

The Messenger

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

Phone: 928-757-3543

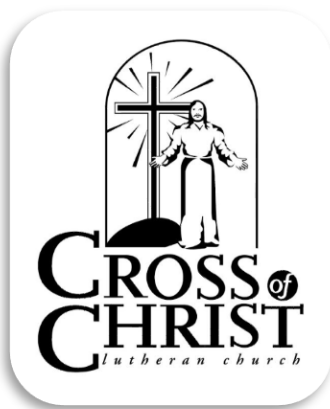
Website:

www.crossofchrist-kingman.com

Email:

Crossofchristkingman@gmail.com

Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 AM

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Monday: 7:00 PM

Tuesday: 11:00 am & 1:15 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Thursday: 10:30 AM

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 AM

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 AM



May 2023

Been there. Done that.

Christian Author Tim Keller has made a compelling observation about Christianity in our modern society. He says that many in our culture look at Christianity and think, 'Been There, Done That'. In other words, from this point of view, they grew up in the church, have a fair knowledge of Christian teachings, and it was nice then, but now they're bored with it. They've moved on. 'Been There, Done That'. Saw the movie; wasn't impressed.

But, according to Keller, the real problem is that many have become familiar with the trappings of the Faith—but just enough to 'inoculate' themselves. They grew up in the church but, having not received the 'answers' they were seeking, abandoned the faith—save for a couple times a year or in desperation. After all, the Bible has no 'apps' and doesn't give the immediate solutions. So, the thinking goes, Jesus is nice. He's good for my kids. He makes me feel better at funerals, but... I'll just ask my friends—they'll probably give me the answers I want anyway.

If Keller's observations are valid, then we need to ask ourselves an important question: Have we fallen into the same trap? Somewhere along the line, has our familiarity with Christianity, lead us to think 'Been There, Done That'?

If we drink that worldly 'Kool-Aid,' that means you and I have dabbled in the same king of cultural 'wisdom' that St. Paul describes in 1 Cor. Ch. 1. He reminds us that such wisdom is no wisdom at all. It's foolishness. The way to Heaven is only through Jesus.

Like celebrating your anniversary, Jesus never gets old. But often we fail to appreciate him, just like the tires on your car. They're always there giving you a safe ride. Only when we have problems do we see how much we need Jesus.

Just as your love for your spouse changes over the years, so does our faith. It should become more comforting, more certain, more worth celebrating. How easily the trees of the worldly distractions prevent us from seeing God's forest of forgiveness. Thank God that the Lord Jesus does what he had to do to pull us out of our spiritual blahs and show us how important he is for eternity and for life.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT....

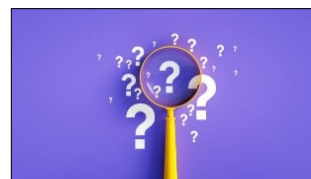
Does God Exist?

In Dr. Stephen Unwin's book *The Probability of God*, the noted PhD and statistical analyst determined that "more than likely, God exists." I'm sure that God, *more than likely*, was pleased to hear that. (Or maybe he's shaking his head, reaching for an aspirin.) But first, the back-story...

In the eighteenth-century, Thomas Bayes, a Presbyterian pastor and mathematician, devised a statistical calculation known as the *Bayesian Probabilities Method*. Bayes hoped to use the system to prove the existence of God ... mathematically. Unfortunately, Bayes died before he could publish his findings.

Two hundred years later, Dr. Unwin decided to resurrect Bayes' theorem and take the test himself. He felt confident he could provide an unbiased position because, in Unwin's mind, the question of God's existence wasn't a theological issue, but rather a matter of statistics.

Unwin began by assigning a 50% probability that God exists — allowing an equal 50% that God doesn't exist. Next, the good doctor used the same *determining lines of evidence* from the Bayesian system, supplying percentages to each response. He admitted his answers were somewhat subjective, but felt he had remained as neutral as possible. The Bayesian *determining lines of evidence* included...



- *The recognition of goodness* — or do acts of kindness suggest there is a God?
- *The existence of moral evil* — or do acts of evil suggest there is no God?
- *The existence of natural evil* — or do earthquakes and human suffering deny an all-powerful God?
- *The intra-natural miracles* — such as, if we pray for someone who's ill, and that person recovers, does that suggest a God at work?
- *The extra-natural miracles* — such as, if someone has died, and then is brought back to life, should God be given the credit?
- *Religious experiences* — such as, if a person commits himself to God, and then his life and behavior changes for the better, does that imply the existence of God?

