

## **The Messenger**

**Cross of Christ  
Lutheran Church**  
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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**

*1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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*

~~ APRIL 2020 ~~

## **Message from the Pastor**

### **Only God Knows**

An old Christian man lived in a small German village. He was envied by many for he owned a small but beautiful and unique grove of trees whose wood was highly valued. People offered considerable sums for his trees, but the man sold the lumber from only a few trees. These hard-to-grow trees were planted by his grandfather as a family memorial.

One day lightning hit the tallest tree and set a fire which burned the grove. The villagers scoffed. "You old fool, we told you, you should sell the trees! You could have gotten a fortune. Now they're gone; you've been cursed by God."

The old man responded, "Don't speak too quickly. The trees are gone. That's all we know now. If I've been cursed, how can you know? Who can say what will come next? **Only God knows!**"

The people laughed. They had always thought he was a fool for not selling the trees.

The next spring something amazing happened. The dead trees provided a rich soil for seedlings to grow and a new and even greater forest was beginning. Once again, the villagers gathered around the woodcutter and spoke. "Old man, you were right and we were wrong. What we thought was a curse was a blessing. Please forgive us."

The man responded, "Once again, you go too far. The trees are growing back, but how do you know if this is a blessing or not? **Only God knows.**"

"Maybe the old man is right," they said. But down deep, they knew he was wrong. They knew it was a blessing. With a little bit of water, the trees would grow and could be sold for much money. Or they could be sold to start other forests.

But during the rainy season, a particularly heavy rain came. Since the old trees were not there to hold the

soil, it all washed away taking the new trees with it. The people renewed their chant about him being a fool and being cursed.

The old man spoke again. "You people are obsessed with judging. The soil was washed away. Who knows if it is a curse? **Only God knows.**"

It turned out that the rushing water moved several rocks and formed a natural dam at the corner of the man's property. The good silt settled there. The trees could be returned to their original place. And now the old man would not have to worry about a water shortage anymore.

"You were right, old man," they said. "God knows you were right. This proves it.

The old man spoke again. "It's hard to talk with you. You draw conclusions. **Only God knows.**"

The woodsman is right. We don't have all the answers because we don't know the final outcome. Tragedies and triumphs are only pages out of God's book of life he gives to each of us. We must be slow about drawing conclusions. We must reserve judgment, especially on life's storms, until we know the whole story. We have a God who promised to send nothing more than we could bear.

Is Covid19 a curse or a blessing? Only God knows! It has been a challenge, that's for sure. But perhaps God is using this as a caution to us. Our lives here are only temporary. Eternity is forever. Even in our world of sophisticated medical knowledge and equipment, a 'bug' is wreaking havoc on the world. Is this a call to be sure we have a rock-solid trust in God?! Is this a time to "**be still and know that I am God**"? Job 30

When Good Friday unfolded, I'm sure the disciples would have said this was a curse. But for sinners of all ages, it was and is a blessing because Jesus took away our sins through his suffering, death and resurrection. Only God knows what is best for us and only God can be trusted to do what is best for us. Jesus went through some pretty wild ups and downs. Yet he knew that each one of them was accomplishing a purpose. Isaiah knew that too when he wrote "**as the rain comes down from Heaven... so that it (the Earth) yields... bread for the eater, so is my Word...It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire.**" Jesus' death gives us life. Easter's empty tomb shows Good Friday's horror had a purpose. **Only God knows**—and through faith we do too!

Come celebrate that with us on Easter Sunday (figuring that we will be able to have worship services that day.) Jesus is Lord. He is Risen Indeed!



## **Something to Think About ..... Do you Believe This?**

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:25-27

Jesus asked Martha a very pointed question, and it came at a most difficult time. Lazarus, her brother, had just died. Emotionally she was conflicted. Physically she was drained. Mentally she was confused. Although Jesus did offer her words of promise and assurance, he also added that key question, "Do you believe this?" In reality, the question was even more direct, "Do you trust me?" Martha's answer is a testimony to her confidence in Jesus and an example for us.

Every day we face many challenges. Some are easy to overcome. Others are more difficult. Still, with persistence we usually manage. There are even times when we find a source of strength I didn't know I had. Throughout these times we are able to say with some certainty, "I believe."

