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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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October 2022

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601 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541  
Phone: 928-474-2552  
[www.mountcross.org](http://www.mountcross.org)

## Sunday Worship Services

9:30 a.m.  
*Worship/Communion Service*

Livestreamed  
*Online Worship Service*

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Pastor  
In transition  
474-2552  
[pastor@mountcross.org](mailto:pastor@mountcross.org)

Music Director  
Daria Mason  
[daria1024mason@gmail.com](mailto:daria1024mason@gmail.com)

Accompanist  
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator  
Lenore M. White  
[secretary@mountcross.org](mailto:secretary@mountcross.org)

Custodian  
Claudia Landa

## **Presidential Ponderings**

September has been a very busy month. We have started the process of seeking a call for a new permanent pastor by thinking about the church profile, and updating any necessary changes. In addition, the congregational Constitution is in the process of being updated to reflect current ELCA rules. The next step is to update the church by-laws to reflect the same, which will be my project for October.

Now let's move on towards our current status. We will have Pastor Linda Westcott as a supply pastor for the months of October and November. Starting in December and continuing through Easter, we have Rev. Lance Kittleson as a supply pastor. He has been as an active participant in many of our activities in the community and also with the Mount Cross Property Committee. He is one of the volunteers who worked extensively on the Waechter home prior to our selling it.

It is that time again for annual pledging of our TIME AND TALENT, as well as pledging our financial gifts to God's church. This is the time of year when the Council works on the budget in preparation to our Annual Congregational Meeting held on the third Sunday of November. Our pledged amounts assists in planning for the next year. We will be commencing with the annual pledge drive during October.

It is also the time when we must develop a roster of candidates to nominate for Church Council. At present we have one willing person, but we need three more of you to step up for this very important work within the church body. I challenge you, who are full-time members, to arise to this challenge. There is one meeting a month and usually one or two general congregation meetings each year. Since I am of the older generation, I remember the draft, and how a notice would be given that you must report for duty. I would hate to think we may come down to that.

I can only thank each and every one of you who has expressed your thoughts and feelings about this state of flux that we are in. I personally love Mount Cross for its faith community, the friendships, and the joy that exudes throughout the activities in which we participate.

Moving towards Reformation Sunday (also known as Red Sunday, where we wear red), we celebrate Martin Luther and his treatise requesting a change in the church, where we share God's grace and redemption, and of God's forgiveness. We continue to live our lives, both with sin and without, knowing that His Redemption is possible if we seek it. I bid all of you to think about the many gifts and blessings you have received and to be thankful.

*Alice Natale*  
Council President



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



Angeline Ng will once again bless us with beautiful music on Sunday afternoon, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. You won't want to miss this!



Mount Cross volunteers will again serve a sloppy joe supper the third Thursday of each month, August through December. The next date for providing the meal is October 20<sup>th</sup>.

God's work. Our hands.



Most of the time we look for projects. Now we are faced with seeking a new pastor, as well as in forming a Call Committee.

We also need volunteers for committees to keep our church running smoothly...and *most importantly*, we need a couple of folks who are willing to serve as Council members.

As you think about this, these tasks require dedication, humility, time spent in prayer and a sense of purpose in growing Mount Cross as a beacon of God's love.



We are here to pray for so many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those families who have lost a loved one.

Let us pray for each other, let us pray for our families, let us pray for our church, let us pray for our town, our state and our country.

And most importantly, pray for our world, that we tend it with care and respect.

If you are willing to help us out at 4:00 p.m. or provide funds for the food that we buy, please contact Sharon Vaplon, 928-468-8711.

The staff of Payson Community Kids 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.

Mission Endowment Meeting Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> after the service in the conference room



All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> during the prayers of intercession. Please contact the office with your name requests before Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – August 2022)



2022 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$306,010.00
Income . . . . .	\$181,646.00 (59.35% of 2022 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$187,441.00 (61.25% of 2022 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during August 2022 . . . . . \$2,224.00  
 Total paid out in 2022 for mortgage . . . . . \$72,920.00

*Of this amount which was paid out, \$50,000.00 was applied toward the principle as per the vote at the Congregational meeting held on August 14, 2022.*

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2022  
 Mount Cross. . . . . \$4,708.00

The final quarter of the year is now upon us. Ron Nelson, the Financial Secretary, is in the process of collecting information for the 2023 budget. Stewardship packets will be placed in your church mailboxes during October.