Unwin added up his percentages and concluded a 67% chance that God exists!

The debate over God's existence has been raging for millennia. When confronted, we typically use one of the following arguments to support our position...

- The Cosmological Argument — Things don't just appear for no reason. For every effect, there must be a cause. Since there was a beginning, there had to be a *Beginner* who caused it.
- The Teleological or Intelligent Design Argument — All designs imply a designer who has the intelligence and ability to design. Since the universe exhibits incalculable design, there must be a Master Designer behind it.
- The Complexity Argument — Our enormously complex universe displays infinite organization. Even the simplest single-cell bacterium, with its vast storage-filled DNA, can't possibly be explained away by random chance.
- The Moral Argument — The world-view of atheism denies the existence of God and His purposes. However, that would mean that atheism also denies absolute, transcendent morals. So, where did humans get their moral values?
- The Historical Argument — Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. On 16 different occasions, He foretold His death and resurrection. He then proved His claims by rising from the dead. For forty days following that event, hundreds of people saw Him alive.

These arguments are compelling and they should be. The evidence is overwhelmingly conclusive. We have "*many infallible proofs*" (Acts.1.3) to support our beliefs. However, even with these arguments and proofs, many will choose not to believe. Friedrich Nietzsche, the famed atheist who launched the *God is Dead* movement said, "It is our preference that decides against Christianity, not arguments."



We've been sent an Easter message from God. Don't let the faithless keep you from it. We have all the 'proof' we need—the tomb was empty. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Provided by Pastor Ron Walters

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25,26

VIET-NAM SEMINARY IS DONE! The new Theological Education Center was completed and passed inspection in January. WELS took full ownership of the building at that time. The new center includes a chapel, classrooms, and dormitory/cafeteria space for up to 60 visiting students at a time. A formal building dedication and graduation ceremony for the first class of 57 pastors who have completed their seminary training is scheduled for July 2023. We gave money to help with construction.



Pastor Mueller's Retirement Luncheon

You are invited to celebrate Pastor Paul's 40 years of service and retirement.

When: Sunday, June 25, 2023
Time: Immediately following the 10 AM Worship Service
Where: Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
4045 N. Van Nuys Road Kingman, AZ 86409

The luncheon is being catered, so it is important you RSVP no later than June 4th.

Option 1: Go to www.crossofchrist-kingman.com. Select "EVENTS" located in the upper right corner. EVENTS will take you to a screen heading "Pastor's Retirement Luncheon." Complete all the fields. Be sure to provide a meal preference for each person in your party in the "Message" box.

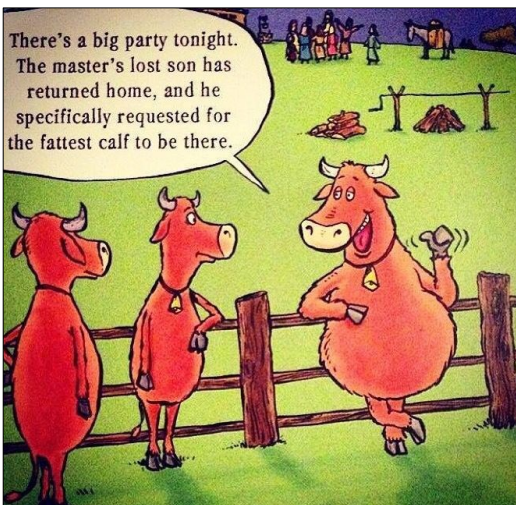
Option 2: Send an email to Crossofchristkingman@gmail.com or telephone the church. Be prepared to provide your name and the number of guests who will be attending with you. For each person in your party, include their choice of meal. Choices are (1) Salisbury Steak, (2) Baked Chicken, or (3) Fried Chicken.

RUMMAGE SALE

May 12 and 13
8:00 AM until 2:00 PM both days

We have a ton of stuff. Like they say, "If we don't have it, you don't need it." Donations are welcome. Drop it off or call church at 757-3543 for details. If you would like the help sort, price, and display the items beforehand, call text Leena Mesa at 377-6244.

