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# Mount Cross Chronicle

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October 2025

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601 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541  
Phone: 928-474-2552  
[www.mountcross.org](http://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](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=payson+mount+cross)

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### Pastor

Rev. Carl Sirotzki  
928-474-2552  
608-370-1284 (emergencies)  
[pastor@mountcross.org](mailto:pastor@mountcross.org)

Music Director  
Daria Mason

[daria1024mason@gmail.com](mailto:daria1024mason@gmail.com)

Accompanist  
Angeline Ng

Office Administrator  
Lenore M. White  
[secretary@mountcross.org](mailto:secretary@mountcross.org)

Custodian  
Keri Morris

## ***Pastor's Musings & Ponderings***

*"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

Deuteronomy 31:8(NIV)

Happy October and Happy Fall 2025! That's right, the first day of fall 2025 came on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and since then we have had some wonderful weather with good rains and pleasant temperatures.

As I pondered on this particular verse, it was so very clear to me how the Lord goes before us and no matter where that may be, assures us that we will never go alone in our spiritual journeys. No matter how scary the path ahead of us may seem, God is with us. Circumstances may change, others may turn their backs on us, but God's presence never changes. God's promises are not vague. They are guarantees. This is true even when we may not see it.

As I have mentioned before, the congregation of Mount Cross will be participating in the Congregational Vitality Program through our Grand Canyon Synod and Pastor Dave Pavesic will be working with us through the program. Everyone will have already received a questionnaire by email or a hard copy if you preferred. Please complete these and return them by mail or per the link's instructions. If you have not received the link or hard copy or have any questions, please let me know. All surveys need to be completed and sent in by October 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for doing this. I see great things happening for Mount Cross!

On October 2nd, Jo and I will be celebrating being at Mount Cross for two years! What a blessing it is to be your pastor! Jo and I can't think of any place we would rather be than right where we are.

This past month, we have had two members of Mount Cross go to be home with our Savior. They are Doyle Hefner and Tom Backe. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

The congregational prayer group is continuing to meet every Friday at 1pm in the Ponderosa Room. There is always room for more so please consider coming and praying for our congregation. As I always say, come when you can and leave when you have to.

Thank you to all of those who are leading and attending the Bible studies, Seekers of the Truth and beginning October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Conversations With God. You all are such a blessing!

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday. Don't forget to **wear red** on that day!

Have a great and blessed October!

Peace,

*Pastor Carl*  
Philippians 1:3-4



Our  STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity

## GLOBAL MISSIONS

The featured food item for the month of October is **1# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### PRAYER SESSIONS

Fridays  
at 1:00 PM  
in the  
Ponderosa  
Room



### Payson Community BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, October 13, 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](http://www.vitalant.org) (Blood Drive Code: P1057)



Donate in October and be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card.\*



To learn more about our new brand,  
please visit us at [vitalant.org/ourbrand](http://vitalant.org/ourbrand)

vitalant 



### Concert Band & Jazz Ensemble

Directed by Mr. Michael Buskirk



Tuesday, October 14, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

Mt. Cross Lutheran Church  
Free admission & refreshments



PAYSON  
CAMPUS

Eastern Arizona College, Payson Campus  
201 N. Mud Springs Rd. Payson, Arizona 85541  
(928) 468 - 8039 - [www.eac.edu](http://www.eac.edu)

Eastern Arizona College does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin, sex, disability, or age. Approved for veterans benefits. Tuition is waived for Arizona residents who are 55-plus. Tuition waiver does not cover class or lab fees, books, or out-of-state tuition.

Mount Cross Financial Report (January – August 2025)



2025 Approved Budget . . . . .	\$335,793.00
Income . . . . .	\$197,539.00 (58.8% of 2025 budget)
Expenditures . . . . .	\$203,508.00 (60.6% of 2025 budget)
Under (Over) . . . . .	(\$5,969.00)
Pledged-to-date / Given. . . . .	\$156,830.00 / \$148,691.00 (94.8%)

2025 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during August 2025 . . . . .	\$3,567.00
Total Principal paid out in 2025 for mortgage. . . . .	\$13,678.00
Current Principal balance . . . . .	\$358,337.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date . . . . .	\$23,333.00 / \$24,722.00 (106%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2025	
Mount Cross. . . . .	\$1,997.00

Yours in Christ,  
Finance Team



***All Saints Sunday*** will be celebrated on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is the custom at Mount Cross to add ribbons to the Memorial Wreath with the names of those who have died and entered the Church Triumphant since last ***All Saints Sunday***. Their names will also be read at the worship service on November 3<sup>rd</sup> during the prayers of intercession. Please contact the office with your name requests before Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

REFORMATION  
SUNDAY



OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>

**"Wear Red" Sunday!**



**October Birthdays**

3	Roger Rohrbach
8	James Monroe
9	Jeff Nafziger
13	Earl Clark
17	Patric Taylor
19	Jan Harper
24	Daria Mason
25	Mavis Denofsky
31	Bob Walker

**October Wedding Anniversaries**

10	Dave/Karen Ritterbusch
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**October Baptisms**

2	Joey Dice
10	Roger Rohrbach

## 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

### Conversations with God Bible study

This is a weekly devotional Bible study, which will be held October 3 through November 14, that is based on the lectionary readings and using the ancient art of Lectio Divina.

