



MAY 2017

A publication of Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West, AZ

The Pledge of Allegiance



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Welcome to May *By Pastor Phill*

Don't forget that we now have only one Sunday service, at 9AM, and will have only one service until the dead of winter, or what passes for the dead of winter in the Arizona desert.

We've had our spring Voters' Assembly, an opportunity to share the "state of the church". We're reminded that through the Christian stewardship of our members and friends we are in a sound financial condition. That sound condition enables us to maintain our physical plant here as well in tip-top condition – it our duty to turn over to the next generations a church which is not worn out but up to date, that they may be proud of Crown of Life as we are now. Folks who are new to town and happen to stop by are always impressed with our sanctuary. When you come next time, look around with new eyes. Nice place.

A part of that sound financial condition is our growing Endowment Fund, now something over \$300,000. The current operating rules of the fund disallow use of the principal or income from it for any regular budget item, and do allow for a Board or group here to apply for funds from income for a special need that may arise. We are intentional about growing the Endowment Fund for future needs of our parish, as none of us knows how changing demographics in our nation and area will impact Crown of Life. A strong "second source" of funding, together with the plate stewardship of our members and friends, will ensure the viability of our parish in years to come.

There were questions as well in our Voters' Meeting about the Elders of the church and their responsibilities. In particular there was a comment made that the Elders these days do not sponsor social events for the members of their Zone, as might have been done by former Elders. That is not the purview of the Board of Elders. Here is a short list of the duties with which they are charged:

- Work in the regular church services distributing communion and lighting/extinguishing candles, and be at memorial services for Zone members as part of support for families;
- Be guidance and support for the pastoral staff, meeting regularly to discuss church services, music, communion practice, pastoral duties, ushers, Altar Guild, etc.;
- Be in contact with Zone members whose attendance has changed, inquiring whether their health or spiritual issues have arisen, etc.;

continued on page 5

Summer Worship Begins!

Our Summer Worship Schedule begins on the first weekend in May. Service times are as follows:

- Saturday Worship – 4:00 PM
- Sunday Worship – 9:00 AM
- Sunday Bible Class – 10:15 AM

A Message from the President

April was certainly a busy month! We said good-bye to many of our winter residents. We went from the solemn time of Lent to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally to our joyous Easter celebration. Thanks to all of our wonderful parishioners who took part and helped make all of our services so meaningful. April culminated with our Spring Voters Assembly providing the congregation with updates on the activities of the council and the various boards that work so diligently to keep our church running smoothly.

Now that the busy month of April is behind us, I'd like to wish all of our winter resident's safe travels and a healthy summer. I'd also like to encourage and enlist all of our members to spend some time this summer witnessing to those you know who do not attend church regularly or have drifted away from the church. Listen and talk to your family members, your friends, your neighbors, and others in your every-day life. Tell them about your positive experiences. God has equipped all of us to share our faith with those we know. As 1 Peter 2:9 states: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light". I pray that we may all show at least one person His marvelous light.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Brodzeller

Why did Jesus return for 40 days?

by Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

Jesus returned for 40 days following His resurrection to reach out to His grieving disciples and followers and demonstrate to them He was alive, He had conquered death, and He was indeed the risen Christ. "... Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scriptures, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time.... Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles." (1 Corinthians 15:6).

During these 40 days, Jesus comforted His disciples and convinced them they had a future. He also taught His disciples and prepared them to spread the message of the gospel to the world.

Jesus' birth was according to scripture; His preaching taught wisdom; His persecution and death fulfilled prophecies; His conquering death was a miracle. His ascension to Heaven, more than any other event, confirms His divinity.

Today, Jesus continues to reach out to us. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20) Jesus actually does more than stand at the door. He seeks us. He searches for

us. In the deepest depths of our souls, He comes to us. He reaches out to us in our pain, in our doubt and fear, and in our joy. He is always there for us.

Jesus' disciples were troubled and fearful when He went to them. "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (John 20:19) Jesus also instructed, "As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21) "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations...." (Luke 24:47)

In accordance with Jesus' teaching, as we ourselves are comforted, we are to comfort. As Jesus forgives, we are to forgive. If you are grieving because you have lost a loved one, please join our GriefCare group as Jesus draws alongside us on our journey through grief to teach us, comfort us and show us the hope and the future that is in Him. We meet in the Chapel on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Crown of Life members and non-members are welcome.