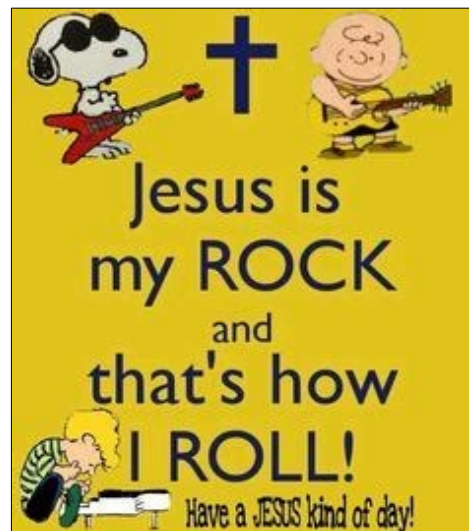
----- Christian Humor



Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"Our family is trying one of those old-fashioned churches, with preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff."



The Ladies Circle

May's Monthly Meeting

When: Saturday, May 20th 9:30 am

Place: Education Building

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from September thru May. This will be the last meeting of the 2022-2023 business year.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join in the fellowship, devotion topics, planning future activities, and the WELS Missions we support.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR THE 2023-2024 BUSINESS YEAR

Voting for the 2023-2024 Ladies Circle Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer) is closed. The results will be announced during the May meeting.

Nominees for Ladies Circle President and Treasurer were confirmed in the April meeting on Saturday, April 15th. However, a Secretary nominee/nominees is/are needed.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, who has indicated an interest in the secretary position, be sure to attend the meeting on May 20th, to nominate yourself or present the secretary nominee. The election results will be announced during the May meeting.

MISSION SUPPORT

-\$150 being sent to ALA (Arizona Lutheran Academy/GALA)

-\$75 being sent to the India Children's Home and Schools

PUBLICIST needed (volunteer position)

Contact Trish Olsen, President, if you are interested in preparing the Ladies Circle material for the weekly Sunday bulletin and the monthly newsletter.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 7th Nicole Wolfe
- 8th McKenzie Coffin
- 8th Bob Thone
- 10th John Henning
- 11th Sasha Mangelsdorf
- 11th Dave Reimers
- 15th Shaunna Nelson
- 17th Richard Blazer
- 18th Rachael Maczuga
- 25th Duley Nelson
- 26th Joy Kyzer
- 27th Rhonda Hutchins
- 29th James Allen Brotsch



15th

- 26th James & Sarah Maczuga
- 31st Luke & Sasha Mangelsdorf
- 31st Bob & Lynda Boyd



MAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

DAY

- 7th
- 14th
- 21st
- 28th

MAIN DISH

- Pizza
- International
- Favorite Recipes
- Hot Dogs and Hamburgers



MAY USHERS

- Luke Mangelsdorf
- Gage Wolfe
- Jay Schmidt

<p><u>FUTURE ACTIVITY</u></p> <p>The new women's social group will be meeting Wednesday afternoons, from 1 to 2 PM, starting Wednesday, June 7th. Our first meeting will be an opportunity to share ideas about how we would like to spend this social hour.</p>	<p>Contact Christine Hanson if you'd like join the Alter Committee.</p> <p>MAY ALTER COMMITTEE</p> <p>Zeke Jarcik Wilma Nomann</p>
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Would you like to receive this newsletter in your email inbox? Send an email to www.PatriciaAToth@outlook.com to let her know!

May 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00 PM Bible Study	8:00 AM Workday 11:00 AM Bible Class 1:15 Foundations of Faith	7 PM Foundations in Faith	10:30 PM Bible Class		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM Communion Worship Service 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting 11:30 AM Fellowship Meal	6:00 PM Council Mtg. 7:00 PM Bible Study	8:00 AM Workday 11:00 AM Bible Class	7 PM Foundations in Faith	10:30 PM Bible Class	8 - 2 Rummage Sale	9:30 AM Men's Bible Breakfast 10:30 AM Elders Meeting 8 - 2 Rummage Sale
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day 9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Fellowship Meal	7:00 PM Bible Class	8:00 AM Workday 11:00 AM Bible Class 1:15 PM Bible Class 4:00 PM Choir	7 PM Foundations in Faith	10:30 PM Bible Class		9:30 AM Ladies Circle Meeting
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM Communion Worship Service 11:15 AM Fellowship Meal	7:00 PM Bible Class	8:00 AM Workday 11:00 AM Bible Class 1:15 PM Bible Class 4:00 PM Choir	7 PM Foundations in Faith	10:30 PM Bible Class		
28	29	30	31			
9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Fellowship Meal	Memorial Day 7:00 PM Bible Class	8:00 AM Workday 11:00 AM Bible Class 1:15 PM Bible Class 4:00 PM Choir	7 PM Foundations in Faith	10:30 PM Bible Class		