

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

February 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)

REMINDER:

Please continue to sign up for
worship on our website at
www.colchurch.com or by
calling the church office at
623-546-6228.

The Future Is...?

A good question was asked of me after church last week: When we've all been vaccinated, will we still have to wear masks to church?

Now, I can't predict the future of such a thing as a pandemic – before last year I don't think I ever used the word in a sentence. But I'm fairly confident that the simple answer to that good question is: yes, you'll still have to wear masks in church, over your mouth and your nose, please. I don't know when, or from whom, or how, the "all clear" will be sounded. Someday, I pray, the masks can come off, and I'm certain it will not be pastors that declare the emergency has ended. That's not great news, I know – masks bug me too – and for the foreseeable future masks will remain our protocol.

So will wiping down surfaces after church services. You've been great about taking a few moments to do that; I believe it is a visible indicator that your safety matters to your church. Likewise two services on Sunday. We could now, and have in the past, seated the current Sunday total attendance in one service. Folks, I like that there are spaces between us in the pews these days – much as I love a full church, now is not yet the time.

Communion is another topic of discussion and disagreement. For some what we're doing does not seem worshipful, I know. Other parishes have other solutions; many parishes in our community are closed altogether and I pray our measures to mitigate transmission and remain open will be, if not ideal for you, at least acceptable.

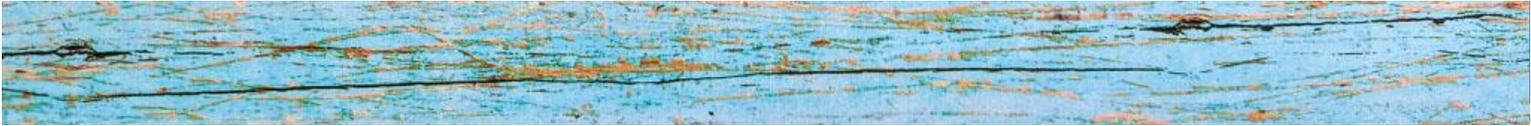
The further future for Christians I can predict. I have a manual that describes it. Here is Paul writing first about a present reality:

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been known, to which the Law and Prophets testify. This righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:21-22

And then Paul speaks of a future in an unknown time:

For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 1Thessalonians 4:16

John the Apostle, after seeing and writing about awful and frightening things the Lord has in store for His earth, has this vision:



Mission Board

by Marilyn Engelken

Greetings, my name is Marilyn Engelken, I am the chairman of the Mission Board this year. We have money to give away, money you have contributed to the mission activities of Crown of Life. We support missionaries spreading the Gospel in foreign countries and in places in the US that badly need to learn to know their Savior. We supply money to help support a student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and we support Mission Central, and students at North Valley Christian Academy. There are numerous other places we support to help people get to know the Word of God.

If you know of a worthy place or activity we should support to help those who are missionaries here in the Phoenix area or around the world, write us a note suggesting we support it. This is your money and we are stewards to use it to spread the Word.

We are also in need of more members on the Mission Board. If this seems like something you would be interested in, send us a note or tell Pastor or one of our members.

We attempt to do this mission in your name and the name of Christ. Blessings to you all!



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God, He will wipe every tear from their eyes." Revelation 21:1, 3-4

The present, masked, is uncomfortable and threatening, yet the righteousness of Christ is present nonetheless. The future, an unknown time, will bring an end to all the unpleasantness of sinful man and fallen earth. For now, of course, we dwell in our time, all the while with eyes on the Cross and beyond to what the Lord has for us. May God give us good health, patience, and community in Him as we wait for what comes next.

Pastor Phill

Thoughts from Pastor Gary

Helen Traubel, an operatic and concert soprano, also wrote two mystery novels. Thomas Jefferson was a lawyer, political philosopher and scientific farmer, as well as a statesman. Martin Luther was a theologian, linguist, and hymn writer. The comic Red Skelton painted clowns.

Some people have multiple talents; others have fewer. Jesus draws on this obvious reality in a parable of a property owner who entrusted five, two, and one talent to three of his servants.

When you count up your talents, don't limit yourself to the musical or literary, to the scientific or the popular. God's talents given to us include many kinds, like group-leadership ability, creative housekeeping, friendliness, being good in a repair shop, being a healer of hurts by words and deeds.

God gives us talents for a reason: to equip us for service. Just as eyes and ears, hands and feet, mind and muscles are differently equipped so that they can serve the whole human being, God equips us for the good of all – be that in church, community, society, state, or the business world.