Yours in Christ,  
 Financial Team



For the month of September, we had no one but Alice and Eloise in attendance at the monthly Bible study. We simply talked and waited for 15 minutes to see if anyone else would show up

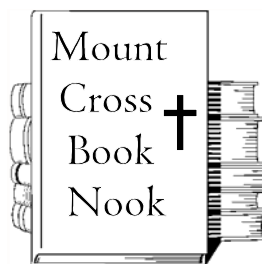
When I got my Gather magazine on the second Saturday of September, I laid it aside due to other tasks that had to be done. On Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, I opened it to see what I had missed and to prepare for next month. Wow! One of my favorite subjects, NATURE, was the focus of this month’s study. As I browsed, there were examples of city dwellers who focus on nature as they walk or exercise. All very interesting, but as I looked out of my window early this morning at the clouds and blue sky, I had the thought that we live in God’s country.

Each year I notice a change in the air in September and October. God gives us the last blast of heat, usually around Labor Day, and then there is a crispness in the air, a sharpness in the colors of green, and the start of rustling leaves and an occasional tiny leaf of gold. The prelude to a beautiful symphony of color, scurrying of animals and birds, the shorter days creeping in, followed by night music of bugling elk.

We, who are Arizonans, do not have the really chilly nights until October, but we do have the brilliant colors of nature, and it becomes time to look to heaven and say *THANK YOU, GOD!*

*Thank you for giving us such a beautiful place to live, thank you for your grace and your love, and thank you for all the many things we are blessed with in the daily course of life. Thank you for your Son, who gave his life for our sins and transgressions. Please forgive us, and allow us a period of redemption. Amen.*

Alice Natale  
 WELCA president



The selections available on the library cart are as follows:

**Non-Fiction**


- The Bible Has the Answer* by Henry Morris/Martin Clark
- You Can if You Think You Can* by Norman Vincent Peale
- In the Eye of the Storm* by Max Lucado
- Chicken Soup for the Soul* by Jack Canfield/Mark Hansen
- How to Listen to God* by Charles Stanley

**Fiction**

- The Centurion's Wife* by Davis Bunn/Janette Oke
- My Abigail* by Cynthia Davis
- Season Under Heaven* by Beverly LaHaye/Terri Blackstock
- A Voice in the Wind* by Francine Rivers
- Julie* by Catherine Marshall

Don't forget, there are more books located in the Ponderosa Room, so there are plenty of books to choose from.

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*

 Mount Cross services can now be found on YouTube. We have expanded the options for viewing the Sunday service, so you may either access the service through Facebook or YouTube.

To look for current and past Mount Cross YouTube videos, go out to YouTube and type in the search bar:  
*Payson Mount Cross Lutheran Church.*

REFORMATION SUNDAY



OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>  
"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

*Thank You*

A great big *thank you* to Pastor Dan Albertson for serving as supply pastor at Mount Cross for the first couple of months after the loss of Pastors Hanus. Pastor Dan will be at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church beginning on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

We pray for the Hanuses as they settle into the new segment of their life journey.

Another big *thank you* to Reverend Linda Wescott, who has graciously accepted the position of supply pastor for the next two months.



**Goodies Needed!**

Do you enjoy coffee and a little something 'nummy' to go with it during fellowship time? Some 'nummies' are needed! If you enjoy baking or see something at the store that looks 'delish,' please help to fill this need by signing up to bring goodies for a Sunday or two on the sheet located on the snack table in the narthex.

**Are you interested in serving the Lord at His table?**



Join us for lunch at The Annual Altar Guild at Tiny's Restaurant on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and find out how you can be a part of this important ministry!

