
Mount Cross Chronicle

August 2025



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

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)

When I was studying scripture the other day, I came across this verse that gave me pause to further ponder. The writer of Ephesians 4:25 is calling on us to be open and clearly speak the truth with one another. It sounds so easy to do, but yet we have probably struggled with this at least once or twice in our lives. Is it that we are fearful of what others may think of us especially if we are not in agreement with them? Maybe we are concerned that those who hold a different viewpoint may not like us anymore.

We are encouraged to love and trust one another so we may speak openly with one another. When we speak with truth, honesty and clarity in God's love, we are actually displaying God's love in action and the importance of openness in our faith communities. When we speak with truth and integrity we are showing our true commitment to the body. Ephesians 4:25 reminds us that our transparency in our words and actions have a remarkable impact on the relationships and commitment we have with our faith communities. They actually make all of us stronger. When our words lack honesty, integrity and transparency, we not only weaken ourselves, but weaken us as a body.

I am very excited about couple of events that are coming in August. Bishop Deborah Hutterer and Rev. Dan Potaznick will be visiting Mount Cross on August 3rd. Rev. Dan serves as the Director of Generosity and Strategic Development for the Grand Canyon Synod. Following worship, there will be a Congregational Conversation with Bishop Hutterer and Rev. Dan and our congregation. I strongly encourage you to gather your treats and drinks and join this amazing opportunity!

Then, on August 24th, Patricia Charley will join us for worship. Patricia is a primary Navajo Wisdom Keeper for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) House of Prayer. Patricia Charley and Patterson Yazzie, the NELM Executive Director, became the first-ever Navajo speaking spiritual leaders. Patricia will co-celebrate worship with Pastor Carl.

I hope you will be able to attend these two amazing events at Mount Cross. Bring your family friends and neighbors! Of course, you are always welcome to bring family, friends and neighbors to Mount Cross so they can experience how the Holy Spirit is at work in this wonderful congregation! Blessings!

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our [†]
STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



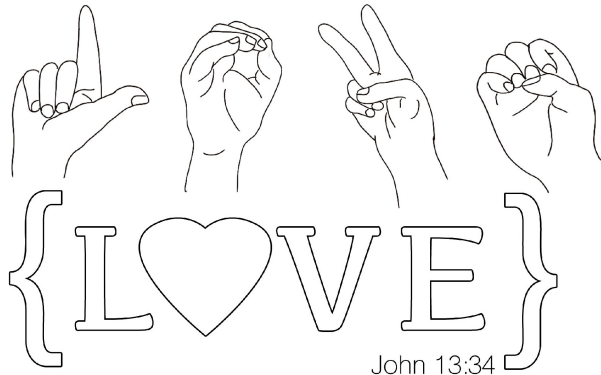
Lord,
We thank You for the rains that have thus far occurred during the monsoon season. It has provided moisture for the surrounding forest, given us some relief from hotter temperatures, and allowed us to enjoy “liquid” sunshine!

Your love is ever flowing over us!
Amen.

GLOBAL
MISSIONS

The featured food items for the month of August are **cans of soup**. 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.



one another

A new Mount Cross Ministry has been initiated!

You are invited to learn hymns in sign language.

Lori Andretta is teaching sign language of church hymns to a group of interested church members. If you are interested, you can join the group by meeting with them in the conference room on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

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: not in office, but available by phone for emergencies
(finalization of sermon prep, study, prayer time)

Friday: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Saturday: By appointment



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – June 2025)

2025 Approved Budget	\$335,793.00
Income	\$145,106.00 (43% of 2025 budget)
Expenditures	\$155,543.00 (46% of 2025 budget)
Under (Over)	(\$10,437.00)

Pledged-to-date / Given \$117,623.00 / \$112,208.00 (95%)

2025 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during April 2025 \$3,707.00

Total Principal paid out in 2025 for mortgage \$9,291.00

Current Principal balance \$362,723.00

Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date \$17,500.00 / \$19,609.00 (112%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2025

Mount Cross. \$1,686.00

Yours in Christ,
Mike Roberts
Finance Secretary



Summer Choir continues on Sundays, August 3, 10, and 17 and meet for practice prior to the service at 8:45 a.m.

Praise Choir rehearsals resume at 4:15 p.m. and Bells will have a Polish polish party at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 21st.

Praise Choir will be singing again on Sundays beginning August 24th.



The office administrator will be out of the office during the last week of August to attend her daughter's wedding.

The office hours for the week will be:

Monday through Thursday, August 25th – 28th

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
and closed

Friday, August 29th

Monday, September 1st
(Labor Day)

A big "thank you" to Jan Bartoli and Mary Havenor for their willingness to cover the office during my time away.



August Birthdays

5	Cathie Man
10	Sue Bobek
12	Diane DeChaine
14	Sharry Lien
18	Nancy Bollard

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

Mount Cross will be treated to the visits of four special guests in the month of August!

Bishop Hutterer and the Rev. Dan Potaznick, Director of Generosity and Strategic Development for the Grand Canyon Synod, will be coming to Mount Cross on Sunday, August 3rd. Bishop Hutterer will participate in leading worship. After the service, she and Rev. Potaznick will be meeting with congregation members at a "Congregational Conversation." All are invited to stay and visit with them.

On Sunday, August 24th, the primary Navajo Wisdom Keeper for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) House of Prayer, Patricia Charley, and the NELM Executive Director, Patterson Yazzie, will co-celebrate the church service. Both of the visitors from NELM are the very first Navajo speaking leaders. Perhaps you will get to hear part of the service in the Navajo language!



Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Worship Services

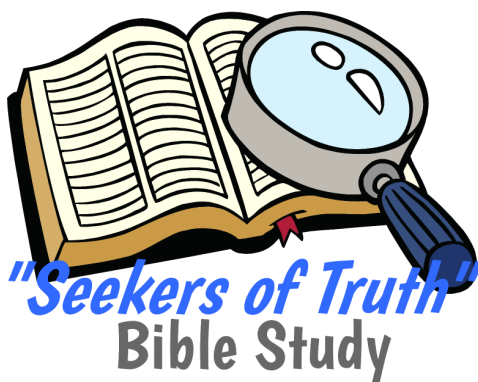
Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook.

Sundays, 9:30 AM

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 conference room.



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 10:00 a.m. August 21st 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.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Mount Cross' annual stewardship campaign is literally just around the corner. Please check your church mailboxes as of Sunday, September 7th, for this year's stewardship materials.

Commitment Sunday will occur on September 28th.