
Mount Cross Chronicle

April 2024



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

Pastor

Rev. Carl Sirotzki
474-2552

pastor@mountcross.org

Music Director

Daria Mason

daria1024mason@gmail.com

Accompanist

Angeline Ng

Office Administrator

Lenore M. White

secretary@mountcross.org

Custodian

Keri Morris

Pastor's Musings & Ponderings

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)

Happy Spring to everyone! We marked this change of season the week of March 19th. So, what does this change of season bring for you?

Does the beginning of spring signal that it is time to start the "Spring Cleaning" around your residence? If so, what does "Spring Cleaning" mean for you? Does it mean that you make your yearly decision about what to do with the stuff you haven't used for the past 5 years? Is this the year that you finally open those dusty boxes or bins that have been packed away in the attic, basement, or garage and see what is actually in them? Of course, if you do that, then you have even more decisions to make. Do you keep it or realize that you have done without the contents for the last 5 years so what good is it to keep around for another few years. However, what if you discover that the contents of that dusty unopened box contains something near and dear to your heart. Like coming across a long-lost friend. In a way, it's almost like playing your home version of "Let's Make A Deal." Does the box contain something precious or is it a zonk!

This past Lent, the theme of our Wednesday evening services was, "*you shall love the Lord your God.*" In Deuteronomy as well in the Synoptic Gospels it is written to love the Lord your God. In the gospels, Jesus is asked by a Pharisee, who was a lawyer, which is the greatest or most important commandment. So how does Jesus respond? Jesus tells him, that you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and this is the first and greatest commandment.

This may sound strange, but do we really do that? Not just during Lent or Advent or when we are in a tough or bad situation. But always? Do we truly understand what it means to love God with our hearts, souls, and mind every day? Every hour? Every second? I know we say we do, but maybe it's a good time for us to take a personal inventory of how we love God. This doesn't mean that we don't know how to love God as Jesus explained to the Pharisee. It simply means for us to take a look at where our hearts are and does it include loving God with all of who we are? Do we fully embrace those we are?

Easter Sunday has been celebrated, but that doesn't mean the season of Easter is over. Easter season will be celebrated over the next fifty days through Pentecost Sunday, which falls on May 19th this year. Looking ahead, in addition to Pentecost, Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation will take place on Sunday, June 9th.

Peace,

Pastor Carl

Philippians 1:3-4



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



Let us pray daily for our world,
our country,
our state
and our town.

Please give us wisdom,
patience and forbearance.



Our sloppy Joe supper for the Payson Community Kids' after school program will be held on Thursday, April 18th, with set-up at 4:15 p.m.

The PCK program is in need of homework helpers and supervisors. If anyone is interested in volunteering at the after school program, you can call the Payson Community Kids Office at 928-478-7160 for more information.

God's work.
Our hands.



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

Many of you have covered for me during March. Thank you all. All part of Gods work, our hands.

Alice Natale

Because of you, life doesn't stop.

#VitalToLife

ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS are encouraged.

NEW BLOOD DONORS NEEDED!
If you have never given blood, we need you. The number of Americans who give blood is declining. There is no substitute for human blood and many patients cannot survive without it. Giving blood is truly a selfless and heroic act that gives life to patients. Make an appointment to give blood today!

Payson Community BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, April 22nd
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

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

To schedule an appointment, visit vitalant.org (Enter Blood Drive Code: P1057) or scan the QR code. For questions, please contact Vitalant at 877.258.4825

DONATE BLOOD
vitalant.org | 877-25-VITAL

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – February 2024)



2024 Approved Budget	\$318,013.00
Income	\$41,918.00 (13.18% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$50,823.00 (15.98% of 2023 budget)
Total given to the Mortgage Fund during February 2024	\$2,730.00
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage	\$5,730.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2024	
Mount Cross.	\$389.00

Thank you to those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team



It is spring. Finally! We can start thinking about gardens, flowers, growth, and enjoy the once again cycle of nature.

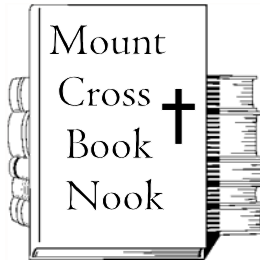
Our Gather Magazine is focused on food this month. Mindful and prayerful eating, thinking about what we eat, and ways to help others who are food deprived. As we watch the news each day, we see many starving people all over the earth. Our church, along with many others, work hard to help in these cases. Currently hunger in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, many areas of our country and other countries, that is never ending.

