
Mount Cross Chronicle

October 2021



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

It's October! I love this month in the church, for many reasons. There are a lot of occasions to remember and celebrate. And remember and celebrate we will, this year, at Mount Cross. I am hoping that you will join the festivities and invite a friend.

On Saturday, October 2nd, at 10:00 a.m., we will offer a *Blessing of the Animals Service under the pines*. Bring your pets (on a leash, in a carrier, a cage or a bowl, please) to receive a blessing, as we give thanks to God for the great gift that they are to us and commemorate Saint Francis of Assisi. He is my favorite saint. He loved and treasured all of God's creation and called God's creatures his brothers and sisters. His commemoration date is October 4th. Do you have a statue of him in your garden? Many folks do.

On Sunday, October 31st, we will celebrate *Reformation Day*. How about if, this year, we celebrate the heritage of Mount Cross, as well as, the heritage of the many congregations that have played an important part in our faith journey through the years, before we came to Mount Cross!!! Martin Luther's five *solas (concepts) of the Reformation are: faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone, scripture alone and to God alone be the glory*. Do you have photographs, worship bulletins, newsletters, Bibles, mementos of these "*solas/ministries in action*", from Mount Cross or from your previous congregations that we could display? Some of the solas will be easier to find: a Bible for *scripture alone* or a cross for *Christ alone*. What item/memento from your faith life experience might represent *faith alone* or *grace alone*? They're out there! Let's put on our thinking caps and go through our closets and drawers and find them. I will be excited to see what you find. Items will be displayed on tables in the sanctuary for all to see. Please start bringing them in now and make sure that your name is with your item. Please include a short explanation of why you chose this particular item and which *sol*a it represents for you.

And while we remember and celebrate the formative years of our past, on Reformation Day, it is also important for us to look at what God is doing **today** to prepare us for an exciting mission filled **future** at Mount Cross. What does it mean to be Lutheran and a disciple at Mount Cross in 2021? Kathryn A. Kleinhans shares the following: "For many in the ELCA who've grown up Lutheran, religious identity is intertwined with a sense of family and cultural traditions: beer, brats for some, lefse and lutefisk for others, familiar liturgy and hymns for all. But the shape of Lutheranism is changing."

"So, what does it mean to be Lutheran...? During the 16th Century, Martin Luther challenged the teachings, practices and structures of the Roman Catholic Church. He insisted that the central message of Christianity is the good news that sinners become reconciled to God by grace through faith because of the saving work of Jesus Christ.

"It's important to remember that Luther didn't intend to start a new church. He wanted to reform the existing church so the gospel message was communicated clearly and so the life of the church reflected that gospel center."

Well, we know how that turned out. And here we are centuries later, remembering and celebrating Reformation Day and living out our faith as ELCA Lutherans in the 21st Century. Here we are, looking to the future and the mission and ministry that God is calling us to in the days, months and years to come, recognizing that the church is constantly in a state of reform, because God is still speaking to us!

Happy October! I look forward to remembering and celebrating and visioning with you. This will be an exciting month, for sure.

Abundant autumn blessings,

Pastor Linda Hanus

P.S. Please remember to wear **RED** on Reformation Day!



DEACON'S FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to all who have been filling our grocery cart every week for the Deacon's Food Pantry. It has all been appreciated and goes quickly out the door.

Please continue to donate as this gives our patrons choices for miscellaneous items, as well as stocking the shelves with the usual foods distributed.

Sharon, Alice and the Mount Cross crew

Deacon's Pantry is still in urgent need!

1) Volunteers:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays during the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(2 hour shifts)

Please contact Alice Natale for more information.

2) Donations:

Peanut butter, jelly, catsup, mustard, cereal, oatmeal, crackers, chips, energy bars, cake mix and frosting, instant mashed potatoes, spaghetti, mac & cheese, pudding cups. Canned items: **soup, tuna, chicken, spaghetti sauce, vegetables, fruits, and Spam.** Please place your donations in the food pantry cart in the narthex.

