
Mount Cross Chronicle

January 2019



601 E. Highway 260
Payson, AZ 85541
Phone: 928-474-2552
Fax: 928-474-6038
www.mountcross.org

Worship Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. Powell House

Pastor

Rev. Scott Stein
474-2552

pastor@mountcross.org

Music Director
Daria Mason

daria1024mason@gmail.com

Accompanist
Wes Hathaway

praise@mountcross.org

Office Administrator
Lenore M. White

secretary@mountcross.org

LOMONA Director
Maryann Rowe

lomona@mountcross.org

Custodian
Rod Rice

Pr. Scott's Thoughts . . .

5 things that happen when you get a new pastor

A few weeks ago, right after worship, I announced that I would soon be resigning as pastor at Mount Cross. I think everyone is aware of that by now, but if it is a big surprise to anyone, I'm sorry if it is a shock. I have health issues that I have been dealing with, and MarJean and I plan to retire and move in a few months.

Don't be afraid. You will not be without a pastor. Please read the article below. It's very good and also very timely for all of this.

Together in ministry following Christ Jesus,
Pastor Scott

1. New people show up.

They will. The new pastor will speak to new people who don't know or remember the last minister, and they will make this new pastor their own. When you talk about "Pastor So-and-So's way of doing things," they won't know the reference. They will desire, and start, new traditions. They'll spark some change, even as they hope for and create friendships with longtime members who loved the way things used to be.

When a new pastor comes, so do new people. This transition will require the congregation to love Christ enough to welcome the stranger and risk taking a chance on new ideas from new people.

2. Some people will leave.

We don't like to talk about this, and we don't like to think about this, but it's true. Perhaps they're leaving because the previous pastor's departure gives them the freedom to also move on after being heavily involved. Perhaps they've been on the margins of the community anyway, and this allows them to step away quietly. Perhaps they're longtime members who just can't get on board with the new pastor and his way of doing things.

No community stays stagnant forever. There will be a temptation by the new pastor and the congregants to want to keep these people by hook or crook, but sometimes this just needs to happen for one reason or another. This particular transition will require trust, honesty and the ability for the congregation to love people enough to let them go if they have to leave.

3. Worship will change.

Your previous pastor had that folksy charm. This new minister has a love of icons, pulpit preaching and wants to talk about moving that Saturday night service to Thursday night. Whatever the change may be, worship will be different. Sometimes this is welcome news, and sometimes this will cause deep anxiety.

The old adage that a pastor should never change anything in the first year is not wisdom. While no pastor should tailor services solely to his or her preference, worship will evolve somehow to reflect the strengths of the presider.

The community will have to be honest with one another and the new pastor while not being obstinate or obstructionist. After all, worship is more about God than the individual in the pew or the body in the pulpit.

4. New life will spring forth.

It will. Probably in unexpected places. The new pastor will bring his or her own hopes, ideas and energy to new and existing programs and projects. New life will certainly spring up. The congregation must be adaptable, embracing these new sprigs of life and harnessing this energy to spur on ministry in other areas.

5. You will love each other, by God.

This last one is the most important, of course. When given the time and space to be free and honest with one another, and when they are intent upon living together in community, the congregation and pastor will, by God, love one another. Since that is the second greatest commandment, it should be a priority.

If gossip, hard hearts, unrelenting egos and ambition get in the way, this fruit of the new relationship will surely wither on the vine. But when we give each other the authority and space to welcome new people, let people go, embrace godly change and encourage new life, love will grow and flourish and infect the church like a mustard weed, allowing the gospel to take root.

The call of the church is not just the pastor's, and the church is not primarily the parishioners'. It is God's call; it is God's church. We just enjoy the responsibility and joy of stewarding both.

From an article in the Lutheran Magazine

Lynn Hess has resigned from Council and Jan Loomis has been appointed to fill the remaining vacant Council position until the annual congregational meeting in November 2019.

