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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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August 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

## *Ponderings*

The concept of loving one another, without judgement, without caution, without fear of what others may think of us should be a basic part of our Christian principles. Acts of love are both small and very large. Just doing the right thing, as a way of life, is an example. Also, leading others to do the right thing can be a big example.

Jesus led the world with humility and grace. He knows that we are not perfect and that we could fail to succeed, but each time we would need to touch base with God, get our focus on God, and live with love for others as well as ourselves. During the WELCA Bible study in July, we talked about the role women have traditionally had of putting others before ourselves, often forgetting that we need to be whole in order to be a good role model. The “Carrie Nations” and the “Me Toos” of our culture, as well as many others, have roared for women’s rights. Stop and think about the dignity of those women who chose to show love toward others...the “Clara Bartons” and the “Corrie Ten Booms” who led with love, strength, and purpose, without raising the shackles of all, but simply got the job done. At the wedding at Cana, Jesus’ mother, Mary, voiced herself and in a motherly manner gave her son a mother’s direction, with an understanding that God’s will would be done. The interesting part of this is that Jesus reacted like any son by stating, “*Woman, this is not our concern.*” It is a very human interchange that gives our Savior a very real human touch.

A different example, showing leading with God in command, is of George Washington leading with strength and vision. As he led us through the Revolutionary War, there were times when prayer and listening to God was the only way he could remain focused on the battle for freedom and to develop our country on a path that allows *all* a right to have a voice in our destiny. The converse side is that Washington had humility. When the war was over, he went home...only to be called back to be President. He again showed humility by serving only two terms, and then once again going home to his farm and family. He was a man who understood how power can corrupt, but stayed in touch with God, who gives wisdom and strength.

Let these people in history, who have illustrated how to lead with humility, provide the encouragement for us to be bold in showing Christ’s love through our actions.

*Thoughts penned by Alice Natale*



Our STATEMENT . . . † ChristConnectingCommunity

Attention all Mount Cross members and friends!! The annual August fund-raiser is almost here! On rodeo weekend, Global Missions will be hosting a vendor craft sale on the grounds and a yard sale inside the log building. Please bring your gently used items, not accepting items such as VHS tapes or TVs, to the log building on the 16th and 17th of this month. We will be setting up starting at 9:00 a.m. on those two days. Help is needed, so if you are able, so please consider giving us a hand.

The fund-raising event will occur on Friday and Saturday, August 18th and 19th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Remember, all funds received will go to Kaitie's Closet or Meals on Wheels. Both are worthy local causes, so we encourage you to be generous in your monetary donations for the items you select. Thanks in advance for helping out!

As part of our fund-raising opportunities, the Global Missions Team is also offering the chance to win this beautiful heirloom quilt!

Join your Global Missions Team in this worthy endeavor! For more information, please contact Nancy Kellett.



The new school year has begun! Our sloppy Joe suppers for the Payson Community Kids after school program will begin on Thursday, August 24th, with set up at 4:15 p.m. If you would like to help us serve the children, please contact Sharon Vaplon.

# Charity Quilt Raffle

All proceeds benefit: Meals on Wheels and Katie's Closet



Beautiful 100+ year old Heirloom Grandmother's Flower Garden Quilt  
Hand pieced and quilted, pristine condition  
Measures 90"X72"

**Tickets \$2 each or \$5 for 6**

Available at Mount Cross ELCA office (602 Hwy. 260)

Mount Cross Charity Faire (Aug 18-19, 9-4)

Quilt displayed in the Narthex of Mount Cross and at the Faire

Winning ticket drawn on August 19, 7:00pm

Winner does not need to be present

Questions call Nancy (520)425-7430

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – June 2023)



2023 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$326,229.00
Income . . . . .	\$126,174.00 (38.67% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$104,471.00 (32.00% of 2023 budget)
Total given to the Mortgage Fund during June 2023 . . . . .	\$2,196.00
Total paid out in 2023 for mortgage . . . . .	\$17,190.00

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

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

June has brought about a few expenses that were expected, but was hoped could be delayed. Due to the rains earlier this year and leakage, the old church roof was re-shingled. Another issue which intermittently popped up was a fire alarm squealing that could be heard in the sanctuary. The security company was scheduled in July to determine the source of the squealing. It was evidently a ground wire that was broken. The repair cost was fairly steep.

Currently, the Granite Dells road on the south side of the church property is being worked on by the Town of Payson. This is an unexpected blessing, as the town will continue the sidewalk and Mount Cross will not have to pay for it, which was an expenditure that Mount Cross was supposed to cover within a couple of years after the new church was opened. As always, a thank you to those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions is in order.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team



Our July study once again focused on the Gospel of John. He was very young when he became a disciple of Christ. He was both an observer, as well as a student of Jesus. Most of us can recite the verse, John 3:16 at any given moment. If not, it is time to start reading.

Young John observed Christ's action at the wedding at Cana and saw the beginning of what Jesus' mission on earth was about. He later would write about his experience as an observer and servant of Christ. He gave us insights into what this whole faith in God is centered upon.

