
Mount Cross Chronicle

October 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

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
(Psalm 118:24, ESV)

On October 2nd, I will be celebrating and rejoicing because Jo and I will officially be at Mount Cross one year and let me say, it has been a most remarkable year for us. You all have warmly welcomed us with open arms and a genuineness that we are so grateful for. So it is with heartfelt love and humbleness that we say, **"thank you!"**

I know in my September article I asked, "what are we *thankful* for?" I also asked that we all take an inventory of what we have and then pray for all that we included in that inventory. If you have done this, what did you find most remarkable? The term "thank you" is used so very often in our everyday speech. We may *thank* someone for holding a door open to us. We may say *thank you* to the person who brings us our meal at a restaurant. We may say *thank you* to someone in our family for helping with a particular chore or doing something on their own to help us. I could go on and on about how and why we say *thank you*, but I'm sure you have many reasons of your own!

Do we say *thank you* just because it seems that's what we're supposed to say...or when we say it, do we really mean it? Also, did you ever think about the number of ways *thank you* is expressed, without actually saying the words "thank you?" We can say *thank you* with a smile, a nod of the head, a hug, a handshake, a wave, etc. I believe if we are truly sincere in expressing our *thanks* to another person, they can tell if it's genuine or superficial. Can you recall a time when someone expressed their *thanks* to you that truly touched your heart? Can you recall a time when you genuinely expressed your *thanks* to someone and they didn't acknowledge it? How did that make you feel? Maybe you felt hurt. Maybe, you felt a twinge of resentment and as a result you said to yourself, "I'll never do that again!"

We have been blessed in so many ways by our gracious Lord. One thing we know for sure is that when we *give thanks* to God, we will never be blown off. My challenge to all of us is to think how we have been abundantly blessed and then think how we have said, "Thank you, God."

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our **†**
STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



For the month of October, let us pray for:

- the world
- our country
- for peace to descend.



All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 3rd. It is the custom at Mount Cross to add ribbons to the Memorial Wreath with the names of those who have died and entered the Church Triumphant since last *All Saints Sunday*. Their names will also be read at the worship service on November 3rd during the prayers of intercession. Please contact the office with your name requests before Monday, October 28th.

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

God's Work, Our Hands was a program established by the ELCA. The purpose is to take one day and set it aside as a day of service to others. Even though the ELCA had set the date as September 8th, Mount Cross will be having a time of service to others on the 10th of October. What can we do for our church?

MOUNT CROSS MEMORIAL FUND

IN 2024, MOUNT CROSS MEMORIAL FUND HAS RECEIVED GIFTS IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:
ELVA JONES, HELEN RODGERS, RUTH ANN RICHARDS, CLAYTON RICKER, AND HERB MUELLER.

MEMORIAL FUNDS ARE USED TO HELP SUPPORT COMMITTEES WITHIN MOUNT CROSS WHEN SPECIAL PURCHASES ARE NEEDED. THE MEMORIAL FUND HAS HELPED PURCHASE VARIOUS ITEMS OVER THE YEARS, SUCH AS: OCTAVES OF BELLS, A MOP IT MACHINE FOR CLEANING THE FLOORS, COMMUNION-WARE FOR THE ALTAR GUILD, ETC.

ADDITIONALLY, THE FAMILY OF JOHN PROESCHOLDT ASKED THAT GIFTS IN HIS MEMORY BE APPLIED TO THE MORTGAGE FUND TO ASSIST IN PAYING TOWARD THE ACCOUNT. JOHN WAS HIGHLY INVOLVED IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF A REFINANCE OF THE CHURCH DURING HIS TIME AS TREASURER ON THE CHURCH COUNCIL. HELEN SWENSON'S GIFTING WAS USED TOWARD THE MORTGAGE PRINCIPLE. JIM CHEEK'S FUNDS WERE DESIGNATED TO THE RESPITE FUND.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE REMEMBERED LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS WITH A GIFT TO THE MEMORIAL FUND!

