
Mount Cross Chronicle

July 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

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

This verse from Romans is probably one of the most quoted verses among Christians. Likewise, it is also one of the most misunderstood verses in the Bible among Christians. There are a number of Christians who interpret this verse to mean that God will make everything right...according to my wishes and wants. However, Paul is addressing something that many of us don't like to talk about...suffering.

Paul reminds us that in our hardships, our times of difficulty and even those times that just don't go our way, God continues to work in each of us. We may not see it, feel it or taste it, but God is always working in us. God doesn't ignore our sufferings. That doesn't mean we can go around and do whatever we want and expect that it's okay with God (can you say cheap grace?). Paul is reminding the Jews, Gentiles and us today, that no matter the difficulty or discouragement we face, God continues to lovingly work in us.

I think this verse from Romans flows right into the theme of this year's Grand Canyon Synod Assembly, *"Build Up The Body."* This theme is grounded in Ephesians 4:12-13, calling us to equip one another for ministry and grow into the full stature of Christ. Synod assemblies are always a great time to catch up with friends and colleagues from other conferences and learn the latest of synod happenings. This year, the assembly was more condensed than others I had attended, but it did not lack importance or worshipping time together. Jo and Carrie will have already presented a report at the service on June 29th on this year's Synod Assembly.

"Build Up The Body" also applies to the five new members that were welcomed into our congregation in June. We are so blessed and excited to have these sisters and brothers with us! Hopefully, we will be able to equip you for ministry, help and support you as we all grow into the full stature of Christ.

I am here for you. Please contact me by phone, text, email or visit if you would like to talk about what's on your mind or in your heart. Also, if you or someone you know would like me to visit, simply contact me. Know that you all are loved and cared about. Sometimes it is hard for us to accept, that God's love will never leave us, but no matter what difficulties we may face, God is with us.

Peace,
Pastor Carl
Philippians 1:3-4



Our [†] STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



Dearest Lord,
Help us to be thankful to You for allowing us to live in the “freest” country of the world. We may see things going on that we don’t agree with, but we still have the right to express our opinions. We are also still able to worship You in the open, without fear of being tortured or put to death for doing so.

You have truly blessed us...thus, we thank You with grateful hearts. Amen.

