
Mount Cross Chronicle

August 2021



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

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 a.m.

In-House Worship Service

Live recording

Online 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

"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home," as the old adage in John Howard Payne's poem goes. Or as Dorothy Gale in the "Wizard of Oz" declares, as she clicks the heels of her red ruby slippers three times, "There's no place like home."

For the first 25 years of my life, my home was clearly the house in which I had been raised. It was located in a Maryland suburb of Washington, DC. When I moved to Gettysburg to begin my seminary studies, my mailing address may have changed, but my home was still that house in Maryland.

It wasn't until Cliff and I married that **my** home became **our** home, as we started our new life together. However, I must confess, that "if home is where the heart is," to this day, my heart is in two places, because I love my home with Cliff, wherever that is, and I also love my home where my Mom (and Dad before he died) lives, wherever that is. Both homes have moved many times over my lifetime, but my heart has been deeply rooted in both, regardless of geographical location.

The lengthy time that I have spent living through this pandemic has taught me a lot about life, about myself and about what's most important in life:

- Patience can be hard to come by at times.
- There are many situations that are out of our control. Do what you can and put the rest into God's hands.
- Learn to delegate tasks!
- Some people will disappoint you when you least expect it.
- Some people will step up and go beyond your hopes or expectations with love and humility.
- You are enough, because you are God's beloved child. It's about **whose** you are, not about who or what you are.
- It's important to make time to be still in God's presence each day. Too often, we spend our days checking off our lengthy "to do" lists.
- Be the best "you" that God created you to be. No one can do it better than you. Authenticity matters!
- Give thanks to God every morning. You're still breathing and blessed to be a blessing.
- Start each day in God's word.
- Relationships and being connected to one another are essential nourishment for our soul.
- Tell your loved ones "I love you" more often. Thank those who make your life brighter and "let go" of the hurt and disappointments caused by others. Laugh more often! Life is too short!

- Love God and love neighbor. That's what it's all about.
- Leaving chalk messages on your driveway can make strangers happy!

In a few days, I will be flying "home" to Maryland to spend some long-awaited time with my 92 year old Mom. It's been two years since we have shared a big long hug. I can't wait! Needless to say, Mom is excited too.

Our love for one another, the memories of experiences shared and our special mother/daughter bond that couldn't be weakened nor broken by a pandemic lives on. Thanks be to God!

May all of your homecomings be joy-filled!

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Linda Hanus



Our [†] STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity

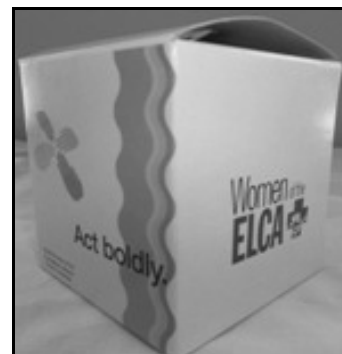
Advanced Planning

Interested in planning your *Celebration of Life service*? If so, please place your name on the sign-up sheet located on a clipboard near the mailboxes. A date and time will be determined later.

Lord, How Can I Show My Thanks?

One way that we can show thanks is to save our coins and/or paper money, set them aside in this special box or in plastic baggies, bring the collected money on September 12th or 19th, and place in the basket inside the main sanctuary doors. Extra boxes will also be available on a table in the narthex.

For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have carried out the tradition of collecting Thank Offerings at home and in community to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. Your Thank Offerings, which support the ongoing work of the church-wide expression of Women's Ministry or WELCA, have long been the backbone of our ministry together across the ELCA. Thank you for these contributions.



Mount Cross volunteers will again serve a sloppy joe supper the third Thursday of each month, August through December.

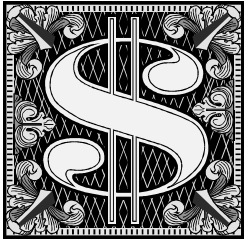
Dates:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| August 19 | November 18 |
| September 16 | December 16 |
| October 21 | |

If you are willing to help us out at 3:50 p.m. on these dates or provide funds for the food that we buy, please contact Sharon Vaplon, 928-468-8711.

The staff really appreciates our service as if no one volunteers, they then have to put a meal together. Their goal is to send the children home from the after-school program with a supper each day they attend.

Your support of time and funds for this program are appreciated.



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – June 2021)

2021 Approved 1/2 year Budget	\$152,461.50
Income	\$156,527.00 (102.67% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures	\$146,366.00 (96% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during June 2021	\$2,250.00
Total paid out in 2021 for mortgage	\$14,876.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2021 Mount Cross.	\$1,234.00
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Mount Cross ended the first half of the year with less in expenditures than what had been received. Members of the Council's executive committee have been diligent in working with Mission Investment regarding refinancing the church and are getting closer to completing the process.

Yours in Christ,
Mount Cross Financial Team

It is time to start looking at the 2022 budget. Chairpersons of the committees: it is requested that you look over your expenses from this portion of the year, determine what your committee will need to operate in 2022, and submit by email to secretary@mountcross.org by putting "2022 Budget-your committee name" in the subject line, and in the body of the email list the amount. If you determine that the 2021 amount is not sufficient, please list the requested amount and a reason for the increase. You may also respond by calling 474-2552 and providing the necessary information. If the Financial Team does not hear from the committee representative by Monday, August 16th, the 2021 amount will be submitted to the Council.



