
Mount Cross Chronicle

May 2021



601 E. Highway 260
Payson, AZ 85541
Phone: 928-474-2552
www.mountcross.org

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m.

Online Worship Service

9:30 a.m.

In-House 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

April showers bring May flowers. What does the Mayflower bring? Pilgrims! An oldie but a goodie.

May is a busy month. We have Mother's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day, plus graduations, vaccinations, and more. Also, we are still busy trying to push back the restraints brought about by a virus, as we are anxious to get back to life the way we knew it.

For me, the most important day comes on May 23, when we celebrate Pentecost. No, it's not as festive and love filled as Mother's Day and perhaps not as moving as Memorial Day, but it is the day we associate with the birth of the Church, the body of Christ. On Pentecost we remember the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit, who brought remarkable change in Jesus' disciples and began the spread of the good news of Christ in powerful ways.

I am always fascinated by how different the disciples were after receiving the Holy Spirit. Before the Spirit was working within them, they often seemed rather timid (except Peter) and typically uncertain of what Jesus was communicating to them. Frequently, they just seemed lost. In a sense, they did not seem like the cream of the crop! Yet, with the Spirit working in them, they suddenly became remarkable. No longer lost nor uncertain but driven to share the story of God's love and mercy in Christ Jesus. There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit empowered them in new and powerful ways.

Like the disciples, before the gift of the Spirit, many of God's people have felt lost and uncertain during the past 13 months of dealing with a virus. For many, anger, frustration, confusion, disappointment and depression have been all consuming. Surely, we could all use a fresh infusion of God's Spirit in our lives, helping us to get back on track and being the people that God has created us to be!

We have come a long way since the beginning of the virus. Even though we are the only congregation in our conference that has been worshipping in person we have managed to stay safe and healthy. The road ahead is looking brighter.

Still, let us pray together that we and all of God's church will experience a rebirth of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

With hope and trust in God's Spirit,

Pastor Cliff Hanus



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity

God's work.
Our hands.



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

Be Bold. Be Daring. Be Energized. We have lived through a very hard year, but not nearly as hard as in the world war times. We have been challenged to be patient, to be understanding, and to have our lives limited. We have not been challenged with hunger as much as in Europe and Japan, nor have we been challenged with flooding here in AZ (we often wish for some of the rain). We have been challenged with our never-ending need to have everything at our fingertips. So with God's work, lets display our compassion, our care, and our ability to plunge into things to help set the world to rights.

2021 National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 6th

In April of 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill into law which proclaimed a national day of prayer. President Ronald Reagan amended the law and designated the first Thursday in May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

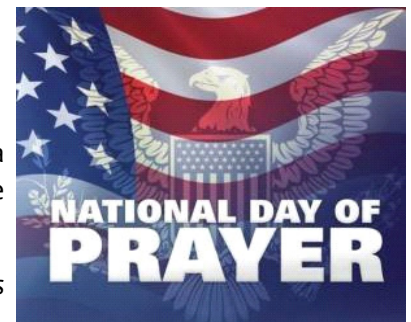
(2Samuel 24: 25b)

How best to handle the fears and uncertainties that face the world, our nation, our state, our county, and our town than to lift our concerns up to our Lord in prayer.

Please spend time in prayer from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on May 6th to place your prayer offerings before the Lord.

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

(Matthew 18:20)

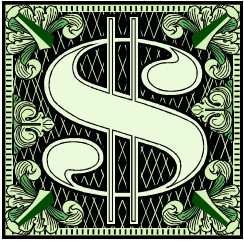


Payson Community Kids Sloppy Joe supper will be served on Thursday, May 20th. Please plan to arrive at 3:50 p.m. and we are done about 4:30 p.m.

