

Pastor's Report for December Church Council Meeting

December 1 – 20, 2021

This is a shorter reporting period because our November Council meeting was held Nov. 30th.

- Mount Cross ordained and installed Deacon Cecelia Travick-Jackson on Dec. 12. It was a joyful celebration! Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the service and reception special. It was an honor to welcome Bishop Brenda Bos to Mount Cross for her first visit. Deacon Cecelia continues to serve at worship on Sunday mornings, attend weekly staff meetings, coordinate Home Communion, and oversee Afternoon Chapel. God bless her and our Senior Adult Ministry.
- Thanks to Carol Browning, an abundance of musical talent at Mount Cross, and a creative Children, Youth and Family Ministry, our Advent/Christmas concert was a big success! "From Heaven Above" on Dec. 19 was well-attended and a delightful way to prepare for Christmas.
- I have been meeting frequently with the CDC Board, or subsets of it, to support their process to form a separate non-profit. The CDC Board is strong under the leadership of Lisa Saner and Patti Stouch. The Board has a positive relationship with the new Director, Amy Vega. I appreciate the good work Wendy McClary is doing as a Liaison from the Council to the CDC Board.
- Our Adult Education programs (one bi-weekly and two weekly bible studies) concluded a good fall season last week. Men's Bible Study will begin again Jan. 6, Women's Bible Study on Jan. 12, and Wednesday Evening Bible Study on Jan. 13. Joe Zimmerly and I continue to share teaching responsibilities for Confirmation. We have a lively and engaged Confirmation class this year. For our last meeting of 2021, we went Christmas caroling to some church members' homes.
- I was happy to get out into the community a little bit more this month. With members of the Peace and Justice Team, I visited the Evening Reporting Center, a program of the Oxnard/Port Hueneme Boys and Girls Club. As an outgrowth of our anti-racism discussions and our reading of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, we are exploring ways to support at-risk youth. I also participated in the Hickory House Christmas party and attended an Inter-faith meeting hosted by the Ventura County Interfaith Community. They would like Mount Cross to participate in a program this spring to encourage friendships between people of different faiths. Stay tuned for more information.
- Pastoral care needs are especially high this month. I do all that I can to visit and stay connected with those in crisis, transition, or living with chronic health concerns. I would like to do more.
- Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. We put an ad in the *Camarillo Acorn* advertising our Christmas Eve services. They will be at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Only the 5 p.m. service will be livestreamed. Sunday worship on Dec. 26 will be a service of Lessons and Carols, with Holy Communion.

**Thank you, Mount Cross Church Council, for your faithful service this year!
God bless you and your families with peace and joy as we celebrate Christmas.**

Pastor's Report for November Church Council

October 18, 2021 - November 30, 2021

- Sunday worship is the center of our community life. Thank you to all who participate as musicians and worship assistants. We are trying to improve the systems for assigning worship assistants and making sure there aren't any gaps. Our new Volunteer Coordinators, Kris Dawson and Vicky Edell, will be a big help in this regard. I consistently hear people express appreciation for the quality of our worship. All Saints Sunday was a special day of remembrance for those who have died. The candle-lighting was powerful and moving for those who participated and those who observed it. We also celebrated a joyful Baptism that day and received new members. It was a poignant symbol of the cycle of life.
- Pastoral care continues. I visit people in their homes, at hospitals, at assisted-living communities, and I meet with people in the church office, out in the community, or at their places of employment. It is my deep joy to sit with people and offer spiritual care and support. Many thanks to the Care Team, Health Ministry, Prayer Chain, and Home Communion Visitors who also provide important spiritual care to others.
- Joe, Cecelia, and I attended *Theoasis* October 18-20, a leadership conference for the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods. It was good to have Mount Cross well-represented at the conference, and it provided an opportunity for the three of us to reflect on and discuss ministry at Mount Cross.
- I attended the Synod Conference Gathering at CLU on October 24. Bishop Bos introduced her vision for the Synod, including the need for financial sustainability.
- We held Bob Edell's funeral Saturday, October 30. God continue to give strength and comfort to Vicky in her time of grief.
- I completed the annual job reviews for Carol Browning and Carina McVeigh. The process included a self-evaluation and solicited feed-back from church members who work closely with them, along with my evaluation. I compiled a narrative report, submitted it to the Personnel Committee, and filed it in their personnel files.
- We have a Deacon-Elect! Mount Cross called Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson to serve as a Deacon in our congregation. She will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 12 at Mount Cross. Please plan to join us for this special celebration.
- I was away Nov. 22-29. Thank you to the staff for covering for me in my absence and for the Rev. Susan Klein for preaching and presiding on Nov. 28. Pastor Lynn Enloe had been scheduled to supply but was unable to be there because of medical issues.
- Christmas Eve services will be at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday, December 24. The liturgy and music will be the same for both services. The 5 p.m. service will be livestreamed and available for viewing anytime later in the day.

Pastor's Report for October Church Council Meeting
September 20 – October 17, 2021

It was another full month at Mount Cross. I am grateful for all the ways new life and graceful connections are sprouting at Mount Cross. We are in the middle of the fall season, but it feels a bit like springtime. We have a great staff, and it is good to have so many members offering their time, skills, and leadership abilities to our committees, teams, and programs. I sense that we are straining our capacities, so I hope and pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and gifts as we complete this calendar year and plan for a new year.

Highlights:

