
Mount Cross Chronicle

July 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

WHEN YOUR PASTOR LEAVES

1. STAY IN YOUR LANE

During a transition, the best thing to do is to keep your eyes focused on Jesus (focused on "The Mission").

2. GRIEVE WELL

You've lost someone. They may not be a blood relative, but they are a sister/brother in Christ nonetheless. Don't stuff your feelings. Jesus calls God's children to be honest in every area of their lives, including deep loss.

3. LOVE THE VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Leaders in charge of maintaining the church will have to perform multiple tasks in a pastor's absence. Cut them some slack. Resist the urge to compare.

4. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE NEGATIVE POWER OF COMPLAINING

Pastoral transitions can cause some to complain, sowing seeds of dissension within the congregation. If not checked, these seeds can grow into weeds destructive patterns.

5. BE PATIENT

The process to getting another pastor can be a long one. The church needs someone to carry out an overall vision. Be patient.

6. TRUST YOUR LEADERSHIP

The people your church has entrusted to help choose the next pastor will do their best to prayerfully make the right choice. Uphold them in your prayer life. Write notes of encouragement when you can. They can use all the encouragement they can get.

7. DON'T SPREAD DISSENSION

If you have a major concern with something in the church, voice it once to leadership. Do not spread seeds of gossip.

8. FEED YOURSELF

Equip yourself and feed your soul so you can be used effectively in the transition and beyond. Pray not only for the interim pastor but for the congregation. Ask the Lord to reveal the next person in God's timing and wait patiently in the interim.

9. LEAN ON THE COMMUNITY

Don't isolate yourself from church fellowship. Lean on your faith community. If you are having a rough time with the transition, talk to someone you trust. No matter what you do, it is going to benefit you and your church if you do things as a community

Pastoral transitions are hard. Be the healthy part of the body that can help those that are hurting. The congregation needs to be as healthy as possible before the new pastor takes their place in leading Mount Cross' ministry.



Our STATEMENT . . . ChristConnectingCommunity

GLOBAL MISSIONS

The featured food items for the month of July are **1# packages of spaghetti** and **cans of spaghetti sauce** (*cans only, please*). 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 Lego Citiscape diorama will continue through Labor Day weekend and end on September 7th. Don't forget to put your guess in for \$1 per guess. You could be the recipient of a \$50 gift card to Fargos, if you placed the closest guess as to how many Legos were used to build the diorama.

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 currently accepting your smaller items that may be brought to the 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 team would love to have your help in setting out the rummage sale items prior to the sale and working during the sale. If you can help in these ways, please contact Cheryl Roberts.



July Birthdays

- 11 Barbara Greer
- 13 Ron Nelson
- 20 Sally Rohrbach
- 21 Lynne Wayne

July Wedding Anniversaries

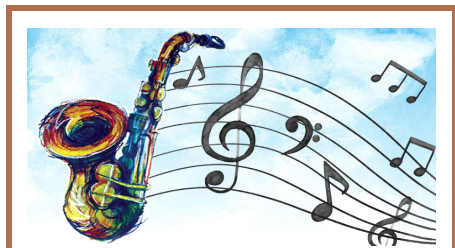
- 1 Ray/Linda Wiebe

July Baptisms

- 15 Patric Taylor
- 29 Bob Walker



Church office will be closed
 Friday, July 3rd
 for Independence Day
 weekend.
Happy 250th, America!!



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 Sundays, July 12th and 26th.

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



Volkswagen



SUMMER DRIVE TO SAVE LIVES

BLOOD DRIVE



PAYSON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026
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).

~ Voucher for a pint of Culver's Fresh Frozen Custard!

~ Arizona blood donors May 22-Sept.11 will be automatically entered to win the Taos, donated by our Valley Volkswagen dealers!*

AND all Vitalant donors who give blood July 9-Aug. 8, 2026, will be automatically entered to win a car, valued up to \$30,000.**

*Terms and conditions apply; see vitalant.org/VW.

**Terms and conditions apply; see vitalant.org/CarGiveaway.



For more information or to schedule a donation, call **877-25-VITAL** or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @vitalant:



Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Worship Services

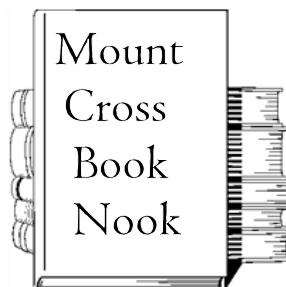
Weekly in-house communion & worship service held in the sanctuary; live stream of the service is available on Facebook.

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.



During the month of July, there will be a table in the narthex displaying books that are looking for a new home. Since Pastor Carl and Jo are moving to the Valley, he has thinned his collection to books that will enhance retirement.

Do you have some books that are looking for a new home? Bring them in and place them in a box under the table. I will lay them out as space becomes available.

These books are free for you to take home and enjoy!

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones



Mount Cross Financial Report (January – May 2026)

2026 Approved Budget	\$308,699.90
Income	\$133,731.00 (% of 2026 budget)
Expenditures	\$119,741.00 (% of 2026 budget)
Under (Over)	\$13,990.00
Pledged-to-date / Given	\$83,383.00 / \$93,229.00 (111.81%)

2026 Mortgage Fund

Total given to the Mortgage Fund during May 2026	\$3,146.00
Total Principal paid out in 2026 for mortgage	\$29,243.00
Current Principal balance	\$294,153.00
Pledged-to-Date / Given-to-Date	\$15,883.00 / \$33,257.00 (209.39%)

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

Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2026	
Mount Cross	\$538.00

Yours in Christ,
Barb DeYoung
Finance Secretary



Sanctuary Reset Day!

Carpets and upholstered chairs were cleaned by All Stages Carpet Cleaners on Monday, June 29th.

The date of Wednesday, July 1st, has been selected as the day to reset the chairs in the sanctuary. Please feel free to stop by at 9:00 a.m. to assist with setting the chairs back and making the sanctuary ready for Sunday service.

A FOND FAIRWELL

We love you and we will miss you!

Pastor Carl & Jo Sirotzki

