
Mount Cross Chronicle

August 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, leave message)
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

“Life is like an EKG. Without ups and downs, you’re not living”

Debra Evans

After a month as the Interim Pastor at Mount Cross, most of you, for better or for worse already know me fairly well. Retired from rural, farming northern Iowa parishes, Gail and I have been attending Mount Cross since 2009 mainly as ‘snowbirds’ until last year when Arizona became our permanent residence.

I filled in at Mount Cross three years ago and afterward, when the need arose, doing pulpit supply for the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopalian Churches in Payson. In fact, I am now even a certified Episcopal worship presider, which would raise many an eyebrow for my German/Norwegian Lutheran forebearers.

Having said that, an EKG will change my time at Mount Cross. Blocked arteries and the need for heart by-pass surgery has not been a great surprise, for my Kittleson heritage has plenty of heart-related issues. A person ‘can run,’ but not ultimately ‘hide’ from their genetic code.

Over the years, I have learned, especially in potentially dangerous situations in life and in the Army, ‘to put myself and those I love into the Lord’s gracious hands.’ **Luther’s Morning and Evening Prayer from the Small Catechism** has always been meaningful. Luther bids us night and day to pray as Jesus cried out from the Cross, *“Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul and all that is mine,”* because our heavenly Father promises that His presence and love will never fail. And as St. Paul wrote in Romans 14:8, **“So...whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s”**

Surgery this month necessitates my stepping away from the church. I have offered to the Bishop and Mount Cross Council to step down completely, allowing the Synod to search for a more ‘permanent and healthier’ interim pastor, but thus far each has responded that they would prefer I ‘step away’ until healed up and then return.

So, God willing, I will seek to do just that. When any return would be, I cannot say. I don’t believe the Lord responds to the “number” of prayers offered, just that he hears His people no matter how large or small the petition. So whatever prayers you may muster will always be appreciated.

The Council, in the meantime, will come up with a plan for worship and pastoral care during my absence and “I commend” Mount Cross and each of you to God’s gracious care as the summer comes to a close.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Lance

aka Interim Pastor



Our
STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity



August Birthdays

- 5 Cathie Mann
- 10 Sue Bobek
- 12 Diane DeChaine
- 14 Sharry Lien

August Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Ron/Cyndy Plantz
- 21 Barry/Diane DeChaine
- 23 Bill/Barb DeYoung
- 26 Roger/Sally Rohrbach

August Baptisms

- 1 Sally Rohrbach
- 18 Nancy Kellett



The office administrator will be out of the office during the first week of August to share birthday time with her granddaughter, who will be 6 months old.

The office hours for the week will be:
Monday through Thursday,
August 3rd – 6th
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
and closed
Friday, August 7th

A big “thank you” to Barb DeYoung for her willingness to cover the office during that week.



Monthly Jazz Concerts

There will be two Jazz Concerts during the month of July at 2:00 p.m. in the Mount Cross sanctuary.

The concerts will occur on Sunday, August 9th.

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

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.

On summer break, will resume in September.





Mount Cross Financial Report (January – June 2026)

2026 Approved Budget	\$308,699.90
Income	\$152,522.00 (49.41% of 2026 budget)
Expenditures	\$145,086.00 (46.99% of 2026 budget)
Under (Over)	\$7,436.00

Pledged-to-date / Given \$100,060.00 / \$109,519.00 (109.45%)

2026 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during June 2026 \$3,251.00

Total Principal paid out in 2026 for mortgage \$31,765.00

Current Principal balance \$291,631.00

Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date \$19,060.00 / \$35,733.00 (187.5%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2026

Mount Cross \$563.00

Yours in Christ,
Barb DeYoung
Finance Secretary



The featured food items for the month of August of August are **miscellaneous items of patron's choice** (*no glass containers, please*): condiments, cereals, pudding cups, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, chips, crackers, cake, mixes, frosting, etc. Watch for items on sale when you do your shopping this month! Featured items may be placed on the table located in the narthex or in the grocery cart 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 Lego Citiscape diorama fund-raiser ended earlier than anticipated. The guesses were viewed and the winner of the \$50 gift card to Fargos was Lori Andretta. There were 7,557 Legos used to build the diorama and the winning guess was 7,680. Thank you to everyone who submitted guesses, providing the ability to send a proceeds check in the amount of \$213.00 to the Payson Humane Society.

The Team is also continuing to collect items for the annual August Rummage Sale, which will be held on August 29th in Building B (the log building). We are still accepting your smaller items, which are currently being stored in the nursery of Building A (the old church building). **Please keep in mind that we will NOT be accepting: Dirty, stained, broken or torn items; VHS tapes; televisions; computers; used plastic food containers (i.e. cottage cheese, sour cream, margarine, etc). All donations must be in usable condition.**

The Global Mission Team is in need of assistance on Friday, August 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to work at the sale and also with tear down on Saturday, August 29th.

Do you have a truck, or know someone who has a truck, and can help out with picking up larger items? The Team is also in need of some people who can assist with lifting and moving those items.

For further information regarding donating larger/heavier items or if you can give help out with manning/cleaning after the sale, please contact Cheryl Roberts at 623-418-9431 or angtig@hotmail.com. Global Missions would greatly appreciate the assistance.

Thank you,
Cheryl Roberts
Global Missions chairman



Praise Choir and Bells will not be rehearsing on Thursday, August 27th.

Summer Choir will occur on Sundays: August 30, September 6 and 13th. Practices will take place prior to the service at 8:45 a.m. on those Sundays. Bell Choir will not meet during that time.

Regular Thursday rehearsals for Praise Choir will resume on Thursday, September 17th at 4:15 p.m. and Bells at 5:30 p.m.



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

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.

Commitment Sunday will occur on September 27th, at which time your gifting will be blessed during the service.

You may return your commitment cards and time & talent sheets prior to Commitment Sunday by placing them in the offering plate on Sundays, mailing to Mount Cross, or dropping them by the office before September 27th.