

Jewels

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

May 2021

Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 4 PM

Sundays –
9 AM



Spring Voter's Meeting

The Spring Voter's meeting will be taking place on Sunday, May 2 at 10:15am. Copies of the voter's assembly packet are available for pick up in the Narthex.

From Pastor Phill

I know! Let's make some changes! Doesn't that sound like fun? OK, I promise any changes we make will be easy and simple:

- In May, we return to one service on Sunday, at 9AM – and we continue our regular Saturday services, of course;
- In May, masks will become optional, not required to worship with us. Now remember, not everyone will be completely comfortable with that, so we will continue to maintain distance from each other in the church – and if you're not feeling well, please stay home and watch us on YouTube;
- You will find hymnals in the pew racks again, although for now Holly will continue to produce the music sheets you find in your bulletins;
- In June, we will once again pass the offering plates in the pews, CDC having determined low to non-existent chance of contracting Covid from surfaces;
- In July, *assuming the rate of the virus in our communities stays low*, we will resume communing at the rail, rather than at the small tables as now;
- As we will be staying with a 9AM service year-round (and 10:30AM January thru April), we will be moving our spring Voters' Assembly to the first weekend in May, which Bylaw change will be addressed on May 2 at the upcoming Voters' Assembly.

So those are simple enough changes, yes? What we're doing is slowly returning to something like the normal we experienced in the church before February of 2020, when the world, and Crown of Life, changed.

Some Circuit news: together with a dozen other parishes, Crown of Life belongs to Circuit 24 of the Pacific Southwest District. One of those is Redeemer/Wickenburg: After ten years of vacancy, served all that time by Rev. Ken Piepenbrink, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wickenburg has called a pastor, Rev. Vince Barringer. Pastor Vince has served churches in Oregon and Orange County, California; his wife Lisa is retiring after 31 years as a 911 dispatch supervisor for Orange County. Please keep them and their new parish in prayer – you can imagine some culture shock for both pastor and parish!

And, Rev. Jamie Holt, currently pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Phoenix, as well as teacher at Valley Lutheran High School, has accepted a call to Illinois, near

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Quilters Update

by Marlene Petersen

During this past year with Covid19, we the quilters have been quilting off and on, as possible. We did make one donation to the Youth Haven Camp for children and have donated 21 quilts to them.

Our next donation will probably be sometime in May or June to the Phoenix Sunshine Foster Children. If you are interested in joining our group please call the church office and talk to Holly or call Marlene Peterson at 623-556-1055 as we will be meeting all Summer.

We would be more than happy to have you join us the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Remember to bring a lunch. All of the snowbirds that have already left and the ones that are planning to leave soon, please take care and wear your mask. Self-Distance!

God bless everyone as we want and need you back here soon.



St. Charles. He and wife Erin and their two kids will be relocating after the school year at Valley, going home, actually, as they are from that area. We pray that Mt. Calvary will have a successful call process to replace Pastor Jamie!

In recent years there have not been sufficient graduates from our seminaries, Concordia/St. Louis and Concordia/Ft. Wayne, to fill the calls for graduates from parishes throughout the country. April 27 and 28 are the Call Days for our seminaries, the day on which the graduates learn which parish they will be serving after four years of seminary training. Talk about nervous! Will it be Bemidji or Baltimore? Portland or Pekin? Always, the seminary asks its graduates their general wish for their first call – and every one I’ve ever asked doesn’t get nearly their first choice. So pray for those guys as well, please.

I urge you to become aware of the so-called Equality Act before the U.S. Senate now. It has the potential to devastate religious freedoms in this country. Here is a link to LCMS Matthew Harrison’s letter on the Act:

<https://reporter.lcms.org/2021/lcms-presidents-statement-on-the-equality-act/>

If you’ve not followed the progress of this Act through Congress since its introduction by Mrs. Pelosi last year, please take some time to familiarize yourself with its provisions. Both Arizona Senators are, I understand, inclined to vote for passage. May God bless our nation, and protect the church at large from attack. Pray.

