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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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April 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*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace, as we enter the month of April in all of its passion and splendor!

Easter arrives later this year. Please mark your calendars and join us for Holy Week worship services: Palm Sunday on April 10th at 9:30 a.m.; Maundy Thursday on April 14th at 6:00 p.m.; our Payson ecumenical Good Friday service (here at Mount Cross ) on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. and Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, at 9:30 a.m. Invite a friend to share the Holy Week journey with you.

Another important occasion in the life of the church, and the ELCA in particular, is the 35th birthday of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on April 30th. Where have the years gone? I can still remember the many meetings and debates and studies and letters and publications and elections that took place leading up to the birth of "the new church." I attended the first ELCA churchwide assembly in Chicago the following year, in August, as a clergy voting member of the Allegheny Synod. The excitement and energy in the room was amazing.

The following is an overview shared with us by our Grand Canyon Synod, recalling the events throughout the past 35 years of this church. This may be new information for you, or perhaps, it brings back some old memories of where you were when all of this was happening.

"In the span of church history, 35 years is a very short period. Yet, for the ELCA, in terms of substantially lived history, the past three and a half decades have been highly significant.

On Thursday, April 30, 1987, in Columbus, Ohio, representatives of the predecessor American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches approved the ELCA constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, thereby giving birth to "the new church."

Historically, the age of church bodies has been counted from the date of their constituting. That practice stretches back to the first organized synod in North America in 1748 and was followed for all subsequent Lutheran church bodies.

Perhaps most people have forgotten the high level of expectations that accompanied the constituting of the ELCA. The thrill of greater Lutheran unity captured many delighted hearts. The ELCA represented at the time the fulfillment of the prayers and efforts of many years for moving toward greater Lutheran unity in North America.

The births of The American Lutheran Church in April 1960 and the Lutheran Church in America in July 1962 were significant milestones along the way, but those churches

clearly were seen by many as interim steps toward greater unity. Later, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches was created in December 1976, in a separation from The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod.

The life span of the ALC of 1960 was 27 years, of the LCA 25 years, and of the AELC just over a decade. The ELCA at 35 has lived through significant developments in its lived history throughout the past three and a half decades.

Public relations people with no knowledge of church history may date the beginning of the ELCA to January 1, 1988. That is inconsistent with the historical practice for Lutheran and other church bodies in this country. The January 1, 1988, date only marks the exact time that the predecessor church corporations were dissolved into the ELCA, specifically at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time on January 1, 1988, with the ELCA as the surviving corporation. Much already was under way in the ELCA in the months prior to that date.

Two recent periods in the history of American Christianity have seen highly significant changes. That has been true for Lutherans too. One period covered the 15 years between the end of World War II in 1945 and 1960: Massive growth in membership, especially with children, huge building programs of churches and parish education facilities, movement toward greater Lutheran unity with the mergers of 1960 and 1962, greater ecumenical awareness with the formation of councils of churches, expansion of church colleges and universities, as well as social ministry programs, and the move from "mission fields" abroad to the formation of what then were known as younger churches.

The next period of massive change and dislocation took place between 2005 and 2020: Significant decreases in worship participation, sharp declines in membership in U.S. churches, signs of growing secularism in society, enormous loss of trust in clergy and church structures, inclination toward schismatic behaviors by some clergy and congregations, and the tendency especially in certain "evangelical" circles to ignore compassion for the needy, as Jesus taught, and instead to give allegiance to political leaders who urge division and hate, with some even viewing the teachings of Jesus as "socialistic".

Meanwhile, some churches, including the ELCA, have sought to become more inclusive and welcoming of all people. Substantial efforts of dialogue and mutual conversation have taken place not only between and among Christian churches but also in relation to Jewish and Islamic traditions. Full communion agreements for the ELCA and certain other churches have opened numerous arenas for common mission.

This quick overview is extremely abbreviated in terms of events throughout the past 35 years. Nonetheless, this birthday of the ELCA is to be an occasion for gratitude.

