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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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November 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 Lance Kittleson  
Supply Pastor  
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

## *President's Ponderings*

The month of October flew by with many things accomplished. Green Valley Water (sanitation department) has identified and worked with Wrangler Plumbing and a Sparklight subcontractor to repair the damaged sewer pipe. Repair of damaged dumpster enclosure is still pending settlement from Progressive; some letters have been sent to expedite the completion of the settlement.

Other items in the process of being addressed include 1) A leak in the rooftop is being monitored by the Property Committee; they have cleaned off the roof, which will hopefully solve the problem. 2) The fascia of the church is in need of restaining/repainting and Sun Painting has been considered to complete this task. It is important to keep the building in good repair. 3) The men of the Property Committee, plus Patricia Proescholdt, have weeded much of the campus near the two church buildings. 4) We are hiring a landscape company to come in, once the rainy season is over, to clean up the entire campus and then return on an as-needed basis. 5) The Property Committee has identified a tree behind the log building that needs to be removed. We are seeking bids on that project. We owe a big thank you to our property team!

We have welcomed new members on Reformation Sunday. Since one person was out of town, we will recognize him on November 6<sup>th</sup>, as well as it being All Saints Sunday and Commitment (Stewardship) Sunday. Please be sure to bring your pledge cards and filled in *time & talent* brochure on the 6<sup>th</sup> or drop them by the office beforehand.

The Call Committee will be meeting the first week of November. We have selected the following members: Tom Backe, Jan Bartoli, Barb Greer, Eloise Jones, Daria Mason. The alternates will be Nancy Kellett and Ron Nelson. Ron has taken this on, reluctantly, so if anyone would like to be an alternate, please contact Ron or me. An Alternate simply listens, participates in discussion, but does not vote.

The Annual meeting will be held immediately after services on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be electing new members to Council and Mission Endowment and Memorial Committees. We will also be approving the updated Mount Cross constitution and by-laws, as well as the 2023 budget.

We will be kicking off the Advent season with the trimming and lighting of the Christmas tree on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Food (pizza and sandwiches) and beverages will be provided starting at 5:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to bring salads or dessert items to add variety. No other mid-week services will occur during the Advent season, so you won't want to miss this celebration!

For all of us, there is a song we used to sing quite often, "*Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.*" For now, let's make that our theme song. We are moving forward...Mount Cross is a vital part of the community and we are blessed.

In God's peace.

*Alice Natale*



Pastor Lance Kittleson of St. Ansgar, Iowa was born in 1951 in the Hawkeye state, but was reared as an Army brat, the son of an Army Green Beret, living in military bases in the South and Germany. He graduated from high school in Fayetteville, NC in 1969, was neither a brilliant scholar nor a gifted athlete, but learned to run fast for self-preservation from his older, bigger brother whom he was needlessly provoked. That contributed to Lance making the high school track team as a hurdler that went on to win the State Track Championship in North Carolina.

Earning a History degree from North Carolina State University in 1973, Lance was commissioned an Infantry officer in the US Army through ROTC and served on active duty in Germany from 1974-1976 followed by continuing to serve in the Iowa and Massachusetts National Guard and later in the Army Reserve where he would complete his military career as a Chaplain.

Entering an evangelical theological Seminary outside of Boston in 1977, Lance returned to his Lutheran roots and graduated from Luther-Northwestern Seminaries, St. Paul, MN, in 1981. He was ordained a Pastor in the American Lutheran Church at his home congregation in St. Ansgar, Iowa that year.

He and his wife, Gail (Cutler), an Iowa farm girl, is a women's historical fiction author and also has a Masters in Teaching English as a Second Language. They married in 1978 and with their two small children served their first Call as missionaries in the west African country of Senegal from 1982-1983. Following their return from overseas missions, they were called to rural ministry at Alta Vista and Lawler, IA (1983-1989), St. Peter, Greene, IA (1989-2000) and to the "sunny side" of Oregon at Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande (2001-2003).