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – August 2024)



2024 Approved Budget	\$318,013.00
Income	\$168,981.00 (53.14% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$202,446.00 (63.65% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during August 2024	\$2,195.00
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage	\$22,920.00

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 continue to thank those of you who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN




Mount Cross' annual stewardship campaign is literally just around the corner. Please check your church mailboxes as of Sunday, October 6th, for this year's stewardship materials.

Are you a "cheerful" giver? Do you give financially with a conscience that is at peace, knowing that you have given without feeling that you *had* to?

Do you know the needs within our church where you might have the skills, time, and the desire to volunteer and provide for that need with all your heart?

These are questions each of us must contemplate as we consider our giving back to the One who created us and gives us a reason for our living. There will be approximately 3 weeks to ponder these questions and find the answers.

Please return your pledge cards and your time & talent sheets in the envelope provided before *Commitment Sunday, October 27th* by either dropping it in the church offering plate, turning it in at the office during the week, or mailing it.



The office will have shortened hours on Friday, October 11th and will be open between 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Women of the ELCA

The three month study is focused on *“Receiving Grace: how God’s power works in us,”* and lastly, grace-filled living. This is a study relating to Ephesians. Our basic belief is that we are saved through the grace of God. As Gentiles, we were accepted by Christ as his people along with the Jews, who were God’s chosen people. We have the salvation of Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross, to grant us this salvation.

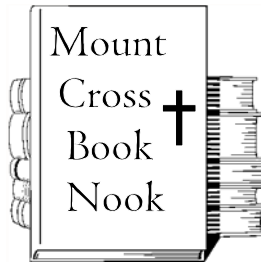
With all of the above, we live our lives with a sense of comfort, but how do we get there? Our lesson had a list of suggestions on how to study:

1. **LECTO** (Read): read slowly and attentively two or three times. Simply hear the word or phrase.
2. **MEDITATIO** (Meditate): what is speaking to you here? Take time to reflect and think about what you read.
3. **ORATIO** (Pray): Respond. What do you have to say to God? What caught your spirit?
4. **CONTEMPLATIO** (Contemplate): Take the message to heart. Do you sense a response from God?

Starting with that, how do you share grace? A simple act toward another can be both heartening and helpful. I am a firm believer that you smile, greet, share, and hear others. Is this a skill to develop? Yes, since for many people it might be the nicest thing that happens each day.

Alice Natale

WELCA president



As many of you are aware, I am recuperating from a fall at present, so the library cart will not be updated. However, you are encouraged to peruse the books in the library as you sip on your coffee in the Ponderosa Room prior to or after a Sunday service. Once you have located a book you are interested in, pull the card from inside the front cover, place your name/date on it, and put the card in the box on the library cart.

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones

REFORMATION SUNDAY



OCTOBER 27th

“Wear Red” Sunday!



October Birthdays

3	Roger Rohrbach
8	James Monroe
9	Jeff Nafziger
13	Earl Clark
17	Patric Taylor
19	Jan Harper
24	Daria Mason
25	Mavis Denofsky
27	Mike Roberts
31	Bob Walker

October Wedding Anniversaries

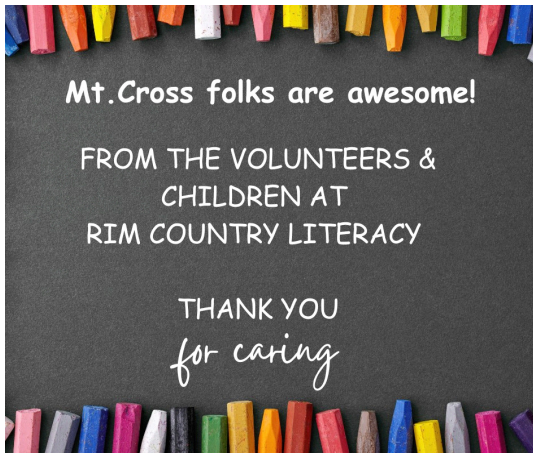
6	Mark/Barb (Howe) Milbauer
10	Dave/Karen Ritterbusch

October Baptisms

2	Joey Dice
10	Roger Rohrbach



What better way to serve the Lord than preparing His table for His sacred meal. If you feel led to assist in this manner, you are invited to attend the next Altar Guild meeting on Thursday, October 3rd at 11:00 a.m. for their annual luncheon. The venue this year will be The Fairways at Payson Golf Club, located at 1504 W. Country Club Dr.




