



JEWELS

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

January 2021

Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 4 PM
Sundays –
9 AM & 10:30 AM

Bible Studies

Sundays

Bible Class – 10:15 AM
(Parish Hall)

Mondays

Women's Bible Study –
9:30 AM
(Zoom)

Wednesdays

Bible Class - 9:30 AM
(Parish Hall)

Fridays

Men's Bible Study - 9:00 AM
(Zoom; 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday)

Bible Class
10:30 AM (Parish Hall)

For more information about Bible Studies or to be connected to an online Zoom Bible Study, please contact Holly Gast in the church office at office@colchurch.com or 623-546-6228.

From Pastor Phill

Welcome to the New Year! You and I and everyone we know everywhere is praying that this year will be so much better than last... To kick it off, let's look at:

Januarius: this month is named after Janus, from Roman mythology the god of beginnings and transitions – so let's put our hope in Jesus that He transitions us from what has been to what will be;

Januarius: yup, same name, this time the name of an Italian bishop martyred in the early 4th century AD. In Italian his name was Gennaro; he became Bishop of Naples at the age of 20. He was arrested by Emperor Diocletian about 300AD and killed in the Christian persecution that Emperor carried out with such zeal;

January: typically the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and the warmest in the Southern Hemisphere;

January: begins on the same day of the week as October except during leap years, when it begins on the same day as April and July;

January: birth stone is garnet. That one I remember, for obvious reasons.

This month we recognize Epiphany, traditionally the day of the arrival of the Magi, who probably came overland from Babylonia following the star. By the way, in last month did you notice the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the sky on December 21? Perhaps that phenomenon, or some other great light God arranged, was what caused the Magi to begin their journey.

Traditionally, you'll remember, the names of the Magi were Melchior, Balthazar, and Gaspar – those names are not Biblical but have stuck over the centuries. And, of course, we're not even certain how many there were that made the journey to see the Christ child, but as 3 gifts are mentioned in Scripture, we'll go with 3. We credit Daniel with having brought the promise of the Christ, the One to come, with him from Jerusalem into captivity in Babylon. Quite a time he had in Babylon – read his book. Only 12 chapters – something to do while you wait for Covid to recede.

I've been feeling pretty sorry for myself that for the first time in 38 years we will not be with our daughter or son-in-law or the 3-year-old. I'm hearing that same regret from many of you, too, that the silly virus has interrupted Christmas traditions. Don't forget to tell any and all whom you love that indeed, you do love them – after all, what was the lasting message Jesus gave His church the night before He was killed? Love one another. And don't be shy about saying so. By this, He said, all men will know you are My disciples.

Continued on pg. 2

LWML

by Rita Grover

The February Pacific Southwest District LWML Retreat in Las Vegas, Nevada has been rescheduled. The new date for the Retreat will be October 1-3, 2021. Please check www.psdlwml.org for all the information. Please plan to attend.

The next COL LWML meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th. It will be a ZOOM meeting 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. We will have a short Bible Study and discuss future mission projects. Please mark your calendars. If you are not on our email list, please contact Lisa at 262-210-6416 or Rita at 623-247-9604, to be included.

Please continue to contribute your mites. This can be done electronically at www.psdlwml.org or the first full weekend of every month the LWML Mite box is on the Information Desk in the narthex. The Mite Box is also found on the shelf in the back of the chapel, all other times. When you write a check please make it out to *Crown of Life Lutheran Church* and on the memo line write *LWML Mites*. Mites pay the many Mission Grants to which Women in Mission are committed. You can find the Grants, devotions, Bible Studies and much more on www.psdlwml.org (the District Site) or on the National Site www.lwml.org.

Our prayer is that you will have a Blessed and Fulfilling New Year!

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

May God continue to bless you and yours, and our wonderful church, in this coming year. Thanks to all who have been such a support to Crown of Life in the last year as together we struggle to make up something new in the absence of what has always been “normal.”

God is good. All the time. All the time, God is good.

Pastor Phill

Thoughts from Pastor Gary

Air travel today to distant lands, with all the attendant comforts, never ceases to amaze passengers. At international airports, flights to Cairo, Egypt, are announced as casually as bus trips to Cairo, Illinois.

Time was when trips to Egypt were slow, difficult, and dangerous. They were made on foot, on mule back, or (in Jacob’s case, Gen. 46:5) “in the carts.” In at least two instances in Scripture, such trips were made because Egypt represented a haven of refuge.

The first of these trips was made to save the lives of some 70 people from starvation. These famine-driven pilgrims in flight were Jacob and his extended family.

The second flight to Egypt was equally urgent. At stake was the life of the infant Jesus, whom the Wise Men from the east had come to worship as king. This had aroused the jealousy and suspicion of King Herod who, as an angel of the Lord announced to Joseph in a dream, was “going to search for the child to kill Him” (Matt. 2:13).

