

The JEWELS

FEBRUARY 2018

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

Ash Wednesday Service

On February 14 we will begin the Lenten season with two services at 4 PM and 7 PM. We will, just before communing together, impose ashes on our foreheads or on our hands, recognizing our sinful condition, and yet celebrating the perfect forgiveness of sin in Christ Jesus.

Ash Wednesday Dinner Planned

Sign up at the Information Center if you plan to attend the Ash Wednesday dinner following the 4:00 PM service on February 14. The dinner will be catered by Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant. The price is \$10.00 per person.

New Member Information Class Begins

Pastor Phill's Bible study designed for people desiring to join our church as members begins on February 4 at 9:15 AM in the Chapel. Current members are invited to attend this "Christian basics" refresher. As Lutheran Christians we have a unique view of scripture that informs our practice and theology, and these classes will introduce those topics. March 25 (Palm Sunday) will be New Member Sunday for those "graduates" who desire to become members of our church.

Big Results at Nicea in 325 by Pastor Phill, Senior Pastor

What! Ash Wednesday is the 14th of this month! How can that be? Who figures this stuff out, anyway? OK, here it is, ready? At the Council of Nicea in 325AD, a bunch of really smart church guys, decided to fix the date of Easter as the Sunday after the spring equinox. So, that comes down to us the first Sunday *after the first full moon* on or after March 21.

Wait, you say. In different time zones that paschal full moon, as it is called, can occur on different days. Good point. So the church has set the paschal full moon as the 14th day of the lunar month (which begins with the new moon) – and the church set the date of the equinox as March 21, even though it might occur on March 20. Those two moves gets us to a universal date for Easter in the Western Church.

Nice, huh? And then the Orthodox church uses the ancient Julian calendar to fix the date of Easter, which of course means they have a different date than we do. Let's not go there. Once Easter is calculated, we move 40 days (not counting Sundays) backward to find Ash Wednesday, and 50 days ahead of Easter (counting Sundays) for Pentecost (pente meaning 50, of course).

Next year, 2019, is a late Easter (and so late Ash Wednesday, naturally): 2019 Ash Wednesday will be March 6, and Easter 2019 April 21 – that's a late stay for some of you!

One year at a time, you say? OK, see you on February 14 for Ash Wednesday, March 29 for Maundy Thursday, March 30 for Good Friday, and April 1, the Atheists' National Holiday, for Easter.

continued on back

COL Safety and Security Committee by Joel Block, Chairman

Your "Safety and Security" is very important to the leadership at Crown Of Life. Because of instances that have happened in other churches across the country, the leadership at Crown of Life has requested a committee be formed to assess "Safety and Security" in our congregation. We had our initial meeting on January 9th, and over the next months will develop a plan to be presented to the Church Council for approval. After the Church Council approves the plan, it will be presented to all members of the congregation. If anyone has questions or suggestions regarding the "Safety and Security" of our congregation, please contact me at 1-720-837-6692.

From Your President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of February brings us Valentine's Day, Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Although many Christians celebrate these days, I would like to focus on Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent. Part of the routine is a smudge of ashes on the forehead. During the next 40 days (not counting Sundays) some commit to giving up something – others understand that Ash Wednesday is actually the beginning of a longer religious observation that goes back more than a thousand years.

Starting in the fourth century, new Christians planning to be baptized on Easter eve spent 40 days prior preparing for the sacred ritual as a show of support and solidarity. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending the day before Easter, the 40-day period is called the season of Lent.

In modern times, Christians use this time before Easter as an opportunity for introspection, repentance and fasting. Many Christians focus on the fasting component for 40 days as a reason to give up a vice or other distractions from God.

The wearing of ashes is a Biblical expression of repentance and humility. They represent the acknowledgement of death and pain resulting from selfishness and sin. Originally the ashes were given only to outcast Christians who had made a public statement of repentance and wished to rejoin the Church on Easter. As the years went by, entire congregations began wearing the ash on the first day of Lent as a symbol of similar spiritual renewal.