Election of Church Council officers for the 2019 year has not occurred as of the date of this newsletter. Due to a variety of issues arising related to the pastor's announced retirement, the current Council officers will remain in their roles until their successors are elected. We ask for the congregation's support to maintain leadership continuity as we deal with issues related to transitioning to new pastoral support.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President | Jan Loomis |
| Vice President | Alice Natale |
| Secretary | Sharry Lien |
| Financial Secretary | Scott Stallard |



Supporting members are:

Diana Fletcher, John Proescholdt, Sylvia Sandoval, and John Shoemaker.

We appreciate your prayers and support and welcome your questions and input.

Sincerely,

Jan Loomis

Council President



The Mount Cross congregation was greeted with a very pleasant surprise at the Sunday service on December 16th. The children of Iglesia Poder en Cristo treated them to a musical rendition of the Nativity. Roger Rohrbach accompanied the children with his guitar. The voices of the children brought Christmas joy to those who attended.



To proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior
through joyful worship, prayer,
life long learning,
active and loving service.

Our STATEMENT . . .

It's a new year and there are plenty of opportunities for you to beautify the altar with a gift of fresh flowers. Some of you may be new to Mount Cross and may not be familiar with the process of giving flowers; the procedure is as follows:



1. Locate the flower chart on the west wall of the Narthex (close to the mailboxes).
2. Pick your desired date, place your name on the line next to that date, and provide a reason for the flower gift.
3. Either buy flowers and bring them to the church. You may also order flowers and have them delivered to the church OR call Carol McNulty to arrange delivery/pick up for your chosen date.
4. On Sunday, you may pick up your flowers after the service. Take them home and enjoy their beauty.

If you have any questions, please call Carol McNulty at 474-9701.

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

LOMONA IS AN ACRONYM FOR LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

CHURCH SPONSORED ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY:

- ✧ HIGH COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB: THURSDAY, JANUARY 3RD
- ✧ SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST: JANUARY 6TH
- ✧ MOUNT CROSS CARES: TUESDAYS, JANUARY 22ND & 29TH
- ✧ WELCA QUILTERS: WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 9TH & 23RD

RENTAL BOOKINGS FOR DECEMBER:

- ✧ PODER EN CRISTO'S TAMALES APPRECIATION DINNER
- ✧ LIFELINE SCREENING

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

REPAIRS WERE MADE ON THE KITCHEN COLD WATER FAUCET.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FREE CPR/AED TRAINING, WHICH WILL BE HELD HERE AT MOUNT CROSS IN THE LOG BUILDING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, AT 6:00 P.M.

GOD BLESS,
MARYANN ROWE
LOMONA DIRECTOR



**Payson Community Kids
Sloppy Joe Suppers**

Mount Cross volunteers have been serving sloppy joes, carrots, chips, and cookie to the after-school program for several years. At this point we are serving about 90 children each time. The staff wants to offer children a hot meal before they go home on Mondays and Wednesdays.

We join Pizza Factory, The Word, Connie, Payson United Methodist Church, Senior Center, and Expedition Church in providing these meals.

Our dates for the remainder of this school year are Wednesday, February 6th (our usual Monday is a holiday), and Monday, April 15th. Plan to join us at 4:00 p.m. to set up. We serve at 4:15 and are finished by 5:00 p.m. Contact Sharon Vaplon at 468-8711 with questions.



Many may remember Annie Spencer, who led our *Friends in Christ* group during the time that Reverend Elaine Watskey was pastor at Mount Cross. We have recently received news about Annie.

She married Michael Grace around 2014. Their friend, Jane Bonn, brought in a copy of a Christmas card that she received from Michael. Annie had been in a rehab center, but was moved from there to a nursing facility some time ago. If anyone would like to send greetings or notes to Annie, here is the contact information:

Mesa Christian Health & Rehab
Anna Grace-Schaffer-Spencer #104
255 W. Brown Rd
Mesa, AZ 85201

Her nurses station: ALFA Station
Facility's office phone is 480-833-3988



Mount Cross Financial Report (January –November 2018)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2018 Approved Budget. | \$305,960.00 |
| Income | \$228,444.00 (74.7 % of 2018 budget) |
| Expenditures. | \$262,240.00 (85.7% of 2018 budget) |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total given to the Mortgage Fund during November 2018 | \$2,667.00 |
| Total paid out in 2018 for mortgage | \$39,422.00 |

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

| | |
|--|------------|
| Total income received from Thrivent "Choice Dollars" in 2018 | |
| Mount Cross | \$2,448.00 |

November income fell short of expenses by about \$4600, bringing our YTD total loss almost \$34,000. We are hopeful to close December strong with year-end giving in order to close our operational gap.