If you are a woman who desires to delve a little deeper into the Bible and discuss the passages read at our monthly meeting, please join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room!

*Alice Natale*  
WELCA president



The Call Committee conducted a 2<sup>nd</sup> interview with our pastoral candidate via Zoom on July 24<sup>th</sup>. We were all very pleased with the discussion and his answers to our questions. On Tuesday, August 1st, we met with the Church Council and presented a formal recommendation, including the proposed benefits package, to approve this Call. The council unanimously voted to accept our recommendation.

The candidate and his wife are very excited about coming to Payson and meeting our congregation. We hope to see you all on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

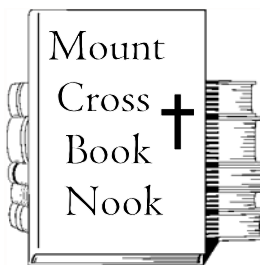
Feeling blessed,  
Jan Bartoli and the Call Committee

The Call Committee and Mount Cross Council invite you to join them in meeting & greeting our pastoral candidate for Mount Cross on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> after the service. Please be sure to attend, if at all possible, as this is a wonderful time to visit with him and his wife.



## SPECIAL Congregational Meeting

Please join together for a special congregational meeting in which the church congregation will vote to offer a Call to the pastoral candidate who will visit Mount Cross on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will occur on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, after the service. Please be present for this important decision!



The month of August will be Freebie month. There will be a variety of cook books to choose from plus small booklets that might give a member of your family or a friend a lift. Check every Sunday as more items will be added as space opens up. Contact me if you are looking for a certain book.

Your Librarian,  
*Elaise Jones*



For this month, let us pray for a world with more peace, more giving, and more return to Jesus teachings.



### August Birthdays

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

### August Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Joe/Tonnie Dice  
Ron/Cyndy Plantz
- 15 Bruce/Mary Havenor
- 26 Roger/Sally Rohrbach

### August Baptisms

- 1 Sally Rohrbach
- 18 Nancy Kellett



## 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.

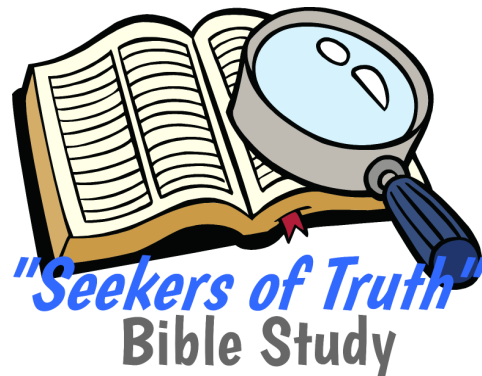


The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

The subject of the summer Bible study is "Salvation Now" by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen. She will examine the biblical and theological reasons for not waiting for it "to all come out in the wash later," but for us to become faithful ambassadors of Jesus' salvation now. The July session, entitled "Tangible Salvation Now – Christians Bringing Wellness," will focus on where there are wounds and brokenness, we are called to bring Jesus and the salvation he embodied to others!

Seekers of Truth Bible study, support, social, and friendship group, is normally held on the third Thursday of each month in the Ponderosa Room. This study will not be meeting this month, but will resume on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

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.



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



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

If you have spare time, think about what you can do in service to God.

We can help others by praying, and doing many things, both big and small.

Start a journal of what you can do to make the world better.

# Thank You

The Payson Community blood drive that was held yesterday was an AMAZING SUCCESS!!!! We are so GRATEFUL for your personal service and support!!!! WE are so GRATEFUL for our partnership with the Mount Cross Lutheran Church.

There were 91 donors that registered for the blood drive. There were 11 donors that were deferred. There were 2 donors that had 'quantity not sufficient.' We collected 64 units of whole blood. There were 14 donors that donated power red cells. There were 78 successful donations at the blood drive!!!!

**THE LIVES OF 219 PATIENTS IN NEED COULD BE IMPACTED BY THIS BLOOD DRIVE!!!! We currently have an emergency appeal for blood. We simply cannot begin to express our appreciation the impact that this blood drive will make on our current need for blood!!!!**

We truly appreciate all that you do to host this community blood drive!!!! We look forward to the next Payson Community blood drive on Monday, October 23, 2023.

*Lori Hilliard*  
Vitalant Senior Account Manager

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Dear friends,  
Thank you all for your continued support for the food bank and your volunteers. They are a huge blessing to our mission to serve. Thank you all again.

Many blessing to you all,  
*Melissa Ruff*  
Food Bank Coordinator  
Deacon's Food Pantry

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One of the ways Mount Cross fulfills its mission is to provide some of the quilts that are handed out to every mother and grandmother on the Navajo reservation at Rock Point at Christmas time. We have lost at least 3 members, who have moved in the past year. So if you can thread a needle and tie a knot, you are quite qualified to come and join us so we can be more productive. We meet twice a month in log building at 9:00 a.m. When needed, one Wednesday is "Lay-Out Day," when each quilter gets to lay-out a quilt top by choosing 9 inch squares from boxes full of colorful squares and monotones. So come join us on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at nine o'clock!

Eloise Jones  
Quilting co-ordinator

