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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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July 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/Communion Service

9:30 a.m.

Livestreamed  
*Online Worship Service*

Mount Cross Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/MountCrossPayson>

Mount Cross YouTube Link

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=payson+mount+cross](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=payson+mount+cross)

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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***

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."  
(Isaiah 43:1, ESV)*

I was reading this verse the other day and thought this would be a great verse for opening July's article. It reminds us yet again whose we are. "You are mine" means also I have ransomed you. God reminds Israel, who was in captivity then and now us, that there is nothing God won't do to be united with us. "You are mine," indicates the very intimate personal relationship between God and us. Isaiah is reminding those in captivity then, as well as all of us today, that the God who created us, redeemed us, named us also claims us as his own.

In the month of June, our congregation was blessed with the Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) of four adults and welcoming seven new members! I know I have said this before, but I can't help but to say it again, the Spirit is alive and well here at Mount Cross! It was also a thrill to be one of the representatives from Mount Cross to attend the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly. Thank you to Barb and Jo for your Temple Talk about the Synod Assembly for the congregation.

Well, we have now officially settled into the summer of 2024 and hopefully, we are enjoying those *"lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer."* (thank you Nat King Cole!) I know Jo and I have been enjoying our first summer here in Payson. Whatever your plans are for July, I hope and pray that you find time to relax and enjoy the beauty that our loving Creator has blessed us with. Jo and I are looking forward to seeing more of how beautiful Arizona is! I hope we can all find some time to simply take in the majesty that we all have been blessed with. July might offer all of us that opportunity!

For the month of July, I will be doing a summer sermon series on four Old Testament figures. I will open the series with Lot's wife, followed in order with Noah, Daniel, and Jonah as the anchor man (pun intended)! Although you may be familiar with some of these, I hope to provide you with some new and interesting things about them.

It is such a blessing to be here with you at Mount Cross. Know that you are in my prayers and so very loved! Please feel free to call, text, email or come in and say "hi." Likewise, let me know if you would like me to visit you or someone you know would like a visit.

Peace,  
*Pastor Carl*  
Philippians 1:3-4



Our STATEMENT . . . † ChristConnectingCommunity



If you set aside a specific time to pray, it is easier to remember to do so.

If you have a special place to pray, it is your place of well-being.

If you pray, you are spending time with God.

Now pray for the world, our country, our state, our town, and our families and friends.

Everyone needs prayer. God Bless You.



Save Your Items for Our Rummage Sale

The time is drawing near for the Global Missions Team's annual Rodeo Weekend Rummage Sale, which will be held on Friday, August 16th and Saturday, August 17th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please gather your unwanted household items. You may drop off your smaller items in the office conference room.

Please note the items that we will NOT be accepting: Dirty, stained, broken or torn items; VHS tapes; televisions; computers; used plastic food containers (i.e. cottage cheese, sour cream, margarine, etc.) All donations must be in usable condition.

Proceeds from the sale will go to local charities. If you are interested in helping the days of the sale, please join the fun and contact Nancy Kellett. The more the merrier! Many hands will be needed to set up and to help with the sale itself.



In August, we have the annual sale in the log building on Rodeo weekend. This year we will focus on wearing the yellow shirts that say, "God's Work, our Hands."

The proceeds of this sale goes to various charities in our town. So, for the work of your hands, look over things in your homes and donate them if you no longer need them...or your children do not want them.



Church office will be closed Thursday, July 4th and Friday, July 5th for Independence weekend

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – May 2024)



2024 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$318,013.00
Income . . . . .	\$103,383.00 (32.5% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$127,607.00 (40.1% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during May 2024 . . . . .	\$2,767.50
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage . . . . .	\$14,325.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2024	
Mount Cross. . . . .	\$1,234.00

We are fast approaching the mid-year financial reports, which will be shared in the next newsletter. It is hard to grasp that half of the year is already past. The numbers above show the basic status of income versus expenses. We continue to thank those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team

**How To Access Mount Cross Services Online**



Are you frustrated trying to access Mount Cross services online? Do you want to share your worship time with your friends or relatives? Can’t make it to service on Sunday? Here are two options to successfully reach the destination.

1. Just go to the church website: [www.mountcross.org](http://www.mountcross.org), scroll down on the homepage until you find the “Facebook Livestream” button and click on it. A window will pop up asking you to sign in. You don’t have to create a Facebook account if you don’t have one. Just click the X in the corner of that box. From there, you can click on the video tab at the top of the church Facebook page and then select the service you would like to view.
2. You can also find the services by going out on YouTube and typing Payson Mount Cross in the YouTube search bar. Mount Cross services will show and you can select the service of your choice.

# Women of the ELCA

Here is one half of a year and it is time to check goals for the year and the progress made towards those goals. After writing this, I then read Pastor Carl's musings and he is directed towards a time of reflection. For me, it is time to see if I am even reaching any of the January ideas. So, taking stock of things, I have cleared out much of the old stale paperwork that has needed a good gleaning. Save the treasurers, get rid of peripheral stuff that will not be revisited. This also included cleaning up emails for the past ten years, old minutes from various organizations, and even old items in my word directory. Too busy to do that, just do a few each day.

