



**MOUNT CROSS**  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2010 Annual Report  
Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 22, 2011

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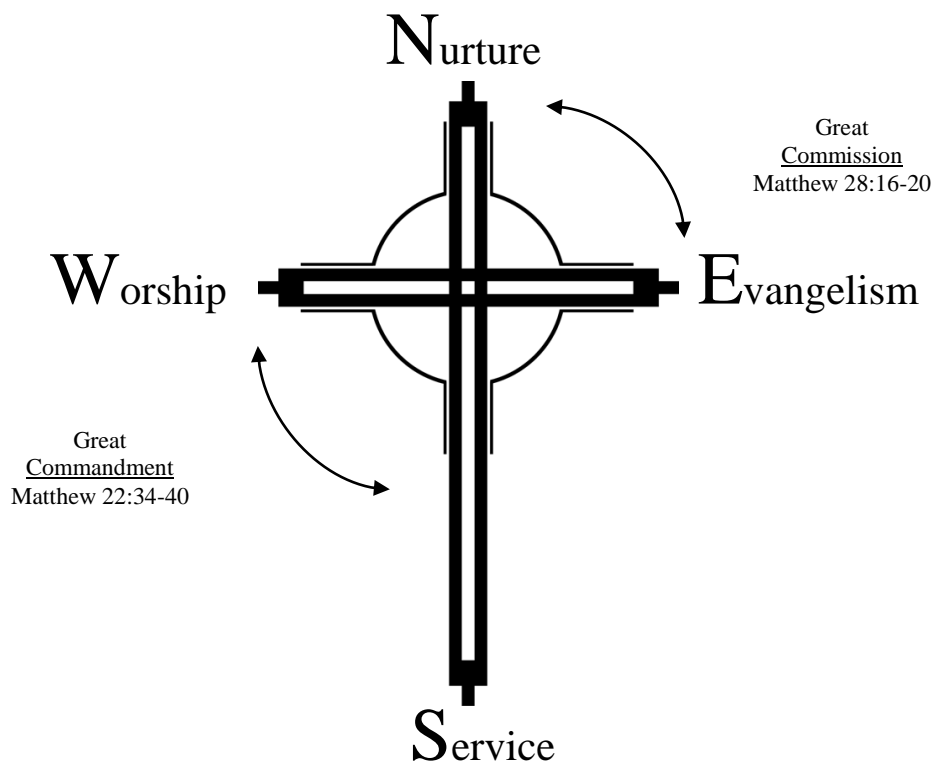
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# Mount Cross DNA

**Purpose:** *Lift High the Cross, the Love of Christ Proclaim!*

**Mission:** *Rejoice, Renew & Reach Out in the Name of Jesus!*

## Mount Cross Compass - Core Values & Beliefs



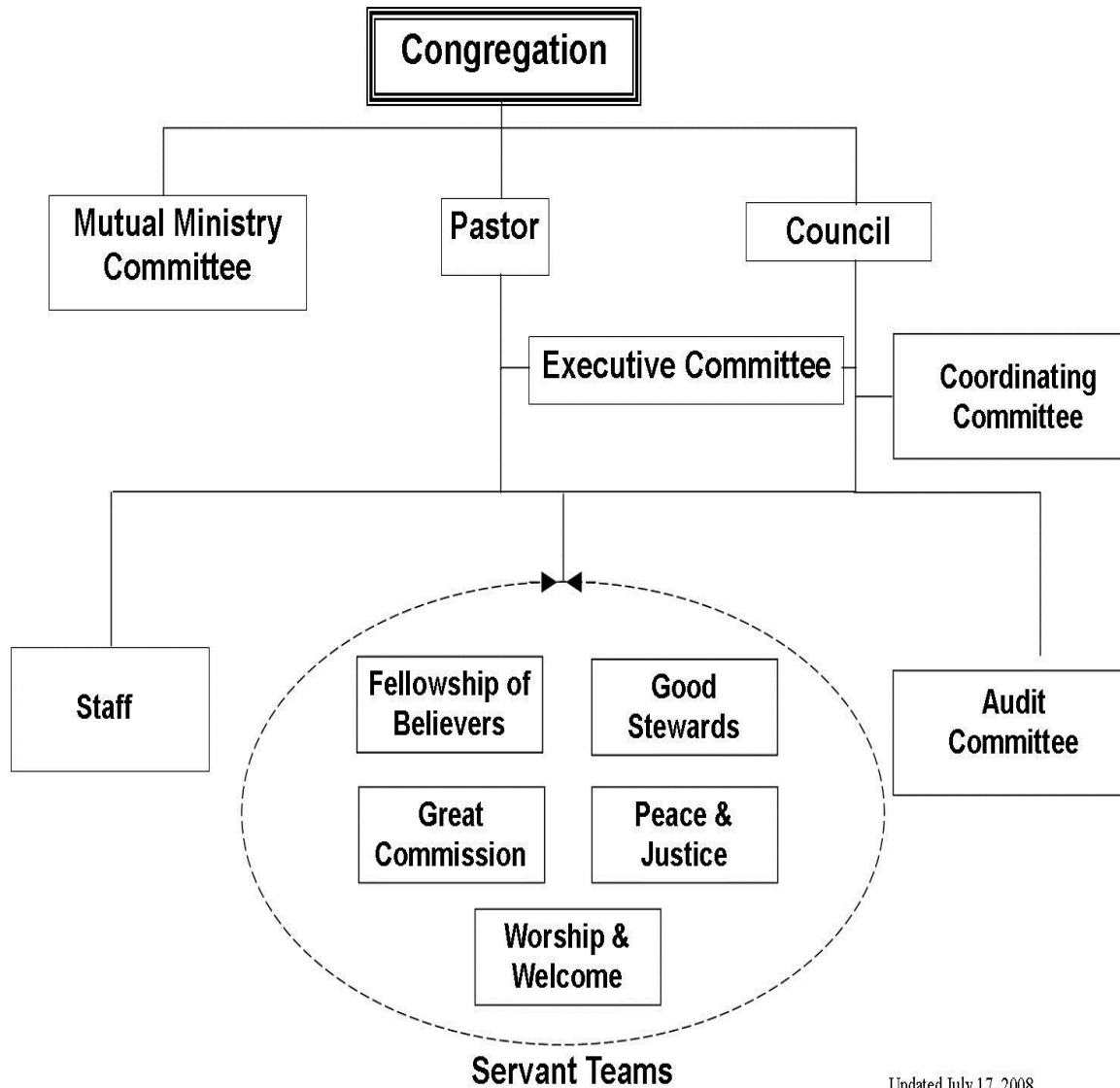
### **Vision: I John 3:1-3**

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see Him as He is. And all who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.”

### **Laser Focus:**

“The focus for the next three to five years at Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church is nurturing youth into fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Council Approved 8/20/06



Updated July 17, 2008

## **Pastor Steffenson's Report: "Sabbath Keeping"**

2010 was a Year of Sabbath at Mount Cross! Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy! Sabbath Keeping is both a commandment and a keepsake. Sabbath keeps us more than we keep it. Sabbath keeping is less of a duty and more of a delight. God builds rest into creation and into our daily lives, providing sustenance for our bodies and souls. In the book, The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein, we meet a generous tree who sacrifices *everything* in the name of love for a boy. When the story comes to a close, the Giving Tree has been reduced to a stump. The little boy who used to climb her trunk, swing from her branches, eat her fruit, play hide and seek, and sleep in her shade, is now an old man. Pursuing what he thought was the good life stuffed with busyness and material acquisitions the old man realizes that he has missed the mark. The boy, now an old man, misses what he once had, namely sacred time with the Giving Tree. The story ends with the following conversation between the old man (boy) and the stump (Giving Tree): "I don't need very much now," said the boy, "just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired." "Well," said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could, "well an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest." And the boy did. And the tree was happy."

The root from the stump of Jesse offers each of us sacred rest. Nothing brings God more joy than seeing His children at rest, sitting in the shade of His love, enjoying abundant life and grace, free from worry and fear. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"--Matthew 11:2-30. The Law (Torah) was given to free people for sanctification, not for self-redemption. God's yoke is easy and God's burden is light. During the year 2010 we celebrated a Year of Sabbath at Mount Cross. Monthly reflections, by Sabbath Keepers, in the church newsletters offered food for thought for tired souls seeking sacred rest. Sabbath Keepers like Mark Mascho and Bruce Williams reflected on the rest one finds in retirement. Paul Ogrande and David Deacon-Joyner both reflected on their Sabbatical time away from the duties and delights of their jobs. Others, like Laura Caddey and Beth Niggemyer, shared Sabbath thoughts on lives in transition. I intended to be on Sabbatical in the summer of 2010, but I postponed these plans when the ministry plate became too full. I did enjoy two weeks of Sabbath while serving on jury duty. I spent a week at PLU getting ready for the Grand Sweep. I also spent a week at Lutherwood Bible Camp as a Resource Pastor, and a long weekend with my boys back in Minnesota watching the Twins play. 2010 wasn't the rest I planned on, but I enjoyed what God gave, and I hope to restore my Sabbatical plans one day soon.