Talents vary also in degree. We may not be able to sing arias or write novels, but we can nevertheless sing to the glory of God in worship and at home, and we can write encouraging letters and notes to people who need uplifting. This, too, is using our talents as good stewards. St. Paul puts it all into one package for us: "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

The motivation for that, like the talents themselves, comes from God, who made us and who, through Christ Jesus, redeemed us. In love to Him who first loved us we serve Him and one another with our talents.

In your prayers this evening, ask that God will help you to discover your talents and to give you the willingness to use them for Him and for others.

President's Message

By Jay Nelson

Do our Pastors only work on Sundays (& Saturdays)?

Are Pastors "special" or mere humans like us?

- Pastors have a multitude of responsibilities from sermon preparation to baptisms, weddings & funerals, to staff leadership.
- Marrying and burying people takes an emotional toll. At times a pastor must bury a long-time friend or see a couple he counseled and married be torn apart by divorce.
- Pastors are on call 24/7. At times it's difficult to find rest. Pastors can be called away at a moment's notice. Their day doesn't end at 5pm.
- Being a pastor can be a lonely position. There are many things a pastor can't talk about or share with others and friends because of confidentiality.
- Pastors are often judged or criticized. Pastors can be under pressure due to community's or congregation's gossip.
- Pastors need to talk about something besides church. It is often a relief for a pastor to have interests and hobbies outside of their jobs.
- Pastors don't have all the answers. Pastors are not perfect. A pastor is simply a broken fellow human being called by God to lead other broken humans with His help.

Pray for our Pastors.

Tracts and Booklets

By Gene Axelson

Men's Fellowship has again acquired a number of tracts and booklets that are published by Lutheran Hour Ministries.

They have been placed in both tract racks in the Narthex for your use. Please feel free to share them as appropriate with family, neighbors or friends.

Some of the topics include: "Cancer", "Depression", "Finding Peace", "Forgiveness is a Choice", "Prayer when you don't know what to say", "The Truth About Angels", "What Happens When I Die?", "Talking with God", "Setting Priorities", "Your Place in God's Plan", and "When in Doubt...Read the Book".



The church office will need help stuffing bulletins for upcoming Lent worship services and Holy Week worship services.

We will be needing help each Monday starting the week of February 15th going through the week of March 15th. We will also be needing help the whole week of March 22nd.

If you are available to help please call Holly in the church office at 623-546-6228 and we can set up a time that works best for you to come in and help. Thank you!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joining the Church Triumphant

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

Robert Thanepohn, April 15
Ron Majka, January 2
Vione Rydeen, January 14
Kathy Ermeling, January 23

Don Workman, December 31
Walter Rodie, January 6
Marjorie McCrea, January 17
Benjamin Snyder, January 23

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

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. Last month we looked at Compassionate and Full of Faith. This month we look at Skilled and Trustworthy.

What does it mean for a Stephen Minister to be Skilled? A lot of time is spent to develop skills in communications. We must be able to respond to a situation properly. We need to know our bounds when communicating to our Care receiver. Above all, we need to know how to pray, and to always select the proper scripture for emphasis and discussion.

For the last part of our Compass, a Stephen Minister must be Trustworthy in all aspects of care giving. We show and demonstrate that we can be trusted with confidential information. Above all, we must respect the privacy of our conversation. Another important element is being faithful in our attendance and timeliness.....to be 100% reliable and committed to serving as a Stephen Minister. After all, this is what our God through Jesus expects of Christians.

To single out a Primary Goal for Stephen Ministers, it has to be to learn all of the proper skills taught us and practice them with due diligence. All Stephen Ministers follow and practice these Compass principles, religiously.

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.

LWML February News

By Rita Grover

God wants you to be yourself when sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. He has chosen you, and given you the privilege of sharing that joy and excitement of your faith with others. Being a Christian is a blessing, and the joy of Jesus in our lives should be evident to everyone. LWML is for all women. Please plan to join us for Gospel Sharing Opportunities.

The next COL LWML meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021. It will be a ZOOM meeting 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. We will have a video about Rosa J. Young (born in 1890 to ordinary black/African American parents. However, she did not let her race define her. She let her Christian faith define who she was, and so her Lutheran faith is the center of her legacy.

The business meeting will follow the discussion. Please plan to join us as we learn about this incredible servant of our Lord. If you are not on our email list, please contact Lisa at 262-210-6416 or Rita at 623-247-9604, to be included.

Save The Date:

March 6 through March 21, 2021 Congregational Ingathering: Hygiene Kits for Youth Haven: reaching disadvantaged boys and girls ages 7-13 with God's love every week throughout the entire year.

