
Mount Cross Chronicle

December 2011



Mount Cross Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. Traditional
10:30 a.m. Praise Service

Pastor

Rev. Glenn Zimbelman
363-0155

pastorinjeans@gmail.com

Music Director/Organist
Dr. Victoria Harris

Praise Team Leader
Wes Hathaway

praise@mountcross.org

LOMONA Retreat Center
Maryann Rowe, Director
lomona@mountcross.org

Church Secretary
Lenore M. White

secretary@mountcross.org

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets: The Virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel--which means, “God with Us.” Matthew 1:23

The reference on Immanuel is a quote from Isaiah 7:14; the first part of Isaiah is written to a people that are wondering if God has abandoned them. Christmas is a time to declare to the world that God is not an absent God but a God who wishes to be involved in all of humanity. I have often wondered if in heaven we will get an opportunity to scan through our personal life (a scary thought I realize) and that God will show us all the times that God was with us, and we didn't recognize it.

It is so easy to miss the fact that God is with Us. We get so caught up in the busyness of life and our own issues that we forget to take time to allow God to enter in. Perhaps one of the helpful reminders of Advent and Christmas is for us to open our eyes, ears and minds and look for God. Take a moment to take in the stars of an ozone free Payson. Watch and observe children laughing as they shop in a department store. Pause and pray at worship and ask God to be Immanuel with you.

Why is this so important? I believe fear and complacency keeps us from maximizing our Christian faith. In the name of being comfortable we choose to limit the amount of joy that comes from taking a risk for Christ. If we Christians believe that God is with us, nothing is impossible (check Romans 8:31-39). This means we can be God's hands and feet in the world because God is with us. I love the quote, “You may be the only page of the Bible that someone else ever reads”.

This Christmas is an opportunity to not only look for God but to be God's representative on earth. All of us will be presented with opportunities to be a witness for Immanuel this Christmas. That witness may be an attitude you carry out shopping, going to worship or caring for someone in need.

Like the people of Israel, many people doubt that Immanuel really is for them. We have an opportunity to open people up to the amazing presence of God in our world. The Peace Child is coming! God Keeps God's Promises! Immanuel, God is with Us!

May the Peace Child touch your soul in a special way this Christmas and beyond!

Pastor Glenn



Our STATEMENT . . .

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

FAITH FORMATION REFLECTIONS

The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. John 3:8

Do you feel it? Do you sense it? The Holy Spirit is at work at Mount Cross; lives are being transformed; change is happening. Oops, there's that awful word, change.

I have a confession, I hate change! Just ask Glenn how well I handle change! You might not realize that if you look at my life, all the twists and turns of my professional career, the twists and turns of Glenn and my ministry, moving around the country several times. But, I hate change! Change hurts, is uncomfortable, forces me to try new things, alters my sense of stability in the world. I hate it! Do you have a problem with change, too? We could form a support group!

Let me share some of what I've learned about change. First, whether you like it or not, God is going to do what God wants to do. God loves you just the way you are, **but He loves you too much to keep you that way!** That means, He's going to work on changing you. Change is the requirement for growth. Growth does not happen if we stay within our comfort zone; growth only happens when we step outside our comfort zone and try something new, different. Isn't that what we tell our kids? God is our parent and He is always telling me to change and grow! So, I've learned to accept change; it's part of life.

Now, I have a choice. When God says I'm going to change you, I can jump on board willingly, I can jump on board reluctantly, or I can fight Him kicking and screaming all the way! The thing about fighting God, though, is He always wins! I'm stubborn, so I've spent a lot of time fighting God when He institutes change. But, I'm finally learning that it is just a whole lot easier if I jump on board, even reluctantly, than it is to fight Him.

God is in the business of transforming lives. (Romans 12:2 'Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...') God will transform people with or without our help. But, it is a whole lot easier, more effective, and more exciting if we actually jump on board and help Him out.


So, do you feel it? Do you sense it? Are you a bit uncomfortable? God's Holy Spirit is loose in Mount Cross, transforming lives. Will you join (even a bit reluctantly) or will you fight God the whole way kicking and screaming? It's your choice, but God promises it will be more fun if you join in!

