
Mount Cross Chronicle

June 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

"We're not reopening! We never closed!"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace, as we find ourselves living in the early days of the Pentecost season:

-the long green season on the Church calendar

-the season of growing in discipleship, mission, ministry and in relationship with God and Christ's Church

-celebrating the gift of the promised Holy Spirit

-hearing biblical stories of Jesus' ministry and being challenged and comforted by his teachings

-finding ourselves in a "new place", after fifteen long months of navigating through the COVID wilderness.

It's a time...

-to give thanks to God

-to pray

-to regroup

-to share ideas and to listen to one another, and most importantly, listen to God's voice

-to wonder what lies ahead for us.

What is the next step? Is it a matter of going back to what was and trying to pick up where we left off? Or is it about looking ahead and moving forward to what can be? What is the Holy Spirit calling us to do and be at this time and in this place? What have we learned about ourselves and our calling as the people of God in the past year? What has worked and aided us in our ministry? What do we need to leave behind because it hasn't served us well?

As Ecclesiastes tells us: Everything has its time. *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."* (NRSV)

I believe that now is the time for us to look ahead. We are not the same people that we were in March 2020. We are not the same congregation either. We lament that which we have lost and who we have lost through death or relocation. We lament the time that we have spent apart physically distanced from one another. We lament the activities that had to be cancelled.

Yet, we rejoice and give thanks to God because we "never closed our doors." And while some chose to step away from Mount Cross, others stepped up, offering the best of themselves, which allowed us to meet our challenges head on. We worked together to find bold and creative ways to stay connected. We continued to gather in worship, Bible study, prayer, morning devotions and meetings on Zoom, Facebook and Vimeo or in Spirit, faithfully and safely supporting the mission and ministries of Mount Cross during the pandemic.

I believe that God is calling us to journey forward. And as many of us are now returning to in-person worship for the first time in over a year, and others continue to gather with us online, we keep on keeping on, giving thanks to God almighty for bringing us to this **new** season of Pentecost, this **new** place and **new** chapter in our walk with our Lord. Together in faith, trust, hope and joy, we step forward into the exciting future that awaits us, one step at a time. Thanks be to God! And thank you for accompanying me on this journey.

With thanksgiving and hope in God's presence and promises,

Pastor Linda Hanus



Our
STATEMENT . . . † ChristConnectingCommunity

Feeding the Homeless in the Forest! Non-perishable food items and bottled water are being collected and will be packed into grocery bags. Suggested items for donation:



- Healthy granola bars/protein bars
- Fruit cups and applesauce cups
- Peanut butter or cheese crackers
- Slim Jim's- beef jerky sticks
- Peanuts in bags
- Pudding cups
- Wrapped small packs of cookies
- Rice Krispy bars
- Canned items **with pull-tops only** such as Vienna sausage, tuna, chicken, baked beans
- Bottled water
- Juice boxes or pouches
- Plastic spoons



Bring items to the church office and leave in the conference room.

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

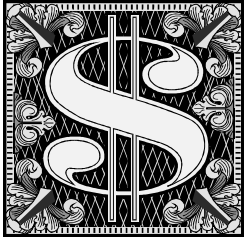


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A challenge to all of us is to look at hunger, mental health, housing, and human interaction. How can we help with these things? In what way can we make some small changes. A simple way is a thing called listening. Hear what is being said with your heart and mind. Acknowledge a person's existence. Make each encounter with another person an important event. You will feel happy, the other person will feel valued, and it may make someone's world better.



Change is a constant in our lives and seems to be the same for our fellow ecumenical churches. Rev. Sarah Allen has moved from Payson to Las Cruces, New Mexico. The replacement pastor at the United Methodist is Rev. Michael Eaton, who has returned to Payson after many years away. Rev. Julie Williams is no longer at St. Paul's Episcopal and the Interim Priest is Fr. Ron Keel. One constant is Rev. Dr. Tricia Tedrow, who continues as pastor at the Payson Community Presbyterian Church. Even in these times of change, God provides for the care for His people with shepherds for His flocks!



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – April 2021)

2021 Approved ½ year Budget \$152,461.50
 Income \$107,081.00 (70% of 2021 budget)
 Expenditures \$93,893.00 (61.5% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during April 2021 \$5,550.00
 Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage \$11,901.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2021
 Mount Cross. \$1,234.00

May I call your attention to three factors with regard to our April 2021 Financial Report.

First, we received \$13,632.06 in Payroll Protection Plan funds; the above amounts listed include the PPP funds. Second, even without the PPP funds, our income exceeded our expenses. Third, the end of April represents 1/3 of the way into 2021 and so by now we should have received 1/3 of our pledged giving. However, a figure that is not displayed on the financial report shows our receipt of pledged giving at the end of April was actually 35%. These are all healthy indicators of our Mount Cross financial picture.