Toothbrush	Toothpaste	Dental floss	Toothbrush	travel holders
Washcloth	Bar of soap	Small lotion (if they are available)		Brush - Girls
Travel size shampoo		Travel size conditioner		Comb - Boys

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:00 – 2:00 ZOOM meeting with Damon Bailey and Stephanie Carroll from Youth Haven

June 24 - 27, 2021 National LWML Convention will held in Lexington, Kentucky. The Theme: Running the Race...Looking to Jesus. Please go to www.lwml.org for registration/ hotel information

October 1-3, 2021 Pacific Southwest District LWML Retreat in Las Vegas, Nevada Please check www.psdlwml.org for all the information. Please plan to attend.

Treasurer's Report by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

	<u>December</u>		<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Actual	\$133,659	\$75,748	Actual \$898,623	\$763,158
Budget	\$109,568	\$69,429	Budget \$833,145	\$833,145

Well we have ended 2020. A year of uncertainty and worry. With God's help we have survived to be able to look to the New Year. December had a generous outpouring from you, the congregation, we have met all budget goals for the year.

Thank you,
Arlin Bates, Treasurer

Connecting with God

by Kathie Schmidt, Prayer Team

If someone asked you how hard it is to connect with God to ask him for assistance with an urgent need, could you share from your experience? The way I would explain it, there is *no* 15-minute wait time because other callers are ahead of me – taken in the order received. There are *no* frequent reminders that I'm still in the queue. There is *no* disconnect at the end of a long wait, when someone presses the wrong button.

Being immediately connected to Heaven, with head bowed and hands folded, I'd dare say "Lord Jesus, how great and awesome you are! Thank you for making this instant communication with the Father possible by shedding your blood on the cross – the once-for-all atoning sacrifice for my sin, present and future, (past sins forgotten). I come to you in contrition and you, Abba Father, with the Holy Spirit, are part of the conversation.

You hear me and you listen to my plea with your whole heart, without interruption. You quiet me with your love. You remind me of three important gifts you gave me: my conscience, the ten-fold directives given to Moses guaranteeing peace when I adhere to them, and the ability to stay in control by tapping often into the power source of the Holy Spirit. *You want me to continue using those gifts?*

But... I'm not ready to end my time with you because of the recurring tension between your will and your time and mine, Holy Father. Jesus said to keep on praying, to make you aware over and over of my need. So please, help me understand the delay of your answer, and increase my faith and trust in you that everything you direct lovingly for my life is truly for my benefit. Thanks a lot, till next time we meet..."



Crown of Life Church of the Week

Crown of Life is the Church of the Week February 14-19, 2021 on KFUCO radio. This is a wonderful opportunity for others to learn about Crown of Life and the ministries we have here. Please tune in as we will give more details as the dates get closer.

LENT WORSHIP

The Lenten season is upon us. Here is the upcoming Lenten schedule:

Ash Wednesday

February 17 at 4 & 7PM

Lent Wednesdays

"A Walk Through the 23rd Psalm"

February 24 - March 24
4pm

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday

April 1 - 4pm

Good Friday

April 2 - 4 & 7pm

Easter Weekend

April 3 - 4pm

April 4 -

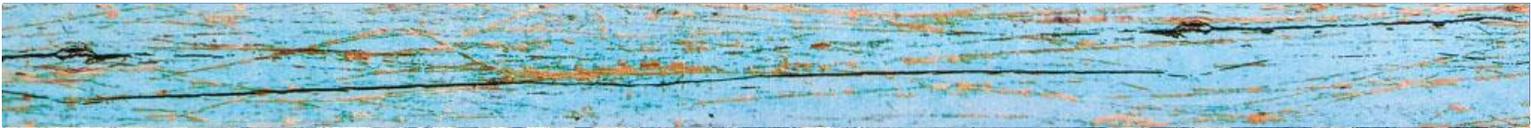
6 am outdoor sunrise
9 & 10:30 am



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.



Quilting Update

by Marlene Peterson

We have not given an update since December 2020. 35 quilts were donated and delivered to the Phoenix Angel Sunshine Foster Care in Glendale. 13 quilts were also donated to the Street Lights U.S.A.

Since our sewing machines were taken from our quilting cupboards in December they have been replaced and donated by 2 wonderful members. Thank you Bonnie Kimball and Joyce Lundquist for donating to our need cause.