In Christ's love,
Jan Zimbelman



2011 ADVENT / CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Nov. 27 - First Sunday in Advent - services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**
Nov. 30 - Midweek Supper from 5-5:40 (Altar Guild hosts).
Hanging of the Greens Service at 6:15 p.m.
Dec. 3 - Electric Light Parade (Mount Cross participating) - 6 p.m.
Dec. 4 - Second Sunday in Advent - services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. with communion
Dec. 6 - Music & Staff Christmas Party at the log building - 5 p.m.
Dec. 7 - Midweek Supper from 5-5:40 (LOMONA Board hosts). Service at 6 p.m.
Dec. 11 - Third Sunday in Advent - 8:30 Service:
Chancel Choir will present Schubert's Mass in G Major
10:30 a.m. Praise Service
Luminaria assembly after 2nd service at the log building
Dec. 14 - Midweek Supper from 5-5:40 (Friendship Club hosts). Service at 6 p.m.
Dec. 16 - Congregational Christmas Party potluck 6 p.m. hosted by LOMONA
Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent - communion services
8:30 a.m. - Chancel Choir will present "O Holy Night"
10:30 a.m. - Praise Team will present "Sermon in Song"
4:30 p.m. - Caroling at the care facilities
Dec. 21 - NO midweek service
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve services with communion at 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day - one service at 9:30 a.m. - traditional setting and no communion
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - one service at 9:30 a.m. - praise service and no communion
Jan. 8 - Baptism of our Lord--Services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. with communion
Jan. 15 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany--Services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. with communion

	<p>Please note: Office hours for Friday, December 2 and Monday, December 12 will be 8:30 a.m. to noon.</p>
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XaLT Worship to Begin January 8th

On Sunday night, January 8th, 6:30 PM we will be launching our latest worship offering at Mount Cross. XaLT will be family friendly, with energetic music and media driven. XaLT will take place in the log building and will include lots of contemporary Christian music from artists such as Casting Crowns, Chris Tomlin, and Mercy Me. This worship is aimed at people who are pre-Christians, de-churched or those for whom the above music connects them to God. XaLT will use music video's to assist the band that is forming. More band members are needed. Please see Jan Zimbelman if interested.

MOUNT CROSS: REACHING BEYOND OUR DOORS

For the past 4 years we have had a box in the narthex for the **Payson Food Bank**. Two years ago we decided to give to the food bank on a monthly basis on the 3rd week of the month. Hawk Hawkins has been the dedicated deliverer of this food. We need to thank him. From several meetings I have attended with different agencies in Payson, the information is that food starts to run out by the last week of the month, so our donations are important. Thank you, Mount Cross disciples for being so faithful to this cause.

Payson Helping Payson is an agency that takes the St. Vincent De Paul mission to one more step. There is help with rent one month in a 12 month period, utilities in the same manner, gas cards for those who are stranded available at the police station, and a motel night for the same reason. These are services that are coordinated with St. Vincent De Paul, and Payson Helping Payson folk. All of this is a part of the complex network of churches who offer these discipleship services.

The **Seniors in Need** box in the narthex is for the Pineview Manor housing for low income seniors. The donations for this mission have been limited to dish soap, bar or soft soap, toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels, as well as shampoo. The Pineview Manor mission was started by Carol Shear, and then last month I took the items to Pineview Manor. It is a small mission, but for those folk who have food stamps, these paper goods are critical since food stamps do not cover such purchases.

The last reminder is our **Feed the Flames** fire pots, sparing some money for our mission is critical to them in heating the Navajo Lutheran Mission. As chair of that mission board, I am somewhat uncomfortable in asking for donations since I am obviously somewhat slanted towards that mission. So this is just a reminder.

Alice Natale

HO, HO, HO . . . Merry Christmas!!

December 3rd at 6PM there is the Electric Light Parade. This year's Mount Cross float is a pontoon boat pulled by Joe Dice. Mount Cross Disciples will be passing out Peace on Earth bracelets with cards attached announcing our Christmas Eve Services.

December 11th just after the second service we invite all who are willing to help assemble the 250 or so luminaries that will help light up our campus and lead people to worship with us this Christmas Eve.