- I continue with my primary work of presiding at worship, preaching, and pastoral care.
Sunday Sermons: 9/26 "It Isn't Easy, But It's So Worth It"
10/3 "Tend and Mend"
10/10 "Jesus Loved the Rich Man"
10/17 "Bandits at Christ's Right Hand and Left Hand"
- Faith Formation: All 3 of our Bible studies are back meeting regularly after all (except the Men's Bible study) took the summer off. I facilitate each of the three studies at least once a month and group members facilitate the other meetings. I led the *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* Celtic spirituality book study with St. Columba's one week, and am grateful to Fr. Greg for leading the other five weeks.
- Wednesday night dinners are back! They are delicious and the community vibe is good. It is a joy for me to be with the Confirmation class. Joe and I take turns teaching.
- Kathleen Stevens's funeral was Thursday, September 23. We had a small service in the church followed by a larger service at Conejo Mountain.
- I attended the Ordination of Deacons for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles at St. John's Cathedral in LA on Saturday, September 25.
- A "Deacon Candidate Support Committee" convened on September 30 to accompany Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson as she enters the final stage of her diaconal process—receiving a call. Thank you to committee members Herb Holler, Kris Dawson, and Craig Blois for their time and support. The morning after the committee met, we heard word that Cecelia was cleared by the ELCA Conference of Bishops to receive a call as a Deacon!
- I participated in Steve Engh's funeral on Saturday, October 2 at St. Mary Magdalene Church.
- I officiated at Zoe Phipps wedding on Saturday, October 2 in Ojai.
- We incorporated blessing of the animals into our Sunday worship and drive-through Communion on Sunday, October 3, in honor of St. Francis Day (October 4).
- The CDC Board is moving forward with incorporation for the school. The Board is strong and able as it guides the school, under Amy Vega's excellent leadership, through this time of transition. I am attending all meetings and staying attentive to the processes.
- Along with members of the Welcome Team, I offered a new member exploration class. Two prospective members attended and they plan to join Mount Cross.
- The Peace and Justice/Anti-Racism team hosted a well-attended Zoom panel "Justice in Action: Supporting Incarcerated Youth" on October 14 as a follow-up to our reading of *Just Mercy*. Many thanks to Tracy Blois, Becky Gilbertson, and Bill Stoll for organizing and coordinating the panel. I moderated the discussion and am hopeful that the event will bear fruit in Mount Cross engaging and serving at-risk youth in our county.
- Our Generosity Campaign launched on Sunday, October 17. Appreciation and gratitude go to Barbara Cranfill, Luanne Crockett, Joan Brundage, and Karen Cherry for designing a positive stewardship program. Thank you to Carol Browning and Carina McVeigh for supporting them.

Looking Ahead:

- Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson will preach on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 31.
- We will have a Baptism and possibly a new member welcome on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 7
- We will have an information session about Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson's journey to the Diaconate after worship on Nov. 7.
- Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty will preach Sunday, Nov. 14.
- I will be away November 22-29, Pastor Lynn Enloe will be the supply Pastor on Nov. 28.

Please see below for a report from Carol Browning, Interim Music Director.

Interim Music Director Summary – October 2021

A couple of weeks ago, we were able to switch Guy Ervin back to regular payroll, with taxes deducted, instead of 1099 income as a guest musician. Thank you to the Worship & Music and Personnel Committees and the Church Council for approving that change.

Our Handbell Choir played a wonderful prelude and offertory on Sunday, October 3. We're rehearsing for an afternoon program (similar to what Justin Thai and Guy Ervin did in August) for Sunday, November 7, 2pm, All Saints Sunday.

In November, we'll flip the Handbell and Choir rehearsals so that the Choir begins at 6:30, with Handbells at 7:30 (or a little earlier if we're set up), and alternating months going forward for earlier and later start times until we're out of the woods with COVID and can evaluate a more permanent schedule.

The Worship & Music Committee is proposing Mount Cross do a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 19, at 4pm, with selections from various groups and individuals, which we'll begin planning and rehearsing for soon.

Pastor Julie and I have planned our worship music for the rest of this season, which is a big help to me. I'm grateful for all our singers and instrumentalists who lead our Sunday morning worship from the loft! And we're especially grateful for Bill Dawson, Justin Thai, and our interns for taking care of the sound!

Thanks and blessings,
Carol Browning, Interim Music Director
October 17, 2021

**Pastor's Report for September 2021 Council Meeting
(August 17, 2021 – September 19, 2021)**

I completed a time study for the past month. It may be helpful as we consider pastoral staffing needs and priorities. Notably, for the majority of this time we were still on the summer program schedule.

Area of Ministry	Hours
Preaching/Worship (including prep. & Sunday mornings)	57.5
Pastoral Care (congregation)	40.5
Pastoral Care (community)	15
Committees and Teams	27
Child Development Center	13.5
Adult Education	9
Confirmation	5.5
Administration	65
Wider Church (Synod/Diocese)	10.5
Total Hours 8/17/21 – 9/19/21	243.5

Vacation Day (Sun., Sept. 5)

Holiday Labor Day (Mon., Sept. 6)

Please read the report below from Deacon Candidate Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson. She has been an incredible help with pastoral care and helping worship to run more smoothly. She is working with a team to develop an inclusive and accessible “Afternoon Chapel” for senior adults and others, debuting October 14 at 2 p.m. I would like to form an advice and support committee for her as she continues in her process.

The Program Year launched the week of September 13, following a wonderful Worship in the Park and Church Picnic on September 13. Thank you to all who participated and served!

Adult Bible Studies will be “lay led and clergy supported.” I will facilitate each Bible study once a month and equip lay leaders to facilitate the other meetings. I will lead Adult Bible study on the 1st Wednesday of the month, Men’s Bible study on the 3rd Thursday of the month, and Tuesday morning Women’s Bible study on the 4th Tuesday of the month. I hope church members will feel encouraged to start new small groups to study the Bible together. I will equip them with good resources to use. The ELCA publishes several, including the *Daily Discipleship* study we are using for Adult Bible study and Men’s Bible study and the *Gather* magazine study we use for Women’s Bible study.

I will be leading the Bible study for the Southwest California Synodical Women’s Organization convention on October 16 and 17.

Along with Joe Zimmerly and Cecelia Travick-Jackson, I will attend the synod’s Oasis conference for clergy and lay staff October 18-20 in LaQuinta. I will be unable to attend the Church Council meeting October 19.

I have been asked by the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles if Mount Cross would partner with St. Columba’s in welcoming an intern who is discerning a call to ministry. The discernor would serve 10 hours/week between the two churches being exposed to as many aspects of ministry as possible.

A Report from Diaconal Candidate Cecelia Travick Jackson September 14, 2021

So What Does She Do?

What does Cecelia, the diaconal candidate do? That is a fair question. Perhaps one of the ways to describe the duties of a deacon is to define the role of a deacon, according to the constitution of the Southwest California Synod, which adheres to the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I have inserted the current definition of a deacon or minister of word and service as described in the current edition (June 2021) synod constitution.

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

In a nutshell, I not only assist the pastor, in this case Pastor Julie or whomever the Minister of Word and Sacrament happens to be, but I also take the message of Jesus Christ out into the world. The world that I am called to serve are adult seniors. When I think of my ministry I think of John 21:15-18

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me...?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" ... "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸... when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, ...

The excerpt from John 21 says to me that the church is to be present at all stages of life from birth to old age or as some say from cradle to grave. When a person is no longer able to attend regular worship services, they are still part of our community and should receive Christian support, this is part of my ministry.

At this point, you are probably wondering how this ministry is developing at Mount Cross? What follows is a brief description of some of what I do.

