



MOUNT CROSS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CROSS CONNECTIONS

Pastor David Steffenson

Council PresidentTom Whannell

*Monthly newsletter of the events in the life and fellowship of Mount Cross
Evangelical Lutheran Church in University Place, Washington.*

Mount Cross Mission Statement

We, the members of Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, proclaim that we are called in mission by God through his Son who is Jesus Christ our Lord and empowered by the Holy Spirit to:

REJOICE in the Lord in our daily lives and celebrate God's presence with us in word, deed and sacrament.

RENEW ourselves, each other and the community as we experience God's presence and love for us in worship, music, study and deed.

REACH OUT to each other, the community and the world in love, caring and service for it is in the serving of others that we serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

8902 40th Street West
University Place, WA 98466

8:15 AMSunday Worship
9:15-9:45 AM.....Coffee Fellowship
9:45-10:45 AM.....Sunday School
11:00 AMSunday Worship

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**Noah's Ark
Christian Preschool**
Sept. - May
3 year olds - (Thurs & Fri)
4's & 5's - (Mon-Tues-Wed)

 January Newsletter 2012 

“Bedrock Beliefs”

The Grand Sweep is coming to an end. Our Year of the Bible has run its course. The Sacred Text is mastering and having its way with us; serving as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for correction, for teaching, for reproof, and for training in righteousness, that the child of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”—II Timothy 3:16-17. On January 8, we’ll have our final Grand Sweep conversation during the Adult Education Hour. We’ll discuss “the Revelation of Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth”. On Christmas Eve we begin the celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas. On January 1 (10 a.m.) we will embrace the gift of a New Year with our traditional Bell Ringing Service. On Sunday, January 22 we will officially be saying farewell to our Youth Director, Beth, and wishing her Godspeed as she departs for a new ministry opportunity in Australia. As we say goodbye to 2011, may God grant each of us the wisdom and joy of a faith-filled 2012.

During 2012, I will be selecting one of our Bedrock Beliefs each month and offering reflections for your consideration in our monthly newsletters. It is my conviction that bedrock beliefs are the non-negotiable essentials of our Christian Faith. Grace may be free for all, but grace, costly grace, is not a “free-for-all” where the redeemed do and believe as they please. The twelve month journey that awaits us will be a kind of an adult catechesis; a review of what we learned in Confirmation. This month, as we prepare to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord on January 8, I thought I would begin by addressing the topic of Holy Baptism, our entrance rite into the life of the church. What is it that we believe about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism? The hymns of our church provide confessional fodder for our theology of Baptism. “All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord’s salvation

(Mark 16:16). Baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation (Romans 6:4 & II Cor. 5:17). Through Christ’s redemption they shall stand, among the glorious heavenly band of every tribe and nation (Revelation 7:9-17)”—LBW #194.

We baptize infants and adults, because we have a Great Commission with a great promise! Our resurrected Lord, who has *all authority*, commands his church to make disciples of all nations everywhere, in God’s name (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). We are commanded to make disciples and to teach obedience to the commandments of Jesus; lo, Jesus is with us always! In Baptism we become the bride of Jesus. In Baptism we are born again (John 3); birthed from above. Our first birth (biologically born into sin) requires a second birth (heavenly conception), which guarantees a third birth (resurrection unto eternal life). What about eternal security; once saved, always saved? Can one fall out of grace? Can the promises of Baptism become null and void? Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is always a spiritual danger. Baptism isn’t hocus-pocus, medicinal inoculation, or a human insurance policy. Read Hebrews 10:26-31, I Corinthians 10:1-13, John 10:27-30 & Romans 8:28-39. Scripture doesn’t flip-flop. God doesn’t speak out of both sides of His mouth. In Jesus, God’s Word for us is always “Yes!” Personally, I don’t understand how a person could fall out of grace, unless it wasn’t costly grace to begin with. God, who began a good work in us, guarantees its completion at the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the meantime, let baptism have its full effect! In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes: “What does baptism mean for daily living?” “It means that my sinful self with all of its evil deeds and desires should be drowned though daily repentance, and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.”