December 18th we are planning to meet at church at 4:30 to go Christmas caroling at the local care centers. Remember many of these folks never get a chance to get out into the community to share in the holiday season. We need to take Christ's love and songs to them. Here is the intended schedule:

Payson Care Center - 5:00pm

Rim Country Health and Retirement - 5:30pm

Powell House - 6:00pm

Please join us. . .the more the merrier. . .wear your festive holiday hats and sweaters. Following the event we will meet back at the church for cookies and hot chocolate.

If you have any questions please contact Jodi Lorenz.

News from your Mount Cross MLA Team (Missional Leadership Academy)

You may or may now know in July 2011 the Mount Cross Council gave its approval to enroll Pastor and five team members in the eighteen-month Missional Leadership Academy sponsored by the Grand Canyon Synod. On November 11-12, the MLA team consisting of Pastor Glenn, Jan Zimbelman, Joe Vlahovich, Suzanne Bratcher, Kerry Cassens, and Linda Grosser attend its first MLA retreat at Spirit of the Desert in Carefree and started the quest in understanding what it means to be a "Missional Church."

Here are a few thoughts to ponder...Whether or not we want to acknowledge the changes in mainline churches and in our own congregation, most if not all mainline churches are currently struggling with retaining disciples, growing new disciples, and reaching out to their unique communities and the world at large.

Did you know as reported by the ELCA that between 2000 and 2008, 82% of all ELCA churches are either only maintaining its members (14%) or are in decline (68%)? Did you also know we are an aging church? The average age in the ELCA is 53+, while the US average is 38.

One thing the MLA team learned with certainty is that most mainline churches, including Mount Cross, will need to rethink their identity and reframe their approach to ministry if they are going to survive, let alone prosper.

Thank you to those of you that participated in the congregational survey. We will be sharing the information and possible transformational opportunities with you in the near future. From your MLA team, we look forward to helping Mount Cross live out the Great Commission: "Go into all the world and make disciples!" and Great Commandment: "Love God and Love your Neighbor." We have an amazing God and we hope you will join us in the quest to become a Missional Church of God.

Linda Grosser
Team Leader

Discipleship survey

Yes, we have one more online survey for you to take. This one consists of 10 questions, so will only take a few minutes. The questions will help us with identifying areas for growth in the marks of discipleship and will assist with planning future discipleship classes.

To take the survey go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZSZC8B9>

All answers are strictly confidential, you will not be asked to give your name. All members of a household are asked to take the survey. Results of the survey will be shared with the entire congregation in a future Chronicle article. We will ask you to take this survey on an annual basis to see how the congregation as a whole grows in their discipleship.

Jan Zimbelman

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

LOMONA IS AN ACRONYM FOR LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

MONTH OF DECEMBER 2011

CHURCH SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:

WEEKLY

MONDAY: BOY SCOUT MEETINGS
CUB SCOUT MEETINGS

MONTHLY

1 ST THURSDAY:	DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE
2 ND THURSDAY:	CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
3 RD THURSDAY:	MEN'S BREAKFAST
3 RD THURSDAY:	CUB SCOUT PACK MEETINGS
3 RD WEDNESDAY:	FRIENDSHIP CLUB
4 TH WEDNESDAY:	WELCA QUILTERS

RENTAL BOOKINGS FOR NOVEMBER:

WEEKENDS

NO BOOKINGS

DAY USAGE

1. WEEKLY TAI CHI CLASSES (3)
2. SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
3. MOUNT CROSS THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

RETREAT WEEKENDS: WEEKENDS/ NIGHTS

TOTAL DAY USE: 5

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

AFFORDABLE HOMETOWN PLUMBING CLEANED AND REMOVED ALL DIRT AND DUST FROM THE WATER HEATERS IN THE MEN'S AND THE WOMEN'S BATHROOMS IN THE DORM. THE GUTTERS ON THE LOG BUILDING WERE CLEANED.

OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR WILL BE ON DECEMBER 2ND AND 3RD IN THE LOG BUILDING. WE WILL BE TAKING DONATIONS THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28TH THRU 30TH. COME BY AND DO SOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, CRAFTS, HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS AND MUCH MORE. SANTA WILL BE THERE ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 3; BRING YOUR CAMERA TO TAKE PICTURES OF YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, OR YOUR NEIGHBORS' CHILDREN WITH SANTA.

LOMONA INVITES THE ENTIRE MOUNT CROSS CONGREGATION TO ATTEND A POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 6:00 P.M.; LOMONA WILL SUPPLY THE MEAT AND BEVERAGES, SO YOUR PORTION WOULD INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: APPETIZERS, SIDE DISHES, OR DESSERT.

REMINDER: DUE TO SOME CONFLICTS IN SCHEDULING THAT HAD OCCURRED DURING THE PREVIOUS MONTHS, PLEASE CALL ME TO CONFIRM DATES AND TIMES THAT YOU MAY NEED TO USE THE LOG BUILDING. MEMBERS IF YOU HAVE ANY POTENTIAL EVENTS THAT MAY REQUIRE THE USE OF THE LOG BUILDING, YOU WOULD NEED TO CONTACT ME BEFORE YOU FINALIZE ANY PLANS.

MARYANN ROWE
LOMONA DIRECTOR

Feed the Hungry

The four churches are working on a program to serve dinner once a month in the log building to those in the community that need us. It could be the single working parent who needs a breather, the elderly who are barely getting by, or those living on the edge of financial chaos. Our plan is coming together. Gary Bedworth, consultant to the military for food service, has planned our menus, organized the plan and will present it to us on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:00am at Mount Cross in the log building. Lunch will be served. We will work with the other churches in providing those to set up and take down, cook and serve. Please call June Schranz to attend or for more info - 468-1253.

Show the love of Christ to our community...Our hands do God's work!

June Schranz



Mount Cross Financial Report (January- October 2011)

Approved Budget Commitment.....	\$231,300.77 (83.3 % of 2011 budget)
Income.	\$232,226.15 (83.6 % of 2011 budget)
Expenditures.....	\$216,802.07 (78.1 % of 2011 budget)

Total Contributions to the Building Fund as of 11- 21-2011..... \$572,839.76
 Total Commitments to the Building Fund..... \$ 715,900.00

Income received from Safeway’s eScrip Program in 2011..... \$387.57
 Have you registered for the Safeway eScrip Program? Forms are beneath the mailboxes in Fellowship Hall.
 There is no cost to you, but there will be income for Mount Cross.

Total income received from Thrivent “Choice Dollars” in 2011
 Mount Cross..... \$3,382.00
 LOMONA. \$1,378.00

I encourage those of you who are Thrivent members and haven’t taken the opportunity to look into this grant program, please go to www.thrivent.com and click on Thrivent Choice. Or you can call 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836). In 2010, Thrivent members of Mount Cross directed \$1,827.00 to the church for causes which were important to them. This year, the total now is \$4,616.00 THANK YOU!

Thanks also to all disciples who continue to faithfully contribute from their treasures in order to enable Mount Cross to continue the ministries God has given to us.

Ray Wiebe
 Financial Secretary

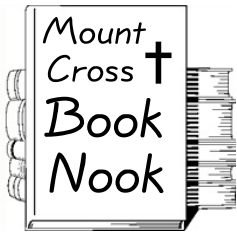
WELCA Annual Conference & More

The WELCA Annual Conference took place in Tucson, November 4-6. Mavis Denofsky, Eloise Jones, Nancy Peiffer, and Jan Zimbelman attended; Jan was the delegate. The theme was ‘Renew our steadfast spirit’ based on Isaiah 40:31 *but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.* Could be the theme for Mount Cross!

The conference consisted of the annual business meeting (election of officers, passing resolutions) and interest sessions. The interest sessions covered a variety of topics. I came away with some creative ideas for programming. If anyone is interested in doing more for evening or Saturday programming, let me know. I have some ideas and resources for us to look at.

The highlight of the conference was a fashion show at dinner. If you are in Tucson, you must check out the **Butterfly Boutique** (3725 E. Ina Rd, Marana, AZ 85741). This is an upscale ladies resale shop, although they also receive overstock donations from several local stores. All proceeds from the Boutique go to support the Springboard Home for Youth in Crisis; a place for young girls in trouble (runaways, prostitutes, addicts, etc.). The Springboard home has a 5 year rehabilitation success rate of 86%! Shop and support mission, what could be better!

