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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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June 2026

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601 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541  
Phone: 928-474-2552  
[www.mountcross.org](http://www.mountcross.org)

## Sunday Worship/Communion Service

9:30 a.m.

Livestreamed  
*Online Worship Service*

Mount Cross Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/MountCrossPayson>

Mount Cross YouTube Link  
[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=payson+mount+cross](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=payson+mount+cross)

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Pastor

Rev. Carl Sirotzki  
928-474-2552  
608-370-1284 (emergencies)  
[pastor@mountcross.org](mailto:pastor@mountcross.org)

Music Director  
Daria Mason  
[daria1024mason@gmail.com](mailto:daria1024mason@gmail.com)

Accompanist  
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator  
Lenore M. White  
[secretary@mountcross.org](mailto:secretary@mountcross.org)

Custodian  
Keri Morris

## ***Pastor's Musings & Ponderings***

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

This scripture is not a promise of an easy path for us, but an encouragement that God's plans are ultimately good. I realize that at some time or another, we may have questioned God's plan for us. Maybe we have wondered that if this is God's plan for us to prosper and give us hope and a future, then it's a really good thing we are on God's good side!

Yet, we can trust that God's love will never leave us and the plans God has promised for each and every one of us will be fulfilled. The hardest thing for us to do is to have patience and wait on God's timing. We are to have faithful trust and perseverance in God. Too often, we may tend to expect God to pull us out of whatever hardships we may be going through with the snap of his fingers as if God is a magician or hypnotist on stage. It can be very hard for us to maintain our faithful endurance in what could be, in our opinion, too slow of a process. God assures us that whatever challenges or difficulties we may be going through, God promises us that no matter what, God will be faithful in his plans for doing only what is best for us.

You may recall what I told you when I first came here to be your pastor. I told you that one of the things that I saw in this congregation was the resilience you have displayed through the number of changes you have experienced. I still believe that and know the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and work through you.

In closing, please know that you will be missed, and Jo and I will always hold a special place for you in our hearts. You truly are an amazing congregation and I believe that God has plans for you, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Peace,  
*Pastor Carl*  
Philippians 1:3-4

# GLOBAL MISSIONS

The featured food item for the month of June is **cans of soup** (*preferably pop-tops*). Featured items may be placed on the table located in the narthex near the entrance doors going into the sanctuary.

Reminder: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is *Food Bank Sunday*. You are encouraged to purchase any non-perishable food items and place them in the grocery cart on that Sunday.

August is just around the corner, the month in which the Global Missions Team will be having their annual Rummage Sale. The date of Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> has been selected for the event and will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Please gather your unwanted household items. You may drop off your smaller items in the music room.

Please note the items that we will **NOT** be accepting: Dirty, stained, broken or torn items; VHS tapes; televisions; computers; used plastic food containers (i.e. cottage cheese, sour cream, margarine, etc). All donations must be in usable condition.

Proceeds from the sale will go to local charities. If you are interested in helping the days of the sale, please join the fun and contact Cheryl Roberts. The more the merrier! Many hands will be needed to set up and to help with the sale itself.

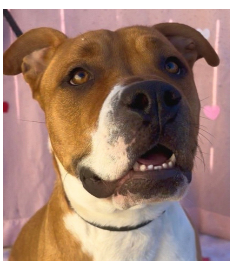
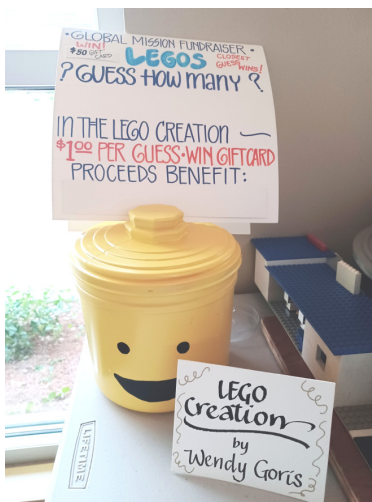


## Cityscape Summer Lego Event

We are currently running a fundraising event in which Wendy Goris has created a city landscape.

Can you guess how many Legos were used in this panorama? You are welcome to take as many guesses as you want at dollar a guess! This fund-raiser will continue through Labor Day, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

The winner with the closest guess to the amount actually used to build the miniature city will be the recipients of a \$50 gift card to Fargos.



Upon completion of this event, future pets will be helped, because the Payson Humane Society will be the recipients of the proceeds.

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – April 2026)



2026 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$308,699.90
Income . . . . .	\$117,935.00 (% of 2026 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$95,935.00 (% of 2026 budget)
Under (Over) . . . . .	\$22,000.00

Pledged-to-date / Given . . . . . \$55,455.00 / \$73,424.00 (132.4%)

2026 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during April 2026 . . . . .	\$3,021.00
Total Principal paid out in 2026 for mortgage. . . . .	\$26,996.00
Current Principal balance . . . . .	\$296,400.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date . . . . .	\$10,265.00 / \$30,236.00 (294.5%)

*Please note: above amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.*

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2026  
 Mount Cross. . . . . \$538.00

Yours in Christ,  
 Barb DeYoung  
 Finance Secretary

**Monthly Jazz  
 Concerts**

Jazz Concerts will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Mount Cross sanctuary.