Yours in Christ,
 Libby Winter
 Financial Secretary

Lector Schedule for June 2021
9:30 AM Sunday Service

6	13	20	27
Nancy Kellett	Jean Larson	Alice Natale	Ron Nelson

The online service lector for June is Eloise Jones.



Moving Forward for Mount Cross

What exciting news we received from the CDC regarding mask wearing and physical distancing guidelines for fully vaccinated people!! We will continue to update you ahead of time, as changes are made to our worship services. Above all, we want to honor the level of comfort and choices that folks will be making regarding mask wearing and not shame one another regarding our personal decisions. The following dates reflect the proposed changes for in-person worship:

As of Sunday May 30th, all fully vaccinated folks had the option of not wearing a mask. The CDC suggests that those not fully vaccinated should still wear a mask. Everyone is on the honor system. We began singing hymns, and we invited worshippers to share “*The Peace*” (using a verbal greeting only) with our “immediate” neighbors.

Sunday, June 6th, the choir will begin singing again and on Sunday, June 13th, we will start using ELW Setting 10 with responses to be sung.

Online worship services will continue to be offered each Sunday at 8:15 a.m.



This is a wonderful opportunity if you're a golfer! If not, then PLEASE pass this along to friends that do LOVE golf!

As a board member of Payson **Young Life**, I am excited to announce our third annual **YOUNG LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT**. Join us on Friday, September 17th at The Rim Club in Payson to raise money. Enjoy 18-holes at one of Arizona's most beautiful courses! The Rim Club is a private, luxury, mountain course. *GOLF* magazine ranks The Rim Club as 14th out of 300 courses in Arizona! <https://rimgolf.com/>

Surrounded by towering Ponderosa pines, spectacular views, and massive rock formations--not to mention a challenging elk or two - all complement the championship course that was a collaboration of Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish.

At \$300 per person, the day will include 18-holes of golf, cart, tee prizes, lunch and dinner with our raffle. The format will be a team scramble, with some fun twists thrown in every few holes! Please sign up as a foursome, as a single or as a couple. <https://az183.younglife.team/young-life-payson-3rd-annual-golf-fundraiser-2021>

If you're not familiar with **Young Life**, it's a Christian, faith-based, non-denominational organization that reaches out to high school youth in Payson. **Young Life** introduces kids to **CHRIST**. Many of these kids come from poor, disruptive and dysfunctional homes. The Payson school system is one of the most under-funded in Arizona. Introducing these kids to Christ can make a **HUGE** difference in their lives.

Last year's tournament raised over \$30,000, sending 16 kids to the **Young Life** camp, **Lost Canyon** (30 miles west of Flagstaff), last winter. Twenty-two campers are scheduled for camp this June. Help these kids get there!!

I was introduced to **CHRIST** - on a personal level - at **Young Life** camp while a junior at Arcadia High School in Phoenix. Amazing three days!! A weekend attending **Lost Canyon** has the potential of changing these young lives forever. All the money raised stays in Payson - where it is needed.

Follow the link above to sign up for the tournament, **DONATE** or both! Whether you golf or donate, you'll be making such a difference!

Barbi Buchanan

Thank You

Thank you all for coming to our Mother's Day Concert. We had a great experience and hope you had a wonderful time. Thank you for your generous free-will offering; we were able to pay off David's school tuition for this year and secure a place for next year at Payson Christian school.

Warm Regards,
Angeline, Daniel and David

Are You "Knotty"?

The quilters are meeting on Wednesday, June 9th, at 9:00 a.m. in the log building to resume their mission to make quilts for the Rock Point Mission. We have volunteers who sew the squares together and finish the bindings, but we need ladies who can tie knots AND someone who likes to iron sheets. Since the pandemic hit, we are short-handed, so please come and join us. We stop at 11:00 a.m. then gather around to fellowship and eat the lunch we each bring. Beverages are provided. So, come out of isolation and join the fun! Any questions, call Eloise: 928-972-1126.



Happy 35th Anniversary!

Pastor Linda celebrates 35 years as a pastor on the anniversary of her Ordination, which is on June 22nd. May she bless us in this capacity for many more years!



We are in the period of Pentecost. Now is the time to pray for others: for comfort, for forgiveness, for good health, for happiness, for success. If you pray for another each and every day, your own world will be joyous.



