

# Jewels

April 2020

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

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

COVID-19  
UPDATES

Due to the seriousness of the Coronavirus, Crown of Life will not hold worship services or Bible studies until further notice. We will keep you informed by the COL Phonetree as we learn more.

## Strange Times! by Pastor Phill, Sr. Pastor

Now, this is a strange time in the life of the church, is it not? We are so fortunate as American Christians to take for granted our right to practice freely our faith – the experience of recent weeks ought to teach us not to take even religious freedom for granted. Apparently all it takes is one little bug – small as a virus – to interrupt our opportunity to gather as Christian friends.

Consider the plight of Christians elsewhere. Coptic Christians in Egypt are regularly killed, churches attacked, by militant members of the “religion of peace.” Pastors and others in India are at risk. In Africa groups such as Boko Haram regularly attack Christian worship. For example, on February 21 of this year, 3 churches were burned and members kidnapped.

And go back in time. The growing Christian church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century was not welcome in many places – consider Paul’s advice to the congregation at Rome to behave according to Caesar’s rules. Before that, that same Paul was known as the chief persecutor of Christians in Jerusalem and all over ancient Israel – that is, until Jesus got hold of Paul and straightened him out.

By comparison, as bad as I feel about suspending services, it could be worse.

For now, we are communicating with you via our PhoneTree system, Facebook, direct mail, and our YouTube channel. And you can communicate with your church – the office is open each day.

By the way, you might go to our YouTube channel and click on “Subscribe” – 100 subscribers (free, of course, no charge) enables us to further customize

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Crown of Life Lutheran Church is excited to announce the creation of our YouTube channel and expansion of Sermons and Services to our website!

During this time we encourage you to click on the following links to connect with our social profiles:

Like our Facebook Page (@colchurchaz)  
Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel

## President's Message

### Patience – Persistence – Always Ready

We can think we are ready for anything, but then something comes along that rocks your world. This is a frustrating time for all of us and the country as well. This is where patience comes in. I thank you, the members of COL, for your patience during these challenging times. Our patience will be tried over the next period of time. Romans 12:12 reads: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." God has given us a spirit of patience with the situation and with each other.

Let us also be persistent in feeding our spiritual lives. Pastor, along with your church leaders, will be making every effort to keep you informed of activities and changes. Sermons will continue to strengthen us with the word of God. The Lord has compassion on us and will see us through all of our trials.

Be prepared, be ready, don't let the devil sneak up on you. Arm yourself with Godly weapons: Bible readings, Bible classes, prayers and church attendance.

April 10 and April 12 – Good Friday and Easter Sunday – Celebrate that Jesus, through suffering on the cross, gave us eternal life; a life without the sufferings and madness in today's crazy world.

Blessings to you & yours,

*Jay Nelson*

## Don't Catch the Coronavirus by Carol Steficek, Parish Nurse

Here are some dos and don'ts. Actually, these are good practices to follow ALL the time!

- In public places use your knuckle to press buttons, turn on light switches, etc.
- After washing your hands in a public bathroom turn off the faucet and open the door with a dry paper towel.
- Keep your hands below chin level – don't rub your eyes, nose, etc.
- Wear a mask in a doctor's office waiting room.
- Keep a small hand sanitizer in your car.
- Use hand sanitizer before eating in a restaurant.
- Cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and discard.
- Wash your hands before putting all your groceries away from the store.
- Zinc and Echinacea are good extra supplements to boost your immune system.
- If you are ill stay home.
- Avoid contact with people who are ill.
- At this time, avoid unnecessary travel and large crowds.

## Church Columbarium Gate Locked

We have experienced homeless habitat taking up residence in our Church Columbarium. As a result we have had to lock the gate. The combination is located in the church office. Please see Sue Stuempfig for this information.

## What's with the modified Jewels?

At the time of the Jewels deadline the church has all but shut down. Staff is at a bare minimum and activities and Worship services are at a standstill. Thus the reason many of the articles submitted have not been included in this issue as well as the church calendar. When we return to normal operations, the church calendar will be posted on the church's website.

At press time we still are uncertain as to when normal will return. Please do not hang up the phone when our call system is activated. This is our new norm!

And until we see you again, may God keep you healthy and may He richly bless your days ahead.

## Borrowing of Church Equipment & Furniture

Just a reminder ... equipment and furniture belonging to Crown of Life may NOT be borrowed or removed from the premises except for off-premises Crown of Life functions. There is NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy!

