

The Messenger

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

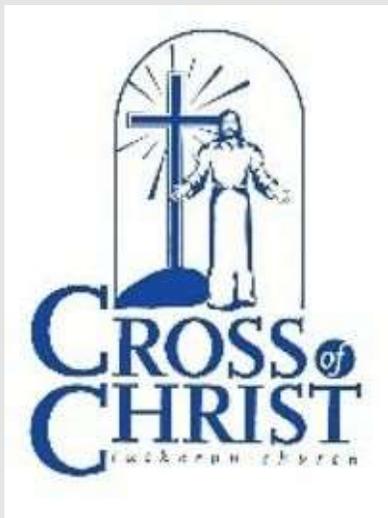
Phone: 928-757-3543

Website:

www.crossofchrist-kingman.com

Email:
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

*1st, 3rd, and 5th 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

~~ MAY 2020 ~~

Message from the Pastor

LOSS = GAIN?!

There's a Hebrew fable about a rabbi who had disrespected the Lord. His punishment was being forced to wander the country for the next ten years to 'think about it'. The only possessions allowed to him were a donkey, a lamp and the Scriptures.

Late one evening after a long day's journey, he came upon a small village where he sought shelter. But his reputation preceded him; he was denied entrance. He found a wall surrounding the town well and used the inside walls as shelter.

He tried to read his 'Bible' using his lamp, but the strong wind kept blowing it out. He tried to go to sleep, but just as he started to drift off, the nearby roar of a lion startled him awake. He peeked over the wall—only to see the lion drag his donkey away for a midnight snack.

Overwhelmed with grief, fear and self-pity, he felt like a piñata in a room full of 20 kids with baseball bats. He tried to pray but was too angry to do so. In exhaustion he fell fast asleep after hours of tossing and turning.

The next morning, he woke up to the acrid smell of smoke. As he peeked over the wall, he was shocked by the sight of the village. It had been pillaged and burned. Dead bodies lay strewn before his eyes. Extremists had attacked during the night and done their worst.

After the shock wore off, the rabbi began to think—and to put his losses in perspective.

- If the villagers had taken him in, he would have perished along with them.
- If the wind had not blown out his lamp, the marauders would have seen the light and discovered him.
- If the lion had not killed his donkey, the donkey's noise would have given them away.

He had learned a valuable lesson: **Sometimes great gain comes from great loss!**

Can the same be said of Covid 19? The virus ants have ruined our personal, social, and economic picnics. This unseen terrorist has put fear in hearts and pain in pocketbooks. We read with sorrow the number of deceased which numbers in the multiple thousands. So, how can this be good? How can loss be gain for us?

Well, if we have learned that we are not in control, that we must depend on the Lord, we have gained wisdom. If we have seen more clearly the value of being able to gather as a family of believers, we have become spiritually wiser. If we appreciate all of God's blessings that we have taken for granted, we have gained wisdom. If we come to realize that sin has brought this plague into our world and that only repentance of those sins can save us from an even worse death, then we have come to possess the biggest gain of all. We have learned to depend on the grace of God to save us. The value of that is priceless.

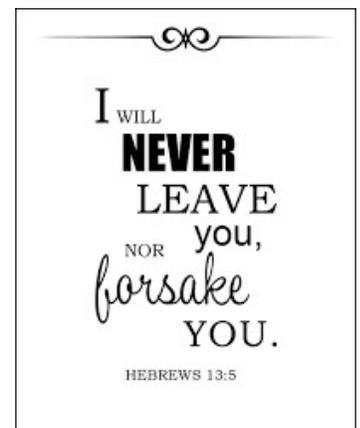
Jesus told the impoverished saints in Smyra who were experiencing hardship and poverty, **"You are rich."** (Rev. 2:9) This was despite the fact that they were financially and influentially poor.

They weren't the only ones. St Paul gladly and willingly suffered the loss of all things he had previously treasured, calling them *"rubbish"*. He gave up power, prestige, and friends. He did it to gain spiritual riches. He found a relationship beyond value in Jesus Christ.

