

## **The Messenger**

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

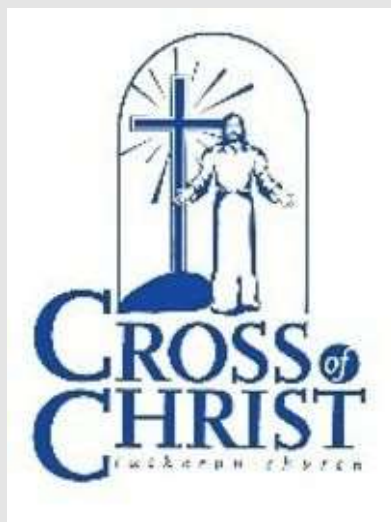
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**www.crossofchrist-  
kingman.com**

**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\**

*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, 4:15 pm, 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*

# ~~ JANUARY 2021 ~~

## **Message from the Pastor**

### **I Want my Kidney Back!**

A man donated his kidney to save his wife that she needed in order to live. The transplant was a success. This man saved his wife's life. But sometimes gratitude can be short-lived.

22 months later, the wife began a long-term affair with another man. Her unfaithfulness was discovered, and the man filed for divorce. But, in the divorce papers, there was a most unusual demand: he wanted the kidney back. (Was it a loan? A gift? His property? He had it first? She was not treating it well since she was drinking with her lover, so....) He wanted his kidney back! (And he would even save her the cost of a surgeon by using his pocket-knife.) He knew that she would die if that were to happen, but... (He's not bitter, is he?)

Especially those who have been the victim of an affair might understand that man's anger and pain. The rest of us can feel his resentment (after all I did for her...) I think, with that in mind, we can better understand why, what God did for the Apostle Paul is so noteworthy.

Paul called himself "the worst" of sinners. Prior to meeting Jesus, he had made a career of persecuting Christians. But Paul wasn't referring to his previous unbelieving life when he called himself "the worst" of sinners. It was after he was a believer in Christ that he said, "I am the worst." He knew that God's standard is perfection. It's like trying to attend a tuxedo ball wearing a sweatsuit. We always fall far short as we carry on our long-term, illicit relationship with sin and regularly prove ourselves to be unfaithful tramps to our Creator. How does God respond to such sinners?

Bitterness? Anger? Flames? No, try love, forgiveness (self-provided) and Pearly Gates! He does not want us to die in our sin. And we won't—unless we reject Jesus—because Christ Jesus already came into the world to save

sinners. He gave not just his kidney, but his very life. He made a substitutionary payment to save even the worst of sinners. Whatever your sin is; however great it is; whatever damage it has already done; that cannot change the truth that Christ Jesus has saved you. And you can keep your kidney.

<b>UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES</b>	
<b>SUN/THU</b>	<b>TUE</b>
<b>-Anger</b> <b>-Burden Bearing</b>	<b>-The Life of Moses</b> <b>-Love</b> <b>-Bible Studies for Maturing Christians</b>

## ***Something to Think About..... LASTING HOPE FOR A NEW YEAR***

Remember the snowfall from two years ago? How crazy to have Cacti, Ocotillo and Cholla covered with 19 inches of snow in Kingman! Did you go out and build a snowman like the fireman did at the station? Any of you spiritual types make a 'snow angel'? But all that's left of that 'miracle' are pictures. Within a week, it was as if it had never snowed.



I see a parallel in that snowfall with the hopes many people have in life. "I've finally found Mr. Right!" "This job will make me financially secure." "If I keep on eating right, and get some exercise, I'll lose weight and have a healthy retirement." "If I keep trying my best to be a good person, I'll stay on God's good side and be in Heaven in the end."

Sooner or later, the heat gets turned up on life, and these once beautiful hopes can easily melt away. Marriages can dissolve. Company downsizing can make your job go poof—as well as your pension. Covid may stick its ugly nose in your tent. And, most serious of all, your conscience will yell at you that you haven't been that good (if that were even possible). God cannot let you into his house. False hopes are cruel teachers.

