
Mount Cross Chronicle

November 2024



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

"...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NRSVUE)

In the past couple of months, my newsletter articles have focused on the importance of giving thanks, being thankful. Well, guess what, the theme of thanks will be continued in this month's article as well. However, in this month's article, I will be focusing on a more unique form of giving thanks.

I had the pleasure of attending the Bishop's Fall Gathering from October 21st through the 23rd. The main topic of this conference had to do with storytelling and that gave me the idea of writing about the importance of storytelling for this article.

Have you ever heard the expression of "What's your story?" Maybe you heard it in a movie or read it in a book. Maybe it was a parent asking you, "So what's your story?" Sometimes this question was asked because someone wanted your version, your story, of some event you were involved in or witnessed. For this article, I am asking you about sharing some aspect of your life, your story, with another person and then asking them what their story is. We all have been blessed with stories. Stories about our family, stories about growing up, our personal faith stories, well you get the idea. Our stories give us identity and let others know about us.

During the month of November, I am encouraging all of us to share "our story" with someone. It could be with someone you know or are just getting to know. The story can be a familiar one you have shared a number of times, or it could be a story that you might never have shared before. It's also important to encourage someone to share their story with you. When we do this, give thanks to our gracious Lord for giving you your story and give thanks for the story someone shares with you.

Consider doing this as you gather with friends and family over the coming Thanksgiving holiday. God has blessed us richly by giving all of us "our story" to share and to appreciate.

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace,

Pastor Carl

Philippians 1:3-4



Our  STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
will be held at
Payson United Methodist Church
on Tuesday, November 26th
at 7:00 p.m.

*Pastor Carl will be delivering
the **message** at the service.*



Share in food and fellowship on Thanksgiving Day! This time of meal sharing will start at 3:00 p.m. on November 28th and will be held in the log building. Bring your favorite holiday side-dish to share. A sign-up sheet can be found on the snack table during Sunday morning coffee time. The meat will be provided, so please sign up in advance to let the chefs know how much meat to prepare and to provide information on food items that others plan to bring.



Join us on Wednesday, December 4th at 8:00 a.m. The trees and decorations will be pulled out from storage and set up in preparation for the Christmas tree lighting service. All are welcome to enjoy a morning of working together to get ready for the upcoming Advent/Christmas season.

*Your Property, Altar Guild, and
Worship & Music Committees*

Pastor Carl's weekly schedule

Monday: Sabbath (day off)
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Thursday: study, prayer time (not in office,
but available by phone, emergencies)
Friday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Saturday: By appointment



PREPARETH THY HEARTS FOR HIS COMING!

The 1st Sunday of Advent is December 1st and materials are available to help prepare your hearts for this joyful season leading into the celebration of Christ's birth. Please feel free to pick up, from the entrance table in the narthex, any or all of the following Advent items: calendars, study guides, and/or Good Gifts catalogs.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 24 th	Christ the King Sunday	9:30 a.m.
November 26 th	Ecumenical Thanksgiving - Payson United Methodist Church	7:00 p.m.
December 1 st	1 st Sunday in Advent	9:30 a.m.
December 4 th	Church decorating... <i>join the Altar Guild, Property and Worship & Music Committees</i> Finger-food Supper – hosts: Worship & Music Committee Christmas Tree decorating – sanctuary Tree lighting and Music Service – sanctuary	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. after supper; before service 6:00 p.m.



Our study continues to focus on God's grace. Do we simply accept grace as our right, or do we think about what grace has done for us through the will of God. Do we acknowledge God with a simple prayer of thanksgiving? In our faith walks, we pray for others, we pray for our families, we pray for our friends. Do we follow up with appreciation for what has been answers to our prayers?

Grace gives us hope, for better conditions, better relationships and to allow us to be better. In receiving grace, we put God's will ahead of our own. Receiving grace allows us to help others in a spirit guided manner. How very blessed are we? We have love, joy and happiness along with serving others. We have responsibility in seeking redemption for our mishaps and slip-ups as we live this spirit filled life.

I thank God every day that I am one of his people. I try to make decisions based upon his guidance. I personally continue to mess up. I again seek redemption, trying to live as God would desire me to live.

Without God's love and grace, there are cycles in life that make us guilty of not receiving his grace, but instead falling off the wagon of life. Ephesians is a good book of the Bible to read to get back on target.