We have been in full swing again for 2021 and still are in need of colored sheets. Anyone interested in joining our group please call Marlene Peterson at 623-556-6055. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Welcome back everyone from your holiday vacation and have a happy and safe 2021.

The quilting group received a donation of 2 boxes of fabric and other sewing accessories. While going thru the contents, one of the quilters found \$460 inside a pattern. When we notified the person that made the donation, that we would return the money, she was very grateful. Her mother had forgotten where she had put the money and they never considered searching thru her quilting patterns.

When the money was returned she gave the quilting group a \$100 donation. Thank you to Diane Morgan Jones and her mother Eileen Morgan Frezza for the generous donation.

How Do We Grieve as Children of God?

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

“Grief is the price you pay for loving someone.” (Zig Ziglar). The origin of love is God. “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)

God has given us the Holy Spirit and all the instruction we need to live in His will in the Bible. The Bible tells the story of God’s love, faithfulness and long suffering for us. He is always alongside us to sustain us through our journey here on earth. “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)

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 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 are grieving the loss of your spouse and feel alone in your grief, please join us on **Tuesday March 16, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (via Zoom)**, for our **“Loss of a Spouse Seminar.”** At this encouraging seminar you will gain insight into:

- How to handle overwhelming emotions.
- Where to find the strength to go on.
- What to expect in the days to come.
- Biblical principles that help you deal with your grief.
- How to grieve in a way that’s healthy and suited to you.

You will receive workbooks in the Loss of a Spouse Seminar that will help you place your life into perspective and determine priorities as you work through this difficult, overwhelming and often disorienting time.

God does not intend for us to be alone in our grief. He provides the support we need to heal. 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 Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 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 information desk. **Please note that we will be meeting via Zoom until we are all vaccinated.**



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) Tom Johnson, Joel Block, Paul Brown, Tom Mertins, Lowell Janssen
(9:00) Tom Johnson, Lowell Janssen, Joel Block, Ed Michel
(10:30) Tom Mertins, Henry Munzinger, Lowell Janssen, Tom Johnson
Ash Wednesday
(4:00) Chris Beck, Lowell Janssen, Duane Rawson, Ed Michel, Joel Block
(7:00) Tom Johnson, Paul Brown, Dave Sawyer, Tom Mertins, Henry Munzinger

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Luther Rasmussen
(9:00) Willy Lundquist
(10:30) Larry Lienemann

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) Chris & Linda Beck, Ron & Nora Mara
(9:00) Ken Coffman, Arlin Bates, Cheryl Berhnardt, Joel Block, Laurel Coffman, Gary Frankeberger, Lee Ketelsen, Allan McDuffee
(10:30) Tim Aden, Barbi Aden, Bev Bristow, Jeff Grover, Larry Jessen, Bob Mansfield, Don Nicolay

Altar Guild

(4:00) Rita Grover & Pat Coyle
(9:00) Kathy Beilstein & Lynne Rose
(10:30) Roberta Rasmussen & Cora Weiss



1 Karl Neuman
1 Rev. Phill Robbins
2 Lorraine Marunde
4 Gerald Fritz
4 Cheryl Schalk
5 Lora Hartwig
6 Cynthia Karas
6 Rollie Mann
6 David Matakoto
6 Gertrude Sutton
7 Janet Ahrens
7 Ken Coffman
8 Marilyn Luksik
9 Joan Faser
10 Tim Aden
10 Jane Colrud
11 Al Thiese
11 Sharon Tieman
12 Patsy Bock
12 Don Koepke
12 Kristine Weber
13 Karyl Brandvold
13 Henry Roepke
13 Fred Treftz
14 Joanna Kunzie
15 Emil Seaman
16 Dave Brodzeller
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 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 Deb Haar
27 Vicki Jolin
28 Duane Rawson
28 Lee Ketelsen



1 Ted & Nancy Barnes
3 Roy & Audrey Blanke
5 Phil & Sue Finck
8 Ron & Kay Schumann
9 Leonard & Shirley Gadekin
9 Frank & Marlys Lohr
14 Gary & Kris Huss
15 Larry & Sherrie Jessen
16 Jeff & Gail Holmes
16 Dave & Fran Wallin
18 Jim & Jean Bor
20 Gordy & Joyce Rieck
27 Ray & Debra Jung
27 Dick & Kay Rasmussen



We have experienced a lot of scams lately. Please remember if anyone texts or emails you asking for money or a favor, please do not respond. Many times it looks like it is from a person you know but in fact it is a person trying to scam you. If you ever question whether it is real, call the person asking for the favor. They will be able to tell you whether they really need a favor or not.