Peace be with you.

Book Club by Judy Brodzeller

Our LAST MEETING before summer break will be May 15. The selection is *Woman of God* by James Patterson and Maxine Patro.

We meet on the third Monday of each month from September-May at 10:30 AM.

Joining the Church Triumphant

Lyle Geer – March 26, 2017

Palmer Koosmann – April 13, 2017

Rev. Marc vanderWerf – April 22, 2017

Mary Schmitt – April 23, 2017

Doris Schiller – April 23, 2017

We celebrate the victory won for the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved as well, knowing that God honors our tears.

Stephen Ministry *by Ken Grover*

The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. Psalm 147:11

Hope is a wonderful gift from God. Hope is a source of strength and courage in the face of life's harshest trials. When life hurts and dreams fade, nothing helps like hope. Hope isn't merely a nice option that helps us clear a hurdle, it is essential for our survival. To hope is to believe in the possibility of a favorable future. It is the opposite of worry, fear, and despair. Hopeful people live positive and fruitful lives. Hope implies a certain discontentment with the way things are and propels people to work for a more desirable God-pleasing future. People who hear and believe the good news about Jesus' resurrection will hope in God, even when all human reasoning for hope is gone. Our hope is infinitely bound up with God. Christian hope comes from and rests securely with God. God is the originator of hope. As Christian caregivers, Stephen Ministers are facilitators of God's hope.

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Pastor Gary at 623-546-6228 or Gloria Michel at 623-544-4569. May God continue to bless, guide, protect you and keep you in His grace.

History at a Glance: In 1988, President Reagan designated the first Thursday in May as the national Day of prayer, urging Americans to ask God for "His blessings, His peace, and the resting of His kind and holy hands on ourselves, our Nation, our friends in the defense of freedom, and all mankind, now and always."

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye

A reminder to all our wonderful associate members (and even you full-timers who are headed North), God give you safety and good health until we are able to be together again. A reminder ... please take a few minutes and call the church office before you leave!

Parish Nurse Update

by Carol Steficek, Parish Nurse

Travel Safely in Good Health

Whenever you are traveling this summer – short trips or long ones – and by whatever modes of transportation – car, plane, bus or train – you need to be safe. Here are some things you need to be aware of:

STAY HYDRATED. The heat saps your strength, can dry out your sinuses, and can cause dehydration. Don't count on access to water so carry your own bottled water everywhere you go.

CARRY AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER. In a plane wipe off the tray in front of you before you use it.

If you can't wash your hands in a restaurant use this before you eat.

USE CAUTION IN PUBLIC LAVATORIES. Use the disposable seat covers. Use an extra paper towel to turn off the faucet and on the door handle as you exit. This is one of the most contaminated places you can visit.

BUILD UP YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM.

Make it a daily practice to eat right and get plenty of sleep so you can fight off any nasty germs you might encounter. Take your multivitamin and mineral supplement especially when you are traveling to boost your immunity.

Blessings...Have a safe and enjoyable summer whatever you are doing and where ever you are going!

LWML Update *by Barbie Aden, VP Communications*

The final tally is in for the **National** 2015-2017 biennium mite projects. Thanks to all your monthly mite donations, and that of others around the USA, we raised \$2,097,904.23 by the end of the National biennium (March 31, 2017)! God bless all of you who donated your spare change and prayed for these 19 mission projects. And God bless all the leaders, coordinators, missionaries, and volunteers who work so faithfully to spread the saving message of Christ's love and forgiveness. We truly are God's workmanship, giving all glory and thanks to God.

Treasurer's Report

by Dan Mehner, Treasurer

The March financial statement shows budgeted year-to-date income of \$224,750 and actual income of \$240,033. Year-to-date budgeted expenditures were \$193,750 with actual expenses of \$166,222. Here's where we stood at the end of March:

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Receipts	\$ 87,575	\$ 90,060
Expenses	\$ 64,583	\$ 58,927

We've Got Mail!