All donations are always appreciated, as we share daily bread with our neighbors in need here in Payson. **Thank you for filling the cart!**



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – August 2021)



2021 Approved 1/2 year Budget	\$153,111.50
2021 Total budget for the year	\$305,573.00
Income	\$198,994.00 (1.30% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures	\$195,756.00 (1.28% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during August 2021 \$695.00
 Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage \$14,876.00

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

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

A check in the amount of \$4,286.00, which was money collected over the last 3/4 of the year and included gifts in memory of Lynn Shoemaker, was sent to the Navajo Mission.

The first payment of \$2,875. to Mission Investment for the new refinance went out

Committee chairpersons have been asked to provide an estimate of funds needed for the 2022 budget. The Council will be going over the proposed budget and preparing it for approval at the October Council meeting.

A stewardship committee is in the process of preparing a packet, which will be placed in your church mailboxes sometime in October; Stewardship Sunday will be November 7th. Please begin praying and contemplating on what and how you can give back to God during this next year.

Yours in Christ,
Mount Cross Financial Team



The Gift of the Spirit: A Divine Wild Goose Chase
Breath of God, Reviver and Reformer

The October Women’s Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, October 12th at 10:00 a.m.

We will continue to discuss God’s gift of the Holy Spirit as breath (wind/air) used to revive and reform the lives of individuals in the Bible and still pertains to us *today*.

"YOU are the light of the world."

Matthew 5:14a

Strange, isn't it? Our scripture, our hymns tell us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, and he is; his light shines on the Father, as he also spotlights "love" as the everyday commodity we are to share. But in Matthew he says to us, "*YOU are the light.*" (YOU, as in you, me.) And he gives us many illustrations about how to be the light of the world, spotlighting love.

We know that Jesus could be very direct when unhappy with the Pharisees: "*Woe to you; you tithe mint and herbs of all kinds and neglect justice and the love of God.*" (Luke 11:42). But we can recall many times when his love-light focused in a more gentle way.

Remember Zacchaeus, the despised tax collector? ("*Come down from the tree; I'll be at your house*"). Or the meals he shared with "tax collectors and sinners?" Grieving with Mary and Martha at Lazarus' tomb? Holding a little child, urging the disciples to be as children, ready to show love? Talking with the "loose" woman at the well, a Samaritan no less, totally shocking the disciples? Jesus practiced the art of showing love and he was very inclusive.

So, back to his words to us: "*YOU are the light of the world.*" And what are we to do with our light"? I can see in my mind little kids in Sunday school, holding up their "light" and singing: "Hide it under a bushel?? NO!! I'm gonna let it shine."

I saw in front of a church a little outdoor food pantry, a small cabinet with glass doors, filled with non-perishable food items, and a sign: "Help yourself if you need to, bring and leave some if you can." And, how about the identifying phrase of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)? "God's Work . . . Our Hands." Also, I like these words from a Hallmark birthday card my daughter sent to me:

*"Live your faith, do what's right;
Count your blessings, Be the Light."*

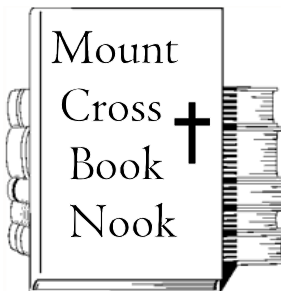
Lord, help us to shine our lights of love each day. Amen.

Virginia McCall

YOU are the light



of the world!



There is still a partial box of donated books that will be out on the table next week so Sunday, October 10th will be your last chance to pick up a freebie.

There will be new book selection on the top shelf of the library cart. The present collection on the top shelf will be moved to the second shelf of the cart. If you are looking for a particular book, check the author and/or the subject card boxes on the shelf in the cabinet on the east wall of the Ponderosa Room, or scan the library shelves on the other side and you may find other books of interest as you are perusing the various titles. Don't let this pandemic get to you, enjoy the quiet time and pick up something to read!