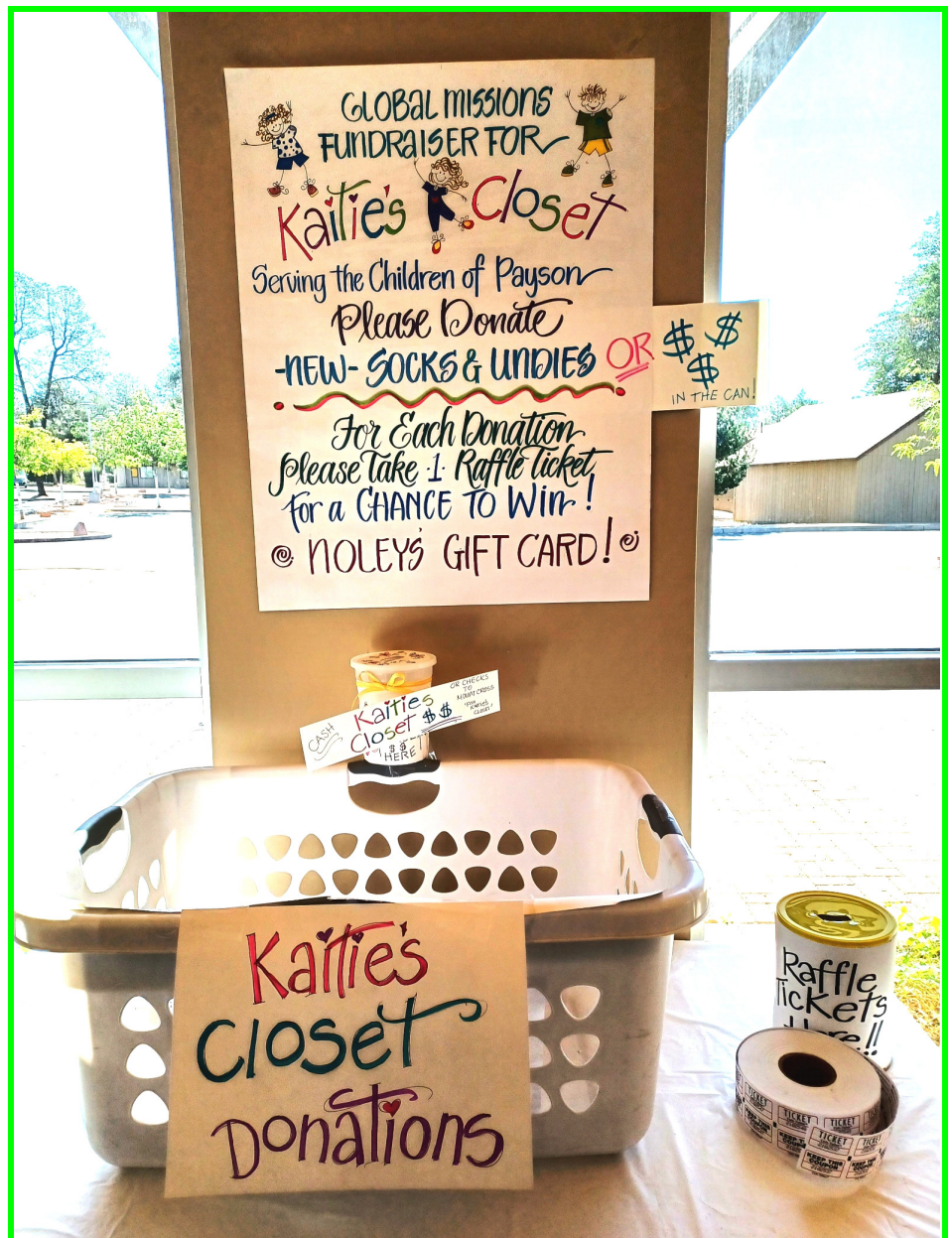
GLOBAL MISSIONS

The featured food items for the month of July are **cans of spaghetti sauce** and **1lb. packages of pasta**. 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.

Global Mission’s Easter Diorama fundraiser brought in \$500, in which these proceeds were sent to Veterans Helping Veterans. The winner of this event was Ernie and Nancy Kellett with a guess of 2,517 Lego pieces used. The actual amount of Legos used for the diorama was 2,557...only a difference of 45 pieces between the actual amount and the winning guess!

Here is Global Mission’s newest fundraising event, in support of Kaitie’s Closet:





Mount Cross Financial Report (January – April 2025)

2025 Approved Budget	\$335,793.00
Income	\$125,101.00 (37.3% of 2025 budget)
Expenditures	\$133,160.00 (39.6% of 2025 budget)
Under (Over)	(\$8,059.00)
Pledged-to-date / Given	\$98,019.00 / \$78,961.00 (80.6%)

2025 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during April 2025	\$4,415.00
Total Principal paid out in 2025 for mortgage	\$7,626.00
Current Principal balance	\$364,389.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date	\$14,583.00 / \$12,820.00 (87.9%)

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



Church office will be closed
Friday, July 4th
for Independence Day

Office hours
Monday, July 7th
through
Thursday, July 10th
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Office closed
Friday, July 11th



Summer Choir began on Sunday, June 22nd, with practices just If you would like to join the Summer Choir, there is no commitment...just show up prior to the service at 8:45 a.m. on the Sunday that you plan to attend the service.

Both choirs will return on Thursday, August 14th: Praise Choir at 4:15 p.m. for practice and Bells will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a "Polish" polish party. Normal practices resume on Thursday, August 21st.



July Birthdays

11 Barbara Greer
13 Ron Nelson
20 Sally Rohrbach
21 Lynne Wayne
26 Charley Kishbaugh

July Wedding Anniversaries

1 Ray/Linda Wiebe

July Baptisms

3 David Bollard
10 Clyde Longberry
15 Patric Taylor
29 Bob Walker

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Worship Services

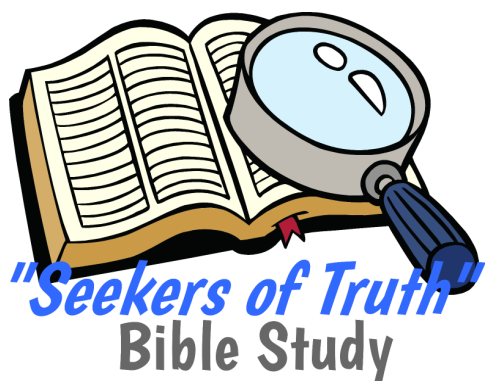
Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook or YouTube.

