
Mount Cross Chronicle

August 2024



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

Pastor
Rev. Carl Sirotzki
928-474-2552
608-370-1284 (emergencies)
pastor@mountcross.org

Music Director
Daria Mason
daria1024mason@gmail.com

Accompanist
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator
Lenore M. White
secretary@mountcross.org

Custodian
Keri Morris

Pastor's Musings & Ponderings

"Giving the right answer at the right time makes everyone happy."
(Proverbs 15:23, CEV)

As we enter into the month of August, I can't help but remember what was happening this month, one year ago. The Call Committee of Mount Cross invited Jo and I to come to Payson so we could meet in person as well as to meet the amazing congregation of Mount Cross. I can still recall with great joy meeting with the Call Committee and other members of the church. Jo and I couldn't believe the warmth and openness that we received from everyone during that visit!

I guess thinking back to our first time here sparked so many wonderful memories that this verse above from Proverbs just came to mind. During our visit here and on our trip back to Nebraska, it seemed like we couldn't stop talking about the possibility of coming to Payson and serving the congregation of Mount Cross. Knowing that the congregation would be voting the following Sunday on whether to call me as your pastor appeared to make the week go by slowly and at the same time, go by quickly.

During that week, Jo and I spent a lot of time praying and talking about what we would do if we were offered "the call" to come to Mount Cross. When we received the phone call informing us the congregation voted favorably to call us, well, I don't think it took more than a couple of seconds to respond, YES! I guess you could say that this was a practical example of how giving the right answer at the right time made everyone happy. To say that the Call Committee, Jo and I all felt the Holy Spirit was definitely very active during this whole call process is beyond question. I believe that my reply to the phone call offering me the call to be pastor at Mount Cross was truly a fitting response to the counsel of the Holy Spirit.

Coming up in the next couple of months we will be looking at how even the most well intentioned clichés are not always from scripture as we may think and at times can even be hurtful. I am also looking at offering a class after worship on Spiritual Gifts. If this kind of class sounds interesting to you, please let me know. Then, sometime in the fall, we will have another New Member Orientation for those interested in becoming members of Mount Cross.

It is such a blessing to be here with you!

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our [†]
STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



Take the time to pray for:

- † our country to heal itself.
- † our congregation.
- † all who are sad, sick or depressed.
- † for yourself.



Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

I had the opportunity to package a plethora of new socks and underwear for children in the Rim Country who are marginalized.

I have your collective goodness to thank for that task! Many thanks for caring about children in our area.

Sincerely,
Bob Horne
Kaitie's Closet



The new school year has begun! Our 2024-2025 schedule for the sloppy Joe suppers for the Payson Community Kids after school program has not been determined yet.

An announcement will be placed in the bulletin with the date of the first supper that Mount Cross will provide.

If you would like to help us serve the children, please contact Sharon Vaplon.

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



Our property committee rocks! They maintain our campus with care, reverence, and back breaking work.

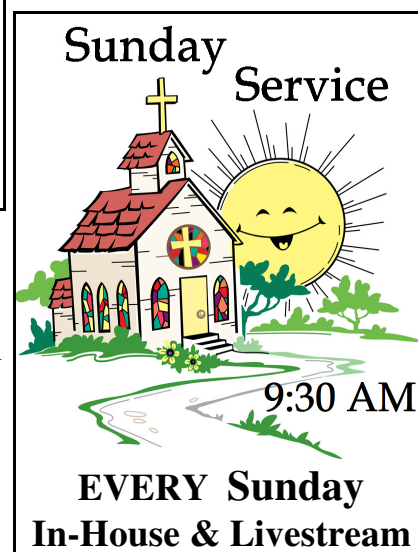
For the rest of us, how can we also help? We have many tasks to keep our church running. What can you do? There are needs for acolytes, readers, servers, providers of food, help with the altar guild, or simply being a part of study groups. God has something for all of us.