### **As I reflect back on 2010 here are some Highlights from our Year of Sabbath!**

- 2010 included many special focus Sundays including our third annual Music Celebration Sunday, a Bread For the World Sunday on "Evangelical Justice", a Mission Festival Sunday with Rebecca Duerst from Namibia (special thanks to Kari Udbye and Gary Spidahl who coordinated the sending over of Soccer uniforms and equipment for Oshigambo High School in Namibia), and a Marriage Celebration Sunday on January 31<sup>st</sup> with the renewal of vows by nine of our Mount Cross couples. Twenty couples also

attended a Marriage Seminar at SPU. Mount Cross filled six tables at the “Have a Heart for FUN Valentines Dinner”.

- For a second year in a row, Mount Cross enjoyed a Lenten Drama series entitled “Knock, Knock: five Parables of Judgment”. Jessica Thompson played the memorable part of a heavenly angel and Nakiah Reiter did a great job of designing the set and helping with staging.
- 24 individual Mount Cross members set up a Spiritual Gift assessment meeting with Jessica Thompson to better assess how they can apply their spiritual gifts through service.
- Sherylee Heacock offered thanks to God for the large number of people stepping up to volunteer in the office and folding newsletters and bulletins in 2010. This allowed Sherylee to focus on her other office duties!
- Paraments and banners created by the Houglums were retired. New stained-glass paraments were purchased in loving memory of Joan Johnson for the green seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. Lisa Ganung added her seamstress skills and helped us create a matching cloth for our lectern. Jenny Stokes & Jan Vandervort also offered their artistic talents and helped to create some beautiful red paraments/banners.
- Beth Niggemyer organized a mission trip: seven youth and two adults enjoyed servant work at the Lummi Reservation in partnership with Lutherwood Bible Camp.
- Debbie Dryden did an excellent job of speaking about the gift of stewardship and helping each of us to understand that “We Are an Offering”. Hard economic realities forced us to pare down our Mission Plan Budget for 2011. We eliminated \$60,000.00 from our Budget by making some hard choices, but we were able to move forward in faith without sabotaging our mission. In October we participated in the Hunger Walk, hosted meals at the Phoenix House and Peace Lutheran Feeding, and provided and served the meal for the FUN Simple Supper. Youth volunteered at the FUN Food Bank in October as a youth group. We continue to have very generous givers at Mount Cross! Thank You!
- We read the entire Bible, collectively as a church family, during the fifty days of Easter.
- We conducted a sense of the congregation survey, with 130 responses, committing ourselves to finding common ground in our journey forward.
- Alison Woods was added to our staff in April as our Nursery Attendant.
- Our building and grounds continue to be well maintained by Dean Dalziel, Chuck Hoffman, and their many volunteers. Jim Leighty placed view windows in the doors of our Sunday school wing. Our grounds host a beautiful Community Garden (thanks to

Nancy Lulay, Peter Gulsrud, and others) and our building invites mission partners in for regular use (NA, Scouts, Safe Sitters, Piano lessons, FEAT, etc.).

- Jessica and Luke Thompson brought baby Claire into our world and church family. Jamie Williams helped cover while Jessica was off from work.
- My wife Julie began Grad School in June, and we both had the joy of attending our daughter Rachel's White Coat Ceremony at Medical School in August. Our son Joshua, and daughter Jenna, both announced that Julie and I would become first-time grandparents in 2011.
- We ended the year with a beautiful Christmas Cantata, entitled "The Everlasting Light" performed by Rich Nace, Mike Reiter and our amazing Chancel Choir. The Cantata was commissioned in loving memory of Fred & Rose Schneikart and their son Paul.

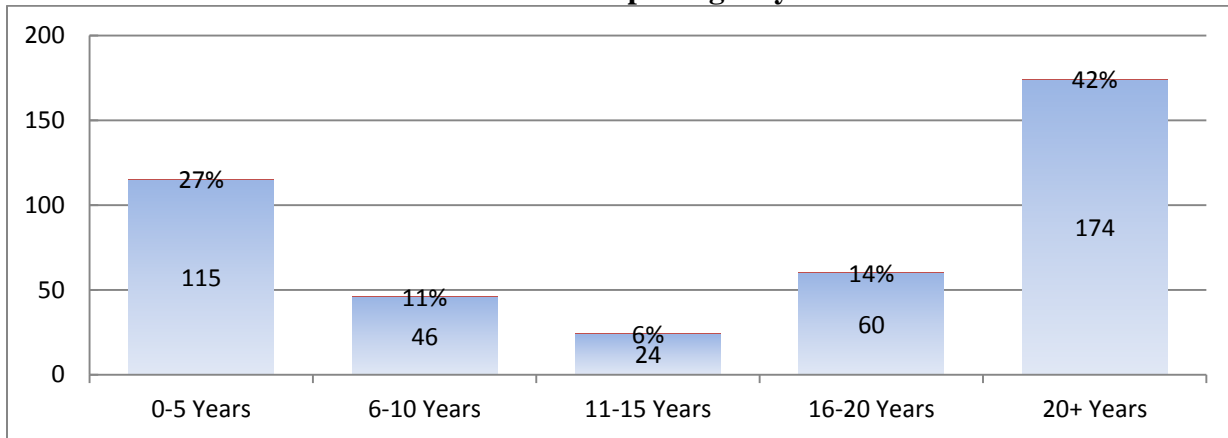
**As I look forward to 2011 (already in progress), here are some Hopes for our Year of the Bible!**

- Our age demographics indicate that we are growing older as a congregation. In 2011 a special focus Sunday will be held on June 5, celebrating our SENIORS who are growing old with grace and still bearing fruit in their old age (Psalm 92)! We also plan on consecrating two lay ministry servants (Carmelle Gilson and Karen Wiley) on June 5 who will assist Pastor Anderson, our Care Givers and me, in the distribution of Holy Communion, the anointing of the sick, and the prayer and care of our members.
- Our Lenten Series in 2011 featured five of our members sharing favorite Bible Stories that have impacted their faith journeys. Also, new paraments, in loving memory of Hershel Montgomery, marked our Lenten season compliments of our in-house weavers: the Lulays and Shultzs. We plan on adding some special Advent cloths this year as well. New Communion ware is being crafted in loving memory of Lois Ziegler and in honor of her husband Russ.
- The Grand Sweep: We are reading the entire Bible individually this year (142 participants) and celebrating the weekly readings in worship each Sunday. We've had in excess of 40 adults each week in Sunday school discussing the Bible readings. Our Church Musicians are going the extra mile and offering music that dovetails with our Scriptures each week. Julie Kangas organized our youth in a musical offering on the Joseph Story in January.
- Mount Cross members gave in excess of \$10,000.00 at this year's Mission Trip Auction. Beth Niggemyer, Bryan Burks and Claudine Falk will chaperon 13 youth who will be doing servant work in New Orleans this summer.

- Pastor's Discretionary Fund – Caring for Our Neighbor was eliminated from our offering packets for 2011. Members are asked to give second mile gifts to this fund as desired.
- The Church Parking Lot will need to be repaired, resurfaced and striped this summer. Thanks to everyone who contributed extra dollars to this project.
- Judy Williams will be stepping down as Sunday school Superintendent after several years of faithful leadership. We pray that someone will feel called to fill this role, in the same way that Karen Ash stepped forward when Cia Schlehlein stepped down from Altar Care leadership.
- Karen Whannell is coordinating Mount Cross' "Women of Faith" participation. Currently we have 33 women signed up with a goal of at least 50.
- We will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 6 with a Music Celebration Sunday, compliments of Rich Nace and Mike Reiter.
- We've got full enrollment for our 4-5's Preschool Class for the fall of 2011, and we're working on full enrollment for our 3's also.
- Our Coordinating Committee has put together a complete slate of names for our Annual Meeting, May 22.
- The Trip to the Holy Lands (eleven Mount Cross participants) was fantastic. Thanks to Pastor Neal Snider!!
- Compassion Weekend (May 13-15) is fast approaching. Laura Caddey and her team of Dave McInturff, Ann Leighty, and Cheryl Spidahl, have organized several servant sites and dozens of servant volunteers; allowing us to worship in our servant work.
- Reserve Sunday, August 21 (1:30-5:30 p.m.) on your calendar for this year's Leadership/Council Retreat: "The Gospel—Going Missional".

