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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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June 2023

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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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Supply Pastor  
Rev. Dana Reardon  
474-2552

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 Ponderings*

I used to think that the timing of Pentecost and the celebration of the birthday of the church was not good in our society, since we seem to celebrate the birth of the church and then go on vacation and forget all about it. It should be a time to think about growth and what future God is calling us to. But more and more I am thinking that maybe if we take this time in the summer for recreation that is recreation, it might be just the right thing.

Mount Cross is in what is called a liminal time and in-between time. A time like this can be confusing, even a bit scary and yet the possibilities for the future are exciting. I almost feel like an interloper walking into the middle of what you have been working through to find your future, that is the future that God is calling you to. I get to come and share in the excitement without all the hard work that you have been going through. So I invite you all to share your journey with me during the time we have together this summer. This could mean a little about your history, but even more about the vision God has given you for the future.

I enjoy hearing stories from the past, which remind us of all the ways in which God has been with us. This reminder serves us well as we look to the future, because God doesn't just give us a vision but gives us the strength and the resources, including all of our varied talents and the constant reassurance that we are held in God's loving arms.

When I worshiped on Pentecost, I said prayers for you that the Holy Spirit would be stirred up at Mount Cross and remain strong among you into whatever God is calling you and I repeat that prayer now. May God inspire you all and also bless our time together.

In God's love and hope,  
*Pastor Dana Reardon*

Pastor Dana Reardon was ordained in 1998 after 21 years in nursing, mostly pediatric intensive care. She served churches in Upstate New York and Rhode Island before retiring. She has since served as an interim Pastor in New Jersey and Arizona. She settled in Arizona to be near grandchildren.





Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity

*Thank You*

Thank you to Ernie & Nancy Kellett and Nancy's friend, Jackie Naegle, for making and installing new yellow gingham curtains in the log building. Brightness and cheeriness abounds!

To Mount Cross,

We are very grateful for all who attended and helped with the wonderful service for our Mom on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

We recognize and appreciate the time and care in planning and coordinating, as well as the leadership and very beautiful music!

Thank you all for the service and fellowship after. We are thankful that Dad has such a remarkable church family to love and support him.

Sue, Liz, and Jeff  
(Doug & Myra Herbster's children)



**PRAY, PRAY, PRAY**

This is such a small word for all that needs to be done. We have had some serious health issues in our church body. Several of our congregants have needed prayers for healing. Several have needed prayers for courage, and many of us simply need prayers.

So pray for:

- our church,
- our town,
- our country,
- our world,

and ask God to forgive us if we have not placed him first in our prayers and thoughts.

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



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

We have many things that can be done. If you are bored, look for someone to help:

- Share a ride,
- Help a child,
- teach a child,

assist someone in various chores.  
YOUR life will be come richer.

**Sunday Service**



**9:30 AM**

**EVERY Sunday  
In-House & Livestream**



Lifeline Screening will be on the Mount Cross campus in the log building on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. If you would like to have some preventative testing done, you may make an appointment by calling 1-800-640-6307.

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – April 2023)



2023 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$326,229.00
Income . . . . .	\$86,015.00 (26% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$68,802.00 (21% of 2023 budget)

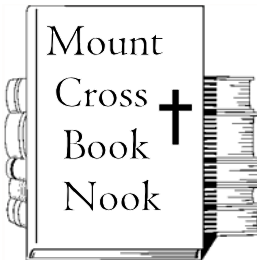
Total given to the Mortgage Fund during April 2023 . . . . .	\$2,735.00
Total paid out in 2023 for mortgage . . . . .	\$11,460.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2023	
Mount Cross. . . . .	\$449.00

Mount Cross continues to work under budget, but that is due to the absence of expenses involved with having a full-time pastor. Although these numbers look good at present, please keep in mind that once a permanent pastor is found these numbers will change considerably and continued support is necessary in order to cover the anticipated future expenses of having a full-time pastor. We continue to thank those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team



Out on the library cart this month you may find one or more of your favorite authors, which are listed below. In most cases the library has more than one title by that author. The author index box will be out on the shelf to help you find them.

