

## The Messenger

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

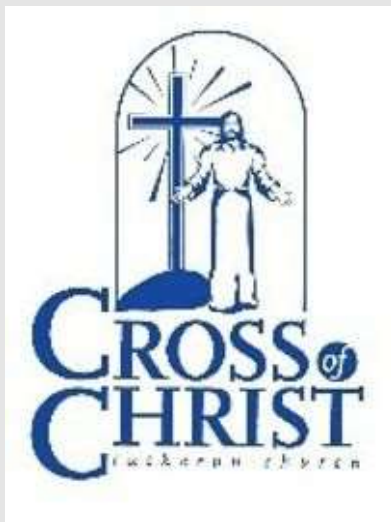
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



### Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wed. 4:00 pm: at Flowers\*

Wed. 6:30 pm: at White Cliffs\*

4<sup>th</sup> Sun. 1:30 pm at White Cliffs\*

### Communion

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

### Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Tuesday: 11:00 am

Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm

### Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

### Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

\*Worship services at White Cliffs and Flowers are currently suspended due to COVID-19

~~ AUGUST 2020 ~~

## Message from the Pastor

### An Elijah Moment

Who does this describe? It's a bird; it's a plane; no, it's \_\_\_\_\_ . Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound; faster than a speeding bullet; smarter than Einstein... (No, it's not me.) It's Superman.

Sometimes the characters of the Bible can seem like that. What titans of trust; what bastions of belief; what fearlessness in faith! People like Noah, Abraham, Moses might seem larger than life: fearless, faithful, and fortifications of Christian living; relentless and ready no matter what curve-ball any Satanic pitcher threw at them. That's nice, but that's just not accurate.

At times, they folded like the proverbial cheap suit. In fact, one of God's representatives in the Old Testament, a man named Elijah, was so depressed and discouraged with the direction of his ministry and life, that he ran away to a cave and exclaimed, "I am the only one left". Listen to him:

***"I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."*** 1 Kings 19:14

Do you ever have "Elijah moments"? Do you ever feel that you are "the only one left"? The only one among your friends or neighbors who tries to reflect God's value system? The only one who has the pressures and problems that you do? The only one who feels overwhelmed at what needs to get done and under-equipped to get it done? One who may even not feel God's wind behind you, pushing you along in life?

Is there anyone who is not tired of Covid 19 and all the problems it's causing? Is there anyone one who hasn't said, 'I can't stand it anymore!' Is there anyone who has not wondered when this will end? And, how many people haven't at least wondered 'why doesn't God do something'? 'I'm the only one left; I am all alone'!

When you have those moments, there is a better alternative than running away to a cave and indulging in self-pity. In those tough times, you can look to Jesus—the only One who could (and did!) forgive all of your sins. The only One who knows your every need and promises to help and never leave you. The only One who promised to never give you more than you can bear. The only One who loved you enough to die on a cross so that you might live forever with him. The only One worthy to be called your Savior—the only Jesus.

In Elijah's case, God reserved 7,000 who were still faithful. So, come out of your cave. Look at the cross. Bask in the peace of your Savior and live in the light of his larger than life love. Leap that tall building. God is with you.



**BIBLE CLASSES the RESET** – We resumed weekday Bible Classes last week. The times will be the same as before; Tuesday at 11:00 and Thursday at 1:30. We have yet to determine other class times/days. If you want to be a part of one contact Pastor. Catechism class will begin in the beginning of August.



## MISSION NEWS

There have been no church services or Bible Classes since March in Apache land. Gatherings of more than 10 and now 5 are prohibited. Stay at home orders have taken away the ability to go fishing or walk along the road for exercise. Checkpoints are set up at community entrance points to keep visitors out and restrict residents from leaving except on certain days of the week. So, we're left with faces. Faces on Zoom meetings or video calls from home, and halves of faces behind a mask from six feet away at the grocery store.

But those faces still show us faith. Or at least the evidence of it. Several weeks ago, there was a wildfire in one of our reservation communities. Several families lost everything. Houses, vehicles, personal possessions, and irreplaceable family

mementos went up in smoke on one terrible afternoon. And guess what happened? Before the smoke even cleared, our church members were offering to help. Over the next days, truckloads of clothes, personal hygiene supplies, blankets, and food came from Native Christians expressing their faith through their actions. Others brought money to help the families. Their generosity was astounding! They gave freely and willingly from what they had without holding back. They couldn't hug, couldn't gather at the same time, and couldn't even get closer than six feet. Their faces were masked, but their faith was visible.

It could be a while on our Apache reservations before we can see more than faces on a video screen. But the faith of our

Native Christian people remains very visible in new ways.

As Native Christians we have donated more than 1,900 masks to local hospitals, and our members are working hard sewing hundreds more. While our pastors and teachers work hard to share Jesus without church services or classrooms full of

students, our members are also being bold in sharing God's Word and showing Christian concern with words and actions. May God bless you too as you find new and creative ways to share the ancient and unchanging story of Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith!