Office Closed
on
Monday, May 31st
in observance of
Memorial Day



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – March 2021)



2021 Approved ½ year Budget	\$152,461.50
Income	\$68,668.00 (45% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures	\$70,169.00 (46% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during March 2021 \$4,520.00
 Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage \$8,926.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2021
 Mount Cross \$1,188.00

Mount Cross is blessed with the time and talents of members like Tony Andretta and Bob Walker! And, there are others in our congregation who, behind the scenes, take care of matters we never see. For example one hot water heater in the LOMONA Center stopped working. Rather than accepting the plumber’s bid, which was very costly, Tony and Bob purchased a replacement and installed it themselves. This alone saved Mount Cross perhaps a thousand dollars plus! When we discover these "behind the scenes" volunteers, let us all remember to say "Thank YOU!"

Yours in Christ,
 Libby Winter
 Financial Secretary

Thank You

I would like to express my appreciation to those of you who have blessed me with cards, well wishes, and gifts for Administrative Professional’s Day, which occurred on Wednesday, April 21st. Your thoughtfulness has brought great joy to me. Thank you so very much.

Your very blessed Office Administrator,
Lenore



All Council and Congregation members are cordially invited to a “Meet and Greet,” which will take place in the log building on May 15th between 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. As the Council explores financial opportunities, they are giving consideration to renting an office in the east sanctuary to Synergy Home Care, Inc.

Alan & Liz Wikman own Synergy Home Care, Inc. and they provide elder care services that are *not* already available in the Payson area. Alan and Liz are Lutherans and live in Prescott. They can tell you more about their business and services to Payson area seniors at the “Meet and Greet.”

The Council values your input regarding this opportunity and ask that you join us in exploring this potential financial opportunity.

Sincerely,
 Libby Winter, Financial Secretary

Dear Friends and Music Fans,

We are excited to share a Mother's Day concert and you are all invited!
Our program will include a variety of musical styles for your enjoyment.

The Musicians: Angeline Ng, Daniel and David Schalesky

Concert Venue: Mount Cross Lutheran Church
(601 E. Highway 260, Payson)

Date and Time: Sunday, May 9, 2021, at 3:33 p.m.

Admission is free.

Any free-will offering received will go towards David's tuition at Payson Christian School.

Please RSVP justangeline@aol.com or text 928-951-4853, so that I may know how many chairs to set up.

You may share this invitation.

The doors will remain open during the concert. Please wear your mask.

Thank you for your interest!

Angeline



The Journey of Generations

Waiting to be Unwrapped

You are invited to join the Women's Bible Study as **we meet in person** on May 13 at 10 A.M. This is the first meeting since March of 2020. Alice Natale, our president, has graciously invited us to meet at her home, 1209 N. Sunshine Lane in Payson. Directions: follow

Easy Street up the "Payson mountain," turn right on Sunshine Lane, and look for her home on the left. Call Lenore at the church office if you need more directions. The complete study can be read in the "Gather" magazine or obtain a copy at the church building by the mailboxes.

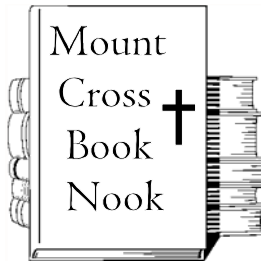
As is common, the May and December Bible Study lessons are usually devotional. In this devotional, we will look at the shared blessings that inter-generational relationships can bring. There will be scripture passages to guide us, stories that might spark your own recollections, and questions for your reflection.

The friendship of Mary and Elizabeth is considered inter-generational. They were drawn together by what they had in common rather than letting the years that separated them keep them apart. The story of two well-known Old testament prophets is written in I and II Kings. It tells of an inter-generational relationship between Elijah and Elisha. Such opportunities often involve listening to one another's stories.

In the loneliness caused by the pandemic, feelings of alienation and loneliness began to rise. The author describes a program that matched college students with older folks for intentional and meaningful video chats. The hunger for connection was there. Church potlucks can become inter-generational events also.

Sometimes inter-generational relationships call for us to learn a new language. The author asked her boomerage husband and a teenage nephew what the letters "LBJ" meant. She got two different answers. Learn the answers at the Bible study discussion or when reading the lesson in your "Gather" magazine or pick up a copy of the study.

Copies of this Bible Study can be found on a clipboard near the church mailboxes.



MIRACLE OF MIRACLES...

