

The Messenger

**Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church**
4045 N. Van Nuys Road
Kingman, AZ 86409

Phone: 928-757-3543

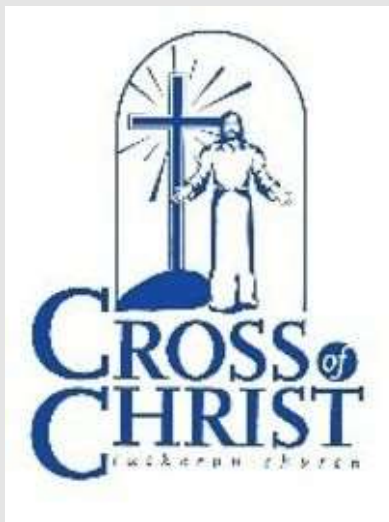
Website:

**www.crossofchrist-
kingman.com**

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**crossofchristkingman
@gmail.com**

Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wed. 4:00 pm: at Flowers Wed.

6:30 pm: at White Cliffs

Worship at White Cliffs every

Fourth Sunday: 1:30 pm

Communion

*First and third Sundays and
Wednesdays of each month.*

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Tuesday: 11:00 am & 1:30 pm

Wednesday: 1:30 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Thursday 4:15 pm (Catechism)

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

~~ DECEMBER 2019 ~~

Message from the Pastor

IF ONLY I WERE A GOOSE

There was once a man who didn't believe in God. He didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays. His wife, however, did believe, and raised their children to have faith in Jesus.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to the service in the farming community church in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So, she and the children left, and he stayed home.



Later that evening, the winds grew stronger and the storm became a blizzard. As the man sat down to relax, he heard a loud thud. Something had hit near the window. Then it happened again. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. He ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his house.

In the field next to his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently, they had been flying south for the winter and got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flew around the field in low circles, aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his house in their confusion.



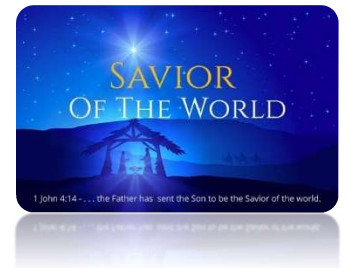
The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's fairly warm and safe. They could spend the night there to wait out the storm. So, he went to the barn and opened the doors, then watched and waited, hoping they would see the open barn and go inside.

But the geese just fluttered around. They didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just scared them. He went into the house, got some bread, and made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

He was getting frustrated; he got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn. But they only got more scared; they scattered in every direction-- except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe. "Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

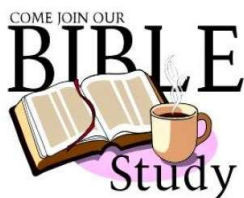
He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own domestic geese, and carried it in his arms and circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released his goose. That goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn. That worked. One-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!" Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese; blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become one of us so He could show us the way to Heaven.



Like Mary, he pondered this wonderful thought. Now he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees, and prayed his first prayer: "Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm! Thank you for showing a *stupid goose like me* how you came to save me."

Jesus used earthly stories throughout his ministry on earth to show us God's love and forgiveness. Come celebrate that wonderful news with us any Sunday, but especially on Christmas Eve. We worship at 7:00 that night. Merry Christmas fellow geese!



Sunday 9:00 The Gospel of John (video)
Tuesday 11:00 What Must I Do to be Saved?
Tuesday 1:30 Bible Basics
Wednesday 1:30 Roadmaps to Reading the Bible
Thursday 1:30 Meet the Twelve
Thursday 4:15 Youth Bible Study (Catechism)
Thursday 7:00 Bible Basics

UPCOMING EVENTS – All are welcome!

Dec 15 th	12:30 pm Caroling	We will be singing for our shut-ins at Flowers, White Cliffs, and Desert Highlands.
	3:30 pm Movie <i>Grace Unplugged</i>	We will watch the movie and enjoy a meal (pizza) after.

Something to Think About..... The Gift: Five Simple Rules for Living

92-year-old, Mavis was a real inspiration to me as I started out my ministry. Mavis is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coifed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind. She moved to a nursing home just before Christmas, after her husband of 70 years passed away.

I helped her move in. After several hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room.

"I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old with a new puppy.

"Mavis, you haven't seen the room or the other facilities they have here. Just wait..."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it, Pastor" she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up.

I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or I can get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift. And as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away just for this time in my life.



Old age is like a Christmas account at the bank. You withdraw from what you've put in and you share with others. So, my advice would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. I am still depositing. I'll remember all the Christmases I've had and replay them. I know the greatest gift of all was my Savior Jesus. If He's with me, I'm happy. To avoid letting things get in the way, we just need to remember these five simple rules to be "happy":

1. Know that God loves you and has a place in Heaven for you through Faith in Jesus.
2. Forgive others as God has forgiven you.
3. Free your heart from hatred and your mind from worries.
4. Live Simply, Love Frequently and Be Content
5. Give More and Expect Less.

Pastor Steve Chapman



RUMMAGE SALE

We have been blessed with items from sainted members. We need to clear out the Education Building. So, we're having a 1-day rummage sale on Dec. 7.

– HUMOR –

A Mom tells about her four kids who were in the Christmas service at church. Her daughter was playing Mary, two of her sons were shepherds and her youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine.

The five-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, 'We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.' But he was nervous and said, 'The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes.'

The four-year-old 'Mary' said, 'That's not 'wrinkled clothes,' silly. That's dirty, rotten clothes.'

