

JEWELS

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

March 2021

Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 4 PM

Sundays –
9 AM & 10:30 AM

Lenten Wednesdays-
4 PM



Maundy Thursday

April 1 at 4PM

Good Friday

April 2 at 4 & 7PM

Easter Worship

Sat., April 3 at 4PM

Sun. April 4 at
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30AM

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.

From Pastor Phill

Nothing stays the same, does it? Over the last year so much has changed. We're reminded – as if we needed the reminder – that health is of the utmost importance as we live our lives in God's created world. We were created perfectly healthy, even immortal, and then the devil and sin and death overwhelmed the perfection of human life. We live in the post-Adam and Eve reality of a changed, even dangerous world.

In the face of the threat Covid represents we've made changes in the church, limiting close contact, going on-line, altering the presentation and reception of communion, masking our mouths and noses that others might be protected. Anyone tired of blue tape on the pews yet? Me too. You'll notice we're moving to signs in the pews limiting seating, and we've pulled up that old tape – if nothing else the signs are more presentable. Please continue to observe the distancing they require, keep those masks on, be patient, please, as we all wait for a return to "normal." You remember normal, right?

Another adaptation we think prudent is a minor revision of our Holy Week schedule, as you'll see in these pages. First, we've eliminated the fun of meeting in the park Good Friday morning – no way to distance out there and be heard and share the fellowship we're used to on that morning. See you there next year, I pray. And then Easter morning: no 6AM service outside; again, no way to gather safely the 70 usual attendees in that confined space, the patio. Instead we will gather at 7:30AM in the Sanctuary for a third Sunday morning Easter service, giving more folks the opportunity to worship that day.

As this new month of March continues we will observe our tradition of meeting for Lenten Wednesday services. I appreciate that so many of you keep that tradition, which other churches have chosen to forgo. The 40 days of Lent hearkens to the days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting, contending with the devil, and being ministered to by angels. My Lenten observation has never included fasting (as you can tell) or the giving up of anything in sympathy with Jesus' experience in the wilderness. Has yours?

The 40 days of Lent run, for us, from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter and oh, by the way, don't count the Sundays of the weeks as those days are celebrations of resurrection, like any Sunday. The origins of the Lenten season are lost to history. The first mention of it as an official observance seems to be in the Canons of Nicea from 325AD (Canon 5). The length of the period of Lenten fasting, and observance seems to have grown from early mentions (Tertullian and Irenaeus, 2nd century AD) of one or two days, then 40 hours, then up to six days by the 3rd century AD.

Continued on pg. 2

Deep Water

by Jay Nelson, President

Growing up in Minnesota enjoying water sports was an everyday experience due to my parents owning a lakeside resort. Looking back, I recall being on the ice during the winter and on the water in the summer. One afternoon swimming off a pontoon boat in a rather deep section of the lake, I wrapped my recently purchased class ring in a towel (to keep it safe from slipping from my finger while swimming). Preparing to leave for home, I picked up the towel to dry off. That's when I heard the splash! My new class ring just fell into 30 feet of water. I dove in to retrieve the ring to no avail. The depth of the water and the cloudiness prevented my success. The ring was lost, never to be on my finger again.

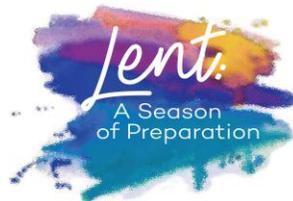
Thinking of our sins in a similar context as my lost ring, God buries our sins in the deepest sea never to be seen again. This is a mystery of God's will no human can appreciate unless the Holy Spirit works faith in the person. It's this: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God doesn't search the sea bottom to retrieve the sins of His children. The sins are gone, lost on the bottom of the sea.

Jesus promised: "... whoever believes has eternal life."



When it became 40 days is uncertain, perhaps late 4th century AD? For an exhaustive discussion of all this see "The Early History of Lent," Nicholas Russo 2013, Baylor University.

Or, alternatively, let's not worry this thing too far, and simply gather Wednesdays in preparation for the week we call Holy. To that, after all, we are called in recognition of what Jesus has done for us. March in Arizona never seems to come in like a lion, it mostly behaves like the lamb of sacrifice, calm, quiet, and worshipful. May God bless your month of March!