Pastor Phill

Thoughts from Pastor Gary

Helen, the wife of Sparta’s king Menelaus, was acclaimed the most beautiful woman in Greece. The Greeks fought the Trojan War in order to get her back from Troy, where Paris, the son of King Priam, had taken her. In Christopher Marlowe’s *Dr. Faustus*, the question is asked concerning Helen, “Was this the face that launched a thousand ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium?”

In May, we honor women with another kind of beauty – the beauty of Christian virtue and of devotion to maternal duties. We ask, concerning our mother: Is this the face that smiled on us, her children, guided us, and launched us for life’s voyage? Are these the hands that served us in a thousand ways and taught us to fold our own hands in prayer? Are these the feet that moved swift and beautiful under the impulse of love? Are these the lips that spoke to us about our Savior’s dying love to make us His own? Indeed they are! A mother’s sincere devotion far exceeds Helen’s beauty, for it is the inner beauty of love.

What a wonderful tribute the book of Proverbs gives to the godly mother:

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all,” Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring praise at the city gate. (Proverbs 31: 28-31)

Having given our mothers such praise, all that remains is that we who are children, young or old, support our words with actions, with loving deeds, as our Lord would have it.

Today and every day give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings He has communicated to you through your mother, especially for teaching you about Jesus. Whether your mother is still with you or is now with Jesus in heaven, a mother’s love is never ending.

Christ Caring for People Through People

By Ken Grover, Stephen Ministry

“My dear brothers, take note of this; everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak.”

James 1:9a

You are not listening to me! You didn't listen when I told you! Listen carefully to me! Sound familiar? Our days are filled with us listening to the different sounds. The jangle of the alarm clock, birds chirping, the buzz of the dryer, the ding of the microwave, the voice of the newscaster, the shouts of the neighborhood children, and the roar of the traffic.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Most of us are poor listeners, our minds are moving faster than the spoken word. The world aches for good listeners. Many doctors report that they daily see patients who have nothing physically wrong with them. They just need someone to listen to them. It is very important to learn how to listen and to respond effectively to those that are in difficult situations. To “just” listen is a very effective way to help others. Listening says, what matters to you, matters to me. People want to be listened to by someone who loves and cares about them. To really listen is a learned skill, and it takes time to listen long enough to “hear” what the other person is really saying. Then, if and when we do speak, we must speak with gentle wisdom. May the Lord give us a loving heart and a fine-tuned listening ear. It is also important to understand that when we are thinking about an answer while others are talking, we are not listening.

Proverbs 18:13 says, *“He who answers before listening, that is folly and shame.”*

Listening is perhaps the most important skill that a Stephen Minister uses. It is a powerful caregiving tool.

When was the last time someone really listened to you? The kind of listening that is fully focused on you, without distractions. Stephen Ministers are that kind of listeners, as they care for others. Jesus demonstrated the relationship between caring and listening. Before Jesus healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman, he listened to her testimony of faith (Matthew 15:21-28). Before Jesus healed the blind man, Jesus asked him what he wanted, and then listened to his reply (Mark 10:46-52). Jesus showed concern first by listening and then ministering to their need. Certainly, Jesus presents a good example of listening for caregivers. Even with his insight into peoples' needs, Jesus listened to people before acting or responding. It is important that Stephen Ministers listen before they respond. If you need someone to listen to you, in a caring manner, a Stephen Minister is available.

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.

Flower Committee

by Florella Denzin

May is Mother's Day month. Abraham Lincoln said "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Rudyard Kipling said "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."

We wish all women A Blessed Month!

ATTENTION!!!

We welcome more help on the flower committee.

We do not arrange the altar flowers; they are made and delivered to us by Four Seasons Floral and Gifts. Our members pick the month/months they can take the flowers off the altar and take to the office counter for the giver to obtain. This duty naturally occurs after the last Sunday service. A Saturday attendee can bring arrangement from refrigerator to altar by 3:15PM (A trustee/ Usher spouse is ideal.)

Training is done for minor details. Christmas and Easter the whole committee helps as possible.

Call Florella at 623-670-4320
We appreciate your interest!



Psalms 86:15



A sincere thanks to those who remembered me with best wishes and blessings on my 90th birthday.

Eleanor Horen

A special thank you to everyone for prayers when Doug had his mini stroke.

