

JEWELS

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

April 2021

Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 4 PM

Sundays –
9 AM & 10:30 AM



Maundy Thursday

April 1 at 4PM

Good Friday

April 2 at 4 & 7PM

Easter Worship

Sat., April 3 at 4PM

Sun. April 4

7:30AM (Sunrise Service in Sanctuary)

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

Easter is early this year, April 4. Next year, later – April 17, after tax day for a change. Now I know you'll be seeing what follows elsewhere, in the bulletins, on the screens, later in these pages, but there are some things I'd like you to know about our Easter celebration this year.

The early, outside service has been moved inside, at 7:30AM, in order to provide more safe seating. As much as I love the sunrise service, we can't find a way to distance the usual 70 people on the patio, and a 7:30AM in the Sanctuary will provide more space and more seats. There will be special music at that service as always for the early Easter gathering. Between the services Sunday morning we will be setting out some snacks and coffee, again not the usual feed, but nice just the same.

Roger has arranged for a mini-concert of the brass and organ before the 4PM, 9AM and the 10:30AM services begin, so be prepared to hear some extra music this year, in addition, of course, to the choir and the bells. With all the above, we pray you'll be blessed by our Easter services this year, unlike last, actually happening on Easter!

The United Methodist Church in America has announced that before 2024 they will split into four separate denominations, thereby exploding forever the idea they are united in any way. In a publication entitled "Forward" the church has indicated the general focus of each of the four groups: Traditionalist Methodist Church, Moderate Methodist Church, Progressive Methodist Church, and Liberation Methodist Church. Each of these new denominations will be able to choose their own title, service styles, constitutions, theology and practice, etc.

Item Four of the announcement, the Transitional Council, reads as follows:

Transitional Council – There shall be a Transitional Council that develops the above-named Plan of Separation according to the values of self-determination, equitable distribution of general church assets, restorative justice, and reparations.

What is happening is that yet another main-line denomination in this country is taking leave of allegiance to Scripture, and deciding for itself, for its new selves, that God did not mean what He said in the Bible we call Holy. They feel that as the culture around us changes, the message of the Holy Spirit must change with it to accommodate the new mores and expectations of society. I am reminded of what the former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in America, Katharine Jefferts Schori, once said: "The Holy Spirit is speaking to us in a whole new way," thereby giving permission to that church to abandon the traditional understanding of Scripture.

Continued on pg. 2

Why you vote for a council member:

by Jay Nelson, President

The Role – assess and shape strategical and long-term direction, evaluate church doctrine, protect church unity, and oversee administrative functions of the church. (Compare it to the Board of Directors of a corporation.)

Members are vetted by the Senior Pastor and voted on by the church body at a Voters Meeting.

Selection criteria – Council members chosen by the church body should be Christian servants and role models with exhibited spiritual gifts that lend to, among others, leadership, wisdom, and administration (based on Acts 6:1-6 and Timothy 3).

Responsibilities –

- Pray & protect church unity
- Shape long-term unity
- Advise Senior Pastor
- Oversee administrative functions of the church
- Follow duties as set forth in other articles and Bylaws.

Your Church Council Members can be contacted via phone, in person, or through the church office.

President – Jay Nelson
Vice President – Mike Krischler
Financial Secretary – Duane Neal
Secretary – Judy Brodzeller
Treasurer – Arlin Bates
Elders – Tom Mertins
Missions – Marilyn Engelken
Trustees – Rollie Mann
At Large – Tom Leshney
Pastors – Phill Robbins & Gary Smith

Trust in those who serve. Your concerns, opinions, and questions are confidential.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has done the same thing, in its blessing of same-sex marriage, ordination, and corporate support of abortion. Likewise the Presbyterians have split, for the same reasons, into the traditional PCA and the liberal Presbyterian USA.

Just so you know, I reject completely the modern drive to re-imagine Scripture and the message of the Holy Spirit. Our church recognizes not the infallibility of a pope or a pastor, but the inerrancy of Scripture, a document that is God-breathed and as Paul says is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Shortly we will be celebrating Easter, the resurrection of the Christ accomplished in such a public fashion that it simply cannot be denied. His Word and Promise is proven on that day, and we who believe in that living Word will not bend to accommodate the itching ears that want to hear Scripture not for what it says, but for what they want it say.

May God bless us all!

