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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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November 2021

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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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Pastors

Rev. Cliff Hanus  
Rev. Linda Hanus  
474-2552

[pastor@mountcross.org](mailto:pastor@mountcross.org)  
emergency phone  
928-363-1683

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  
Rod Rice

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

### DON'T BE A TURKEY; GIVE THANKS

As the calendar page flips to November, our thoughts typically turn to family gatherings (which we have missed), getting stuffed on Thanksgiving (Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> this year) and pausing to thank God for our many blessings. It is a joy-filled time, which is then quickly replaced by the horror of Black Friday. Although, with container ships anchored outside our ports, maybe things will be a bit different this year.

While November 11<sup>th</sup> tends not to be nearly as festive, it is another extremely important day for us to give thanks!

### VETERANS DAY

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, which signaled the end of World War 1, was originally known as Armistice Day. In 1938 Armistice Day became a national holiday, and in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name to Veterans Day.

While Memorial Day is set aside to honor those who died in active military service, Veterans Day focuses on all American veterans, living or dead, but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

So, before we stuff our faces on Thanksgiving, let's be certain to honor all American veterans, and especially, those who join us at Mount Cross serving the Lord.

### DON'T QUOTE ME

I wanted to share some quotes from some famous people regarding veterans and war:

***"Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us."***

That is from President Ronald Reagan in a 1983 radio address to the nation.

***“In war, using their native language, they relayed secret messages that turned the course of battle. At home, they carried for decades the secret of their own heroism.”***

So said President George W. Bush, in remarks honoring the Navajo code talkers in 2001.

***“Whatever gains are secured, it is loss the veteran remembers most keenly. Only a fool or a fraud sentimentalizes the merciless reality of war.”***

Words from a true war hero, Senator John McCain in 2008

***“I saw your sons and your husbands, your brothers and your sweethearts. I saw how they worked, played, fought and lived. I saw some of them die. I saw more courage, more good humor in the face of discomfort, more love in an era of hate, and more devotion to duty than could exist under tyranny.”***

This individual never served in our military. He tried to enlist but was turned down by President Roosevelt, who felt Leslie would serve best entertaining American soldiers. Yep, he was better known as Bob Hope, who was made an honorary veteran of the Armed Forces by an act of congress in 1997. In my book, he was an outstanding supporter of our military and his life was often on the line, as he served our nation so honorably.

And so we pray:

*“Dear Lord, we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country’s heritage, for all of us.”*  
Amen.

November is about more than some turkey, stuffing, gravy, (more gravy) and pumpkin pie.

We give endless thanks for God’s love, mercy and grace and also for those men and women who honorably and faithfully have served or currently serve our nation!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Cliff Hanus*



Our  
STATEMENT . . .

†ChristConnectingCommunity



**We Will Not Forget  
Our Veterans!**

Veterans Day falls on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Due to the fact that November 7<sup>th</sup> is All Saints Sunday, as well as Dedication/Commitment Sunday, we will be honoring veterans on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. We believe they should have a remembrance day of their own and not become an afterthought on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

As the pastors have done in previous congregations, they would love to have a list of names, branches of service and rank from our Mount Cross living veterans. Please fill out that information and return it to the church office or drop it into the collection plate by November 9<sup>th</sup>, so that we can include it in our bulletin for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your service!



Please fill out and return this portion:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

Mount Cross volunteers will serve a sloppy joe supper on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. 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!



# THANKSGIVING

Come join us for a Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner at Mount Cross on Thanksgiving Day. The event will be held in the log building. Meat and beverages will be provided. Our master chefs, Ernie & Nancy Kellett, will be cooking the turkey/ham. Dinner will begin at 3:00 p.m. and last until about 5:00 p.m. There is a sign up sheet posted near the mailboxes in the narthex. When you sign up please note the dish you will be sharing. If people just want to come to share a cup of coffee and dessert, that would be great, too. Help for set up (probably a day or so earlier) and take down will be appreciated. All are welcome to share in this gathering - friends, family, the neighbor that is all alone, anyone.

