
Mount Cross Chronicle

September 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

"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."
2 Corinthians 9:11-12, ESV

I am so thankful for everyone who took part in the Rummage & Craft Sale this past August. There was a lot of hard work that went into the two-day event and it couldn't have happened without the amazing ministry of so many people. Thank you to all who organized the event, those who worked so diligently in various capacities, those who contacted vendors and musicians, those who donated goods to be sold, those who set up and cleaned up after the sale, the vendors and musicians, and of course, all who purchased items and raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt that was donated. The amount that was raised provided a substantial donation to the groups that the proceeds of this sale went to.

This event is just one example of how Mount Cross helps provide for the local community. Something like this can only come out of the Christ-like love of this congregation for one another. I am so blessed to be a part of such a giving and compassionate congregation. Again, thank you for all that you do for our faith and local communities. As the scripture I opened this article with states, *"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."*

What are you thankful for? I realize that Thanksgiving is a few months away, but why wait until then to think about what we are thankful for? Do we thank God for what we have been blessed with? If so, do we do this daily, weekly, monthly, yearly? I encourage all of us to look around us and really take in all that we have been blessed with. If it would help, take an inventory of what we have and then pray for what we have included in our inventory.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you all know of some upcoming events at Mount Cross. In the next couple of months, we will have a Bring a Friend to Church Day, a special service of healing and remembrance, a New Member Orientation and a class on Spiritual Gifts, just to name a few.

I leave you with this verse from the sixteenth chapter of 1 Chronicles, *"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever."*

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our STATEMENT . . . † ChristConnectingCommunity

God's work.
Our hands.



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

As we enter the month of September, with a hopeful break in the weather, there is a special day set aside as an ELCA-wide day of service... also known as *God's Work, Our Hands*. This year, that day is September 10th. Do we have a collective project that our church can do as His Hands on earth?

GLOBAL
MISSIONS

The Rummage/Craft Sale, held on August 16th and 17th, brought in \$4,500. An amount of \$1,125 will be given to each of the following organizations: Kaitie's Closet, Rim Country Literacy, Time Out Shelter, and Veterans Helping Veterans. This year, we had 16 vendors who rented spaces in the courtyard and on the log building porch.

We sincerely thank all those who helped set up on the 14th & 15th, 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.



IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE!

Dear Payson Community Kids Families, Volunteers, and Supporters,

As many of you are aware, staffing and volunteer shortages have been an ongoing concern for PCK, especially since the onset of COVID. Unfortunately, this issue has recently become a significant roadblock for us. It is with deepest regret that we must inform you that we will not be able to offer our afterschool program at this time. Despite our best efforts to address these staffing shortages, we have reached a point where we have no other option but to pause the afterschool program.

Our hearts are heavy, as PCK has been an integral part of the children's lives in Rim Country since 2000. We are profoundly grateful for the opportunity we have had to serve over 2,500 children and their families since our inception. We care deeply for the children of Rim Country and remain committed to finding new ways to support them in the near future.

We are deeply saddened by the challenges this situation creates for so many families. Please know that we will continue to do everything in our power to serve the community and your families to the best of our ability.

With the heaviest of hearts,

PCK Staff and Board of Directors



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – July 2024)

2024 Approved Budget	\$318,013.00
Income	\$153,395.00 (48.2% of 2023 budget)
Expenditures	\$177,441.00 (55.8% of 2023 budget)

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during July 2024	\$3,845.00
Total paid out in 2024 for mortgage	\$20,055.00

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

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2024	
Mount Cross.	\$1,234.00

Members of the Council are actively seeking congregation members who are willing to serve on Council, as well as Memorial and Mission Endowment Committees. A draft of the budget for the 2025 year is in the process.

We continue to express our appreciation to contributors who are faithfully giving of their time/talents and financial giving. Without you, many of the ministries would be limited.

Yours in Christ,
Financial Team



We have several new members at Mount Cross and I would like to provide a little information to the newest ladies about WELCA. **WELCA** is an acronym for **W**omen of the **E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch of **A**merica. Any woman who is a member of the church is automatically considered a member of WELCA.

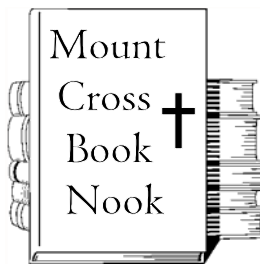
Here at Mount Cross we meet once a month for a women’s Bible study on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room. Eloise Jones is the main leader in conducting the Bible study, and I fill in when Eloise is traveling. We use the Gather Magazine study for our lessons, as well as other resources for discussion. At times the discussion becomes very spontaneous as we explore various issues of our lives.