On Sunday mornings:

- I arrive at church early to make sure everything is in place for Sunday worship. The Altar Guild does a fantastic job preparing everything, but with my early background in theatre and drama, the director/stage manager and backstage crew arrives early to make sure everything is set for the opening scene.
- I then act as a stage manager (I hope these terms and descriptions are not offensive to you). I check with Pastor Julie, Carol, and Joe to see if there are any last minute changes that I should be aware of and make notes accordingly.
- I make sure all of the worship assistants are in place, if not I must make last minute adjustments.

- I make sure the assisting minister is robed, note any changes they should be aware of or need to make.
- This, I see as part of my ministry but it also gives Pastor Julie or the supply pastor time to review their sermon and make edits as necessary. Speaking of supply pastors, I review with them the order of service, and answer questions that they might have.
- I strive to have Pastor Julie, the assisting minister and myself in the sacristy by 9:20 for prayers prior to the beginning of worship service.
- I participate in the worship service, fill in and make adjustments as needed.
- After worship service, I work with the altar guild to prepare for drive through communion.
- I try to get to all of the worship assistants to thank them for their assistance. Certainly Sunday morning would be much more challenging without their help.
- I keep a watchful eye out for people who seem to be struggling. If I can catch them before they leave I ask how the church can be helpful. I inform Pastor Julie, make a follow-up call during the week, I will pray with them, send a prayer, or connect them with another ministry in the church if they so desire.
- I also make it point to thank the technical crew. They make a difficult task seamless.
- I assist with drive through communion and walk in communion.
- After drive through communion, I help clean up.
- I preach about one Sunday a month during regular worship.

What I have given you is a brief overview of what I do on Sunday morning.

New Offering:

I am particularly excited to offer a monthly midweek abbreviated worship service geared to adult seniors who have difficulty attending Sunday morning worship services. We have a dynamic group of knowledgeable parishioners to work in developing this ministry. Pastor Julie started a midweek service in the past, but like so many other services, everything came to a screeching halt during the pandemic. Our first meeting as a planning team will be on Friday September 17 and our first worship service will be October 14 at 2PM. The committee consist of Carol Browning, Randy Churchill, Sonja Demeter, Allison Johnson, Evonne Kochera, Susan Prosser, and LaJean Wenzel. I am excited beyond words that we are looking at another way to share God's message and the love of Jesus Christ. I also envision preaching during these abbreviated worship services. That being the case I will then be preaching about twice a month.

Following are some of the things that I do during the week:

I continue my diaconal ministry by training and organizing home and residential assisted living communion. We currently have 12 home communion ministers which also includes me as a home communion minister. We are currently ministering to 25 recipients. The list of recipients varies in accordance with the prayer list and special request. I envision the need for more home communion ministers as medical needs in our community grow. I must say as a home communion minister I also offer communion to caregivers, and I offer a scripture reading and a brief sermon or theological or biblical discussion. I see this as another way of taking the gospel to the wider community. There is room for you if you would also like to serve as a home communion minister.

I make pastoral care calls, especially to people I have not seen or heard from. Those pastoral calls remind me of "The Lost Sheep" parable in Luke 15.

So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices."

I often think of this parable, because all of God's sheep, all of God's people matter, all of God's people are important and when one is missing, we are not complete. I will also send personal cards and prayers to these special souls.

I also take part in other ministries at Mount Cross. I participate in the Care Team ministry, I participate in Mary Circle Bible Study, Wednesday night Bible Study. I sometimes lead Bible studies. I will work with Joe and the youth ministry as needed and as I am able. It was also an enjoyable experience to participate in a Bible Study with St Columba's this summer. In addition to a book study led by Susan, an Episcopal priest. I attend weekly staff meetings and I assist as needed in other areas.

My dog Sunshine and I attended Vacation Bible School. She turned out to be something of a mascot and chief paw to hand holder. She loved the many rubs, pats and attention she received. She is a trained therapy dog and this is another way to do ministry. I have successfully completed Safe Gatherings, which will allow Sunshine and me additional opportunities to serve.

Serving the Wider Church:

Serving in the wider church is another diaconal opportunity for the Ministry of Word and Service to take Christ's ministry out into the wider society and bring the knowledge obtained in the world back to Mount Cross.

I currently serve on our Southwest California Synod Council. The synod council is currently deciding if we should meet monthly for four hours at a time or every two months (six times a year) for six hours at a time. The votes have not been tallied, but I am sure it will be a topic of discussion at our first meeting on Saturday September 18.

As a Synod Council member and Diaconal Candidate we are expected to take an active role in our conference (Channel Island) and to attend other workshops and growth opportunities as offered. One example of a growth opportunity is "The Oasis" retreat offered by the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods in October.

In addition to Synod Council, I also serve on the Southwest California Synod Executive Council. Executive Councils are an important part of any organization and the church is no exception. We currently meet before synod council meets, however we are called to meet anytime a meeting is needed. For example we had our regular meeting the Tuesday before the Bishops installation and another meeting after the installation on Monday.

I had the pleasure and privilege of serving as Assisting Minister to Bishop Bos during her installation, it was indeed a joyous occasion.

I also actively participate in Deacon Dialogues, an online study, reflection, support and prayer group of Deacons and Diaconal candidates in the entire ELCA. This is a treasured group as Deacons and Diaconal candidates learn and encourage one another as we understand our call and share our ministry. The group that I am in meets every two weeks at 8:00AM (ugh, Pacific Time). There are times that I lead the discussion. I am energized every time our meeting ends.

I am sure that I am forgetting important things to share with you, but this is what is on my heart at this time. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and giving me the opportunity to briefly speak about the diaconate and some of what I am currently doing.

I pray that Mount Cross continues to grow and I pray that Adult Senior Ministry at Mount Cross grows and thrives. I ask for your prayers and your support in my ministry.

Love and peace,
Cecelia
Diaconal Candidate

Pastor's Report for August 2021 Meeting

Since the Council last met, we said good-bye to Vicar Amanda Berg at the conclusion of her year-long seminary internship with us. Thank you to the Council and Congregation for being an excellent learning site for her. We were abundantly blessed by her presence and spiritual gifts. In one of her sermons, she used a picture of a Peruvian community carrying a cross together. I must have commented many times to her about how meaningful that image was to me, because she gave me this figurine when she left:



I offer it to you this month as symbol of hope. We are certainly aware of the many ways our suffering and grieving world needs cross-bearers. As a church, we are also engaged in a lot of heavy caring, organizing, and discerning work together. It helps me to keep going in challenging times when I remember that we do not bear any cross alone. We have each other and the Lord who leads the way.

My regular ministry takes the form of planning for and preparing for worship, responding to new as well as on-going pastoral needs, supervising staff, and trying to staying in touch with the work of our committees.

