
Mount Cross Chronicle

November 2025



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

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7 (NRSVUE)

This month's opening scripture helps to remind us that as believers, we are to welcome and accept fellow believers regardless of our differences. Mutual acceptance of the relationship between believers is important, no matter how they differ on the issues. Christ has accepted us despite our shortcomings, weaknesses and sins. Likewise, we are called to welcome and accept fellow believers just as we have been welcomed and accepted into God's family. Instead of looking at what differences we may have, we are to look at what spiritual gifts one another brings into the body of believers. This is what brings glory to God.

Thank you to all of those who participated in the survey for Congregational Vitality. At Pastor David Pavesic's presentation of the survey results, it appeared that the results were not too surprising to most of us. However, it did give us a good indication of the work that remains ahead of us all as well as showing where our strengths lie. I am confident that we can make our congregation stronger and increase our vivacity. I have said this before and I say it again, I believe the Spirit is very much alive and well here at Mount Cross.

On November 9th, Mount Cross will have a New Member Orientation. I am so thankful for those who attend these orientations. I always find these gatherings exciting because not only do we get to know one another better, but there is also a sharing of personal hopes and gifts that one another will bring to the congregation for God's glory. If you are interested in attending this orientation and haven't already done so, please provide your name to Lenore or Pastor Carl as soon as possible. New Members will be formally welcomed at the worship service on December 7th.

On November 25th, we will celebrate the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at 7:00 p.m. Mount Cross will be hosting the service this year. Please bring your family and friends to this special time of worship.

Beginning on November 30th, we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and our first Wednesday service of Advent is December 3rd. There will be a simple meal at 5:00 p.m. and service at 6:00 p.m.

Jo and I wish you and your families a most blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our  STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



Thanksgiving Service
will be held at the
Mount Cross Lutheran Church
on Tuesday, November 25th
at 7:00 p.m.



**PREPARETH THY HEARTS
FOR HIS COMING!**

The 1st Sunday of Advent is November 30th and an interactive calendar is available to help prepare youthful hearts for this joyful season leading into the celebration of Christ's birth. Please feel free to pick up these new Advent calendars for your grandchildren, great grandchildren, or a neighborhood child.

Want to help provide for a families in other countries? Be sure to pick up a Good Gifts catalog. These items can be found on an entrance table in the narthex.



Join us on Wednesday, December 3rd 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*

Lord,

As we enter the season of autumn, let us be grateful for Your creation as we look around us and see the bounty of colors that You have painted on this earthly palette. Help us to remember that it gives You great joy to supply us with eye catching beauty.

Toward the end of this month, we celebrate Thanksgiving...a time to connect with family and friends, people You have placed in our lives. Help us to set aside any ought that we may feel towards others and reconcile with them.

During the final days of this month, we begin the new church year with the celebration of Advent. May we anticipate of the arrival of Your Son, Jesus, and experience much joy in the realization that we are so very loved by You!



MOUNT CROSS BELL CHOIR



A special prelude music for Reformation Sunday was presented by the Mount Cross Bell Choir and featured three generations - Jan Bartoli; her daughter, Lauren Vlahopoulos; and granddaughter, Abigail Vlahopoulos - leading off the anthem of "Jesus Loves Me." The anthem was accompanied by Angeline Ng on piano and was a beautiful arrangement that was enjoyed by all!



Daria Mason, music director, with 3 generations of bell ringers.



If you have watched our live stream services from Mount Cross, you will hear someone reading the responses along with those who are in attendance at the services.

Thank you to Jan Bartoli, Carrie Backe, Nancy Bollard, and Sharon Powell for participating in our online service. This month, we welcome Curt Goris to participate in this ministry. Blessings to all who have helped enhance our livestream worship.

Worship and Music Committee



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 23 rd	Christ the King Sunday	9:30 a.m.
November 25 th	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - Mount Cross Lutheran Church	7:00 p.m.
November 30 th	1 st Sunday in Advent	9:30 a.m.
December 3 rd	Church decorating... <i>join the Altar Guild, Property and Worship & Music Committees</i>	8:00 a.m.
	Finger-food Supper – hosts: Worship & Music Committee	5:00 p.m.
	Christmas Tree decorating – sanctuary	after supper; before service
	Tree lighting and Music Service – sanctuary	6:00 p.m.