This certainty will be seriously challenged in extreme situations. How will I respond if someone close to me dies? How will I respond if I am diagnosed with Covid 19? What if something permanently alters my life? How will I find a source of strength when emotionally, physically, and mentally I'm empty? Will I still say, "I believe?"

This is where Martha becomes a wonderful example. When Jesus asked her, "Do you believe this?" she gave a resounding and inspiring answer. More than saying, "I believe this," she said, "I trust you."

Here is where I need to re-examine and reinforce my faith. At the worst possible time, Martha said, "I can trust you, Jesus." I need that same unshakable trust. What is reassuring is that Jesus goes to great lengths to provide that trust. Certainly, his loving promise to be with me always tells me I can trust him. He offers me more. By his death on the cross, Jesus rescued me from the punishment for sin. As my Savior, he offers me the great assurance of forgiveness and the gift of God's peace. And by his resurrection, Jesus proved his victory over the devil, my greatest enemy, and he takes away my fear of eternal death. I have every reason to trust him for this life, and for the life to come in heaven.

In this life there will be many disappointments, and many people will prove to be disappointing, so it is often difficult to find someone or something I can always trust. There remains one bright hope that will never fail to shine even in the darkest of times, and that is Jesus. He is someone I can always trust. Pastor Dan Wagenknecht



The Tuesday (11:00), Thursday (1:30) and Sunday morning (9:00) Bible Classes have less than 10 people and will continue to be held. The rest are on hold.

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

With Covid 19's specter floating around like Satan, everything is up in the air. However, figuring that we are able to have worship services Holy Week, here is the tentative schedule. (Please call church to make sure things are as planned.)

### **Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 April 9<sup>th</sup>,**

is a worship service where we remember and celebrate Jesus' institution of Holy Communion. In that wonderful gift, through His miracle, Christ gives us his body and blood in the bread and wine for the personal assurance of forgiveness.

### **Good Friday Service at 7:00 on April 10<sup>th</sup>,**

is a time when the Devil and his allies seemingly won—but nothing was further from the truth. We turn the lights lower as the service progresses to note how eerie it was that day when the sun stopped shining. We leave in silence after hearing the son "Watch the Lamb". It is our most emotional service we have.

### **Easter Sunday Worship is at 8:00 and 10:00 April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

The 8:00 service is outdoors in our courtyard so there is plenty of room for 'social distancing'. Hearing the birds and creatures while listening to "He Is Risen, He is Risen Indeed" is very powerful.

The 10:00 service is indoors. Seeing the banners, the decorations and most of all the Tomb Being Empty is soul-inspiring. God is truly present with us.

The Easter Breakfast will be scaled down to a buffet style meal where you can maintain separation from each other while still enjoying the Easter goodies.

**FYI** – In the event that we are not able to hold worship indoors, we will likely be using our parking lot and have a service where people remain in their cars. We would set up speakers and use our keyboard to do the music. We will keep you posted. Call or go to our website for the latest. **DID YOU KNOW** that nearly all of Pastor Mueller's sermons are on YouTube? Just go to YouTube and type in Cross of Christ Kingman and you should be able to find it. You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel from the Sermon tab on the church website.

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**Humor-** A smiling man came to his priest to confess his sins. "Bless me Father for I have sinned in adultery with three beautiful women." The priest told him God had forgiven him. But he also told him to go home and squeeze the juice of ten lemons into a glass and then drink it. "Is this some new form of penance?" the man asked. "No", the priest replied, "but it will wipe that stupid smile off your face."

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### **EASTER SERVICES APRIL 12**

**8:00 'SUNRISE' WORSHIP**

**9:15 EASTER BREAKFAST**

**10:00 RESURRECTION WORSHIP**



**APRIL  
FELLOWSHIP  
MEALS SCHEDULE<sup>1</sup>**

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MAIN DISH</u>	<u>HOST(S)</u>
5 <sup>th</sup>		
12 <sup>h</sup>	EASTER BREAKFAST	Gene & Shari
19 <sup>th</sup>	MEAT LOAF	Mark & Rhonda
26 <sup>th</sup>	Hot Dogs	Christine & Peggy