Thanksgiving Blessings to all !!



**Special Council Meeting**

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at  
5:30 p.m.  
in the  
Ponderosa Room  
to complete  
Congregational Meeting Plans



*“Lighting the Christmas Tree”*

Midweek Service  
Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Finger Foods Supper  
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.



# Council President Notes

With fall showing its color in preparation for winter, we have some things to plan for as the Church year ramps up to the holidays.

We start with Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, then on to Veterans Day and the joy of Thanksgiving. All Saints Day is a church celebration day with red paraments, and a celebration of our departed friends and family members. In our church we remember them by tying a ribbon on a wreath with prayers said by all.

Most importantly we have the best day of the year on November 7<sup>th</sup>, when we have prayerfully plan and then dedicate our pledges of money and service to the church. Here we can use our time and talents in the service of Christ.

We follow that with Veterans Day, where we remember the military folk who have fought for this country. Then we have the National Day of Overeating called Thanksgiving. This year Nancy and Ernie Kellett are once again preparing turkeys and stuffing as the base for a Mount Cross member celebration. The attendees provide pot luck items to round out the feast. The event will occur in the log building at 3:00 PM.

On the weekend following Thanksgiving we start the season of Advent, with decorating the tree on Wednesday night along with having an Advent dinner, which usually is soup, bread, and a cookie. We will have the Advent dinners for the three weeks of Advent. After Advent we celebrate the birth of Jesus, which is the big event. Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM.

Now on the home-front, our annual meeting of the congregation will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup>. At this meeting we discuss the budget and approve it, as well as elect Council members and committee members for the Mission Endowment and the Memorial Committees. We need folks to help with these tasks.

During this past month, the Boy Scouts have cleaned the LOMONA center and held their meetings with Scouts earning many badges.

Also during this past month, we have had a few repairs that the property committee has completed. Thank these very hard working men when you see them.

We are looking into developing the overhead screen program again. It seems that Covid has limited quite a few things.

*Alice Natale*

ProTem President



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – September 2021)

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2021 Approved ½ year Budget . . . . .    | \$153,111.50                         |
| 2021 Total budget for the year . . . . . | \$305,573.00                         |
| Income . . . . .                         | \$214,165.00 (70.00% of 2021 budget) |
| Expenditures . . . . .                   | \$218,971.00 (71.65% of 2021 budget) |

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during September 2021 . . . . . \$4,855.00  
 Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage . . . . . \$17,741.00

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

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

Our first payment of \$2,865 on the new refinance with Mission Investment was made on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commitment Sunday will be on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Please prayerfully consider your contribution of time and/or money for the 2022 year. A blessing over your gifts will occur during the service, so please don’t forget to bring your filled out “Time & Talent” sheet and your pledge card that day.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team

**News from Missionary Kristin Engstrom**

This past year has been one of uncertainty and transition for me, as it has been for many of you. Thankfully, I now have good news to share about a new call with ELCA Global Mission! You can read about my new call, as well as join me in celebrating the first four years of the YAGM Senegal program in my October Newsletter.

A pdf of the October Newsletter can be viewed at:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mYNCAxylS5hEBDPwck2irI2z2oLrYp42/view>.  
*(A printed copy is posted on the church bulletin board)*

You can also find my new blog at:  
<https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com/2021/10/october-2021-newsletter.html>.



For those of you who followed my work with the YAGM Senegal program via the YAGM Senegal blog ([yagsenegal.wixsite.com/blog](http://yagsenegal.wixsite.com/blog)), that blog will remain viewable online, but I will now be posting at [alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com](http://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com).

Thank you all for your continued support during this time of transition. I know life and ministry have been challenging during this past year and a half, which makes me all the more thankful and glad that we are church together, siblings in Christ together, and never alone.