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones



The Gather Magazine for September/October had a beautiful prayer at the end of our lesson. Try it at home.

Spend a few moments in silence. Inhale and imagine filling your whole body and heart with breath. Say:

"Holy Spirit, you are my Comforter."

Exhale slowly and fully and say:

"Holy Spirit, activate your love in me."

Repeat these words taking deep breaths in and out, then say:

"Thank you Lord, for the gift of the Spirit. Amen."

REFORMATION SUNDAY



OCTOBER 31st

"Wear Red" Sunday!



October Birthdays

3	Roger Rohrbach
8	James Monroe Herb Mueller
17	Patric Taylor
19	Jan Harper
24	Daria Mason
25	Mavis Denofsky
31	Bob Walker

October Wedding Anniversaries

4	John/Patricia Proescholdt
10	Dave/Karen Ritterbusch

October Baptisms

1	Roger Rohrbach
15	Barbi Buchanan
30	Herb Mueller

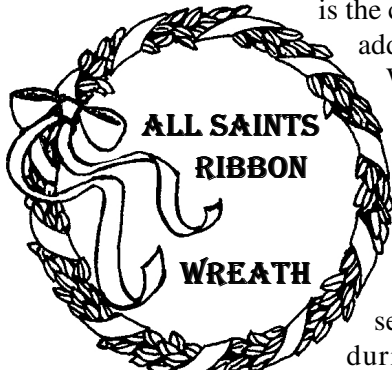
All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 7th. It

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 7th during the prayers of intercession. Please contact the

office with your name requests before Monday, October 25th.



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



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

A DAY OF SERVICE to the LORD. What a great concept. We, the people of Christ have been charged with "LOVING One Another." This is a challenge to all of us. Let us find ways to serve God.



Many churches in the United States celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th each year. The feast commemorates the life of St. Francis, who was born in the 12th century and is the considered the patron saint of animals and the environment. It is a popular day for pets to be "blessed." Mount Cross will honor St. Francis' feast day by holding a **blessing of the pets** service at 10:00 a.m. in the courtyard **under the pines** on Saturday, the 2nd of October.

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



As WELCA Chair, I believe in standard meeting days. We will meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room.

For the next three months we are studying the HOLY SPIRIT, as a part of the triune God. Our meeting in September started the conversation going, and now I challenge you to think about your own Holy Spirit moments in your life, where you listened closely and then did what God was directing you to do. Our best examples are Lynn Shoemaker, who volunteered to be Altar Guild president, and who left us with an ongoing legacy of how to set up the altar for any event. In addition Roger and Sally Rohrbach filled the role of organizing our Mount Cross Cares kids for many, many years. They, along with June McHenry and Jerry Carlson during the early years, built this program to a family inclusive of children and their parents. In the past month, one of the boys from Mount Cross Cares came up to me at Katie's Closet and told me he was going into the army. We also have the example of Jodi Lorenz, who came as a skeptic and who is now pastoring in North Dakota. God uses faithful servants in many ways.

For years I have read books by Andrew Greeley, who writes with characters who are guided by the ADVOCATE, AND CHALLENGED BY THE ADVERSARY. As you read the Bible there are several references to these two in the Bible. Do you take time to listen to your ADVOCATE OR your ADVERSARY? The HOLY SPIRIT is giving you guidelines and directions as GOD WISHES you to act. Give yourself time to listen, and then follow this guidance.

Our WELCA State Bible study is planned for October 2, 2021 9:00 to 12:00 by Zoom/Facebook meetings. If you wish to attend, it will be 3 hours long, with a focus on Lot's wife and Mary Magdalene. Pastor Marta Poling Schmitt will be the leader.

On November 6, 2021 the Grand Canyon Synod Women's 30th Convention will be virtual, taking place on Zoom. Registration is free but you must register by 10/29/21. We need a voting member from our church to be elected for the triennial synod meeting in Phoenix in 2023. If you are interested in being this person, you can obtain your nomination form by visiting the WELCA website.