On this day let the ashes prepare us to better appreciate the death and resurrection of Christ through self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial.

The Lord's blessings be with you always,

Jay

Your Mission Board at Work *by Gene Axelson, Board Chairman*

We were fortunate to have Pastor Ray Mirly attend our January meeting where he presented his idea for a Witness Workshop that he will conduct on Saturday, February 17, at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. The Mission Board supports this effort and encourages COL members to attend.

We reviewed a number of requests for financial support and were able to approve one from Evergreen Lutheran Church & School located in the city of Detroit, Michigan for \$1,500 to purchase a new computer. They are the only Lutheran school still open in Detroit and are having a difficult time. Other requests will be researched further with determinations to be made in future months.

We established monthly payments of our budgeted pledges to the District office in Irvine, and to the Circuit (Region 4 Mission Council) in Arizona. We also created quarterly payments of our budgeted pledges to Trinity/Hope food program in Haiti, to the Adopt-a-Student programs at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and to Fort Wayne Seminary, and to the Cross-Cultural Ministry program at Concordia, Irvine; and our pledge to Benevilla here in Surprise, AZ; and to Mission Central Missionaries, as well as our pledge to Valley Lutheran High School in Phoenix. We do this to help cash flow for the recipients and for Crown of Life. Other budgeted mission support pledges will be handled at various times during the year.

We received several pieces of correspondence requesting we share with the congregation: From Mission Central: "Your kind gift of \$2,000 couldn't have come at a better time. We have been praying that God will raise up others to support Pastor Sharp and his

little family down in Uruguay. They are the only missionaries we have there and they are starting new churches."

From Hiromasa Fukushima, Principal, Urawa Lutheran School in Japan: "My wife and I remember very fondly our visit to your church in August of last year. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet all of you in person and to share a bit of how the Lord's hand is mightily working in this country and specifically here on our campus. Please continue to pray for our ministry."

From Christopher Deneen, Adopt-A-Student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis: "I would like to thank you for your generosity and for your support of me at Concordia Seminary which is incredible, and more than I could ever imagine. It means so much to me, and I cannot express in words how thankful I am for you."

From Tyler McMiller, Adopt-A-Student at Fort Wayne Seminary: Thank you for your prayers and your continuous support in my seminary education. Crown of Life is in my prayers."

From Missionary Dickes in Papua New Guinea: "Thank you for supporting us with your prayers and financial gifts. We feel truly blessed by each and every one of you and pray God will richly bless you with His grace as we begin a new Church year."

From Missionary Trinklein in Seoul, South Korea: "Thank you for loving and supporting us so faithfully across the miles. Prayer requests: Boldness and courage to share Christ at every opportunity. Grace with time management and fortification against discouragement."

From Missionary Lehman in Spain: "These are exciting times here in Spain. The Lord continues to bless and grow His church here. And we thank you for your continued prayers and support! We thank the Lord for each of you."

The Office Note Pad!

You're doing a great job using the note pad on the counter in the church office. You will find that staff members and pastors will frequently invite you to jot down your request or thoughts on the pad when you approach them on Saturday or Sunday. Thank you to each of you who take advantage of "The Pad that Never Forgets"!!

Stephen Ministry Update *by Ken Grover*

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

Stephen Ministry is a Christ centered ministry. Stephen Ministers are Christian caregivers. Stephen Ministers carry their Christian faith with them, but this does not mean that they try to force their faith on others. Rather, being Christian is what gives Stephen Ministers the desire and strength to serve and be with their care receivers, through thick and thin - especially through the thin.

From the Holy Spirit, Stephen Ministers gain both the desire and the ability to walk with and care for those who are hurting.

Stephen Ministers rely on Christ to know that their own knowledge, experiences, or abilities are not enough to bring healing and wholeness to a care receiver. Stephen Ministers are the caregivers, and Christ is the cure giver.