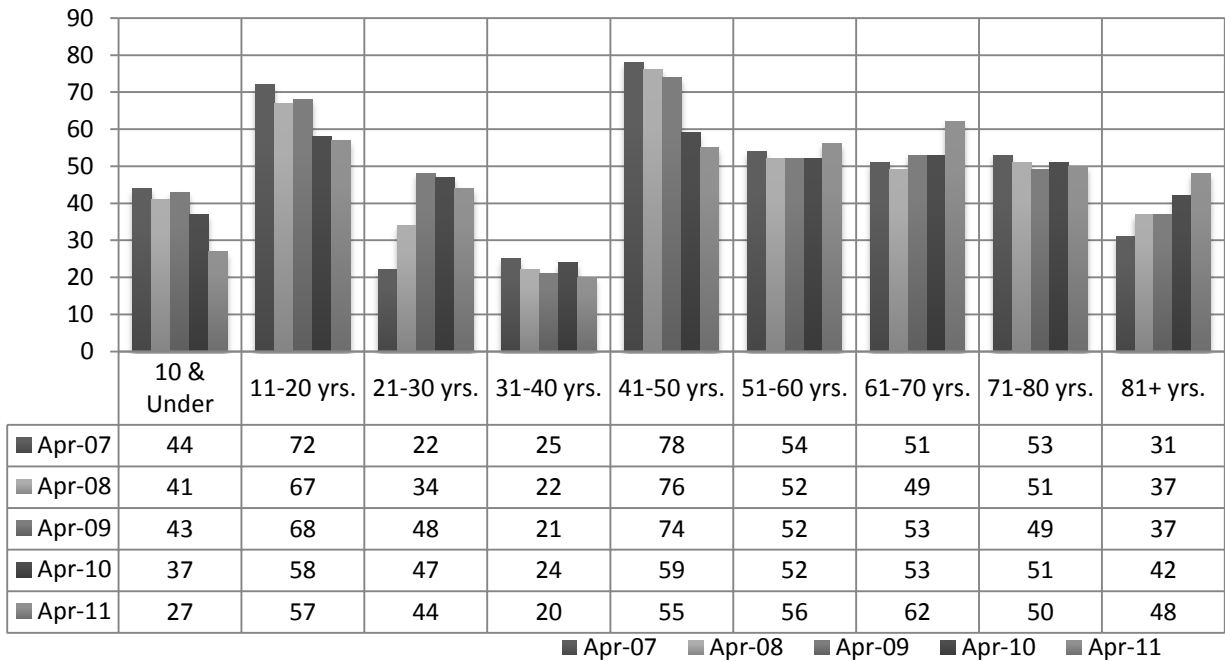
On behalf of the Mount Cross Ministry Team, I wish to convey to each of you at Mount Cross my deepest appreciation for a wonderful year of faithful ministry in 2010. You love Jesus and seek to serve Him. You honor Him with your time, talents and treasures. You let your light shine before others and you bring glory to God in your words and deeds. Thank you! God loves you and so do we.

### Membership Longevity



April 1, 2011 – 419 Members

### Age Demographic



2007: 430

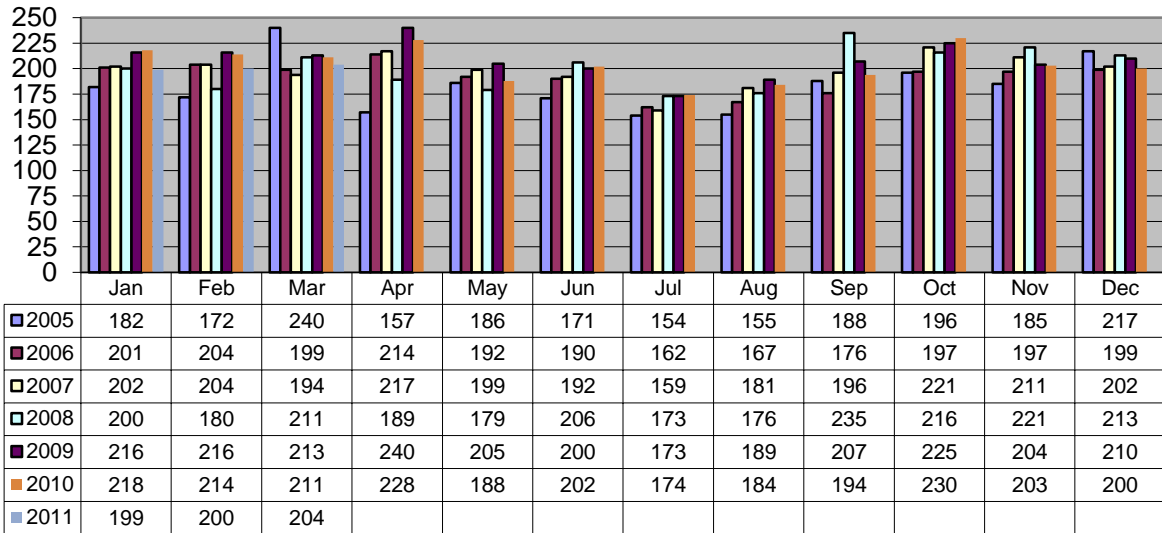
2008: 429

2009: 445

2010: 423

2011: 419

**Average Worship Attendance**  
Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



**AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:**

**2005: 183    2006: 191    2007: 197    2008: 199    2009: 208    2010: 203**

**2010 Pastoral Acts:**

**Baptisms**

August 22, 2010 at 10 a.m. - Adrian Michael Cardenas  
 October 10, 2010 at 11 a.m. – Claire Louise Thompson  
 December 26, 2010 at 8:15 am – Thomas Jay Cafferty

**Confirmation** (Sunday, October 31)

Nathaniel Douglas Falk  
 Connor Andrew Kerr Lilley  
 Erin Ashley Brand

**New Members**

**Sunday, January 24**

Bill & Marilyn Cobble  
 Sandra Fish  
 Janice Markert  
 Jenny, Jackson & Grace Stokes  
 Edwin & Gretchen Wheeler

**Sunday, April 25**

Barbara Pick  
 Ray & Dorothy Werner

Jon, Emily, Jaisen & Erin Zurfluh

**Sunday, July 18**

NONE

**Sunday, October 17**

(Kristina) Alayne Beedle  
Michael Engstrom  
Chris & Pam Lilley, Connor and Alec  
Dave & Judy Ostendorf  
Joanne E. Rieke  
Hans Tolpingrud  
Karen Wiley

**Removal from Roster by request or inactivity**

- Linda Elling and her son, Alex; removed by request (July 19, 2010)
- Fred Huddle, transferred to Grace Lutheran, Des Moines, WA, by request
- Chris, Cindy, Kasey and Corey Shultz transferred to Fullness of God at Holden Village (Sept. 23, 2010) by request; move to Associate Member status at Mount Cross
- Daryl & Leslie Daug, Gwen & Tripper removed by request (10/28/10)
- 49 Members in January 2010 after membership review, due to inactivity

**Funeral/Memorial/Graveside Services**

- Memorial Service for Ruth Oliver Jones (non member) at Mount Cross on Friday, Feb. 26, 2010
- Graveside Service for Florence Ryan at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, on Thursday, March 4, 2010
- Graveside Service for Carole Jean Burke at Mountain View Cemetery in Lakewood on Friday, March 5, 2010; also a Memorial Service for Carole Jean Burke at Mount Cross on Saturday, March 6, 2010
- Memorial Service for Hershel Marvin Montgomery (non member) at Mount Cross on April 16, 2010
- Memorial Service for Dorothy Leone Christensen at Mount Cross on Saturday, September 4, 2010. Inurnment on September 27, 2010 at Mountainview
- Memorial Service for Marion Waybright (non member) on September 24, 2010.
- Memorial Service for Lorraine Young on November 29, 2010.
- Memorial Service for Patricia Ezell (non-member) on December 22, 2010.