Recently in the Grand Sweep, we read Romans, Galatians, Colossians, Titus, and I Peter. Each Epistle makes reference to Baptism. The Letter of Romans reminds us that it is impossible for a baptized child of God to sin all the more that grace may abound. Why? Because we have been buried and raised with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:1-14); game on and game over. Galatians and Colossians remind us that we are "clothed so to speak" (Gal. 3:27-29 & Col. 3:1-17) in the righteousness of Jesus in Holy Baptism. Baptism is the great equalizer; making human distinctions no longer important. Baptism is the rite whereby the Gentiles are made sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah; heirs according to promise. Titus reminds us that we are saved not because of deeds done on our part, but solely on the basis of God's goodness, mercy and loving kindness. How are we saved? Through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. Justified by grace, we become heirs in the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure (Titus 3:4-8a)! The baptized devote themselves to good works. Martin Luther writes: "You are saved by faith alone, but if faith is alone, it is not faith."

The letter of I Peter is a baptismal homily, reminding persecuted Christians that they have been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus and set apart for godly living as members of a royal priesthood. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever, we should not be surprised by the fiery ordeal that comes our way. Suffering, for Christians, is for just a little while, but the living hope and heavenly inheritance is forever. Baptism, which is prefigured in the Flood Story, now saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Peter 3:21). Baptism is our ordination into the priesthood of believers. We are servants of a new and better Covenant.

Having read and preached on the Book of Hebrews recently, I've been thinking a lot about the word BETTER. Some scholars refer to Hebrews as the "Better" Book of the New Testament because the word "better" is used 13 times. Jesus is the better priest, sacrifice, mediator, hope and way. Why would anyone settle for an inferior when they've already got the Superior? Reflecting on "better ways" and the "priesthood of believers" I got to thinking about church life efficiency at Mount Cross. Currently, a church staff member makes dozens of phone calls every month soliciting worship helpers. What if we found a better way? Instead of one paid staff person making 50+ calls trying to solicit people for service, wouldn't it be better to have the priesthood of believers call the church office and volunteer their time and talents? Imagine how much easier it would be if each member of Mount Cross called and said for example, "This is baptized Billy. I've got the spiritual gift of Scripture reading. I checked my calendar and here are the Sundays I have free for the next two months. When would you like me to use my gifts and read Scripture?" Instead of an office staff member trying to fill worship helper slots for the monthly calendar, members would be calling to offer themselves for service. I realize it's just an idea, but for those who embrace a "better way" (Jesus), it might reduce the stress and workload of the office staff. Martin Luther writes: "There is enough in Baptism to study and practice our whole life." From womb to empty tomb we are christened. Let the redeemed say, "I am baptized".

Walking Wet.

Pastor Dave



December 15, 2011 Council Highlights

- Income for November was \$41,368 and expenses were \$51,296 (which includes \$11,251 due to raising benevolences for 2011 from 7% to 10%). Note: increased benevolence giving in 2011 was due to staff vacancy, not increased giving.
- \$851 was received in support of the Thanksgiving Offering in support of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thanks for your generosity!
- Call Process Update: Funds are currently not available to support a full time Associate Pastor and the necessary infrastructure. See Article in this Newsletter written by Council Member Ruth Burks for more information.
- Pastor's Designated Housing for 2012, \$25,000 of defined compensation, was approved.
- Membership Transfers: Dennis and Karen Goin have transferred to Agnus Dei Lutheran in Gig Harbor; Terry and Cynthia Edwards have transferred to Peace Lutheran in Tacoma.
- Farewell Reception for Beth Niggemyer will be during the Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 22.
- Bishop Rob Hofstad will be our Guest Preacher on Sunday, April 29. He will also lead the Adult Education Hour ("Ministries of the ELCA").
- Staff Covenants for 2012 have been approved. Michael Engstrom and Jamie Lindberg have been designated as employees of Mount Cross.
- An honorarium, gift of appreciation, was approved for Pastor Anderson; \$5000 for visitation ministry in 2011.
- SAVE THE DATE: Leadership Retreat will be on Sunday, August 12, 2012.
- Resignation of Council Member Guy Sternal was received.
- Updated version of Preschool Servant Group Resolution was approved.
- Seven youth and two adult chaperons have been registered for the July 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 pm with Holy Communion and Christmas Carols at each service. The chancel choir will be singing a Christmas Cantata written by J. Edmund Hughes and Mary Ellen Loose at 11:00 pm. The Cantata, "The Word was Made Flesh," is funded by an anonymous gift from a member of Mount Cross. It is offered in thanksgiving to God and in loving memory of the Saints of Mount Cross of who have died this past year. We hope that you can join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus! The nursery space will be available for use, but no attendant will be on duty until further notice.