It is especially at this time of pandemic that we need to be reminded that we can be joyful in any and all situations. The Lord is with us. All this will work out for our good. Easter is not something we pack away for another year like our Easter baskets/decorations. God is not a visitor but a family member. He told Joshua **"Be strong and courageous! I will never leave you or forsake you. I will be with you wherever you go."** God is there even if your 'donkey' is devoured, your 'lamp' won't stay lit, and when it seems you have nowhere to go. That's God's eternal principle of loss and gain: when we lose our pride and self-reliance, we gain God's blessings.

Indeed, our very salvation came at a great cost. Our eternal rescue cost God the life of his only Son on the cross! So when we begin bemoaning our 'temporal losses', let's stop and reflect on the 'riches' that are ours in Jesus.

Sometimes, in loss there is great gain.



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – will be



held on Sunday, August 30. God has blessed us for 50 years as a church united in the Cross of Christ. A Special 4:00 Celebration service will be followed by a catered meal (brisket or chicken from

Cracker Barrel). Pastor Dave Fleischman will be our guest preacher.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

We still plan on celebrating Easter week properly when we are allowed to gather as a group. Please be ready to join us when that occurs.

Something to Think About Are you Ok with That?

The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. **Psalm 121:7,8**

Someone is always watching you. Are you okay with that? Many facilities, both public and private (including this church), are equipped with video surveillance systems. They see, and may even record, where and when you come in and go out. They watch what you are doing and how you are doing it. There are now computer programs with facial recognition capabilities. Are you okay with that?

As you use your mobile phone and data plan or surf the internet, where you go and what you do may be tracked and recorded for future reference and analysis. Websites track your patterns and habits. Retailers note when, how, where, and what you shop for.

Your cell phone use and your cell signal can be monitored. The methods and the technology for watching where you go and what you do continue to evolve. Big brother is getting bigger. Are you okay with that?

Even our cars have GPS and other tracking devices attached to them. OnStar and other options give a constant feed to where we are.

Sometimes we don't realize that things like video surveillance and online tracking are taking place. At other times we realize it is happening, but don't give it much thought. We figure that's just the way it's going to be.

Here's a truth worth thinking about—all the time: The Lord is watching over your coming and going. He is watching over you right now, at every moment, all the time. Whether you realize it or not, whether you think about it or not, the Lord is watching over your life. The God of faithful love is watching over you and keeping you from harm. The God who loves you does not slumber nor sleep. He is always looking to bless you.

What a wonderful comfort! While you are awake and when you are sleeping, when you are coming and when you are going, no matter where you are or what you are doing, the Lord is watching over you. The Maker of heaven and earth who has made you his child in Christ is there to help you every step of the way.

The earthly stuff, I'm not so sure if I like that or not. Some are good some are not. But with the Lord, I'm absolutely okay with that. I hope you are too.

Professor Jeff Schone, New Ulm Minn. (written three years ago)



RUMMAGE SALE

*We are accepting donations for our next sale (date TBD).
Contact Leena Meza (928-377-6244) with questions.*

FYI –DID YOU KNOW that 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 find them on our website crossofchrist-kingman.com. If you scroll down just a little on our picture, you’ll see a circle with an ‘f’ on it, for Facebook. To the right, there’s a circle with an arrow pointing right. Click on that to see our services.

NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

This class is designed to explore the main teachings of the Bible from Abel to Zarapheth. If you have questions about the Bible, here is the opportunity you have been looking for! Pastor starts with the Bible and how God gave it to us, goes over Old Testament history briefly, then the life of Jesus and then the Commandments, Prayer, Baptism and Holy Communion. It is taught in a way that makes the Bible easy to understand. Tell Pastor which day of the week works best for you. Right now, we’re leaning toward Mondays after we’re able to meet together again.

GOD WILLING, we will have worship services on May 10. This can change at any moment, so call church (757-3543) for updates. It may be worship in our cars or two services or ...