Sunday Service



9:30 AM

**EVERY Sunday
Online & In-House**

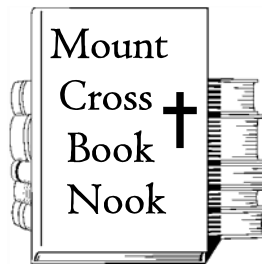
As of August 1st, the online service will be recorded 'live' and can be viewed on Mount Cross' Facebook page.

Thank you to Nancy Kellett, Lynn Sloan, and Ray & Linda Wiebe for Altar Guild duties in July.

**Wednesday Noon
Concert Series a Delight!**

Many thanks to Angeline and Daria for sharing their time and talents in presenting five very different presentations in July. Classics, gospel, jazz, and familiar sacred music were wonderful. Over \$1000 in free will offerings went to local programs as well. Look forward to another midweek series later in the fall!!

Sharon Vaplon



During this month, there will be a FREEBIE table over by the Ponderosa Room. Carol McNulty left four full boxes of fiction and non-fiction books. One of her favorite authors was Debbie McComber. There will also be some children's books...so keep in mind that birthdays may be coming up and Christmas is just around a couple of corners. There are way too many books to put out at one time so keep checking as I will be adding more every week.

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones

Attention: Date Change

The date for the resurfacing of the church parking lot has been changed from August 2nd & 3rd to August 4th – 6th. If you have business to attend to on the campus, please use the dirt parking lot between the log building and the dorm. Gate will be unlocked.

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



The early morning before the Shoemaker's memorial, Skyler Brice, from the Warming Center was out sweeping our walks to make sure we had safe places to walk and to celebrate the lives of two of our beloved members. This was a great example of *Gods Work, Our Hands*. The people who have coffee had picked up their stuff, and left the campus in respect of us knowing it was a big day for Mount Cross. In addition, we had help from the Property Committee, Altar Guild, Congregational Life, and our members in honoring two of our own. It was an example of the Amazing Mount Cross in action. As a job for us in the future, let us bring back the Amazing Mount Cross. As we spend the dog days of August, lets look at ways to become amazing once again.



August Birthdays

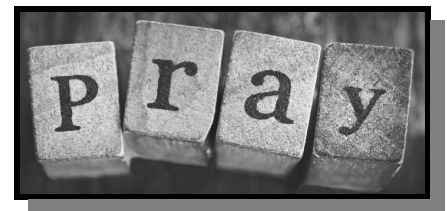
- 10 Sue Bobek
- 12 Vince Grennon
- 14 Sharry Lien
- 19 Scott Stallard
- 30 Sue Garn

August Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Joe/Tonnie Dice
Ron/Cyndy Plantz
- 20 Roger/Sue Zen
- 23 Lynn/Sue Hess
- 26 Roger/Sally Rohrbach

August Baptisms

- 1 Sally Rohrbach
- 23 Karyl Blair
- 27 Sherrie Loomis



Pray for our church,
live by Jesus' commandment
"To Love One Another."
Treat our neighbors as we
would wish to be treated,
and praise God,
pray to God
and pray for our understanding
of His wishes.



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

Just Hope

The women's Bible study for August will be held on Thursday, August 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room. If you would like to join them for a time of fellowship after the study, please bring your own lunch (BYOL).

This month, the study will continue to explore **Just L.I.F.E.** Session 3 focuses on *"Just Hope."* In this session, we will delve into the story of Ezekiel's encounter in the valley of dry bones. During the study, we will look at our role as members of the body of Christ and how we can be instruments of transformation in our community

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 in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook.

Sundays, 9:30 AM



This has been a month of many changes. For our Bible study we moved it on a one time basis to July 22, 2021. We will resume to the second Thursday of August (the 12th) for our regular schedule. During the months of July and August we will be studying two lessons on "Just Truth." Our study will begin at 10:30 until 11:30 AM,

followed by a sack lunch, if you wish for further conversation. Please bring your Bibles and Gather magazine or a copy of the lesson.

Now as we begin the annual fall re-gathering, let's think of ways to energize our Bible study, our daily worship, and our overall church. Great ideas come from many sources.

For the past few months I have been studying both early Christian and Jewish beliefs, seeing the power of the old testament, with its lessons on patience, perseverance and prophecy with God's promise for the future as each and every prophet prophesied "the one who would come" as a part of their ongoing relationship with God. Then once Jesus came, the new Covenant was given by Jesus with a promise of God's grace and redemption. I started wondering about all that we have been given, and how we tend to take that for granted, or as our right, as opposed to being grateful at all times. What a wondrous thing to have A God who Loves us so much that he gave his Son to take on our sins, worries, and grief, to give us his peace when we seek him. If we keep God in our sights, with Jesus as our savior, our lives can be blessed. Even when we have grief and sorrow, we know He is there, we just have to reach out to him.

At present our church is undergoing many changes and some conflict. If we persevere in our trust in God, and use his direction we will get through this. My favorite verse is "Trust God." Let us keep our focus on what God wants us to do, and he will lead us in the direction that serves his plan.

Alice Natale

WELCA president

Quilting Session on Wednesday, August 18th



If you can tie a knot come join us in the log building at 9:00 a.m. We could also use someone who likes to iron. Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship afterwards!

Completed quilts are donated to organizations such as Time Out, the Navajo Mission, etc. This is truly a work for God's purpose: using our hands to create beautiful colored patterns that are pleasing to the eye and provide warmth, both emotional and physical, to others.