Christmas Ornaments on the Tree

Thank you to everyone who purchased the Bible Ornaments to help decorate our tree and celebrate the Year of the Bible. They will hang on our tree until Jan. 1st and be available for pick-up on Sunday, Jan. 8th. If you are unable to pick yours up on the 8th, please contact Karen Ash at 566-0876.



Celebrate the Nativity on Christmas Day!

On Sunday, December 25, Mount Cross will have one Service of Worship at 10 a.m. We are calling it a “Story Telling Service”. Come in your casual clothes; even your presentable pajamas. We will celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus and the baptism of Thane Reiter. Families in attendance will receive a special gift (The Gift of the Christmas Cookie); a book that will be cherished for years to come. Holy Communion will be shared and carols will be sung. A coffee hour hosted by Pastor Dave and Julie will follow Worship. We hope you can join us!

12 Days of Christmas—Bell Ringing Service!



On Sunday, January 1st, Mount Cross will be celebrating the Season of Christmas with a special liturgy called “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. It will be a Service of Lessons, Carols and Holy Communion. It will be a teaching service, and the liturgy will be the sermon. Bring a bell with you to worship or borrow one of ours, and join your church family in celebrating the Season of Christmas, while ringing in the New Year! There will be only one Worship Service at 10:00 am.

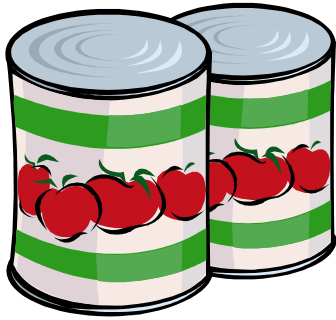
2011 Giving Deadline

Friday, December 30th, at 12:00 noon is your last chance to credit 2011 giving. If you are planning to make a “Year End” Donation for credit to your 2011 church giving, please be sure to have your contribution into the church office no later than noon on Friday, December 30th. Please remember that in order to remain an active member of Mount Cross a recordable offering and a record of Communion within the past year (2011) is required.

New Member Sunday: January 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

Have you been worshipping at Mount Cross? Would you like to become a member? Four times a year we welcome new members into membership. After January, our next New Member Sunday will be in April. We hope you consider joining this vibrant congregation and working with us in the mission spirit of the Gospel. If you have been thinking about membership at Mount Cross, and feel that the Holy Spirit is directing you to join, now would be a great and exciting time to take the next step with membership. All are welcome! A New Member Meal and Orientation will be held after the second service on January 22nd and will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Mount Cross fellowship hall. This orientation will be a fun and information time for new members to ask questions, get answers and meet some of the Mount Cross staff and church members. Please contact Pastor Steffenson or the church office at (253)564-2200 by Friday, January 13th if you are interested in joining Mount Cross.





Altar of Food—January

During the month of January the Peace and Justice Servant Team will once again be coordinating the building of an Altar of Food, to benefit the Families Unlimited Network Food Bank. To help you plan you will find a list of the food items we will targeting for this January activity below. Our hope is that each family will place their food item of the week on the altar before worship as part of their offering. The food items will be delivered to the food bank in February.

If you wish to support the food bank on a regular basis, suggested shopping lists and grocery bags are located in the gathering area. You may fill the bags and return your food items there and they will be delivered to the food bank. Please keep in mind that items must be unopened and not past the “use by” date on the package.

This year we will be asking for the following items:

January 8: Peanut Butter

January 15: Canned Fruit

January 22: Tuna or Canned Meat

January 29: Breakfast Cereal

February 5: Soup (Souper Bowl Sunday)

If you have questions please contact Peter Gulsrud at (253) 566-5838.