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Zimbelman



There are five recent donations that will be on the cart this month.

They are:

Love in Every Room

by Karla Dornacher

31 Days of Praise

31 Days of Prayer,

both by Ruth and Warren Myers

Embraced by the Light

by Betty Eadie

Golden Bible Atlas

by Samuel Terrien.

Two books that are flying off the cart right now are Heaven is for Real and The Faith Club. Everyone who has checked them out says they are "must reads." So they will remain on the top shelf the rest of this month.

With Christmas gifting on our minds, there will be a card table filled with Freebie books for the taking near the water fountain. Be sure to take a look.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

Your Librarian,

Eloise Jones

Mount Cross,



**and a
Splendid New Year!!**

from
Vern Sanders



Jesus Stretches the Boundaries

On Thursday, December 8, at 10 A.M., the women's Bible Study will meet at the home of Eloise Jones at 2805 E. Pinegate Court in Payson. We will meet at the church parking lot at 9:45 A.M. to pool rides. Bring a bag lunch if you are able to stay for fellowship after the Bible Study. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Call Eloise at 478-4363 with questions. All women and friends are invited to join us for whatever length of time you can stay.

Our study will include the actions of Jesus in Mark 6:30-7:37 as we sense the rhythm of Jesus being in public and then retreating for rest and renewal. Jesus shows great compassion on crowds by feeding them in a culture where food was a life-and-death concern, even as it is for many people today. Jesus is one whose compassion is matched by God's generosity. In Mark 6:47-51, Jesus scared the disciples when he walked toward them on the water. Mark's account reveals Jesus power to quiet wind and waves but also portrays his intimate connection with God. In Mark 7 we get more indication of the simmering conflict between the teachers from Jerusalem and Jesus and his disciples. Jesus is remembered for a ministry that embraces outsiders and Gentiles. Jesus highlights the distinction between God's word and the traditions we develop to honor and protect our interpretation of God's word. We learn that differences of ethnicity, social class, and religious life are not important to Jesus. Jesus loves each person as they are.



December Birthdays

- 2 Carol Karlowski
- 4 Jan Bartoli
- 8 Dallas Blaylock
Liz Harpe
- 9 James West
- 10 Marc Irvin
- 12 Sue Hess
- 13 Dan Flores
- 15 Lynn Shoemaker
- 16 Lynn Hess
- 19 Helen Swenson
- 26 Alex Romberger
- 28 Christel Aigner
- 29 Bill Lee
- 31 Michelle Blaylock
Carole Wilder

December Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Bob/Dar Kometh
- 5 Roger/Ardie Poole
- 9 Jim/Majel Potter
- 26 Jim/Virginia McCall
- 28 Wes/Doral Romberger



Council Members

- Sylvia Erickson
- Terri Vlahovich
- John Shoemaker

Memorial Committee Member

- Nancy Peiffer

LOMONA Board Members

- Joe Vlahovich
- Jan Rudman

So What's Going on in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry?

Parent Meetings

Joe and Terry Vlahovich, Joe Dice, Yvette Harpe, Rene Apps and I are just completing a six session study called *Down and Out - Where Grace Takes You*. In this study we learn how grace takes us out into God's world, to love and obey, to co-create with God on behalf of others, for the sake of the world. It was my hope that two things would happen through this study. First, I wanted to build community between the parents of our youth and second, I wanted to equip parents with tools that would help them talk about "vocation" with their teenage children as they look at life beyond high school. I appreciate the commitment the parents have made in supporting this study.

Trunk-or-Treat

October 31st: Liz, Yvette and Dean Harpe, Troy Cline, Tyler and Rene Apps, Jan and Glenn Zimelman, Diana Fletcher and I all served at the town's Trunk-or-Treat community event. Liz Harpe offered her truck for the jungle booth. Rene Apps prepared a picnic style dinner for everyone... hotdogs, chips and there was plenty of candy for dessert. Joe Dice and Joe Vlahovich helped get electricity to our booth.

