



The JEWELS

OCTOBER 2018

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

Bible Basics Class Resumes in October

by Pastor Vern Ermeling

Pastor Vern's class resumes on Friday, October 12 at 10:00 AM in the Chapel. This class is designed for folks who are beginners – that is folks who may have never been in a Bible study and may not even know the difference between the Old and New Testaments. There is no such thing as a “dumb question” in this class. The class is open to everyone, however the pace and teaching will always focus on the beginner.

The October 12 class will be a basic intro (or review) of how the Bible is put together concerning the five basic parts of each testament, the two main doctrines (teachings) of the Bible, and some basic Bible history.

The October 19 class will be a “catch up” and “review” of the first seven chapters of the book of Revelation. This may extend into the next class as well, depending on questions.

On October 26 the plan is to begin the study of Revelation 8.

One can never over emphasize the importance of being into the WORD. If you are not in a Bible study group or class you need to think about changing your schedule to include God's Word in some way.

October Blessings *by Pastor Phill, Senior Pastor*

What a wonderful problem...we have to relocate 2 Bible studies in October. First and third Friday mornings, the men meet for Bible study in the Chapel, led by Pastor Ray Mirly. We discovered that as our people return to enjoy the winter weather here, the room gets too full.

Not to be outdone, the Womens' Bible study, led by Mrs. Darline VanderWerf, meeting every Monday morning in the Chapel, is at capacity already.

Ain't that great?

So, we will be moving both studies to the Parish Hall this month, setting up 6' tables in a large oblong at the west end of the room. Yes, that means taking down some round tables, and yes, the Trustees will have to shuffle tables and chairs to accommodate the several large dinners in that room, notably the pot luck after Thanksgiving, the Christmas Dinner Christmas Day, and the meal between the two services Ash Wednesday. That, of course, is why we select the brawniest members to be Trustees...

The benefit to all this? The Bible studies will have space for you to attend. And of course the Chapel will still be utilized for many other meetings during the week, such as GriefCare, New Member Class, Stephen Ministry, monthly pastors' conferences, Nurse Carol's classes and meetings, etc. This is a busy place.

Please continue – or begin! – to wear your name tags to services here. As we purpose to greet folks we don't recognize, name tags become an asset. Don't hesitate to reach out a hand to someone you don't know. The response to “I've been a member here 15 years!” is, as you know: “I'm so pleased to make your acquaintance at last!”

This month we recognize the 501st anniversary of the moment that began Reformation, the posting of Luther's 95 Theses on the church door. Years of prayer and study led him to that point; more years went by before what we understand as Reformation was firmly in place. We'll talk about that a little at our Reformation services October 27 and 28.

continued on back

New Member Information Class Begins

Beginning Sunday, October 7, Pastor Phill returns to lead the Bible study designed for people desiring to join our church as members. 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 the eight classes will introduce those topics. December 2 will be New Member Sunday for those “graduates” who desire to become members of our church.

From Your President

Welcome back Snowbirds! Crown of Life rejoices in your return.

If you're one of the lucky residents of the Far North or the Near North to own a second home or an RV in the Valley, you may have arrived or will arrive shortly. You are probably getting ready to swim laps, play golf or a game of mahjong, go hiking or play pickleball while your friends and relatives back home are preparing a snowblower, checking on parkas and boots, pricing snow tires and tuning up their snowmobile. While you are enjoying a Spring Training game, your Northern neighbor is possibly still shoveling the driveway, moving an ice fishing house to a more productive location or checking that their water pipes don't freeze.

If you have been undecided about joining one of our committees or groups, we would welcome your interest; just let the office know. We have great Bible classes that include both a men's and women's group. Ushers are always needed and a joyful voice would be welcomed by the choir.

My challenge to all members this year is to invite a friend, neighbor or a new acquaintance to attend a COL service and meet our church family.

If you have COL issues, concerns, questions or doubts, I am here to assist. Contact Sue in the COL office and I will meet with you in a private setting.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

Jay Nelson



Surviving the Holidays When Grieving the Loss of a Loved One by Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

Now that our weather in Arizona is cooling off, we start anticipating and planning the events of the holiday season. However, if you are grieving the death of a spouse, family member or friend, you may be dreading this holiday season. Thoughts of social gatherings, family traditions, and obligations may leave you feeling anxious and overwhelmed. You may wish you could skip this holiday season and go straight to the routine of the next year—but you can't. What can you do to lessen your stress and loneliness?