<sup>1</sup>Subject to cancellation based on current status

**MARCH**

<u>Worship Attendance</u>		<u>Fellowship Meal Attendance</u>	
1 & 4	124	1 & 4	70
8 & 11	95	8 & 11	59
15 & 18	80	15 & 18	51
22 & 25	34	22	N/A
29		29	N/A



**APR BIRTHDAYS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Vern Peglow
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bradley Wood
12 <sup>th</sup>	Norma Noyes
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sarah Maczuga
26 <sup>th</sup>	Danna Woods
27 <sup>th</sup>	Annette Peglow
30 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Boyd
30 <sup>th</sup>	Merissa Wood



**APR ANNIVERSARIES**

8 <sup>th</sup>	Steve & Joyce Shaffer
8 <sup>th</sup>	Paul & Kris Taranec

*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.



**APR USHERS**

- Carl Barnes
- Steve Shaffer
- Bill Neal
- Jimmy Woods
- Dwayne Nessa

# THE LADIES CIRCLE



Thank you to all the ladies who attended March's monthly meeting on Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 2019/2020 Series - Virtues of a Proverbs 31 Woman

### MARCH DEVOTION - INDUSTRY

She is a willing worker, cheerful and content with initiative to work hard on her own.

The Proverbs 31 Woman is an eager worker that delights in work.

...[she] works with willing hands. ~ *Proverbs 31:13*

The Proverbs 31 Woman is business savvy with confidence to make good decisions.

...[she] considers a field and buys it; ...~ *Proverbs 31:16*

The Proverbs 31 Woman is industrious.

...[she] sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. ~ *Proverbs 31:18*



## April Meeting Postponed

~~DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>~~

~~TIME: 9:30 AM~~

~~WHERE: EDUCATION BUILDING~~



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

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

### HOSTS NEEDED

Contact Christine Hanson if you are interested in becoming a host for the Sunday fellowship meals. Meal hosts are alternated during the month.

**FUTURE ACTIVITIES are postponed until further notice.**



# APRIL 2020

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                               | Mon                             | Tue                                                                                                                 | Wed                                                                                                                                                              | Thu                                                                                | Fri                                                                                                                                                               | Sat                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |                                                                                                                     | <b>1</b><br><br>7:00 pm Worship Service                                                                                                                          | <b>2</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class                                                | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>4</b>                                                                    |
| <b>5</b><br>9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service                                                                                                       | <b>6</b><br><br>6:00 ELDERS MTG | <b>7</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br><br>11:00 am Bible Class<br><br>1:30 pm Bible Basics Class                          | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                                                         | <b>9 Maundy Thursday</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>7:00 pm Worship Service | <b>10 Good Friday</b><br><br>7:00 pm Worship Service                                                                                                              | <b>11</b><br>9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast<br>9:30 am Ladies Circle Meeting |
| <b>12 Easter</b><br>8:00 am 'Sunrise' Service<br>9:15 am Easter Breakfast <sup>1</sup><br>10:00 am Resurrection Worship                                                           | <b>13</b>                       | <b>14</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br><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 <sup>2</sup><br><br>4:00 pm Worship Service at Flowers <sup>3</sup><br>6:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs <sup>3</sup> | <b>16</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism <sup>2</sup>         | <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 Fellowship Meal <sup>2</sup>                                                             | <b>20</b>                       | <b>21</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br>10:00 am Fellowship Committee Mtg<br>11:00 am Bible Class                          | <b>22</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class <sup>2</sup><br><br>4:00 pm Worship Service at Flowers <sup>3</sup><br>6:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs <sup>3</sup> | <b>23</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism <sup>2</sup>         | <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 <sup>2</sup><br><br>1:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs <sup>3</sup> | <b>27</b>                       | <b>28</b><br>8:00 am Work Day<br><br>11:00 am Bible Class                                                           | <b>29</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class <sup>2</sup><br><br>4:00 pm Worship Service at Flowers <sup>3</sup><br>6:30 pm Worship Service at White Cliffs <sup>3</sup> | <b>30</b><br><br>1:30 pm Bible Class<br><br>4:15 pm Catechism <sup>2</sup>         | <sup>1</sup> Notification will be made if there is a change in scheduled events.<br><sup>2</sup> Based on current status<br><sup>3</sup> Based on facility status |                                                                             |