

~~ APRIL 2021 ~~

The Messenger

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

Phone: 928-757-3543

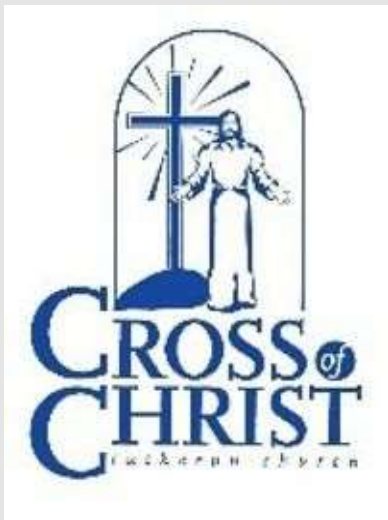
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Monday: 1:30 pm

Tuesday: 11:00 am, 6:30 pm

Wednesday: 4:15 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

Message from the Pastor

A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

Quick: what was the nickname the disciple Thomas has had ever since the first Easter? Doubting Thomas, right? As we get nearer to Easter, I will be talking about him. But for this newsletter, I'd like you to consider this statement he made earlier: ***Then Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us also go that we may die with Him (Jesus)!"*** John 11:16.

Was Thomas unfairly judged by history? Was the Easter doubting an out-of-character comment? It doesn't seem fair to label someone on one event, does it? Nor would it be accurate to say that Thomas was the only disciple in that room who didn't expect to see Jesus again.

Indeed, there was more to Thomas than doubt. In the reading above, we see a very different Thomas. It wasn't Peter, James or even John who rallied to troops to Jesus' side. It was Thomas. Jesus had wanted to return to Judea to see his close friend Lazarus who had taken sick. The problem was, that on his last visit there, the Pharisees had tried to stone Jesus! To say he was a 'persona-non-grata' in the region was an understatement.

But, Jesus could not be persuaded to stay away. Jesus (and his disciples) knew the danger that probably awaited them there. Yet, that was all according to God's marvelous plan—but the disciples were not aware of it.

When it became evident that Jesus was dead-set (get it?) to go, it was Thomas who led the charge. ***"Let's go with Him that we may die with Him."*** That's a strong faith, is it not? Even if we have to die with Him, let's go guys. As Thomas sees it, his life belongs to Christ.

How much 'Thomas' do we have inside us? Or should I say, which part of Thomas lurks beating inside your heart? Death-defier or Doubter? Devoted or Dufus? Would you have said, 'Ok, let's get going' or 'Let's wait and see'? It's really a question of character, is it not? Commitment to Christ or Submission to Self?

“Commit your way unto the Lord; trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass” we read in Psalm 37:5. The reason we can have character and commitment, is that the Lord has committed himself to saving us from sin. He made the ultimate sacrifice. He died for us and rose again as Easter celebrates. Now he calls on us to rejoice and to get rid of doubt and guilt. Now he calls us to rejoice with him.

Faith in Jesus compelled Thomas to say, ‘I will die with you’. Can we have the same commitment to Jesus? Our whole lives should be dedicated to Christ. From the words we use, to the actions we take, and even the thoughts we have, we show our support for Jesus, or our doubt with his directions.

Thomas and the others found there was forgiveness with the Lord no matter how often they failed. Thomas’ doubting was not permanent. We will have doubts too along life’s path. And, we too are forgiven by the same loving Lord. We can express like Thomas did, **“My Lord and my God”** not only during Easter, but all year long. We can be devoted Thomases too.



Thomas is still urging ‘let us go with Him’. Will you gather—either on-line or in person—with fellow Thomases this Easter? Are your doubts holding you back? Listen to Thomas. Into which category will your name be placed? Character or Complacent; Doubt or Devotion?

Jesus is Risen indeed!

Something to Think About How Long will God’s Love Last?

Untethered by time, God sees us all. From the backwoods of Virginia to the business district of London; from the Vikings to the astronauts, from the cave-dwellers to the kings, from the teepees to the sky-scrapers, he sees us. From the accepted to the vagabonds, from athletes to nerds, he knew us before we were born.

And he loves what he sees. Flooded by emotion, overcome by Godly pride, the Star-maker turns to us, one by one, and says, “You are my child. I love you dearly. I’m aware that you have and will turn from me and walk away. But I want you to know, I’ve already provided a way back.”

And to prove it, he did something extraordinary. Stepping from the Heavenly throne, he removed his robe of light and wrapped himself in pigmented human skin. The light of the universe entered a dark womb. He who angels worship was born into a cold world, and then slept on cow’s hay.