While in Oregon, Lance's Army Reserve unit was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 where he served in the Kuwaiti desert and at a base north of Baghdad, Iraq as one of his unit's Chaplains. When demobilized in 2004, he returned to northern Iowa and was called to serve another rural two-point parish of St. Peter, Toeterville & Deer Creek, Carpenter, IA (2004-2021) where he ministered for 17 years. During this time, his unit was again mobilized for Iraq (2010-2011) and upon returning from overseas, he retired as a Chaplain (Colonel) with just shy of 35 years of combined Active, Reserve and National Guard military service. In 2021 at the age of 70 year old, Lance retired from full-time ministry after 40 years of ordination. He has been mowing lawns, pulling weeds and raking leaves while supply preaching at local Iowa Lutheran and Methodist Churches. He relishes having no meetings to attend in-between Sunday worship.

He and Gail spend time between Iowa (watching high school age grandchildren play sports) and Pine, Arizona where they have 'wintered' since 2010. They have two adult children, Katie of St. Ansgar, Iowa and Andy of Phoenix, AZ and three "wonderfully smart and capable" grandchildren who take after their grandmother and their parents.

*Note: Pastor Lance Kittleson has graciously agreed to assist Mount Cross during this time of pastoral transition. He will be serving the Lord and this church between December of 2022 and April of 2023.*



Our  STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



**DEACON'S  
FOOD PANTRY**

The Deacon's Food Pantry is very short on items for the cart that we provided for people to make a choice. Miscellaneous items such as cereals, condiments, chips, crackers, and snacks are all welcome. Check the weekly specials where you shop and pick up a few items for the food pantry! Donations can be brought and placed in the grocery cart, located in the narthex, to Mount Cross on Sundays when you come to service or to the church on weekdays during office hours.



Mount Cross volunteers will again serve a sloppy joe supper the third Thursday of each month. The next date for providing the meal is November 17<sup>th</sup>.

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' goal is to send the children home from the after-school program with a supper each day they attend.

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



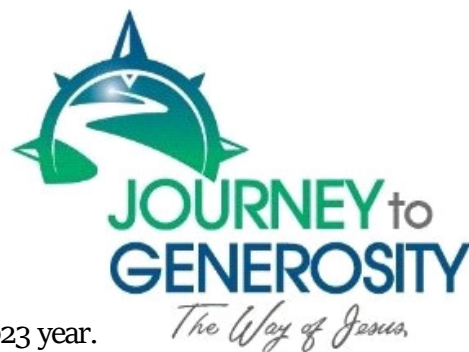
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

A few things we can do in our community that will help many may simply start each Sunday by greeting people and celebrating them. They are at church, we are all worshipping, we are enjoying the music, and we are celebrating life.

If you are bored, we need a few volunteers for the Food Bank, and also for the CASA project. CASA requires some special skills, but food bank requires compassion, joy, and honor.

## **STEPS IN STEWARDSHIP!**

1. Prayerfully consider your financial intentions to the church for the 2023 year.
2. Due to COVID and the choice of many to remain at home for the safety of themselves and others. Now that travel restrictions have been removed, many are traveling. Regardless of the situation, there are electronic giving options available. For more information, call the office and Lenore will be happy to discuss those options with you.
3. If you didn't received or can't find your card, extra cards can be found on entrance table in the narthex.
4. Fill out your Pledge Card and either drop it by the church office, mail it in, or bring it with you on Sunday and place in the offering plate.
5. Commitment Sunday will occur on November 6<sup>th</sup> and is the day on which your gifting plans will be dedicated to the Lord.
6. Stewardship also includes the gifting of your time. There are many areas in need of able bodies. Some of these areas include serving on Council, Mission Endowment & Memorial Committees, Altar Guild, Property Committee, Lectors, Worship Assistants, and Congregational Life. *Time & Talent* sheets have been provided in your stewardship packet; please be sure to include stewardship of your time. Many hands make light work!