St. Matthew links together the two flights to Egypt. He says that in Jesus’ recall from Egypt after Herod’s death, there was fulfilled the Scripture from Hosea 11:1: “Out of Egypt I called my Son.” The statement applies in the first instance to the Israelite nation, for the Lord directed Moses (in Ex. 4: 22-23) to say to Pharaoh, “Israel is My firstborn son, and I told you, ‘Let My son go, so he may worship Me.’” St. Matthew properly applied the statement also to Jesus, for He was the substitute Son; He was the Son who in all things was obedient, where the Israelites, the first son, had been disobedient. Flight Two to Egypt was also a life-saver – this time for us as well as Jesus. Because the life of the infant Jesus was spared, He was able to go on to lay down His life on the cross for our salvation.

Take a moment today and each day to thank God for sparing His Son’s life in Egypt so that later Jesus could save yours.

Treasurer’s Report

by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

	<u>November 2020</u>		<u>Year-to-Date 2020</u>
Income	\$ 80,233	Income	\$ 764,964
Expenses	\$ 48,855	Expenses	\$ 687,409

I wish to thank you all for your generous outpouring of giving during this year. We, Crown of Life, have continued to be a healthy congregation financially and have been able to continue our mission work. Happy New Year to all!

Notes from the Church Office

Portals of Prayer: The January - March 2021 Portals of Prayer are available for pick up at the church.

2021 Contribution Envelopes: Your 2021 contribution envelopes are available for pick up in the church Narthex. If you are unable to pick them up please contact Holly in the church office and we can arrange for them to be dropped off.

Newsletter Deadline: Just a reminder the deadline for the February newsletter is January 15.

2021 Church Directory: We will be putting together our 2021 Church Directory shortly. If any of your contact information has changed please fill out the form below and mail it in or drop it off at the church office by January 31, 2021 so we can update our system. Thank you!

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE FORM

Has your address, phone number or email address changed at all in 2020?

If it has, please fill out this form and either drop it off or mail it in to the church office. We are currently updating our system and are trying to ensure we have all of your correct contact information. We will also be using this information for our updated 2021 Church Directory.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address(s): _____

Other Updates: _____

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Holly Gast in the church office by email at office@colchurch.com or by phone at 623-546-6228.

President's Message

By Jay Nelson

Have you, like me, ever said, "I will never make a New Year's resolution again."? Do we remember all too many resolutions we have made and let them slip away? But after all New Year's resolutions are worth making. We need changes. Some we may find very hard to admit to ourselves. We need some soul searching. Owning up to our failures is a painful step on the road to something better.

A change in calendars is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently in the new year? What do we change in our life to produce something of value to God?

"New Year's" is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God and trust in God's help. The Apostle Paul understood this: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13) God's strength will see us through pain, through joy, through accomplishments, through this crazy world, and through the threat of Covid 19.

May the Lord Jesus help us to receive His strength throughout 2021 that we may have a Happy New Year.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NIV

*I can do all
this through him who
gives me strength.*



Stephen Minister's

Compass

by Charles Crover,
Stephen Ministry

The most important and meaningful guide for a Stephen

Minister to follow is the Caregiver's Compass. Over the next few Jewel's, I will write of the principles of our Compass. In many ways these principles are the heartbeat of our thinking and definitely expresses what kind of people we are. We begin with Compassionate.

What does it mean for a Stephen Minister to be Compassionate? We are compassionate about what we are doing with God's word and meeting His expectations. We care about people's feelings. It is important that we demonstrate our feelings toward our fellow man or woman in a loving and Christian manner. This means we listen tentatively to what a Care Receiver is telling us and certainly always being non-judgmental. We listen with deep Christian thought and compassion.

One very meaningful trait of a Stephen Minister is to be Full of Faith. We demonstrate this in many different ways in order to depict our love for our fellow man or woman, especially toward the person we are communicating with. It is important that we are deeply rooted in Scripture and our Christian beliefs. Stephen Ministers always keep Jesus at the center of their caring. The love of Jesus coupled with the theme of forgiveness is foremost in our caring for others.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Dee Harries (Referral Coordinator) at 785-562-6801 or Pastor Gary.



Trusting in God's Love and His Perfect Plan

By Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

This life, therefore, is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

Martin Luther

This last year we have had a lot of time to reflect on many things – our relationship with God, with our Lord and Savior, with our family and friends, and with our loved ones who are now in the presence of God and Jesus. When we reflect on the pandemic of 2020, what can we say we learned from it? In what ways can we acknowledge with gratitude God's transformative hand in our lives?