Let us pray:

*Eternal God, we give thanks that by your Spirit you led those in generations before us to dream of a day of greater Lutheran unity for the sake of faithful witness and courageous outreach. In due time, the prayers of many generations yielded fruitful efforts leading 35 years ago to the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We pray your blessing upon all ELCA members, congregations, deacons, pastors, and bishops in their life of faith and service. Especially bless our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all who serve with her in the ELCA's churchwide ministries throughout this nation and around the globe. Guide the leaders of congregations and synods toward ever-greater commitment to our life together and deeper understanding of our church's mission of healing and hope. Remind us often by your Spirit of our unity with the whole Church on earth and in heaven. Continue to call us to greater unity in witness and generous dedication to merciful service. Send us forth with the power of your Word to make Christ known throughout the world, now and in the years to come. Amen.*

What a history and what a story! May we remember and give thanks to God for bringing us to this place and time. May the presence and promises of our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit move us forward in faithful witness and service for many years to come!

"Christ is risen!" "Christ is risen, indeed!" "Alleluia!"

Easter blessings to you and yours,

*Pastor Linda Hanus*



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



The Deacon's Food Pantry is very short of miscellaneous foods for the selection cart now. Please bring items that you normally have brought in the past or cereals, crackers, jelly, and/or peanut butter. Please donate a variety of items so that patrons can have a choice.



Payson Community Kids Sloppy Joe supper will be served on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please plan to arrive at 4:15 p.m. and we are done about 5:00 p.m.

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



After our big housecleaning event last month, and the work of our men to prepare the grounds for Easter, what can the rest of us do to prepare? I remember one time when we cleaned up the old church, wiping down the pews, and all wood surfaces. My challenge to all of you is to think of a way to make our church glow with God's Holy Light. Let's get some ideas going.



### 2022 Lenten Schedule

Sunday, April 3	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in 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 – Mount Cross	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Resurrection Sunday Service – Mount Cross	9:30 a.m.



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – February 2022)



2022 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$306,010.00
Income . . . . .	\$41,670.00 (13.62% of 2022 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$50,590.00 (16.5% of 2022 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during February 2022 . . . . .	\$3,034.00
Total paid out in 2022 for mortgage . . . . .	\$5,730.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2022	
Mount Cross. . . . .	\$949.00

Our February contributions fell about \$6,689 short of meeting the expenses for the month. The utility costs during this time of year is much higher, just as it is with residential bills. We thank those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions and ask those who may not give regularly to prayerfully consider doing so.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team



Altar Guild will meet after the worship service on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you would like to become a member of Altar Guild, you are invited to attend this meeting.



Spend a few minutes with God  
in the morning,  
spend a few minutes with God  
at lunch time,  
and then attend  
the midweek services  
on Wednesday nights.

The experience allows each of us  
a time for prayer,  
a feeling of connection,  
and a good night's sleep afterwards.



**April Birthdays**

- 2 Terri Stevens
- 4 Sallie Loman
- 7 Judy Douglas
- 13 Bill Petrie
- 24 Erik Knudsen
- 30 Rick Ludwig

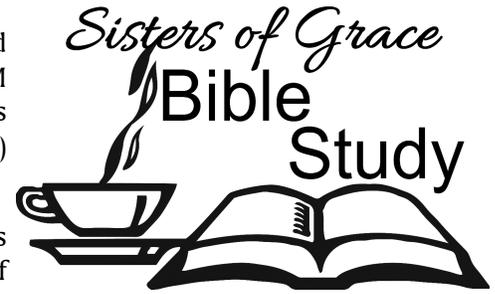
**April Wedding Anniversaries**

- 5 Mike Buskirk/Daria Mason
- 18 Scott/Marlu Allan Stallard
- 27 Rob/Donna Reifschneider
- 30 Clyde Longberry/Gail Bensen

**April Baptisms**

- 14 Linda Wiebe
- 17 Myra Herbster
- 24 Audrey Ricker

The *Sisters of Grace*, a small women's Bible study, support, social, and friendship group, will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM at Mount Cross Church in the Ponderosa Room. April 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for this month's meeting. Refreshments will be served; BYB (Bring Your own Beverage.)



The year's focus will be on sixteen major and minor Old Testament prophets and at each of the meetings we will 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 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!**



The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

This month's study will focus on *Life Forever with God*. Most of the time when Jesus talks about the kingdom of God or eternal life, he is referring to something we experience here and now – not later in heaven.

But sometimes, he does talk about life in the future and in this final session we will learn as much as we can about “the glory that awaits us.” What will it be like to be perfect people in a perfect world, living forever with God and one another?