Stephen Minister's motivation for giving is not simply to "be nice". Their motivation for caring is described by the Apostle Paul as follows: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." (2 Corinthians 1: 3-5 NIV)

Stephen Ministers want to bring their care receivers that same comfort and care that they themselves have received from the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort. God has so designed the church, so that all of its members have a part in one or more servant ministries, including those involved in caregiving.

For more information about the Stephen Ministry program at Crown of Life, contact Elmer Faser at 623-210-7494 or Gloria Michel at 623-544-4569.

Point to Ponder:

You say: It's impossible.

God says: All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24
May God continue to bless, protect and keep you in His Grace.

Sunday Usher Captains to Meet *by Ron Schumann, Head Usher*

A special meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11 at 9:15 AM in the Office Conference Room. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting!

Healthy Living Tips

by Carol Steřicek, Parish Nurse

With the holidays past already, it's time we settle into a healthier routine than we perhaps followed last year. Here are some suggestions:

- Avoid eating empty calorie foods. These are high in fat, and sugar and low in nutritional value (cookies, soda pop, snack foods, fast foods, etc.)
- Avoid drinking excess cold beverages with food. The cold liquid reduces the stomach's ability to produce digestive acids.
- Avoid mindless eating. Don't grab something every time you go past the refrigerator.
- Watch your carbs. Choose unrefined grains, nuts, and rice. Bleaching and processing denatures essential enzymes your body needs.
- Eat lots of multicolored fruits and vegetables.
- Eat good fats – olive oil, fish, monounsaturated fats.
- Never eat closer than 3 hours before bed. Eating before bed negatively affects your body's ability to rest and recover.
- Exercise at least 4 times a week for 20 minutes – walking is great.
- Lift weights to get lean. More muscle keeps you lean and helps lose weight.



LWML – Lutheran Women in Mission *by Barbie Aden*

A huge THANK YOU to the congregation for providing over \$300 in mites last month. Your generous gifts help support local, regional and national efforts to bring Christ into the lives of lost and often forgotten souls. God bless you for caring! The mite collection box is on the Information Counter the first full weekend of each month.

If you are a woman who finds joy using your special God-given talents in helping and encouraging others, you might want to check out Lutheran Women in Mission. It's fun doing mission projects that reach others with Christ's love. We meet the second Tuesday of every month (Oct-Apr), at 1 PM in the Chapel. "We'll keep the light on for you." (Christ's light).

Sharing the Good News Workshop

We all like to receive good news. God sent His angel to tell the shepherds His good news! "And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11)

Unfortunately, there are people you and I know who have never heard God's good news of His love and forgiveness of their sins through faith in Jesus Christ. There are others within our families, friendships and acquaintances who have heard this good news but it is no longer important to them. Is this true of your son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, good friend, fellow worker, or next door neighbor?

Normally you and I can't wait to share good news, can we? Well, you and I have heard, received and know God's good news. Many of us truly desire to share God's good news, but we feel inadequate, uncertain about how to tell it or are frankly, a bit intimidated.

Here at Crown of Life, Saturday, February 17, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Pastor Ray Mirly will lead a workshop to equip us to share God's good news. He will present practical, natural, easy ways for us to share God's good news. This workshop is for members. Members are encouraged to attend and bring non-members as well. You will need your Bible, a pen or pencil. Coffee, water, donuts and lunch will be provided.

Thoughts by Pastor Gary

In my devotions this morning I read this verse, "Live such good lives among the pagans that ... they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us." (1 Peter 2:12)

So that got me thinking. Does it matter to us what people think of us? We know, of course, that the standards by which people judge vary greatly. Further, the information or impression on the basis of which opinions are formed is usually very limited. Consequently, we sometimes must take special measures to make clear our intent or state of mind.

Sometimes we have to do something special to correct possible misconceptions. History yields an example. That morning was cold in 1649 when King Charles I of England was to be executed for treason. Charles didn't want the people and his enemies to think that he was shaking from fear and not the cold weather, that he put on two shirts to keep him warm.