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – September 2022)



|                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 Approved Budget . . . . . | \$306,010.00                         |
| Income . . . . .               | \$197,014.00 (64.38% of 2022 budget) |
| Expenditures . . . . .         | \$201,648.00 (65.89% of 2022 budget) |

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during September 2022 . . . . . \$1,734.00  
 Total paid out in 2022 for mortgage . . . . . \$75,785.00


*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 2023 budget has been approved by Council and will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, after the service. Stewardship packets had been placed in your church mailboxes during October and mailed to those unable to attend in person. Commitment Sunday is coming up on November 6<sup>th</sup>; please be in prayer about your intended contributions for the 2023 year. To turn in your pledge cards, you can mail them to the church, drop them by the office prior to Commitment Sunday, or place them in the offering plate on Sundays.

Yours in Christ,  
 Financial Team

**2022 Annual Congregational Meeting**

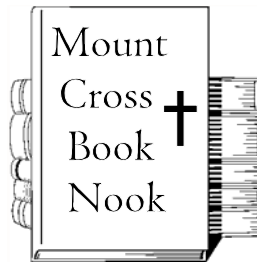


**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 a.m. service**

**Informational packets about the meeting will sent to you via email (those without emails will receive packet in their church mailbox) by Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Items that will be addressed:**

- ✧ 2023 budget
- ✧ voting for candidates for Council and Mission Endowment Committee
- ✧ updated constitution and by-laws



A great big “thank you” to all of you bookworms who picked up the Freebie books. Recently I had the chance to pick up some new books and that had been brought to the public library. These books will be November’s top shelf offer on the cart in the narthex. They are as follows:

- God Came Near* by Max Lucado
- Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels
- The Lord is My Shepherd* by Harold Kushner
- Heaven* by Randy Alcorn
- All for the Cause* by Gail Kittleson
- A Lineage of Grace* by Francine Rivers
- Abigail* by Lois Henderson
- Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan
- All Cracked Up* by Patsy Clairmont

Let’s pray you will take time this month to put your feet up, relax, and have a good read!

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*

## 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.



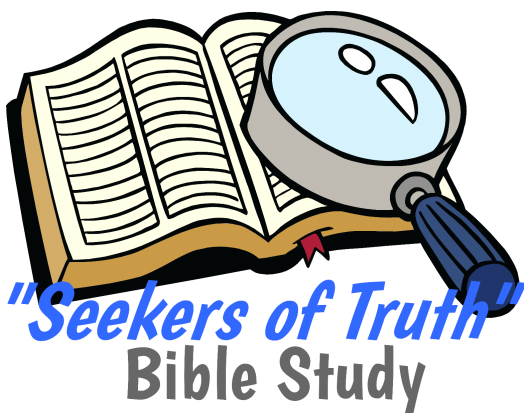
The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

Bible studies from *Gather* magazine are used. The topic for the November study is "Jesus and nature: Creatures." Do you watching wildlife? Payson is a wonderful place to watch elk, squirrels, and other woodland animals. This is the Bible study for you!

As an added bonus, you can view November's supplemental video from Rev. Sarah Olson-Smith at this web address <https://www.gathermagazine.org/november-2022-video-supplement-to-jesus-and-nature-creatures/>

*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; November 17<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!**



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



**Office Hours**  
November 9, 10,  
and 14-16  
9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Church office will be closed Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> day after Thanksgiving.

New disciples were received on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. What a more appropriate time to join the Mount Cross Faith Family than on Reformation Sunday! Those accepted on this joyous occasion were Barry & Diane DeChaine, Mark Milbauer & Barb Howe, Wayne & Nancy Peterson, Tom Spencer, and Christy Zapp.



**Property Committee** will meet on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., in addition to the normal Thursday morning. The project for Wednesday will be to pull out the trees and decorations from storage and help 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.



During this next month let's us pray for our world, our care of our planet, our care of each other, and our church, that it may grow and prosper in faith.