*Written by Pastor Dan Rautenberg*

## HUMOR

An American Jewish father was concerned about his son who was about a year away from his Bar Mitzvah, but was sorely lacking in his knowledge of the Jewish faith. To remedy this, he sent his son to Israel to experience his heritage firsthand. A year later the young man returned home saying, "Father, thank you for sending me to Israel! It was wonderful and enlightening. I met some Christians there and converted to Christianity." The same happened to his neighbor's son.

"Oi Vey" the old man replied, "what have we done?" So they went to their rabbi and told him what happened. The rabbi began to wail. "I too sent my own son to Israel and he too became a Christian. We must take this to God in prayer." The three men got on their knees and poured their hearts out to God Almighty.

As they did, the clouds opened up and a mighty voice boomed out, "Amazing that you should come to me with this problem. I too sent My Son to Israel..."

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"It's 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.' It's not a multiple choice question."

### Cowboy Ten Commandments

1. Just one God.
2. Watch yer mouth.
3. Get yerself to Sunday church
4. Don't sass yer ma & pa
5. No killin'
6. No foolin' 'round wit 'nother fella's gal
7. Don't take what ain't yers
8. No tellin' tall tales or gossipin'
9. Don't be tryin' to finagle yer neighbor outa his place.
10. Don't be hankerin' fer yer buddies' stuff

Pastor Mueller's sermons are still on our **website** ([crossofchrist-kingman.com](http://crossofchrist-kingman.com)) and on our **YouTube channel** (**CrossofChrist Kingman**). We're glad to hear so many people are benefitting from them.

## NEW BIBLE BASICS CLASS

is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. This is the starter class and the most popular one we share. You will be glad if you attend. If you don't know the difference between redemption and recycling, this class is a must.

Call Pastor at 757-3543.

### **Something to Think About** ..... **Trusting or Testing**

“Why don't we just trust in God?” I've heard Christians ask that question lately. Why are people wearing masks? Why are we talking about or even taking precautions at church? “Why don't we trust in God?” A WELS member berated me on Facebook for being a liberal, “PC” pastor because we—like many of you—suspended our church services for a time during the pandemic. “Why don't we just trust in God?”

On the one hand, I love that sentiment. The Bible says that God's people do not trust in horses or princes. We know that our lives do not depend on protective gear or social distancing. Our lives depend on Jesus Christ! At a time of doubt and uncertainty, may the Holy Spirit give us a bold trust in Jesus our Savior!

But let me ask you something: Are you trusting God or testing God? There is a difference. You know who else said, “Why don't you just trust in God”? The devil himself! Remember when Satan tempted Jesus in the desert? For one of his temptations, Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple and told him to jump off. He even quoted the Bible, “*For it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone'*” (Matthew 4:6).

That sounds like a good argument, doesn't it? “God's with you. God's angels surround you. What are you afraid of, Jesus? Don't you trust in God? Jump! God will save you!” Should Jesus have jumped? Remember what he said? “*It is also written:*

*'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'*” (Matthew 4:7). For Jesus to jump off that temple was not trusting God, it was testing God. It would have been sinful.

Trusting God does not mean throwing caution to the wind. Trusting God does not mean ignoring the wise advice of other people. Trusting God does not mean insisting on doing what we want to do regardless of what the results might be for us and others. Trusting God doesn't mean being foolish—like jumping off a building!—and expecting God to save us. That's not trusting God. That's trusting us and testing God.

Mary and Joseph trusted in God—and fled for their lives to Egypt (Matthew 2). Newly converted Saul trusted in God—and escaped Damascus in a basket (Acts 9:25). You trust in God—and wear a seatbelt and wash your hands. Yes, God's angels are around us all the time. Miraculous rescues still happen. But God often keeps us alive through little, everyday blessings. We trust in God. We do not want to test him.

Some of our people need constant reminders to trust in God. Others, however, may need to be reminded not to put God to the test. May God give us wisdom to help our people discern how to trust in God without testing him.

*Rev. Nathan Nass*

N.B. We are still having worship because we feel it is essential. We DO try to be safe, but we leave mask wearing up to you. We do space people out as we act in faith.



## **AUGUST USHERS**

**Bill Neal  
Carl Barnes  
Gage Wolf**



## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gel Brotsch
1 <sup>st</sup>	Brandon Moore
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kerk Nessa
6 <sup>th</sup>	Syd Huxtable
9 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Maczuga
9 <sup>th</sup>	Carmen Militello
11 <sup>th</sup>	Bette Bobzien
11 <sup>th</sup>	Leena Meza
12 <sup>th</sup>	Pamela Hottel
14 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Jenkins
15 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Leicht
18 <sup>th</sup>	Leo Galvan
18 <sup>th</sup>	Peggy Ramey
21 <sup>st</sup>	Rolland Hanks
26 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Hanson



## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Tim & Linda Mangelsdorf
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff & Pamela Hottel

# August 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service	6:00 pm Elders Mtg	8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	6:30 pm Bible Basics	1:30 pm Bible Class		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Voters Meeting		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class  6:00 pm Council Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Basics	1:30 pm Bible Class		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	6:30 pm Bible Basics	1:30 pm Bible Class		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	6:30 pm Bible Basics	1:30 pm Bible Class		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service						