

# Mount Cross Chronicle

September 2023



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

## **President's Ponderings**

### Really, Who's Keeping Score

Uncertainties in LIFE: US 0 – 1 GOD

In MATTHEW 6: 25–34, our Heavenly Father, JESUS, tells us not to worry about our lives, as GOD knows everything we should ever need. HE encourages us to trust HIM and not to worry about the future, as He has already provided the answer for us.

Remembering that teaching, in retrospect, such an answer for our untimely need of a full-time pastor was presented to those Mount Cross Congregation members in attendance at the Special Congregation Meeting held on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Thusly, God's answer brought us Pastor Carl Sirotzki, as a responding candidate, along with his wife, Jo, from the Kearney, Nebraska area. At the congregational meeting, Pastor Carl was subsequently accepted as being Called as Pastor for our church through a required voting process.

Welcome aboard Pastor Carl and Jo! Here's to a great spiritual journey, which we will share together.

Many thanks to Reverend Dana Reardon for stepping up to be our supply pastor during our Call process over the past several months. Muchas Gracias!

### SPECIAL MOUNT CROSS CONGREGATION RECOGNITION AWARD

During the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>, the Mount Cross congregation received a special recognition award/certificate issued by the Grand Canyon Synod, signed by Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer and VP Ms. Barbara B. Carl, for your faithful generosity, stewardship & partnership through Mount Cross' 2023–2024 Mission Support.

CONGRATULATIONS to you all!

*Gary E. Greer*  
President, Mount Cross Council





Our STATEMENT . . .

† ChristConnectingCommunity



On Sunday, Sept. 10, congregations will join together for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.

**This year marks the 10th anniversary of our annual day of service!**

**Over 10 years our hands have ...**

- Cleaned parks, beaches and roadways.
- Collected and donated food items for shelters and pantries.
- Assembled backpacks, care packages and hygiene bags.
- Repaired and painted homes, classrooms and community centers.
- Wrote letters to military members, first responders and members of Congress.
- Harvested produce for local food pantries.
- Sewed quilts and knitted blankets.
- Prepared meals for volunteers.
- Greeted homebound members and residents of nursing homes.
- Performed random acts of kindness.

The tenth anniversary of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is a feature story in *Living Lutheran* this month. [Read the article](#) celebrating a decade of service in our communities.

Participate on social media using **#GodsWorkOurHands**.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 10, you are encouraged to pick an alternate date that suits your schedule. "God's work. Our hands" Sunday is an extension of **the work you do every day** to make your community a better place.

**Join us in celebrating 10 years on Sept. 10!**

*Find a need, fill it, become part of God's help on this earth.  
Find a purpose and give your own life a lift as you help God do his work.  
Alice Natale*



We can pray for many places on earth where there is conflict or war. we can pray for Maui, with the need to rebuild, we can pray for ELCA missionaries and ELCA world relief to reach those in need. We can pray for those on our prayer list. Be open and follow your heart.

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – July 2023)



2023 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$326,229.00
Income . . . . .	\$152,212.00 (46.67% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$119,384.00 (36.60% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during July 2023. . . . .	\$3,109.00
Total paid out in 2023 for mortgage . . . . .	\$20,055.00

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

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

It is once again the time of year to look toward the budget for the next year. The Finance Team asks that the committee chairpersons turn in their estimates of/requests for 2024 expenditures by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Due to costs going up in every aspect of life, so it is for the life of the church and we would like to thank those who faithfully support Mount Cross with their contributions.

Yours in Christ,  
Financial Team

**Mount Cross Cares Pays It Forward!**



**Mount Cross Cares**

Since the van had been sold, and the people who were participating in providing the *Mount Cross Cares* program have either moved away or no longer felt they could keep the project going, Mount Cross has been in the process of finding a home for all of the supplies that were used to carry on the Tuesday after-school program. Those who were part of the program, including Sally and Roger Rohrbach, Sharry Lien, Ron Nelson, Eloise Jones, and Alice Natale, took the items that they wanted to keep and left the rest.

Sharon Vaplon and Marilyn Black went through the closet where everything was stored and put like things together, hoping to find a home for all of the supplies. It was suggested that we talk with the people from the Community Presbyterian Church’s daycare center to see if they had any use for the art supplies, books, games, and other items.

Melissa Ruff, the day care coordinator, and staff members of the Community Presbyterian Church, have decided to take ALL of the materials. They will use some for themselves and then they will share some of the supplies with a new daycare center being set up in Star Valley and another one in Camp Verde.

We are very pleased to be able to share what we no longer have a use for and “*Pay It Forward*” to one of our ecumenical partners, and beyond their walls, to two other daycare centers in our area. Many little hands will enjoy doing crafts and reading books that once belonged to *Mount Cross Cares*!

*Sharon Vaplon*



Quilters gatherings in September:  
 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
 September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
 in Building B (log building)  
 at 9:00 a.m.



Interested in joining the Altar Guild? Already a part of the Guild? Please attend the meeting on the first Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in the Ponderosa Room at 9:00 a.m.



Our sloppy Joe supper for the Payson Community Kids' after school program will be held on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, with set-up at 4:15 p.m. If you would like to help us serve the children, please contact Sharon Vaplon.