# OFFICE HOURS



Office will be closed  
on  
Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

Because of you, life doesn't stop. #VitalToLife



**ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS** are encouraged to help maintain social distancing.



Regardless of vaccination status, all donors must bring and wear a **MASK** or **CLOTH-BASED FACE COVERING**.



**Payson Community BLOOD DRIVE**

Monday, Apr. 25  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Mount Cross Lutheran Church 601 E Hwy 260, Payson  
Donate in the Log Cabin

To make an appointment, call 877-25-VITAL (258-4825) or visit [donors.vitalant.org](https://donors.vitalant.org) (Blood Drive Code: payson)





**DONATE BLOOD**  
[vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) | 877-25-VITAL



## 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

### 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.

### Sisters of Grace Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study which will be focusing on the biblical prophets. All women are welcome to attend.

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



Pastor Linda and I were talking about the evolution of Women's Ministry in the Lutheran Church in our more recent history. The early days had groups called Circles, which met to either sew, quilt, or do good deeds such as packing boxes of

things for soldiers, or rolling bandages. In addition a luncheon was usually provided by the hostess. The social aspect may have included a round of bridge, as well as a Bible lesson.

We had Dorcas group, Phoebe group, and other groups as picked by the women who attended. The idea of a circle means it is closed to outsiders. Rolling bandages or other good deeds often meant that many women were not included, with primarily those in nursing or related fields being the prime members.

As a young child, I remember going with my mother to a group that did boxes for soldiers during WWII. The main concern was the boxes, and then the food, which usually included a cake, during a period when obtaining sugar, butter and eggs was difficult. Much of the conversation was how to make a cake with mayonnaise or the new (Wesson) oil. By the way, the chocolate mayonnaise cake is delicious.

In Los Angeles during war time, all things had to end before it was time for dark shades and no lights showing; block wardens assured that the curfew was obeyed and we were required to stay at home unless on a military base and could go to the Officers or NCO club.

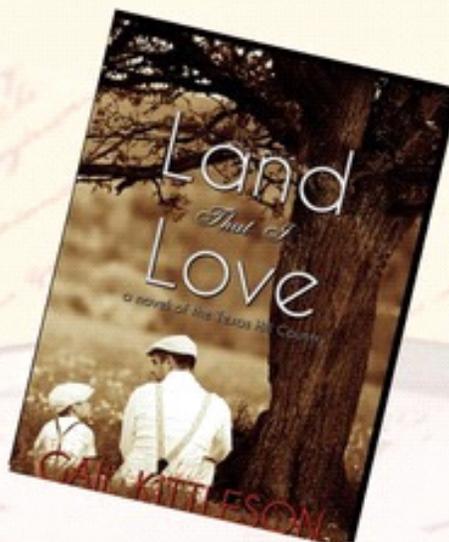
Coming forward, what do you as members of our congregation, wish to see out of women's ministry? We currently have a monthly Bible study. For those of you who work, what would you like? Your feedback is important. Please let me know. I think it is important for women, as well as men, to have a Bible study or some type of group get-togethers to explore our faith as well to build friendships.

Now as we move to Easter, think about how we can celebrate this most important day of the year, the resurrection of Jesus, who died for our sins and who gives us hope through our faith in him. Father, God, who sent his son as God on earth for all of us.

*Alice Natale*

WELCA president

**Ever wonder how authors create  
Historical Fiction?**



**THEN YOU WON'T WANT  
TO MISS THIS!**

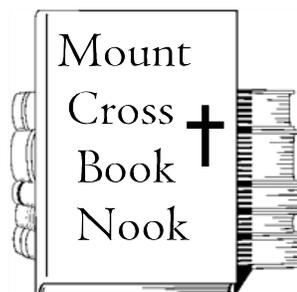
**What: Workshop—Researching historical characters by  
Women's Historical Fiction author**

**Gail Kittleson**



**Where: Payson, AZ Library**

**When: April 7 - 10:00-11:30 a.m.**



Books pertaining to Holy Week and Easter are still on the top shelf of the cart, plus several books authored by Gail Kittleson. In addition, there are the following videos: *The Passion of the Christ* and 2 copies of the video, "Jesus."

If you still have a tape recorder, you might like to check out "No Wonder They Call Him the Savior" by Max Lucado. Please put any returned books in the box on the top shelf of the book cart.

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*