Dear Pastors & Members of COL,

We have been blessed by our 14 years at COL. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many experiences and growth opportunities we have had. We will always maintain a special fondness for so many dear friends including those in our small group Bible study and our leaders Marty & Margaret Irwin and Karl & Lorry Neuman. We will miss so much: a church alive with His Spirit, our pastors...each one, the wonderful music and Sunday Bible Class. Thankfully, we will take the Lord and His Word with us. Now, it's time for us to return 'home' to Minnesota. We will live on the SD/MN border, the area of our youth while we wait for a senior condominium to be built in Anoka, MN, our home for 40 years. Our temporary address is: P.O. Box 154, 306 2nd Ave. No., Marietta, MN 56257.

Blessings to all,
Orlyn & Bev Olson

Articles for the
Summer Jewels are
due in the church
office no later than
May 15

Thoughts by Pastor Gary

As I began today with my devotions, I went to Luke's Gospel to see what had happened after that first Easter morning. In Luke 24: 46-47, Jesus said "This is what is written: "The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." In Jesus' words, we hear the prophecy fulfilled.

Like an anvil, the Bible has worn out many a hammer. Despite all attacks made against it, every day thousands upon thousands of copies of the Bible are sold.

More important than the selling of the Bible is the reading of it, for it does no good to buy the book and then let dust gather on it. But when we open God's book, and we read, mark, lean, and "inwardly digest it" (as one of the prayers of the church puts it), great blessings are given to us. It is a storehouse containing food for the spiritually hungry. It is a fountain where thirsty souls can drink the fresh water of life. It is a treasure chest from which God's precious truths can be learned and applied.

The Bible is precious because it bears witness to Jesus Christ. It testifies that all people (that's you and me) are lost in sin, but that God has organized a rescue mission – and the leader of the search-and-save party is Jesus himself. That is why He came, as it is written, "God so loved the world (so loved you and me and all fellow human beings) that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3: 16). As long as we live, we can sing with our children and grandchildren even great grandchildren, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Christ the Savior of the world is the key to the Holy Scriptures. With that key the Holy Spirit opens our hearts and minds to understanding and believing the greatest story ever told. Wanting others to know about Jesus, we translate the Bible in many languages. Now people in almost every nation can read God's Word. It makes them wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, who went to the cross to atone for sin and then rose again in our behalf.

So open your Bible today and every day and let God's Word bring you closer to your dearest friend, Jesus!

Price Increase for Altar Flowers

First, what a beautiful, colorful Easter Altar from your generosity! Our Risen Lord and we truly thank you.

The cost of our weekly Altar flowers has increased to \$40 per arrangement. This will provide better arrangements for less than most churches pay. Thank you for your understanding.

And, last but not least, I wish to thank the Flower Committee for their dedication.

Florella Denzin, Flower Chairperson

Thank you!!!

From the pastors and staff, a hearty "Thank You" to the many volunteers who worked so diligently to make our Lent and Easter season such a spiritual blessing – both to ourselves and the many guests we invited to worship and participate with us. It was a moving experience, and every effort given by our choir, *Ablaze*, ushers, altar guild, flower committee, greeters, board members, etc., etc., made it a joy! Thank you! To God truly be the glory!

Church Office Theft

by Pastor Phill

By now you've heard we suffered a break in and theft here at church. Clearly the bad guys had "cased" the facility, and found a door they could jimmy – the outside door to the janitor's closet. Nothing was taken or disturbed except in the office; we lost a computer and a monitor, and all the cords from the remaining machines in the open part of the office were pulled out, the items apparently ready to be stolen. It seems the thieves were interrupted by something, perhaps Pastor Gary's early arrival that Tuesday morning? Paperwork was taken from desks, although nothing from which identities could be gleaned so none of us is at risk in that sense.

Our Head Trustee, Rollie Mann, is working with contractors to review our doors and hardware – the panic hardware and doors are now 28 years old and the break-in is catalyst to repair/replace/upgrade.

We have had several members generously offer to replace the computers through contacts of theirs; it seems odd to decline such generosity but there is an operational reason for it: we have for years relied on a contractor to supply machines, install software, manage the network, ensure back-ups both local and remote are accomplished, etc. Working with one source we are assured of compatibility, warranties, updates, and the like. So thank you for the thought; replacement equipment is on order.

Welcome to May continued from cover

- If non-attendance persists, and the cause is other than health, instruct the office to send a series of letters of concern, ultimately dropping members if no response is received;
- Be in contact with Zone members simply to let them know they are remembered, for some including visitation.