Now in the failure department, I vowed to read all the apocrypha this year. I have read parts of Sirach, my favorite, and Tobit, Maccabees, plunged into the Wisdom of Solomon at times, but overall, I am a failure in completing this goal. For this year my plan was to do all of them. Now I will read Judith, Esther (Greek), and the Song of Azariah. I always want the whole picture, and these were books that were left out back in Pope Gregory's time. They are in the Catholic Bible, but not in Protestant ones. I have always questioned why?

I have reread many of the Old Testament books several times because I believe you need to know where we come from in order to have even a glimpse of where we are going. During some very rough times in my life, I would read Mathew and Psalms over and over. I also read John since he was an actual witness. Now I appreciate Luke. No nonsense, just direct. A stage of life, I suppose. Paul was a bit too sexist, a man of his times. But he is responsible for the diaspora of Christianity after Jesus death. Then when you read about the other apostles, it is the magnification of that growth. We are so blessed by these early teachings.

In July, the ladies will start a new study entitled "*Curiosity.*" How do we live in faith during times of uncertainty. According to one writer, Phyllis Tickle, "every 500 years Christianity undergoes a change, many are major upheavals with great transitions. We are on target for that type of change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." We see many things that have changed our views of the world. A challenge is that we need to be ready. A comment in her article is to view it as a church rummage sale.

So, I will conclude with this: "*review the old, prepare for now, and then think of the future.*"

Alice Natale  
WELCA president

## **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.

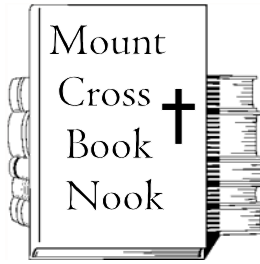
Saturday: By appointment



The Bell Choir and Praise Choir will not have practices on Thursdays during July. Normal Thursday practices will resume on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Summer Choir will meet on Sundays at 8:45 a.m. throughout July and the first two Sundays in August for a brief practice before the service begins. If you like to sing and are attending the Sunday service, it would be exciting to have you join...no commitment for every Sunday, just join when you are planning to attend the service.





The “freebie” month went very well. This month, there will be a series of Amish novels, which are set in Lancaster County. Each novel stands alone. There is no room for them in our church library, so when you select one, find the title in the Payson Campus book, which will be located in the plastic box on the cart. Add your name and the date to the correct title. Place it in the plastic box when returned.

Enjoy this new summer program!

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*



**DEAREST GOD,  
WE LIFT UP THIS PRAYER TO YOU  
IN GRATITUDE FOR THIS GRAND OCCASION.  
THANK YOU FOR BLESSING OUR NATION  
WITH THE JOY OF FREEDOM,  
AS WE ARE ONLY ABLE  
TO LIVE SO FREELY, BECAUSE OF YOU.  
TRUE FREEDOM IS ONLY FOUND  
THROUGH YOU,  
AND WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY  
WITHOUT YOUR HOLY GUIDANCE.  
PLEASE WATCH OVER US,  
OUR LOVED ONES, OUR NEIGHBORS,  
AND EVERY OTHER AMERICAN –  
THAT WE MAY ALL HAVE A SAFE  
AND BLESSED FOURTH OF JULY  
THAT PLACES YOU  
AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING.  
AMEN.**



**July Birthdays**


- 3 Gary Wilder
- 11 Barbara Greer
- 13 Ron Nelson
- 20 Sally Rohrbach
- 21 Lynne Wayne
- 26 Charley Kishbaugh


**July Wedding Anniversaries**

- 1 Ray/Linda Wiebe

**July Baptisms**


- 10 Clyde Longberry
- 15 Patric Taylor
- 29 Bob Walker



*Now you know.* 

*Your trusted partner in preventive healthcare since 1986!*


We will be coming to your community soon!



**Wednesday, July 3, 2024**  
 Mount Cross Lutheran Church  
 601 E State Hwy 260  
 Payson, AZ  
 Conference Center

Schedule your screening today at:  
<https://july032024.youcanbook.me>

Or Scan  
this QR  
code



Our comprehensive screening is \$200  
<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.

**Complete Cardiovascular Ultrasound**

- **Heart Ultrasound Screening:** Scans the heart valves, measures systolic function, the motility of the left ventricle, the ejection fraction and the dimensions of the atrium and ventricles.
- **Atrial Fibrillation Screening:** Atrial fibrillation is a heart rhythm problem found in almost one in every 150 people, causing palpitations, shortness of breath, fatigue and risk of stroke.
- **Carotid Artery Screening:** Stroke is the most common cause of long term care admissions in the US. This screening will show your level of plaque build up in the carotid arteries.
- **Thyroid Ultrasound Screening:** Scans for cysts, nodules and other abnormalities that may indicate signs of thyroid disease.
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD):** Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a condition where blood circulation is restricted. It affects over 8 million Americans. Scans for signs of circulatory problems in the lower extremities.

