhaps some Planning and NOV for Giving and Acting. Note: 2019 campaign was in NOV

- It was agreed that Stewardship would meet independently to further develop proposal details and include Pastor Julie.

Future Meetings

- All present agree to meeting further on this topic. Stewardship will call the next meeting to report on the plans for fall Campaign and how others can be involved. **DATE TBD**

Mount Cross Lutheran Stewardship Team Meeting Minutes Monday July 15, 2019

PRESENT: Karen Cherry, Cy Johnson, Susan Prosser

ABSENT: Craig Blois

Meeting opened with the Light of Christ and a Devotion given by Susan

Review Minutes of Last Meeting

The Team signed a Thank You card for Team member Gayle Johnson who is concluding her service on the Stewardship Team. Special recognition was given to her work on the 2019 Time and Talent summaries along with Cy.

Shine A Light Program (highlighting programs and missions) updates:

- Publications –office volunteers’ article was written by Sheri and included in the most recent print newsletter. There will no further print publication until the September newsletter.
 - Need next article topic/author for the next newsletter
- Short Videos to be used prior to worship
 - Jim Dinges’ Many Meals video was filmed on July 11th. It will be edited for use during worship gathering at a future date.

A 2019 Midyear Pledge Increase opportunity was announced at the Congregational Meeting on June 30th. This was done based on several requests for information on how to adjust a pledge during the year. There has been no report of any modified pledges yet.

An initial discussion of the plans for a fall Stewardship Drive was held outlining some of the issues and early decisions that need to be made. Topics covered included:

- Theme – Church Together, Living Generously or other? How to make use of theme?
- Financial pledge and Time and Talent both in fall or separated?
- Method of introduction and distribution of information and materials?
- Timeline – would be good to have proposal for August Church Council meeting
- Need larger team for campaign – Ask joint Financial Team to join in this undertaking/ other recruiting?

The Team continued our discussion on education on Christian Giving with a focus on how this could be incorporated into a fall Stewardship Campaign.

- Simultaneous study for all ages related to theme for October?

- Adult Bible Study, Fun With Faith, Confirmation, Youth Group, Friday Grapevine, etc. all may present education opportunities.
- This idea will also be presented at the Finance Group meeting

The Team discussed the role of Stewardship Team in church's overall finances – it was agreed that we should call a special Stewardship meeting in order to invite the total Finance Group to discuss this topic. Susan will schedule at earliest possible date.

The Joint Financial Group Meeting will serve as the Next Team Meeting. Date to be announced.

Mount Cross Lutheran Stewardship Team Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 25, 2019

Members present: Karen Cherry, Cy Johnson, Gayle Johnson and Susan Prosser, Council Liaison

Members absent: Craig Blois

Light of Christ and Devotion – meeting opened by Susan
Review Minutes of Last Meeting

Update on Time and Talent 2019 – Gayle reported on the impressive work she has done with help from

- Cy in purging old lists and inserting new responses with current contact information
- Lists of 2019 volunteer responses with correct contact info are now available
- Thank you notes for volunteering from Stewardship Team – Every T&T respondent will receive a hand written thank you note to be mailed by May 15th. Cy has written the text that all will use. Team members will pay for the postage of those they write. Craig will be exempted from this task. Others will split the list equally.
- 2019 volunteer lists will be distributed to committees and others with a communication strongly encouraging they contact each person. This contact will provide specific information regarding the nature of the volunteer task or position. Gayle to distribute lists with support of the church office.
- Need to ask that Office Manager set up system to update Time and Talent list in the system throughout the year as additional forms are received

Report of Lenten engagement “GIVE OF” campaign

- Part of year-round Stewardship program
- Susan reported on the Lenten inserts and T&T “want ad” recruitment – new material for each Wednesday, Sunday and Friday newsletter combination.
- Series ended with Easter bulletin Thank you to volunteers written by Karen
- Susan to pursue the possibility of some sort of electronic bulletin board that could become a part of the Friday newsletter that would serve as the continuing site of the Stewardship Help Wanted Ads

Shine A Light (highlighting programs/missions)

- Part of the next phase of year-round Stewardship

- At last Council meeting Susan asked all Council members to consider programs in their assigned areas for highlighting
- Something similar has been started by Service and Missions Committee – Fellowship period once monthly program display
- Karen will coordinate programs for highlighting and coordinate with Service and Missions