You can start by learning what emotions are normal and to be expected when facing the holidays without your loved one. It is normal to feel overwhelmed as the holiday season approaches. You may wonder how you're going to handle this and not know what course to take. Know that you can get through these holidays, and you may even find moments of joy.

When you know what to expect, you won't be rendered helpless and overwhelmed as holiday events trigger unexpected emotions. So, where can you find out what emotions to expect over the holidays, how to create a healthy plan and how to communicate with family and friends these coming weeks?

Attend our "Surviving the Holidays" seminar on November 3, 2018

We will be hosting a GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" seminar

Saturday, November 3 at Crown of Life Lutheran Church from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Our seminar will offer practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season. At this two-hour seminar, you'll view a video featuring advice from people in grief who've faced the holidays after their loss. You'll hear insights from respected Christian counselors, pastors, and psychologists. You will also receive a Holiday Survival Guide with practical strategies, encouraging words, helpful exercises, Q/As, and journaling ideas for daily survival through the holiday season.

At our GriefShare Surviving the Holidays seminar, you will meet with other grieving people who have an understanding of what you're going through. They won't judge you or force you to share. They will accept you where you are and offer comfort and support.

Your holiday season won't be easy; your emotions may ambush you and suck you under at times. But you can choose to walk through this season in a way that honors God and your loved one and keeps you on the path of health and healing.

For more information about our Surviving the Holidays seminar, call Christine Escobar at 623.218.6793 or email griefcare@col.com. You may also sign up at the Information Center. Pre-registration is requested. This seminar is open to all. Refreshments will be served.

COL Book Club by Judy Brodzeller

Do YOU want the COL Book Club to continue? If so, make sure you attend the next meeting on Monday, October 8 at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room.

Due to a lack of attendance last season and the beginning of this season, it was decided to disband the Book Club after the October meeting **if attendance doesn't warrant continuing.**

The book we will be discussing in October is *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. It's a compelling story of WWII in Italy based on a true story and should bring about a lively discussion. Bring a friend who likes to read. They do not have to be a member of our church! Also, bring your ideas for future readings.

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

At our September meeting we reviewed a number of correspondence items and grant requests. We had received a brochure and request for support from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana for their Thrift store and Food Co-op which provides food, clothing and household items to seminary students at no charge. We were able to respond with a grant of \$1,000.

Several of our members were able to attend the ground breaking services at Word of Life Lutheran Church in Surprise in early August at which time we provided them with a \$10,000 check to help support their new multi-purpose building to be used for worship, children and teen ministries, along with space for social gatherings.

We had received a thank you note from Charity Lutheran Church in Detroit: "We stand to bring help, healing and hope to our community. But we cannot stand alone. That is why we rejoice and give thanks to you and the blessings of your gift of \$6,500 for our ministry for video presentation equipment. There is joy in knowing we do not stand alone, but that you are standing with us."

We were able to forward \$2,000 to WATOTO Christian orphanage, Uganda, as a result of the memorial funds contributed in memory of Daryl Irmer. This was at the request of the Irmer family.

The budgeted item of \$6,000 was sent to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis for their "Greater Things Mission Initiative" serving in Ferguson and in the inner city of St. Louis. A number of positive items were realized this past summer, including 59 children in a new VBS program in Ferguson and some new families attending church on Sundays.

In response to a grant request received from Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hazleton, PA where Rev. Joseph Leech is serving in a very small church. He was the Adopt-A-Student the past four years we had helped support at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. They have a need to replace their outdated sound system at a cost of \$5,000 which we approved. We are pleased to keep in touch with seminary students we have helped.

Other budgeted items included sending \$2,000 to the Lutheran Indian Ministries, and \$1,000 to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. Monthly contributions as budgeted are sent to the Pacific Southwest District office in Irvine, and to Region 4 Mission Council serving missions in Arizona and Las Vegas. Quarterly budgeted funds are sent on a regular basis to the Cross Cultural Ministry in Irvine, Valley Lutheran High School in Phoenix, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Mission Central offices in Mapleton, Iowa providing support to a number of missionaries overseas, and to Trinity/Hope serving the gospel and meals to Christian Schools in Haiti.