Pastor Phill



Thoughts from Pastor Gary

How afraid we can be of death! We don't like going to the doctor because we're afraid he might find something that will end up killing us. We don't like to talk about diseases such as cancer or heart trouble because they can so often be fatal. Medicine that comes from a syringe or in a bottle may help keep us alive, but not forever. We need resurrection medicine.

Where can we find it? The same place the disciples did that first Easter. “The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:20) For them resurrection medicine came in the form of the living Lord. For you and me it is the written Word. They saw the risen Jesus in person; we see Jesus with the eyes of faith. Through the Word Jesus stands before us, just as surely today as He did before the disciples in the locked room. Through the Word Jesus speaks His promises of sin pardoned, death put to flight, and heaven flung wide open just as surely to you and me as to those first believers. I can get His very necessary resurrection medicine through regular dosages of His Word.

“Pastor, I can't lose,” said the hospitalized Christian facing serious surgery. “Either the surgery will be successful and Jesus will let me live a bit longer for Him, or Jesus will take me to live with Him forever.” She knew about resurrection medicine. For her it made all the difference in life and death. Time for all of us to shake the bottle of His Word and use the only medicine that can make us live forever.

Pray today and every day that Jesus, through His Word, will fill us with His life saving resurrection medicine.

Christ Caring for People Through People

By Ken Grover, Stephen Ministry

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.
Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:6

Alleluia, He is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Three days after paying the penalty for our sins, nailed to the cross, the sinless Jesus conquered death, by rising from the grave, thus breaking the power of sin. It was the sacrifice of His blood for our sins that opened the only way for us to have a loving relationship with God and a home, an eternal home with our Lord. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Yes, Christ's resurrection is a cause for celebration, a cause for our hope. Hope is a wonderful gift from God. Hope is a source of strength and courage in the face of life's harshest trials. When life hurts, and dreams fade, nothing helps like hope helps. Hope isn't merely a nice option that helps us clear the hurdles of life's troubles. Hope is essential for our survival. To hope is to believe in the possibility of a favorable future. Hope is the opposite of worry, fear and despair. Hopeful people live fruitful and positive lives. Hope implies a certain discontentment with the way things are and propels people to work for a more God pleasing future. People who hear and believe the good news about Jesus' resurrection, will hope in God, even when all human reasoning for hope is gone. Christian hope comes from and rests securely with God. God is the originator of hope. Stephen Ministers and other Christian caregivers are the facilitators of God's hope.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

For information about Stephen Ministry, contact Pastor Gary at 623-546-6228 or Dee Harries at 785-562-6801 (referral coordinator).

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

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

*He lives, He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!
(TCH 368: Refrain)*

Wishing you a Blessed and Happy Easter.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Easter Flowers

by Florella Denzin

We truly appreciate all the beautiful flowers for our exceptional Easter Celebrations! Thank you, committee members for arranging the altar flowers.

Martin Luther wrote: "Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Easter Legacy

by L. Mildred Harris

From Easter Eve to Easter Day
Was just a little time away,
But something happened
in those hours
That gave the world
triumphant powers.

Now Easter brings to us each year
The strength to triumph over fear;
And where we've found
a stone before,
We, too, may find an open door.

April Altar Flowers

- 10-11 Jerry Sandmann in loving memory of his parents Ira & Florence
- 17-18 Jerry & Florella Denzin in celebration of their 6th anniversary.
- 24-25 Gaille Holliday in loving memory of her husband Roger.



Thank You from LWML!

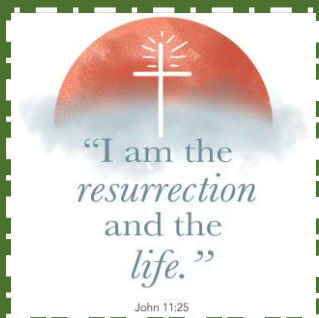
by Rita Grover

Thank you to all of you who participated in the Ingathering for Youth Haven. We were able to make 120 hygiene kits for children who arrive at camp often without these needed items. Thank you for the supplies and to all of the people who sorted, filled, and delivered the bags. Showing these disadvantaged children that God loves each one of them and that people care for them, is a real blessing to everyone. God Bless you all.



To our faithful Christian family: Thank you for your prayers, cards and support through Harry's surgery and on-going recovery. Thank you all for being there for us.

Love in Christ,
Harry and Cheryl Bernhardt



LWML March News

By Rita Grover

Just what is LWML? It stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Every woman who is a communicant member of an LCMS congregation is eligible to become a member of the LWML. All you need is a love for others, a desire to share the Gospel message, and a heart to serve. "Lutheran Women in Mission" describes who we are and what we do.