After services on “**Souper Bowl**” **Sunday (Feb. 5)** the 6th-8th grade youth will be serving a soup lunch to the congregation. Youth should attend the first service this week, so they can set up during the second service. We are asking families to bring in soups on this Sunday, this means the youth get to help make the soup too! Please let Jamie Lindberg know if you can bring a soup.

Care Team Reminder

Just a reminder for all of our Care Team members...Our New year’s meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3 at 12:30 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room downstairs. There are always different concerns to address as we begin a new year. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Langton at (253) 566-7150 or Kim Forster at (253) 565-1350.

The Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful year by showing God’s love to those in need. We served a total of 20 families that included 96 individuals. A special thank you to Joan Christensen for organizing this year’s giving tree.



Servant Team Fair – Looking Ahead!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Planning for Lent is already in the works! During the five Sundays in Lent, Mount Cross will be featuring its five Servant Teams on Sunday mornings, helping members deepen our mutual understanding of the ministries that are done in Christ's name by each Servant Team & the members of Mount Cross. The five Servant Teams provide the umbrella under which Mount Cross seeks to accomplish our mission of "Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out in the name of Jesus with the saving love of God." The five Servant Teams provide the underpinnings by which we "lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim". Each week during the season of Lent, we will hear the stories of each Servant Team. We will be invited not only to learn new things about each Servant Team, but also how we can participate more fully in the servant team work of our congregation. Display tables & bulletin boards will be assembled in the Gathering Space, inserts will appear in the worship bulletins, and the Adult Education Hour will coincide each week with the ministries of each Servant Team. Watch the February Newsletter for more information!

Tentative Plans:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Servant Team:</u>	<u>Adult Education:</u>
Sunday, February 26	Great Commission Servant Fair	Library
Sunday, March 4	Good Stewards Servant Fair	Personal Finances
Sunday, March 11	Peace & Justice Servant Fair	Living Stones Prison Ministry
Sunday, March 18	Worship & Welcome Servant Fair	Taize Worship
Sunday, March 25	Fellowship of Believers Servant Fair	Koinonia

Fundraiser—Save the Date:

Preschool TAKEOVER at Joesepis on **Sunday, February 26** from 4-8 p.m. Enjoy great food and help support the ministry of our Mount Cross Noah's Ark Christian Preschool!



Youth & Family News...



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20

2012 Mission Trip

Several of our Youth will be heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering from July 18th-22nd, in New Orleans, LA. A registration deposit to hold your spot is \$300. See Bryan Burks with questions, more details to follow.

Youth Gathering Porcelain Porcine Promotions Adopt a Piggy Bank Program Coins for a Cause

In July of 2012 seven young members from our congregation will travel to New Orleans to gather with 30,000 other ELCA youth for a triennial gathering. The cost per traveler is \$1,200. In an effort to support this endeavor the youth council is beginning to fundraise by having an Adopt-A-Piggy Bank Program. We really want to make sure that our youth can ham it up in New Orleans!

Youth will paint piggy banks. These banks will be on display from the 21st – 29th of January. On Sunday the 29th there will be a silent auction in which you can buy a pig and sponsor a youth. On Feb 5th the winners will be announced and blessed (you need not be present to win). Sponsors will get a list of ways they can care for and feed their pig for optimal health and fullness.

From Feb – April the sponsors will drop any spare change, currency, checks, money orders, lotto numbers, etc....into the banks. The youth painters will communicate to their pig sponsors on a regular basis to wish their pig good health and feeding.

On May 6th (Compassion Sunday) pigs will be reunited with their youth, and sponsors will learn who painted their pig. The money will be removed and the pigs will go home with their sponsors (this too can be anonymous if requested).

During the Youth Gathering trip pigs and sponsors will receive an update on how everything is going.

For those who miss out on piggy ownership there will be other opportunities to help out the youth attending the gathering. We will have a Pig barn in the gathering space that will accept funds. We are also planning a night out, pie sales and restaurant takeovers.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE...