Pastor Phill

Thoughts from Pastor Gary

The Christian symbol ICHTHYS is the Greek word for fish and is used as shorthand for *Jesous Christos Theou Hyios Soter*: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.



Fish were common symbols in the ministry of Jesus. Twice He miraculously multiplied bread and fish into rations for thousands. He blessed Peter with an immense catch of fish. After His resurrection He did the same when seven disciples let down their nets and hauled in 153 fish. Then, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, the risen Lord took bread and the fish and fed His disciples.

The Bible describes two other miracles involving fish. In one, Jonah was rescued from the sea by this divine act: "The LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights." (Jonah 1:17) This event foretold Jesus' death, who said, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40) The other miracle occurred when, on the Lord's instruction, Peter caught a fish with a shekel in its mouth, which Jesus used to pay His tax.

Since so many people living near the Sea of Galilee depended on fishing for their livelihood, it is no surprise that Jesus recruited His first disciples from among fishermen: the two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew and James and John. He called them to become spiritual fishermen. All Christians are called to be spiritual fishermen. With the net of the Gospel, they catch people for Christ, who died and rose again to save them.

You and I are also called to be fishermen and spread the Gospel net and to bring in the catch for Jesus. Jesus said, "Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19) Will you go fishing today?



Christ Caring for People Through People

By Ken Grover, Stephen Ministry



"Cast all of your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Concerns about our health, welfare, relationships, and related issues are all causes or reasons for us to worry at one time or another. Bills to be paid, doctor appointments to schedule, getting along with one another, shopping for supplies, meetings to attend, can all be worrisome. Trying to schedule an appointment to receive your COVID vaccination was not a picnic in the park by any means. Anxiety, frustration, and stress levels were rather high.

Worry is something we all experience to some degree. Worry is defined as a feeling of uneasiness, apprehension, or dread. Worry defeats us when it replaces wise actions or needed rest, with fearful emotion. Reacting in fear, based solely on our emotions will distract us from the present, while doing nothing to prepare us for the future. All of us indulge in worry from time to time. When we are preoccupied with what might happen, we let worry superimpose a future possibility on the present reality. Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you do not be anxious about your life." Matthew 6:25

In Matthew 6:27 Jesus asked, "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" When problems occur maybe the following two step approach will help: 1) Trust in the Lord. 2) Pray for guidance. If we can avoid the problem, why not? It may be something that is out of our control. King David, who had his own difficulties and problems said in Psalm 55:22, "Cast your care on the Lord and He will sustain you." What a great alternative to worry. What worries do you need to give to God? Do you need someone to talk to you about your concerns, difficulties or worries? A Stephen Minister is a very good listener.

For more information about Stephen Ministry contact Pastor Gary at 623-546-6228 or Dee Harries at 785-562-6801.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy. May God continue to bless, guide and protect you.

"This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24



If you would like to place flowers in church for our Easter services April 3/4, please fill out the form below, make check payable to Crown of Life Lutheran Church and designate it for "Easter Flowers". Please Note: The deadline for all requests is Monday, March 22. You may place your check and order form in the offering plate or drop off/mail in the church office.

Number of Mums ordered (\$11): _____

Number of Lilies ordered (\$11): _____

Check total enclosed with order: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Please Check One:

I will pick up my flowers after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Easter Morning

I do not wish to pick up my flowers

Easter Flowers

by Florella Denzin

March is our Lenten season of reflection and preparation before Easter. By observing 40 days of Lent, Christians remember Jesus' withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. This is time to reflect more and growing in our relationship with our Savior.

We look at our particular sins, repent, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us turn from them. Some like to give up something they love and use the time for scripture, prayer and helping others. The end of Lent is Easter. Our celebration needs beautiful flowers. To help add Easter flowers to our altar please fill out the form to the left.