More effective use of Church Publications

- For year-round awareness
- Program details and thanks combo – Will also use the SHINE A LIGHT tag for these articles
- Article on Many Meals for May print newsletter - Susan
- Susan will continue to write articles with the SHINE A LIGHT tag for now while continuing to encourage others to do the same
- Volunteers with Writing Skills will be asked if they would like to prepare articles on programs for this series

Education on Christian Giving –

- Possible project for Budget Task Force/Joint Budget & Stewardship Team – propose at next joint meeting
- Thrivent financial workshops available – Personal Budgeting and Generous Giving
- Lisa Higginbotham, ELCA Gift Planning – has offered her services with giving training

Role of Stewardship Team in church’s current financial circumstance

- Cy, Gayle and Susan attended first meeting of Budget Task Force – reps of Budget and Finance Committee, Legacy Giving Committee, Stewardship participated along with congregational volunteer
- Budget Task Force group discussed plan to test joint meetings of the “finance” groups (perhaps a renaming will be in order) – next **meeting May 9th at 7 pm** – full Stewardship Team invited

Karen’s Proposal will be discussed further at a future meeting

- Stewardship theme for the quarter
- Stewardship hymn for the quarter, sung at both services
- Article topic for both the weekly and monthly Grapevines

Next Meeting Date – Possible date Thursday May 23

**CORRECTED NEXT MEETING DATE
JUNE 13, 2019 7 PM AT CHURCH OFFICE**

Mount Cross Lutheran Stewardship Team

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Members present: Karen Cherry, Cy Johnson, Gayle Johnson, and Susan Prosser
Member Absent: Craig Blois

Meeting began with the Light of Christ and Devotions

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed

2019 TIME AND TALENT RESULTS

Gayle briefed the Team on where she is with the 2019 Time and Talent responses. She had been working with Sheri to come up with a way to segregate current year responses from the computer program where they are logged. At this point it looks as though it is necessary to review the 2019 Time and Talent forms to create a 2019 specific list from which Stewardship thank you notes and lists for committees and others can be generated. The one benefit of this effort is that all volunteer lists will have current contact information for each person listed. The Team is most appreciative for Gayle's extraordinary effort on this task.

The Team also discussed the need to establish a protocol for updating the databank and notifying committees and other groups when there are additions made throughout the year. That can be discussed once the updated list is completed.

Lenten engagement – "INSTEAD OF GIVING UP CHOSE TO GIVE OF" THEME

Susan reported on the start of this program and the intent to have a different written article/handout/bulletin insert each week speaking to the theme with several featured engagement/volunteer opportunities highlighted each week. Church Council members have been asked to share needs from the groups they liaison with. At Wednesday night soup suppers, handouts are on the dinner tables and Susan has been allowed to give an announcement. The Friday eGrapevine is carrying the same information as an article and on Sunday the handout is used as a bulletin insert.

Shine A Light (highlighting programs and missions)

Craig was not able to mention this at the last Church Council meeting. It is hoped that through the Council we can encourage the involvement of all the programs areas of the church to take leadership in presenting engaging information about their mission in print, displays, demonstrations, and temple talks. This congregation wide approach will be much more effective than the Stewardship Team attempting to capture the essence of every effort or a one-time Rally Day. It is understood that the Service and Missions Committee has started something similar with plans to highlight programs they are pursuing or supporting. If so, they would make a perfect starting point.

More effective use of Church Publications

Karen suggested that use of information from Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran publications could be effectively used in congregational publications to help members understand what our contributions accomplish. Karen has also suggested that there are many excellent stewardship resources that can be used in excerpts for newsletters and other publications. Karen is an excellent resource for these materials and could begin submitting items for publication so that members feel informed and connected.

Education on Christian Giving

The Team felt it would be a good idea to pursue some sort of course on Christian Financial Planning and Management that could be offered at the church. The intent would be to select a course that includes generous giving as an element of Financial Planning. This might even be something that could be offered beyond our members. Members will research this idea for further sharing.

