
Mount Cross Chronicle

January 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

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) NIV

Blessings and Happy New Year 2025! Thank you to everyone for the Christmas wishes and blessings Jo and I received from you this Christmas. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are so greatly appreciated this Christmas season and all the year through!

Like every new calendar year it may take a bit to get used to writing 2025 on letters, checks, sermons, etc., but I have faith that I can handle that.

Now that Christmas is considered to be another in the books, there are some who already have their Christmas trees and ornaments packed away, the wrapping paper from Christmas gifts have been stuffed into trash bags, along with discarded Christmas trees; just waiting to be picked up and taken away on trash day. Then there are some who may have already earmarked unwanted presents for re-gifting and those who have stood in lines waiting to return or exchange something they received and last but not least, there are the after Christmas sales! Whew, OK, what's next to celebrate and possibly get more gifts?

Not so fast! Who said Christmas was over? Before we allow the stores, TV, radio, the internet, or anyone else to officially declare Christmas 2024 over, remember there are still the *12 Days of Christmas* which takes us to the Epiphany of our Lord. This year, *Epiphany of our Lord* falls on Monday, January 6th, however, we will celebrate it on Sunday the 5th. It is on Epiphany, that we read in Matthew 2:1-12, of the Magi's adoration of the child Jesus and Christ is revealed to the nations. The church season of Epiphany will then continue until Ash Wednesday, which will fall on March 5th.

So, let us look forward to celebrating and worshiping the fact that the light of Jesus Christ continues to shine on in the darkness and the darkness will never be able to overcome the light. Always remember, we can never be separated from God's love.

I pray that we all have a blessed 2025!

Peace,

Pastor Carl

Philippians 1:3-4



Our  STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity

vitalant
blood drive

Open to the community!

Monday, January 27th
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
in the log building

To schedule an appointment,
call 1-877-25-VITAL (258-4825)
or schedule online at:
www.donors.vitalant.org



Coming up next month!

Gather your cash,
write a check,
bring your non-perishable
food items
on Sunday, February 9th.

Help 'tackle' hunger!

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



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

This is our mission...to be the
hands of God, as well help others.
It gets lost in our day to day living.
Let's remember that it is up to us
to be the ambassadors of God's
Kingdom.



A month long fund-raising event, put on by the Global Missions Team, was held during December 2024 and yielded a total amount of \$1,317.00.

The fund-raising event commenced on Sunday, December 1st, with a combination of handcrafted and baked items, personalized ornaments with calligraphy by Mary Havenor, a silent auction for a BBQ rib dinner for four, and a \$1 per guess "how many Legos" were used to create a *Navajoland* diorama. Each remaining Sunday in December, featured items displayed on tables in the narthex. Fire pots were ready to accept monetary gifts in exchange for the available items.

Prize winners: Ray & Linda Wiebe won the silent auction for the BBQ rib dinner; Vy Nguyen won 1st place at guessing how many Legos were used to create *Navajoland* and Jean Petrie's guess came in 2nd. Vy's guess was just 49 shy of the total and Jean was off by 118. Everyone is curious just how many Legos were involved in the diorama...3,451! Thank you to Wendy Goris for sharing her gift of building the scene with Legos. Curt & Wendy will also be providing the BBQ rib dinner.

The proceeds collected will be sent to the Navajo Mission to assist in paying for winter heating costs.



**Time to
Decorate**

You Are Invited to Assist with...

Sanctuary Un-Decorating Event and Christmas Tree Removal
Wednesday, January 8th beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Mount Cross Financial Report (January –

November 2024)

2024 Approved Budget	\$318,013.00
Income	\$244,734.00 (76.95% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$286,810.00 (90.18% of 2023 budget)
Total given to the Mortgage Fund during November 2024	\$12,072.00
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage	\$31,515.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2024	
Mount Cross	\$1,362.00

Many church members may not be aware of how their gifts to the mortgage fund are handled. The Council felt that there should be some clarification. Contributions that are pledged and/or given on a regular basis (weekly/monthly) are deposited into a fund which is used to cover the monthly payments of \$2,865. Without those regular gifts, it could be difficult to make the monthly payments, thus we would like to thank you for being consistent in giving in this manner.