Additional highlights of the past month include:

- Vacation Bible School! I was happy to be involved in the daily schedule of Vacation Bible School Aug. 2-6. Thank you and well-done to Joe Zimmerly and his team!
- Tending to the transition at our Child Development Center by supporting Cathy's retirement celebrations, helping to welcome and on-board Amy Vega, and working with the new CDC Board.
- Several Sundays with special recognitions or themes: farewell to Vicar Amanda (July 25); Vacation Bible School highlights and good-bye to Moorpark College interns (Aug. 8); Cathy Channels retirement (Aug. 15); and (upcoming) Health and Healing (Aug. 22) and Blessing Students and Teachers (Aug. 29).
- The *Just Mercy* and *Being Disciples* book groups. (I heard the *Caste* group was great, too, but I was unable to attend).
- Bible study around the campfire Wednesday evenings at St. Columba's.

Looking Ahead:

- How can we partner with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to help Afghan families re-settling in the US? I understand there is history at Mount Cross/First Lutheran of helping a refugee family after the war in Vietnam.
- Mount Cross turns 55 in October....do we want to celebrate that in any way?
- While COVID continues to impact in-person attendance, the consensus on the Executive Committee was to keep with our current Sunday schedule of worship (indoors, outdoors and livestreamed) at 9:30 a.m. followed by an opportunity to receive Communion for those who watch our livestream from 11am-noon.
- Fall faith formation and adult education programs begin the week of September 12. My goal is to have lay leadership for the Men's, Women's and Wednesday evening Bible studies and I will visit them all at

least quarterly. St. Columba's has invited us to a combined book study again, and that will happen in September and October.

- Because of the uncertainties of COVID over the past 17 months, I deferred two weeks of my vacation and 2 ½ weeks of continuing education. I recognize that is generally not a best practice for leaders, and I am going to do my best to fit those in this calendar year. I will be on vacation Sunday, September 6, and a few days TBA surrounding that Sunday. Pastor Bill Knutson will preach and preside. Joe Zimmerly and I will attend The Oasis October 18-20. It is a conference for rostered ministers and professional lay staff of the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods. The theme this year is "Fling Wide the Door: Preaching in Advent and Holy Week."
- At the end of July, I completed 2 years of my 3-year term call to Mount Cross. Around May of 2022, representatives of the Mount Cross Church Council, the Office of the Bishop of the Southwest California Synod, the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, and I will meet to discern the continuation of this call. It is wise to think ahead about this discernment process.

Finally, I never tire of saying how blessed we are at Mount Cross with amazing staff and volunteers. Joe Zimmerly has submitted a separate report. I am happy to include below a report from Carina McVeigh, Communications Coordinator, and Carol Browning, wearing her Interim Music Director hat.

Report from Carina McVeigh, Communications Coordinator

At the Mount Cross Leadership Retreat, I received a lot of feedback regarding the Mount Cross website. This report is to inform the Council of the progress I have made in updating our website and my plans for it going forward according to that feedback, and to invite any suggestions or requests going forward. I will do what I can to incorporate them while making the website as strong as possible.

First, I would like to say thank you for the feedback and the careful consideration of the website. It is one of our most important assets in not only communicating with current members, but also our first introduction to new members. I've extensively researched what makes a strong website/social media platform for a church, and I am grateful to be entrusted with that part of Mount Cross's mission. I look forward to continuing to strengthen our website so it can serve as both a communications platform and as a ministry tool.

As of last Friday, August 13, all current committee minutes were updated to the best of my knowledge. I am currently working through posting the archived minutes and will be adjusting their presentation into a yearly format (2021 Archive, 2021 Archive, etc.) in order to prevent extremely large files. Once all the data is updated, I plan to redesign the Council and Committees page of the website to make important documents easier to access and make navigation of the page more straightforward. Finally, I will be making graphics and designs to make the website, and especially the Council and Committees page, more aesthetically pleasing and informative, including brief descriptions of the committees and their service to the mission of Mount Cross.

The Mount Cross Staff is currently discussing ways to modify our e-Grapevine to make it more visually appealing, including but not limited to the possibility of upgrading our MailChimp account to use their premium formats. We are also in the process of evaluating the worship recordings that are currently present on the website and discussing what is the best course of action moving forward as we continue to operate in our hybrid format.

Thank you,
Carina McVeigh
August 17, 2021

Interim Music Director Summary – August 2021

With the current rise in COVID cases because of the Delta variant, we still need to be cautious about group singing. Although the choir would love to be singing and working on music together on a regular basis, we have

to be careful. Our July “Hymn Sing” was a fun event which gave us an opportunity to sing in parts, in the pavilion with chairs spaced out a bit. We even recorded birthday greetings for Pastor Julie’s daughter and a song for Norm Morgan. We’ll have another Hymn Sing on Wednesday, September 1, 6:30 p.m. Once the CYFM programs begin mid-September, Wednesday evenings outdoors won’t work but we’ll find another alternative to continue singing together safely.

Our Handbell Choir membership has stabilized, and we have enough regular members for a 2-octave group. Because of vacation schedules, we’re not rehearsing for the next few weeks but have repertoire planned out and will be practicing to play during worship again, plus putting together a Sunday afternoon program for late September or early October.

I’m looking forward to Sunday, August 29, 2:00 p.m., when Kate Fisher, Justin Thai, and Guy Ervin III will offer a lovely recital of flute and piano music. Justin and Guy, in particular, are putting in a lot of time to prepare the program. Kate doesn’t have as much free time because of Ben’s going off to Valparaiso and her getting ready for the new school year, and I’m grateful that she’s going to add her talents. I also appreciate the help from Joan Brundage and Barbara Cranfill of the Classical Concert Series committee in organizing the event.

Thank you for the Council’s support of our Music Ministry here at Mount Cross!