Pizza and Movie night

November 6th: we gathered at my house and watched the movie *Ultimate Gift* and ate pizza. Joey Dice, Josh and Zach Horsley, Liz and Dean Harpe, Troy Cline, Tyler Apps, Diana Fletcher, Glenn Zimelman, Mei and Ebony all participated in this event. Sometimes it is just fun to hang out together.

Service Projects

November 12th: Dean, Liz, and Yvette Harpe, Troy Cline, Josh Horsley, Rene Apps and I all volunteered a couple hours of our Saturday and helped out at the local Saint Vincent DePaul Food Bank. Our assignment was an unusual one - we spent a couple hours bagging dog food. There were several hundreds of pounds of dog food donated and we were asked to re-bag it into smaller portions. I believe Martin Luther would have been proud of our commitment and willingness to serve.... We all were pretty sick of handling dog food by the time it was over but I am certain each bag of food went to needy families and loving pets.

Last but not least, Zach Romberger and I spent two Sundays recycling all the old green hymnals that were no longer needed.

Blessings and Peace,
Jodi Lorenz

It's Good to be Over 70 ½ !! **Charitable IRA Rollovers**

Included in the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance and Job Creation Act of 2010 was the extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover provision through December 31, 2011. This provision allows individuals to make charitable gifts (i.e. Mount Cross Church) from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). What this means to you:

- Taxpayers 70 ½ and older may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to a charity, free of Federal Tax.
- Your transfer must come directly from your plan administrator to the charity. The transfer then counts toward the taxpayer's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2011.
- You will not have to pay individual taxes on the amount donated which then results in a sizeable savings of taxes paid for the year.

This opportunity will expire December 31, 2011 unless the government extends it. Contact your financial planner. This is one way to help the Mount Cross Building Fund.

Last month was the annual WELCA convention which was held in Tuscon at the beginning of November. Our delegate was Jan Zimbelman. Also attending were Mavis Denofsky, Eloise Jones, and myself. We all had a wonderful time. The workshops were interesting, the bookstore well-stocked, the banquet delicious and the fashion show terrific. Bishop Talmadge gave a "State of the Synod" message. Things are changing throughout the national and synodical organizations. More than ever, the whole Lutheran church needs our support. Presentations from our National Board member, Betsy Baguhn, and past president, Susan Drane, had us nearly rolling in the aisles laughing. You don't know what you missed!

Our December Bible study will be at the home of Eloise Jones. She lives at 2805 Pinegate Court (*1313) just off the Chaparral Pines entrance. As usual, we may carpool from the church at 9:45 AM. We have a fellowship time following the study, and if you wish, bring a sandwich or salad. The hostess supplies beverages and dessert.

The quilts that we have completed were on display and were blessed on November 13th. Those on display were only a small portion that the quilters completed this year. Many have gone to our mission at Rock Point, Time Out Shelter, and New Beginings. Quilting resumes in January. No sewing talent is needed, but the need for these quilts continues to grow. We do not quilt in November or December so plan on joining us when we resume in January. We have fun!

Nancy Peiffer
WELCA president



If you live in the Good Samaritan Majestic Rim, or elsewhere, and need a ride to church, please contact John Shoemaker at 474-8820 or Ed Blair prior to the Sunday for which you need a ride and we will do our best to accommodate you!

Friendship Club Happenings

The "Mystery Guest" at the November Friendship Club meeting was. . .

Bob Morgan.

Bob,
Thank you for sharing your time and talent with our group. It was enjoyed by all!

There will not be a Friendship Club meeting held in December this year. In lieu of the normal FRIENDSHIP CLUB "Christmas GETOGETHER," we will be participating in the "All Congregation Christmas Party" potluck on Friday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the log building. See you all there!

Ed
Friendship Club Acting President



Dear friends at Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Over the past several years, your congregation has played a vital role in our ministry in Senegal, supporting us not only with your financial contributions through the ELCA, but also holding us, our family, and our work in your prayers. We are truly grateful for your faithful partnership, putting all our hands together to take part in God's work. As you know, we have now completed our service in Senegal with Global Mission. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we transition to life in the USA.

