
Mount Cross Chronicle

January 2022



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

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 a.m.
Worship/Communion Service

Livestreamed
Online Worship Service

Pastors

Rev. Cliff Hanus
Rev. Linda Hanus
474-2552

pastor@mountcross.org
emergency phone
928-363-1683

Music Director
Daria Mason

daria1024mason@gmail.com

Accompanist
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator
Lenore M. White

secretary@mountcross.org

Custodian
Rod Rice

Pastor's Ponderings

A HAPPY, JOYOUS, AND CHRIST FILLED NEW YEAR TO ALL!

"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE."

(ROMANS 15:13)

MARRIAGE AND COFFEE

SHORTLY AFTER TYING THE KNOT, A YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE STARTED ARGUING OVER WHO SHOULD MAKE THE COFFEE. BEING A GOOD CHRISTIAN WOMAN, THE WIFE WENT TO THE SCRIPTURES FOR HER ANSWER. SHE SAID THAT THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT MEN SHOULD BE THE ONES TO MAKE THE COFFEE.

PUZZLED, THE HUSBAND ASKED HER WHERE IN THE BIBLE IT SAID THAT. VERY CONFIDENTLY, THE WIFE OPENED UP HER BIBLE AND SAID: ***"IT'S RIGHT HERE — HEBREWS."***

HAPPY NEW YEAR (?)

IS IT HAPPY? IS IT REALLY NEW? A GOOD START FOR ME EACH DAY BEGINS IN GOD'S WORD AND A BIT OF HUMOR. AFTER THAT, EACH DAY BRINGS WHAT IT WILL BRING. YES, MUCH HAPPENS WHICH IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL, AND OFTEN, NOT TO OUR LIKING. BUT HOW WE RESPOND TO IT ***IS*** UNDER OUR CONTROL AND MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. TO A LARGE EXTENT, LIFE IS WHAT WE MAKE IT AND WHATEVER WE MAKE IT SHOULD BE TO THE GLORY ,OF GOD.

NO DOUBT, 2022 WILL SEEM MUCH LIKE 2021. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF THINGS THAT WE WISH WOULD HAVE CHANGED OVERNIGHT. WE WILL FACE OLD CHALLENGES AND NEW ONES. WE WILL ADAPT. WE MUST ADAPT, JUST LIKE IN ANY OTHER YEAR!

WHAT WILL REMAIN THE SAME IN OUR LIVES? IS IT TIME FOR SOME CHANGE? HOW WILL ***WE*** BE NEW? FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE WILL BE STRENGTHENED TO BE THE DISCIPLES CHRIST HAS CALLED US TO BE, AND IN THIS, WE WILL FIND JOY BEYOND MEASURE.

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO US ALL THAT WE MAY BE THE BLESSING FOR OTHERS!

YOURS IN EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US,

Pastor Cliff Hanus



Our
STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



The soup pots will once again be available during the service on Superbowl Sunday, February 6th. Paper bags and the grocery cart will be available to receive non-perishable items. If you forget to bring food items, a financial gift of cash or a check will be welcomed. When writing a check, please make it out to Mount Cross Lutheran Church with "SouperBowl" in the memo line. All non-perishable items will be brought to Deacon's Pantry at the Presbyterian Church which is jointly supported by the four main-line congregations in Payson: Community Presbyterian, United Methodist, St. Paul's Episcopal and Mount Cross Lutheran.

The Global Missions Team

News from Payson Homeless and Homeless Veteran's Initiative:


God is working miracles! In November over 600 meals were served, a number increasing every day as winter approaches. More homeless families with children are needing assistance. Children can often stay with family friends, but only the social services available through the Center offer a long-term solution. Elderly members of the community with dementia have a particularly difficult time receiving help from their relatives, so the Center steps in to assist. Costs to transport non-local residents to "safe landing" places, often at a daily cost of \$300/transport, are steep. The Center averages between two to six over-night rooms at local hotels for emergency overnight safety. One chronically-homeless woman finally has her own apartment. She is now stabilized and we say "Thank the Lord!"



Donations of canned goods, fresh vegetables and grocery store gift cards are truly "Gifts from God." Christmas dinner will be served from 3:00 to 6:00 pm on Christmas Day. All are welcome!

We honor and appreciate everything Mount Cross does for our organization and community members! Without Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Payson would not be able to support a warming Center. We are saving lives together! Have a blessed holiday season!

