
Mount Cross Chronicle

September 2021



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

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 a.m.

Worship/Communion
Service

Livestreamed
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

What is my life for?

This was a question asked in one of our recent morning devotions. As I thought about this, I realized there are many possible answers depending on what we are centered in or focused on.

Personally, I have always appreciated this verse from the prophet Micah.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Sometimes I reflect on the offertory prayer from the LBW; "we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you (God) have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love." What is my life for? What is the point or purpose?

We have entered that time on the church calendar when we focus again on a budget and stewardship. I doubt that this is a favorite time for any of us, but stewardship is one way we answer the question, "What is my life for?"

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... 1 Peter 4:10

I believe we tend to equate "stewardship" with a budget and hence, money. Sure, money is important in enabling us, Mount Cross, to do ministry by sharing God's love with the world. Along that line, I believe 2021 has gone pretty well. Things are looking up.

What has been more of a struggle because of COVID concerns and restrictions is the use of our time and talents to the glory of God. Fellowship time has been challenging and greatly missed. (I need a good potluck gathering.) Also, our ability to know you has been greatly hampered.

We have revised the infamous "Time & Talent" sheets. We know that over the years one's health, interests, and ability to serve changes. Plus, when you take the time to fill those out, it will help us to know who you are a little bit better. What we all do with our time and talents are another way we answer the question, "**What is my life for?**"

So, as we start planning for 2022, let us all ask ourselves this important question.

With joy and trust in God's enduring love and care,

Pastor Cliff Hanus



Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity

God's work. Our hands.



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

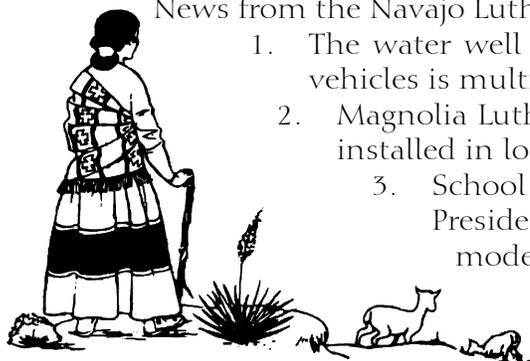
September is the month for Gods Work, Our Hands. This is a great opportunity to assist someone else. In talking with Emily Brice this month, they could use help in serving dinner to the homeless. Not all at once, but maybe two per day to serve. This is easy and achievable. The time is 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. each day.

Mount Cross volunteers will again serve a sloppy joe supper the third Thursday of each month, August through December. The next date for providing the meal is September 16th.

If you are willing to help us out at 4:15 p.m. or provide funds for the food that we buy, please contact Sharon Vaplon, 928-468-8711.

The staff really appreciates our service, because 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.



NEWS FROM ROCKPOINT

News from the Navajo Lutheran Mission at Rock Point with thanks for our partnership:

1. The water well is fully functional. The new gates have been cut. The line of vehicles is multiplying daily. All is going smoothly.
2. Magnolia Lutheran Church from Seattle, Washington brought solar kits to be installed in local homes that have no electricity.
3. School started on August 2nd with in-person learning. However, President Nez has issued new orders, and last week they began a hybrid model in compliance with the Nation's guidelines.
4. Patterson Yazzie, Pat Charley and Benedict Bedoni were installed by Bishop Hutterer as 'wisdom keepers' at House of Prayer. They are studying with mentors to become the permanent leadership for House of Prayer and community.

Updates from the Council



After some months, it is time to update our congregation on the various happenings of the Church Council.

First, I am appealing to the congregation for possible candidates for Church Council. We are in need of 7 candidates to fill out the Council. In addition, we are in need of someone to serve as Financial Secretary through the end of this calendar year. Please consider your talents and help us in growing our church in many ways.

Since our congregational meeting on June 20, 2021, based upon the church's vote, we have pursued the process of refinancing the mortgage on our property. We have sought financing through Mission Investment and closed on the new mortgage on the 24th of August. Our previous lender reduced the amount we owed by \$100,000, which leaves us with a much reduced balance.

Second, we have pursued necessary repairs. One of those repairs was the sealing of the parking lot, which you all can see when arriving at the church. A second repair was a new hot water system that was installed in the bunkhouse during the month of July; a replacement of the water heater in the new sanctuary was also completed. The third repair/maintenance task was to have the air conditioning systems serviced, with a couple of repairs to still be addressed.

At this point, we have the annual **God's Work, Our Hands** day on September 12, which is a moveable date, as we look at various tasks that need to be done. This is a day of service for most of us. One suggestion which was brought up at our last Council meeting is to do a thorough cleaning of the log building, which is currently being addressed. We would like as many church members as possible to participate...and maybe include a celebration at the end of the day.

The last thing in which I will update you on is the goal of doing a one-year budget with the need for committee leaders to submit their budgets for the next year. Our goal is to complete the budget for the October Council meeting, with our sights on having the annual meeting of the Congregation on November 21, 2021.

Daria Mason and Angeline Ng are planning more concerts in the fall. Keep your eyes open to notifications regarding the concerts.

It has been a busy two months, and I can only say, our church remains the "amazing Mount Cross."

Alice Natale
Council President



Dear church members,

My apologies for the delay in reaching out to express the gratitude I feel towards all of you.

I wanted to thank you for your acts of kindness you have shown me by the sympathy cards, and letters.

I also wanted to thank you for the donations given to different organizations in memory of Scott.

