
Mount Cross Chronicle

May 2026



601 E. Highway 260
Payson, AZ 85541
Phone: 928-474-2552
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

Pastor
Rev. Carl Sirotzki
928-474-2552
608-370-1284 (emergencies)
pastor@mountcross.org

Music Director
Daria Mason
daria1024mason@gmail.com

Accompanist
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator
Lenore M. White
secretary@mountcross.org

Custodian
Keri Morris

Pastor's Musings & Ponderings

"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."

Matthew 28:19-20 (CEV)

Let's look at the scripture that I have referenced above, Matthew 28:19-20. This is part of what is often referred to as the Great Commission. This does not mean to convert, but to make disciples. This wasn't merely a suggestion, but a calling. We are called to actively share our faith with others and not simply wait for others to come to us. We do this by teaching, guiding and helping others to obey Christ. However, the key to us doing this is that we are, in fact, doing what we are preaching. In other words, we are to "walk the walk" and not simply "talk the talk."

I remember one of my high school teachers from years ago telling my classmates and me that talk can be cheap. At first, I didn't fully grasp what this teacher was trying to say. Eventually, I figured out what this teacher meant. Anyone can sound good by what they say, but if it is just words without meaning and practice to back them up, those words are just hollow. Do you remember the parable of the Sower and Seed in Matthew 13? It is important for us to remember that Jesus doesn't just send out the disciples, and us, with a good luck pat on the back. He assures us that "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

During May, we will hear the Gospel according to John in four of the five Sundays in May. Also during May, we will celebrate Christ's Ascension, Pentecost, and Holy Trinity Sunday. It looks like May is going to be a pretty action packed month! Although the Ascension falls on a Thursday, we will still be able to celebrate this special day of the Liturgical Calendar by immersing ourselves in the readings for that day. Although I will remind us later, the readings for that day are Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47 or 93, Ephesians 1:15-23, and Luke 24:44-52.

I am excited that one of our newer members, Cheryl Roberts, will be joining Jo and I at this year's Grand Canyon Synod Assembly. The dates are June 11th through the 13th and it will be held at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa. The theme of this year's Synod Assembly is "*Rooted in God's Story.*"

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



Thursday, May 7, 2026

In April of 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill into law which proclaimed a national day of prayer. President Ronald Reagan amended the law and designated the first Thursday in May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped. (2Samuel 24: 25b)

How best to handle the fears and uncertainties that face the world, our nation, our state, our county, and our town than to lift our concerns up to our Lord in prayer.

Please spend time in prayer from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on May 7th to place your prayer offerings before the Lord.

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Lord, we know that You are fully aware of all that is going on within the world You gave us to oversee and take care of. Adam and Eve were remiss in allowing Satan to “trick” them into handing over that authority. You are the only one who can change the mistakes made since that time and turn them to good. Please place Your hand upon this nation and heal it!



The featured item for the month of May will be boxes of cereal. Featured items may be placed on the table located in the narthex near the entrance doors going into the sanctuary.

Reminder: the 3rd 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.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who were so kind to send consolation notes and words of sympathy upon Clyde’s passing. It has meant so much to me, knowing that you are thinking of me during this time.



With deep fondness for my Mount Cross family,
Gail Bensen



During the first week of May, the office hours will be shortened.

- Monday, May 4 through Thursday, May 7: 9:00–11:30 AM
- Friday, May 8: Office closed
- Monday & Tuesday, May 11 & 12: 9:00–11:30 AM

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – March 2026)



2026 Approved Budget	\$333,699.58
Income	\$89,113.00 (26.7% of 2026 budget)
Expenditures	\$72,892.00 (21.8% of 2026 budget)
Under (Over)	\$16,222.00

Pledged-to-date / Given

\$50,030.00 / \$57,503.00 (114.9%)

2026 Mortgage Fund


Total given to the Mortgage Fund during March 2026	\$3,106.00
Total Principal paid out in 2026 for mortgage	\$24,980.00
Current Principal balance	\$298,416.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date	\$9,530.00 / \$27,626.00 (289.9%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2026	
Mount Cross	\$180.00

Yours in Christ,
Barb DeYoung
Finance Secretary

OFFICE HOURS



Office will be closed on
Monday, May 25th
in observance of
Memorial Day



- May Birthdays**
19 Tonnie Dice
- May Wedding Anniversaries**
22 Ed/Terri Stevens
27 Mark/Jan Bartoli
- May Baptisms**
1 Alice Natale

PENTECOST
SUNDAY



May 24th
9:30 AM

"Wear Red" Sunday!