**September Birthdays**

- 6 Ron Plantz
- Gene Verhulst
- 8 Jean Larson
- 11 Virginia McCall
- 12 Kathi Merkel
- 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**

- 25 Virginia McCall
- 30 Scott Stallard

**Mount Cross Vaccine Event**



**Coming This Fall!**

**Where:** Mount Cross Ponderosa Room

**When:** Sunday 09/24 8am-9:30am

**Vaccines Offered:**

Flu • RSV • Covid • Pneumonia • Shingles  
 Tetanus/Pertussis • And more!

(based on guidelines and availability at time of event)

Receive a **10% off groceries** coupon with *each* vaccine,  
 (can be used with Senior Wednesday discount).

Most vaccines covered by Medicare, Medicaid,  
 and private insurance.\*\*

If not, ask about our discounted pricing.

Can't make it to this event? Our pharmacy has vaccines  
 available during normal business hours as well.

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm  
 Closed for lunch from 1:30-2:00pm every day.



\*Pharmacy may confirm insurance coverage and eligibility prior to vaccination.



**Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**and**  
**Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**  
 Office will be closed  
 in observance of  
 Labor Day.

## 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.

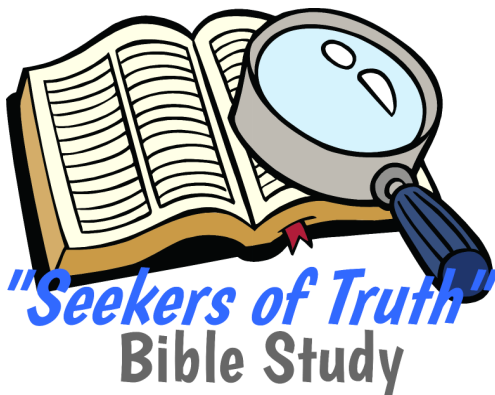
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Ponderosa Room.



The monthly WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Bible study will be held in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

The Fall 2023 study, "Holy places," will be three-sessions by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem. She will guide the ladies in an exploration of what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be.

This month's focus will be "Holy places: Home;" home can be the place we lay our head and the people we call family. Home can be our community or homeland. Home is also found wherever we truly and fully belong. This month, we consider the complexity and the promise of "home" through the stories of Israel's exile, the ministry of Jesus, and the promises of Revelation.



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. September 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for this month's meeting.

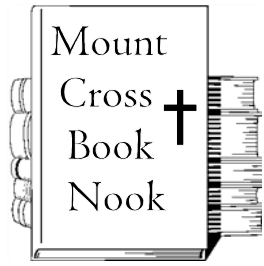
The group has completed its study of the Old Testament Prophets and will begin studying the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament.

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.

Nominations for positions on the Congregational Council are being taken right now. There is one 2-year position and two 3-year positions to be filled. If you are willing to serve Mount Cross in this way, please contact Gary Greer, Sharon Vaplon, or another Council member.



# GLOBAL MISSIONS



The Freebie table will be open a little longer.

This month, the contents on the cart, ready for checkout, will be:

## Non-fiction

*Turn* by Max Lucado  
*Traveling Light* by Max Lucado  
*You Can If You Think You Can* by Norman Vincent Peale  
*Positive Thinking For a Time Like This* by Norman Vincent Peale  
*Becoming a Better You* by Joel Osteen  
*Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Higgs  
*The Road Less Traveled* by Scott Peck  
*90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper

## Fiction

*In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon  
*Seasons Under Heaven* by Beverly LaHaye  
*Song of the Silent Harp* by B.J. Hoff  
*Word of Honor* by Terri Blackstone  
*The Hidden Flame* by Davis Bunn & Janette Oke  
*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant  
*All Cracked Up* by Patsy Clairmont

Happy reading!

Your Librarian,  
*Eloise Jones*

The Rummage/Craft Sale, held on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, brought in \$4,125.00. The amount of \$2,062.50 will be given to Meals on Wheels and \$2,062.50 to Kaitie's Closet. We sincerely thank all those who helped set up on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, those who worked the two days of the sale, those who helped clean up after the sale, those who donated items, the vendors, and everyone who generously contributed for the items they chose to take home.

*Thank You*

Many thanks for holding the "Faire," which benefitted two non-profits in our area. Too many times we Christians agree intellectually and theologically with the teachings of Jesus, but fail to act. Such is not the case with you folks. You expended time, energy, and money to help the marginalized people in our area. I know Jesus smiled as a result.

Take care,  
*Bob Horne*  
Kaitie's Closet Director

The month of September is always a change in weather by little increments, maybe a cool morning or a pleasant evening with the calls of the elk as our evening music, along with a gradual changing of the aspens to gold and red oaks contrasted with cobalt skies. It is the time for busy lifestyles.



This year, Arizona is the destination for all WELCA MEMBERS. This event had to be cancelled in the past during the pandemic, but our own Grand Canyon Synod is once again hosting the WELCA Triennial Gathering. Ladies from everywhere around the country and from abroad will be attending. It will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center on September 21<sup>st</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, for three days of learning, touring, and lifting our spirits and faith.

This year Eloise and I will be attending two of the days and will share more next month on this.

*Alice Natale*  
WELCA president  
Mount Cross Lutheran Church