The WELCA group supports our Quilt ministry through a \$2.00 donation each month by those who attend the Bible study. Many of us give more, because the money goes to purchase batting, tools, items needed to make quilts for the Navajo Mission, New Beginnings, and once in a while, the Time Out Shelter.

My hope for WELCA is that we can grow our group as an opportunity for Bible studies, faith growth, support for our congregation, as well as a group women who can help with congregational life activities...which we did in the past. My other dream is that we can once again host the *Lunch & Laugh* event along with the Global Mission Team.

Yet another dream is that we can once again be a force in Arizona WELCA groups. If these are things you might enjoy doing, our next meeting will be September 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room. We welcome you.

Alice Natale
WELCA president



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the updating of the library cart will be delayed. We pray God's healing touch upon our librarian, Eloise Jones, that she may recover quickly!

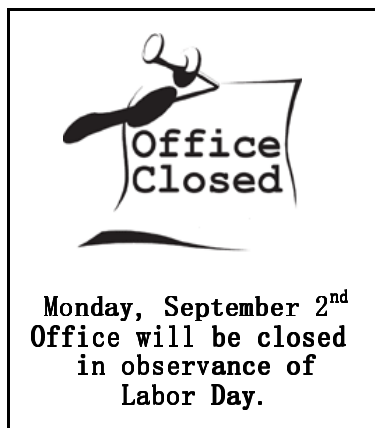


As we move forward in this contemptuous pre-election period, lets us pray for peace and grace in our dealings with all, and most importantly, that God is in charge, not us, and that we remain as His emissaries on this earth.



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!



September Birthdays

6	Ron Plantz
	Gene Verhulst
8	Jean Larson
11	Virginia McCall
12	Kathi Merkel
17	Susie Duffy
19	Cyndi Plantz
21	Clyde Longberry
23	Eloise Jones
	Barry Peiffer
25	Marlu Allan
27	Brenda Brusacorum

September Wedding Anniversaries

1	Bob/Mary Walker
15	Patric/Sherri Taylor

September Baptisms

25	Catalina Dietrich
	Virginia McCall
30	Scott Stallard

Schedule Your Stroke & Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screening

Over 10 million people screened since 1993



Where: Mount Cross Lutheran Church

When: Friday, September 6th

Who should attend:

Anyone over the **age of 40**

Special Member Pricing for \$159

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Plus a **FREE** Hypertension Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **888-814-0466** and use
promo code **HSCA001**

Visit  **LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA**



Text the word **"circle"**
to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

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 on Thursday, September 12th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Room.

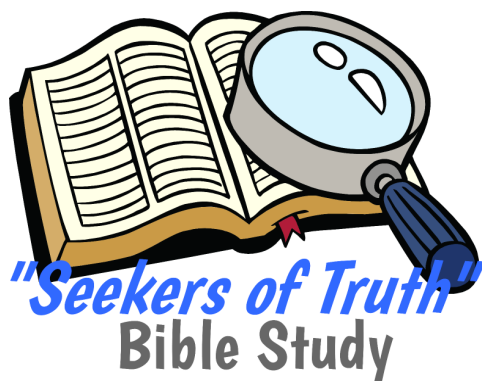
Gather Magazine's Fall Bible Study subject is "*Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians*" by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp.

The first session is entitled "*Is Grace Real?*" We often focus on how we fall short and deserve God's judgment. What if,

instead, we remember God's continual gift of grace? God invites us to lead lives of love and wholeness. What is grace, exactly? Grace does not take away the sin and suffering of this life, but offers us a way to live from love despite hardship.

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

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/fall-2024-receiving-grace-a-study-of-ephesians-bible-study-video-supplement-session-1/>



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 19th is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the 13 letters of Paul in the New Testament. Due to assisting in setting up for the annual Rummage and Craft Sale, August's Bible study was cancelled, thus the letter to Philemon will be discussed in September.

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.

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



Mount Cross Vaccine Event Coming This Fall!

Where: Mount Cross Ponderosa Room
When: Sunday 09/22/24 8:00am-9:30am

Vaccines Offered:

Flu • *new* Covid • RSV • 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 covered, ask about our discounted pricing.

