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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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May 2024

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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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Pastor

Rev. Carl Sirotzki  
928-474-2552  
608-370-1284 (emergencies)  
[pastor@mountcross.org](mailto:pastor@mountcross.org)

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

Keri Morris

## *Pastor's Musings & Ponderings*

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)*

As of this article, we are continuing celebrating the Easter season. May 5<sup>th</sup> will mark the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and May 12<sup>th</sup> is the 7<sup>th</sup> and last Sunday of Easter. There have been several changes that have taken place in the sanctuary since the end of Lent and Easter. The cloth draping the cross was changed to white and the crown of thorns was replaced with flowers. We are once again singing and praising with *"Alleluias."*

Here's a question for you, have you noticed that the Paschal Candle has been moved from the area of the baptismal font? Do you know why? For those who may not be sure why, maybe this will help. Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the Paschal Candle traditionally stands near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection. It is lit for each liturgy during the great fifty days of Easter (Easter is not over until Pentecost, the fiftieth day which this year is May 19<sup>th</sup>). Ideally, the candle burns continuously from the Vigil of Easter through Pentecost, but this is not usually practical.

Ideally, the Paschal Candle should be lit before the worshipers have arrived and remain lit until after all have departed. To add to the symbolism, it could be lit any time groups of people assemble in or near the nave (meetings, rehearsals, etc.). If evening prayer is celebrated during the season of Easter; the assembly would gather for prayer around the burning paschal candle.

Have you noticed how the paraments and banners change throughout the year? The Altar Guild does an amazing job of making sure the correct liturgical colors are in place for each season and special day in the church calendar. As we are currently in the Easter Season, I will start there. For Easter and the Sundays of Easter, Christmas and the Sundays of Christmas, Transfiguration Sunday, the Epiphany of our Lord, the Baptism of Jesus, Holy Trinity Sunday and Christ the King, the color is white/gold. For Advent, the color is blue. Green is used for the time after Epiphany and for the time after Pentecost. For Pentecost and Reformation Sunday, the color is red. Purple is characteristically associated with Lent. For Passion/Palm Sunday the color may be scarlet or purple. I hope you will find this helpful.

Just a reminder that Orientation for those interested in membership at Mount Cross is May 5<sup>th</sup>. Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation will be on June 9, 2024, during Sunday morning worship. Please mark your calendars to come and share in this special day with the confirmands and their families.

Peace,

*Pastor Carl*

Philippians 1:3-4



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



### 2024 National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)



The final Payson Community Kids Sloppy Joe supper for the 2023-2024 school year will be served on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to arrive at 4:15 p.m. and we are done about 5:00 p.m.



**Let us pray daily for  
our world,  
our country,  
our state,  
our town,  
and most importantly, each other!**

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



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

We have just had Earth Day; the care of our earth is important. Many of us help with different tasks around the church: the Property Committee keeps the campus looking beautiful, the Altar Guild cares for the paraments and make sure that all is ready for the sharing of weekly communion, Congregational Life makes sure that coffee and snacks are available for Sunday fellowship time, the church Council assures us that the church is running efficiently, and volunteers assist with financial duties and scheduling use of the buildings. Others help with providing food for the Deacon's Food Pantry as a part of their growing vegetables at the Community Garden, share the gift of music for our souls, and still others share their skills with teaching, tutoring, preparing tax forms, and sharing their skills with the community. These are just a part of Gods Work on earth. Our hands are ready to help, just look for where you fit.

*Alice Natale*

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – March 2024)



2024 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$318,013.00
Income . . . . .	\$61,770.00 (19.4% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$76,763.00 (24.1% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during March 2024 . . . . .	\$3,605.00
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage . . . . .	\$8,595.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2024 Mount Cross. . . . .	\$389.00
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Our March expenses exceeded contributions received. Just as an individual’s household expenses have increased, so also with the church. We ask that you prayerfully consider either giving, if you aren’t already. Even small amounts on a regular basis is helpful in meeting bills. We would like to give thanks to those who continue to faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team



Are you considering bringing treats to share for Sunday morning coffee fellowship? Some people are not able to enjoy sweet treats due to health reasons and it is suggested that salami, cheese, and crackers would be a great alternate. Contributions of those items or something similar would be greatly appreciated! A sign up sheet is available on the snack table, to assure your date to share.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT MOUNT CROSS**

- New Disciple orientation – Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> after service (conference room)
- New Disciple Sunday – May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Pentecost Sunday (wear **red**) – May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Holy Trinity Sunday – May 26<sup>th</sup> (no confirmation class, Memorial weekend)
- Confirmation – Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

<p><b><u>Pastor Carl’s weekly schedule</u></b> emergency number: 608-370-1284</p>	
<p>Monday: Sabbath (day off) Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Thursday: study, prayer time (not in office, but available by phone, emergencies) Friday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Saturday: By appointment</p>

**Sunday Service**

**9:30 AM**

**EVERY Sunday  
In-House & Livestream**

# OFFICE HOURS



Office hours for  
Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
and  
Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Office will be closed on  
Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
and  
Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
(Memorial Day celebrated)