**Weddings**

- Richard Douglas Drowley & Kristen Marlene Southwick – Sunday, July 18 at the home of John and Sonja Ferri.
- Kristopher Keller and Bonnie Faulkner – Saturday, October 9 at FLC, Tacoma

**Renewal of Vows – NONE**

Membership as of 12/31/10: Baptized: 436                      Confirmed: 371

**Membership Requirements:** Inactivity is defined as a one year period during which the member does not participate in the life and ministry of the church. This ministry may include but is not limited to: Contributing time, talent or monies, attending worship services, partaking in communion, attending church activities, serving on groups, teams and/or committees of the church, receiving pastoral services. Members need only give a recordable offering and participate in a Communion of record once per year to be considered a confirmed member of Mount Cross.

### CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Dave Anderson Treasurer	Chris Caddey ( May 2011) Youth/Fellowship of Believers	Laura Caddey (May 2011) Vice President
Bill Cobble (May 2011) Senior /Good Stewards	David Deacon-Joyner (May 2010) Worship & Welcome	Peter Gulsrud (May 2011) Secretary
Todd Kilpatrick (May 2013) Peace & Justice	Roger Knapp (May 2011) Fellowship of Believers	Nakiah Reiter (May 2013) Great Commission
Gary Spidahl (2012) Mutual Ministry	Pastor Dave Steffenson All Advisory	Tom Whannell (May 2012) President

\*( )-Complete time on Council

#### **Annual Meeting Tentative Agenda – Sunday, May 22, 2011**

- Establish a Quorum and Call Meeting to Order
- Opening Devotions—
- Approval of Minutes
  - Annual Meeting May 16, 2010
  - Mission Plan Budget Meeting Nov. 1, 2010
- Reports
  - Pastor Dave Steffenson
  - Financial Update
  - Audit Committee
  - Financial Policies Document
  - Other
- Action Items
  - Receive the Annual Report of the Congregation for 2010
  - Constitution Change
- Election Actions
  - 1) Voting Representatives to S.W. Washington Synod Assembly 2012  
Friday-Saturday, May 18-19 at Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, WA
 

Male: <u>Chuck Larson</u>	Alternate: Lowell Anderson
Female: <u>Charlotte Larson</u>	Alternate: Joan Anderson

- 2) Church Council: Three, Three-year positions: Ruth Burks, Bill Cobble, and Guy Sternal  
One Senior Representative, One-year position: Mike Johnston  
One-year position: Doug Otjen  
One Youth Representative, One-year position: Quinn Morrow
- 3) Representatives to Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community (TLRC) Annual Dinner & Meeting (Sunday, March 2012): Pastor Steffenson and Guest; 1 Lay Member & their Guest: Gretchen Raupach
- 4) Coordinating Committee (three laypersons, one-year term): Kim Forster, Jan Lobeda, & Judy Snider
- Announcements:
  - Recognition of Council Members & Servant Team Chairs
  - Voting Representatives to S.W. Washington Synod Assembly 2011  
Friday-Saturday, May 13-14 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA  
Male: Todd Kilpatrick  
Female: Debbie Kilpatrick
  - Summer Food Drive for FUN
  - Thursday, June 2, 2011 Ascension Day Service at Christ Lutheran, Lakewood at 7:00 p.m.
  - June 5, 2011: Summer Worship Schedule Begins, 8:15 & 10:00 am; Seniors Sunday, recognizing our Senior Citizen Members
  - June 12, 2011: Recognition of H.S. Graduates and presentation of Quilts.
  - Sunday, August 21 from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. - Council/Leadership Retreat
  - Sunday, November 20, 2011—Mission Plan Budget Meeting
  - Date: May 20, 2012 Annual Meeting
  - Other
- Closing Prayer & Adjournment: Sing—Lift High the Cross, ELW #660

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held Sunday, May 16, 2010**

There being 97 voting members registered a quorum was declared and President Roger Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:46PM.

Opening devotions were taken from the inside cover of the Annual Report and led by Vice President Gary Spidahl. The congregation sang the first two verses of “Lift High the Cross.”

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made (Peter Gulsrud / Gary Spidahl) to approve the minutes of the Annual meeting of May 17, 2009 and the Mission Plan Budget Meeting of November 15, 2009. Motion passed.

Reports:

1. Pastor Dave Steffenson: Referred to the multi-page written report. Highlights include:
  - 2009 was a wonderful year.
  - We were able to hire Beth Niggemyer as a full-time Youth Director.
  - The Pastor went over some of the statistics in his report emphasizing that Mount Cross is made up of a healthy mix of long-term members and new members.

- On a sad note, as a result of our membership review in late 2009, 49 persons are no longer a formal part of our church family.
  - The Pastor is recommending that in 2011 Mount Cross put the lectionary on hold and together do the “Grand Sweep” where the congregation reads the entire bible in a year and each week’s scripture lessons and sermon would be based on the weekly readings.
2. Financial Update: Church Treasurer David Anderson reported that income for the year 2009 was approximately \$525,000 and expenses were about \$507,000. With the prior year balance taken into account, Mount Cross ended 2009 with a surplus of approximately \$19,400. Over \$60,000 was paid in benevolences in 2009.
  3. Audit Committee: Lana Dalziel reported that the audit for the year of 2009 would be taking place in the next few days. In the past the Audit Committee worked with one of the other Lutheran churches in the community to audit each other’s books. That could not be arranged for 2009 so an internal audit will be completed within the next few days.
  4. Sense of the Congregation Survey: A two-page summary report (see below) was distributed at the Annual Meeting. Jon Zurfluh went over the results of the “Sense of the Congregation Survey”. Prompted by the actions of the 2009 church-wide assemble of the ELCA the survey shows that there are significant numbers on both sides of the issue and a large number of people in the middle. Jon emphasized that this was only an initial survey and there is a need for discussion about what the statistical data means and what options are available for Mount Cross. A copy of the entire presentation is attached (see below). The summary slide of the report:
    - Respondents show they are generally aware and informed regarding current ministry policy dynamics.
    - Respondents expressed deep and appropriate concern for the health of the congregation.
    - Statements in comments express a certain level of fear expressed with regards to the potential of harm to the congregation.
    - Demographics suggest that some stakeholders were not well represented in the results.

President Roger Knapp expressed thanks on behalf of the entire congregation to the Survey Task Force for all the hard work and long hours they put in to make the survey work.

### **Action items**

The motion was made (Dean Dalziel / Dorothy Werner) to receive the Annual Report of the Congregation for 2009. Motion Passed.

President Roger Knapp presented the following slate of officers as recommended by the Coordinating Committee and approved by the Council

- 1) Voting Representatives to 2011 S.W. Washington Synod Assembly on Friday- Saturday, May 13 – 14, 2011 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA.

Male: Tom Whannell                      Alternate: Todd Kilpatrick

Female: Karen Whannell      Alternate: Debbie Kilpatrick

- 2) Church Council: Two, three-year positions: Todd Kilpatrick & Nakiah Reiter  
One Senior Representative, one-year position: Bill Cobble  
One Youth Representative, one-year position: Chris Caddey
- 3) Representatives to Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community (TLRC) Annual Dinner and Meeting (March, 2011): Pastor Steffenson & guest; 1 Lay Member & Guest: Bill Cobble
- 4) Coordinating Committee (three laypersons, one-year term), Sonja Ferri, Cheryl Spidahl & Kari Udbye

There being no further nominations for any of the positions from the floor the motion was made (Judy Williams / Peter Gulsrud) to accept the entire slate of officers by proclamation. Motion passed.

#### **Announcements and miscellaneous items:**

- Recognition of Council Members, Servant Team Chairs & Task Force Members
- Voting Representatives to 2010 S.W. Washington Synod Assembly
  - Friday – Saturday May 14 – 15 at Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, WA
  - Male: Roger Knapp                      Alternate: Bryan Burks
  - Female: Cheryl Knapp                  Alternate: Ruth Burks
- Summer Food Drive for FUN (Families Unlimited Network)
- Thursday, May 13, 2010 Ascension Day Service at St. Mary’s Episcopal, Lakewood
- June 6, 2010: Summer schedule begins; 8:15AM & 10:00AM, Dedication of New Altar Paraments in memory of Joan Johnson at 10:00AM service.
- June 13, 2010: Recognition of Graduates and presentation of quilts.
- Sunday, August 22 from 3PM to 6PM, Council Leadership Retreat
- Sunday, November, 21, 2010: Mission Plan Budget Meeting
- Sunday, May 22, 2011: Next annual meeting

Meeting closed with the singing of the last two verses of “Lift High the Cross”

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:27pm.

#### **Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church - 2010 Mission Plan Budget Meeting Minutes November 14, 2010**

Number of voting members in attendance was 69 which meets the requirement of at least 50 voting members to be present.