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – September 2024)

2025 Approved Budget	\$335,793.00
Income	\$234,137.00 (69.7% of 2025 budget)
Expenditures	\$227,441.00 (67.7% of 2025 budget)
Under (Over)	\$6,696.00
Pledged-to-date / Given	\$176,434.00 / \$178,828.00 (102%)

2025 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during September 2025.	\$2,392.00
Total Principal paid out in 2025 for mortgage.	\$15,362.00
Current Principal balance	\$356,652.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date	\$26,250.00104/ \$26,638.00 (102%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2025	
Mount Cross.	\$1,997.00

Yours in Christ,
Mount Cross Finance Team

OFFICE HOURS



**Closed on
Thursday, November 27th
Friday, November 28th
for Thanksgiving
and
Open
9:00–11:30 a.m.
Monday, December 1st**



Altar Guild will be meeting in the conference room on Thursday, November 6th, at 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to join in serving the Lord by setting His table for communion, you are welcome to attend the meeting.



November Birthdays

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

November Wedding Anniversaries

8	Carl/Jo Sirotzki
10	Tony/Lori Andretta

November Baptisms

1	James Monroe
26	Ray Wiebe



"Lighting the Christmas Tree"

Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday, December 3rd

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.

2025 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday,
November 23rd
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:

- ✧ 2026 budget
- ✧ Voting for candidates for Council, Memorial and Mission Endowment Committees



for Tom Backe
Saturday, Nov. 8th
10:00 a.m.

Luncheon in Building
B (log building)
after the service.

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

Conversations with God Bible study

This is a weekly devotional Bible study, which will be held October 3 through November 14, that is based on the lectionary readings and using the ancient art of Lectio Divina.

Friday mornings, 9:30 AM in the conference room.

Weekly Prayer sessions

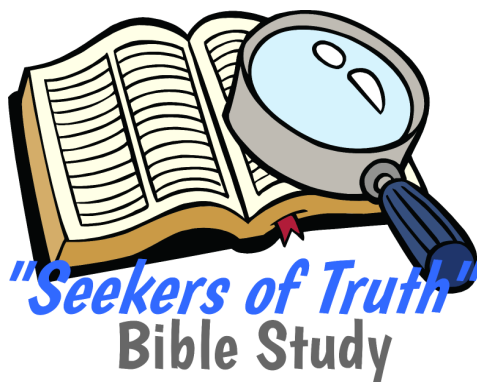
The focus of the sessions are to bring concerns and prayers of thanksgiving to God.

Friday afternoons, 1:00 PM 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.

3rd Thursday of the month, 10:00 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 10:00 a.m. November 20th 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 featured food item for the month of November is **canned meat**, specifically Spam, chicken, ham. 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.

The winners of the silent auction in which dinners prepared by Curt & Wendy Goris are the prizes: Ernie & Nancy Kellett and Emily Linkey. The proceeds from this fund-raiser, which had been held from August through October, went to the Time Out Shelter and brought in \$420.00 monetarily, as well as 64 donated items.

The month of November is the kick off for the annual Navajo Heating fund-raiser. It begins as of November 1st and will continue through the end of December. Please view the multiple options to participate in this event on the following page.

• GLOBAL MISSIONS FUNDRAISER •
FOR
NAVAJO MISSIONS WINTER HEATING
RAFFLE

Diamond
point
Restaurant
\$150⁰⁰
Gift Card!!

OR
TICKETS



\$5 FOR 1 TICKET OR \$10 FOR 3 TICKETS

- PLACE TICKET IN CAN OF YOUR CHOICE ...
PLACE \$ IN CASH CAN • THANK YOU!!

COMING SOON!!
more HOLIDAY FUNDRAISERS
~ SILENT AUCTION GIFT BASKETS ~

How many LEGOS
WILL WENDY
PUT IN THE
CASTLE??
\$1.00 PER GUESS
WIN
\$50 GIFT CARD



and

Annual Arts-Crafts and Yummy Baked Goods!!



Performances will be held on:

**Saturday December 20, 2025
at the Seventh-day Adventist Church - 11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday December 21, 2025
at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday December 21, 2025
and at Mount Cross Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.**

3 performances are scheduled on the above dates and are free of charge

For anyone interested in participating, rehearsals are open to all singers. Three rehearsals occur on Sundays: November 23, November 30, and December 14 at Mount Cross Lutheran at 5:00 p.m. Participating in all the rehearsals and performances is encouraged, but not required.

For more information, email Angeline Ng at justangelina@aol.com