The next concert will occur on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**OFFICE  
 HOURS**

Office hours  
 Monday through Thursday  
 June 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>  
 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Closed on  
 Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>  
 in observance of  
 the federal holiday,  
*Juneteenth.*

Office will also be closed  
 on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>  
 for Deep Cleaning Day.



**June Birthdays**

- 5 Lori Andretta
- 7 Doug Herbster
- 10 Donna Reifschneider
- 11 Gail Bensen  
Jim McCall
- 13 Edda Hefner
- 14 Mary Havenor
- 15 Curt Goris  
Nancy Peiffer
- 16 Rebecca Gjerde  
Alice Natale
- 22 Barry DeChaine
- 26 Marty Ahlman
- 29 Doug Mann

**June Wedding Anniversaries**

- 1 Gary/Sharon Vaplon
- 21 Barry/Nancy Peiffer

## Spiritual Growth Opportunities

### Worship Services

Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook.

Sundays, 9:30 AM

### Prayer Session

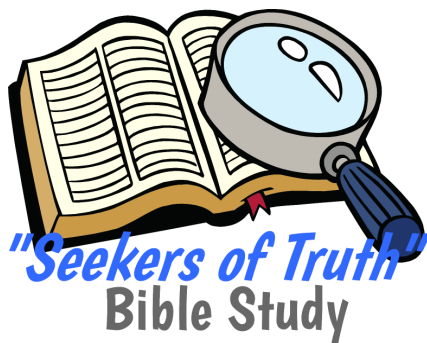
Weekly gathering of those who desire to spend time in prayer: *"Where two or more are gathered in Jesus' name, Jesus is there among them."*

Thursdays, 11:30 AM in the Ponderosa Room.

### Seekers of Truth Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study which will be focusing on the parables of Jesus. All are welcome to attend.

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 9:30 AM in the conference room.



*Seekers of Truth* is a small Bible study and fellowship group for women and men. The formal discussion period of the meeting generally lasts about an hour and is followed by a time for sharing and support. If you have questions please contact Susan Nafziger, the group discussion leader, or Jan Bartoli, the group facilitator.

This Bible study will not be meeting during the months of June, July, and August. It will resume on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

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## DEEP CLEANING of MOUNT CROSS

We moved into our new church building in 2014 and there have been a lot of footsteps in and out in these past 12 years. It is time to do a deep cleaning and do any minor repairs on walls, etc. to ready the building as we move on to the activities in the coming years.

OUR WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE ARE WORKING TOGETHER AND HAVE DECLARED THE MONTH OF JUNE **"DEEP CLEANING MONTH"**

We are asking the following groups and their leaders to take care of the following areas:

Altar Guild – Linda Wiebe: Sacristy

Congregational Life – Cheryl Roberts: kitchen and storeroom

Music participants – Daria Mason: music room

Worship & Music – Sharon Vaplon, Barb DeYoung, Susan Nafziger: Ponderosa Room and office

Worship & Music Committee and musicians: Sanctuary

Property Committee – Bob Walker: repair walls, clean entryway floor mats, etc.



Our goal: have all the deep cleaning done before the carpets and upholstery are professionally cleaned.

MONDAY, JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> – office closed due to the All Stages Carpet Cleaning will be in to do all the upholstered chairs, carpets and rugs. Our custodian will then do all the floors and bathrooms, and we will be ready to enjoy our summer and beyond

Watch for information in the coming weeks from the committees—we encourage everyone to participate as you are able.



## Sunday Potluck Brunch

Food, Fellowship, Fun!

Fathers' Day, June 21<sup>st</sup>

in the log building after the service

Bring a food dish to share!

**Monday, June 15th at Mount Cross Lutheran Church**

**Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment  
near you! **800-324-9458**  
and use code: **HABC001**



June is the month to celebrate Father's Day and a time to be health conscious of fathers, sons, brothers, and important men in the lives of families.

This is why Mount Cross Lutheran Church is hosting Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings on Monday, June 15, 2026 and will be held in the log building on the campus. The screenings provided focus on vascular disease, a leading cause of illness and disability among men.

Screenings are fast, painless and affordable. Three key tests check for blocked carotid arteries, an irregular heart rhythm called atrial fibrillation, and high blood pressure, which are the three leading risk factors for stroke.

Other tests check for abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Many events also offer blood tests, including cholesterol, glucose and c-reactive protein screenings, as well as take-home colon cancer early detection tests.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-844-591-7160 or go to <https://llsa.social/HC> or text the word circle to 216-279-1607. Pre-registration is required.