Upcoming LWML Meeting

by Rita Grover

Our next Ladies group meeting will be March 9, 2021. It will again be a ZOOM meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. The featured guest will be Paula Snook, Chairman of Volunteers for Saddles of Joy. Saddles of Joy is a recipient of one of the LWML Pacific Southwest District Mission Grants. Saddles of Joy is a nonprofit organization within the Yuma, AZ community providing a therapeutic riding program that serves those with special needs, be it physical, emotional or behavioral issues as well as anyone seeking peace and well-being among the animals. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Discover what Saddles of Joy is doing to spread God's Love.

If you are not on the email list to receive ZOOM Invitations please send an email to Lisa: safago.lisa@gmail.com or Rita: rjgrover1@aol.com

March Altar Flowers

- 5-6 Lee & Julie Ketelsen in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.
- 5-6 Louise Fountain in celebration of her 97th birthday and in loving memory of her husband Don.
- 12-13 Duane & Cookie Rawson in celebration of their 62nd wedding anniversary.
- 20-21 Gordy & Joyce Rieck in celebration of Gordy's 90th birthday.

LWML March News

By Rita Grover

LWML has a new Mission Statement! The past Mission Statement was written in 1988. At the last LWML President Assembly meeting, the Visioning Committee presented a new Mission Statement which was approved at the October LWML Board of Directors' meeting.

New LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

We are Mission-Focused, so we answer God's call to share His Gospel at home and abroad.

Crown of Life has the opportunity to share The Gospel with disadvantaged children. This includes boys and girls living in foster care, single-parent families, or low-income homes, as well as children who have experienced abuse, neglect, gang violence, or even a parent in prison. Our gifts of hygiene products will be donated to Youth Haven in Eloy, Arizona. Youth Haven is committed to meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of these special children. LWML will assemble hygiene kits that will bring comfort to these children. Your donations will bring them comfort and hope during this time. We want these children and their families to know we care, and most importantly, God cares. Your gift is greatly appreciated and will give kids hope!

The Congregational Ingathering will be March 6 through March 21, 2021. We hope to make at least 100 Hygiene Kits for Youth Haven: reaching disadvantaged boys and girls ages 7-13 with God's love every week throughout the entire year.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Toothbrush | Toothbrush travel holders | Toothpaste |
| Dental floss | Washcloth | Bar of soap |
| Small lotion | Travel Size shampoo | Travel size conditioner |
| Comb - Boys | Brush - Girls | |

There will be two ways to donate. To make donating easy you may bring your donations with you when you come to church or there will be a drive-through, drop off opportunity that will be safe and convenient. **The Drive-through will be Thursday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. to Noon in the Crown of Life Parking Lot.**

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joining the Church Triumphant

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dorothy Radtke, January 2 | June Pearson, January 19 |
| Virginia Mehl, February 3 | Ruth Ferg, February 9 |

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

Memorial gifts can be donated in Ruth's honor to Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Dakota Boys Ranch or to Concordia University St Paul (please note in memory of Ruth Ferg so that it goes into the Lorraine Johnson Endowment fund.)

Peace through Prayer

by Kathie Schmidt, Prayer Team

As human beings from a very early age we find ourselves placed with others of our kind, beginning with the family unit and later the outside world. Think of the schools you attended and the teachers that became part of your life there. Some we loved and some we feared. The reactions to the latter became an attempt nevertheless to align and do what was expected. If we had parents who understood and took the time, they helped us understand the need for compliance and a method to navigate. If attending church together, part of the teaching included the necessity to submit to orderly authority, originating with our Creator God, placed on all to keep boundaries and prevent chaos.

Fast forward to our first position as an employee, to begin using our God-given skills and talents, becoming independent in the process. Expectations were given up front to perform in a certain way. Instructions were not always clear. Personality differences occurred. Yet success depended on our useful and committed performance to earn that paycheck. Later in time, with our education completed and goals firmly set, we are again confronted with department heads and coworkers who cause stress in the work environment.