June Birthdays

- 1 Rob Reifschneider
- 5 Lori Andretta
- 7 Doug Herbster
- 10 Jim Potter
Donna Reifschneider
- 11 Gail Bensen
Jim McCall
- 12 Pastor Cliff Hanus
- 14 Mary Havenor
- 15 Tom Backe
Nancy Peiffer
- 16 Alice Natale
- 19 Doug Overfield
- 21 Gwen Zorn
- 25 Pastor Linda Hanus
Majel Potter
- 26 Marty Ahlman
Karla Fellin
- 29 Mary Kennedy
- 30 Clay Ricker

June Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Doug/Barb Overfield
Gary/Sharon Vaplon
- 16 Doug/Myra Herbster
- 21 Barry/Nancy Peiffer
- 24 James/Gwen Zorn

June Baptisms

- 1 Jim Potter
- 15 Tom Backe

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





Just L.I.F.E
(Liberation Is For Everyone)

Just Wisdom

The ladies will meet for the June Bible study in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, June 10th at 10:00 a.m. , Bring your own lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship after the study.

This 3 session summer series is inspired by the words of Jesus, *"If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed"* (John 8:36) and *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10) Through these statements, Jesus gives us full life and freedom to pursue justice. God desires justice for ALL of his children and ALL of creation. However, due to our human nature, we do not automatically become more just...we must work to achieve justice.

This first session, *Just Wisdom*, will delve into how our hearts and minds can be opened by God to a spiritual understanding. *Just Wisdom* comes from our reverence to God's awesomeness. The key verse for this session is Proverbs 9:10, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* June's study will focus on Wisdom, also known as *"Sophia"* (Greek word for divine Wisdom personified), and primarily on the eighth and ninth chapters of Proverbs.

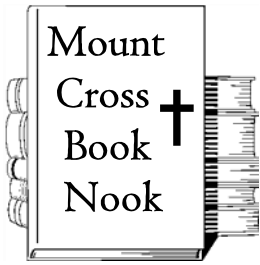


We had an in-person meeting on May 13, 2021, which was well attended and a happy event. The study was about inter-generational relationships: are we engaged in them and how do we interact with older and younger folk? Since our group is mostly older we only have one younger person, Cyndi Plantz, thus we must look outward to achieve those contacts. I would challenge all of you to seek relationships with younger people, invite them to join in fun events, and also invite them to come to church.

In the past few months we have become more insular than ever. Now it is time to get out there, make the world a better place through simple friendships, a smile, a laugh, and share a bit of joy to others. Our church is mostly older folk who are one big family. That is something to celebrate and we do a good job of that at times. Now let's round out our family circle to include various ages as a part of our faith family.

Each year a new challenge is critical for our ongoing ability to keep our brains working, our bodies working and our hearts showing Jesus love. His simple request to "Love One Another" is so easy to do. After looking at our town, our state, our country, and how at present it is so basically intolerant of just about anything, we have become a thin skinned, over-reacting group of folk who need to once again do what Christ said, "Love One Another." Maybe Mount Cross can start a trend.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



With things slowly returning to normal, the library cart in the narthex will again hold selected books for you to look over and check out. The cart has been relocated to the south end of the narthex, closer to the new relocation of the library from the former church building to the Ponderosa Room.

The books selected for this month are:

Non-fiction:

Storm Warning

by Billy Graham

Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul

by Jack Canfield

Meet the Holy Spirit

by Jack Hyles

Secrets of Health, Energy and Staying You

by Marjorie Holmes

The Purpose Driven Church

by Rick Warren

Dewey

by Vicki Myron

Fiction:

Abigail

by Lois T. Henderson

Redeeming Love

by Francine Rivers

The Healing Quilt

by Laurine Snelling

The Yada Yada Prayer Group

by Netta Jackson

The Red Tent

by Anita Diamant

Song of the Silent Harp

by B.J. Hoff

If you are looking for a particular book or author, the index boxes are on the shelf in the cabinet on the east side of the Ponderosa Room. The library can now be used any time the office is open. Remember to place the signed book card in the small box on the cart.

If you have any questions, call me.

Your Librarian,

Eloise Jones

I am back in Mankato again. I was in Senegal in February and March to say my goodbyes, pack up my apartment, and put all the YAGM program furniture and resources in storage until the program hopefully starts again in 2022.

I'm currently serving as an interim pastor at a congregation here in Mankato through July while the lead pastor is on sabbatical. It is a good transition for me, and a good reminder of parish pastor work after serving as a YAGM coordinator for five years.

In other good news, I am finalizing the last details of a new call as a global missionary with the ELCA. I will thankfully get to return to the continent of Africa, but in a different part of the continent with a different role. Once the details are all confirmed, I will finally send that last Newsletter to all my wonderful supporting congregations letting you all know of the transition. I do know that the ELCA is also in the midst of evaluating which YAGM programs to restart in 2022, including possibly the program in Senegal.



Please say hello to everyone in Payson!! God be with you.

Pastor Kristin