## PENTECOST SUNDAY



MAY 19<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 AM

*“Wear Red” Sunday!*

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### May Birthdays

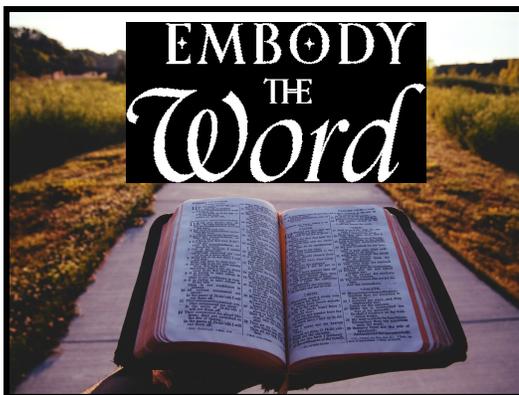
3 Bobbie Priest  
19 Tonnie Dice  
25 Carol McNulty

### May Wedding Anniversaries

22 Ed/Terri Stevens  
27 Mark/Jan Bartoli

### May Baptisms

1 Alice Natale



The theme for this year's Grand Canyon Synod Assembly is *“Embody the Word”*. The Assembly will be held at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mount Cross will be sending Jo Sirotski and Barb Howe, as voting representatives. A great big “thank you” to these two ladies for representing Mount Cross.

Dear friends at Mount Cross, my recovery from the fall that I had is almost complete, although I still spend time each day exercising, stretching and walking, which is now a comfortable experience once again.

Psalm 91:11 was (is) very real to me. God promised to send angels to help, and I had so many angels to help me along the way – certainly all of my caregivers, but especially all of you who prayed for my recovery. Thank you very much, and be assured that Mount Cross and you faithful prayer partners continue to be in my prayers. I miss being with you all. God will continue to bless you all and the witness of Mount Cross Lutheran Church.

Love ♥ and hugs,  
Virginia McCall



## 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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



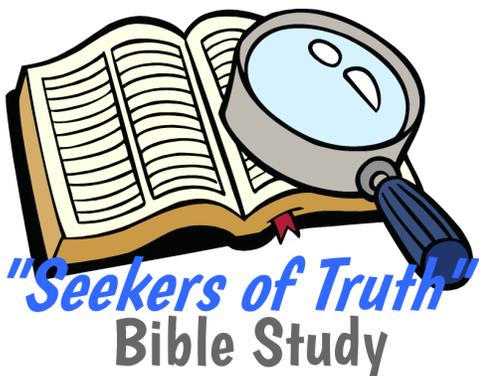
The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

Gather Magazine's Summer Bible Study subject is "After certainty: A biblical guide" by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni.

For the people of the Bible, life was often shaped by deep uncertainty. Encounters with God sparked awe, confusion or courage, but rarely certainty. Instead, God's people have

always been called to follow God into the unknown, trusting in God's certain grace and love. This three-session summer Bible study explores God's invitation to the people of the Bible and to us, to take the holy journey beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion, where we find abundant life in Christ.

The first session is entitled "After certainty: Curiosity." Jesus' ministry, during the uncertainty of the first century Roman occupation, often challenged the "certainties" of the status quo when it came to faith, power and relationships—both the relationships between people and God, and between people in community. Just as curiosity drew people to Jesus and his message, holy curiosity can still lead us to the places where God transforms "what is" to "what could be."



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. May 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Women of the ELCA

At a meeting I recently attended, we discussed the importance of GRACE. *Grace* can be so many things in our daily usage of language. The dancer is so *graceful*. We say “*Grace*” at the table. We give *grace* to others by letting the person receive a moment of kindness, whether it is simply opening a door, letting the person go in front of you, or simply a smile and SAY a “Good Morning or afternoon” etc.

Expanding that thought, what if you see a person struggling to pay for groceries, and you offer to pay for the items that are being removed from the cart for lack of money. What if you pay for a lunch for someone who is outside of a fast food establishment checking the trash cans for food? And to go even crazier, what if you help with gasoline for someone who is simply buying \$10.00 in gas, and you offer to pay for a full tank...or another \$10.00 so they can go a bit further? Those are simple things, and not usually expensive.

Going forward with the *Grace*, simply visit an elderly person who just needs a few minutes of time to laugh or to have someone listen. This costs nothing, but it gives joy to someone.

And now to get down to the actual meeting discussion. We talked about God’s *Grace* in our lives, how Jesus shared *Grace* with all, with the exception of defiling the temple. Jesus showed kindness and *grace* with all who came in contact with him. This is an ongoing thing, to this day we are given *grace* in many times of challenge in our lives. That is part of the discussion we had.

The next part dealt with us, and our obligation as believers in one God, to remember to pray for those blessings we experience. To pray for the food that we eat, to pray for the rain, water and good soil to grow food, and to pray for those who grow the food, harvest the food, and who prepare the food, and most importantly, to thank God.

And also to pray for the healing of illness, to pray for the children, to pray for all others in our lives. As our discussion continued, we all became so aware of God in our presence, helping us to understand the concept of thankfulness as a part of our prayer world.

*Alice Natale*  
WELCA president



You are invited to a special  
***Mother's Day Concert***  
presented by  
Angeline Ng  
Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
at  
3:33 p.m.  
in the  
Mount Cross sanctuary