## Gift Giving on Line

Crown of Life now has easy online giving right from our church website ([www.colchurch.com](http://www.colchurch.com)). Select the link DONATE on the home page of our website. Select a fund and enter your donation amount. You can choose a donation frequency if you create a GivePlus account. Enter your debit/credit card or checking/savings account information. Review and submit your gift by clicking DONATE NOW.

## Put some PEP in your Spiritual Life

by Rev. Vern Ermeling, Pastoral Assistant

We have all experienced times in our lives when we feel a bit run down and we want to find a way to put some "pep" back into our lives. The same is true of our Spiritual lives. If that is where you are in your faith-walk here is the opportunity to put some "PEP" back into your Spiritual life.

Pastor Vern will be leading a 12-week series called **Personal Empower Process** or PEP for short. As part of the **Personal Empowerment Process** (PEP) at Crown of Life you are going to embark on a wonderful and exciting journey. That journey is to help you discover and or affirm your Spiritual Gifts and how to put them to use for the Lord. If you are like so many of us, you have asked the question, "How can I serve my Lord?" or "How can I serve Him better?" "What does He want me to do for Him?"

Perhaps you are sensing a certain directive from God, but you don't know where it is leading. Maybe you are involved in a ministry now that is not fulfilling to you, and in which you feel ineffective. Maybe you are a new Christian wanting to discover if God really has given you some special gift to use for His purposes. Or maybe you have been a Christian for years, one who has worshipped faithfully, studied the Bible vigorously, but haven't moved beyond that. Maybe you feel that God simply hasn't given you a gift to use for His purposes. In our journey together, as we discover what Spiritual Gifts are all about, rest assured that God will bless your journey, your inquiry, and your discovery.

Perhaps you are familiar with the phrase, "*Blessed to be a blessing.*" In that same sense God has "*gifted*" you with Spiritual Gifts in order that you might be a "*gift*" to others. God's gifts are always given for the purpose of serving others.

This series will include a gifts survey, Bible study on the gifts, self-evaluation tools, exposure to ministry possibilities, and more.

The study series will meet on Friday mornings in the Parish Hall from 10:30 to 11:30. The first session will be on Friday, April 17 and we should finish in early July.

If you have any questions on PEP contact Pastor Vern at: Cell Phone: 714-271-6984; or email [vermeling@juno.com](mailto:vermeling@juno.com)

## Spring Voter's Meeting

April 16 – 9:15 AM (Between Services)

All communicant members are urged to attend! Copies of Church Council reports will be available the weekend of April 18 & 19 provided that we have returned to our normal schedule. The main topic to be addressed at this meeting is an update from the Task Force.

## In Our Mailbag!

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Health Fair – Rollie and his trustees who set up and tore down the Parish Hall and Chapel; all volunteers who assisted the day of the fair; and the quilters for donating their lovely quilt for our raffle. I also want to thank the COL members who attended the fair. The Health Fair is for your benefit. Please share the information you obtained with your friends and neighbors. Many thanks!

*Nurse Carol*

Thank you, members of COL, for all your prayers, calls, and cards after I fell in my home. A special thanks to Pastor Phill, Pastor Gary, and nurse Carol for all your visits.

*Donna Larson*

God bless all of you for your thoughtfulness during my recovery from my recent fall. I can't tell you how much this has meant to me.

*Pat Petersen*

Dear COL members and staff, I want to say thank you for all the cards, phone calls, visits, and especially your prayers over the last two months since my accidental fall. I have gone from hospital care, to care center, to home care, and I am now in out-patient rehab. I continue to marvel at the way God has designed our bodies to heal and recover. I am also blessed to be part of such a caring congregation as Crown of Life. I am learning what the apostle Paul meant when he said "give thanks in all circumstances."

*Kathy Ermeling*

## Joining the Church Triumphant

Evelyn Bangert – Mar. 17  
Judy Harwood – Mar. 2  
Virginia Speaker – Mar. 5

Mary Ann Cate – Feb. 28  
Johanna Kunzie – Mar. 14  
Janet Weaver – Mar. 10

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

## Christ's Care for Children Kenya, A Personal Story

by Gene Kuebler, Mission Board Chairman

Last month you will remember that I shared with you the new program our congregation will be supporting. We are excited to be able to provide support for a program that gives children of Kenya an opportunity to receive an education in a safe, clean and Christ centered environment.