Should a member want to contribute directly to the principle, the gift would be handled separately and in a different manner. The giver would need to make sure to designate that they desire the gift to be applied to the principle. It is suggested that this method be used for large contributions, as there are extra additional steps to the process, which takes extra time. We hope this clears up any questions you may have had.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team



REMINDER TO
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

For the 2025 year, our Council executive positions are:

President	Marlu Allan
Vice President	Nancy Bollard
Treasurer	Mike Roberts
Secretary	Barry DeChaine

Supporting members are Sheryn Daw and Sharon Vaplon.

Committees that were awaiting their December bank statements, your annual reports are due on Friday, January 17th. If you are the chairperson for a committee that does not rely on banking statements to complete your report, the due date for your report has passed, but will still be accepted up until the 17th of this month.



A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th, after the worship service. The topic to be presented regards the expenditure for repair of one of the HVAC units.



Happy New Year!

New ideas, new growth, new horizons are in the offing. I pray that we all embrace this new year. Each year I set goals for myself on New Years Day. Early in the morning, with a fresh cup of coffee, I think about what I will do in the coming new year. Will it be a quiet one, will it be an adventure, will it be just reading more books? All options are open. I make a list so I do not lose sight of the goals.

Our church year gives us, as a congregation, the same options. Will be a viable part of the community, will we be a learning and growing in faith community, will we be centered on other options? It is up to us.

We can build our church into a very caring family. We can build our church into a glorious music community. We can build our church into center of mission, or a learning community. What Do We Want to Do?

We are blessed with wonderful musicians who give of their talents each and every Sunday. We are blessed with our care for each other every day. We are blessed for our learning opportunities, which builds our faith. Now what do we wish for the future?

Each of us is a voice in the church. The whole concept of church community relies on us, each of us being a part of that community. It is not a free ride, but a place of peace, love, and joy. Share Jesus' love with others, share Jesus' great commandments, and be a part of the community of Christ.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



Pray for...
the world,
pray for the peace of our country,
pray for our community
and our families.
Just pray, pray, pray!

Office Closed
Wednesday, January 1st
for New Years Day
and
Monday, January 20th
in observance of
Martin Luther King
Federal holiday.



January Birthdays

- 11 Ernie Kellett
Patricia Proescholdt
- 12 Vickie Weins
- 13 Marilyn Black
- 24 Kathryn Lee
Sherri Taylor
- 25 Mark Milbauer
- 28 Mark Duffy

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 14 Tom/Maria Koch
- 28 Gary/Barbara Greer

January Baptisms

- 27 Sherri Taylor

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.

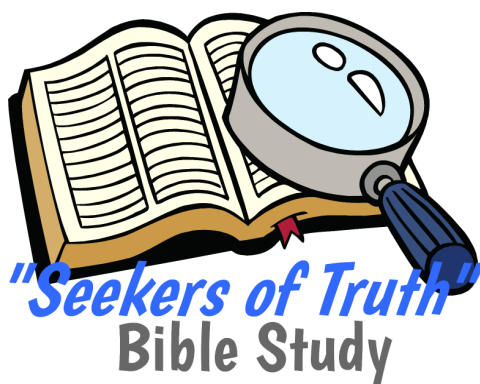
3rd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, January 9th, at 10:00 a.m.

Gather Magazine's Fall Bible Study subject is "Faithfulness" by the Denice Rector.

The first of 4 sessions is entitled "Ruth and Naomi." Ruth chooses to remain part of Naomi's family, even after Naomi has lost everything – including her husband and sons. This inter-generational story of faithfulness during emptiness and sorrow helps us learn how to rely on God in bleak times.



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. January 16th is the date for this month's meeting.

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

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.



The Praise Choir rehearsals for January will be held on Thursdays, January 2nd & 23rd, and 30th. Practices will be held at 4:15 p.m.

Bell Choir rehearsals will be held Thursdays, January 16th & 23rd at 5:30 p.m.



Committee meeting on Sunday, January 19th, after the Special Congregational meeting and will be in the Ponderosa Room.