- Opening Prayer: Nakiah Reiter

- Constitution Bylaws Amendment to Chapter 4 regarding the scheduling of the November and May Congregational Meetings.
- Bylaws Chapter 8 Addition: Mission Endowment
- Presented by Debbie Dryden., who also led the discussion.
- Motion (Warren Marrow/Doug Bischoff) to amend the wording of Mission Endowment Addition to Chapter 8 of the Bylaws was approved by voice.
- Motion (Kari Udbye/Guy Sternal) to approve the amended Addition of Chapter 8 Bylaws: Mission Endowment was approved 62 to 1.
- The **2011 Mission Budget**, with a shortfall of \$42,280, was presented to the congregation by President Tom Whannell.

**Proposed Ways to Decrease the Budget Shortfall:**

A. Change Medical Insurance from ELCA for 3 full-time support staff to an alternative health care provider.

B. Refinance the mortgage.

C. Change distribution of benevolences from 10% to 7% of our budget income. If we receive a surplus in of funds, our first priority at the end of 2011 will be to increase benevolences back to 10%.

D. Motion (Brian Burke/Joan Christenson) to send 35% of benevolences to the local SWWA Synod instead of the national ELCA Synod: Approved 36 to 16.

- Motion (Elena Howard/Laura Caddey) to approve the amended 2011 Mission Plan Budget passed 55 to 5. It will decrease the shortfall to approximately \$3,108. Actual savings will be known by January.
- Closing Prayer: Tom Whannell
- Motion to Adjourn (Bill Cobble/Dave McInturff) at 2:15 was approved by voice.

Submitted by Peter Gulsrud  
Church Council Secretary

**FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS SERVANT TEAM**

**Purpose:** Providing fellowship opportunities for believers of all ages to experience Christ-centered community, compassion, sharing, belonging and togetherness.

**Responsible for:** Youth & Family Activities, Youth Group Events, Wednesday Night Happenings, Care Givers, Prayer Ministry, Small Group Opportunities, Membership: Roster & Assimilation.

**Youth Programs:** 2010 saw many youth events and programs. High School youth started off the year with small group Bible Studies. Some of our high school youth attended Holden May Youth Weekends. During the summer High School youth went on a weeklong Mission Trip to

the Lummi reservation, where they served tribal members doing anything from painting to weed whacking. High School youth also helped as youth leaders for Vacation Bible School. In the fall youth met on Wednesday Night's for dinner and movie-based Bible Study. Starting in June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth started regularly meeting for breakfast in the homes of many gracious congregation members. In September this group transitioned to a weekly Sunday evening youth group, with Bible Study, fellowship and games. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth also had a fall retreat to the Great Wolf Lodge, with Bible Study based on water, and lots of water-slide fun. Elementary youth attended a retreat at Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center, and participated in various Wednesday evening activities. In December youth from the ages of 4-12<sup>th</sup> grade participated in Parent's Night out, which included games a meal and involved both youth of our congregation and many from the community. During the summer families met for sports and BBQ activities, and attended a Rainier's Baseball game. Family activities also took place on Wednesday Nights in Advent. It was a great year for youth and family ministry at Mount Cross. Beth Niggemyer lead.

**Women's Retreat:** The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Mount Cross Women's Retreat was Saturday Feb 6 from 8:30-3pm. The Theme was "Rock of Ages". Our guest speaker was Pastor Robyn Hartwig. 65 women attended. Gail Jepson lead.

**New Members:** We welcomed 27 additional individual members from 15 households in 2010. Our goal is to welcome new members in each quarterly session in 2011. We continued the 2009 tradition of having "Name Tag Sundays" on each New Member Sunday, to help members and visitors to get to know each other better. We ended 2010 with 436 baptized members and 371 confirmed adult members. Jessica Thompson lead.

#### **Meal Fellowship:**

- **Wednesday Night Dinner:** Every Wednesday except for Lent and Summer Seasons 5:30pm. An average about 50 people attend. Estimated cost is \$2 per plate. In 2010 this cost was supplemented by the Mission Plan Budget, as well as a special ask envelope. In fall of 2010 new kitchen helpers have been helping by assisting in the cooking, or by doing the dishes. In 2011 there is a goal of increasing the number of lead cooks. Led by Claudine Falk and Beth Niggemyer.
- **Lenten Soup Suppers:** Were a big success in 2010, drawing in around 50 people per meal and lots of participation in bringing soups and rolls. Lead by Beth Niggemyer.
- **Easter Vigil Service Meal:** We had a small but lively group turn out for the "bonfire and BBQ Potluck" preceding the 2010 Easter Vigil Service on Holy Saturday. Thank you to Bob and Elaine Tice for organizing the potluck and the Falk family for lending us their fire pit to roast our hot dogs! It was a fun way to gather for a casual meal before our worship service. Thank you to all who participated.
- **New Member Orientation Sundays and meals:** There were three New Member Sundays in 2010: January, April and October. The new member meals were hosted by the Roger and Cheryl Knapp, Faye Reese, Nancy Morrow and Shannon Krueger. Carmelle Gilson provided the corsages.

- **Lunch Bunch:** The Lunch Bunch right now is a loosely organized group of mostly senior members. Last year, they had two lunches at BATES Technical College for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. The excellent meals were prepared by Roger Knapp's food service students. About 30 people attend the thanksgiving meal. Elaine Hudak and Lorraine Anderson Lead.
- **Tacoma Lutheran Home Annual meal:** Each year Mount Cross members and friends of those in the Tacoma Lutheran Home share a meal and have good fellowship with those in the home. About 30 people attended. This was organized by Elaine Hudak.
- **Congregational meals:** The congregational meals are twice a year at the May and November Congregational meetings. A light lunch of sub-sandwiches is provided for the congregation after the 11am service and prior to the Annual Meeting and Budget meeting. Lunches were hosted by Roger and Cheryl Knapp.
- **Dinners for Eight:** Dinners for Eight is a dinner fellowship opportunity that meets 4 times per year. Couples and individuals may sign up during the summer months and are given their dinner assignments in September. Each couple acts as host for one of the four dinners during the year. In 2010-2011 we had 56 individuals involved: 8 singles and 24 couples. This was an increase of 16 individuals from our 2009-2010 rotation. Nancy Morrow lead.
- **Sabbath Potluck:** Sat, Aug 29, 2010, 3-6pm. There was a multigenerational group of 50 that attended with their Sabbath Style prepared contributions to the potluck. People Bingo, fantastic meal, Amazing Sabbath Race with prizes, followed by worship on the beach with guitars, scriptures, and congregational participation in skits. Hosted and planned by the Fellowship of Believers Servant Team.
- **Hor d vours and Pinochle Party:** Saturday October 9 at the Hidden Wood West Club House. This event has been held many times before over the years. Pinochle instruction, food, games, and prizes for all. 14 attended. Event planned by Gail Jepson, the Hudak's, the Lindberg's and the Opgaards's and hosted by Don and Jean Lindberg.

#### **Bible Study Fellowship:**

- **6am Thursday Men's Bible Study:** meets at the Pine Cone Restaurant, 7912-27<sup>th</sup> Street West. Once a week we start our work day a little early to enjoy about an hour of breakfast fellowship, mutual support in living out our faith, and to read and discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. Occasionally we host or serve in a congregation activity such as a coffee hour or the Thanksgiving Pie Social. Average attendance is 5-7. Regular participants include Bob Tice, Bruce Rockoff, Dennis Small, Doug Bischoff, Jeff Lulay, Mark Mascho, Scott Falk, Todd Kilpatrick, Thomas Lulay and Warren Morrow. Doug Bischoff lead.
- **8 am Thursday Men's Bible Study:** meets at the Pine Cone Restaurant. Most of the men are retired or semi-retired. We enjoy a group of about 10-12 men who like the fellowship and participation in a variety of bible studies. This year we studied the Gospel

of Luke and how it applies to modern life. We'd like to invite any man at Mount Cross to join us as often as they can. This group sponsored two social events, organized by Bill Hudak. Twelve guys gathered for a day of golf and lunch hosted by Don Lindberg and a Day Retreat at Ken Lobeda's beach house on Fox Island. 14 attended. Bill Cobble lead.