The isolation and physical distancing required to keep from getting the virus and spreading the virus has been especially difficult and painful for those who have lost loved ones. We have learned to give comfort and to seek comfort through the means available to us – our quiet time with the Lord, in person and online church services, our Bible studies and grief support groups via Zoom, talking with family and friends by telephone, email, FaceTime and Facebook. We now have the hope of a vaccine and returning to face-to-face visiting in 2021.

For now, however, we will continue giving comfort and finding comfort by following the precautions that have kept us virus free. We do know that an end is in sight to this way of life – Hallelujah and Praise the Lord for that!

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, we encourage you to attend our winter GriefCare group. Our winter group begins January 6, 2021. We will continue meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., until the vaccine is available to us. Please call Christine Escobar at 623-218-6793 or email griefcare@colchurch.com for more information and to register. You may also pick up a GriefCare pamphlet at the information desk. We welcome Crown of Life members and non-members. If you know anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, please reach out and let them know of our GriefCare group. Our group has helped so many people heal and move forward with purpose and joy.

I will move ahead, bold and confident, Taking every step in obedience. While I'm waiting, I will serve You. While I'm waiting, I will worship. While I'm waiting, I will not faint. I'll be running the race, Even while I wait. (John Waller, "While I'm Waiting")



2020 Contribution Statements

Your 2020 contribution statements will be mailed this year. We will be mailing them so please look for them to arrive. Please contact Holly in the church office if you have any discrepancies or any questions.

Thank you!

A Closer Look at the Life of JESUS

by Pastor Vern Ermeling

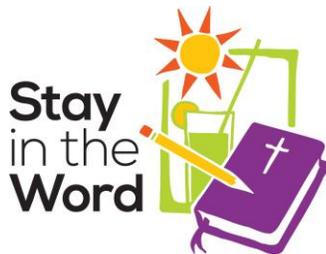
Did you know that there are over 270 events, miracles, and teachings of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? How many of these events do you think are found in all four of the gospels? The answer will surprise you. The answer is two: the resurrection and the feeding of the five thousand. That means if we want to look at the total life and ministry of Jesus we need to look at portions of four gospels.

Beginning on Friday, January 15, Pastor Vern will begin a Bible study called: *A Closer Look at the Life of Jesus*. There are twenty-plus independent and stand-alone studies, so guests and visitors can attend or join the class at any time in the process. Each unit is designed to be completed in one class session, however, that will not always be the case, depending on the questions and the discussions that occur in each class.

We will be using the order of events as found in the Gospel of Matthew as our guide to following the events in the life of Jesus. This class is designed to help everyone from the beginning Bible student to the life-long student to grow in their knowledge of and understanding of the purpose for many of the events in the life of Jesus. We will obviously not be covering all 270 events in the life of Jesus.

We will begin the study with the words of John that we find in the beginning of first the chapter of his gospel: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* When the word "word" appears in the capitalized form- *"Word"* - it always refers to Jesus.

The class will meet on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Parish Hall. For now, we will follow Covid19 guidelines by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and disinfecting the area after each class.



The Congregational Angel Tree

by Rita Grover

Many thanks to Our Church Family. Because of you, whose hearts were touched, The Angel Tree was a very blessed mission. The Phoenix Rescue Mission had the Winter Wonderland Event on Saturday, December 12, 2020. Your gifts of love blessed many families this Christmas.

Thank you to all of you that helped with getting the toys, household items, hats, blankets, wrapping paper and food to those special families. God Bless you all.



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joining the Church Triumphant

Crown of Life members who recently were called home to Heaven are:

Bob Swinko, November 25

Ralph Colrud, November 28

Carol Dupras, December 1

Edith Reid, December 10

Robert Stachwick, December 26

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



Flower Committee

By Florella Denzin

A Blessed 2021 to all!

Even though 2020 was challenging, our God brought us to a new beginning.

I have seen some beautiful blooming roses in Sun City West. I encourage you to enjoy every blooming bush and tree you see that bring joy and hope. In fact, we ourselves are to bloom for our Lord. I like the motto : "Bloom where you are planted."

Remember to call Holly for your 2021 celebrations and memorial to share with our COL family on the altar.

To sign up for Altar flowers please call or email the church office at office@colchurch.com or 623-546-6228. Thank you.



2021 SUNDAY USHER SCHEDULE

By Ron Schumann, Head Usher

The 2021 Sunday Usher Schedule and Team Assignments are available for pick up at the information center. Usher Captains, please make sure all your team members receive a copy. If you have any questions please call me at 623-374-7809.

God has His Eye on You

By Kathie Schmidt – Prayer Team

God not only knows us by name but recognizes each one of us by our face. He, the Lord God Almighty, who created the majestic eagle with such powerful eyesight to spot prey from a great distance for its sustenance, has eyes that penetrate from heaven to each one of us individually, as we call on him. Just as a penguin mom and dad recognize their own baby from all those look-alikes, God eyes us whether we're home alone, or in the hospital tended to by strangers. He sees at us face to face—big or little, old or young, stout or slender—any time we reach out to Him, like a dear, trusting friend sitting across the room from us.