God's work.
Our hands.



Are hands the only part of our body that can do work for God?
How about our voices? Do you like to sing?
The Mount Cross Praise Choir would love to have you join with them.
Lifting praise to the Lord through song raises the spirit within us and that joy becomes apparent to others around us and is contagious. This joy that is spread through song can provide encouragement and hope to others.

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 Group

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."*

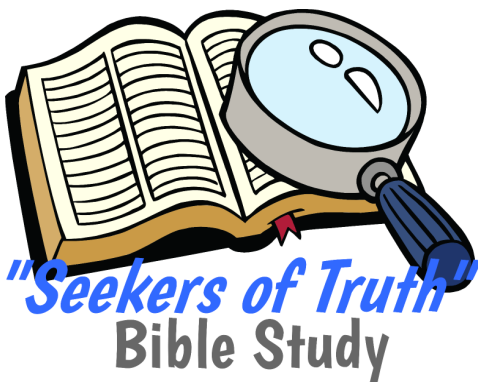
Thursdays, 11:30 AM in the conference room.



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.

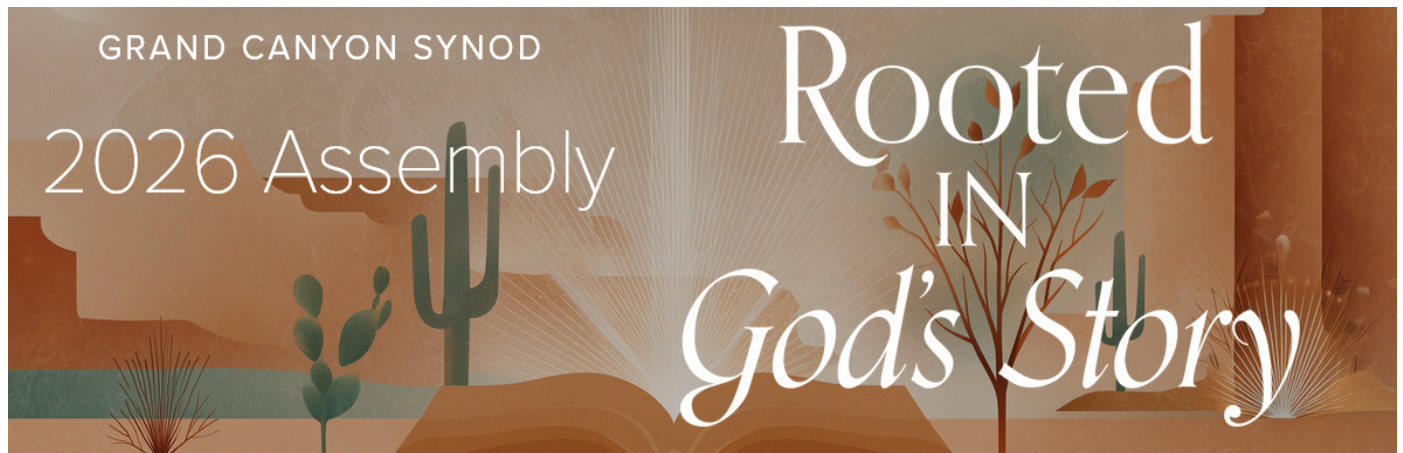
3rd Thursday of the month, 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Seekers of Truth is a small Bible study and fellowship group for women and men, which is held on the third Thursday of each month in the conference room at 9:30 a.m. May 21st is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the parables of Jesus.

All are welcome to attend. All you need is a Bible. 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.



The 2026 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly (June 11-13, 2026) is fast approaching, and there are many ways to participate-whether or not you are attending in person. Do you have a recipe with a story? Do you have a talent you would love to share with other Lutherans? Would you like to support this year's service project and or giving focus?

Under this year's theme, *"Rooted in God's Story"* (Psalm 78:4), we are inviting congregations and ministry partners across Arizona; southern Nevada; St. George, Utah; and the Navajo Nation to share, create, lead, celebrate, and give as part of our life together as the body of Christ.

On the next page are four key ways to participate in this year's Assembly:

1. Share Your Ministry Story

Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2026

God is at work across our synod, and your story matters.

We invite congregations and ministry partners to submit:

- written reflections
- photos
- short videos (2-3 minutes)
- audio recordings that highlight how your community is living out the gospel.

These stories may be featured during Assembly and across synod communications, including our blog, newsletter, and social media.