Thanks to everyone who has responded to the stewardship campaign. As of 12/10, we had 41 family units sending in "expected to give" cards compared to 34 in 2018. The total of pledged amounts is about \$3000 higher. While this level of pledges won't eliminate our structural operating gap, it is an improvement and it helps the Council to better plan our finances for the year. Cards can still be turned in!!

Yours in Christ,
Scott Stallard, Financial Secretary



MEETINGS WITH JESUS

Come and See: Seeking and Finding Faith

The women's Bible study will meet in the Ponderosa Room at Mount Cross on Thursday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m. Nancy Kellett will provide the lunch, dessert, and beverages as our hostess. Call Nancy at 928-978-3827 with questions.

The January/February "Gather" contains two lessons. This month's lesson begins on page 22 and is the first of four sessions as a study "in" John's Gospel. Written around the year 90-100, it has differences in style and content from the traditional first three gospels. In this Gospel, we encounter Jesus from the perspective of the community of faith that knows and believes in Jesus Christ. We will approach the Gospel through the lens of Jesus' interactions with various characters within the Gospel.

The language is poetry and invites us to come to know the One who is in the world, but unknown by the world. It invites us into "knowing" and being known by God. John's Gospel, with its deep symbolism, invites us to contemplate the mystery of Christ, the Word made flesh, the one in whom we see the glory of God. The first person we meet is John the Baptist. John's role is primarily as a witness to Jesus as the Son of God. John the Baptist serves as a model for us in understanding our role: bearing witness to Jesus, having clarity about who we are—and who we are not—and pointing others toward Christ by sharing our story about what we have seen and heard and experienced.

Meeting Jesus brings an invitation "to follow." Jesus found Philip and invited him to follow. Philip reached out to Nathanael to tell him about Jesus. Nathanael had doubts and questions, but Philip did not argue with Nathanael but said "Come and see." The invitation to follow Jesus is a sturdy summons that can withstand questions and doubts.

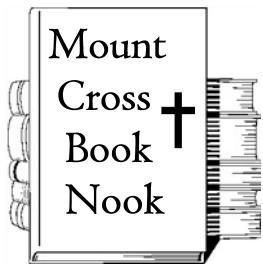
The mother of Jesus attended a wedding in Cana, to which Jesus and the disciples had also been invited. Throughout the Fourth Gospel, her name (otherwise given as Mary) is never mentioned but she is identified only in relation to Jesus: "The mother of Jesus was there" (2:1). The mother alerts Jesus to the crisis of running out of wine at the wedding celebration. Jesus responds by saying, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4). After describing several references to "the hour," the author of this study relates that the Fourth Gospel tells stories of Jesus from the perspective of those who have already experienced Easter; the "hour" has dimensions of being both "already" and "not yet." Jesus' mother told the servants to "do whatever he tells you" (2:5). Different from the "Come and see" of Philip to Nathanael, this was a command. The results of abundant wine reflect the biblical writers' frequent use of the image of abundant wine as a sign of God's goodness, and as a sign of fulfillment of their hopes for redemption and renewal when the Messiah came. The Fourth Gospel announces that this was the first of the "signs" Jesus did. In this Gospel there are a total of seven signs, deeds of power that reveal Jesus as Son of God. These signs point beyond themselves to show us the character of God as revealed in Jesus. The water turned into wine points toward God's abundance and goodness.

All four Gospels include the story of Jesus cleansing the temple. The outermost courtyard, called the court of the Gentiles, was open to everyone. In Jesus' day, this space was occupied by merchants who had set up shop, offering services for the convenience of worshippers like purchasing animals for sacrifice and changing Roman currency to temple currency. Roman coins could not be used for offerings because they bore the image of Caesar, considered to be a graven image, forbidden

by the commandments. In John's Gospel, the focus is Jesus' critique of the temple having been turned into a marketplace. The incident is also placed near the beginning of Jesus' ministry. (In contrast to the first three gospels who place it at the end of Jesus' ministry, as part of his confrontation with the religious authorities leading up to his arrest.) John's Gospel invites readers to view the whole of Jesus' ministry through the lens of cleansing the temple and the sign of divine abundance shown at the wedding at Cana.