This month we are introducing one such child, Dolphine Kabati. She is one of four students we are sponsoring; you may find additional information on the other three students on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. You will see that she is interested in communicating with us. If you would like to connect with one of the children directly, please get in touch with one of our board members and we will give you the necessary information.

This is Dolphine's letter to you.

### To My Sponser,

How are you my sponsor? I hope you are fine. Even me here at the site. I am fine. My name is Dolphine Kabati. I come from Kiambirag Parish. I'm a Kenyan citizen. I'm a girl with fourteen years old. I'm in standard six at Mangongo E.L.C.K. primary. I will be a doctor.

I have one parent, my father. We are five siblings. One boy and four girls. I'm the fourthly born. I give you thanks because you bring me here at the P24 Nyambiri boarding facility and you done for me a lot and I cannot forget in my life. My hobby here at the site is cleanness, reading Bibles and singing.

When I grow up I will be a doctor and I can help many as you do for me. My sponsor I would like to know your full names, religious background, gender and nationality.. I'd like you to

## Thoughts from Pastor Gary

Paul in writing to the Ephesians writes: "Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then." (Eph. 6: 13-14)

We are living in uncertain times with all the latest health scares. "Stand firm then," Paul tells us, with the whole armor of God when the forces of evil attack us. Don't surrender; don't run away, stand!

The verb "stand" is used in many combinations. There is the call: "Stand up, stand up, for Jesus you soldiers of the cross." We do this when we bear witness of Him as the one crucified for the sins of all. We do this when in matters of faith we stand up to be counted. And we must do this as we together face difficult times.

A bit different is the emphasis in the charge to stand for – to stand for the principles of God's Word. It has been said that, unless we stand for something, we are apt to fall for anything.

An old spiritual declares that we Christians stand on the promises of God. We take our stand on the promises that God loves us in Christ, that He made us His children, that He cares, that He hears our prayers. One problem has been that some church members say they stand on the promises of God but then sit down on the promises when it comes to doing God's word.

For the movie industry comes the expression stand in. When the scene is being prepared, someone takes the place of the actor on the set. In Christian life, many needs and opportunities arise for us to stand in and fill someone's place – in church, at home, at work.

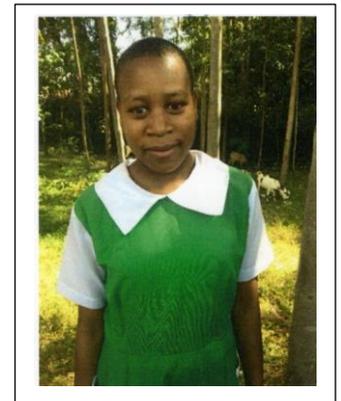
Finally, when a courtroom witness has completed his or her testimony, the judge tells that person to stand down. Everywhere in Christendom and the world, God has His witnesses and workers. He is pleased when they speak and work for Him. But the time comes when He says, "It is enough; it is time for you to stand down, to lay aside your tools, to come home."

I'm not sure what the next days, weeks, or months will become, but one thing I do know is that until that day comes, we need to "put on the full armor of God" and in faith "stand firm" and "stand up for Jesus."

### Sponsor *continued*

come here at the site one day and I can talk to you. I don't have any gift to give you for what you have done. But only God will bless you and make your life well. Thank you.

Dolphine



## Treasurer's Report

by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

	February 2020			Year-to-Date 2020	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL		BUDGET	ACTUAL
Receipts	\$ 70,122	\$ 79,906	Receipts	\$833,145	\$156,133
Expenses	\$ 69,429	\$ 55,954	Expenses	\$833,145	\$142,829

## April Servants

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

### ELDERS

(4:00) Lowell Janssen, Ed Michel  
(8:00) Ed Michel, Duane Rawson,  
(10:30) Chris Beck, Joel Block,  
Paul Brown

### TRUSTEES

(4:00) Larry Lienemann  
(8:00) Emil Tomazin  
(10:30) Don Nicolay

### ALTAR GUILD

(4:00) Doris VanPeeren, Nada  
Workman; Joyce Hassan assist  
(8:00) Gail Lindley, Sue Woodward  
(10:30) Nancy McAfee, Carolyn Ziegler