- **Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:** This study meets at 9am at Mount Cross on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. They studied 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians in 2010. This Bible study was led by Pastor Dave. Attendance in 2010 averaged 15-20. This group led by Lorraine Anderson.
- **Women's Friday Morning Bible Study:** meets at the church 9:00-9:30 for fellowship, 9:30-10:30 for the study. The goal of the group is to grow together in Christian faith and to support each other in authentic relationships through fellowship and prayer. Studies included: the People of Faith Series, writing and sharing individual faith stories, studying the weekly lessons, *The Bible Jesus Read* book and video series by Philip Yancey. Fellowship opportunities included a farewell luncheon for Cindy Shultz, Christmas brunch, shower for Donna Hinkley, and hosting a funeral luncheon reception for Debbie Kilpatrick's mother. The group has 18 members with attendance averaging 12. Regular participants include Ruth Burks, Leslie Brantner, Alison Chadwick, Joan Christensen, Lana Dalziel, Claudine Falk, Donna Hinkley, Gail Jepson, Debbie Kilpatrick, Cheryl Knapp, Charlotte Larson, Ann Leighty, Nancy Lulay, Nancy Morrow, Cindy Shultz, Cheryl Spidahl, Julie Steffenson, and Becki Sternal. All women are welcome to attend. Ruth Burks leads with group members leading various studies.
- **Care Givers:** Provide a variety of care services as a viable expression of Christ's love and compassion for others. This group meets five times per year. Over 700 hours of visits, food and care were totaled for 2010. Twice that number was actually served. There are 13 active members serving over 25 long-term care partners and numerous others needing short term help. Services include: Emotional support, meals, Transportation, Funeral Receptions, Prayer Chain, Delivery on CD's of worship services and devotionals, Prayer shawls made and delivered, Tacoma Lutheran Home Luncheon, Christmas Cookies made and delivered and Easter baskets made and delivered. Certificates from Lutheran Community Services were awarded to our longest serving members: Joe Anna Jacobson, Mildred Houglum, Loraine Anderson, Betty Granlund, Elaine and Bill Hudak, Pastor Gene Anderson, Jan and Leo Vandervort, Natalie Nelson, Charlotte Larson, and Diane Langton. Diane Langton lead.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** meets the last Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm at church. The shawls are knitted or crocheted. Some make the shawls at home. The yarn for the project comes from donations and care team budget. Each shawl has a card attached stating these have been made with love and prayer for those receiving them. Over 20 shawls were given out during 2010.

## **GOOD STEWARDS SERVANT TEAM**

**Purpose:** Recognizing that who we are and what we have is a sacred trust from God, we seek to promote faithful use & care of our facility and finances, as well as fostering an attitude of gratitude, abundance & generosity among the people at Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in the sharing of time, talents and treasures.

**Responsibilities:** Stewardship Education, preparation and oversight of our Annual Mission Plan Budget, overseeing the counting and recording of offerings, facility usage by outside groups who share our core values and beliefs, annual review of Church Insurance, Memorials and Special Gifts, landscaping, signs, and the overall care of the outside and inside of our church property.

**Members:** Lana Dalziel (Chair), Gary Spidahl (Council Liaison), Dave Anderson (Treasurer), Chuck Hoffman (Grounds), Dean Dalziel (Facilities), Leo Vandervort (Memorial) Jeff Ganung (Stewardship), Joan Anderson (Finance), Doug Otjen (Secretary), Burt Houglum

**Highlights for Program Year 2010:** Church usage continues to grow. This reflects increasing interest and participation in Church activities. The Church continues sponsored usage by outside groups (Safe Sitter Class, Boy Scouts, Diana Walker Piano Lessons, FEATS, N.A., Jr. Girl Scouts). All of this translates into increased requirements for cleaning and maintaining the Church's facilities and systems.

**Church Maintenance and Inspections:** Church Maintenance and Inspections: During the past year, all of the annual checks and inspections of the Churches systems were successfully completed ensuring the safety and support of the church building. Over the year 2010, a total of 71 inspection and repair actions were completed as compared to 55 in 2009. In spite of this increased activity, building maintenance costs were kept within budget. One emergency repair was required, that being the repair of the water supply leak. A special thanks to each of those members who have contributed so much to keep the church facilities and equipment functioning, and making facility improvements.

**Church Improvements:** There were some significant improvements made to the Church during the year. Jim Leighty installed "view windows" in the Sunday school class room doors. Volunteers painted some of the Sunday school classrooms, and the painting continues. The Sunday School office was reorganized to improve work space.

**Plans and Goals for 2011:** The following projects are planned for the upcoming year.

- Painting of South facing worship space exterior walls. Refinish the South entry doors of the Church, also, painting of the Church sign.
- Clean moss from Church roof and treat to prevent build up. Also, the storage shed.
- Replace and revise some of the security lights exterior to the church.
- Accomplish the repairs and inspections as required to keep the facilities in good operating order.

## **2010 Highlights:**

- Upper Lot: I had two telephone discussions during the past year with Vertex Engineering (Vertex) regarding what the city of University Place's contractor did to the upper lot during the 40th Street W construction project. The contractor filed for bankruptcy before completing the project and the bonding company retained Vertex to complete the project.

After my first conversation with Vertex, I sent them copies of the agreements the church signed with the city's contractor and a copy of the March 10, 2010, letter I sent to the city that expresses how the contractor did not comply with one of the agreements and asks the city to take responsibility for what the contractor did regarding the stability of the waste soil, which has asphalt mixing in it, placed on the upper lot.

In the second conversation I had with Vertex, I again discussed how the contractor did not comply with one of the agreements and I expressed my disappointment with the city's lack of response to the March 10 letter.

- Chris Cardenas, through his company, Private Planet Landscape, removed and chipped 7 trees near the building that were causing nuisance and maintenance problems. Chris removed another tree later in the year due to storm damage.
- Held work parties in the spring and winter for grounds maintenance and general cleanup

## **2011 Plans:**

- Spring and summer work parties
- Re-landscape the building entrance from the parking lot with low maintenance vegetation

The following item is on the dream list, but will only move forward with additional funding.

- Clean, seal, and stripe the parking lot (probable cost approximately \$4500 – a portion of the funds have been raised)

## **2010 Annual Memorial/Gifts Fund Servant Group**

Leo Vandervort (Chair), Betty Granlund, Joe Anna Jacobson, Shannon Krueger, Charlotte Larson, Ken Lobeda, Becki Sternal, and Karen Zeigler

We remember the following departed in whose loving memory monies have been received: Carole Burke, Carl Geiche, Ruth Jones, Hershel Montgomery, Florence Ryan, Ethel & George Swanson, Marion Waybright, Lorraine Young and Lois Zeigle. Memorials were designated in memory of the following: Reception Cups-Carole Burke; Luncheon Plates-Ruth Jones; Youth Chairs-Margaret Mutschler; Green Paraments-Joan Johnson; Worship Drums & Stands-Carolyn Graf; Christmas Eve Canata & Special Music-Fred, Rose & Paul Schneikart; Preschool, Hearing Devices, Paraments/Banners-Hershel Montgomery; Preschool-Dorothy Christensen.

A special thanks to Betty Granlund for the many years of service as well as Karen Zeigler. We hosted All Saints Coffee Hour on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. We're open to suggestions and anyone interested in join us.

## **Stewardship Servant Group**

Jeff Ganung (Chair), Joan Anderson, Tom Whannell, Scott Swanson, and Stewardship Preacher Debbie Dryden

**Purpose:** To encourage each of us to take seriously our commitment to discipleship by being good stewards of God's blessings: our time, our talents and our finances: to insure that Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church has the necessary human and financial resources to fulfill its mission.

**Highlights for Program Year 2010:** Establishment of a foundation for Mount Cross Lutheran, and successful completion of the annual stewardship campaign.

Our stewardship campaign this year was "We are an Offering!" Debbie Dryden was the lay preacher for stewardship Sunday.

- 105 households pledged \$397,300 for 2011, an 11% decrease in amount
- 22 households that pledged for 2010 did not pledge for 2011; there were 12 households that pledged for 2011 that did not pledge in 2010

Plans and Goals for 2011: The following projects are planned for the upcoming year.

- Identify opportunities to raise the profile of stewardship, and not just of money, within Mount Cross.
- Develop materials for the foundation to raise awareness and begin to build resources to support Mount Cross ministries

## **Archives:**

Lana Dalziel (Chair), Ginny Hedberg and Faye Reese

**Purpose:** To create and maintain the records of the Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation in a format that can easily be referred to and retrieved in the future.

**Description:** The fireproof safe now houses the majority of documents required by the active records management of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Because of space requirements regarding the safe, we are housing documents in archival storage boxes that are not considered permanent legal or historical records.

## **Plans for 2011:**

We will be working with the Library Committee to house the Photo Memory Albums and the Newsletters from 1960 to present. Visit the Library to take advantage of their availability.

