

The Messenger

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

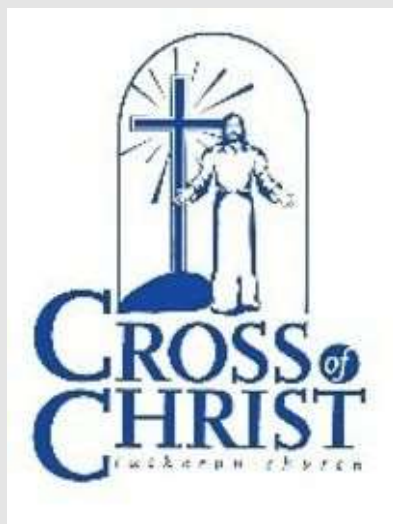
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



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

~~ JANUARY 2020 ~~

Message from the Pastor

Keep your Eyes on the Fries

Do you know what the most famous advertising logo in the world is? Pillsbury Dough Boy? Nike swoosh? Colonel Sanders? Nope. The most well recognized logo in the world is a yellow half-circle. You probably know it better as The Golden Arches! Yep, good old McDonalds. Its domain is legendary and long-standing.

But did you know that there was a time in the late 1990's when McDonalds actually lost significant chunks of market share? The dining giant, which had increased its profits for an amazing twenty-eight straight years, actually saw falling sales. The trend continued for several quarters until a new CEO was brought on board. This new CEO almost immediately turned things around. Part of the



turn-around came from new—and health conscious—food offerings. But the biggest part came from the new slogan the CEO developed: Keep your Eyes on the Fries!

Keep your Eyes on the Fries. What did he mean by that? Simply this: do the basics well, get back to your core items and values and things will be fine. And he was right.

You see, McDonalds did surveys that showed their service time had slowed, their food was cold, and their famous fries were perceived as greasy. Keep your eyes on the fries. Get back to basics and do it well.

In the conservative Lutheran Church, we try to keep our eyes on the fries. The main teaching of the Bible is that Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners. He rose on the third day and ascended into Heaven. Every single person who believes in Him as their Savior, through the work of the Holy Spirit, will spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus. In fancy terms, this is called the doctrine of Justification by Grace through Faith.

Law and Gospel, Sin and Grace. These are the heart and soul of the Bible. Without these, we have only a nice set of guidelines and a 'don't worry, be happy' mentality.

Occasionally I hear people make pointed comments that the church is not keeping up with the times. Sometimes they even accuse the church of being old-

fashioned in its thinking, behind the times with out-of-date value systems and the same-old-same-old message.

McDonalds has added more salads, less fattening entrées, and toys with meals; but their core—burger, fries and a drink—are still the staple of their success. Get away from that, and you have tofu. You see, some things can't be changed. The Bible and its teachings is one of them. Take away Christ, and you have I-anity. Jesus is not a fad. Do you remember Rubiks Cube, CB radios and Cabbage Patch dolls? (I won't ask if you have one tucked away in a closet.) Those were fads. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and Today and Forever (Heb. 13:8).*

A fad lasts only a short time. Then it has to be replaced. Always something new. In contrast, we are told, *Your Word O Lord, is eternal. It stands firm in the Heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations. (Ps. 119:89-90).* God isn't very trendy. But He is extremely timely. His Word is not new, but it is certainly relevant and current. He is not like a shooting star, brilliant for a few minutes, then gone forever. He was here yesterday, is here now and will be tomorrow and every day after. After all these years, the Word of the Lord stands forever. God's dynamic message of forgiveness still stands supreme; it has the power to save all who repent and believe. Mary treasured all these in her heart. May it be your treasure too! For 2020, make sure you have your eyes on Jesus.

UPCOMING EVENTS – All are welcome!