God be with you,  
Pastor Kristin Engstrom



*The Gift of the Spirit:  
A Divine Wild Goose Chase*

*Wind of God: Refiner and Re-router*

The women will meet in the Ponderosa Room at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for our monthly Bible study. The study guide which is used can be found in the Gather Magazine or you may pick up a copy on the clipboard near the church mailboxes.

This month, we will be discovering how the Holy Spirit is considered the wind of God, which moves us into deeper faithfulness and a more authentic love. We'll see the ways in which God's Spirit moves us to bear good fruit in the world and refines us into our truest selves. We will also follow the Spirit's movements through the early church to see how the Spirit re-routes God's people, guiding us into transformed lives and renewed communities of faith.



**PREPARETH THY HEARTS FOR HIS COMING!**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is November 28<sup>th</sup> and materials are available to help prepare your hearts for this joyful season leading into the celebration of Christ's birth. Please feel free to pick up, from the entrance table in the narthex, any or all of the following Advent items: calendars, study guides, and/or Good Gifts catalogs.



**SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST**

Starting Sunday, November 14, many copies of the ELCA Good Gifts catalog will be available in the narthex for your use to provide ideas and answers for your CHRISTmas gift list. When the grandchildren wonder what to give you, you can suggest some ideas that will please you and help the many projects of our national ELCA as it tackles hunger. Many of us no longer need more trinkets, but we are thrilled if someone in Africa or South America can drink safe water, grow a vegetable garden, start a small business to support a family, raise an animal for food or income, send a girl to school, etc.

Many of us have family members for whom we need ideas for gifts. Maybe an adult child has "everything she needs" but would enjoy a card that says you have given a goat in her honor to provide fresh milk for a family living in a harsh environment with rocky terrain, or in drought-prone areas, or has only a small plot of land. Giving little chicks in honor of grandchildren also helps your special little ones learn that some families do not have enough to eat, and the chicks can give them eggs to eat for protein.

The order form is inside the ELCA Good Gifts catalogs including directions for getting a card that you can give a recipient. We have some ornament-shaped name tags that can also be used to tell others about the gift you are giving them.

There is a supply of free Advent calendars that you can use for yourself or family members.

*Suggestions from the Global Missions Team*

If you are interested in being a part of the Global Missions Team, you are welcome to join our meeting in the conference room on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service.



# Stewardship ime



### November Birthdays

- 4 John Buchanan
- 9 Dave Ritterbusch
- 12 Ed Stevens
- 14 Linda Wiebe
- 18 Sheryn Daw
- 21 Naomi Metz

### November Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 Tom/Carrie Backe
- 10 Tony/Lori Andretta  
Bill/Kathryn Lee
- 12 Jerry/Naomi Metz

### November Baptisms

- 1 James Monroe
- 26 Ray Wiebe

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at the Payson United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Masks are required so that everyone may be kept safe and healthy.

In anticipation of the 2022 year, stewardship information had been placed in your church mailbox.

The completed "Time & Talent" sheets and pledge card may be returned to the office or by placing them in the available basket on November 7<sup>th</sup>—Commitment Sunday.



Church office will be closed Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> day after Thanksgiving.

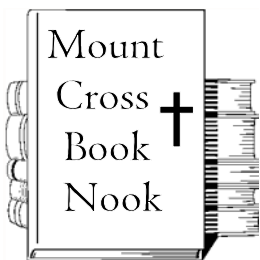


### Property Committee

will meet on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, in addition to the normal Thursday morning. The project for that day will be to assist the Altar Guild by pulling out the trees and decorations from storage and helping get them 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 season.



Each month we encourage you to pray for someone or some purpose. For this next month let's pray that our world once again centers itself on seeing God as our center, giving each other grace and goodwill as we go about our daily lives. Smiles, kindness, and encouragement go a long way towards sharing grace.



Thanks to all of you who picked up freebies and reduced four full boxes of books to one. Now you can take a look at the ones on the top shelf of the library book cart that are just begging to be checked out.