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. July 17th is the date for this month's meeting.

The group is currently studying the parables of Jesus. At the July meeting, the group will be covering the parables of the Kingdom: The Seed and the Soil (Matthew 13: 1-23), the Work of the Enemy (Matthew 13: 24-43), People of the Kingdom (Matthew 13: 44-46), and God's Kingdom (Matthew 13: 47-52).

Here is a link to a video about why parables were used by Jesus:

https://youtu.be/XX-aAg4_U2Q?si=l8dlU-HGSmadd_zc

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.



On Sunday, June 22nd, the congregation approved the renting of our facilities to Maison Schoolhouse for a K-12 one room schoolhouse. The rental agreement has been signed and notarized. The lease starts on July 1, 2025 for a 12 full months. Currently, the school has 24 students and are planning to start instruction on July 28, 2025.

The school schedule will be the same as the Payson public school calendar. Classes will be in session from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The adult educator hours are 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Adult presence in the sanctuary concludes at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday to allow for choir and bell practice that evening. The students will use the playground, basketball court, and open area west of the sanctuary during recess, although only one area at a time.

While classes are in session, we will have limited access to the inside rented facilities, including the sanctuary, library, kitchen, and bathrooms. I am hopeful that having school in our facilities will foster young families to join our congregation and will give the community greater visibility to our church.

Marlu Allan

Mount Cross Council President



The Payson Community Kids after school program to support Payson children with an opportunity to do their homework, play together and have a meal before they went home began in the early 2000's. A former member, Rene Apps, started the monthly Sloppy Joe's supper sponsored by Mount Cross. When Rene moved to the Valley in 2017, Sharon Vaplon stepped in as coordinator on behalf of Mount Cross.

Over the years members gave money to a dedicated fund to provide the food for the suppers. Thanks to many of the generous volunteers who served the supper, we did not use the donations and they accumulated to \$1190 in the designated fund.

Within the past year, PCK closed their doors due to various administrative issues. They have worked hard in the past months to get their program back up and running with a summer program and they will begin full-time when the new school year starts at the end of July. The Mount Cross members who have been doing the suppers in the past couple of years we're getting tired out and this seemed like a good time for us to bow out.

The council approved a motion to send a check to PCK for \$1190 and designated to go for meals. The new coordinators have several local businesses that will give them meals for cost, and this money will be used during the upcoming school year in that way.

Many of our members participated in this program over the years. Thanks go to Rene Apps, Gary & Rose DeVar, Vince Grennon, Charlotte Garner, Roger & Sally Rohrbach, Karyl Blair, Eloise Jones, Ron Nelson, Bill & Kathryn Lee, Jan Bartoli, Marilyn Black, Lynne Wayne, Sharry Lien, Alice Natale, Jean Petrie, Don & Dorothy Gieseke, thanks also to anyone that I missed putting on this list!!

Sharon Vaplon
Coordinator for after school suppers



**Celebration
of Life
Service**
for
Carol Karlowski
on
Saturday, July 19th
at
2:00 p.m.

A reception will be
held in Building B
(aka log building)
after the service.



#VitalToLife



**ADVANCE
APPOINTMENTS**
are encouraged.

DONATE BLOOD May 23 - Sept. 7,
you'll be entered to win a
2025 VW Taos S, donated by our
Valley Volkswagen Dealers.



 **DONATE BLOOD**
vitalant.org | 877-25-VITAL

Payson Community BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, July 14, 2025

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Mount Cross Lutheran Church ~ 601 E Hwy 260 ~ Payson
Donate in the Log Cabin

To schedule your lifesaving appointment,
call 1-877-25-VITAL (258-4825), scan the QR Code or
visit www.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: P1057)



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