Carol Browning,
Interim Music Director
August 17, 2021

Pastor's Report for July 19, 2021 Staff Meeting
June 16-July 18
Updates and Highlights

- We continue to gather for worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning in three ways: inside the sanctuary, outside under the pavilion, and on livestream. For those not on-site during the worship service, Holy Communion is distributed from 11 a.m. – Noon. Bill Dawson, Justin Thai, and three Moorpark College interns provide the needed audio and video technical assistance to support in-person and virtual worship. Carol Browning is doing an excellent job of encouraging the participation of many people in worship music while working within the Re-Opening Committee's COVID guidelines.
- We had four different preachers in the last 6 Sundays. Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson preached June 20, Vicar Amanda Berg preached June 27, Chaplain Travis Davis preached July 4, and I preached June 27, July 11, and July 18.
- Summer book groups are going well (*Being Disciples, Just Mercy, Caste*).
- Vicar Amanda Berg's seminary internship ends on July 31. Mount Cross has been blessed by her presence and her gifts for ministry, and it has been a privilege for us to contribute to her ministry formation. Thank you to her Lay Internship Committee and to all in the congregation for welcoming and encouraging her. She is already a pastor to us, and we look forward to following news of her first call after seminary.
- Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson's process to become a Deacon in the ELCA is moving forward. The Southwest California Synod approved sending her paperwork to the Conference of Bishops in October. I would like us to create a ministry committee to work with and support Cecelia as her diaconate, focused on ministry to seniors, takes shape.
- Chaplain Travis Davis received news on July 13 that he was officially "Entranced" into the candidacy process to become a Rostered Minister for Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. The next step will be his meeting with the Theological Review Panel to determine his educational needs and goals. The DC Metro Synod will collaborate with the Southwest California Synod in his candidacy journey.
- Leadership Retreat: Thank you to all who were able to attend the Leadership Retreat on July 11 at CLU. We talked about adopting a common mindset for our approach to leading over the next several months. Here is an attempt to summarize that mindset:

*With gratitude for our resilience and resources during the pandemic,
and having learned afresh that Mount Cross is a special and caring community
where we can depend on God and each other,
we will joyfully welcome people back home to church
and lead with prayer, patience, presence, and participation.
We will listen to God and each other
as we creatively experiment
with ways to continue all the best of what Mount Cross has been
while embracing new forms of ministry, connection, and community.*

- I will be away Wednesday, July 21 – Saturday, July 24, accessible by phone. If in-person pastoral presence is required, Vicar Amanda will be on-call, with Rev. Susan Klein on back-up.

Mount Cross Leaders Retreat / July 11th, 2021

Notes on what might God be up to with Mount Cross?

- Continued outreach through technology *
- Raising up leaders *
- Peace and justice – continue to grow *
- Community action
- Caring ministry
- Creating space/hospitality/posture of openness in divisive times
- Intergenerational focus
- Collective prayer focus
- Increased partnership with the CDC
- Reaching people that can't physically be present
- Interfaith opportunities
- Making room for NEW people
- Various ways to do church
- Mount Cross representing positive values to the community *
- Fellowship
- Feel the joy of outreach
- Awareness of the importance of community and joining with other churches
- Leave behind biases and judgment to see the humanness of all *
- Prepare for change and reinvigoration
- Outreach through expanded access to different worship and sacrament options – new interest in MCLC by strangers, long absent members, and some new members
- Opportunities to strengthen faith through live and virtual Bible Study, book clubs, prayer, and meditation
- Caring for those close at hand – take time to know and meet the needs of others
- Speaking up and speaking out for justice – faith in action *
- Ecumenical partnerships *
- MCLC embodies positive values in the community *
- Things that strengthen faith *
- Caring/Outreach *
- CDC *
- Virtual options *

Notes on “Common Mindset”

- Commitment of church leaders to be present and participate
- A willingness to stretch beyond our comfort zones
- Discerning what stays the same (“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”)
- Reframing declining attendance as an opportunity to invite and retain
- Extend grace/ live in grace
- Be a listening presence, intentionally approachable, seeking out people
- Creating “Safe Spaces” / Embodying gentleness
- Be patient with each other and the work of the Holy Spirit
- “Come Home to Church” emphasis rather than “Come Back to Church”
- Lift up positives/strengths: Mt. Cross is a good place; a place to learn and grow
- Trust in the Promises of God/ Jesus said, “I will build my church,”... “I will be with you always”... “I am making all things new” (from Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA)
- In difficult conversations, listening for, and help identify the “need for” in others/ Encourage maturity in conversations.
- Seek creative ways to show love
- An openness to possibilities / Gratitude for the present / Respect the past but not getting stuck there
- Time of listening / Opportunity for a new normal (some things will be different than before- ‘not going back’) / New perspectives
- Being joyful in exploration
- Listen for the Holy Spirit
- Have perseverance

Pastor Julie’s Draft Summary:

*With gratitude for our resilience and resources during the pandemic,
and having learned afresh that Mount Cross is a special and caring community
where we can depend on God and each other,
we will joyfully welcome people back home to church
and lead with prayer, patience, presence, and participation.
We will listen to God and each other
as we creatively experiment
with ways to continue all the best of what Mount Cross has been
while embracing new forms of ministry, connection, and community.*

Unedited Brainstorming (post-it notes) of Immediate Needs at Mount Cross (within 6 months)

Administration & Communications

- Finalize a facility use policy
- Update membership list
- Council Minutes Summary printed in newsletter or bulletin
- Communicate through visual in-person sign-ups in addition to computer sign-ups
- New e-newsletter format - links noticed??
- Revamp “welcome” process - update website; digital interface; “touchscreen” and live person at kiosk
- Website refresh
- Update website page (agenda)
- Accurate information on website (week of 7/18)
- Member editor for newsletters - write articles that would come from committees, etc.
- Monthly / Quarterly postcards
- Endowment needs to better publicize the good works accomplished through the grants (toward the result of generosity / support)

Adult Ed, Spiritual Formation, Discipleship

- Assemble Adult Education committee
- Evening/afternoon Bible study
- Learn how to witness

Caring, Welcome & Fellowship

- 2nd Health Ministry nurse
- Meal support volunteers
- Home communion schedule
- Home communion assistants
- Card ministry volunteers
- General visitation of homebound
- Visitor companions
- Support for caregivers
- More volunteers
- Got more volunteers involved and added to present group; encourage participation
- Storytelling and recording of seniors
- Get Many Meals up and running
- Continue the momentum of outreach even though the intensity of COVID is less
- Descriptions - small sentence examples of each committee
- A “Homecoming” welcome celebration
- New member partners
- Make it clear that ALL are welcome! (All genders, ages, races, abilities, etc.)
- Do research on our immediate community
- Spanish-speaking outreach - kiosk material

- Planning group for September church picnic
- People
- Social events
- Fellowship that brings all ages together
- Potluck suppers! (Pandemic guidelines?)
- Do Make/Bake/Celebrate
- MBC
- Encourage volunteerism

CDC, Children, Youth, Family

- Volunteers
- Return of Lutheran Hall to Mount Cross use on Sunday morning
- Appeal to young families
- LWR/Convo with adults
- @ Wednesday dinners?
- Youth participate in worship and attend - maybe sit together
- More emphasis on worship
- Church - marketing
- Address the governing policies of CDC - UPDATE!
- On-board new director Amy Vega
Get CDC up and running
- Get families involved from CDC into church
- CDC to be purposeful in connecting with church - participate in worship