God knows your face the same way you recognize yourself in the mirror, whether you smile or frown on rising in the morning, or have tears rolling down your cheeks after a day of pain. He sees us as we see ourselves. What's more God knows what's in our hearts and minds by the way we react to another human being, be it family, friend, acquaintance, or stranger. It is said that the eyes are the windows to our soul. That becomes evident when we acknowledge a person unexpectedly crossing our path as a fellow human being, created by God, important to Him. How do we, who have needs of our own that require time and effort, then react to the person in front of us? Do we respond with a look of annoyance, of rejection or indifference, or of genuine interest?

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. Actions that show we love God include *prayer*, prayer that centers not on what we want, but what God desires for our good; *staying in the Word regularly*, applying it to our lives; *servicing at church and in the community*, rather than being served; and *obeying the Lord's directions*. Most likely the harder part is loving our neighbor as ourselves, interacting with kindness and warmth in ways that make others feel valued and appreciated, being ready to forgive as we are forgiven. As we devote some time and demonstrate genuine concern, let us not forget to pray for our neighbor. Help us Lord, to love as You love—unselfishly—even the unlovable.



A special thank you for all those that were able to help stuff bulletins for all our Christmas and weekend worship services in December. We couldn't have done it without you! If anyone want to help again please watch for a note in the February newsletter as we will need help again around Easter.

Installation of Officers

On the weekend of January 9 & 10, the elected and appointed officers of our boards, committees, and organizations will all be recognized and installed into service for the year 2021. The Installation will take place at each of the three services and will include officers and leaders of our boards and Church Council, our auxiliary organizations and committees.

Servants

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

ELDERS

(4:00) Chris Beck, Dave Sawyer, Al Stoudemire
(9:00) Chris Beck, Joel Block, Paul Brown
(10:30) Ed Michel, Lowell Janssen, Paul Brown, Tom Johnson

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Joe Jellison
(9:00) Merv Tvinnereim
(10:30) Myron Holen

FLOWERS

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

SOUND TECHNICIANS- Tim Gast,
Coordinator

SCREENS - Tom Mertins, Coordinator

TELLERS

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

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Darlene & Wiley McAfee, Susan Schaffer,
Cathy Meyer

USHERS

(4:00) Louise Fountain, Evelin Lackey
Henry & Dene Munzinger
(9:00) Emil Tomazin, team captain;
Chuck Blakley, Ed Kristof, Tom Leshney, Lola Leshney, Rollie Mann, Linda Mann, John Schalk, Cheryl Schalk
(10:30) Myron Holen, Jan Drake, Jim Drake, Gerry Harpt, Sue Light, Thom Light, Lynne Rose



- 2 Holly Browning
- 3 Bob Thanepohn
- 4 Wilma Schwandt
- 4 David Wentworth
- 4 Jim Happel
- 6 Don Abrahamson
- 6 Nancy Lorenzen
- 6 Donna Roeker
- 8 Connie Rau
- 9 Sue Krischler
- 9 Byron Brown
- 10 Gene Axelson
- 10 George Maul
- 10 Dorian Pfeifer
- 10 Marilyn Kurvers
- 11 Johanna Springman
- 11 Cheryl Bernhardt
- 12 Maria Winfrey
- 15 Martha Plapp
- 16 Larry Bublitz
- 17 Ed Michel
- 17 Gloria Andersen
- 18 Carolyn Sauter
- 18 Denise Steffens
- 18 Loretta Ebel
- 19 Pat Coyle
- 19 Pat Luebke
- 21 Sue Trevisan
- 22 Willard Mears
- 22 Richard Ziert
- 26 Otto Hass
- 26 Sandra Barbeau
- 26 Hollis Robbins
- 28 Lillian Holen
- 29 Al Stoudemire
- 29 Karen Myers
- 29 Sharon Michael
- 30 Diane Hammann
- 31 Kathleen Hauck

- 6 Dan & Marge Heinrichs
- 19 Kim & Sue Warwick
- 21 John & Jackie DeAngelo
- 24 Ken & Jeanette Hagemann
- 25 Jim & Jan Drake
- 27 Rev. Ron & Anne Luedemann
- 28 Sam & Sheila Mecham
- 30 Tim & Barbara Aden



Thank You!

To the MANY MANY volunteers who helped make our annual Christmas Celebration so beautiful ... THANK YOU!! This includes the countless hours of preparation expended by our musicians; add to the list our ushers, trustees, elders, greeters, decorators, altar guild, etc., etc. What a great team! Thank you all. You made our Christmas season extra special and we appreciate you!

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people..."

Titus 2:11