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

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

The last ZOOM meeting for the season will be *Tuesday, April 13th beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending approximately 2:00 p.m.* Our guest speakers will be Damon Bailey and Stephanie Carroll from Youth Haven. Youth Haven in Eloy, AZ was the recipient of the March Congregational Ingathering of Hygiene Kits. Please plan to join us and find out what Youth Haven is doing to Spread the Love of Jesus and give children the Hope that they are in need of in today's world. Please contact Lisa safago.lisa@gmail.com or Rita rjgrover1@aol.com to receive an invite to the ZOOM meeting.

Save the Date:

June 24-27, 2021 National LWML Convention, Lexington, Kentucky
www.lwml.org

October 1-3, 2021 Pacific Southwest District Retreat, Las Vegas, Nevada
www.psdlwml.org

October 12, 2021 LWML meeting at Crown of Life, first of the season, to be determined if in person or not.

November 6, 2021 Saguaro Zone 26 Fall Celebration 8:30 - 12 p.m.
Crown of Life, Sun City West



Spring Voter's Meeting

The Spring Voter's meeting will be taking place on Sunday, April 18. The time is yet to be determined. Watch your email and church announcements for the time as the date gets closer. Copies of Church Council reports will be available for pick up in the narthex the weekends of April 10/11 & April 17/18.



Prayer for the Love of Family

by Kathie Schmidt, Prayer Team

“Family is at the center of life’s meaning. Individuals linked together by a golden chain of love, like a never-ending hug, family encircles each member with steadfast devotion and enduring love. Family celebrates triumphs and shares adversities across generations and across miles. Family is belonging to and believing in each other.” These words are imprinted just like that around the frame of a picture that shows a beloved son and grandson sitting on a water craft, stopped long enough at Bear Lake, for me to take their picture during a vacation together.

It is true that our God of love and grace gave us family, someone to love and be loved by, to not be alone – an island by ourselves in a vast space of time. He wanted us as part of *His* family, belonging and believing in His goodness. Man broke that trust and since then, with His help, has given us a blueprint to reconcile - His Word, His Spirit, the treasure of His Son, and communication through prayer.

Most of us feel free to talk to God and Jesus, especially during times of dire need and grief; but it seems so hard for us to regain access to family who have turned away, who no longer have an interest in reasoned conversation, Isaiah 1:18. Hurtful words and actions have been exchanged; misunderstandings keep reoccurring. The thread is broken. Sadly, some die alone rather than be reconciled. When kindness, patience, smiles, and caring actions are rebuffed and replaced by anger, cursing, and recalcitrant behavior, the only remedy is prayer.

Help us Lord, to be the first to say “I am sorry. I didn’t understand, please forgive me for the stupid thing I did.” God keeps forgiving *us* for Jesus’ sake and blesses the efforts of the peacemaker. Love is given a chance when we decide to write that note, make that phone call, send that email. Oh Lord, make us willing to follow the example of your dear Son Jesus and be more like him.



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)

NO BIBLE CLASS

There will not be Bible Class in the Parish Hall on Friday, April 2, Sunday, April 4 and Friday, April 16.



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!

For I know that my Redeemer lives.

Job 19:25





Treasurer's Report

by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

	February	
	Actual	Budget
Income	\$68,076	\$67,383
Expenses	\$68,251	\$50,389

	Year To Date	
	Actual	Budget
Income	\$137,401	\$138,694
Expenses	\$136,503	\$101,573

Thanks for your stewardship. Crown of Life continues to stand on firm financial ground.

Thank you from the Church office

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped in the church office the past couple of months. Thank you for all your help with computer work, stuffing bulletins, and putting the church directory together. You are truly appreciated! - Holly Gast

The Lord has done great things for us! Hallelujah!

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

As we rejoice this Easter and make plans to visit loved ones, Psalms 126 comes alive for us:

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

We have lived through the trauma of the pandemic of 2020/2021. This Easter, as we contemplate Christ's sacrifice in inserting himself into the trauma of our fallen world to redeem us, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for God's unfathomable love for us.