In addition, most of the Elders volunteer as ushers, attend Bible studies, are generally visible as contributing members of COL. The consistent frustration I hear from Elders is that members of the church do not return phone calls, and sometimes rebuff personal visits – makes them wonder how they can help if they cannot communicate with you. No system is perfect, no Elder is perfect. If you're feeling as though your Elder is ignoring you, call them on it. They will appreciate the reminder, and you will find them responsive.

In the 2017 phone directory a "Know Your Elder" page, followed by an "Elder Zone Listing" which shows you which Elder, by Zone, is yours. When new Elders are elected they send a letter of introduction to each member of their new Zone. When a new member joins the church the Zone Elder delivers the welcome packet (Constitution, member directory, envelopes, etc.). By the way, Zones are no longer geographical, as we discovered several years ago inequity in the distribution of members to Zones. Now, when folks join the church, they are placed in Zones in rotation.

At the beginning of each Elder meeting we spend time discussing the theology and practice of the LCMS, these days walking item by item through the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, having gone through Luther's Large Catechism, and before that Dr. Mueller's plain-language book Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess. Pastor Gary leads these discussions. Our desire is that, as Elders and pastors in this place, we are on the same page in our services, liturgy, and practice. Oh and yes, they complain sometimes that I choose unfamiliar hymns...

Each meeting addresses any situations among members in individual Zones that might require further involvement from a spiritual perspective. Each meeting hears reports from the pastors as to concerns, needs in the parish, etc. Each meeting begins in prayer and ends in prayer led by individual Elders. My opinion: our Elders do their jobs well. Do you disagree? Speak to me.

Meanwhile, may God bless your travels, your summer, your families, and your worship here at Crown of Life or wherever you might be in this month of May!

Benevilla Special Offer!

Learn more about Benevilla's Program & Services

Tour Benevilla's main campus – get a behind the scenes tour of their programs & services (Lucy Anne's Place – for early-moderate stage dementia; Home Delivered Meals; Birt's Bistro; Volunteer Opportunities, Wirtzie's Childcare Center; Surprise Community Garden), and much more. Like the saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words", you will learn and see things that can help you, your spouse, family members, relatives, and neighbors.

Neighborhood chat – gather some of your friends and neighbors together for an informal chat about Benevilla's programs and services in the comfort of your own home.

Contact Bill Grigg to schedule your Benevilla Tour or Neighborhood Chat. Bill can be reached at: 623-584-4999; or bgrigg@benevilla.org.

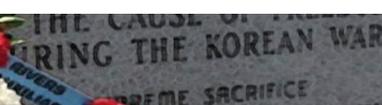
We've Got Mail!

Dear Pastor Phill,
I was reading today's Portals of Prayer and learned that today is the day we commemorate Mark for his evangelism. He had beautiful feet and used them to spread the Good News.

You have beautiful feet too, and I and all the other members of Crown of Life owe you so much. I thank you for your sermons which are inspiring and for all the other things you do that we don't even know about and being an inspiration to us all.

We also owe Pastor Gary AND the rest of the staff and all the volunteers so much and they, too, have beautiful feet.

Norma Garavaglia



Those Who Serve

Senior Pastor Rev. Phill Robbins
 Assisting Pastor Rev. Gary Smith
 Pastoral Assistants
 Rev. Vern Ermeling, Rev. Roland Kroll,
 Rev. Ron Luedemann, Rev. Ray Mirly

ELDERS

(Sat) Ron Mara, Duane Rawson
 (Sun) Gerry Harpt, Duane Rawson

TRUSTEES

(Sat) Paul Beilstein
 (Sun) Emil Tomazin

ALTAR GUILD

(Sat) Kathleen Johnson, Nada Workman
 (Sun) Kathy Beilstein, Karen Murphy

GREETERS

(Sat) Joyce Hassan, Jan Knutsen,
 Nora Mara
 (Sun) Janet Blakley, Sharon Kristof,
 Margaret Tomazin

GUEST BOOK

(Sat) Pat Petersen
 (Sun) Mary Mehner

FLOWERS

Florella Denzin, Jan Drake, Pat Fronk,
 Vicki Jolin, Pat King, Sheila Mecham,
 Karen Murphy, Darlene McAfee,
 Jan Tvinnereim, Cora Weiss

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Paul Stuempfig, Coordinator
 (Sa) Joe Jellison, Dave Sawyer
 (Su) Bruce Borchert, Dave
 Brodzeller, Gerry Harpt,
 Tom Mertins, Ron Schumann,
 Paul Stuempfig