Grades 2-4 and Parents: Mark your calendars. For four Wednesday nights in January 2012, Pastor Dave will be teaching our 2-4 grade youth about the gift of Holy Communion in a class called THE WELCOME TABLE. This class begins on **Wednesday, January 4 at 6:15 pm** in the church basement (Multi-Purpose Room).

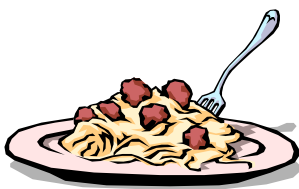
Grades 7-8: Youth have completed a class on the Old Testament and are finishing up on course requirements (service, visitation, sermon notes and memory work). A Winter Retreat is currently set for Friday-Saturday, February 10-11, 2012 (topic: Human Sexuality). Youth and their families will read devotions on Old Testament Stories during Lent. Youth will resume class on Wednesday, April 11 with a course on the New Testament.

Grade 9: Youth and Mentors are working on faith essays, and mentoring activities in preparation for the Faith Retreat on Friday-Saturday, April 27-28, 2012.

Youth Group Dates

The 6th—8th Grade Youth Group meets every Sunday from 6:30—8:00 pm. If you have any questions, or would like to get more information, please contact Jamie Lindberg by emailing her at: youth@mountcrosslutheran.org.

Youth Group Dates: January 8, 15, 22, and 29



January—Wednesday Night Dinners

Every Wednesday Night in January we serve dinner at 5:30 pm. We hope you can join us for dinner! If you have any questions, or would like to get involved in cooking dinners, please contact Claudine Falk at (253) 566-4395.





Noah's Ark Christian Preschool

Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the parents and family members who helped with our Christmas program, "Circle The World With Love," last month. What a fantastic night for the children! They were so excited and sang enthusiastically. Thank you to the Parent Helpers' Committee that planned the event, everyone who brought food for our potluck buffet, and helped with the set-up, serving, and clean-up. We had more than 150 people attend. Thanks also to Pastor Dave Steffenson for his participation in the program. What wonderful memories you have given the children!

"Families Unlimited Network" Food Drive

Thanks to the preschool families for their food donations last month. The boxes of food were delivered to the food bank before Christmas. The recipients appreciated the donations.

In January the children will be learning about the season of winter, the north and south poles, our planet Earth, and the solar system.

Dates to Note:

January 3: Tuesday, 4 & 5 year olds return to preschool at 9:00 a.m.

January 5: Thursday, 3 year olds return at 9:00 a.m.

January 4, 6, 18 & 20: Chapel Time visits with Pastor Dave Steffenson at 9:30 a.m. In the sanctuary.

January 16: Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO PRESCHOOL.

February 8 & 9: Wednesday and Thursday, PARENT CONFERENCES – NO PRESCHOOL. The sign-up list may be found on the preschool hall table. We take sign-ups on a first-come, first-served basis.

February 12: Sunday, "Gift of Music" by the preschool children at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Pam Erickson



Getting To Know You Better...Kim Forster

Kim is one of only a few people who can say that her hometown Kosmos, near Morton Washington, is completely underwater and became Riffe Lake in 1965 when Mossyrock Dam was built and flooded that area. After graduation from high school in 1962 Kim studied at Knapp Business College in Tacoma.

After working for ten years, Kim wanted to be a detective and tried out for the Tacoma Police Department, the first year it opened up to women, in 1973. She passed the written test and obstacle course but few jobs with the department were offered to women at that time. Soon though, a retired Assistant Chief of Police came to her front door and she was hired to help set up the new ARC Nutrition Program for Seniors. She worked there for eleven years and then was employed for fourteen years with the Tacoma Learning Center as Office Manager for the preschool that served children birth to three with developmental delays. Kim retired in 2000.

Kim was married for twenty-eight years to Frank who passed away in 2007. They have two daughters, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. One daughter lives in Tacoma and the other in Sequim. Kim and Frank enjoyed beachcombing in Washington as they searched for the elusive glass fishing floats. "What a thrill to have a glass float break free from its nets in Japan, travel the ocean currents and roll up on the beach in front of our feet" shared Kim. She is still in touch with a loosely knit group of beachcombers from all around the world. Each year during the first week in March she travels to Ocean Shores and presents a trophy in memory of her husband to the person with the best glass float display.