But there is a lasting, certain hope to be found. **"In his great mercy, God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have an inheritance that can never spoil, perish or fade—kept in Heaven for you."** 1 Pet. 1:3-4. The key to this living hope is Christ. Like many hopes, Jesus died. But, unlike our hopes, his death was not a defeat, nor was it the last word. Jesus' death was victory. He rose back to life. This in turn guarantees our resurrection—to Heaven with faith in Jesus.

Resolutions get discarded, dreams forgotten, hopes dashed, but life eternal is never ruined. It's more secure than Fort Knox because it's guarded by angels. Like snow stored in a freezer, Jesus promises to preserve the blessings he's won for us.

Unlike the snow in Arizona, our living hope in Christ does not melt away. As you look forward to 2021, please fill your hearts with living hopes, not hopes that have the life-span of a June bug. Let Christ fill you with hopes of forgiveness, spiritual peace and eternal life. **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.** Rom. 15:13.

Pastor Tim Henning

Pastor Mueller's sermons are still on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#).  
We're glad to hear so many people are benefitting from them.

The **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** when we review the past year and outline what we hope to do in 2021 will be **Sunday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> after the worship service**. Among the items to consider are Lent Midweek worship. Should we have a meal before the service (with protocols)? Should Pastor Mueller alternate with Pastor Lepak (if he's willing)?

**SPANISH SPEAKING OUTREACH:** Latin America mission team is using the Academia Cristo (Christ Academy) website to distribute Christian resources. These are in Spanish, available online, and offered for free to anyone interested in learning about the Bible.

Academia Cristo has more than one million followers on social media and hundreds of thousands of Internet users download its biblical resources. If you know a Spanish speaker who would be interested in this, just type in Academia Cristo in the search bar. Lay people in Chile, Paraguay, Mexico City, Columbia, Honduras, and Ecuador are starting church with this tool. Look on-line if you want to learn more for yourself.

### **Bible Quiz... on Absalom [2 Samuel 18]**

1. Absalom wanted to take over the kingdom of his father David because
  - a. He was greedy and egotistical
  - b. He felt he had been cheated out of the throne
  - c. He thought the people of Israel wanted him
  - d. He didn't like the election results
2. When the battle went against his forces, Absalom fled. He was caught by
  - a. surprise
  - b. his hair in a tree branch
  - c. David's soldiers
  - d. Seal Team Six

### **YOUNG ADULTS EVENING BIBLE CLASS:**

If we can work out a time, Pastor hopes to begin a new Class on Thursday (tentative) evenings. The first series will be *Engage*, a video and discussion outing designed to get you to think about your relationship with God and others. Contact Pastor if you might be interested.



**A NEW BIBLE BASICS CLASS will be starting this month.** This class is designed to help people decide which church is right for them. We do it by looking at all the major teachings of the Bible and comparing the differences in churches. It's a fun class and a great learning experience. It will answer all the questions you might have about God and church.

