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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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March 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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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*

### *In like a Lamb...Out like a Lion.*

March has never been my favorite month. Sure, there are a bunch of important days in March: Ash Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup>), International Women's Day (8<sup>th</sup>), St. Patrick's Day (17<sup>th</sup>), the first day of spring (20<sup>th</sup>), and of course, Linda and my 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the third. Still, March just seems like a month we need to trudge through in order to get to April showers and May flowers. It's gloomy, cool or cold, and we just want to move beyond the month and get to something better.

Adding to our gloomy outlook is Lent. Surely, it is the gloomiest liturgical season. In this season, we remember Jesus being in the desert 40 days and nights, fasting, praying and being tempted by Satan. Throughout this season, we move closer and closer to Jesus' death on the cross. It is not a joy-filled time as we focus on Jesus' suffering and death, on our account.

I view Jesus entering this time as a lamb. After his temptation in the desert, pushed around by Satan, Jesus begins his public ministry. He starts like a fresh, newborn lamb but exits into Holy Week and Easter as a lion- strong, courageous and triumphant.

Jesus 40 days of temptation corresponds with our 40 days of Lent (forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Well, 46 days actually, but we don't count the Sundays). This is our time to look our temptations in the face and not give in. Prayer, fasting, self-discipline, and charitable works continue to be the bread and butter of Lent. Engaging in such practices helps us all to be better focused on our relationship with God and more in tune with Jesus' challenges. As we do this, I pray that we will arrive at Easter triumphant, with renewed strength and courage as Jesus' faithful disciples.

My this Lenten season be a blessing for us all,

*Pastor Cliff Hanus*



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity

# God's work. Our hands.



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

During this past month, our church had addressed the gift from Jacob of his house located in north Payson. Jacob would come to church with his little dog and his motorcycle jacket emblazoned with a big cross on the back. Some of us would talk to him, and others seemed to ignore him. When Jacob died a year ago, he gave the church all he had: his house, his truck, his motorcycle and his gun collection. Once our Pastors had met with attorneys regarding Jacob's estate to make sure we truly inherited all these things, Council and the Pastors talked about getting the house ready for sale. The car, collections and motorcycle had a quicker turn around,

with offering Jacob's son the truck and motorcycle since it was his father's legacy. The collections were cleaned up and sold, the son was somewhat reluctant to pick up the items we offered him, and so subsequently the truck was sold and the motorcycle is in parts to be repaired and either sold or given to the son.

Now for the real work. Our Pastors, Gary & Sharon Vaplon, Tony Andretta, Ernie Kellett, and others emptied the house and yard of junk. The Thursday morning Property Committee with John Prescholdt, Tony Andretta, Bob Walker, Bill Petrie, Ron Nelson and others cleaned up the yard.. Lance Kittleson repaired the front porch and painted it. Then came the big day! On January 29<sup>th</sup> the team of both Pastors Hanus, Linda & Ray Wiebe, Nancy & Ernie Kellett, Scott Stallard, Mary Havenor, Tony Andretta, Ron Nelson, Sharon & Gary Vaplon, and Alice Natale came to the house armed with buckets, cleaning supplies, vacuums, mops, brooms, polishing and scrubbing tools, and a table to assemble everything. Trash bags, putty knives and other items were also included. OUTSIDE, rebuilding the back deck were Tony Andretta and Bob Walker; plus Bill Petrie helped the previous day.

All of this is an example of what God's Work, Our Hands can do. By the end of the day, the house was spotless. The deck needed a sealant, which was done the following Monday. The trash was hauled off. The buyer did the walk through and had to be reminded that the house was AS IS, so any further repairs would be his issue. We had made sure the heater and air conditioner were working and a new water heater was also installed. It was hard work, but the "Amazing Mount Cross" again showed its spirit.

SO IN MEMORY OF JACOB, THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR LEGACY WITH US.



<sup>SM</sup> This year, Mount Cross' participation in the SouperBowl collection on Superbowl Sunday resulted in \$804.50, which will be sent to PHHVI (Payson Homeless & Homeless Veteran's Initiative). Non-perishable food in the amount of 320 items was delivered to the Deacon's Food Pantry. It was wonderful to have a dozen Boy Scouts from our sponsored Pack/Troop attend this service to assist in this collection.

Thank you, Mount Cross, for the generosity that you show through giving to local organizations that assist those who are hungry in the community.

**Sunday Service**



**9:30 AM**

**EVERY Sunday  
In-House & Livestream**

Mount Cross Financial Report (January 2022)



2022 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$306,010.00
Income . . . . .	\$24,019.00 (7.85% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$25,809.00 (8.43% of 2021 budget)
Total given to the Mortgage Fund during January 2022 . . . . .	\$3,080.00
Total paid out in 2022 for mortgage . . . . .	\$2,865.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2022  
Mount Cross. . . . . \$0

Our January operational expenses exceeded the contributions. However, the amount contributed toward the mortgage surpassed the monthly payment with about \$200 to apply towards next month's payment. Thank you to those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team



Our study of the Kingdom of God is ongoing for the next two months. As we discussed in the February session, parables were teaching moments that Jesus used to reach us.

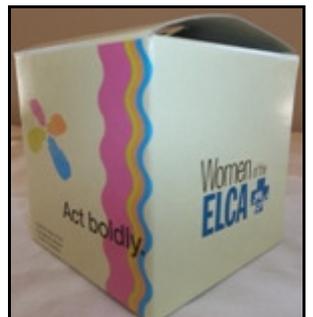
He often talked about food, banquets, gatherings to convey God's Kingdom and how it will be as a part of a parable. Children, the lame, the poor, the outcasts are the treasures of God. So why do we not remember that all God's creatures are special? Why do we humans tend to put down or disregard the treasures of God? Do we lift up folks instead of ignoring them? Do we embrace all folks without judging them by appearance, social status or financial wherewithal? Our discussion became a bit lively. Living up to Christ's standards, meaning the Beatitudes, as guide for behavior is not easy in our modern world. It probably was not easy in Jesus time either.