This relationship with God requires our time, attention and love to keep it going. May God Bless all of You.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – September 2024)

2024 Approved Budget	\$318,013.00
Income	\$186,504.00 (58.6% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$225,975.00 (71.0% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during September 2024. \$8,049.00
(This amount includes \$5,000.00 gift from a church member, who had passed into life eternal)

Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage \$31,485.00
(This amount includes 2 payments towards the principle in the month of September totaling \$5,700.00)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2024
Mount Cross. \$1,244.00

We are fast approaching the end of the 2024 year. If you haven't had the opportunity to fill out your *Time & Talent* tri-fold or your pledge card, indicating your gifting for the 2025 year, please take some time to prayerfully consider where you can best assist your church. Once again, we thank those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team

2024 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday,
November 17th
after the
9:30 a.m.
service



Informational packets will be sent via email during the first week of November. Those who do not have emails, be sure to check your church mailbox!

Items that will be addressed:

- ❖ 2025 budget
- ❖ Voting for candidates for Council, Memorial and Mission Endowment Committees



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Mount Cross Lutheran Church

When: Monday, December 2nd



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.

Trusted by over 10 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone over the age of 40

Special Pricing for \$159

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call 888-814-0466
and use promo
code: HSCA001

Visit
LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA

Text the word
"circle" to
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

Sunday Service



9:30 AM

EVERY Sunday
In-House & Livestream



Altar Guild will be meeting in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, November 7th at 10:00 a.m.

**Friday,
November
29th**



**Office
Closed**



November Birthdays

5	Barb Howe
9	Dave Ritterbusch
12	Ed Stevens
14	Linda Wiebe
18	Sheryn Daw
21	Naomi Farber-Metz
29	Joe Dice

November Wedding Anniversaries

7	Tom/Carrie Backe
8	Carl/Jo Sirotzki
10	Tony/Lori Andretta

November Baptisms

1	James Monroe
3	Nancy Bollard
26	Ray Wiebe



"Lighting the Christmas Tree"

Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday, December 4th

Finger Foods Supper
(hosted by Worship & Music Committee)
and
Tree Decoration
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tree Lighting & Service
6:00 p.m.

Please bring cookies to share at the Wassail table.

Extras will be used for Sunday coffee time.



We need to pray for our country, as we approach election time.
We need to remember we are civilized people, who care about our world and our country.
Let us all pray to let God be our guide, not hysteria. *God Bless America!*
And then, let's extend that prayer to our world.

**God's work.
Our hands.**



We are GOD's hands on this earth. Extend love to fellow man, and pray for our world, the weather, the economy, and THE RESURGENCE IN FAITH. Make your hands an emissary of help to others. Live as an example of God's grace on this earth.

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

WELCA Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study using the studies found in the WELCA publication "Gather". All women are welcome to attend.

2nd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



Seekers of Truth Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study which will be focusing on the 13 letters of Paul. All are welcome to attend.

3rd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



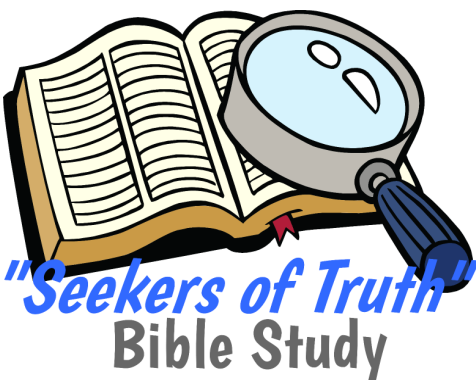
The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, November 14th, at 10:00 a.m.

Gather Magazine's Fall Bible Study subject is "*Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians*" by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp.

The second session is entitled "*Grace-filled Living – Ancient and New.*" In reading the letter to the Ephesians, how can we imagine grace would have looked like in Christian life and relationships? How can we live from grace in our own time, reading this letter through our cultural lenses and experiences?

An accompanying video supplement is available each month. This is the link for November's study:

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/fall-2024-receiving-grace-a-study-of-ephesians-bible-study-video-supplement-session-2/>



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 Ponderosa Room at 10:00 a.m. November 21st is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament. The first letter to Timothy will be discussed in November.

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 Sue Bobek, the group discussion leader or Jan Bartoli, the group facilitator.

SING to the LORD

Mount Cross Praise Choir
Wants YOU!

If you sang in a school choir or
sing in the shower
Come join us!

We love to sing, laugh and
have fun to the Glory of God

REHEARSALS: THURSDAYS — 4:15-5:30

FOR MORE INFO - CONTACT DARIA MASON @ 928-978-3733