With love,
Emily Brice
President, PHHVI



Council President Notes

Dear Mount Cross Members and Friends,

Here we are in the Christmas / Epiphany season, thinking about the Holy Family and our Savior's dedication at the temple in Jerusalem. We all have certain traditions within our homes, many stemming from our ethnic backgrounds, as well as others adopted by us as something we love from another culture. As an instance, my mother was Swedish, so I have a Dala Horse and Tomkins, Norse mischief makers, a sort of little people like elves watching over the piano. I also have the Advent wreath on my table. For Christmas dinner, I used red plaid napkins on the table for my Scottish heritage from my father.

Many of us have roots in other cultures that allow German nutcrackers, Russian samovars, Chinese red flowers for luck, or you eat special foods, ie, tamales, red cabbage, the dreaded lutefisk, ham that is candied, sweet potatoes and maybe spoon bread, or the Italian 7 fish meal on Christmas eve. All are great. I also enjoy latke, matzo ball soup, and African peanut soup. All of these things make us feel warm inside, with happy dreams of our childhood.

Many of us read the story of Christmas from St Luke. Others enjoy going to church and remembering the why of Christmas. Then we are off to a new year, and bang, we have new dreams and plans for the upcoming year.

That brings us to this month, January 2022. We are now ready to move forward with new plans, new ideas, and a new Church Council.



For this next year our Council executive positions are:

President	Alice Natale
Vice President	Barbi Buchanan
Treasurer	Ron Nelson
Secretary	Not filled yet

Supporting members are:

Gary Greer, Sharry Lien, John Proescholdt, and Sharon Vaplon

During our last Council meeting, we met with the Homeless Initiative Board to discuss their plans and to bring all of us into a face to face meeting. It was productive and informative. They are hoping to generate some grants that will allow them to have their own building. So until that happens, we will continue to work with them, building an agreement that is similar in scope to the original agreement. The bunkhouse will only be open, if they have supervision overnight.

The remainder of our meeting was spent discussing some needed repairs and looking for ways to build up our congregation during the next year. The congregation's prayers and support are appreciated and the Council welcomes your questions and input.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU. MAY YO BE BLESSED WITH GOD'S LOVE.

Alice Natale
Mount Cross Council President

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – November 2021)



2021 Approved ½ year Budget	\$153,111.50
2021 Total budget for the year	\$305,573.00
Income	\$256,593.00 (84% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures	\$264,705.00 (87% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during November 2021 \$1,715.00
 Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage \$23,471.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2021
 Mount Cross. \$1,234.00

We have received pledges for the 2022 year. The amount pledged for this coming year exceeds the amount that was pledged for the 2021 year. Pledge cards have continued to come in; it isn’t too late to add yours if you haven’t already done so.

Yours in Christ,
 Financial Team



Beginning this month, the women's Bible study will join *Gather* magazine for a brand new four-part Bible study by New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell. The series, entitled “*The kingdom of God,*” will look at this widely-used biblical image and invites us to discuss of what the reign of God means for Lutherans and other believers today. You can learn more about “*The kingdom of God*” series by clicking [here](#), and look for videos to accompany

the series on *Gather's* [resources](#) page. We look forward to sharing the first session of this new study, entitled “*Beautiful feet,*” when we meet in this new year on January 13th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room. All women who are interested in joining us are welcome to attend! Copies of the Bible study can be found on a clipboard near the church mailboxes.

You Are Invited to Assist with...

Sanctuary Un-Decorating Event
 and
 Property Committee Christmas Tree Removal
 Thursday, January 6th
 8:00 a.m.

	<p><u>Office Closed</u> Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Federal holiday.</p>
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REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Committees that were awaiting their December bank statements, your annual reports are due on Friday, January 14th. 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 14th of this month.



The Rev. Jacqueline Pagel, Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy and Faith Formation in the Grand Canyon Synod, will be coming to Mount Cross on Sunday, January 9, 2022 to introduce herself to the congregation. She will also be preaching that day.



January Birthdays

- 11 Ernie Kellett
- Patricia Proescholdt
- 12 Jim Cheek
- 13 Marilyn Black
- 18 Lynn Sloan
- 24 Kathryn Lee
- Sherri Taylor
- 26 Bob Marley
- 27 Tamé Adams
- 31 Wes Hathaway

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 21 John/Barbi Buchanan
- 28 Gary/Barbara Greer

January Baptisms

- 26 Helen Swenson
- 27 Sherri Taylor



Pray the Lord’s Prayer slowly, thinking about what we are asking. Are we doing it so quickly or by rote at times?