### GREETERS

(4:00) Sharel Bartow, Eric Jager,  
Jan Rudat  
(8:00) Janet Blakely, Jean Majka,  
Margaret Tomazin  
(10:30) Barbie Aden, A.J. Clay,  
Audrey Harpt, Henry & Dene  
Munzinger

### GUEST BOOK

(4:00) Vicki Mork  
(8:00) Lee Gregoire  
(10:30) Joyce Rieck

### FLOWERS

Florella Denzin, Jan Drake,  
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, Mike Krischler,  
Tom Mertins, Ron Schumann,  
Paul Stuempfig

SCREENS - Tom Mertins, Coordinator

TELLERS - Duane & Orv Neal,  
Don Koepke, Howard Ludden,  
Wiley McAfee, Sheila Mecham  
Sub - Ken Grover

### VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Darlene & Wiley McAfee

## Happy Birthday

- 3 Colleen Doede
- 3 Dorothy Statton
- 4 Mark Brauer
- 5 Sue Finck
- 6 Arlin Bates
- 6 Sandra Zimburean
- 7 Betty Landercasper
- 7 Rev. John Pope
- 7 Cookie Rawson
- 8 Rev. Doug Bock
- 9 David Koelsch
- 10 Marlena Meyer
- 10 Kathe Schmidt
- 11 Lou Burgess
- 11 Joan Gruver
- 11 Colleen Lekawa
- 11 Mary Matakoto
- 12 Cheri Kuchta
- 12 Kay Rasmussen
- 12 Bob Weber
- 13 Howard Ludden
- 13 Barbara Williams
- 14 Clar Hansen
- 16 Al Waldron
- 18 Elaine Treftz
- 19 Paul Beilstein
- 20 Ken Hagemann
- 21 Irene Ellwein
- 21 Carol Huf
- 22 Leonard Gaden
- 22 Trish Heinzmann
- 22 Sharon Smith
- 25 Judy Vogel
- 26 Marlie Abrahamson
- 26 Eugene Renico
- 26 Madeline Renico
- 27 Roger Ferch
- 27 Becky Stinar
- 27 June Wilde
- 30 Sally Hemmerling

## Happy Anniversary

- 3 Joel & Karen Block
- 3 Clar & Marilyn Hansen
- 3 Bill & Stacey Smaltz
- 4 Al & Jan Knutsen
- 5 Arthur & Frances Spreitzer
- 6 Paul & Kathy Beilstein
- 10 Al & Lori Bronner
- 10 George & Paula Duffey
- 10 Harold & Wilma Schwandt
- 12 Larry & Marlene Brown
- 18 Jerry & Florella Denzin
- 22 Otto & Phyllis Kelly
- 22 Wiley & Darlene McAfee
- 22 Bob & Karen Swinko
- 27 Don & Barbara Williams
- 28 Ron & Deb Christ
- 28 John & Sandra Zimburean
- 29 Henry & Mary Striewing

## Planning ahead ... Summer Worship Begins in May

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

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

## Saying Goodbye for the Summer

Does the office have your summer address AND the dates of your departure and return? Please be sure to call the office BEFORE you leave. Many thanks. Have a great summer ... we look forward to your return in fall!

## USHERS

- (4:00) Roger & Dawn Ferch; Don & Judy Johnson
- (8:00) Chuck Blakley, Ed Kristof, Lola Leshney, Tom Leshney, Rollie Mann, John Schalk, Cheryl Schalk, Emil Tomazin
- (10:30) Jan Drake, Jim Drake, Gerry Harpt, Myron Holen, Sue Light, Thom Light, Gary Kowatch, Lynn Rose

# Crown of Life Lutheran Church

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



## Strange Times! *continued from cover*

the channel. Our website, [colchurch.com](http://colchurch.com), includes a direct link to our YouTube channel. Also notice the "SimplyGiving" button on our website – just an alternate way to continue your Christian stewardship even if we can't be together in our Sanctuary.

As I write this I do not know when we will re-open for worship. If the suspension of services goes beyond Easter Sunday, rest assured that when we do re-open, that first weekend will be our Easter. The Orthodox church will celebrate Easter on April 19 this year – who knows, this may be the first Easter since 1054 that the Western and Eastern churches celebrate Easter the same day!

Meanwhile, as we wait for the return to our regular practice of worship, praise, and prayer together in our church, remember the familiar words of James: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4 ESV

God's blessings as together we endure these strange times!

*Pastor Phill*