Role of Stewardship Team in the church's current financial circumstance (if any)

Members gave recognition to the relationship between stewardship and financial affairs. Craig has discussed the possibility of having similar committees or groups partner in order to expand the perspective and the number of persons participating. Susan has been attending Budget and Finance Committee meetings and several other Team members are considering volunteering for the Budget Task Force.

Other Business

Members identified several tasks, groups or functions that should be highlighted in the Lenten effort. Card Ministry Partners, Wednesday evening Bible Study and Worship Assistants will be highlighted as engagement opportunities in the GIVING OF campaign in the next few weeks.

Next Meeting will be THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH AT 7 pm

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Stewardship Team Minutes
February 20, 2019

**Mission Statement:
Rooted in God's grace to joyfully witness and serve.**

Members present: Craig Blois, Karen Cherry, Cy Johnson, Gayle Johnson, and Susan Prosser, Council Liaison

Preparing the Soil 2018/2019 Campaign Recap

- Agreed that a final thank you to the congregation for pledged giving should go in the March church newsletter – Cy will write and submit
- Thank you notes were sent directly to all who pledged but the letters to those completing the Time and Talent forms have yet to be sent – specific plans and assignments will be made at next meeting - March 21st – all team members will write and post notes
- A comprehensive list of the results of Time and Talent forms submitted to date for 2019 needs to be compiled so that names can be shared with committees and function groups. – Gayle will work with Sheri to create the list

- Agreed that further effort needs to be made on congregational “engagement” throughout 2019 with more effort to showcase and inform about the work of the church and more follow-up with Time and Talent

Introducing Engagement opportunities

- **Use Lent and Wednesday Soup Suppers** - Have handouts at church and Soup Suppers suggesting rather than “giving up” something for Lent, “GIVE OF” time and/or talent. Existing Time and Talent forms or alternative forms made available at the same time. – Susan Prosser to develop
- **Shine a Light on programs** - Various programs and functions of the church take Sunday morning as an opportunity to showcase what they are doing. May prove to be an effective alternative to Rally Day and would allow each group an opportunity to shine. – Craig Blois will discuss at Church Council
- **More effective use of church publications** - highlight specific undertakings and/or the people engaged in them – yet to be assigned

Education on Christian Giving – needs to be discussed with Pastor and DOM – Karen Cherry

- Programs on Christian Giving during the year
- Look for curriculum suited uniquely to children
- Encourage a multisession series for adults

Miscellaneous

- Church needs sound system that can be used on the patio – this came up while discussing the Shine a Light approach to showcasing programs. Would benefit many church functions and future partnership programs. Hope this can be pursued by the Technology Committee.

Craig announced he will not be able to continue chairing the Stewardship Team. None current member expressed interest in Chairing so Susan Prosser, Council Liaison, will schedule meetings for now.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2019 AT 7 PM IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Stewardship Committee Minutes
Oct 1, 2017

Mission Statement:

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

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Craig Blois, Karen Cherry, Mike Carpenter, Barbara Burke

Action Items:

- Stewardship Goals

- Continue to meet all of the financial obligations of the church for the next year without utilizing reserve funds.
- Increase the number of pledges to hopefully get all of the giving as pledged giving.
- Stewardship Plan
 - Introduce Stewardship Campaign with Temple Talks
 - Mail out Stewardship Campaign materials
 - Collect Stewardship Campaign materials
- Stewardship Calendar
 - Temple Talks Oct 8 & 15
 - Mail out Materials week of 15th, to arrive by Oct 21
 - Stewardship Campaign Letter <http://bit.ly/2fF03iU>
 - Stewardship Giving Information Sheet <http://bit.ly/2wv4nYS>
 - Stewardship Pledge Cards <http://bit.ly/2kf2dec>
 - Stewardship Campaign introduction during church service on Oct 22
 - Notes in the bulletin/weekly email
 - Blurb in the Nov. Grapevine
 - Collect materials in offering plate, collection basket in the back of the church on Sundays and collection basket in the office during the week.
 - Stewardship Campaign officially ends Nov. 12, 2017.
 - Tally results and publish information

Next Meeting: Nov 19, after second service at 11:15am to determine how to follow up to the Campaign.

Adjorn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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.

Adjorn: 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

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

Mission Statement

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

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

Mission Statement

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

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 be 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