This is an opportunity to bear witness to the Holy Spirit at work-in outreach ministries, partnerships, worship, justice work, and everyday moments of faith.

Send submissions to: bflatgard@gcsynod.org

2. Contribute to "Rooted at the Table" (Recipe Project)

Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2026

We are creating a community recipe book-Rooted at the Table-that will be shared with every Assembly participant.

This project is about more than food. It is about memory, culture, and faith lived around tables-from potlucks to funeral meals to celebrations of baptism and confirmation.

Submit a recipe along with a short story (500-600 words or fewer) that reflects:

- Who taught you the recipe
- When it is shared
- Why it matters in your life or congregation

Space is limited, and submissions should be final and ready to print.

3. Perform in the Friday Night Variety Show

Proposal Deadline: Monday, April 27, 2026

After a full day of Assembly, we will gather on Friday, June 12 for a joyful evening of creativity.

We are inviting 5-7 minute, family-friendly acts-including music, storytelling, poetry, comedy, cultural performances, and more. Pastor Thaddeus Book (Desert Cross Lutheran, Tempe) will serve as emcee.

This is a chance to celebrate the gifts of our synod and experience the joy that comes through shared creativity. A limited number of acts will be selected.

4. Participate in Our Synod-Wide Giving Focus (open to all congregations)

This year's Assembly offering will support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)-a small but vibrant church serving in the places where our faith first took root.

Congregations are invited to participate whether or not they are attending Assembly by collecting an offering locally and sending it with participants or mailing it to the synod office.

The ELCJHL's ministry includes:

- Six congregations across the region
- Four schools serving over 3,000 students
- Ongoing work in education, peace building, and reconciliation

The Synod Assembly is more than a gathering. It is a shared expression of who we are as the church-a people rooted in God's story and sent into the world.

So whether you submit a story, share a recipe, perform in the variety show, or contribute to the Assembly offering, you are helping to tell the story of God's work among us.

Thank you for helping to make the 2026 Synod Assembly a success!

Kathye Hamm

Chair, GCS 2026 Assembly

More from the Global Missions Team...

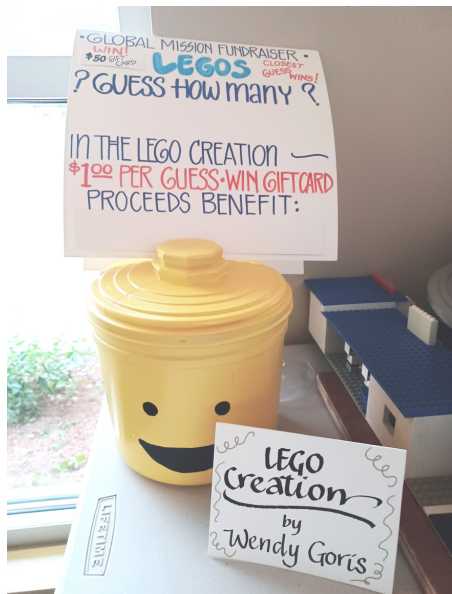


Save Your
Items for Our
Rummage Sale

The time is drawing near for the Global Missions Team's annual Rummage Sale, which will be held in August (date to be determined) from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please gather your unwanted household items. You may drop off your smaller items in the office conference 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 7th.

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 a local establishment.



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





Concert Band & Jazz Ensemble
Directed by Mr. Alan Simpson



Tuesday, May 5, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Mt. Cross Lutheran Church
Free admission & refreshments



PAYSON
CAMPUS

Eastern Arizona College, Payson Campus
201 N. Mud Springs Rd. Payson, Arizona 85641
(928) 468-8039 · www.eac.edu

Eastern Arizona College does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin, sex, disability, or age. Approved for veterans benefits. Tuition is waived for Arizona residents who are 55-plus. Tuition waiver does not cover class or lab fees, books, or out-of-state tuition.

And...

All that Jazz!



Monthly Jazz Concerts

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

The next concert will occur on Sunday, May 10th.

All in the Payson community are invited to attend and enjoy an afternoon of music!

You are invited!



Our God Is an Awesome God

LaDonna Welsh, Piano

Sunday, May 3, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Payson United Methodist Church
414 N Easy Street
(no cost)



LaDonna Welsh will share piano arrangements of well-loved Christian hymns/praise songs during the free program titled "Our God Is an Awesome God". You are warmly invited to this opportunity to celebrate God's gift of music. LaDonna has a Master of Music degree from Arizona State University and is retired from a career in music ministry and public education. Please plan to come, invite your friends and neighbors, and share 75 minutes worshipping God through music.