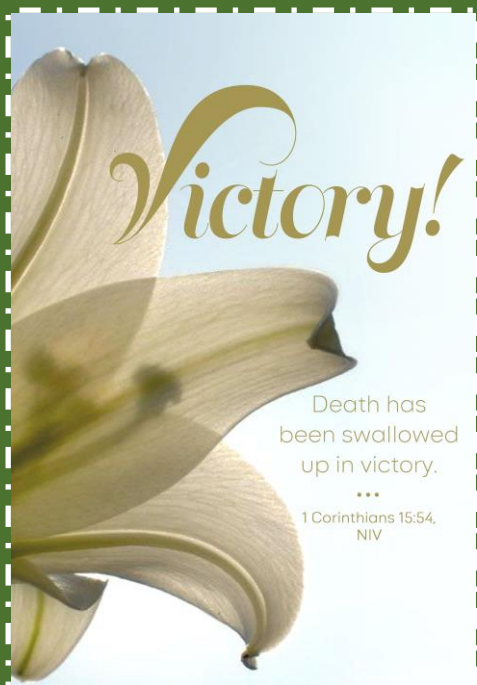
God asks us to call out to Him in prayer in times of trauma. When we do this, we access Our Father's power, love, strength, and wisdom. Throughout God's Word, He calls on us to pray to Him unceasingly.

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray." (James 5:10)

Our faith community's support is key to our resilience and healing from the trauma of a loved one's death. If you are grieving a loved one's death, please join our GriefCare support group.

Our spring GriefCare group will start on April 7, 2021. We will meet online Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We come together to strengthen each other in our Father's Word, love, and compassion to heal and move forward in a way that honors our Father and honors our loved ones. Our spring GriefCare group will be our last online group. We anticipate meeting in person in September.

Please call Christine Escobar at 623.218.6793 or email griefcare@colchurch.com to register and learn how to join us online.



ACSTO

Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization

When you give to ACSTO, you help provide tuition scholarships for students at LCMS Schools in Phoenix Metro — helping families who otherwise could not afford to choose an LCMS school.

You can give your 2020 tax credit donation any time up to April 15, 2021!

(Your donation must be made prior to filing your taxes, but no later than April 15, whichever comes first.)

HAVE A SAY IN HOW YOU PAY!

When you give, you receive a **dollar-for-dollar** tax credit against your 2020 state income tax obligation.

WHAT'S A TAX CREDIT?

Scan this with your cell phone camera and watch a two-minute video to find out!



LEARN MORE TODAY AT [ACSTO.org](https://www.ACSTO.org)

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, Ed Michel, Lowell Janssen
(9:00) Ron Mara, Chris Beck, Ed Michel, Duane Rawson
(10:30) Tom Johnson, Ed Michel, Joel Block
Maundy Thursday: Ed Michel & Ron Mara

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Merv Tvinnereim
(9:00) Don Nicolay
(10:30) Bob Hammann

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) Joan Byrd, Louise Fountain, Don & Judy Johnson
(9:00) Merv Tvinnereim, Lowell Janssen, Ginett Janssen, Cathy Meyer, Norma J. Miller, Paul Plapp, Jan Tvinnereim, Carolyn Ziegler
(10:30) Paul Brown, Gene Axelson, Jerry Denzin, Gordon Gonyo, Don & Evelyn Sandstede, Bill Schulzetenberg, Roger Wehrli,

Saturday Greeters: Linda & Chris Beck, Jeff Grover
Maundy Thursday: Jean Byrd, Pat Coyle
Good Friday: Susie Tomaszewski, Pat Coyle

Altar Guild

(4:00) Arline Orchowski & Linda Sawyer
(9:00) Gail Lindley & Sue Woodworth
(10:30) Carolyn Ziegler & Nancy McAfee



3 Colleen Doede
3 Dorothy Statton
4 Mark Brauer
5 Sue Finck
6 Arlin Bates
6 Mary White
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 Matak
12 Cheri Kuchta
12 Kay Rasmussen
12 Bob Weber
13 Ann Babcock
13 Howard Ludden
13 Barbara Williams
16 Al Waldron
18 Elaine Treftz
19 Paul Beilstein
19 Lisa Krueger
20 Suzanne Duncombe
20 Ken Hagemann
21 Carol Huf
22 Leonard Gadeken
25 Gordon Kath
25 Judy Vogel
26 Marlie Abrahamson
26 Eugene Renico
26 Madeline Renico
27 Roger Ferch
27 Becky Stinar
27 June Wilde
30 Sally Hemmerling



A special thanks to all our volunteers for their help each month.