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



Choir practice will resume on Thursday, August 15th:
Praise Choir at 4:15 p.m.
Bell Choir at 5:30 p.m.





Mount Cross Financial Report (January – June 2024)

2024 Approved Budget	\$318,013.00
Income	\$128,312.00 (40.3% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$151,475.00 (47.6% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during June 2024	\$4,153.00
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage	\$17,190.00

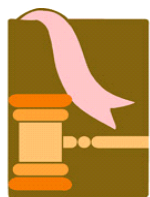
Please note: above amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2024

Mount Cross.	\$1,234.00
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As we have begun the second half of our year, we look at planning for the next year. Wheels are in motion for committee chairpersons to present their requests for the 2025 budget, a Stewardship Committee is in the process of being formed, and a Nominating Committee will be searching for people willing to serve on Council, Mission Endowment Committee, and Memorial Committee. If you feel led to participate in service to the Lord by giving of your time in one of these groups, please let one of the current Council members know of your desire. On a financial note, faithful contributors of Mount Cross have been and are very much appreciated for their consistent gifts.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team



A MESSAGE from the CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Update

Mount Cross Congregation Council has several items on the agenda that we are asking support from members of the congregation. Please consider participating in one of the following activities:

*Nominating Committee for 2025: contact Barb Howe if you would like to help her find willing members to serve on the Memorial Committee, Endowment Committee, and Congregation Council openings.

* Marlu Allan will organize the Stewardship Drive this fall. Contact her if you would be willing to help in this area.

*The Council is looking for someone to develop publicity in areas where Mount Cross wants to reach out to the community: newspaper articles, ads for events, information for the Chamber of Commerce display of local churches, radio exposure for activities, and other avenues to get our activities out to the community. Contact any Council member if you are interested.



I have enjoyed the Pastor's sermons in July. Un-named, or not celebrated, but pivotal in action for the future.

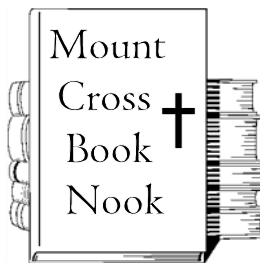
My own reading of the apocrypha texts, starting with Esther, the Greek translation, the story goes on with a portion of Chapter 11, and also chapter 12. That is the end of addition A. It then it starts with the left out portions of Chapter 1 through 10 and a postscript of Chapter 11. It includes Esther's prayer. As a result, I had to re-read Esther from the Old Testament to refresh my memory of the details and her courage. What a brave woman!

At our Bible study in July we had a great discussion of Jesus' teaching of love and compassion and how community involves love, curiosity, and compassion. Since the article was focused on building community, not dividing it, there was a comment that really struck me...that with a building of community, we must look at curiosity, build knowledge and compassion, and again, be open to curiosity. The study was written by a woman pastor who is based in Palestine. I had the pleasure of spending most of a day with her, as being two in the lobby of the convention hall who had allergies to perfume and smoke. She is one of the most loving, caring people that has crossed my life.

Working so much in community activities, not political, but with caring types of activities, I see many moments of that compassion extended towards others. Each day love shows with actions, smiles, help and care.

Here at Mount Cross a fine example was the recent giving of socks and underwear to Kaitie's Closet. I looked at the basket and it was like a gift from God. Thank you all for those blessings. With the very generous gifts from our congregation, it freed up money to buy more shoes for the children, and also some new clothes to go along with the gently used ones we glean from the thrift stores. So on the behalf of Kaitie's Closet, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



The Summer reading program continues. A series about the Amish is featured on the library cart in the narthex. Each novel stands alone. When you have selected 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 you return the book.

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones



Altar Guild will meet on Thursday, September 5th at 9:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room.

You are invited to attend, if you are interested in serving the Lord by setting up for communion and taking care of the linens. What a wonderful way to honor our Lord and Savior!