Finance & Stewardship

- Make financial secretary manual
- Financial/Operational policy
- More members on Stewardship Committee
- Financial audit by outside organization - budget item
- Encourage giving

Property & Technology

- Environmental and modernity, i.e. LEDs
- Light on the cross
- Mount the sign facing Earl Joseph so it can be seen (*need to check on city signage policies*)
- *Above outside church doors - clean off the dirt*

Technology

- Fully resourced technology
- Tech interns oversight

- Technology apprentice
- Continuation of streaming services
- Consistent audio & visual support

Facilities

- Work to increase flexibility for the use of our own structure
- Transitioning from small to larger services (seating, capacity, etc.)
- Get the sanctuary arranged for large groups again

Service, Missions, Peace, Justice

- Encourage more food donations
- “Food of the month” for food pantry - lead person
- Knowledge of community needs: i.e., Pastor Hernandez in Oxnard
- Communicate with minority churches - know their needs
- Help with better treatment of minorities (i.e., black arrests)
- Anti-Racism Check-in leadership - need new leaders for Fall

Worship & Music

- Abbreviated midweek service for seniors and others with health issues
- Need for people to sign up in different way than computer for worship help
- Re-engaging Altar Guild
- More partnership with neighboring congregations (St. Mary Magdalen, St. Columba's)
- Revitalize praise music
- Sanctuary choir
- Have singable hymns and songs
- Get choir back
- Two services
- Increase volunteers for worship service
- Continuation of traditional services at 8:00
- Set Summer Sunday schedule
- A customary for Sundays
- Worship Assistant schedule
- Set Fall Sunday schedule
- Re-vitalize Worship and Music Committee

Vicar's Report / June Church Council Meeting

"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16

It all started in the garden. Last August, when my family and I first arrived at Mount Cross, we were welcomed to worship in the prayer garden. Arriving in the middle of the pandemic yet being welcomed in the middle of a prayer garden, a place of hope and beauty, gave us a glimpse of what was to come. I was struck right away by the creativity and resiliency of this congregation. It was one of the first graces of many that have been a part of my Mount Cross internship experience and my formation toward ordained ministry. Highlights of my learning and growing with you over the past year include:



- **Preaching, Teaching, & Worship:** Preaching 12 times, giving children's sermons, leading Upper Room Zoom, and teaching both adults and youth in Bible Studies (Women's, Men's, Pericope Study, Lenten Study, Gospel of Mark series, Sr. High Bible Study, Confirmation). Assisting in leading Sunday worship and preschool chapel, collaborating in ecumenical worship with Sr. Columba's, and assisting Pastor Julie with a funeral.
- **Pastoral Care:** Due to the pandemic, drive-through Communion became the most consistent opportunity for interacting with and praying for congregants. Pastoral care also took the form of phone calls, notes, and a few home visits. Because my internship is also shared with Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino <https://www.hsrcenter.com>, I had additional pastoral care opportunities with my work there as a Spiritual Director. I currently see 10 directees for an hour each (monthly) via Zoom. To learn more about Spiritual Direction [click here](#) ▶
- **Service & Outreach Ministries:** Working with both the Peace and Justice team, co-leading the monthly Anti-Racism Check-ins, and working in various ways with the Care Team.
- **Leadership Growth/Training Opportunities:** Training in 'Mediation and Peacemaking' through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, leading a day retreat, "Calling all Peacemakers" at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in January. Receiving 'Authentic Diversity Training' through our synod with Pastor Julie, attending workshops on "Becoming a Hybrid Church" and on the new hymnal "All Creation Sings." Attending 6 sessions with clergy in our synod and beyond, discussing with the author Rev. Marj Funk-Pihl, her church vitality program "Living the Resurrection: Helping Congregations Thrive." Providing managerial support with our Moorpark College tech interns' program.
- **On the Horizon:** Will be receiving training in marital counseling through "Prepare & Enrich," visiting the Sisters of Mercy's border ministry in San Diego, meeting with Keith Selbrede to learn more about good church financial oversight practices, and connecting with Rev. Tracy Williams at Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bellflower.

"Grace upon Grace" is a fitting description of my time here, and I am so grateful for my opportunities to learn and serve with you. More than anything, I am grateful for the relationships and connections I have made. Pastor Julie, the staff, and my Lay Internship Committee led by Kristine Dawson, have all given me abundant support and mentoring. I have had the privilege to work alongside many of you and have been encouraged and inspired by the leadership and commitment for the ongoing work of this congregation.

It has been wonderful to see the ways in which the Holy Spirit has worked and continues to work through all of you. Your adaptability and creativity during this time of pandemic, and the vitality of your outreach both with-in and outside of the community, are so apparent. My prayer for you is that you continue to be a light on this hill in Camarillo (a hill with a prayer garden!), anchored in prayer and Christ's love, continuing in the ways of hospitality and welcome to all, with ongoing care and concern for those affected by life's struggles and injustices, and bringing Christ's love wherever it is needed. Thank you for graciously welcoming me into your community. Grace & Peace to you all!

With much gratitude and love in Christ,

Vicar Amanda +

Pastor's Report for May Church Council Meeting

April 20 – May 18, 2021

Grace. Generosity. Goodwill. Growth. Thanks to the grace of Christ, the generosity of our members, and the spirit of goodwill permeating Mount Cross, we are responding carefully and intentionally to changing times while continuing to grow in our mission of worshipping God and serving others. The awareness of new life that Easter brings us is reflected in our congregation. We give thanks for Baptism every Sunday in the Easter Season. On April 26, we baptized Jack LaCalamita and welcomed his grandparents, Tom and Patricia LaCalamita as new members through the Affirmation of Baptism. On May 23 we will confirm Baelin Christeson, Mia Fernandez, Matt Fisher, and Nathan Griffis as they affirm their baptismal faith. We are blessed.

Re-Opening our Campus: With joy and care, under the guidance of our Re-Opening Committee and following applicable regulations, we returned to the sanctuary for Sunday worship on May 2. We are now offering 3 simultaneous worship locations at 9:30 a.m.— indoor, outdoor, and livestream, and 2 post-worship Communion distribution options – sanctuary walk-in and drive-through from 11am-12noon. During the week, some church groups and committees have chosen to return to in-person meetings and some have chosen to remain on Zoom. I expect that will be the case through the summer. Sundays are a staff and volunteer intensive undertaking. Thank you to all who are helping make Sundays possible at Mount Cross!