Those words are strong, ***HALLOWED IS THY NAME, YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE...wonderment. WOW! GIVE US THIS DAY, OUR DAILY BREAD...asking for favor.***

*Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us...seeking forgiveness.
Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil...requesting protection.
For thine is the power, the glory, forever and ever. Amen...honoring God at all times.*

Now when you pray this prayer, think about it as a living thing.

Boy Scouts of America



In November, the Scouts went on a campout on the Mogollon Rim. The boys worked on their cooking skills, as well as their canoeing skills on Willow Springs Lake. While paddling, they explored a remote shore of the lake and found some good camping locations for a future outing, in which they will load their camping gear in the canoes, paddle to the remote part of the lake, and set up camp. They are looking forward to that type of an adventure!

In December, the Pack/Troop had a “lock-in” sleep-over in the log building. They also volunteered to help with “Wreaths Across America,” placing wreaths on the graves of fallen veterans.

Prepared. For Life.®

The boys have been working on the calendar for the 2022 year and plans will include continuing to be active in community service and learning life/survival skills.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Daily Devotions

A daily devotional time, led by Pastors Linda and Cliff Hanus, is available online via the church website on Facebook.

Online devotional held Tuesdays through Saturdays, 8:30 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.



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



We are starting a new year, with hopes, dreams and prayers for a year of joy, peace and good health.

We are planning to have the *Lunch & Laugh* program again this year, if Covid gives us a break. It is a fun lunch, with women of various churches all over town attending. We raise money for the Navajo mission, as well as celebrating the joy of being women of Christ. There is always laughter, friendships, new ideas, and a sense of community. Both WELCA and the Global Missions team plan this event, and it includes all of our women. This year we are having Pastor Linda as our speaker, with Sue Bobek taking a healing break. We want Sue Bobek to be back on both feet, so Nancy Kellett has asked her to help with placemats, which are always fun, and easy to do sitting down, with Sue's imagination being the driving force.

In late April, we are hosting the High Country Spring Gathering. At present it has been so long since we have had in person meetings that we are seeking new ways to bring the Women's Ministry (every woman of Mount Cross is a member of WELCA) back into action. Help in planning, implementing, inspiring our woman, and encouraging other churches to get back to being a High Country Conference is very much needed.

For the new year, take a moment to watch or explore nature. When doing so, think about Genesis and the Creator's plan from the beginning. There are billions of planets in the universe. He created the cosmos and he chose this very small planet for the place to put his loved ones. We are merely a speck in the cosmos, but he is fully aware of where we are and what we are doing. He ultimately sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. It is a window into God's world. He planned it all, and we are the grateful recipients.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Alice Natale

WELCA president

It's a new year and there are plenty of opportunities for you to beautify the altar with a gift of fresh flowers. Some of you may be new to Mount Cross and may not be familiar with the process of giving flowers; the procedure is as follows:



1. Locate the flower chart on the west wall of the Narthex (close to the mailboxes).
2. Pick your desired date, place your name on the line next to that date, and provide a reason for the flower gift.
3. Either buy flowers and bring them to the church. You may also order flowers and have them delivered to the church OR call Pastor Linda to arrange delivery/pick up for your chosen date.
4. On Sunday, you may pick up your flowers after the service. Take them home and enjoy their beauty.

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Linda at 928-474-2552.

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



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

Each year resolutions are made, some are kept, and some get lost within the first week. So with that in mind, how about a resolution to invite someone to join us in church services, or participate in the women's Bible study? How about visiting a person who may be feeling lonely or under the weather? Why not challenge yourself to try something new? And most importantly of all, carve out time for God each and every day.

We have work to do for him.

Let your life be in service to the Lord.

The first Bell & Chancel Choir rehearsals for the 2022 year will be held on Thursday, January 20th. Practices will resume at the normal 5:30 p.m. (Bell) & 6:45 p.m. (Choir) times on Thursday, January 20th.



The feast of Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th every year. This day is also known by many as "three kings day." From a Christian viewpoint, the Christmas season doesn't end until the 12th day of Christmas which is the feast of the three kings. This day was celebrated to mark the biblical adoration of Baby Jesus by three kings who are also called the three wise men.

Epiphany

The three wise men, believed to be astronomers, followed a big shining star to reach Baby Jesus and offered three unusual gifts. One wise man offered gold, which indicates royalty. Jesus was later called "king of Jews" by Pontius Pilate and Christians see Jesus as the ruler of a kingdom yet to come. The second wise man offered frankincense, which symbolizes the divine nature of baby Jesus. The third wise man offered myrrh, a product of Arabia obtained from a tree in the same manner as frankincense, which was a spice used in embalming. Many see this as a precursor of Jesus' future burial preparation.