So does it make a difference what the general public thinks of Christians? The apostles thought that it did. They urged first-century Christians to cultivate peaceful relations with their heathen neighbors, letting the light of the Gospel to shine through them and by their love bring a little warmth into a cold world. In this Christ's followers succeeded. Their love, not only to one another but also to their enemies, made a deep impression on their contemporaries.

Jesus stood for and openly declared the truth of God's Word. He regarded this more important than to have all people speak well of Him. But He did not deliberately or carelessly make enemies. He does not want us to cultivate porcupine personalities.

Of early Christians it was said, "See how they love one another!" This was said in high praise and admiration. Showing love brings the saving faith in Jesus to light. In love Jesus walked the Calvary road all the way to the cross that He might redeem us not only *from* something - from sin and fear of death - but also *for* something - for living uprightly in this world as Christ's disciples.

Take a moment today to pray that Christ may show through you to all you meet clearly and strongly in all that you say and do that Jesus is Lord. In that, you will be the "eyes of Jesus in the public."



Book Club Reads

by Lisa Safago, Member

Happy New Year from the Book Club group! All are invited to join us for lively conversations at our monthly book discussions. Listed BELOW is the list of books we will be reading this year. Feel free to join us for any or all book discussions. We meet in the Office Conference Room on the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:45 AM. We hope to see you soon. Blessings!

2018 Book List

February 12	<i>The Big Rock Candy Mountain</i> by Wallae Stegner
March 12	<i>Chasing Fireflies</i> by Charles Martin
April 9	<i>The Address</i> by Fiona Davis
Summer Break	
September 10	<i>The Paris Wife</i> by Paula McLain
October 8	TBD
November 12	TBD

Who We Are as Children of God

by Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

One of the things we struggle with when we lose a loved one is rebuilding our identity and our life in the absence of someone who has been so significant in how we see ourselves in the world. We can start this rebuilding process by going to ground zero and seeing ourselves as God sees us.

God's Word is His love story for us, His children. He lovingly tells us who He is and how He has created us in His image and for His purpose.

Who does our Father say He is? "God is love. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

What does God say about love? Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10) "[L]ove builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1) "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant." (1 Corinthians 13:4) "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7) "Love never ends." (1 Corinthians 13:8)

How do we reflect that we are children of God? "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) "...by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love..." (2 Corinthians 6:6) "[T]he love of Christ controls us..." (2 Corinthians 5:14) "God gave us a spirit ... of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7) "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here." (John 8:42) "[W]alk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)

What does God command us to do as His children? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30) "Love one another with brotherly affection." (Romans 12:10) "Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11) Follow "my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness." (2 Timothy 3:10) "[B]elieve in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another..." (1 John 3:23)

What does our Father promise if we keep His commandments? "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23) "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12) "Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life." (Jude 1:21)

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Prayer Ministry Update

Anyone who is honest will admit that he or she is ill equipped to go through this life alone. Lots of folks have tried relying on their own strength, knowledge and reasoning power, and found that down life's road it did not bring the desired satisfaction. He is fortunate who has learned throughout his life to stay close to God.

Pray for godly friends. Pray for god-fearing spouses for your children and grandchildren. Pray for Jesus' guidance for yourself and others in need - that same Jesus who is one with the Father in everything that concerns us His children. Communicate regularly with God in conversation, and ask Him to see you through large and small decisions. Choose to follow His lead by reading the Word and regularly applying biblical principles to your life. Then even when we stray off the road of obedience, He will return us to the path of correct behavior, blessing us with His Peace beyond all understanding. - by Kathe Schmidt

Treasurer's Report

by Arlin Bates

The December and final financial report for 2017 was unavailable at the time the *Jewels* went to press. We will report the 2017 financial information in next month's *Jewels*.

Good News Workshop *continued from page 4*

To make proper arrangements for this event your registration (and your guest[s]) is needed. You may do so by signing up at the Information Center before or after worship, emailing Pastor Mirly (rmirly@sbcglobal.net), texting Pastor Mirly (314.920.1103) or calling the church office (623.546.6228). The deadline to sign up is February 12.