Sunday Snapshot: On May 16, 50 people were inside for worship, 8 people were outside, and our peak live viewers on Facebook was 43. As of today, 9 people viewed the recording on YouTube. For post-worship Communion distribution, 12 people came inside the sanctuary and 12 people received Communion in their cars.

Child Development Center Transition: Continuing to give thanks for the fruitful and impactful ministry of Cathy Channels, I worked with the CDC Board and some Mount Cross members to draft and post the job description for a new preschool Director. The job opening is posted on Craigslist, Facebook, the Synod, and at CLU, Pepperdine, and CSUCI. Here is a link to the posting on Craigslist <https://ventura.craigslist.org/edu/d/camarillo-preschool-director/7317935617.html> Please circulate it widely and pray for the search process.

Raising up new leaders: Vicar Amanda has been one of God's great gifts to Mount Cross this year. She will be concluding her internship on July 31. It is my joy to support and encourage Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson as she moves towards ordination as Deacon, and Chaplain Travis Davis as he seeks to become an ECLA rostered minister of Word and Sacrament. I also have the privilege of serving as a mentor to another Deacon in formation in the synod.

Other highlights of the month

- I have attended three synod-sponsored programs to help church leaders think through what we have learned during the pandemic and how the church will be changed permanently by it: "Technology, Innovation and Thriving Congregations: Changing our Mindset" on April 14;

“Becoming a Hybrid Church” on April 27 and “Clicks and Community – Ministry in a Tech-Shaped Culture” on May 6. I was happy to see that we had other Mount Cross members and/or staff present at all of the above, as well. My main take-away from all of these conversations is the need for us to be very clear and articulate about our mission and values as a church as we make decisions about how to use technology, what pandemic innovations we want to continue, what “old ways” we want to bring back, and what new things we want to try. **I look forward to our leadership retreat on Sunday, July 11 as we discern these things together. Please put it on your calendar.**

- The brief, pre-recorded Ascension Thursday worship service I offered on May 13 was surprisingly well-received and opens up possibilities for midweek or occasional worship experiences in the future.
- I attended the virtual Ramadan Iftar dinner sponsored by Ventura County Interfaith Community (VCIC) on April 24. VCIC would like a Mount Cross representative to be part of their monthly meetings. Please consider nominating yourself or someone else in the congregation to serve in that way. See me for more information.
- I attended the Synod’s “Authentic Diversity Training” on April 29. It was a worthwhile workshop, required of pastors biannually.

Looking Forward:

- I will be on vacation June 10-24. Vicar Amanda will be on-call for pastoral emergencies and, assisted by Ceceilia Travick-Jackson, will preside at Sunday liturgies with Communion elements blessed at our worship on June 6. I will be absent from the June Council meeting. In place of the Pastor’s report, the Council will receive the Vicar’s report.

Thank you, Mount Cross Church Council, for your faithful, engaged, and service-oriented leadership!

Pastor's Report for April 2021 Church Council Meeting
March 24-April 20, 2021

In addition to on-going Bible Studies, pastoral care, worship services, justice ministries, and organizational administration, my time this past month has focused on the official hiring of Carol Browning as our Music Director for this year, Holy Week and Easter services, working with the Re-Opening Committee and Worship Team to plan for a gradual return to on-campus worship and programming, meetings and conversations related to transition at our Child Development Center, and support for Travis Davis (Word and Sacrament) and Cecelia Travick-Jackson (Word and Service) in the ordination process. As of April 12, I was fully vaccinated and am now increasing my in-person meetings and visits.

Thank you to all who helped make Holy Week and Easter meaningful and special this year, despite pandemic restrictions, and thank you to all who joined in worship online or on-site. It was a joy to collaborate with St. Columba's Episcopal Church for the Lenten Bible Study, as well as the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services. A warm welcome back to Mount Cross to Nora Fajnor who rejoined the congregation at the Easter Vigil service on April 3. The Mount Cross campus was filled with joy on Easter Sunday, as 112 people gathered in the parking lot for Easter worship, joining our livestream worshippers. A few dozen people came by after the Easter service to receive Holy Communion in the sanctuary or in their cars.

I invite a motion to receive the application for church membership of Thomas and Patricia LaCalamita who wish to join Mount Cross by Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, April 25, along with their grandson, Jack, who will be baptized that day.

Worship Updates: Drive-Through Communion will be replaced by Walk-In the Sanctuary Communion from 11am – 12 noon each Sunday. For those unable to come inside, we will still bring Communion to their cars.

Beginning May 2, the Re-Opening Committee has approved a cautious return to indoor worship. (May 23 Confirmation Sunday and June 6 Graduate Blessing Sunday will be outside because of the expected higher attendance of younger members who are not yet vaccinated).

These are the parameters for indoor worship, to be changed as necessary as circumstances evolve:

1. Seating will be in every other pew with six feet between household groups.
2. There will be seating outdoors in the pavilion, with audio and video of the worship service, for people who are uncomfortable being indoors or if indoor capacity is exceeded.
3. Upon arrival, temperatures will be taken and people will be asked to sign-in.
3. Masks are required.
4. Singing indoors is discouraged.
5. Livestream worship will continue to be available online.
6. For those not in attendance at the on-site worship, Holy Communion will be distributed in the sanctuary from 11am-12 noon. Communion will be brought to car windows for those unable to come into the sanctuary.

*There is a meeting **Saturday, April 24 at 11 a.m.** onsite at Mount Cross for all involved in helping us transition to indoor worship. I really need as many Council members as possible to attend this meeting and to sign-up to be helpers at the services. Ushering help is especially needed. Thank you in advance!

Upcoming

All are invited to two opportunities offered by the Synod to think about what changes to church life and worship are necessary and desirable as we move out of the pandemic.

1. Becoming a Hybrid Church on **April 27 at 11 a.m. or 3 p.m.** (choose one). Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/95055299857?pwd=cGJSUIZ2VmoycWFHSGVaRXVneUIyQT09#success>
2. Clicks and Community: Ministry in a Tech-Shaped Culture on **May 6 at 11 a.m. or 3 p.m. (choose one)**. Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/98538205766?pwd=T21kWjdqVjF6Vlp2RFZIL28wbTFRZz09#success>

I will be away June 11-25. Vicar Amanda will be on-call in my absence and preach and distribute Holy Communion from elements blessed earlier in the month at the worship services on Sundays June 13 and 20.