Conflicts arise. Understanding is needed. Friends and family are consulted because it affects our physical and emotional wellbeing. The need for prayer moves to first position. Lord, help me understand why this person is reacting in that manner. What is it that I am doing that may contribute to this person disliking how I perform when I'm giving it my best effort? Help me Father, to get over the unfair treatment, as I contemplate that everyone has to answer to someone. Do you want me to pursue another path? If so, please open that door for me. In the meantime, thank you God, for giving me the ability to put myself on the other side of that desk between us, for walking a while in the shoes of the person put in charge over me. Prayers are offered for the one who can't seem to find harmony in his relationships with others. With those successive prayers in place, I can begin to relax and submit in peace, confident in the knowledge that really nothing can harm me with you at my side. Thank you, Lord, for always being there for me and guiding my every step.

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)



Would you or someone you know, like to become a member of Crown of Life? A New Member Information Class will take place on Saturdays March 13, 20, & 27 from 9-11am in the Chapel. New members will be received during worship the weekend of March 27/28. If you are interested in membership, please speak with one of the pastors or call the church office at 623-546-6228.



A sincere thanks to those who remembered me with best wishes and blessings on my 92nd birthday. - Gladys Strohschein

To My Crown of Life Family,

I can't express my gratitude enough to my church family for all the support you gave me during such a difficult time in my life. From so many years ago when Don had his back surgery and Pastor Phill was at the hospital so early that morning. Thank you.

For Pastor Gary who with his endless visits to Don at the care center, always brightened Don's day. You have no idea how Don looked forward to that. Thank you especially for the beautiful farewell you gave to Don. To Holly and all my Altar Guild friends who helped me through this.

Thank you Crown of Life family for all your cards and telephone calls, I could not have made it without you.

God's richest blessings always, Nada Workman

Treasurer's Report

by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

We finished 2020 on a strong surge of donations so our financial position at year end is very strong. We underspent our income for 2020 by \$140,864. The board decided the following distribution of this excess:

Organ Replacement	\$15,000
Pastor Search (new)	\$20,000
Endowment	\$55,864
Reserve for Capital replacement	\$50,000
	<u>\$140,864</u>

Following is our operating results for January of 2021.

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$71,311	\$69,325
Expenses	\$51,184	\$68,251

Once again I want to thank each and everyone of you for your support of the Crown of Life mission.



Concordia University Chicago Concert

The Concordia University, Chicago Wind Symphony will be partnering with the Sheboygan Lutheran High School Symphonic Band to bring you a coast-to-coast virtual concert event. The "From Coast to Coast: Praising Father, Son and Holy Ghost" concert will be live streamed Friday, March 12th at 7:30pm CST

Watch the bulletin and weekly emails for a link to view the concert online.

Rejoicing in the Wilderness

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:13) Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (1 Peter 4:19)

It is hard to believe that we have been wandering in the wilderness of the Covid-19 pandemic for a year! We have dealt with the monotony of a lockdown way of life in our homes. We have missed celebrating special occasions with our loved ones in person. We have had to be hypervigilant with masks, physically distancing and sanitizing all touched surfaces when we meet with others in person. Now we are all getting vaccinated!

In all these losses and changes, God is faithful. He is with us on every step of our journey through the unknown and the painful. He is patiently and lovingly transforming us to have the heart of Jesus. In all our trials, we can look to Jesus for comfort, strength, and guidance. What would Jesus do?

In all things, Jesus praised God and sought his will. In all things, Jesus loved us! We can rest assured that God loves us. His plan is for us to be with Him in Heaven. His desire is for us to love each other. God always looks to our hearts.

If you are grieving the death 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, and
- How to grieve in a way that's healthy and suited to you.

Our next 13-week GriefCare program, "Your Journey from Mourning to Joy," will start **Wednesday, April 7, 2021**. This program will provide ongoing support to those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Each week, we will cover a different aspect of grief experts deem essential to address to heal and move forward. *There is no requirement to share. Those who do not wish to share can benefit greatly from listening to others in the group.*

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 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 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) Al Stoudemire, Paul Brown,
 Lowell Janssen
 (9:00) Tom Johnson, Lowell Janssen,
 Duane Rawson
 (10:30) Tom Mertins, Henry Munzinger,
 Tom Johnson

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Joe Jellison
 (9:00) Merv Tvinnereim
 (10:30) Don Nicolay