With many thanks,
Peter and Sarah Grow-Hanson

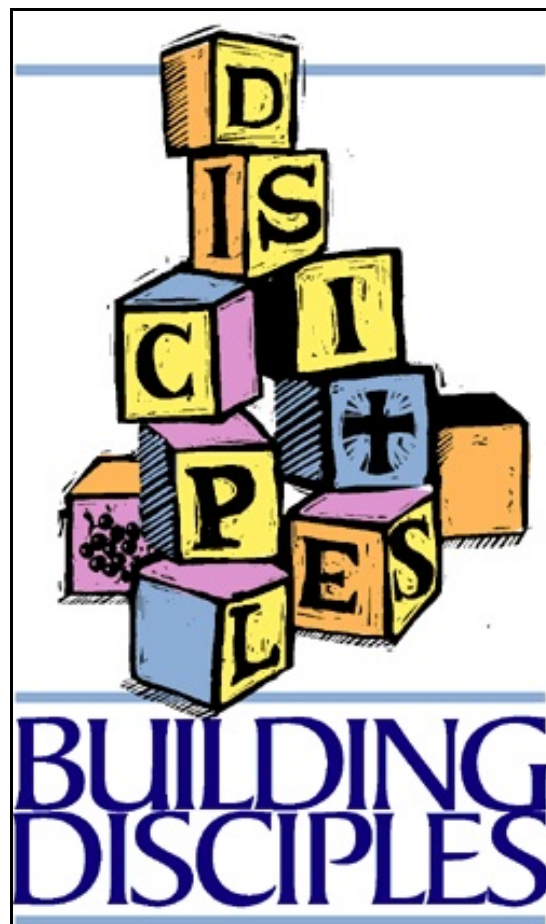
Thank you to all our Mount Cross family for their prayers and good wishes for our granddaughter, Randi Jo Wood. Her brain tumor has been removed and she recovered in record time and is now back in school. Thankfully she has no long term deficits. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate each of you.

Charlotte & Jon Robinson

Discipleship Update

Small groups have started! This is exciting. We have a small group meeting in the valley; one meeting one morning a month; another meeting one afternoon a month; and one meeting one evening a month at the Majestic. There is still room for more to join a group. Check the Discipleship bulletin board for small group facilitator information. Contact one of those facilitators or contact Jan Zimelman, 363-0151; imacoffeebean99@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining a group.

Discipleship Classes: We will not be offering any of the discipleship classes this month so that people are free to join in all the other Mount Cross Christmas celebrations. There are many opportunities for fellowship and sharing God's love with the community of Payson during this month: be part of the Mount Cross float in the Electric Light Parade; join the Carolers; invite a friend to the Advent suppers and the Hanging of the Greens; hang out with the kids of Mount Cross Cares. All of these are great opportunities to invite a friend to join the fun which is a simple way to invite others to experience God's love; to be a disciple!



Oh, The Weather Outside Is Frosty!

As the weather grows cold, our Mount Cross Cares Kids need warm jackets. The mittens have been donated.

We need jackets in the following sizes:

5/6 – 1 boy, 1 girl

7/8 – 2 boys, 1 girl

12 – 4 boys

14 – 1 boy, 3 girls

16/18 – 1 boy, 1 girl

One Middle School brother~ size Men's Med

Some of our families have decided to pass "down" the jackets their kids have outgrown. One of our church members donated small women's jackets a while back. They are now being worn by some of our older girls. We only need jackets as we have no room for any other clothing. Please bring any jacket donations with you to Sunday service, or better yet, come on Tuesday, December 13, around 4:00 p.m. and meet the children of Mount Cross Cares Ministry; they would love to meet you and share some time with you!

Thank you for your support!