Friday mornings, 9:30 AM in the conference room.

### Weekly Prayer sessions

The focus of the sessions are to bring concerns and prayers of thanksgiving to God.

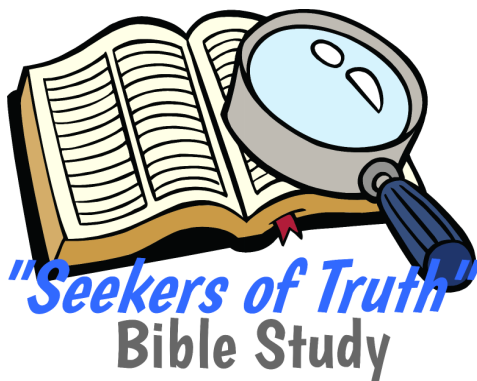
Friday afternoons, 1:00 PM in the Ponderosa Room.



### 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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. October 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



What better way to serve the Lord than preparing His table for His sacred meal. If you feel led to assist in this manner, you are invited to attend the next Altar Guild meeting on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 a.m. for their annual luncheon. The venue this year will be at Fargos, located at 620 E. Highway 260.



The Quilters meet every second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in Building B (aka the log building) at 9:00 a.m. Anyone who has a heart to bring warmth through the giving of quilts are welcome to participate!

At present, the quilters are in need of colored Queen & King size flat sheets. Your sheet donations may be brought to the office or dropped by the log building on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 9:00–11:00 a.m.





Do you yearn for a closer, more intimate relationship with God?

Conversations with God can take you there.

Beginning Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and continuing every Friday for 7 weeks. Conversations with God is a devotional Bible study based on the lectionary readings and using the ancient art of Lectio Divina. Designed for heart knowledge as well as head knowledge this study invites you to go deeper into Scripture to enable you to experience the presence of God in your life as never before.

We will meet in the Conference Room every Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00 a.m. All are welcome. The only thing you need to bring is yourself.

Rev. Madeline Fuentez, facilitator



The Worship and Music Committee will meet in the conference room on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 a.m.



## CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council will meet three times during the month of October to address the 2026 budget, as well as conducting normal business.

The meeting dates are Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to become a part of the Church Council, please contact Marlu Allan.

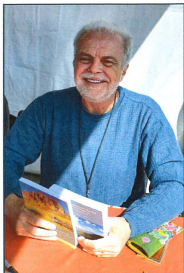
### The Library Friends of Payson, Inc.



#### General Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2025 10:00am

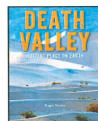
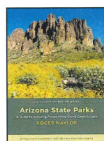
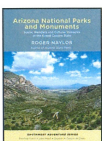
Payson Public Library, 328 N. McLane Rd



Join us as we welcome award-winning Arizona travel writer **Roger Naylor** ([www.rogernaylor.com](http://www.rogernaylor.com)) who will discuss his latest book, *Arizona National Parks and Monuments*, a guide to 34 park units in our beautiful state. This and Roger's other books will be available for purchase, priced at \$13—\$23 each, cash, check or credit card.

The meeting is open to the public, and attendance is FREE.

**BRING A FRIEND!**



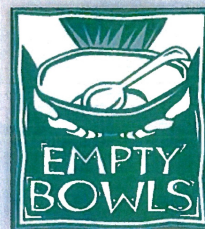
The Library Friends of Payson, Inc.

P.O. Box 13, Payson AZ 85541

Email: [library\\_friends@hotmail.com](mailto:library_friends@hotmail.com)

Website: [libraryfriendsofpayson.com](http://libraryfriendsofpayson.com)

Follow and 'Like' us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/libraryfriendspayson](http://www.facebook.com/libraryfriendspayson)



Rim Country Artists & Mud Club Presents:

### Empty Bowls, an event to fight hunger

Saturday, October 18, 2025  
4pm - 7pm

Payson Elks Lodge  
1206 N Beeline Hwy  
Payson, Arizona

Tickets: \$25 adults/\$10 youth (additional donations appreciated!)

*All proceeds go to our local food banks!*

*Join us for a night of fun!*

Each guest will choose a unique handmade bowl created by local potters from Rim Country's own Mud Club and GCC Students.

Your handmade bowl will be filled with tasty soup from Majestic Rim's kitchens or delicious chili with a hot, fresh roll from Fargo's Steakhouse on the side, and a coupon for a serving of Culver's yummy frozen custard!

Awesome music by local favorites

*Trouble in Paradise*

Tickets available beginning Sat, September 13, 2025

at the following locations:

Or call Barbara Zirinsky  
928-978-3433

Majestic Rim Retirement Living  
The Payson Senior Center  
Payson Elks Lodge



More info and updates on Facebook @Rim Country Empty Bowls