Fiction:

- Francine Rivers
- Karen Kingsbury
- Cynthia Davis
- Richard Paul Evans
- Wanda Brunstetter
- Beverly Lewis
- Janette Oke
- Jodi Picoult
- Frank Peretti
- Marjorie Holmes

Non-Fiction:

- Marcus Borg
- Norman Vincent Peale
- Jack Canfield
- Marjorie Holmes
- Max Lucado
- James Herriot
- Corrie Ten Boom
- Henry Thoreau
- Catherine Marshall
- Walter Wangerin Jr.
- Joel Osteen
- Billy Graham



**June Birthdays**

- 1 Rob Reifschneider
- 5 Lori Andretta
- 7 Doug Herbster
- 10 Donna Reifschneider
- 11 Gail Bensen
- Jim McCall
- 14 Mary Havenor
- 15 Tom Backe
- Nancy Peiffer
- 16 Alice Natale
- 26 Marty Ahlman
- 30 Clay Ricker

**June Wedding Anniversaries**

- 1 Gary/Sharon Vaplon
- 21 Barry/Nancy Peiffer

**June Baptisms**

- 15 Tom Backe

P.S. And many thanks for all your prayers for my recovery. I now have three screws that will prevent my bypassing through the fast screening at the airport.

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*



For the past three months we have studied the Ten Commandments. We learn them as children, remember them on occasion or we make them a part of our resident knowledge base. Then there is little thought for many of us as we live our daily lives.

Going forward we focus more on Jesus telling us to love one another and treat others as we would wish to be treated. Basic, simple, easy to understand and a good way to live our lives. God gave Moses the 10 Commandments in a very dramatic manner. Stone tablets with the rules carved on the stone. So important that they were placed in the Ark of the Covenant, protected by the Levites, kept in the Holy of Holy place, behind a covering of the temple along with some manna, which only the High Priests could enter. Always protected until Solomon's temple was destroyed.

Should these great basic rules be forgotten? Probably not. They are rules for the society of a people to live by in peace and harmony. Not stealing, not killing, not lying, not being respectful, not being faithful in marriage, not honoring your parents, not wanting what your neighbors have, these things are basic elements that are things that we see in our current world as we look for power, money, attention and have greed. More importantly, our God is to be placed first in all that we do. He is a jealous God, who wants us to keep him first. That may be why we see so much turmoil today in our current world. We have placed status, power, money as our gods instead of remember the one and only God.

I thank God that we have studies to keep us focused on what is important, God!

*Alice Natale*  
WELCA president



Registration deadline has been extended to June 15<sup>th</sup>!

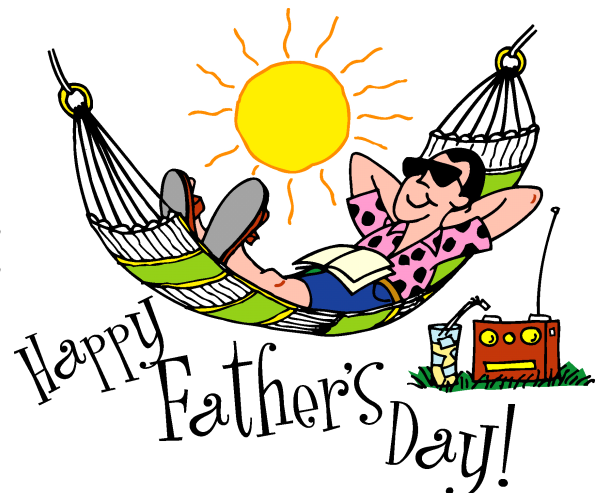
We invite you to experience a life-changing event with Bishop Deborah Hutterer leading worship, Rev. Tiffany Chaney preaching, and Krish O'Mara Vignarajah and Rev. Angela T. !Khabeb speaking.