Save the Date: Sunday, July 11 Leadership Retreat 1-5 p.m. Typically, Church Council and other congregational leaders would meet the week after the annual meeting for visioning and goal-setting. We delayed that this year until we had a better sense of the landscape. We will meet July 11 from 1-5 on campus to chart the course for the second half of 2021.

As someone observed of Mount Cross recently,
“In a challenging time we seem to be flourishing!”
Thanks be to God for the daily love and resources given to us
in the abundant gifts, skills, and generosity
of our staff, volunteers, leaders, and members.

Pastor's Report for 2/17/21 – 3/16/21

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

- Lent began on February 17 with our Ash Wednesday service (pre-recorded in collaboration with St. Columba's Episcopal). Vicar Amanda was the preacher. Ashes were mailed in advance to all households for use in the service.
- *Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey Through Holy Week* Bible Study began on Feb. 24/25. It is a combined Bible study on Zoom with St. Columba's, meeting for 5 weeks on Wednesday nights and Thursday morning. I taught the Feb. 24/25 class; Fr. Greg taught the March 3/4 class and 10/11 class; I will teach the March 17/18 class; Vicar Amanda will teach the March 24/25 class. The study will culminate with our combined virtual celebration of the Great Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil).
- Following the decision of our Re-Opening Committee in response to improvements in the local COVID case rate, we resumed in-person outdoor worship on Feb. 21.
- Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer services Wednesdays in Lent are featuring well-received messages from church members reflecting on the connections between their faith and their work in the world. We heard from retiring CDC Director Cathy Channels on Feb. 24; teachers Kate Fischer, John Grennan, and Brendan Garrett on March 3, and realtors Randy Churchill and Anne Valencia on March 10. We will hear from young adults Carina McVeigh and Jessica Easter on March 17 and military chaplain, Travis Davis on March 24.
- Holy Week Schedule: Maundy Thursday, pre-recorded service at St. Columba's premieres on Facebook and YouTube at 7 p.m. April 1; Good Friday, livestream from Mount Cross at 7 p.m. April 2; Easter Vigil with Affirmation of Baptism pre-recorded service from Mount Cross premieres at 7 p.m. on April 3.
- Easter Sunday: April 4th 9:30 a.m. in-person, outdoor service will also be livestreamed, followed by drive-through and walk-in Communion, details TBA.

Announcing Cecelia Travick-Jackson's final steps towards ordination as a Deacon

Deacons are ministers of Word and Service. Please see the attached letter from Cecelia describing her journey in this process. Mount Cross is blessed to be a part of it and will be blessed by her ministry to us and the synod.

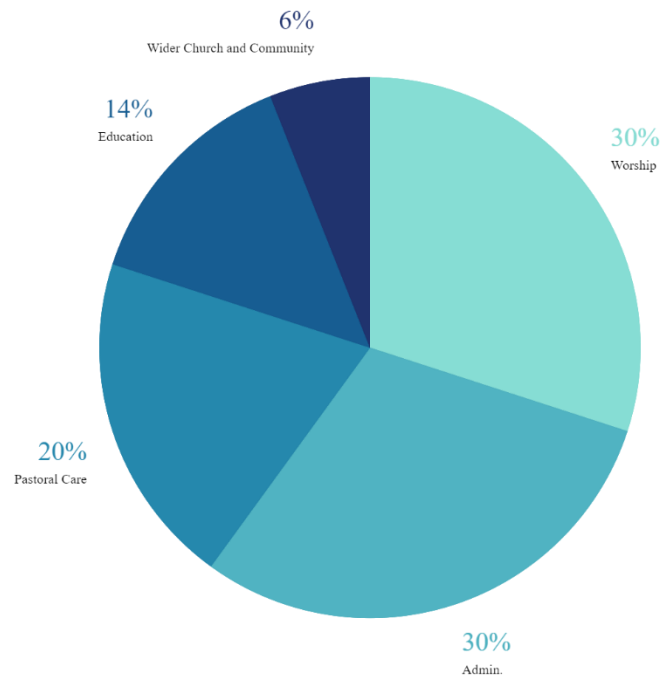
Music Director (Temporary) Selection Process

At our congregational meeting in January, the budget we approved included funding for a temporary Music Director position to get us through 2021 and the uncertainties of the pandemic. It is a position that combines what had been 3 positions (Sanctuary Choir Director, Bell Choir Director, and Praise Band Director). Our hope is that, by this time next year, we will know more about what we need from our music program. The job was posted for 2 weeks on Facebook and Craigslist, and at CLU and Pepperdine. A notice was also placed in the March 2021 Mount Cross Newsletter. 5 applications were received. 3 candidates will be interviewed this week. **I request Council to hold an electronic vote between now and the April meeting to fill this position, pending the recommendation by the Selection Committee.** The Committee is comprised of Becky Riley (Sanctuary Choir), Aimee Stoll (Bell Choir), Jessie Masek (Praise Band), Marion Cole (Praise Band), and Sonja Demeter (Worship and Music Committee). Input was also received from Joe Zimmerly and members of the Youth Band.

Re-Opening Committee Updates as of March 12, 2021

We can now be more invitational and encouraging about attendance at outdoor worship. Beginning Easter Sunday, at drive-through Communion time we can also allow walk-in to sanctuary Communion (need to coordinate with technology team). We are not yet ready to begin indoor worship because the guidance prohibits indoor congregational singing at this time and vaccines are not yet available to all adults. Indoor meetings allowed for church groups, spaced and masked, not to exceed 25% capacity (red tier). Still, no non-church groups meeting indoors. Congregation encouraged to voice opinions directly to the Re-Opening Committee meeting next on 4/15 at 7 p.m.

Pastor's Report 1/13/21-2/16/21



Worship 30%

Including liturgy planning, seasonal planning, preaching preparation, drive-through Communion, and the Worship and Music Committee

Administration 30%

Including staff meetings, staff and intern supervision, Church Council, Executive Committee, Re-Opening Committee, Annual Meeting, technology planning, CDC Task Force, calendar and event planning, writing content for communications (reports, newsletters, announcements), evaluations, references, letters of recommendation, and gift acknowledgement

Pastoral Care 20%

Including visits, in-person and Zoom appointments, crisis response, get-to-know-yous, caring emails, phone calls, cards, and texts, and the Care Team

Education 14%

Including Bible studies, confirmation, pre-school chapel, peace and justice and anti-racism, and prep.

Wider Church and Community 6%

Including Synod (ELCA) and Diocesan (Episcopal) meetings and service, collegium clergy meetings, clergy support group, community involvement, and pastoral care for people outside of Mount Cross

Category	Hours
Worship	75
Administration	75
Pastoral Care	51
Education	35
Wider Church and Community	14