As an individual who was adopted at birth, Kim was fifty-two when she found her birth sister following a long search. After nine months of searching Kim sent a letter to be given to her sister in October and on January 2nd of the following year she received the first letter from her sister, and they later met on the Oregon coast. "We're just like twins, and she's really a blessing in my life."

Kim was baptized in 1952 and confirmed in Central Lutheran Church in Morton in 1958. She joined Mount Cross in 2008 at a very difficult time after the loss of her beloved husband Frank. "I am so thankful for Pastor Dave and my wonderful Mount Cross family. Because of their support and caring, I have been able to rebuild my life and continue to grow in my relationship with the Lord." She is actively involved as the co-chairperson of the Care Team, alternate chairperson of the Coordinating Committee and liaison for them to the Fellowship of Believers, a member of the library committee, and also a participant in the Grand Sweep Year of the Bible.

Gardening is a favorite activity of Kim's as well as doing activities with the UP Senior Center. She enjoys taking trips with the senior group: September-Wrinkle Ranch where several senior centers come together at Falls Creek Retreat; October-Wild Women's Getaway which is held at a different location each year; Rock and Wrinkle 50's with participants sporting their best 50's garb and "mystery" trips with unknown locations. Kim says "I like people" which is evident in the joy she has in visiting members as part of the Care Team and in the other activities at church and the Senior Center that she participates in. Her life is one of caring for others and being a "people person".

By: Ann Leighty



Adult Education: Isaiah Bible Study



The Year of the Bible has been a wonderful experience for our congregation as we have been able to read through the whole span of the scriptures and view the Bible as a complete work.

In 2012, we will slow our pace down and spend time with just a few chapters each week. In mid-January, we will start with a focus on Isaiah, the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. The book of Isaiah contains the two themes of judgment and redemption, so we will examine how we can apply the truths revealed in these themes to our lives.

To help us with our discussions, we will be providing an Isaiah study guide from the "Shepherd's Notes" series, free of charge. Please sign up in the Gathering Space on the bulletin board or get with Mark Mascho or Warren Morrow to get a copy. Our schedule of the chapters we will cover and our main topic for each week will be:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 15: | The Coming Savior
Isaiah Chapters 5 – 9:7 |
| January 22: | Is God a Moral Monster?
Isaiah Chapters 34 – 39 |
| January 29: | The 1st Commandment Crushes Penn State
Isaiah Chapters 41 - 46 |
| February 5: | The Suffering Servant
Isaiah Chapters 50 – 54 |

We hope you can join us! - Tom and Karen Whannell

Adult Education begins promptly at 9:45 am every Sunday in the Multi-Purpose Room downstairs.



Announcements

Staffing at Mount Cross: Where are we in this process?

At the church council meeting on December 15, we discussed the need for additional staffing at Mount Cross. The consensus from the August 2011 church wide leadership retreat was that our church would like to call an Associate Pastor. Although this seems to be what the congregation wants, based upon the pledges that came in for the 2012 budget, we do not have the funds to support this calling. What we do know is that for the church to function smoothly we need staff and infrastructure to support our mission. One of the needs that was discussed was for an effective webpage that will engage and invite people to be a part of the Mount Cross community. The church council is looking for a small team of congregational members who would be willing to look at staffing needs and infrastructure. Our hope is that we can prayerfully discern, what type of staffing will best support Mount Cross and its vision. If you would be willing to serve on this team, please let contact the church office, Council President Tom Whannell or any other Church Council member.

Employment Opportunity – Nursery Attendant



Nursery

Our Nursery Attendant, Trisha Lagerwey, completed her service to Mount Cross at the end of December. Employment constraints and concerns at the YMCA prevent her from continuing as an employee of Mount Cross. We thank Trisha for the time she has served in our church nursery and the wisdom she has brought to our ministry table. Trisha has provided valuable information for Mount Cross as we continue to provide nursery care to members and visitors who worship at Mount Cross. Anyone interested in applying for this position may inquire in the church office for a job description. The nursery space will be available for use, but no attendant will be on duty until further notice.