SCREENS

Tom Mertins, Coordinator

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Bob Murray, Darlene McAfee,
 Wiley McAfee

USHERS

(Sat) Jim & Donna Giles,
 Ralph & Carole Reinke
 (Sun) Dan Mehner, Captain
 Chuck Blakley, Roy Blanke,
 Richard Dornfeld, Jan Drake,
 Jim Drake, Myron Holen,
 Ed Kristof, Gary Kowatch,
 Lola Leshney, Tom Leshney,
 Linda Mann, Rollie Mann,
 Diane Thoene, Al Waldron

Happy Birthday

- 1 Alice Krause
- 2 LeAnna Grell
- 2 James Kunzie
- 4 Myrna Borchert
- 4 Marilyn Goodnight
- 4 Lawrence Mills
- 6 Fred Birkendahl
- 6 Nancy McAfee
- 7 Mel Howry
- 7 Arthur Vogel
- 8 David Hargreaves
- 8 Ed Kristof
- 9 Donald O. Carlson
- 9 Ken Grover
- 9 Barbara Murray
- 11 Larry Hafeman
- 11 Pat Petersen
- 11 Paul Stuempfig
- 12 Darlene Ross
- 13 Tom Mertins
- 14 Iva Robinson
- 15 Rhonda Adam
- 15 Lloyd Greiner
- 15 Virginia Speaker
- 15 Fran Wallin
- 16 Ron Mara
- 16 Dianne Mertins
- 17 Walter Sullivan
- 18 Debbie Mirly
- 19 Ruth Anderson
- 19 Mary Fritz
- 19 Bob Holstein
- 19 Gloria Redburn
- 19 Bill Schulzetenberg
- 20 Don Dupras
- 20 Jeanette Martin
- 21 Gloria Adams
- 22 Ralph Cavalieri
- 22 Joyce Hall
- 22 Dave Roeker
- 23 Shirley Gaden
- 24 Gloria Mansfield
- 24 Ed Pisacich
- 24 Norma Wadsworth
- 25 Gary Kowatch
- 25 Roberta Lane
- 26 Mary Mehner
- 27 Eunice Elias
- 27 Dan Mehner
- 27 Joe Rau
- 28 Marion Abraham
- 28 Lynn Johnson
- 28 Dean Judkins
- 29 Sandy Krause

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Wes & Marilyn Squires
- 4 Ron & Angie Twite
- 6 Marv & Vita TenBroeke
- 8 Ed & Sharon Kristof
- 12 Ken & Laurel Coffman
- 14 Duane & Orvillena Neal
- 16 Joe & Georgia Bailey
- 22 Henry & Dene Munzinger
- 23 Mark & Rhonda Adam
- 24 Richard & Kathy Hall
- 24 Jerry & Karen Myers
- 25 Ken & Rita Grover
- 25 Neal & Ruth Moore
- 29 Rev. John & Vi Pope
- 29 Al & Lucy Stoudemire
- 31 Don & Colleen Lekawa

Altar Flowers

- 6-7 Karan Bellemare, in celebration of son Kyle's graduation from ASU
- 13-14 Ed, Lisa, Alex, Kayla, Christine, Charlie, Matt & Kris Lingenfelter, in loving memory of Aggie Wasem
- 13-14 Ed & Sharon Kristof, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary
- 13-14 Marilyn Kurvers, in loving memory of John Kurvers and their mothers
- 13-14 Nora Mara, in celebration of Ron's birthday
- 13-14 Duane & Cookie Rawson, in honor of daughter Beth's graduation from U of A
- 20-21 Bob & Jan Barden, in memory of loved ones
- 20-21 Chuck & Janet Blakley, in loving memory of son Steve's 2nd anniversary in Heaven

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
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OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 7:30AM-3:30PM; E-MAIL: OFFICE@COLCHURCH.COM; PH: 623.546.6228

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Originally **Memorial Day** was known as **Decoration Day**, meant to honor the Union and the Confederate soldiers who died during the American Civil War. By the 1900s it had become a **day** to celebrate all American soldiers who died while serving in the military. It wasn't until 1967 that it was legally named **Memorial Day**.

This Memorial Day we salute the men and women who served to protect our Country.