Mary didn’t know whether to give him milk or give him praise, so she gave him both since he was hungry and holy.

Joseph didn’t know whether to call him Junior or Father. But in the end, he called him Jesus, since that’s what the angel said. He then cradled God in his arms.

Don’t you think Mary and Joseph tilted their heads and wondered, “What in the world are you doing, God?” (Or, better phrased, “God, what are you doing, in the world?”)

“Can anything make me stop loving you?” God asks. “Watch me speak your language, live on your earth, and feel your hurts. Behold the maker of sight and sound as I perform my miracles and teach about my Kingdom to come.

You wonder if I understand how you feel? Ponder the toddler at Mary’s table; that’s God spilling his milk. Look into eyes of the kid in Nazareth; that’s God walking to school. Hear the sound of the hammer and saw as the maker of the universe constructs a table.

“You wonder how long my love will last? Find your answer on a splintered cross, on a craggy hill. That’s me you see up there, your redeemer, your God, nail-stabbed and blood-soaked. Covered in spit and saddled with your sin. That’s your wrongs I’m paying for. That’s your death I’m dying. That’s your resurrection I’m living. That’s how much I love you.”

Pastor Max Lucado

BIBLE BASEBALL

Single - Who was Abraham’s wife?

Double -Who tricked Samson into cutting his hair?

Triple - Who led Israel after Moses died?

Home Run -Who was the oldest person ever and how long did he live?



Singer/songwriter/worship leader Chris Driesbach (<https://chrisdriesbach.com>) will be here on April 11th at 10:00 to enhance our worship with his unique folksy style of music.

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

Uncle Sam wants you—I mean Pastor wants you—to be a part of the new Bible Basics Class. Even though we are four lessons in, you can still join in! You can start in and catch up with what we covered later. If you know little about the Bible, you need to be in this class. We meet on **Mondays at 1:30**. Call Pastor at 757-3543 if you want to know more.

KIDS CORNER

Check out the new series of videos for children 8 and under on our YouTube channel. These short videos include a Bible lesson and fun experiments kids and parents can try out at home.

NEW!

YOUNG ADULTS EVENING BIBLE CLASS

This group meets on Tuesdays at 6:30PM. 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.

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Please join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. There can be no better time to start (or re-start) coming to church to better know Jesus.

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|--|-------------|
| MAUNDY THURSDAY (The day Jesus started the sacrament of Holy Communion) | 7PM |
| GOOD FRIDAY (The day they crucified Jesus; a service of darkness) | 7PM |
| EASTER EARLY WORSHIP (Outside in the Ramada) | 8AM |
| Easter Breakfast | 9AM |
| EASTER CELEBRATION WORSHIP (In the church; different from the Early) | 10AM |

HUMOR

PECANS IN THE CEMETERY

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys gathered up as many nuts as they could carry in their shirts. They sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me,' said one boy. A couple nuts missed their buckets and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.'

He just knew what it was. He rode off as fast as he could. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along.

'Come here quick,' said the boy, 'you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up souls.'

The man said, 'Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk.' When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to

the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.'

The old man whispered, 'Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord.' Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, but were unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, 'One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done.' They say the old man made it back to town a full 5-minutes ahead of the kid on the bike.



"wait! wait! He doesn't stay dead!"



THE LADIES CIRCLE APRIL NEWS

Ladies Circle Officer Nominations (2-year Term)

- Nomination ballots and collection box will be in the church narthex through Friday, April 9th. The ballots will be collected and all nominees will be contacted prior to the presentation of the official Voting Ballot at the April meeting.
- The newly elected officers will be announced in our May meeting on Saturday, May 8th.

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, April 10th at 9:30 am

In the Education Building

Call leaders will contact you prior to the meetings.

APRIL DEVOTION - "MADE TO PRAY"

from the mini-series "Woman of God-Wonderfully Made"
Contact Rhonda Hutchins, President, if you would like a copy of the past devotions.

We hope you'll join us for fellowship as we plan activities/events in the upcoming months!!!

(Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of the month)

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.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- Spring Bake Sale fundraiser on Sunday, March 28th and Sunday, April 11th
- Craft Sale Fundraiser scheduled in May (Start collecting those handmade crafts now)
- Tea Party scheduled for June

CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE & GOD BLESS!



APR USHERS

**Zeke Jarcik
Dave Brock
Syd Huxtable
Leonard Rezac**



APR BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | Vern Peglow |
| 4 th | Bradley Wood |
| 10 th | Susan McMillin |
| 22 nd | Sarah Maczuga |
| 27 th | Annette Peglow |
| 30 th | Bob Boyd |
| 30 th | Merissa Wood |



April 2021



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