*Grace and Blessings
Mar Jean Stein*



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – July 2021)

2021 Budget	\$305,573.00
Income	\$182,030.00 (59.57% of 2021 budget)
Expenditures	\$170,151.00 (55.68% of 2021 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during July 2021	\$5,960.00
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

The refinance with Mission Investment Fund is completed. The new financing is in the amount of \$550,000.00 for 15 years at a rate of 3.87%; rate adjustment periods are every 5 years. The first payment to Mission Investment will take place on September 15th.

We would like to thank Rob & Donna Reifscheider for the blessing they have been to Mount Cross by providing financing at such a reasonable rate to get us to this point!

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team

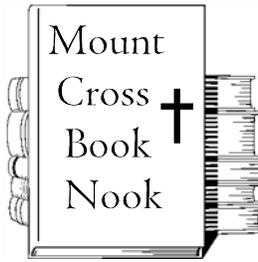


Gift of the Spirit
by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

Spirit of God: Revealer and Resource

Women’s Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m. and will be focusing on the Holy Spirit as a revealer and a resource for those who look to this member of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit might be considered the most misunderstood or mysterious member of the Trinity, but the Spirit referred to within scripture is not shy. In this first session, the ladies will uncover the bold, truth-telling Spirit that is still active within lives today. After a quick review of the mystery of the Trinity, parts of Jesus’ farewell prior to his ascension will be read, and we will hear how the Spirit continues to reveal the truth of Jesus to us and to the world. Discussion: how the gift of the Holy Spirit is a resource for God’s people, giving us power we need to do God’s work.



The Freebie table will be open the entire month of September. There is still a full box of books, compliments of Carol McNulty, to put out. So check it every Sunday and whenever the office is open.

If you are checking out a book(s) from the Ponderosa library be sure to sign the book card in the pocket and place it in the plastic box on the Narthex book mobile. Place any return books in the same place.

So keep on reading to fill up all those empty hours this pandemic has caused...and pray that we will be back to near normal soon. If you have any questions call my cell phone: 928-970-1126.

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones



Monday, September 6th
Office will be closed
in observance of
Labor Day.

Friday, September 17th
Office hours:
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
(Pastor Hanus only)



Start each day with an uplifting Psalm, say it,...then the Lord's Prayer, and for wisdom check out Proverbs. You will find that your day goes better and you will feel uplifted. Then pray for the folks on the prayer list and see where God takes you.



September Birthdays

- 2 Scott Fellin
- 6 Ron Plantz
Helen Rodgers
- 8 Jean Larson
- 9 Jay Schimke
- 11 Virginia McCall
- 17 Jan Loomis
- 19 Cyndi Plantz
- 21 Clyde Longberry
- 23 Eloise Jones
Barry Peiffer
- 25 Marlu Allan

September Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Bob/Mary Walker
- 4 Gary/Carole Wilder
- 15 Patric/Sherri Taylor

September Baptisms

- 17 Jan Loomis
- 25 Virginia McCall



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at Mount Cross Lutheran Church. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular Disease include:

- **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke)
- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body)
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs)
- **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat)
- **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or call 1-866-229-0469 to receive your discount and preferred appointment time.

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



Greetings and blessings from God, as we enjoy the monsoon rain and the resultant green of our forests.



In the past month, there is news from the State and National WELCA folks. To start with...on October 2nd there will be a virtual Bible study from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The study will focus on two women of the Bible, Lot's wife and Mary Magdalene. Pastor Marta Poling lead in the discussion. It will be recorded for later viewing.

On November 6th, there will be a virtual convention starting at 9:00 a.m. There is no charge for this synod-wide convention. The focus will feature voting for board members on a state-wide basis, voting for triennial voting members, and launching a 3 year campaign "*GROWING GENEROSITY*," which will support advocacy, new ministries, and financial acumen/stewardship. The nationwide triennial convention will be held in Phoenix in 2023. There will be a focus on diversity of the WELCA board nation-wide.

On a side note, the Gather magazine supports ½ of the WELCA budget.

On a local level, we had a good Bible study over the last three months focusing on wisdom, truth, and lastly hope. Our discussions kept us lively. Moving toward generosity, my thoughts center on generosity of spirit, love, and kindness as well as good stewardship of everything in our world and how we share these things in the world. No one enjoys a pinched face person who is talking about these things, since the body message does not reflect the words of the mouth. So keep on smiling, being kind and helpful.

Alice Natale

WELCA president



Our first session will be held on Wednesday, September 15th. If you like to iron sheets, please join us in the log building. We start at 9:00 a.m. and usually finish around 11:00 a.m. Coffee will be provided. Bring your lunch and join the fellowship.

Eloise Jones





CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF GILA COUNTY

A child in foster care is waiting for a CASA volunteer like YOU!

Volunteer Requirements:

- Be 21 years old.
- Be willing to donate an average of 15 hours a month to a child and their case
- Complete the volunteer application at www.CASAofGilaCounty.org
- Pass a thorough background check.
- Complete a pre-service training- currently available in a virtual/interactive setting.
- Be willing to commit to the child's case until the child is in a safe, permanent home and their case closes.

Volunteers are needed throughout Gila County, in order to provide EVERY child in care with an advocate in their corner.

APPLY ONLINE

www.CASAofGilaCounty.org

CASA of Gila County
928-402-4427
enader@courts.az.gov
www.CASAofGilaCounty.org