Jan 19 th	Newcomers Welcome Dinner	We welcome those who joined our church in 2019.
Feb 15 th	Lunch	Join us as we check out the new Black Bear Diner



Sunday 9:00	.....	The Gospel of John (video)
Tuesday 11:00	.....	Lessons for us from Samuel
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

***Something to Think About* GOD'S HAND IN NATURE—The Ichneumon Wasp.**

This creature is very frail looking, as if a small sneeze could blow it to Cleveland. Yet, after it lands on a tree trunk, it begins thumping it like a drummer in a rock band, using its legs as sticks. Its legs are thinner than those of a Daddy Long Legs, less than a human hair. Amazingly, their 4½ inch long legs are actually high-powered expansion drills. It is so long and delicate that it curves up and down as the small insect thumps the



wood with it. (Perhaps a Beatles tune? 'Come together, right now, over me'!) After a little while (or the tune ends), the creature somehow knows it has found the right spot. Drilling begins. Ichi (he likes that nick-name) uses that delicate feeler to cut its way down through several inches of solid hardwood. To this day, scientists cannot figure out how it can. It just does.

If this weren't enough, the target of the wasp's drill is unique too. It seeks the larvae of a special beetle. How can it possibly know where to start its drill, so as to go straight down and hit the larva dead center? Scientists can't figure that out either. Somehow the initial thumping tells Ichi where the bug is and what kind of bug is there, since it only likes a certain kind. Once the hole is completed, Ichi lays its eggs on just one larva. The hatchlings feed on the larva only until they can still crawl up the shaft. When they finish growing up, without any instructions or examples, they know exactly what to do so the species continues. They just start thumping. Evolution? I think not!

WORLD MISSION NEWS—We have reason for joy; and for great concern. We are so thankful that the new Seminary in Viet Nam is completely funded. Construction is proceeding and new students are being enrolled. The Gospel is being proclaimed to thousands of people in the area. Thanks for all who contributed!...

Bring to the Lord in prayer the situation in China. The message of Jesus is being proclaimed in many areas of China. Because of that, people are adopting different attitudes, similar to what happened in East Germany in the 1980s. The Chinese government is threatened by this. They are trying to root out all 'Western Influence' to return to their nationalistic ideology. They don't want direct confrontation (like what is going on in Hong Kong), so they do it by 'a thousand cuts'. Visas, banking, communications, property rental regs., and zoning restrictions have been used like a boa constrictor to squeeze the church to death. Our private Lutheran school was forced to close this way. Workers and parents alike are being displaced.

The gray zone of yesterday is gone. Work in Beijing is not feasible. Four of ten missionaries in China are being moved out of mainland China, even as we try to find other ways to share Jesus. God will lead us to other ways we pray.



RUMMAGE SALE

We are accepting donations for our Spring sale. Contact Leena Meza (928-377-6244) with questions.

- HUMOR -

The Atheist and the Bear

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. 'What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!', he said to himself.

As he continued walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7-foot grizzly charging towards him.

He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster.

He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him.

At that instant the atheist cried out: 'Oh my God!'

Time stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky saying:

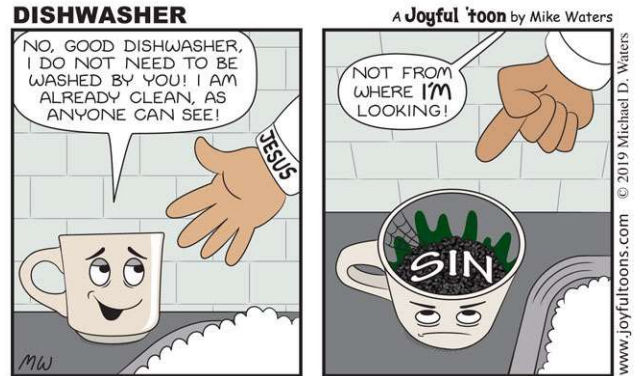
'You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?'

The atheist looked directly into the light.

'It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?'

'Very well,' said the voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: 'Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful, Amen.'



Saved by the Bell?

In 18th England they started running out of places to bury people. Consequently, people would dig up coffins and take the bones to a 'bone-house' and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they clergy decreed that they should tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the 'graveyard shift') to listen for the bell.

Thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell'. Also, they could be considered a 'dead ringer.'



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.



**JANUARY
FELLOWSHIP
MEALS SCHEDULE**

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MAIN DISH</u>	<u>HOST(S)</u>
5 th	MYSTERY MEAL	Christine & Peggy
12 th	SLOPPY JOES	Wilma & Irma
19 th	MEXICAN	Laura
26 th	MEAT LOAF	Bill & Jeanne

DECEMBER

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Fellowship Meal Attendance</u>
1 & 4	1
8 & 11	8
15 & 18	15
22, 24, & 25	22, 24, & 25
29	29
58	33
70	34
92	37
230	54
75	33

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.