GriefCare Bible Study Begins

The GriefCare Bible study group will begin on October 18 at 1:00 PM in the Chapel. If you are a graduate of the GriefCare program and wish to participate in this study, please call Christine Escobar at 623-218-6793.

Our Members Called to Heaven

- Lois Bristow – 7/2
- Charles DeCaen – 9/1
- Judy Dugan – 7/23
- Lil Flanders – 5/15
- Jean Heidenberger – 4/2
- Annamarie Hartge – 6/3
- Daryl Irmer – 6/3
- Pat Leprich – 5/27
- Carol Roepke – 8/28

Treasurer's Report

by Dan Mehner, Assistant Treasurer
The August financial statement shows budgeted year-to-date income of \$524,685 and actual income of \$596,344. Year-to-date budgeted expenditures were \$533,333 with actual expenses of \$502,508. Here's where we stood at the end of August:

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Receipts	\$ 46,132	\$ 72,918
Expenses	\$ 64,250	\$ 54,534



It's not too late to join "Be Your Best For God"!

You'll learn lots of things about good nutritional habits, join in some "painless" exercising including Sign Chi Do (the Art of Moving Prayer), and build up your spirit with devotions and prayer.

Join nurse Carol in the Chapel from 1:00-2:00 PM on Mondays, October 8 through November 12. The class and book materials are FREE. Come and bring a friend.

Christ Caring for People through People

by Ken Grover, StephenCare

"A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another."

John 13:34

Why care? Anyone involved in caring needs to ask, "Why do I do what I do?" For Christians, the answer to this question is quite a distinctive one. About 2000 years ago God identified Himself fully with us humans. He sent His Son into the world to live and breathe, to suffer and love, to minister and care, and finally to die on the cross for us. Rising triumphantly from the grave, Jesus established His church. Through His church, Jesus continues to extend His ministry of love and care for His people. The love of Christ is powerful and dynamic. It is not just a good feeling, it is the basic motivation for all Christian care givers. "We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19. The distinctiveness of Christian care, then lies not only in what we do, but in why we do it. As the message of God's love grips Christians, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. He makes cared for Christians into caring Christians. The reason we are caring Christians we believe that because he was willing to give his life for us, we can't help but reach out and share that love with others. He provides purpose and power so that our caring relationships are transformed by his love. So, that is why we do what we do. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Pastor Gary at 623-546-6228 or Gloria Michel at 623-544-4569.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"If you want others to be happy practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

Knzin Gyato, Fourteenth- Dali Lama

"What do we live for; if not to make life less difficult for each other."

George Eliot

May God continue to bless, guide, protect, and keep you in His Grace.

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

Psalms 118:24

Thoughts by Pastor Gary

What happens when we love something or someone – earthly gain, pleasure, or even another person – more than God? We commit idolatry, not only breaking the First Commandment ("You shall have no other gods before Me," Exodus 20:3), but also opening the door to sins against the other commandments.

How plainly is this fact demonstrated in the history of the Israelites in the wilderness! Instead of serving the Lord only, they sacrificed to a golden calf, sat down to eat and drink as part of the observance, and then rose up to play. The Israelites, as St. Paul explained in 1 Corinthians 10: 6-8, began with idolatry and ended with gluttony, drunkenness, and sexual immorality. In brief, "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry" (1 Cor 10: 7). We see how the First Commandment is the fountainhead of the rest of the commandments. Its purpose is not fear, but love that grows out of a pure heart.

When our faith is in God and we love Him – having a clear conscience because in Christ our sins are forgiven – sins infesting our heart are purged: evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, stealing, lies, and covetousness. These things, not the braking of manmade rules about ceremonies and rituals, make a person morally and spiritually unclean.

God in Christ loved us, redeemed us, forgave us, and cleansed us through the water and Word of Holy Baptism. He purified us and made us His children. And God our Father restores us through His Word and His Holy Meal. Our response is that we are free to love God with a pure heart.

Take a few minutes today in prayer to thank God for granting each of us faith in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, enabling us to love Him without reservation. Love out of a pure heart. For Paul in writing to young Pastor Timothy tells us that this love comes only from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.



Altar Flowers by Florella Denzin, Committee Chairperson

The following is a quote by William Wordsworth:

"Your mind is a flower, your thoughts are the seeds, the harvest can either be flowers or seed."

