
Mount Cross Chronicle

September 2026



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

Interim Pastor
Rev. Lance Kittleson
928-474-2552
641-430-2400 (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

Pastoral Ponderings

“You can run from your genes, but you can’t hide”

That’s my new mantra after heart surgery and subsequent time in recovery. I’m grateful to the Lord that He has offered me more time on “this mortal coil” and grateful for your and many, many other’s prayers. I was not a likely candidate for this procedure, so says the surgeon; not grossly over-weight with no history of smoking. He said it probably was my genes so I’m blaming the 26% Swedish ones-not my other Norwegian/German genes. But this far all is going well and once I get the OK to drive again, I will resume whatever ministry I am able to provide to Mount Cross albeit my energy levels might be somewhat suspect in this uncertain time of Calling another pastor.

Sitting in “The Slammer” (hospital) for five days, I couldn’t help but notice people up close, particularly the staff. The variety in skills and personalities needed among them to reach the common goal of healing is truly amazing. Of course, we remember ‘big shots’ - the doctors and surgeons, but what about the supporting cast?

What I observed was that the ‘ordinary’ workers were truly special. The young wheelchair ‘transporter’ who came and did her tasks with a smile often getting in 15,000 steps on a shift. I even got to tell her about a guy named “Martin Luther” one that she had never heard of. Go figure.

Then there were the Nursing Assistants who did the menial tasks of patient care with upbeat energy and with little more than a tired, croaked ‘Thanks.’ The Hispanic lady who cleaned 30 hospital rooms a day for ‘little money’, but she did so with a cheerful smile. And not to leave out the Animal Kingdom, there was Clarence, the ‘Support Pooch’ Corgi who happily tottered his way through the rooms for a short pet.

None of them will ever make the Nightly News, but in September’s “Labor Day Holiday”, it is always good to remember those who daily labor at jobs that are not flashy, exciting nor high paying and yet must be done; the mundane tasks that make life doable, but go unnoticed. I read of a Retreat Center Director who would daily clean the toilets of his Center. When asked why he did that being ‘The Boss’, he replied, **“To remind myself that there is not much dignity in cleaning a toilet stool.”**

But is there **dignity before our heavenly Father** for all believers who do or have done ‘undignified’ tasks merely because they needed to be done. That **dignity** comes when we offer nasty ‘Dirty Jobs’ (aka Mike Row) **‘as an offering’** to our loving Lord and Savior.

St. Paul in Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) tells us how:

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.”

“Place our whole lives before God as an offering” What a concept! What a calling! And it’s all ours as believers in the Risen Christ.

Lord willing, we’ll see you again sometime in the weeks following Labor Day, but I would still like to share a sermon entitled **“Why Our Work (Labor) Still Matters to God!”**...even if it is a bit late in September.

In the meantime, have a great, safe holiday before the church ramps up for the Fall.

Lance

aka Interim Pastor

“If a man is called to be a street-sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street-sweeper who did his job well.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

The featured food item for the month of September is **boxes of cereal**. Featured items may be placed on the table located in the narthex near the entrance doors going into the sanctuary.

Reminder: the 3rd Sunday of the month is *Food Bank Sunday*. You are encouraged to purchase any non-perishable food items and place them in the grocery cart on that Sunday.

The Rummage/Craft Sale was held on August 29th and brought in \$3,518.66. Payson Helping Payson has been selected as recipients of the proceeds from the event.

We sincerely thank all those who helped set up on August 28th, those who worked at the sale, those who helped clean up after the sale, and everyone who generously contributed for the items they chose to take home.



Altar Guild will meet on Thursday, September 3rd, at 10:00 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!



Monthly Jazz Concerts

The Jazz Concert during the month of July at 2:00 p.m. in the Mount Cross sanctuary.

The next concert will occur on Sunday, September 27th.

All in the Payson community are invited to attend and enjoy afternoons of music!



Monday, September 7th
Office will be closed
in observance of
Labor Day.



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This year's theme is "Giving Back to God"

Mount Cross' annual stewardship campaign is literally just around the corner. Please check your church mailboxes as of Sunday, September 6th, for this year's stewardship

materials.

Are you *responding in faith*? Do you give financially with a conscience that is at peace, knowing that you have given without feeling that you *had to*?