**Complete Abdominal Ultrasound**

- **Abdominal Aorta Screening:** Aneurysms form as a result of weakening in the arterial wall. Scans for aneurysms and other abnormalities.
- **Liver Screening:** Scans for cysts, nodules, masses, texture and density and size dimensions of the liver.
- **Kidney Screening:** Scans for cysts, nodules, masses, stones, fluid and more.
- **Gallbladder Screening:** Scans for stones, sludge, wall thickening and other abnormalities.
- **Pancreas Screening:** An important organ providing essential hormones and digestive enzymes. This screening detects small lesions, abnormalities and other signs of disease.
- **Spleen Screening:** This organ is essential in regard to red blood cells and the immune system. This screening detects an enlarged spleen and additional signs of disease.

**BEST VALUE ALL 11 SCREENINGS FOR ONLY \$200**  
 Appointments are required. Call 602-254-7130 or book online.  
 Please wear a two-piece outfit. A minimum 4-hour fast is required with the Abdominal Ultrasound Screenings. A confidential report is immediately provided.

RightPath Health Screenings is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization

## 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.

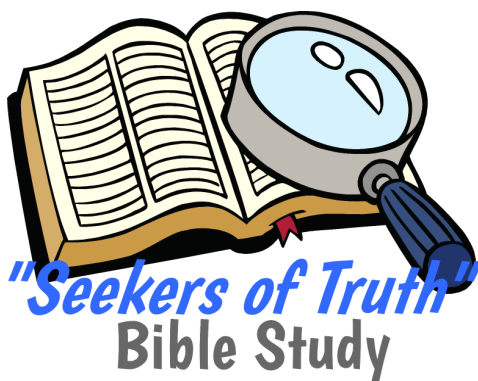


The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

Gather Magazine's Summer Bible Study subject is "After Certainty: A Biblical Guide" by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. She provides a video supplement each month. This is the link for July's study:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYVR9rtcU\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYVR9rtcU_I)

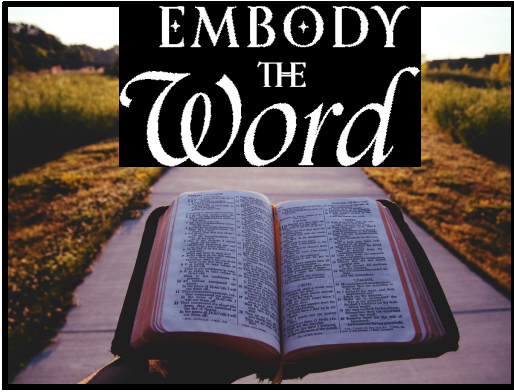
The second session is entitled "After Certainty: Community." When certainty in faith becomes the responsibility of the individual, this can isolate us from God and from community. The reformer Martin Luther's own failures of certainty led him to return to passages in the gospels and epistles that proclaimed salvation, not as a reward for our certainty, but as a gift granted in and through community. In this second session, we consider how some of the pivotal texts of the Lutheran Reformation changed the church and the world.



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. July 18<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. At the July gathering, we will be discussing Paul's letter to Philemon.

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.



## GRAND CANYON SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2024

The Grand Canyon Synod Assembly 2024 was held Thursday through Saturday, **June 13-15**, 2024, at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in Mesa. The theme this year was *"Embody the Word."*

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." - 1 Corinthians 12:12*

Pastor Carl & Jo Sirotzki and Barb Howe attended the 2024 Synod Assembly and thank the congregation for their blessings and generosity in making it possible for them to attend.

All sessions of the assembly are available to watch on the Love of Christ Lutheran's Facebook page. All links can be found on the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly 2024 web page.

**Thursday night** the Mount Cross delegates registered and then walked around and looked at the various displays and exhibition tables, picking up lots of pamphlets and brochures regarding exciting programs available to us.

**Friday morning** the session was called to order, followed immediately by an introduction by the Bishop, and first ballot vote.

In the report of the First Ballot for Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, Bishop Deborah Hutterer was reelected, receiving the necessary 75% of votes on the first ballot. A total of 281 votes were cast, with 267 recognized as legal votes. Bishop Hutterer received 201 votes from the synod community.

Throughout the sessions, votes occurred for the selection of Synod Council members, committee members, and voting members to attend the 2025 Church-wide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. We had several business/plenary sessions throughout the day, special guest speakers, Bible study, worship, and a variety of workshops to attend. We chose to attend workshops on:

- ◆ Telling Your (Faith) Story by Pr. Tina Mills
- ◆ The Station Coffee Co. in Florence, AZ, which started in 2021 by members of Crossroads Lutheran Church in Florence.

We were also very well fed with not only lunch and dinner, but lots and lots of sweet treats throughout the day along with plenty of water and coffee.

**Saturday morning** began with synod business, special guest speakers, celebrations, and Synod Council reports followed by worship, closing of the assembly, lunch, and a special Diakonia graduation was held after lunch.

A Certificate of Attendance was presented to Mount Cross at the Assembly, which Barb Howe showed to the congregation at the service on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.