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) Don & Marlie Abrahamson, Ron &
 Norma Mara
 (9:00) Bob Turk, Willie Lundquist, Jeff
 Holmes, Gail Holmes, Ed Michel,
 Paul Naumann, Dorian Pfeifer, Dave
 Roberts, Al Stoudemire
 (10:30) Ron Schumann, Byron Brown, Bill
 Karas, Frank Lohr, Norma Miller,
 Duane Neal

Saturday Greeters: Arline Orchowski & Pat Coyle
 March 3: Linda Sawyer, Pat Coyle, Louis Garippo
 March 10: Evelin Lackey, Pat Coyle, Louis Garippo
 March 17: Pat Coyle, Louis Garippo
 March 24: Pat Coyle, Louis Garippo

Altar Guild

(4:00) Ginger Stribling & Kathy Beilstein
 (9:00) Chris Roberts & Lola Leshney
 (10:30) Karen Murphy & Gloria Andersen



March BIRTHDAYS

1	John Lindley	27	Jeffrey Holmes
2	Sue Light	27	Eleanor Horen
3	Gretchen McCaslin	27	Richard Rydeen
4	Jackie DeAngelo	28	Lynn Bates
4	Bud Redburn	28	Trenna Brauer
4	Betty Wohlfeil	28	Sallie Jehn
4	Terri Worster	29	Paula Duffey
5	Marge Heinrichs	29	Ernie Schmidt
5	Paul Naumann	29	Ron Schumann
6	Judy Koelsch	30	Greg Harwood
6	Lewis Leibbrandt		
7	Kathryn Houck		
8	Marilyn Engelken		
8	Louis Fountain		
8	Fay Sieving		
8	Phil Finck		
9	Herb Wolf		
10	Dick Andersen		
10	Patti Vaughn		
11	Laurel Coffman		
11	LeeAnn Michaelis		
11	Judi Schmidt		
12	Mary Bonrud		
12	Jacquelyn Leavitt		
12	Carl Browning		
13	Sue Stuempfig		
13	Janna Thiel		
14	Shirley Swartz		
15	Gene Kuebler		
16	Larry Maass		
16	Joan Rall		
17	Ilene Borgman		
17	Femmie Gratian		
17	Dennis Wolf		
18	Scott Michael		
19	Nora Mara		
20	Chuck Blakley		
21	Otto Kelly		
22	Nancy Gothard		
22	Carol Worst		
23	Mark Adam		
23	Nancy Lee Barnes		
23	Gail Lindley		
23	Joan Thiese		
23	Reg Trevisan		
24	Vivian Beaugrand		
24	Byron Blackmore		
25	Gordy Rieck		
25	Sue Thomas		
25	Barbara Wagner		
26	Margaret Irwin		
26	Kristina Van Niel		
27	Gail Holmes		



March ANNIVERSARIES

1	Ed & Mary Pisacich
3	Larry & Sue Senne
6	Lee & Julie Ketelsen
11	Joe & Carol Natale
12	Sonny & Barbara Carns
13	Fred & Elaine Treftz
14	David & Judy Koelsch
14	Duane & Cookie Rawson
17	Eddie & Kristina Van Niel
20	Lowell & Donna Koelling
20	Bill & Joyce Nance
22	Bob & Diane Hammann
24	Gary & Karyl Brandvold
25	Chuck & Janet Blakley
26	Dick & Gloria Andersen
29	Byron & Gisela Brown
30	Carl & Holly Browning

Saturday Greeters!

With my deepest appreciation, I would like to take a moment to thank the following members who stepped up to serve the Lord on Saturdays passed when my life got in the way of my responsibilities. You're the greatest: Ron & Nora Mara, Jan Knutsen, Arline Orchowski, Mary Kindy, Susie Tomaszewski & Jean Byrd.

I would also like to welcome to our team, our brothers and sisters in Christ who will be serving the Lord this year greeting. Your help is truly needed; Linda & Chris Beck, Jean Byrd, Jeff Grover, Karen Jellison & Linda Sawyer.

Love and blessings, you've made my life easier.
 Hugs & Kisses to all!

In Gratitude,
 Pat Coyle