

Mount Cross Chronicle

February 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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10: 27)

It's February- the shortest month of the year. If there is one word that speaks to me this month, it is (no, not chocolate or Olympics), it is **love**: Love of God, love of neighbor, love of self, and love of life.

How Blessed We Are



How blessed we are to be loved by God
Unconditionally and immeasurably;
No strings attached
No "to do" list to complete.

How blessed we are to be a blessing
Called to love one another;
No strings attached
No "to do" list to complete.

How blessed we are to love ourselves
Claimed by God- Whose we are;
No strings attached
No "to do" list to complete.

How blessed we are to be alive;
Each day a gift- to love and be loved
No strings attached
No "to do" list to complete.

This is grace...
How blessed we truly are!
(LCH, 2022)



May God's perfect love fill every moment of every day for all of God's children.

With hope and love,

Pastor Linda Hanus



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY February 13, 2022

Along with congregations, schools, businesses, and passionate individuals throughout the country, Mount Cross will be participating in Souperbowl Sunday on February 13, 2022, while we all tackle hunger. Both dollars and food items will be collected on this Sunday and the total of dollars and food items will be reported to the national Souper Bowl of Caring to add to the national total and witness the united power of caring.

Nonperishable food items will be collected at a display in the narthex. Soup pots for money contributions will be passed during an offering time, where either checks or cash can be placed. All checks should be written to Mount Cross with Souperbowl on the memo line. All food items will be given to the Deacon's Food Pantry and monetary donations will be sent to Payson Homeless & Homeless Veteran's Initiative.



Payson Community Kids Sloppy Joe supper will be served on Thursday, February 18th. Please plan to arrive at 4:15 p.m. and we are done about 5:00 p.m.



Dear Ecumenical Family,
Thank you for your continued support for the food bank. We are truly blessed by your kindness and also your wonderful volunteers as well. We would not be able to help those in need without all the key things working together.

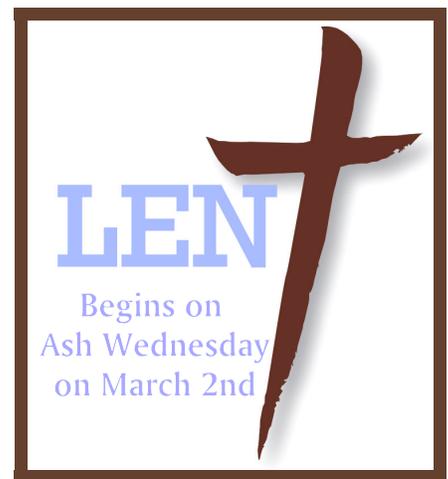
Thank you all again. Many blessings to you and your families in this upcoming new year.

Melissa Ruff
Food Bank Coordinator



It is easy to fall into the January doldrums, but as we move into February, there are many things we can do to serve God.

Take a moment to think about your talents and then put them to work, helping where you can.



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – December 2021)



2021 Approved 1/2 year Budget	\$153,111.50
2021 Total budget for the year	\$305,573.00
Income	\$276,856.00 (90.6% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures	\$290,557.00 (95.1% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during December 2021 \$3,364.00
 Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage \$26,336.00

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

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

The Church Council members were installed at the service on January 16th. Ron Nelson was elected by the Council as the church Financial Secretary at their December 2021 meeting. Thank you, Ron, for being willing to serve in this position on the Council!

The Mount Cross annual report will provide more detailed information about the final numbers for the 2021 year. The 2021 books will be closed out upon publication of the annual report. You may pick up a copy of the report on the table in the narthex or on the display board hanging on the wall near the kitchen.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team

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.

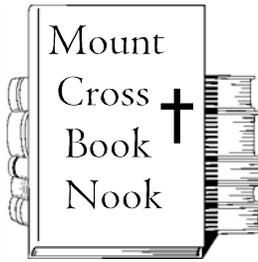
[2nd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.](#)

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](#)





Looking for a book to while away the pandemic blues? Scan the titles of the books located on the library cart near the Ponderosa room while you're having that cup of coffee and/or that goody off the refreshment table. Did you know we have an author in-residence attending Sunday services? Well, we have four of her books on the cart; they are titled *Kiss Me Once*, *In Times Like These*, *With Each New Dawn*, and *A Purpose True*.

Other possibilities are:

- Become a Better You*
by Joel Osteen
- Prayer, Faith and Healing*
by Bernie Siegel Md
- Me and My Big Mouth*
by Joyce Meyer
- Living Beyond the Daily Grind*
by Charles Swindoll
- Divine Prescriptions*
by Doreen Virtue PhD
- When the Lilacs Bloom*
by Susan Kirby
- Wish You Well*
by David Baldacci
- The Wish*
by Beverly Lewis
- The Last Promise*
by Richard Paul Evans
- A Sisters Test*
by Wanda Brunstetter

NEEDED...
ANY BOOK ENDS
YOU AREN'T USING!

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones



At the women's Bible study, we will consider the "Kingdom of God: Mysteries of the Kingdom" through parables, banquets, and children. All women are invited to join us for this study on Thursday, February 10th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room.

We will delve into the various parables, which describe the kingdom of God in many different ways: a net, a treasure, a pearl, etc. We will also look at the parable in which Jesus dramatizes the "kingdom" as a banquet, where honored guests include misfits and outcasts. And then we will discover (or recall) who we should regard as the greatest in the kingdom and the most important members of any church.



February Birthdays

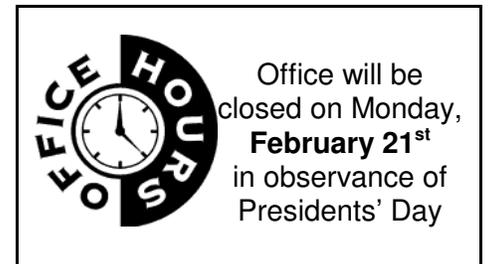
- 5 Rod Rice
- 6 Carrie Backe
- 12 Mary Walker
- 21 Diana Fletcher
- 25 Cathy Stewart
- 26 Gary Greer

February Wedding Anniversaries

None in February

February Baptisms

- 10 Tonnie Dice



We have many members who need our prayers.

Pay attention to the prayer list, and set some time aside for prayer.

Women of the ELCA

For the next three months our Bible study will be focused on the Reign of God. During the January meeting we discussed what Jesus talked about the most often. Many of us said love, Gods Kingdom, or helping others. As we went through the lesson, we learned it was God's Kingdom, mentioned 52 times in Matthew, 18 in Mark, 44 in Luke, with John only mentioning it 2 times.

So for the next 3 months we shall be discussing what the Kingdom of God means in our daily lives. I hope you are willing to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa room.

I love the new year. Each year I set goals for myself, achievable goals, not insurmountable goals. For this year, it is no more multitasking. Pay attention to what you are doing. That is easier said than done. In addition my goals, based upon the Beatitudes, include being better at listening to "Those who are poor in spirit," comforting "those who mourn," and to be kinder to those who need mercy and patience.

Serving God takes a great deal of paying attention to many things. These goals are permanent for me.

Now for this next year, I challenge all of you to take big steps in how you can be a stronger member of the Body of Christ.

Invite a friend to church, share your faith, and share your love.

Alice Natale

WELCA president

LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Service
Payson Community Presbyterian Church
(on Main Street)
March 2, 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten services at Mount Cross begin on Wednesday, March 9th.

A Soup/Bread Supper will be served between 5:00 -6:00 p.m.
in the back of the church.

The service will be at 6:00 p.m. with Holden's Evening Prayer
being presented this year.

Daria Mason and others will be soloists
and we all will join in singing this beautiful service.