The church library, previously located in the old church building behind locked doors, has been relocated to the Ponderosa Room.

Fiction books can be found on the left side and non-fiction on the right. If you are looking for a certain subject, there is a Sears book just below the TV that will give you the Dewey number. The author and title index boxes are under the shelf of the cabinet located on the east wall.

When checking out a book, sign the book card, which is inside the cover of the book, and place the signed card in the small box inside the plastic return box on the library cart. The library cart is located in the narthex on the south end. SO, whenever the office is open, the library can be used. HURRAH!

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones

PENTECOST SUNDAY



MAY 23rd
9:30 AM

"Wear Red" Sunday!



May Birthdays

- 3 Bobbie Priest
- 9 Jerry Metz
- 19 Tonnie Dice
- 25 Carol McNulty
John Proescholdt
Wilda Ricci

May Wedding Anniversaries

- 20 Greg/Wilda Ricci
- 22 Ed/Terri Stevens
- 27 Mark/Jan Bartoli

May Baptisms

- 1 Alice Natale
- 19 Jerry Metz



Interested in preparing the table for the Lord? Join us for our meeting to find out more. It will take place on Thursday, May 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room.



We have so many things to pray about, financial, social justice, loss of family and friends, and any other thing we can think about to pray for. Using the pray for part, how about thanking God for all He has done? How about praising Him for all His blessings?

Lector Schedule for May 2021
9:30 AM Sunday Service

2	9	16	23	30
Sharry Lien	Nancy Kellett	Eloise Jones	Ron Nelson	Ray Wiebe

The online service lector for May is Jean Larson.

Thank you to Nancy Kellett and Jean Larson for handling Altar Guild duties in April.

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 online worship service available through the church website on Facebook or through Mount Cross Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/channels/1341353>

Sundays, 8:15 AM

Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary

Sundays, 9:30 AM



Here we are, post Easter, enjoying the early part of spring with a warm up that soon will be more than a warm up. If we were butterflies, we would be emerging from our chrysalis stage, stretching our wings and getting ready to fly into a new world.

So we can truly look at the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a door to emerge as new creatures in Christ. To quote 2nd Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 17, *"everything old has passed away; see everything has become new."* This statement in the Living Lutheran magazine of April 2021 caught my interest. You read it in the Bible, but thinking about our own resurrection after this very long period of pandemic, who are we now? I personally try to live by Romans 12:2 – *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."* For many years I have thought about this passage and how do we, as followers of Christ, become transformed?

This is what resurrection is: a change, an action, a strong faith, a walk with God at all times, an ongoing discussion with him, and most importantly of all, a new view of life. To quote from Living Lutheran, this is an opportunity to allow the Spirit to stretch, shape, and mold us into new creation. This is how the resurrected Christ challenges us in the inception of God's transformative work in the world.

All this started with the challenge to see how God views his world through his loving gaze, loosely quoted from the same article. Does he see only one type of people or does he see everything in the world. What is right, what is wrong, and is that our call...since we are not the judge? What needs to be changed or jumped into in attitude, love, and simply stepping up to assist, help, challenge and leap into action? We have some starts, the Warming Center, the helping of Pastor Miguel and his family, our ongoing upkeep of our campus, our need to increase our payment of the mortgage of the church, our need to reach out into the community, and most importantly, the need to open our arms to the community, the world, our families, and each other.

We will resume our monthly Bible study at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at my home, located at 1209 N. Sunshine Lane. Following the study, a light lunch will be provided. I look forward to sharing time with you again!

Alice Natale

WELCA president

**The Warming Center Open House
Community Fundraiser**

May 5th 3:00PM-6:00PM



**LOCAL VENDORS :LovEm's Bikery , Local
Artist ,AnyTime Fitness, Back to Basics ,
Time out Shelter,CBI,SWBH.....**

**The Famous Lymans Ranch Beef Tacos
Enchiladas by the dozen and more !!!!**

**50/50 RAFFLE, PRIZES , LIVE MUSIC , ART, FOOD
All Proceeds go to the PHHVI 7 days a week
community Dinner!**

For Donation or Question please call 928-

951-3560