October and November are "Harvest" months. Let's think about this! We (the committee, congregation and certainly our Triune God) are honored with the flowers celebrating your events and memories.

Watch for Poinsettia information soon. The cost will be posted in the Flower Notebook on the stand at the West End of the Narthex next to the Parish Hall doors.

And remember, the cost of Altar Flowers is now \$45.00 for each arrangement.

Dinners for 6 by Judith Axelson, Assimilation Committee

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP!

Get to know your COL church family. Sign up at the Information Center if you wish to be a part of this fun activity. Questions? Call me, Judith Axelson, at 623-584-3839.

Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee

by Gene Axelson, Board for Missions Chairman

The mission statement of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float committee is: "To provide a Christian witness and hope in Jesus Christ to the unchurched, who view the float in person and through the media."

The theme of the Tournament of Roses Parade this year is "Melody of Life". The Lutheran Hour Ministries float is entitled: "Joy to the Word, the Lord is Come".

We all enjoy watching the Tournament of Roses Parade and viewing the only Christian float in the parade. New brochures providing additional information and depiction of the float are available at the Information Center. LCMS and LHM do not pay for the float, volunteer labor and private donations cover the cost of the float. Several members of Crown of Life have volunteered in past years to be a Petal Pusher who help decorate the floats. We are in need of more helpers this year. Check out the web site: www.petalpushers.org.

Note: Gene & Judith Axelson have been active members of the LHM Petal Pushers Float Committee for several years.



What Kind of Song? by Roger Hicks, Choir Director

What kind of songs have you heard over the past week? How many songs have you heard? Were they happy songs?

We may find that celebrating our life in Jesus Christ calls for musical expression. What kind of songs do you find most effective in expressing your personal God centered worship, praise, prayer or testimony?

This year's Musical Christmas Celebration worship services (Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9) are going to take us on a musical and biblical journey. This journey will encourage us to celebrate our life in Christ whether in our joy or in our sorrow.

We will ask the question, and attempt to answer the question..... **WHAT SONG SHALL WE SING?** This will be done through a variety of uplifting musical expressions and biblical insight.

Would you like to be part of the Celebration Choir? You may still do so. You're welcome to attend the next rehearsal - Thursday at 4:00 PM in the Music Room. Any questions? Give me a call at 623-695-4894.

Altar Flowers

- 6 & 7 Tim & Sallie Jehn, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.
- 13 & 14 Anne Hagen, in loving memory of husband Dillon's 9th year in Heaven
- 20 & 21 Reg & Sue Trevison, in celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary
- 20 & 21 Ron & Nora Mara, in celebration of their 14th wedding anniversary
- 27 & 28 Earle & Martha Denny, in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary
- 27 & 28 Rev. Phill & Hollis Robbins, in celebration of their 46th wedding anniversary

We've Got Mail!

A Word of thanks to Crown of Life members for your cards and prayers while I was hospitalized during recovery; and a special thank you to Pastor Phill and nurse Carol.

Donna Larson

A note of thanks to the Pastors and all members of Crown of Life for your calls, cards and prayers at the time of my husband Leo's death. They were so appreciated.

Lee Gregoire

McDOUGAL STREET WEST Comes to Crown of Life

Experience the music of Peter, Paul & Mary that changed the world (and is still relevant today). McDougal Street West brings back the ballads, humor and emotions of the 60's. They will appear in concert at Crown of Life on Sunday, November 4 at 3:00 PM. Freewill offering. You supply the memories, they'll supply the songs!



October 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

(Sat) Joel Block & Marty Irwin
 (Sun) Joel Block, Paul Brown

TRUSTEES

(Sat) Wiley McAfee
 (Sun) David Koelsch

ALTAR GUILD

(Sat) Pat Fronk, Beverly Towne
 (Sun) B.J. Smith, Carol Steficek

GREETERS

(Sat) Dave & Dawn DuRocher,
 Howard Ludden
 (Sun) David & Judy Koelsch,
 Audrey Rolf, Karen Stine

GUEST BOOK

(Sat) Kathy Ludden
 (Sun) Cora Weiss, Shiela Mecham

FLOWERS

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

SOUND TECHNICIANS

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

SCREENS - Tom Mertins, Coordinator

TELLERS – Ken Warren, MaryAnn Cate,
 Sheila Mecham, Ben Snyder,
 Marilyn Waldron, Chuck
 Wasem; Subs – Ken Grover,
 Duane Neal, Orv Neal,
 Sandy Warren