HUMOR

Trust but Verify

We all know that in marriage, even more than love, trust is an essential element if a marriage is going to hold together. If a wife doesn't totally trust her husband, that marriage is in for some rough sailing. I read a story one time about Adam and Eve, where Adam awoke to find this beautiful woman that the Lord had brought into his life and he named her Eve. They got along fine, except Eve began to get suspicious about Adam, because sometimes he would be out late at night and she would ask him where he had been.

She said, "Adam, I don't feel good about your being out so late when I don't know where you are going. Are you going out with other women?" Adam said, "Eve, are you crazy? There are no other women in the world. You are the only one God has made for me." Well, she wasn't satisfied with that, but they finally went to sleep until the middle of the night when Adam woke up to find Eve poking him in the chest. He said, "Eve, what are you doing?" She said, "I am counting your ribs!"

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08-25-2014
CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

Fun Things to Say at Church Potlucks

- "Is there a vegan meal available?"
- "What, exactly, are the rules about gluttony?"
- "So, I guess 'drinking the Kool Aid' is OK now?"

Something to Ponder

Is it shallow to pray that somebody will bring the really good pie to a potluck supper?



**MAY
FELLOWSHIP
MEALS SCHEDULE**

DAY MAIN DISH HOST(S)

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.



**MAY USHERS**

- Zeke Jarcik**
- Dave Brock**
- George Henry**
- Syd Huxtable**
- Leonard Rezac**
- Dave Meza**

**NOTE: The FELLOWSHIP MEAL schedule is TBD. Check our website or call for updates.**



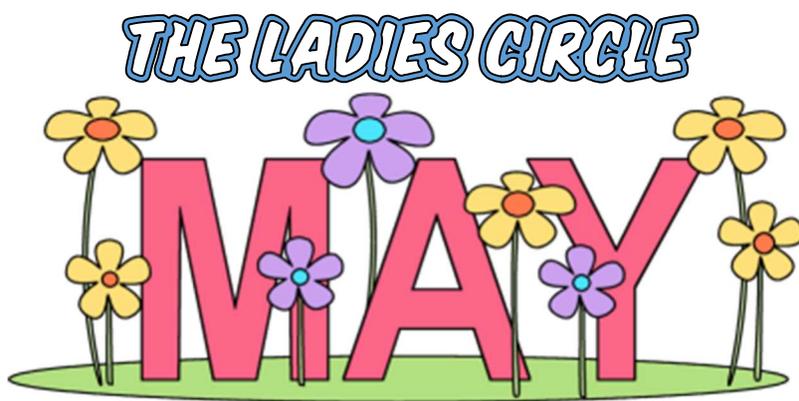
**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 8<sup>th</sup>                    McKenzie Coffin
- 8<sup>th</sup>                    Bob Thone
- 10<sup>th</sup>                  John Henning
- 15<sup>th</sup>                  Carol Halen
- 15<sup>th</sup>                  Shaunna Nelson
- 17<sup>th</sup>                  Richard Blazer
- 18<sup>th</sup>                  Rachael Maczuga
- 25<sup>th</sup>                  Duley Nelson
- 27<sup>th</sup>                  Rhonda Hutchins
- 29<sup>th</sup>                  James Brotsch



**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5<sup>th</sup>                    Ed & Nicole Wolfe
- 11<sup>th</sup>                  Zeke & Laura Jarcik
- 13<sup>th</sup>                  Al & Marnie Mounts
- 15<sup>th</sup>                  James & Sarah Maczuga
- 31<sup>st</sup>                  Bob & Lynda Boyd
- 31<sup>st</sup>                  Vern & Annette Peglow



# News

**There will be no monthly meeting in May.**

We will be in contact with all the ladies once we are able to get back to meeting again!

Our thoughts and prayers are with each and everyone of our church congregation; that you are staying safe and healthy during this pandemic of the Coronavirus, please remember that God is still with us so we do not need to be afraid.

The Book of Daniel 10:19 "...O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me."

The Book of Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

God Bless You!

**We Look Forward to Meeting Again in The Very Near Future!**