That set off a wrestling match between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing.

I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, and it bounced down the aisle crying, 'Mama-mama.' Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived.

Her other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, 'We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur.'

The congregation dissolved into laughter. 'I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one,' laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. 'For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense and fur.'

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Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

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WORSHIP
With US



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December
24th
7:00 pm



Christmas

December
25th
10:00 am

NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS This class is designed to explore the main teachings of the Bible. If you have questions about the Bible, here is the opportunity you have been looking for! Pastor starts with how God gave us the Bible, then the life of Jesus, the Commandments, Prayer, Baptism and Holy Communion. It is taught in a way that makes the Bible easy to understand. Classes are on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm and Thursdays at 7:00 pm starting Dec. 3.



**DECEMBER
FELLOWSHIP
MEALS SCHEDULE**

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MAIN DISH</u>	<u>HOST(S)</u>
1 st	ITALIAN	Wilma & Irma
8 th	CHILI	Laura
15 th	INTERNATIONAL	Bill & Jeanne
22 nd	HAM	Gene & Shari
29 th	7 Bread Sandwiches	Mark & Rhonda

NOVEMBER

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Fellowship Meal Attendance</u>
3 & 6	3 & 6
10 & 13	10
17 & 20	17
24 & 27	24
132	86
72	43
91	35



DEC BIRTHDAYS

2 nd	Sharon Brock
3 rd	Brooklyn Vincent
3 rd	Loretta White
5 th	Dorothy Burr
6 th	Melody Coffin
6 th	Kenny Woods
7 th	Dwayne Nessa
18 th	Steve Shaffer
19 th	Jan LaPointe
23 rd	Ellen Gentz
27 th	David Coffin
30 th	Linda Peltz
31 st	Marnie Mounts



DEC ANNIVERSARIES

20 th	Bill & Annette McCord
29 th	George & Margaret Henry

We are always in need of the following items for our Sunday morning meals:

- Lg. & small dinner plates (heavyweight paper)
- Dessert plates (heavyweight paper)
- Dessert/Soup bowls (heavyweight paper)
- Forks, knives & spoons (heavyweight/plastic)
- Coffee (regular & decaf)
- Powdered coffee creamer
- Rolls of paper towels

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Providing a dish to share at the Sunday meal or kitchen supplies & food items are greatly appreciated.



**DEC USHERS**

Michael Coffin  
Gene Bishop  
Leo Galvan  
Mark McCoy  
Tim Woods

# **THE LADIES CIRCLE**

## **DECEMBER NEWS**

### **DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**

*Date: Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am*

*Where: Fellowship Hall*

*Devotion Series - Virtues of a Proverbs 31*

*Woman (Encouraging/Enlightening series)*

***KJV/Proverbs 31 - Stewardship - She uses her time and money wisely  
for things that are pleasing to the Lord.***

***All ladies of the congregation are invited. We look forward to the Christian  
fellowship, planned activities and the missions we support!***

### **DECEMBER ACTIVITY**



“Shoebox Giving” for the less fortunate in Kingman. The theme this Christmas is “You Are Not Alone”. A list of items being collected, along with a collection box, has been set up in the Narthex. Items will be collected through Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOXED CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE HERE!!**

Boxed Christmas cards are available to the congregation to purchase at \$5 per box, and are set up in the Narthex. Deposit your check or cash in the payment collection box. Any questions, contact Rhonda Hutchins, Ladies Circle President. Note: This is not a fundraiser.



Cookbooks are available and would make a very nice Christmas gift for that special cook or baker.

### **November Bake Sale (fundraiser)**

*A special thank you to everyone who donated baked goods for the bake sale! The proceeds will be divided between Friends of China and Central Africa Medical Mission.*

***Merry Christmas To Everyone  
Have a safe and blessed holiday!***



# DECEMBER 2019

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon       | Tue                                                                                                                                                | Wed                                                                                                                       | Thu                                                                                               | Fri       | Sat                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal                                                                               | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br>10:00 am Fellowship Committee Mtg<br>11:00 am Bible Class<br><br>1:30 pm Bible Basics Class<br><br>6:00 ELDERS MTG | <b>4</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:00 pm Worship Service at Flowers<br>6:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs  | <b>5</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br><br>8:00 am – 3:00 pm<br>Rummage Sale                                                       |
| <b>8</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal                                                                               | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br>11:00 am Bible Class<br><br>1:30 pm Bible Basics Class<br><br>6:00 COUNCIL MTG                                    | <b>11</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:00 pm Worship Service at Flowers<br>6:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs | <b>12</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast<br>9:30 am Ladies Circle Meeting<br>11:00 am Voters' Meeting |
| <b>15</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal<br>12:30 pm Caroling<br>3:30 pm Move <i>Grace Unplugged</i><br>5:30 pm Pizza | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br>11:00 am Bible Class<br><br>1:30 pm Bible Basics Class                                                            | <b>18</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:00 pm Worship Service at Flowers<br>6:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs | <b>19</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                                                                               |
| <b>22</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal<br><br>1:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs                               | <b>23</b> | <b>24 Christmas Eve</b><br><br>7:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service                                                                                 | <b>25 Christmas Day</b><br><br>10:00 am Worship Service                                                                   | <b>26</b>                                                                                         | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                                                                                               |
| <b>29</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal<br><br>1:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs                               | <b>30</b> | <b>31 New Year's Eve</b>                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |           |                                                                                                         |