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Darlene & Wiley McAfee

USHERS

(Sat) Paul & Kathy Beilstein,
 Chris & Linda Beck
 (Sun) Paul Brown, Jerry Denzin,
 Mark Gosseck, Mike & Sue
 Krishler, Wayne & Carol Leiner,
 Barbara Murray, Iris Ringhofer,
 George Schwartz, Bill
 Schulzetenberg, Merv & Jan
 Tvinnereim, Charles Wasem,
 Roger Wehrli, Carolyn Ziegler

Happy Birthday

1 Joe Bailey
 1 Jan Landskroner
 2 Becky Schulzetenberg
 3 Carl Aderhold
 3 Jerry Myers
 3 Iris Ringhofer
 4 Roger Clodt
 6 Kris Huss
 6 Phyllis Kelly
 6 Bob Murray
 7 George Hood
 7 Wayne Luksik
 7 Nada Workman
 7 Liz Crabbe
 8 Dawn Ferch
 8 Dene Munzinger
 8 Jim Trevarrow
 9 Marilyn Squires
 10 Robert Bowker
 10 Jean Mroz
 10 Jim Schave
 12 Bev Baldwin
 12 Donna Larson
 12 Angie Twite
 13 Carol Peterman
 13 Eddie Van Niel
 15 Mike Pier
 16 Martha Franke
 16 Harold Schwandt
 16 Barbara Seyferth
 17 Gary Huss
 17 Raymond Stewart
 18 Roy Blanke
 18 Carol Huff
 18 Stacey Smaltz
 19 Harry Bernhardt
 19 Phillip Warenfelt
 20 Clark McCaslin
 21 Carol Natale
 22 Wanda Peterson
 22 Dick Rittmaster
 22 Barbara Shumate
 23 Ross Burkhardt
 24 Dorothy Radtke
 24 Jeanne Ricard
 25 Gary Gertsen
 25 Vione Rydeen
 25 Sue Warwick
 25 Janet Weaver
 26 Kathy Ludden
 28 Tom Johnson
 28 Betty Ann Judkins
 29 Duane Neal
 30 Marvin TenBroeke
 30 Darline VanderWerf
 31 Joy Belhumeur

Happy Anniversary

1 Larry & Lana Bublitz
 1 Bradford & Jacquelyn Leavitt
 1 Richard & Teri Ziert
 2 Dave & Judy Brodzeller
 2 Jim & Denise Trevarrow
 3 Robert & Jan Barden
 3 Bob & Eldonna Herber
 3 Larry & Nee Hieb
 8 Harry & Cheryl Bernhardt
 19 Bill & Johanna Springman
 20 Ron & Nora Mara
 21 Reg & Sue Trevisan
 22 Dick & Jan Rittmaster
 22 Rev. Phill & Hollis Robbins
 28 Earle & Martha Denny
 29 Lowell & Ginett Janssen
 29 Darrell & Cheri Kuchta

Pray and Meditate on God's Word

Asking for God's help in all of life's struggles frees us from the thoughts that we are facing those challenges alone. The Bible reminds us of God's mercy and His promises to be with us. *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* Isaiah 41:10

Hospitalizations

Please remember to contact Sue in the church office if you are in the hospital and would like us to be aware of your situation. If you are not able to do this yourself, you may ask the hospital staff, chaplain or a friend to call for you. We hope to be able to meet your needs the best we can but we have to know. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lost & Found

Come to the church office to claim lost items.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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October 2018

October Blessings *from cover*

There is a passage in Scripture that, when he at last understood how it truly impacts us, became foundational in Luther's (and ours) freedom in Christ. Here it is, Romans 1:17:

*For in it (the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,
as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Paul was quoting Habbakuk at the end there, revealing that the concept of grace through faith and not by works was nothing new, but ancient. Paul continued to teach that truth through Romans and Ephesians and all his letters. Luther recognized, finally, that Romans 1:17 did not describe an angry, self-righteous God, but one who desired to grant to all people the righteousness of Christ so that we might delight in His forgiveness and love. We don't earn His righteousness, He gives it freely, received by our faith in the Gospel. That's the heart of Reformation, and the reason we mark it each year. Luther's message in Reformation: God's grace is a gift. Happy Reformation!

Pastor Phill