**Financial Report**  
**March 2011**

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>2011 Year-to-Date</b>	<b>Budget Year-to-Date</b>
<b>Budget Income:</b>	\$39,170	\$121,038	\$131,400
<b>Budget Expenses:</b>			
Fellowship of Believers	\$28	\$501	\$1,300
Good Stewards	\$8,437	\$14,572	\$23,957
Great Commission	\$912	\$1,779	\$3,006
Peace & Justice	\$1,516	\$3,285	\$8,381
Worship & Welcome	(\$86)	\$871	\$1,994
Staffing Costs	\$29,561	\$88,471	\$88,901
Administrative	\$1,439	\$3,958	\$3,861
Total Expenses:	\$41,808	\$113,436	\$131,400
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		\$3,410	
Surplus from Previous Years		\$3,944	
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		\$7,354	
<b>Designated Funds</b>			
Income	\$5,334	\$31,220	
Expense	\$4,895	\$12,531	
<b>Benevolences Paid</b>			
From Budget Funds	\$1,516	\$3,285	
From Non-budget Funds	\$857	\$1,489	

## BUDGET

### Building Loan Activity

**January 1, 2010-March 31, 2011    Loan Activity**

Beginning Balance	\$541,927.21
Payments Made	\$88,004.92
Interest Paid	\$36,732.56
Principal Paid	\$51,272.36
Ending Balance	\$498,867.71

### 2010 Benevolences

Mount Cross 2010 Budget Income (subject to benevolence): \$469,914.78

Synod – ELCA: \$16,378.00

Synod – ELCA World Hunger: \$936.00

Synod – Lutheran World Relief: \$2,500.00

Synod –Lutheran Community Services: \$2,808.00

Associated Ministries: \$2,808.00

Tacoma Lutheran Home: \$936

Salishan Lutheran Mission: \$1,404.00

Peace Lutheran Community Center: \$2,808.00

YWCA: \$2,808.00

Families Unlimited Network (FUN): \$7,019.00

Namibia – Babylon Feeding Program: \$1,404.00

Namibia – Oshigambo High School: \$2,340.00

Discretionary Benevolence: \$2,842.48

### PEACE AND JUSTICE SERVANT TEAM

**Purpose:** Promoting solidarity with the poor and oppressed by providing hands-on opportunities for participation in prayer, social ministry and global mission.

**Responsibilities:** Discretionary Benevolences, Outreach Opportunities, Care of the Neighbor, Global Missions, Thrivent Congregational Coordinators, Holiday Boutique and Quilters.

**2010 Members:** David McInturff, Chair, Peter Gulsrud, Council Liason, Becky Hoffman Kari Udbye, Charlotte Larson, Cynthia Edwards, Nancy Lulay, Natalie Findlay, Secretary Becky Sternal, and Alison Woods

Dear Members and Friends of Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Our church strives for first fruits giving and in 2010 that giving amounted to about \$50,000, which was 10 percent of our annual budget. In directing gifts, the Peace and Justice Servant Team has actively tried to align our benevolence with congregational activity, focus on Christian

outreach and connect with benevolence partners that are responsible, transparent, and that have missions that overlap with ours. Much of our benevolence has focused on underrepresented groups such as women and youth.

Our most prominent benevolence relationship is with Families Unlimited Network (FUN). In addition to the \$12,500 dollars given in 2010 to support the programs there, we have members on the board, members who regularly volunteer at the food bank, and our congregation as a community donated over 4000 pounds of food and provided Christmas gifts for over 20 local families. In this relationship, our giving is multiplied by our active participation and oversight.

The Quilters Servant Group continue to be active and meet regularly to create quilts for the boutique, gifts for mission partners as well as quilts for our graduating seniors who are leaving for college... a powerful reminder of the support and prayers that follow them as they begin adult life.

The Peace and Justice book club continues to meet regularly, and has read several books this past year. Some of the topics read and discussed were: genocide in Rwanda, Desmond Tutu and South Africa, Education in this country and the disparity between classes and the illegal immigration situation in Arizona.... just to name a few. All are topics that are current and relevant to understanding the mission of peace and justice in our community and in our world.

We continue to support ELCA mission outreach in Namibia along with the Babylon feeding program that provides food to AIDS orphans. We also provided money for educational resources at Oshigambo High school in Namibia. One highlight of last year was our donation of Soccer uniforms to Oshigambo High school. The uniforms were donated to us from the Curtis Junior High team and delivered to Namibia by Bishop Hofstad during his visit to Namibia last summer.

Financial support to the Synod this year has supported church starts, campus and prison ministries, hunger relief, support of local churches with educational resources, international missions and pulpit supply and a public policy office, which focuses and gives political voice to our Christian ideals. Our giving to Lutheran World Relief either directly, or through Synod, gives us an opportunity to respond together meaningfully to disasters that arise as we did this year during the Haitian earthquake crisis.

Not all of our giving has been financial. Our building continues to house a number of groups including Narcotics Anonymous, and Boy and Girl Scout groups. Our members have also been active in hunger walks in support of the Pierce County Emergency Food Network and Families Unlimited, and we provide volunteers and regular feedings at Phoenix House and Peace Community Center. This coming year, our congregation looks forward to hosting the Families Unlimited Network "Simple Supper" fundraiser on October 22, 2011. Our own community Garden is a source of fresh produce for FUN and as a meditative site for members and nonmembers.

For the first time this coming year, we will participate as a congregation in the Compassion Weekend (May 13-15, 2011). During this time we will have a chance to work closely with some

of our benevolence partners and see first hand the sites and the people they minister to. Projects this year include a Families Unlimited site cleaning, painting, repair and restocking project, a Mommy and Me day at the YWCA, and Lutheran World Relief Health kits.

Our giving has been and will continue to be flexible. Our servant team is continuously reviewing benevolences for their effectiveness and relevance to our congregation. We have an exciting committee with opportunities to give, educate, learn, read and discuss. And, like our benevolences, the committee continues to evolve. Our committee thanks you for all of your generous gifts of your time and money. It is one of the ways we show Christ to the world. If there are issues around peace and justice that are close to your heart, we would welcome your presence and gifts on our servant team.

### **WORSHIP AND WELCOME SERVANT TEAM**

**Members:** Lisa Ganung (chair), Karen Ash (Altar Care), Claudine Falk (Secretary and Acolytes), Elena Howard (Choir Rep), Cheryl Spidahl (Coordinating Committee), Julie Kangas (Youth Music), Karen Wiley

**Staff:** Pastor Dave, Jessica Thompson, Mike Reiter, Rich Nace

**Mission:** Provide an atmosphere of worship and hospitality where people of faith can participate in and experience the saving presence of Jesus Christ in the Word and Sacrament.

**Focus Responsibilities:** Worship Planning, Welcome/Hospitality, Recruiting and Equipping Worship Helpers, Musical Groups and Gifts, Altar Care, Sound System, Nursery

#### **2010 Highlights**

- Purchased new Pentecost Paraments and Banner set (Stained glass)
- Ordered new Communion ware set
- Confirmed additional funds for the communion set by donor family
- Held training for acolytes in September – we have about 22 youth who have served as acolytes during the past year
- Acolyte appreciation party held at Pump It Up in September
- Added Youth Music representative to committee (Julie Kangas) with the goal of involving our youth in the worship services
- Rearranged worship assistant schedule to provide more consistent
- Met Sabbath Goal: Increased worship attendance on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays during summer months
- Created new Red Paraments (Thanks to Jenny Stokes)
- Introduced new liturgy during July
- Created new covenant with Alison Woods for Nursery Care
- Christmas Eve Cantata “The Everlasting Light” commissioned for the choir by Joan Christensen in memory of her parents
- Purchased more amplification headsets

- Purchased music writing software to be able to include music in the bulletins
- Planned “The Grand Sweep” changes for worship, including some themed Sundays, use of Psalms, and changing the choir schedule

**Goals for 2011:**

- Create photo directory of banners/paraments
- Recruit new members
- Purchase new shorter insert for eternal candle
- Purchase/Create new Advent Banners and Paraments
- Purchase new drums for use during worship with Carolyn Graf memorial funds –DONE
- Create new woven Lenten Banners and Paraments – DONE (Thanks to Cindy Shultz and Nancy Lulay) in loving memory of Hershel Montgomery
- Introduce new worship service - begin Taize services on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evenings
- Purchase new Communion ware set – ordered and in process
- Purchase (by members) Christmas Tree ornaments for Year of the Bible theme – July
- Hold training for Sound Technicians – DONE

Worship and Welcome Servant Team

**GREAT COMMISSION SERVANT TEAM**

**Purpose:** Being, making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ, by providing learning and living opportunities for education and evangelism at Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**Responsibilities:** Oversee the ministries of the Library, Adult Education, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Evangelism and the Noah’s Ark Christian Preschool.