August Birthdays

- 10 Sue Bobek
- 12 Diane DeChaine
- 14 Sharry Lien
- 18 Nancy Bollard
- 19 Scott Stallard

August Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Joe/Tonnie Dice
- Ron/Cyndy Plantz
- 15 Bruce/Mary Havenor
- 21 Barry/Diane DeChaine
- 23 Bill/Barb DeYoung
- 26 Roger/Sally Rohrbach

August Baptisms

- 1 Sally Rohrbach
- 18 Nancy Kellett

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL MOUNT CROSS CHARITY EVENT

YARD SALE
CHARITY EVENT
AUGUST 16 & 17 • 8 AM - 2 PM
MOUNT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
under the Pines
601 E. HIGHWAY 260

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
TIME OUT SHELTER • VETERANS HELPING VETERANS
KATIE'S CLOSET • RIM COUNTRY LITERACY

• **HOT DOG LUNCH \$3.00.**
• **BAKE SALE.**
• **DONATIONS WELCOMED.**

Misc. Tools • Craft Supplies • Clothes • Kitchen Stuff
Home Decor • Books • Christmas • Much more
Sewing Machine • Log Splitter • Generator

DONATION PICKUP AVAILABLE • AUG. 14 & 15 • 9 AM TO NOON
CALL NANCY AT 520-425-7430

TO BE HELD

AUGUST 16TH & 17TH

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

IN THE LOG BUILDING (BUILDING B)
ON THE MOUNT CROSS CAMPUS

PROCEEDS WILL BE SPLIT EQUALLY
BETWEEN THESE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

TIME OUT SHELTER

RIM COUNTRY LITERACY

KAITIE'S CLOSET

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

**THIS BEAUTIFUL
HEIRLOOM QUILT
COULD BE DISPLAYED
IN YOUR HOME!**

**YOU STILL HAVE TIME
TO PURCHASE TICKETS!**

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM NANCY KELLETT,
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE,
OR AT THE CHARITY EVENT.**

Charity Quilt Raffle

All proceeds benefit: Time Out Shelter, Rim Country Literacy,
Katie's Closet and Veterans Helping Veterans



Beautiful Large Heirloom Quilt

Hand pieced and quilted, pristine condition

Tickets \$2 each or \$5 for 6

Available at Mount Cross ELCA office (601 E Highway 260)
Mount Cross Charity Event – Building B (Aug 16-17 from 8am–2pm)
Quilt displayed in the Narthex of Mount Cross and at the Event

Winning ticket drawn on Saturday, August 17th at 2:00pm

Winner does not need to be present

Questions call Nancy (520) 425-7430

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.

2nd 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.

3rd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



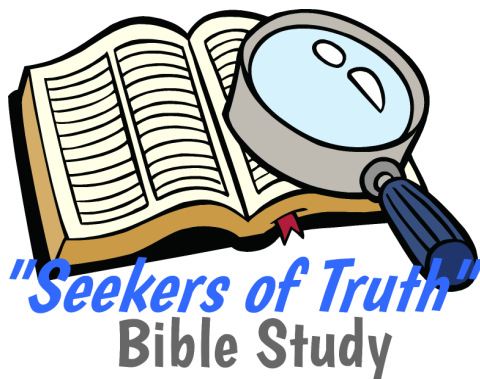
The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, August 8th, at 10:00 a.m.

Gather Magazine's Summer Bible Study subject is "*After Certainty: A Biblical Guide*" by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni.

The third session is entitled "*After Certainty: Compassion*." When certainty becomes judgmentalism, it contributes to divisions between people and within communities. The teachings of Jesus and the pastoral writings of the apostle Paul sometimes urge people to choose compassion over correctness – a model that can offer Christians guidance.

An accompanying video supplement is available each month. This is the link for August's study:

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/july-august-2023-salvation-now-bible-study-video-supplement-session-3/>



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. August 15th is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament. Due to circumstances, July's Bible study was cancelled, thus the letter to Philemon will be discussed in August.

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.