Having been home for three weeks, I watch both the US news, BBC, NHK, Israel news, as well as whatever I can glean from channel surfing. Wars are bolstering the hunger by destroying sources. Here in Payson we have the Community Garden, which provides a great deal of food for the food banks. Our folks who need food are grateful when they can get fresh, organic produce. It is treat to have tomatoes that taste like tomatoes. In small ways, things like that help feed our locals in Arizona. A mere tip of the iceberg.

Another part of our lesson talked about the sanctity of sharing a meal, especially the bread and wine that the disciples shared with Christ, both before and after the resurrection. That most Holy Meal is critical to our well-being.

A writer mentioned the ongoing snacking we do and it brings a question...do we need all those snacks? For the next month, let's eat with our focus on God and what he has PROVIDED.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



The items on the “freebie” table will be available until Sunday, April 14th. Be sure to browse and pick up any book on the table that may be of interest to you or someone you love.

The library cart will have a myriad of fiction and non-fiction books for your reading pleasure.

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones

GLOBAL MISSIONS

The Global Missions Committee will meet on Sunday, April 7th, after the service. We will meet at the back of the sanctuary at the tables.

All members, please attend the meeting. Anyone who is interested in joining the team is invited to attend!



April Birthdays


- 2 Terri Stevens
- 4 Sallie Loman
- 7 Judy Douglas
- 13 Bill Petrie

April Wedding Anniversaries

- 5 Mike Buskirk/Daria Mason
- 12 Mark/Susie Duffy
- 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



Now you know.

Your trusted partner in preventive healthcare since 1986!

We will be coming to your community soon!


Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
601 E State Hwy 260 - Payson
Conference Center

Visit

<https://may012024.youcanbook.me>
and schedule your screening today!

Or Scan
this QR
code



Our comprehensive screening is \$200
Schedule your appointment online and save \$10
<https://rightpathscreenings.org/upcoming-screening-events>

If you are unable to book online, call 602.254.7130

This screening could save your life!

Our Comprehensive Screening consists of 11 cardiovascular and abdominal screenings listed on the back. We also check your blood pressure, pulse and blood oxygen level. A complete report is provided.

Sunday Service



9:30 AM

EVERY Sunday
In-House & Livestream

Pastor Carl's weekly schedule

Monday: Sabbath (day off)

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Thursday: study, prayer time (not in office, but available by phone, emergencies)

Friday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Saturday: By appointment

CHANGES AS WE MOVE FORWARD

There is now a new committee to take care of the needs of the log building (aka Conference Center or Building B).

Before COVID there was a paid director, who took care of all the details for outsiders using the building, of which there were multiple paid bookings and the building was also used for our own ministries, *Mount Cross Cares* being one of them. The building was inactive during the time of COVID, thus bookings and church ministry in-person meetings were discontinued. After Mount Cross began using the sanctuary again for worship services and the community started getting organizations back to having regular meetings, we began to get requests for use of the building.

The congregation was not in a position to rehire a director, as times had changed after COVID. We no longer were offering rental of the bunkhouse to groups from the Valley, as the bunkhouse was now being used by the Warming Center. The log building began to be rented out for day usage. Council member, Sharon Vaplon, stepped in to make the log building presentable for the groups that started asking to use it. During the past one and a half years, the closets have all been cleaned out and re-organized and we managed to keep the place clean and presentable for those desiring to use it.



Now it is time to relieve the church office administrator, Lenore White, who had taken on the tasks involved with booking, facilitating, and doing the paperwork necessary for groups to use the premises during the adjustment time after COVID. We have a committee of four members who offered their services to manage the facility for the time being since more and more people are requesting its use.

The volunteer administrators who will see to the showing of the facility, booking, paperwork, etc. will be using an exclusive cell phone number (928-951-0842) and email (mountcrossrental@gmail.com). This information will be provided to clients for the purpose of contacting these administrators. If a Mount Cross committee needs to use the building, please use that number or email to schedule. Thank you to Barb Howe and Christy Zapp for their willingness to take over this duty.

Tending to the building needs and keeping the floors vacuumed will be Wayne Peterson and Barry DeChaine. They could always use volunteers to help keep the floors vacuumed and performing other maintenance work on the building. Please contact them if you have any interest in supporting us at Mount Cross in this way.

Our custodian, Keri Morris, cleans the bathrooms and the kitchen floor weekly, along with wiping down the tables. the rest of her time each week is spent in our current church building.

