

~~ JUNE 2022 ~~

The Messenger

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

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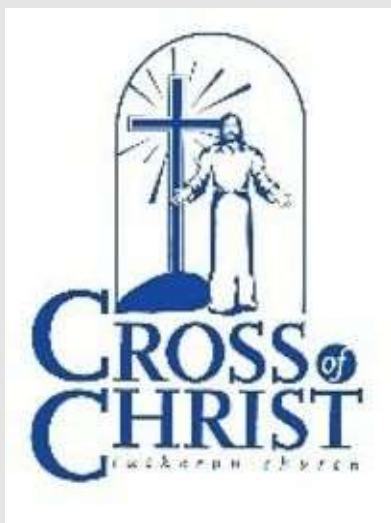
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Tuesday: 11:00 am

Wednesday: 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

Message from Pastor

"I Need More FAITH." The Pendulum.

As part of a college class, we had to go to the Smithsonian. In one room, they had a huge pendulum. The guide there dared us big, tough, fearless college men to test our mettle—by simply not moving. He challenged us to sit against the wall while he moved the 250 lb. pendulum a half-inch from our nose. Then he would let go of the weight. Not one guy could stay still—except the smallest guy in the class. His taunt to us was simply this: "You need more faith."

I can't imagine any honest Christian who wouldn't say a hearty 'Amen' to that statement when thinking about their spiritual condition. Because of the common weakness of his sinful human nature, a greatly distressed father prayed to Jesus with regard to his own weakness of faith: "*I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!*" (Mark 9:24)

Unfortunately, that's the reality of the faith-life of God's people. We want a steadfast faith, but we know uncertainty or doubt gets in our minds way too often. If things get tough, we wonder, 'Does God still love me?' If our prayers are not answered in prompt and favorable (to us) fashion, we think, 'Where are You God?' Even a man of faith like Moses at first—before he said to Pharaoh, "Let my people go!"—tried to get God to send someone else.

We know the facts about God. That's an important part of saving faith: knowing the truth about God and the Savior he has given us. But maintaining those truths in our hearts is even more important.

Since this faith is totally a gift, we need to keep going to the Lord with this request, 'Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!' Faith is a spiritual thing, and it is kept alive and strong only with the Word of our loving God.

The most important thing to remember about faith is that it derives all of its strength from its object, that on which it rests. As a famous preacher once said, "It is not your hold on Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not your joy in Christ that saves you; it is Christ. It is not even your faith in Christ that saves you, (though that is the instrument). It is Christ's blood and merit."

There might indeed be many instances where our faith is pretty shaky, but the Savior and his promises are rock solid. He reminds us, 'I love you! I have saved you! I will never let you go!' God still wants to claim us as His, despite our shortcomings.

That's why Jesus Christ, God's Son, came into the world. He came to do what only Jesus would do— to lay down his life for you. He came to stand in for you and take God's justice demanded for your sins. He faced the pendulum of sin and Satan—and didn't flinch, even though he took the full force of their blow. When you are tested to doubt God's love for you, just take a look at the cross and repeat these words we grew up with: 'Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!'

Something to Think About How about the Widow?

The copier repairman was almost finished. As a test sheet, he picked up a catechism quiz I was going to use later that day. The question at the top of the sheet was this: 'Should our church conduct funerals for unbelievers?'

He wanted to know the answer. "No" I replied, knowing he wouldn't be satisfied. I continued, "If someone didn't want to be in church when they were alive, should we drag him in when they're not? Would the husband want that?"

"What about the widow though?" he continued. I asked God for an answer that would sound like Jesus said it.

I answered him, "In the middle-ages, questionable people who wanted to avoid purgatory—when they were certain they were dying—would take monastic vows after they'd gotten last rites. That way they could be buried in the garb of a monk or nun. They thought they could fool God. Do you think that worked?"



"Of course not." He replied.

"Americans have an idea that is even more foolish. Most Americans think that the way to go to Heaven is just to die. Do you believe that?" After thinking about it, he told me he was too confused to answer. So, I continued.

"Dying is only the way our life on Earth ends. That's not how we get to Heaven. We get to Heaven through faith in Jesus the Savior, don't we?"

"Now, about the widow. All her life she has heard from the Bible that there's only one way to Heaven. That's through faith in Jesus. Jesus died to pay for all her sins. Repent and believe. That's what she's trusted in all her life. And that is the God-given truth. **'He that believes and is baptized will be saved.'**"

"Now, do you want to take that comforting truth away from her, just because it's her husband's funeral? If we did his funeral, there would seem to be a 2nd way of salvation, since he didn't have faith in Jesus. Giving him a Christian burial would surely make her doubt everything I tell her—and make her seek that non-existent 2nd way to Heaven. She could end up in hell herself—just to make her feel a little better at the funeral."