#### FICTION:

- Wish You Well* by David Baldacci
- (sp) *Shadow of Doubt* by Blackstone
- The Walk* by Evans
- Fame* by Karen Kingsbury
- Echo of Darkness* by Francine Rivers

#### NON-FICTION:

- Divine Prescriptions* by Virture
- Every Day Memory Building* by Keith
- Me and My Big Mouth* by Joyce Meyer
- Vision of the Afterlife* by Anita Hill and others
- Amazing Grace* by Cope.

You know how reading helps those pandemic hours to fly.

Your Librarian, *Eloise Jones*

## 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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



At our meeting on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, we discussed the triennial convention that will be held in Phoenix next summer. Our AZ gathering will be virtual this year and will occur on November 6, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

We are currently studying the HOLY SPIRIT. Do we feel connected with the Holy Spirit? If not, let's try the simple prayer provided in our Gather magazine.

1. Inhale. Fill your whole body and heart with breath. Feel air in your lungs. Now say "*HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US LIFE.*"
2. Exhale slowly and fully. Say "*REFRESH US WITH YOUR LOVE.*" Repeat these two actions as many as 10 times. Then end by praying for others who are on your prayer list or in your heart.

Moving forward, I read both chapters of Genesis after Pastor Linda suggested that there are two genesis stories. Loving astronomy and nature, I thought of God taking an expanse of nothing and making it orderly by creating the cosmos, the planets of our galaxy as well as other galaxies, developing the planets as he wished, then taking our planet and creating the oceans and land as a part of the first genesis. Then for the second genesis, creating man, and all the creatures upon the earth as well as all the animals and plants. Then he took a day of rest. Scholars have debated the issue of days over the years, but when you think of what God accomplished, it is astounding no matter how you think of time.

With that in mind, how do we acknowledge this gift by God to his people? Do we work every day, or do we take the time to have a day of leisure? Do we allow God to enter our busy worlds, or do we put that very wonderful time with God on our back burners? I do not always succeed in taking a whole day of rest, but I try very hard to have a period of time thanking him/her for all that has been provided to me, at least once a week. This is my current goal, to improve my time with God.

*Alice Natale*

WELCA president



Bell and Praise Choir practices will not take place on Thursdays, November 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Day).

There will be practices on Thursdays, November 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

5:30 p.m. – Bells

6:45 p.m. – Praise Choir



**Sunday Service**



**9:30 AM**

**EVERY Sunday  
In-House & Livestream**

**GLOBAL MISSIONS**

**Meeting:**  
 Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
 after the Sunday service  
 approximately 10:45 a.m.  
 in the  
 conference room.

**2021 Annual  
 Congregational  
 Meeting**

**Sunday,  
 November 21<sup>st</sup>  
 after the  
 9:30 a.m.  
 service**



**Informational packets about the meeting will  
 be found in your church mailbox by Sunday,  
 November 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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



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

For this month, let's look at ways we can help in our church. We need willing bodies to:

- serve on Council, as well as Mission Endowment and Memorial Committees
- help with coffee time
- help keep our campus clean
- help with congregational committees
- help in outreach to our community

Along with willingness, a cheerful attitude provides a picture of Christ.



**Date**

**Event**

**Time**

|                           |  |                              |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| November 21 <sup>st</sup> | Christ the King Sunday                                   | 9:30 a.m.                    |
| November 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Ecumenical Thanksgiving - Payson United Methodist Church | 7:00 p.m.                    |
| November 25 <sup>th</sup> | Thanksgiving Potluck – log building                      | 3:00 p.m.                    |
| November 28 <sup>th</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent                         | 9:30 a.m.                    |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Advent Finger-food Supper – Worship & Music Committee    | 5:00 p.m.                    |
|                           | Christmas Tree decorating – sanctuary                    | after supper; before service |
|                           | Tree lighting and Service – sanctuary                    | 6:00 p.m.                    |