Do you know the needs within our church where you might have the skills, time, and the desire to volunteer and provide for that need with all your heart?

These are questions each of us must contemplate as we consider our giving back to the One who created us and gives us a reason for our living. There will be approximately 1 month to ponder these questions and find the answers.

Please return your pledge cards and your time & talent sheets in the envelope provided before *Commitment Sunday*, September 27th, by either dropping it in the church offering plate, turning it in at the office during the week, or mailing it.



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – July 2026)

2026 Approved Budget	\$308,699.90
Income	\$175,107.00 (56.7% of 2026 budget)
Expenditures	\$158,156.00 (51.2% of 2026 budget)
Under (Over)	\$16,951.00
Pledged-to-date / Given	\$116,737.00 / \$126,764.00 (108.58%)

2026 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during July 2026	\$2,961.00
Total Principal paid out in 2026 for mortgage	\$2,961.00
Current Principal balance	\$289,071.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date	\$22,237.00 / \$38,420.00 (127.80%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2026

Mount Cross. \$665.00

Yours in Christ,
Barb DeYoung
Finance Secretary



Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Worship Services

Weekly communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook.

Sundays, 9:30 AM

Seekers of Truth Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study which will be focusing on the parables of Jesus. All are welcome to attend.

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



September Birthdays

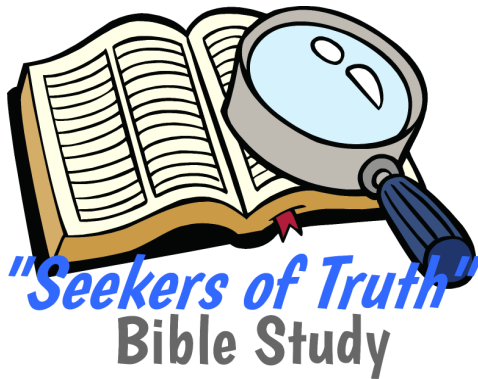
6	Ron Plantz
	Gene Verhulst
8	Gary Karlowski
11	Virginia McCall
12	Kathi Merkel
13	Clint Crowe
15	Wendy Goris
19	Cyndi Plantz
23	Barry Peiffer
25	Marlu Allan
	Madeline Fuentez
27	Brenda Brusacorum

September Wedding Anniversaries

1	Bob/Mary Walker
15	Patric/Sherri Taylor

September Baptisms

25	Catalina Dietrich
	Virginia McCall



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 conference room at 9:30 a.m. September 17th is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the parables of Jesus.

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 Susan Nafziger, the group discussion leader, or Jan Bartoli, the group facilitator.

Gail and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns during and after my recent surgery.

It is a blessing to have a fellowship that is so supportive. God's blessings be on each of you.

Lance Kittleson





Mount Cross Vaccine Event Coming This Fall!

Where: Mount Cross Ponderosa Room
When: Sunday 09/20/26 8:00am-9:30am

Vaccines Offered:

Flu • 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.

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.

Lauren Vlahopoulos, Jan Bartoli's daughter, will be administering the vaccines.

UPCOMING

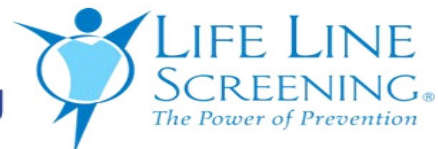


HEALTH

EVENTS!!!

Schedule Your Stroke & Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screening

Over 11 million people screened since 1993



Where: Mount Cross Lutheran Church

Who should attend:

Anyone **age 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

When: Friday, September 25, 2026

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **800-324-9458** and use
promo code **HABC001**

Visit  **LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC**



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. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.



Community Nedley
Depression and Anxiety
Recovery Program™

RECLAIM HOPE

RECOVERY IS FOR YOU

ATTEND A FREE INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Learn how to:

- Identify depression, anxiety, and their causes
- Improve your emotional intelligence
- Enhance your energy levels and mood
- Eat for optimal brain function
- Overcome addictions
- Manage stress
- Defeat depression and anxiety
- Achieve peak mental performance

MONDAY,
AUGUST 17, 2026

AT 6:00 PM

700 E WADE
PAYSON, AZ 85541

nedleyhealth.com

928-474-9209

Even though the initial session has come and gone, the group still meets every Monday.