# HUMOR

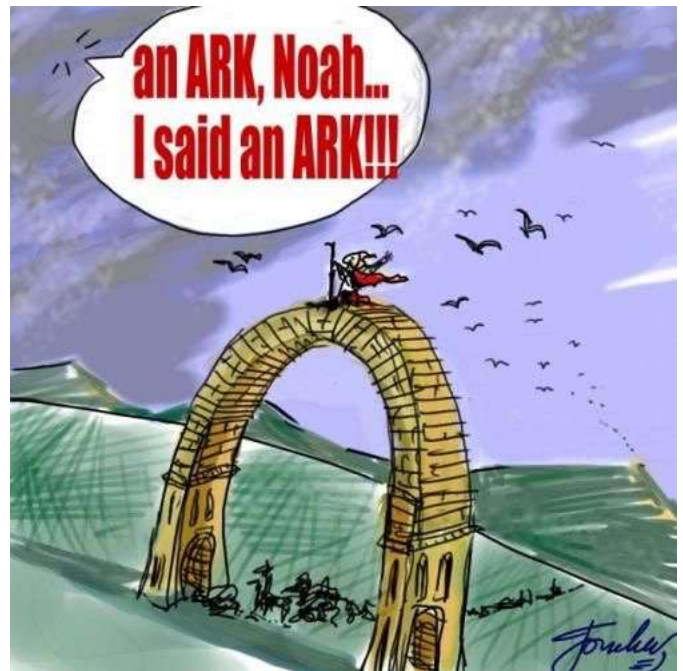
John went on a vacation to the Middle East with his family including his mother-in-law. While they were visiting Jerusalem, John's mother-in-law died. With the death certificate in hand, John went to the American Consulate Office to make arrangements to send the body back to the States for proper burial.

The Consul told John that the sending of a body back to the States for burial is very expensive. It could cost as much as \$7,000.00. The Consul added that most people decide to have the deceased buried locally. This would only cost \$300.00.

John thought for some time and answered, "I don't care how much it will cost to send the body back; that's what I want to do."

The Consul, after hearing this said "You must have loved your mother-in-law very much considering the difference in price."

"No, it's not that," said John. "You see, I know of a case many years ago of a person that was buried here in Jerusalem. On the third day He rose from the dead. And I just can't take that chance."



## Does God love everyone?

Yes, but He prefers "fruits of the spirit" to "religious nuts!"

## The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.

Mosquitoes come close, though.

## Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

## Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?

They were using fowl language.

## Did you hear about the 1-800 service they have for atheists now?

You dial the number and it rings and rings but nobody answers

## Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Samson — he brought the house down

## Who was the best female finance lady in the Bible?

Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet

## What do they call pastors in Germany?

German Shepherds







## **THE LADIES CIRCLE JANUARY NEWS**

**Welcome Ladies to a New Year - 2021!!!!**

### **GOODY BOXES FOR OUR CHURCH SHUT-INS**

Thank you to the ladies who brought in cookies, brownies & candies for our dear shut-ins. Our shut-in church members appreciate these goody boxes so very much!!

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING - "BAGS OF JOY" (You are Not Alone)**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for this year's Christmas Giving. Bags of Joy were delivered to the Cornerstone Mission in Kingman for distribution to the 11 women housed at Diane's Faith House and to the 22 men housed at the Cornerstone Mission. It means so much to give to the men and women who are struggling in these difficult and challenging times.

The Ladies Circle also took 2 tags off the "Angel Tree" at Big Lots for a newborn girl and boy requesting an age-appropriate toy for Christmas. This tree was sponsored by Healthy Families of Kingman/Healthy Families Arizona. These gifts were taken to Big Lots on Saturday, 12/19, which will be picked up by Child Family Resources and given to the parents and child.

### **CHURCH COOKBOOK SALES**

**We have Cookbooks (Recipes from the Heart - 2nd Edition) available in the Narthex to purchase for \$10 each. These cookbooks make nice gifts for any special reason.**

### **JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING**

**Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am  
In the Education Building**

(Monthly meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month)  
Call leaders will contact you prior to the meetings.

**Note: In order to vote on any business item(s), we need at least 8 attendees at any monthly meeting.**

We will continue to practice CDC guidelines with regard to COVID 19...wearing of masks and social distancing.

***CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE & GOD BLESS!***



### **JAN USHERS**

**Tim Mangelsdorf  
Duley Nelson  
Jesse Mangelsdorf  
Don Nomann**



### **JAN BIRTHDAYS**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sue Regalado
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wilma Nomann
11 <sup>th</sup>	Madilyn Coffin
18 <sup>th</sup>	Evelyn Brotsch
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ola Essig
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tim Brotsch
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jeff Hottel
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

# January 2021



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