Please give prayerful consideration to this invitation. Pray not only for yourself but for one another and for all who need to hear, know and believe the angel's good news.

February Servants

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

(4:00) Joel Block, Tom Leshney
 (8:00) Joel Block, Tom Leshney
 (10:30) Gerry Harpt, Ron Mara

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Wiley McAfee
 (8:00) Willie Lundquist
 (10:30) Larry Hieb

ALTAR GUILD

(4:00) Pat Fronk, Beverly Towne
 (8:00) Carol Leiner, Ginger Stribling
 (10:30) Kathy Beilstein, Cora Weiss

GREETERS

(4:00) Joyce Hanson, Evelyn Lackey,
 Addy Schott
 (8:00) Rick & Femie Gratian,
 Jerry & Jana Thiel, Joan Thies
 (10:30) Byron & Gisela Brown,
 A.J. Clay, Lillian Holen

GUEST BOOK

(4:00) Joan Rall
 (8:00) Gretchen McCaslin
 (10:30) Bev Baldwin

FLOWERS

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

SOUND TECHNICIANS

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

SCREENS - Tom Mertins, Coordinator

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Bob Murray, Darlene & Wiley McAfee

USHERS

(4:00) No Information
 (8:00) Emil Tomazin (cap),
 Chuck Blakley, Ed Kristof,
 Lola & Tom Leshney,
 Linda & Rollie Mann,
 Diane Thoene
 (10:30) Al Waldron (cap), Roy Blanke,
 Richard Dornfeld,
 Jan & Jim Drake, Myron Holen,
 Gary Kowatch

Happy Birthday

1 Karl Neuman
 1 Pastor Phill Robbins
 2 Arlene Hafeman
 2 Lorraine Marunde
 4 Gerald Fritz
 6 Rollie Mann
 6 David Matakoto
 6 Gertrude Sutton
 7 Janet Ahrens
 7 Ken Coffman
 7 Bob Herber
 8 Robert Larson
 8 Marilyn Luksik
 9 Joan Faser
 9 Jack Meyer
 10 Tim Aden
 10 Jane Colrud
 11 Al Thiese
 12 Don Koepke
 12 Kris Weber
 13 Robert Belhumeur
 13 Karyl Brandvold
 13 Fred Treftz
 14 Joanna Kunzie
 15 Emil Seaman
 16 Dave Brodzeller
 16 George Nuss
 16 B. J. Smith
 17 Janet Blakley
 18 Hilde Gebert
 19 Jan Drake
 19 Evelin Lackey
 19 Gladys Strohschein
 20 George Mroz
 22 Ben Snyder
 23 Mary Lou Blackmore
 23 Carol Steficek
 24 Sharon Helling
 24 Marilyn Kloha
 24 Virginia Meyer
 25 Richard Dreyer
 26 Ed Crabbe
 26 Marian Hubble
 27 Geneva Andrews
 27 Bob Burns
 27 Richard Dornfeld
 27 Deb Haar
 27 Vicki Jolin
 28 Duane Rawson



Happy Anniversary

1 David & Gloria Kaiser
 3 Roy & Audrey Blanke
 8 Marsh & Flo Froland
 8 Ron & Kay Schumann
 9 Leonard & Shirley Gadeken
 9 Frank & Marlys Lohr
 14 Gary & Kris Huss
 14 Bob & Jeanette Smith
 15 Larry & Sherrie Jessen
 16 Dave & Fran Wallin
 18 Jim & Jean Bor
 20 Gordy & Joyce Rieck
 22 Neal & Marion Abraham
 23 Bill & Betty Krueger
 27 Ray & Debra Jung
 28 George & Sue Hood

GriefCare Ministry

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When we grieve the loss of our loved ones, we are reflecting our love as Children of God. If we didn't love, we wouldn't grieve. When we hold fast to God's commandments while in the midst of our pain, our Father rewards us with eternal life with Him, His Son, the Holy Spirit and our loved ones who have gone home to our Father before us.