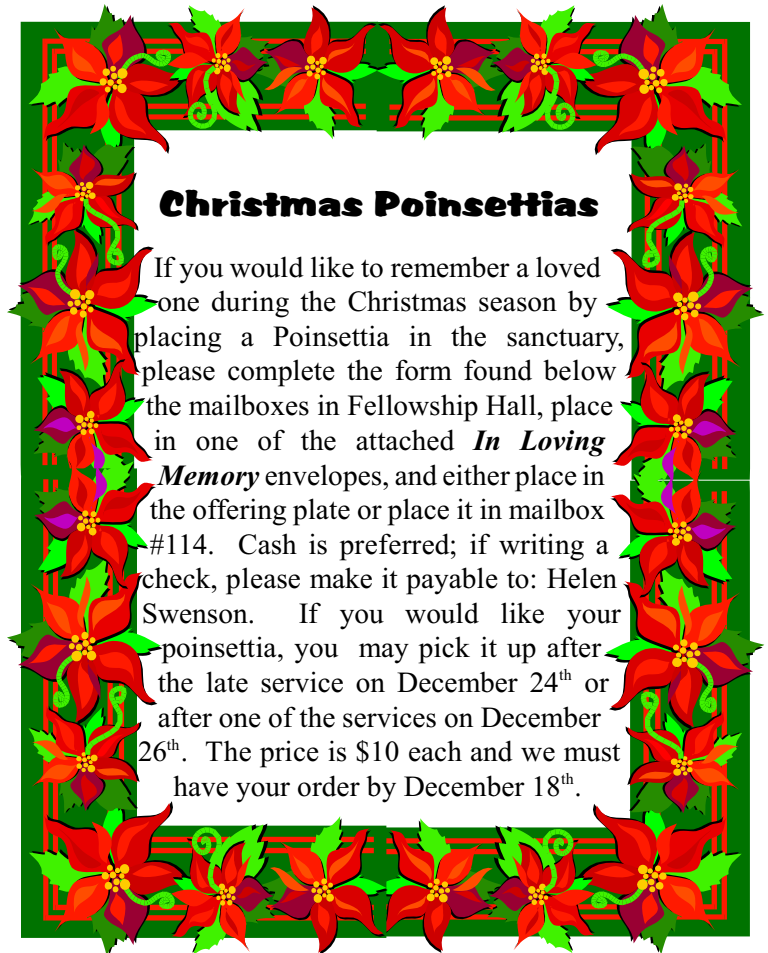
June Schranz



ATTENTION Committee Chairpersons: The deadline for the annual report is December 15. Please submit your report via email to secretary@mountcross.org by the deadline. Special allowances will be made for those committees awaiting bank financial statements.

CONTRIBUTING IN 2012

THE 2012 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE LOOK FOR THEM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ON A TABLE NEAR THE MAILBOXES.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to remember a loved one during the Christmas season by placing a Poinsettia in the sanctuary, please complete the form found below the mailboxes in Fellowship Hall, place in one of the attached *In Loving Memory* envelopes, and either place in the offering plate or place it in mailbox #114. Cash is preferred; if writing a check, please make it payable to: Helen Swenson. If you would like your poinsettia, you may pick it up after the late service on December 24th or after one of the services on December 26th. The price is \$10 each and we must have your order by December 18th.



Virtual Mail?

January 1st brings in a new year; along with the new year it will also bring about a new way of receiving your monthly newsletter. The Council had discussed ways of being good stewards of the financial gifts of Mount Cross disciples and one of those ways involved how the monthly newsletter is received. In mid-November, an email was sent out providing a choice of three different ways that Mount Cross disciples could receive the Chronicle. In addition to the email survey which was sent to those with email addresses, a form had been passed at services providing the secretary with information about how each household would like to receive the newsletter. The Chronicle will no longer be sent through bulk mail via the U.S. Postal Service. The savings to the church in postage costs would be approximately \$500. annually. This number does not include the cost of paper, copy machine toner/usage, or the secretary's time processing the printed mailings.

Those who have indicated that they would like to receive the newsletter electronically will be sent an email with a link to the church website's newsletter page, those who want physical copies and attend services regularly will have theirs placed in their church mailbox, and those who desire theirs mailed will receive them via first class mail.

Dear Friends,
On behalf of the children, our staff, and the community of Rock Point, I want to personally thank you for your kindness, generosity and support to the Navajo Lutheran Mission; without a congregation like yours, our ministry to the Navajo people would not exist. God bless you and your congregation.
Pastor Lynn Hubbard, Executive Director