He said he could see my point. "There are dozens of preachers who'll give her that kind of message if she wants to hear it. But I'm not going to be one of them. It's bad enough she's lost her husband. I'm not going to make her lose her faith and her salvation too."

DINNER AND A MOVIE –We will be having dinner & a movie on 6/5 at 4:00 pm. All are welcome! Dinner is free and the movie will be *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry*.



God in Creation

The Ostrich: The Bird Who Isn't

The ostrich is used by evolutionists as evidence of 'vestigial organs.' The wings are said to be vestigial (left over) from a time when this bird could fly. But there's no evidence that the ostrich evolved. Every part of this amazing creature points to perfect design—as a land animal. The evidence shows that it's not a bird that evolved from a flying bird and 'lost' the ability to fly. Rather, it's a bird designed from the ground up for land living.

Ostrich wings are not like the wings of a flying bird. They are not made for flying but for other purposes. They give stability in running and making rapid turns. The ostrich uses its wings as rudders when it makes quick turns, using the wings as counter balances. They're used in courtship displays and stability while mating.



They provide shade and shelter for young. Its wings regulate body temperature. Ostrich feathers aren't flight feathers with the complex interlocking hook system. Ostrich feathers are soft and fluffy and act as perfect insulation.

The ostrich doesn't have a keel on the breastbone (sternum) like flying birds. The keel is a large ridge to which the bird's powerful flight muscles are attached. Since the ostrich doesn't fly, it doesn't need a keel. The ostrich has bones that are solid to provide strength for running and kicking, not hollow for flying.

With its massive body and exaggerated neck, legs, and feet, it could never have flown! A male weighs an average of 250 pounds and stands eight feet high. It can't fly, but it is a magnificent runner. It's the fastest creature on two legs, with a sprinting speed of 43 m.p.h. Its cruising speed is 30 m.p.h.

The ostrich's land-lubber design is obvious in several ways. Its legs are perfectly placed so that the body's center of gravity balances on top of its legs. The ostrich's two-toed foot is perfectly designed for running with its long toe having a strong nail that grips the ground. With each step, the ostrich produces an explosive 1,900 pounds of force to propel it forward—more than twice the 900 pounds that a human generates.

Like no other bird, the ostrich fights with its feet, which can kill a lion with its powerful kick. The ostrich is one of God's varied designs and a beauty to behold.

HUMOR

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Thanks to Darnell Fenderson

06-25-2012

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(See Revelation 21:21)

06-20-2008

ONE OF THESE DAYS WE'LL BE PAVING OUR
ROADS WITH THIS STUFF

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Forest Gump and St. Peter

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.' "

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

- 1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

THE LADIES CIRCLE

JUNE NEWS



MAY MEETING - HIGHLIGHTS

- May was our last monthly business meeting for the business year 2021-2022.
- Monthly business meetings will commence in September 2022, for the new 2022-2023 year.
- The annual mission donation of \$75 will be mailed to the Lutheran Girl Pioneers in May. (Note: this donation is a correction from May's Newsletter; no mission donation was mailed in April),



2021-2022 Devotion Series - Women of the Bible
and Their Gifts

May - Hannah (a praying woman)
(1 Samuel 1:1 thru 1 Samuel 2:11)

All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend and join in the fellowship, devotion topics, and planning future activities.



ALTAR COMMITTEE - FLOWERS

-If you would like to provide fresh flowers for a Sunday service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Trish Gename, Ladies Circle President.



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN - CHANGE FOR LIFE

- The annual "Baby Bottle Campaign" started on Mother's Day, May 8th and will run through Father's Day, June 19th.
- Baby bottles are available in the Narthex. You can put change, paper money or a check, payable to Cross of Christ Ladies Circle, inside the bottle.
- Return the baby bottle by Father's Day, Sunday, June 19th.
- Collected donations will be divided between the Advice and Aid Pregnancy Center here in Kingman and the WELS Christian Resource Center. kitchen



The Sunday fellowship menu schedule is available in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help out in the kitchen, contact Christine Hanson or Trish Gename.



JUNE USHERS

Bill Neal
Carl Barnes
Gage Wolfe
Luke Mangelsdorf
Bill Bigford



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

13th Megan Coffin
13th Mike Coffin
18th Michael Dom
22nd Carol Lochner
23rd Kathy Reimers
29th Tamara Vincent



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6th John & Betty Henning
12th Mike & Melody Coffin

FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE	
DAY	MAIN DISH
5 th	Italian
12 th	Hot Dogs
19 th Father's Day	Meat Loaf
26 th	Breakfast

June 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal 4:00 pm Dinner and a Movie 		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class		1:30 pm Bible Class		9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast 10:30 am Elders Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	6:00 pm Council Mtg	8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class		1:30 pm Bible Class		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class		1:30 pm Bible Class		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class				