**Members:** Julie Steffenson (chairperson), Judy Williams, Loraine Anderson, Mark Mascho, Nakiah Reiter (council rep.), Jessica Thompson (staff).

**Meetings:** First Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm.

**Noah’s Ark Christian Preschool:**

Lead teacher/director is Pamela Erickson and assistant teacher is Lorrie Stroup. Current enrollment is 8 in the 4 & 5's and 10 in the 3-year-olds classes.

Highlights: Graduation of the 4 & 5's Pre-K children at the end of the school year with 62 family members participating. The preschool held a Free Play Day in August where the children and families had an opportunity to meet each other and visit for the first time. The Christmas program and potluck featuring “The Shepherds' Story” had 110 people attending the event.

Goals: Full enrollment in both classes (14 in the 4& 5's and 10 in the 3-year-olds). Continued preschool children involvement in “Gift of Music” on Preschool Sunday in February sharing songs Pastor Dave teaches them.

**Sunday School:**

The Sunday School program is running strong thanks to wonderful volunteers working with our children each Sunday morning. Our teachers for 2010-2011 are: Melissa Hager and Elaine Tice in PreK-Kindergarten, Ruth Burks and Donna Hinkley in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, Nakiah Reiter in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades, Shannon Krueger in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Bruce Williams and Laura Caddey in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and Beth Niggemyer and Bryan Burks in the High School class. Jamie Williams and Alisyn Christensen teach music to the PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Substitute teachers have been Karen Ash, Julie Steffenson, and Elena Howard. We are using the Spark curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. In the spring of 2010 we used our offerings to help ship soccer uniforms to Namibia and for clean-up from Hurricane Katrina. This fall we combined the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade into one class because this age group is the Junior High Youth Group. We wanted to help them get to know each other and felt it would be good for them to work together in this aspect of the church as well. As the 2011 Sunday School year comes to an end, Judy Williams will be stepping down as Sunday School Superintendent.

**Vacation Bible School:**

VBS 2010 was held Aug. 2-6<sup>th</sup> with the theme of SonQuest Rainforest. Over 85 young people attended the week of skits, Bible stories, snacks and music. We were able again to share decorations with Christ Lutheran in Lakewood. Volunteers throughout the week numbered well over 50. T-shirts were designed by Doug Hudak and were given to all VBS children at no charge. The mission project selected was collecting money to purchase mosquito nets.

**Adult Education:**

In 2010 the educational curriculum for the Adult Forums held on Sunday mornings gave adults many chances to store up knowledge on various topics. Highlights from early in 2010 include Dr. Brenda Ihssen doing a presentation on Islam, Dr Antonios Finitsis from PLU talking about the "*Old Testament's Relevance in our lives*", Pastor Steffenson discussing the "*Wonders of Communion*" and concluded with Dr. Dan Peterson's "*Decoding Revelation.*" The new church year in September started with Dr. Dan Peterson's "*Martin Luther and the 'secret' meaning of Scripture*" We began to prepare for the Year of the Bible in 2011 with Pastor Steffenson and Warren Morrow facilitating discussions based on the Lutheran's Men's Network study of "*How We Got the Bible*". Also included in the fall were Jamie Williams' "*PLU Capstone Presentation*", a Bible study led by Mark Mascho and the annual "*Coffee with the Council*" before the fall budget congregational meeting. In 2011 the focus will be on "The Grand Sweep" as more than 150 members of Mount Cross try to read through the entire Bible together. The attendance to date has been very encouraging with an average of more than 40 adults attending each Sunday session. Members are: Bill Cobble, Mark Mascho and Warren Morrow.

**Library:**

The Library Servant Group meets twice monthly for three hours to process books, change books in the narthex book case, and cover paperbacks to protect them while being handled. Generally, books are self-checked out and are returned to a designated basket. There are about ten books yearly that are lost. Many books have been donated to the library collection by members of the congregation. Library Servant Group members are: Loraine Anderson, Sonja Ferri, Linda Falk, Kim Forster and Wini Fuson.

**Evangelism:**Highlights:

- Seasonal Evangelical postcards were distributed as outreach tools for the congregation during the seasons of Lent and Advent for Easter and Christmas Eve worship.
- The new 20-somethings “Casserole Club” Fellowship and Study group met from January to July and welcomed a variety of young people (mostly from outside of the Mount Cross membership roster) each month for a meal and a Bible study.
- Funds were used to purchase the devotion book materials for “The Grand Sweep” Bible reading program to be implemented in 2011.
- Invitations were extended to the SPOT program participants and their families to attend Wednesday Night Dinners in the Fall.
- \$500 was allocated for the purchase of the t-shirts for Vacation Bible School.

Goals for 2011:

- We have a goal of inviting at least 50 women to participate in the 2011 Women of Faith event (October 28-29 at the Key Arena in Seattle, WA).
- The main discipleship focus for 2011 will be learning new ways to incorporate the Grand Sweep and Bible reading in all areas of ministry at Mount Cross.

**Confirmation:**

Longer and Later Confirmation for grades 2-9 included the following classes in 2010:

- In January, 2-4<sup>th</sup> graders had a Bible Reading class with Family Devotions.
- In February, 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders attended a retreat on Human Sexuality. They also shared Family Devotions on Favorite Stories from the Old Testament during Lent.
- In April, 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders began an 8-week class on the New Testament.
- In late May, 9<sup>th</sup> graders who were confirmed the previous October, participated in an overnight Faith Retreat with their mentors at the home of Don and Jean Lindberg.
- In August, 17 youth going into 6-7<sup>th</sup> grade attended Prayer Camp as a part of VBS.
- In September, 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders began a class on Lutheranism 101. On Sept. 19th, Beginner Bibles were presented to 3 year olds, NRSV Bibles were presented to 2-4<sup>th</sup> graders who had not previously received them, and My First Message books were given to 1<sup>st</sup> graders.
- In October, 3 youth affirmed their baptism on Confirmation Sunday. Hand-crafted crosses made by Roger Buranen were again presented as a gift to confirmands from Mount Cross.

**CONTACT LIST: September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011**

<b>Servant Teams/Groups</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Phone/Email</b>
Fellowship Of Believers:	Gail Jepson	<a href="mailto:hudakga@hotmail.com">hudakga@hotmail.com</a> 253.445.5772
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Good Stewards:	Lana Dalziel	<a href="mailto:dalzielsda@comcast.net">dalzielsda@comcast.net</a> 253.564.7225
Peace & Justice:	David McInturff	<a href="mailto:mcntrff@earthlink.net">mcntrff@earthlink.net</a> 253.566.8874

<b>Servant Teams/Groups</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Phone/Email</b>
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Adult Education:	Warren Morrow & Mark Mascho	<a href="mailto:Tomorrows5@comcast.net">Tomorrows5@comcast.net</a> 253.588.5324 <a href="mailto:amedicalmoose@yahoo.com">amedicalmoose@yahoo.com</a> 253.471.2011
Altar Care:	Karen Ash	<a href="mailto:kash@upsd.wednet.edu">kash@upsd.wednet.edu</a> 253.566.0876
Archives:	Lana Dalziel	<a href="mailto:dalzielsda@comcast.net">dalzielsda@comcast.net</a> 253.564.7225
Care Givers:	Diane Langton	253.566.7150
Coordinating Committee:	Sonja Ferri	<a href="mailto:jsferri@hotmail.com">jsferri@hotmail.com</a> 253.584.3893
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Memorials:	Leo Vandervort	<a href="mailto:Jan_van@comcast.net">Jan_van@comcast.net</a> 253.565.0635
Men's IHOP Bible Study:	Doug Bischoff	<a href="mailto:doug.bischoff@nventure.com">doug.bischoff@nventure.com</a> 253.564.4551
Men's Thurs. Bible Study: Captain Nemo's	Bill Cobble	<a href="mailto:cobble@hotmail.com">cobble@hotmail.com</a> 253.565.3767
Kitchen Coordinator	Cheryl Knapp	<a href="mailto:Foodandice1@gmail.com">Foodandice1@gmail.com</a> 253.564.7556
Preschool Servant Group:	Luke Thompson	253.495.1114
Quilters:	Betty Granlund	253.564.9717
Women's Thursday Bible Study:	Loraine Anderson	253.564.9676
Women's Friday Bible Study:	Ruth Burks	<a href="mailto:ruthsburks@gmail.com">ruthsburks@gmail.com</a> 253.566.4127
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