## 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 biblical prophets. All are welcome to attend.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

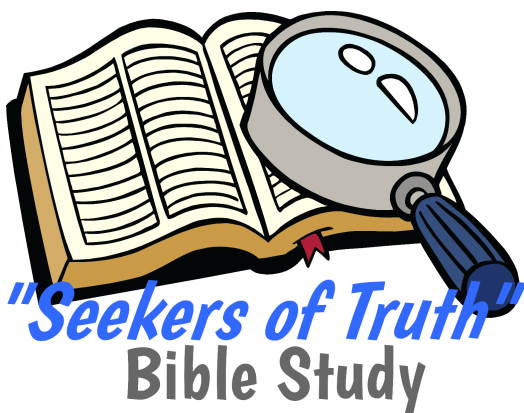
Bible studies from *Gather* magazine are used. The topic for the September (*trees*) and October (*soil*) studies are "Jesus and nature: Teachers of faith." Do you enjoy gardening? Working outside? This is the Bible study for you!

As an added bonus, you can view September's supplemental video from Rev. Sarah Olson-Smith at this web address

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/september-2022-video-supplement-to-jesus-and-nature-teachers-of-faith/>

Seekers of Truth Bible study, support, social, and friendship group, is held on the third Thursday of each month in the Ponderosa Room at 10:00 AM; October 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for this month's meeting. Refreshments will be served; BYB (Bring Your own Beverage).

The group continues to focus on sixteen major and minor Old Testament prophets at each of the meetings, they discuss one or two prophets.



Members of the group will be given handouts before each meeting with information about the prophet or prophets to be discussed. There is NO book requirement. Members of the group who have study Bibles will be encouraged to read about each prophet in their own Bible and to share with the group what their Bibles say about each prophet.

The last part of the meeting will be a time for socializing, eating, and supporting each other.

Jan Bartoli is the facilitator of the group and Sue Bobek is the discussion leader. If you have questions, suggestions, or wish to be a part of this group, please call Jan at 928-517-1119 or Sue at 928-478-6166.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# Empowering Women

... stories that change lives



*We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this. Ephesians 2:10 NLV*

2022 Fall Retreat for Women of the Grand Canyon Synod  
Friday, Oct 21: 6 pm to Saturday, October 22: 4 pm  
Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center  
7415 E Elbow Bend Rd, Carefree AZ 85377  
<http://spiritinthedesert.org>

We're inviting women to join us for a week-end event focused on *Empowering Women...stories that change lives*. Ephesians 2:10 "We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this."

Expanding on the empowerment theme introduced at the WELCA Cactus Conference in March, our activities will be centered on Dwelling in the Word and then learning about stories and programs that change women's lives, Biblically, internationally, and here in our own Grand Canyon Synod. Women's lives impacted by Peter's Hope, LSS-SW's I-Help, Days for Girls, the Navajo Lutheran Mission and our own Latina sisters. We hope to inspire YOU to empower other women!

This event is for women of all ages and registration is limited to 90 , with overnight housing available at Spirit in the Desert. All rooms have comfortable beds, ensuite bathroom, and a private deck. There are 14 large rooms in the Estrem building, to accommodate 2-4 guests each. Queen beds are standard. Many rooms also have a hideaway or space for a rollaway bed. In the Yackel Lodge, there are six (6) suites, each with two bedrooms and a common living room. The rooms have either a full-size bed and an extend twin XL, or two twin XLs. Each living room has a queen sleeper sofa. There is one suite in Yackel equipped with ADA bathrooms. This suite will accommodate 4-5 occupants. There is NO elevator in the Yackel lodge; stairs are on each end of the building. 24 hours coffee/tea available, including water and ice. Bring your own hair dryer. Many rooms have mini-fridges. No TV or radio in rooms. The new Hampton Inn across the road from Spirit in the Desert in Carefree may also have rooms available.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30 AT 11:59 PM.**

Online registration form:

<https://grandcanyonsynodwomen.regfox.com/2022-grand-canyon-womens-retreat>

Printable registration form:

<http://grandcanyonwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Retreat-Registration-Form-SITD-final.pdf>

All registrations and payment must be received on or before Sept. 30. No refunds after Oct. 7 but registration is transferrable. Debbie Romboletti is our registrar. Her email is [debrombol1214@gmail.com](mailto:debrombol1214@gmail.com) Questions about your registration can be addressed to Debbie by email or by cell phone 702-875-2013. She will maintain a "wait list" if we exceed 90 registrations.