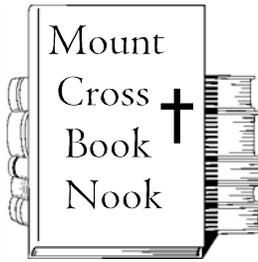
From another group that I am affiliated with, we are studying the Book of Acts. Jesus told the apostles to wait where they were and the Holy Spirit would descend upon them to help them live in the manner that God wishes his people to live. They did and then experienced the ability to help others in the manner of Jesus as cited in the Book of Acts.

In our world, we rush, we become distracted, we lose focus on the most important thing in the world, God! How much time do we take to simply let God direct our lives? Do we even hear his suggestions? On our digital sign along Highway 260, it states "*Kindness Matters.*" Are any of us guilty of not always remembering this? As we approach Lent, let's take time to Let God, not us, drive our lives.

**Alice Natale**  
WELCA president

WELCA will be collecting for the quarterly "*Thank Offering*" on the first two Sundays of March, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a "*Thank Offering*" box, and when you empty your pockets or purse of change, just drop it in the box.





During this time of the year, we have many days of gray skies, rain, and snow interspersed amongst the sunny days. On those inclement days, there is nothing better than curling up with a good book. Our library has a large selection, so be sure to stop by and check out what is available!

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*



We have a long list of people to pray about. How often do you take the time to do so? Prayer helps, prayer changes things, prayer gives both the “Prayer” and the “Prayee” the joy of connection, and more importantly...acknowledging that God is in control.



**March Birthdays**

- 3 Jean Petrie
- 4 Ray Wiebe
- 6 Tony Andretta
- 14 Sharon Vaplon
- 24 Audrey Ricker
- 27 Karen Ritterbusch

**March Wedding Anniversaries**

- 3 Pastors Cliff/Linda Hanus
- 5 Bill/Jean Petrie

**March Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 15 Tony Andretta



**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 9<sup>th</sup>.  
A Fingerfood 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 Evening Prayer***  
being presented this year.

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



Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will again use the pink pigs as a vehicle for you to donate checks (written to Mount Cross with World Hunger in the memo line) or cash as gifting sources during the 40 days of Lent. Our gifts will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

A small table in the narthex has study guides, *40 Days of Giving* calendars, and pink pig boxes for depositing “World Hunger” money. These materials are available for your use during this Lenten season.



**Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>  
and  
Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

## 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.



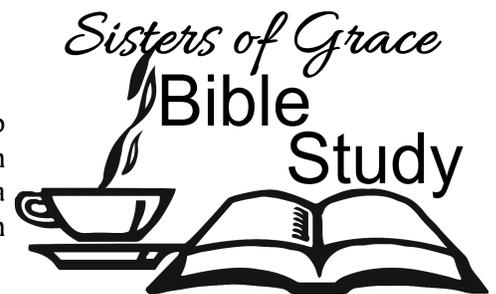
### Worship Services

Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; [live stream of the service](#) is available on Facebook.

Sundays, 9:30 AM

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The *Sisters of Grace*, a small women's Bible study, support, social, and friendship group, is planning to reboot in March. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, at 11:00 AM at Mount Cross Church in the Ponderosa Room. The purpose of this meeting is to decide where, when, and how often the group will meet.



This year's focus will be on sixteen major and minor Old Testament prophets. The first regular meeting will be a "get acquainted" meeting to discuss questions such as: What was the role and purpose of the Old Testaments prophets? How are their teachings significant to us in today's society? Guidelines for group membership and participation will also be established. Refreshments will be served. BYB (Bring Your own Beverage.)

Each of the following meetings will begin with a discussion of 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 question, 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!**

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

This month's study will focus on "The Kingdom of God: Here and Now" by exploring the gospel of John and eternal life. The mention of eternal life can either refer to the present...or the future. More times than not, John is referring to the present. Some passages in John seem to indicate that eternal life is something we already have. Do we already have eternal life or not? You are welcome to attend the Bible study and join in the discussion!

Hello sisters and brothers,

I'm glad to share with you all that I have finally arrived in Zambia to begin my new call as an ELCA global missionary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZA). Thank you for all your prayers and support over these past months of waiting and anticipating my deployment to Zambia.

I can share that I have been warmly welcomed by the ELCZA leaders who have gotten me settled and are introducing me to Zambia and the people of the Lutheran church here.

I've written a new blog post about my first week in Zambia. You can find it here:

<https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com/2022/02/arrived-in-zambia.html>



## Arrived in Zambia

On Thursday, February 10th, I got on the first of three flights that finally landed me in Zambia, to begin my new call as the Facilitator for...

[alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com](https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com)

Please feel free to share the blog post with your congregation, neighbors, friends, and more.

God be with you,  
Pastor Kristin Engstrom



## 2022 Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service – Community Presbyterian	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fingerfood Supper hosted by the Choir	5:00 p.m.
	Mid-week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fingerfood Supper hosted by Altar Guild	5:00 p.m.
	Mid-week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fingerfood Supper hosted by Worship & Music	5:00 p.m.
	Mid-week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Fingerfood Supper hosted by Congregational Council	5:00 p.m.
	Mid-week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fingerfood Supper hosted by WELCA	5:00 p.m.
	Mid-week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 10	Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Service – Mount Cross	6:00 p.m.
Friday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ecumenical Good Friday Service	To Be Determined
Sunday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Resurrection Sunday Service – Mount Cross	9:30 a.m.