Alice Natale

WELCA president

**Update from Pastor Kristin Engstrom
ELCA Service & Justice, Global Missionary
August 26, 2021**



After serving as the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Country Coordinator in Senegal for five years, I am excited to have accepted a new call and a new challenge to serve as the Facilitator for Leadership Development and Capacity Building with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZA). Part of my heart will continue to live in Senegal. Our sisters and brothers in the church as well as our Muslim cousins welcomed me and made me part of their lives and their community. But I trust that when the YAGM program begins again, hopefully in August 2022, the new Country Coordinator will be welcomed with the same gracious hospitality I received every day in Senegal.

Due to ongoing COVID precautions both in the United States and around the world, I do not know yet when I will leave for Zambia. Much of the continent of Africa, including Zambia, has not received enough vaccine doses for their population, which makes it easy for COVID to circulate quickly. I also need a work permit before I can enter the country. I have started the process of applying for a Zambian work permit but assume that the application process will take at least a month.

For the time being, I am living in southern Minnesota. I occasionally preach at local congregations as the need arises. I am also hoping to begin learning one of 73 languages spoken in Zambia, but am waiting to learn from ELCZA leaders which language is spoken most in the church.

Thank you for choosing to continue supporting me as an ELCA global missionary. I hope hope hope that I will get to visit you in the future. But for now, I look forward to sharing this transition in ministry with you as I engage in a new ministry in a new part of the continent of Africa.

Yaala baax na! (*God is good!* in the Wolof language of Senegal)
God be with you, and all of God's children.

Pastor Kristin Engstrom



Pastors Hanus will be conducting a workshop for the purpose of planning your *Celebration of Life* service.

Planning your service in advance is helpful to family members during a time when so many decisions need to be made.

The workshop occurs on Sunday, October 10th after the worship service and those who would like to attend will meet in the Ponderosa Room.



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO A
QUILTING MIXER
WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 13
9:00 AM**

Various stations will be set up in the log building, inclusive of a cutting 9 inch squares table, an ironing station, a quilt backing station, a layout station, and a border pinning station. You don't need to be a quilter to join the party. So bring a lunch and come join the fun!

Any questions call Eloise.


A PLACE TO BELONG

PAYSON COMMUNITY KIDS

"A Place To Belong"

"Center Time" Opens Dialogue Opportunities

Children gather on the lawn at the end of each PCCK day to share topics of interest, discuss world issues and learn language and behavioral skills. (at right)




Lend a hand when you can.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tuesday & Thursday
 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. • Homework
 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. • Art & Reading
 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. • Cafeteria & Playground

Wednesday
 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. • Reading One-on-One

Fridays are new. See President's Message for details



Payson Community Kids, a 501 (c) 3 organization, is made possible by the support of generous organizations, foundations and individuals like you! Contributions to the Payson Community Kids are charitable contributions which are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Donations can be mailed to the P.O. address listed below. EIN# 01-037684

Payson Community Kids • 213 S. Colcord, Payson, AZ 85541 • P.O. Box 1856, Payson, AZ 85547
www.paysoncommunitykids.com • paysoncommunitykids@gmail.com • (928) 478-7160

Mount Cross volunteers will serve a sloppy joe supper the third Thursday of the month, October 21st.

If you are willing to help us out at 4:15 p.m. or provide funds for the food that we buy, please contact Sharon Vaplon, 928-468-8711.

The staff really appreciates our service, because if no one volunteers, they then have to put a meal together. Their goal is to send the children home from the after-school program with a supper each day they attend.

Your support of time and funds for this program are appreciated!

The

Pumpkin †

Prayer



**The LORD is my light
and my salvation.**
Psalm 27:1

Dear Jesus,

As I carve my pumpkin,
help me pray this prayer:
Open my mind so I can learn about you.
Take away my sin and forgive
the wrong that I do.
Open my eyes so your love I will see;
I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose
at what you've given to me.
Open my ears so your Word I will hear;
Open my mouth to tell others you're near.
Let your light shine in all I say and do.

Amen.