**November Birthdays**

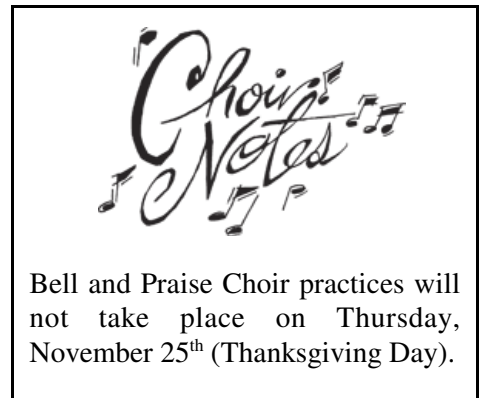
- 4 John Buchanan
- 9 Dave Ritterbusch
- 12 Ed Stevens
- 14 Linda Wiebe
- 18 Sheryn Daw
- 21 Naomi Metz
- 29 Joe Dice

**November Wedding Anniversaries**

- 7 Tom/Carrie Backe
- 10 Tony/Lori Andretta  
Bill/Kathryn Lee

**November Baptisms**

- 1 James Monroe
- 26 Ray Wiebe



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



**PREPARE THY HEARTS FOR HIS COMING!**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is November 27<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.



## *“Lighting the Christmas Tree*

Midweek Gathering

Wednesday, November 30  
Supper at 5 p.m. in the church  
Followed by decorating the tree.



Service of Music at 6 p.m.

Finger Foods Potluck  
Pizza, sub sandwiches and Wassail provided  
Bring you favorite Finger Food to share.

*We will welcome Lance and Gail Kittleson!  
Lance will serve as our supply pastor through Easter!*



| <u>Date</u>               | <u>Event</u>  | <u>Time</u>                  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| November 20 <sup>th</sup> | Christ the King Sunday                                | 9:30 a.m.                    |
| November 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Ecumenical Thanksgiving - St. Paul's Episcopal Church | 7:00 p.m.                    |
| November 27 <sup>th</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent                      |                              |
| November 30 <sup>th</sup> | Potluck Finger-food Supper – bring finger-foods       | 5:00 p.m.                    |
|                           | Christmas Tree decorating – sanctuary                 | after supper; before service |
|                           | Tree lighting and Music Service – sanctuary           | 6:00 p.m.                    |

## Women of the ELCA

For the last two months our women's Bible study has been centered on nature. The first was focused on plants. October it was focused on the world in which Jesus lived. He used the analogy of him being the vine, and we are the branches. If in good soil, the vine grows, if in less hospitable soil, it may grow and then wither, or the seed is lost. Our faith depends on care and attention.

We had a discussion on living in on farms or ranches and how we who depend on the environment to keep our livelihood going by nurturing the soil with fertilizer/manure. Everyone on a farm works to protect as thriving farm.

That is also true for our own lives and our relationship with Christ. We must share an ongoing faith with our living style, keeping our relationship with the Triune God alive through prayer, time spent thinking about Jesus, and living our lives in an open and caring manner to keep our relationship with God present as we live as folks who believe in the miracle of Jesus that God gave us. God gave his Grace, and we also can give grace to others.

I recently received an email that talked about forgiveness, which included many quotes on covering forgiveness. So going to the basics, God sent his son, Jesus, to earth to help us return to him through the power of redemption. To be redeemed, we must first ask for forgiveness and then God can work through the Holy Spirit to redeem us. There were several quotes that caught my soul:

Mother Teresa – *“If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive”*

Bernard Meltzer – *“When you forgive, you in no way change the past, but you sure do change the future.”*

Nelson Mandela – *“When deep injury is done us, we never heal until we forgive”*

Jack Canfield – *“It can be hard to forgive and let go but it's important to remember that holding a grudge can hurt you even more. The word “forgive” really means to give something up for yourself, not them.”*

It is a beginning of a relationship with God, as the door opens to your soul.

***Alice Natale***

WELCA president