Associated Ministries First Annual Conference

Associated Ministries WELCOMES DAVID BECKMANN! World Food Prize laureate David Beckmann is one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hunger related issues. He is an economist, Lutheran minister and has been president of Bread for the World since 1991. He has written several books - the most recent is Exodus from Hunger: We are called to change the politics of Hunger. Sunday, February 26, PREACHING at 8:15am & 10:45am, at Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, and KEYNOTE ADDRESS & DESSERT RECEPTION from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma. Monday, February 27, WORKSHOPS & KEYNOTE from 10:00am to 1:45pm • Workshops • Keynote • Luncheon • Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma.



Announcements

Sympathies to the family of Fred and Donna Rapp with the recent passing of Fred. *May the presence of Christ and the promise of resurrection unto eternal life comfort the family and friends of Fred. There was a Graveside Service held at New Tacoma Cemetery on Thursday, December 22 at 1:00 pm.*

Taize Prayer Service

Taize prayer is prayer that includes repetition and silence and the insertion of those elements into liturgy. Repetition allows each person to commune with the living God. Silence is holding oneself in a presence and letting Christ, through the Holy Spirit, pray in us. These are the parts of Taize that help us to meditate and pray throughout the service.

Come and join us for Taize worship. It has been said that prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection. Come and experience and get connected. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Wiley at (253) 588-4801.

Taize Dates: Sundays at 6:30 pm: January 22, February 19, March 18, April 22, and May 20

Thank You!

We are thankful for our Mount Cross Family for the cards, telephone calls, visits, words of encouragement, prayers, and nice warm meals that were delivered in November after Pam's cancer surgery, radiation, and finally chemotherapy. We appreciate the support as Pam continues to fight cancer. ~The Erickson Family

Thank You Mount Cross Quilters!

Mount Cross Quilters, Thank you so very much for donating one of your wonderful quilts to the University Place Senior Center. They are having a quilt raffle to raise money. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Advent Blessings, Kim Forster

Many thanks for the many cards and prayers during my surgery and recuperation. Also, many thanks for the Caregiver's who delivered the darling Christmas House filled with yummy cookies. It is such a blessing to be a part of the Mount Cross Church Family. ~Ellen Cheesman



Newsletter Assembly

Would you like to help collate the "Cross Connections" Newsletter? Join us for our next newsletter assembly, on **Friday, January 27 at 11:00 am.** If you would like more information, please contact the church office. **Please note that the newsletter submission deadline is the 15th of every month at 4:00 pm!**



NOVEMBER 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Current Month	2011 Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date
Budget Income:	\$41,368	\$454,421	\$481,800
Budget Expenses:			
Fellowship of Believers	\$1,045	\$3,108	\$4,767
Good Stewards	\$7,189	\$80,928	\$87,841
Great Commission	\$536	\$7,192	\$11,023
Peace & Justice	\$13,989	\$37,502	\$30,731
Worship & Welcome	\$754	\$4,687	\$7,310
Staffing Costs	\$26,698	\$293,351	\$325,969
Administrative	\$1,084	\$12,391	\$14,158
Total Expenses:	\$51,296	\$439,160	\$481,800
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$11,618	
Surplus from Previous Years		\$3,944	
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		\$15,562	
Designated Funds			
Income	\$9,763	\$86,858	
Expense	(\$803)	\$41,248	
Benevolences Paid			
From Budget Funds	\$13,989	\$37,502	
From Non-budget Funds	(\$1,849)	\$4,734	
2011 Loan Activity (Interest @ 5.375%)			
Beginning Balance		\$502,037.00	
Payments Made		\$50,785.84	
Interest Paid		\$21,745.77	
Principal Paid		\$29,040.07	
Ending Balance		\$472,996.93	





CROSS CONNECTIONS
8902—40th Street West
University Place, WA 98466-1544

Change Service Requested

January 2012

Three decorative snowflake icons are placed around the title. Two are positioned below the word "January", one to the left and one to the right. A third snowflake is positioned to the right of the year "2012".