Concert Band & Jazz Ensemble

Directed by Mr. Michael Buskirk



Tuesday, October 15, 2024
7 p.m.

Mt. Cross Lutheran Church
Free admission & refreshments



**PAYSON
CAMPUS**


Eastern Arizona College, Payson Campus
201 N. Mt. Springs Rd., Payson, Arizona 85541
(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 65-plus. Tuition waiver does not cover costs of lab fees, books, or out-of-state tuition.



The Lord has led me to make some difficult decisions.
I thank the congregation for all their support during my recovery from my falls.
Many blessings to my church family,
Eloise Jones

Dear Practicing Christians,
It was a delight to receive your gift of \$1,165 to assist marginalized children in our area.
I'm sure your kindness evoked a smile from Jesus, for your actions "rock."
Again, thank your for caring for the youth in our area who are often quite needy.
Sincerely,
Bob Horne, Director of Kaitie's Closet



In His Service

The family of Herb Mueller has opened an invitation for those who knew him and want to pay their respects to attend a military service on Monday, October 7th at 10:00 a.m., which will be held at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, located at 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd. in Phoenix.

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 on Thursday, October 10th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room.

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

The first session is entitled "Is Grace Real?" We often focus on how we fall short and deserve God's judgment. What if, instead, we remember God's continual gift of grace? God invites us to lead lives of love and wholeness. What is grace, exactly? Grace does not take away the sin and suffering of this life, but offers us a way to live from love despite hardship.

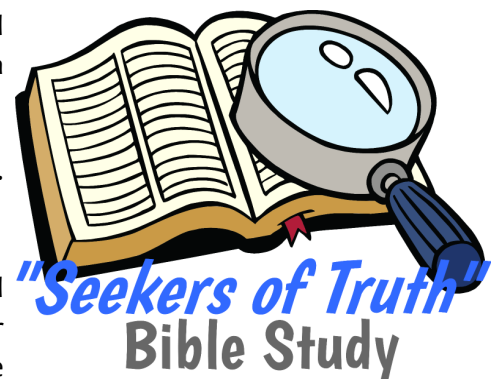
An accompanying video supplement is available each month. This is the link for October's study:

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/fall-2024-receiving-grace-a-study-of-ephesians-bible-study-video-supplement-session-1/>

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. October 17th is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament. The letter to the Philippians will be discussed in October.

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.



\$5,000 GIVEAWAY

Donate for a Chance to Win



Limited time

Donate Oct. 6-31 for Chance to Win BIG!

This Halloween, elevate your candy game by donating Oct. 6-31 for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards.*

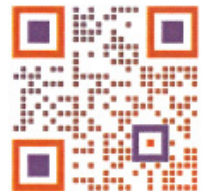
Payson Community BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, October 14, 2024

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Mount Cross Lutheran Church ~ 601 E Hwy 260 ~ Payson
Donate in the Log Cabin

To schedule your lifesaving appointment,
call 1-877-25-VITAL (258-4825), scan the QR Code or
visit www.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: P1057)



*Terms and condition apply; see [vitalant/EpicTreatsGiveaway](https://www.vitalant.org/EpicTreatsGiveaway)

**Terms and conditions apply; see [vitalant.org/HalloweenDonorGift](https://www.vitalant.org/HalloweenDonorGift)



For more information or to schedule a donation,
call 877.25.VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @vitalant:

vitalant.