We have over 100 veterans using the building every Tuesday morning. Several other groups, including Gila County Elections, Life Line Screening, Vitalant Blood Drive, and recently, Right Path Screening use the building on a relatively frequent basis. A new group that will be using the building two times each month is a Christian group, *The Filling Station*.

Mount Cross provides complimentary usage to Boy Scouts each week and High Country Gardeners each month. Naturally, our own ministries, such as the Mount Cross Quilters and the Property Committee utilize the building. In addition, there are special events, such as baby showers and other get-togethers in which the building is used.

The Congregation Council, thanks our willing participants on the committee to oversee the usage of the log building moving forward. Please support them by offering to help if they ask and always keep them in your prayers.

Sharon Vaplon

Congregation Council member

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.

2nd 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 13 letters of Paul. All are welcome to attend.

3rd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



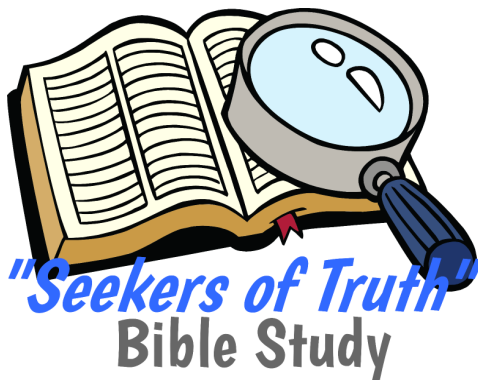
The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, April 11th, at 10:00 a.m.

The subject of Gather's Bible study for winter/spring 2024 is "*Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith*" by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. The April session will focus on "*Food: Daily Bread for the Health of the World.*"

In today's society, we hunt, harvest, and forage in grocery store aisles rather than from fields, flocks, forests and farms that was done in the past. Considering our relationship with creation and our faithful stewardship of the earth means paying attention to the ways we eat. We'll see how stories of food in scripture offer us ways of faithful eating that are responsible, celebratory and delicious. Locust and wild honey, anyone?

A video supplement is available that coincides with the month's study. You may access it at:

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/winter-spring-2024-scripture-and-nature-teachers-of-faith-bible-study-video-supplement-session-3-2/>



Seekers of Truth is a small Bible study and fellowship group for women and men, which is held on the third Thursday of each month in the Ponderosa Room at 10:00 a.m. April 18th is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament.

All are welcome to attend. All you need is a Bible. The formal discussion period of the meeting generally lasts about an hour and is followed by a time for sharing and support. If you have questions please contact Sue Bobek, the group discussion leader or Jan Bartoli, the group facilitator.

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH MUSIC!!

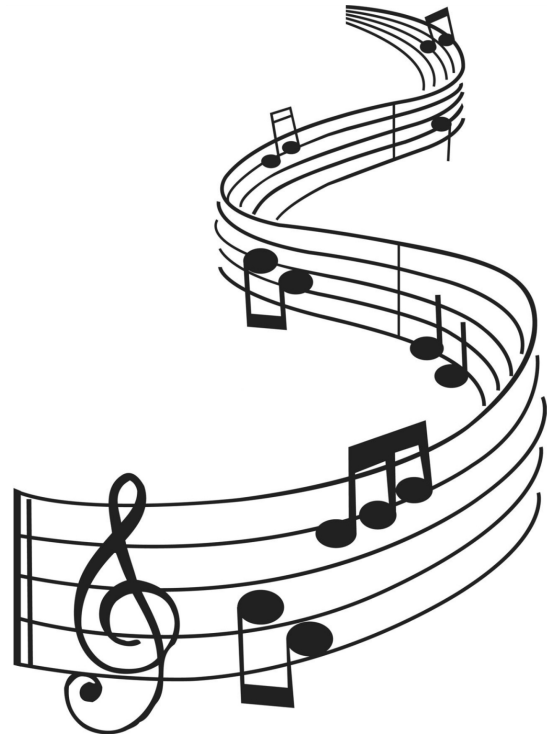


SPRING in the PINES

Payson Choral Society Spring Concert

Saturday, April 20th at 4:00 PM

Sunday, April 21st at 2:00 PM



Concert Band & Jazz Ensemble

Directed by Mr. Michael Buskirk



Tuesday, April 30, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Mt. Cross Lutheran Church

Free admission & refreshments



**PAYSON
CAMPUS**

Eastern Arizona College, Payson Campus
201 N. Mud Springs Rd. Payson, Arizona 85641
(928) 468-8039 - www.eac.edu

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