If you would like to draw on the comfort, strength and faith of your Christian family while you are in the midst of your grief, please join us in the Chapel on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 AM as we walk with our Father and learn His lessons of love.

Please call Christine Escobar at 623.218.6793 for more information or pick up a brochure from the pew or Information Center.

Quilters Corner

by Marlene Peterson

The following letter was recently received from our quilt donation to Saguaro Jane's Community Center and Food Bank in Wittmann:

Dear Marlene,
Thank you and your quilting circle for the lovely quilts you donated to Saguaro Jane's Community Center & Food Bank. We gave the quilts out on our annual Christmas distribution day, when we provide food and gift boxes to needy families in the area.

Some of the recipients:

- A young mother who wanted a quilt for her new baby
- A small boy whose mother comes to the food bank often
- Four children who are members of a family of nine

Your donations helped fill Christmas boxes and make the holidays brighter for many low-income families in the Wittmann area. They're a wonderful gift in our community, where some families have no central heat, or can't afford to operate it.

Please pass our thanks along to members of your quilting group and to the congregation of Crown of Life. Your time, hard work and generosity are truly appreciated.

*Sherry Lamb, Director
Saguaro Jane's Community Center & Food Bank*

In the Mailbag!

Dear family in Christ,
Thank you for your prayers, kind words and support during my recent hospitalization and recovery. Special thank you to Pastor Phill, Pastor Ron, and Ron Mara.

In Christ,
Henry Munzinger



February Altar Flowers

- 3-4 Bob Gehrke & Diane Schrage, in loving memory of wife and mother Ellen
- 3-4 Jeanne Breese, in loving memory of husband Herb
- 10-11 Marsh & Flo Froland, in celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary
- 17-18 Gordy & Joyce Rieck, in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary
- 24-25 Byron Blackmore, in celebration of Mary Lou's 80th birthday

Altar Flower Update by Florella Denzin, Chairman

It is time to begin thinking about Mums and Lilies for our Easter Celebrations on April 1. Sign up sheets are located in the monthly Flower Chart on the flower podium next to the Parish Hall door. Please PRINT your name and the number of plants desired. We do not know the price yet so you will be notified when that information is available. Sign up the next time you are in Church. The deadline to sign up is March 11.

A Little Church Business ...

- The 2018 Church Directory will soon be compiled. If you have not notified the church office of an address, e-mail address or telephone change, now is the time to do so.
- Contribution statements for 2017 are available in the Church Narthex. Please pick up your statement the next time you come to Church. Statements will NOT be mailed.

Crown of Life Lutheran Church

13131 Spanish Garden Drive
Sun City West, AZ 85375
www.colchurch.com

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The Jewels

February 2018

Big Results at Nicea in 325 *continued from front*

- What else went on at that Council of Nicea? Busy time. Emperor Constantine had invited all the bishops of the Christian church to a meeting he would chair. Bishops and others came from as far away as Britain to Nicea, now called Iznik, Turkey. The head count of attendance varies from about 250 to the traditional number of 318 (out of some 1800 that were eligible to attend). They included some folks you'll recognize: Eusebius the church historian (See Paul Maier's translation of his work) and Athanasius, who did not write the Creed named after him but surely believed in its detail.

- Athanasius was perhaps the strongest voice at Nicea supporting the idea, which you'll recognize from the Nicene Creed, that Jesus was not **created by** God the Father but has always existed co-equally with Him as one of the three persons of a singular God. Tough concept, but foundational to our Christian faith. Some folks still don't believe that, for example, Jehovah's Witnesses, who persist in the heresy that Jesus was a creation, and not the creator.

- So that's two big results of the meeting at Nicea in 325: a fixed calculation for the date of Easter, and the defeat of a heresy in that early Christian church that threatened to divide it. Matters of the faith we take so for granted were the stuff of great debate long ago – and I for one am sure glad they ironed it all out for us! See you Ash Wednesday, 4PM or 7PM.

Pastor Phill