**JAN BIRTHDAYS**

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Sue Regalado   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Charles Sachse |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Wilma Nomann   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Madilyn Coffin |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Evelyn Brotsch |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Ola Essig      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Mark McCoy     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Tim Brotsch    |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Jeff Hottel    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Marybeth Woods |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Shari Bishop   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Martha Raymor  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | LeRoy Staley   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Wyatt McCord   |



**JAN ANNIVERSARIES**

29<sup>th</sup> Dave & Sharon Brock

**JAN USHERS**

Zeke Jarcik  
Dave Brock  
George Henry  
Syd Huxtable  
Len Rezac  
Dave Meza





# THE LADIES CIRCLE

## JANUARY NEWS



### Welcome to the New Year - 2020!!!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*We wanted to take this time to reflect back on the accomplishments, fundraisers and events the Ladies Circle was a part of in 2019. The Ladies Circle women were very busy last year and will be planning activities in for 2020 in our January meeting.*

#### **FEBRUARY/BAKE SALE –**

*Fundraiser with proceeds in the amount of \$227.70 going to the WELS supported Grace-Hmong Outreach in Vietnam.*

#### **APRIL / LWMS-GRAND CANYON WEST**

#### **CIRCUIT SPRING RALLY –**

*Hosted by Cross of Christ/Ladies Circle on April 6<sup>th</sup>.*

**MAY/BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** - Fundraiser that supported our local Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center and New Beginnings (a home for mothers), a Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources in Milwaukee, and supported by WELS.

#### **MAY/ELECTION OF OFFICERS –**

*New Officers were announced in May - President, Rhonda Hutchins, Secretary, Cheryl Winter and Treasurer, Julie Muller.*

#### **JUNE/WESTERN BBQ –**

*Hosted the first-ever men's BBQ (in place of a women's tea party) on June 8th.*

#### **SEPTEMBER/LADIES CIRCLE**

#### **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS -**

*A revision to the Articles was ratified and adopted.*

#### **SEPTEMBER/BOOK FAIR –**

*Books and material from Northwest Publishing House.*

#### **OCTOBER/FALL CRAFT FAIR –**

*Fundraiser with funds going in to the general fund.*

#### **NOVEMBER BAKE SALE -**

*Fundraiser with proceeds split and gifted to the Friends of China and Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM - Africa) to help and support the work they do.*

#### **DECEMBER/CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX GIVING “You Are Not Alone -**

*73 boxes/bags were donated to our local Cornerstone Mission and the Salvation Army for people here in Kingman that are going through difficult times no matter the situation.*

### *January Meeting Info*

**DATE: SATURDAY, JAN 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**TIME: 9:30 AM**

**WHERE: EDUCATION BUILDING**

**DEVOTION SERIES: VIRTUES OF A PROVERBS 31 WOMAN**





# JANUARY 2020

| Sun                                                                                                                                                     | Mon                              | Tue                                                                                                                          | Wed                                                                                                                       | Thu                                                                                               | Fri       | Sat                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                         |                                  |                                                                                                                              | <b>1</b> New Year's Day<br>                                                                                               | <b>2</b>                                                                                          | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>                                                                    |
| <b>5</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal                                                 | <b>6</b><br>                     | <b>7</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 ELDERS MTG                | <b>8</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>9</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast<br>9:30 am Ladies Circle Meeting |
| <b>12</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Fellowship Meal                                                | <b>13</b>                        | <b>14</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>15</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>16</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b>                                                                   |
| <b>19</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Newcomers Welcome Dinner<br><br>                               | <b>20</b> Martin Luther King Jr. | <b>21</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 | <b>22</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>23</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>                                                                   |
| <b>26</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>27</b>                        | <b>28</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br>11:00 am Bible Class<br><br>1:30 pm Bible Basics Class                                      | <b>29</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>30</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism Class<br>7:00 pm Bible Basics Class | <b>31</b> |                                                                             |