Jesus referred to the temple as his "Father's house." Jesus also responded to the objections of his actions by referencing the destruction of the temple (which happened in 70 A.D., before John's Gospel was written) and identifying his own body as the temple. The Gospel incorporates the perspective of the late first century believers, who struggled with a spiritual crisis created by the temple's destruction, as well as conflict and tension related to their shift in understanding as followers of Christ as being a separate faith, not just a movement within Judaism.

Copies of the January Bible Study are available on a clipboard by the mailboxes.



Since I am pretty sure most of us were too busy getting ready for Christmas that we didn't take the time to sit down and read a good book so the books presently on the cart in the Narthex will remain there for the month of January. No one has passed a law yet that says that you cannot spread the joy of Christmas beyond December 25th.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Your Librarian,
Eloise Jones

**REMINDER TO
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:**

Committees that were awaiting their end of year financial statements, your annual reports are due on January 18th. If you are the chairperson for a committee that does not rely on financial statements to complete your report, the due date for your report has passed, but will still be accepted up until the 18th of this month.

January Birthdays

- 6 Jerry Carlson
- 11 Ernie Kellett
Patricia Proescholdt
- 12 Jim Cheek
- 13 Marilyn Black
Elva Jones
- 16 Sharon Schimke
- 18 Lynn Sloan
- 21 John Shoemaker
- 22 John Hansel
- 24 Kathryn Lee
Sheryl Mihalko
Sherri Taylor
- 26 Bob Marley
- 28 Nina Slonaker
- 31 Barbi Buchanan
Wes Hathaway

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 19 Gary/Carol Karlowski
- 21 John/Barbi Buchanan
- 28 Gary/Barbara Greer



Stay alert and prepare for the Souperbowl on Sunday, February 3rd, when we collect non-perishable items for the Deacon's Food Pantry, as well as money to be divided between the two Payson food banks. Inadvertently left non-perishable items at home? Never fear, you can still help by either a cash donation or writing a check to Mount Cross Lutheran Church (make sure to notate in the memo line "SouperBowl") and drop it in the soup pot. Let's play for the "home team" by helping local food banks to provide for hungry Paysonites!

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Ongoing opportunities:

Men in Mission breakfast

This is a monthly gathering of men that enjoy a time of fellowship over breakfast and view a video presentation, "Israel's Mission," which focuses on understanding Israel's history/culture of the time period and is narrated by Ray Vander Lann. Discussion will follow the viewing of the video.

2nd Wednesday of the month, 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall

WELCA Bible study

This is a monthly Bible study using the studies found in the WELCA publication "Gather". All women are welcome to attend.

2nd Thursday of the month, 9:45 meet at church to carpool.



Sunday Morning Breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 6th in the log building after the worship service.

Financial donations are welcome to help defray costs of the breakfast. Guests are absolutely free for the first breakfast they attend.

Help is needed for set-up, food prep, and cleanup each month; if you would like to assist in this manner, please contact Joe or Tonnie Dice.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION Breakfast

Men in Mission is cancelled until further notice due to transitions occurring within the church.

Friendship Club Happenings

Friendship Club will not meet in January since our usual meeting date is just a day after New Years. We'll see you in February on the 6th at 11:30 a.m.

Ron Nelson & Eloise Jones

Friendship Club Directors

Thank You

Thanks to all who brought and bought items at the "Craft and Bake Sale," which resulted in \$1094 to help heat the Navajo Lutheran Mission in northeastern Arizona. If anyone still wants an opportunity to contribute, there is a "firepot" for collecting monetary gifts by the poster about the Navajo Mission in the narthex.

The Global Missions Team



Office Hours in January

Wednesday & Thursday, January 16 & 17: 8:30 a.m. – Noon
Office Closed on Friday, January 18th and Monday, January 21st
in observance of Martin Luther King Federal holiday.