Ladies, this is in our own backyard, so to speak, and you may register online by accessing this web address:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=258822&>

Printed copies of the registration forms can be found on a clipboard near the church mailboxes. Pick one up today and join with other bold women of faith in September 2023.

May the Lord bless the fathers who have worked to provide, protected, and loved their families. Celebrate your day on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, by relaxing in a manner that brings you enjoyment!



Greetings from Millsboro, Delaware!

The unofficial start of summer traffic has begun here. The trick for us is to find as many back roads as possible. Hoping that all is well in your world. You and yours are always in my prayers.

I want to update you regarding the ever changing journey of Cliff and Linda.

We will be heading to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on June 11<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate Cliff's birthday on June 12<sup>th</sup>. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, we will begin serving as interim co-pastors (we will share one full-time position) of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster. We are excited about returning to ministry in the Lancaster area, since we lived there before heading to Wisconsin and still have family, friends and colleagues there. We will be living with my aunt in the Landisville area for the time being. One day at a time...



Our plan is to sell our townhouse here in Millsboro. Not sure when we'll put it on the market. Anyone interested in buying a gently used townhouse? LOL.

When we moved here last summer, the hope was that my siblings would be moving here, too. Well, that isn't happening. One is in the process of moving to New York City. Another is still trying to figure it out but probably won't be moving here. That's okay. Life is truly a journey. We just keep cruising along, embracing one adventure after another. God isn't finished with us yet and also has a great sense of humor.

After June 10<sup>th</sup>, our temporary mailing address will be: 2932 Bowman Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601. Email addresses and cell phone numbers remain the same. Many, many apologies for messing up your address book, yet again...

So, there you have it... Besides God's presence, love, grace and promises, the one constant in our lives is change. Please keep us in your prayers, as we begin this next chapter of our life together. I will keep you updated.

As we pause to remember and give thanks for those who have served and given their lives in service to this nation, I pray that the peace of our Lord would fill the world and our hearts to overflowing.

With love and hugs,

*Linda Hanus*

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## **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 biblical prophets. All are welcome to attend.

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



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# Women's BIBLE STUDY

The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

The subject of the summer Bible study is "Salvation Now" by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen. She will direct attention to the book of John and his frequent use of the word "now" throughout his gospel. The May/June session, entitled "Promised Salvation Now – Jesus Brings Wellness," will focus on bringing attention to how Jesus makes a difference in a person's life in the here and now!

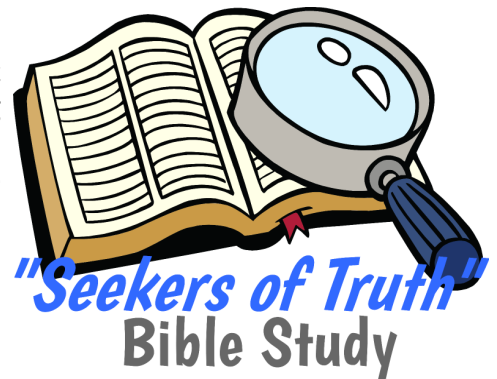
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Seekers of Truth Bible study, support, social, and friendship group, is held on the third Thursday of each month in the Ponderosa Room at 10:00 a.m. June 15<sup>th</sup> is the date for this month's meeting. Refreshments will be served; BYOB (Bring Your own Beverage).

The group continues to focus on sixteen major and minor Old Testament 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 questions, suggestions, or wish to be a part of this group, please call Jan at 928-517-1119 or Sue at 928-478-6166.



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Greetings from the Call Committee,

As you may already know, the pastoral candidate we interviewed did not feel like Mount Cross was the right Call for her. Although we were disappointed with this decision, we pray she will find the right place soon.

We believe there is a greater plan for us, and ask for your continued prayers that the Holy Spirit will guide us to the right person and a bright future for Mount Cross. Thank you all for your support and patience.

Jan Bartoli, Call Committee Chairman  
and the Call Committee