Doug & Colleen Doede



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

-or-

Set up Electronic Giving through our Simply Giving program. Contact Holly Gast at office@colchurch.com or 623-546-6228 in the church office if you would like more information.

LWML May News

By Rita Grover

This has been a very different year for Crown of Life LWML, however we have continued to support local and global missions, both with donated items and with our Mites, as we serve the Lord with gladness. Our Zoom meetings have had a variety of guests. We pray that when we resume our meetings in October that we will once again meet in person, but only God knows the answer to that prayer at this time.

The National LWML has adopted the following Mission Statement:

“As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.” Here at Crown of Life we also pray that we will continue to hold strong to this statement.

As I write this article, the National LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky (June 24-27, 2021) has just announced that because of COVID restrictions, registrations have been shut down. However, there is prayerful anticipation that the percentage of seating capacity at this time, will increase before the June Convention. Please go to www.lwml.org to be placed on a wait list if you still want to attend. **“Everyone Can Watch Convention Live!”** If you are unable to attend the Lexington Convention in person, you can still participate by watching live video streaming of the convention. All sessions and worship services will be streamed live, and most will also be available for viewing later. A link to the live stream and printed material and resources can be found on the LWML website at www.lwml.org/2021-convention.

Save the Date

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. Reserve your Hotel Room as soon as possible, if the Raiders play in Vegas that weekend the rooms will go as soon as the schedule comes out. Room Code LWR for special rate. Don't delay to reserve your room! Carpool? Rita: 623-247-9604

Saturday, November 6, 2021 LWML Saguaro Zone 26 Fall Celebration will be held here at Crown of Life with the theme "Trust in the Lord." The Bible Verse we will focus on is Psalm 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.* Registration starts at 8:30 with coffee and breakfast breads followed by meetings from 9-12. The morning devotion will be led by Pastor Phill Robbins.

June 3-5, 2022 LWML Pacific Southwest District Convention in Tempe, Arizona! Come and be reminded that you are a treasure to our Lord - a pearl of great value! Come and feel His love for you and be encouraged to take His love out into the world. Worship our Lord, laugh with LWML sisters, vote on new officers and mission grants, and enjoy great food, sing praises to our Lord, and have some fun!



Staying Connected with the Source, the Almighty

by Kathie Schmidt, Prayer Team

Jesus our Consoler and Comforter in Chief is at our side always, as real as the eyes of faith will see Him, just as He appeared in reality to all assembled in the upper room without entering through a locked door. He is directly within touch today when illness and grief level us to the ground.

Think about it. Isn't it fortunate to have someone in our life who has the final say over everything, about whom there is no doubt at all. Truth is truth with Him. It cannot be disputed. He is light and life, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Our Creator God, I AM, was and is and will be forever there. He truly cares for each of us, the little boy grown into the independent man, the little girl become the loving mom, providing care wherever it is needed. He covered us from harm from infancy by baptism and by the prayers and blessings of our forebears. He fashioned us into the tools and instruments of His liking, picking us up after each slip and fall with loving discipline. How great is His love for those who honor and obey Him? No one can fathom it. He will not allow us to struggle alone without help.

Tuned in, to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we are able to filter through untold hardships to come through pure and strong. God's plan for us is proceeding daily, though mostly unseen by us, His wise prerogative, for us to submit in complete trust. Those, who have been blessed with long life and a clear mind, are bound to witness to the greatness and goodness of God with delight. Grant us the will, dear Father, to dedicate the time allotted us to that effort.



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)



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!

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Joining the Church Triumphant

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

Marilyn Kurvers, April 7

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

Treasurer's Report

by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

	March	
	Budget	Actual
Income	\$79,927	\$83,715
Expenses	\$68,251	\$83,172

	Year To Date	
	Budget	Actual
Income	\$217,328	\$222,409
Expenses	\$204,754	\$184,745

Our expenses for the month of March were higher than budget because we caught up with our mission payments for the quarter. We also had a 1-time payment for our church insurance for the year amounting to \$8500.

Year to day we are trending a small amount higher than budget in receipts (\$5000) and continue to spend less than budgeted for expenses.

Many thanks for your continued stewardship.

Praying the Psalms of Lament

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place. (Psalm 31:7-8)

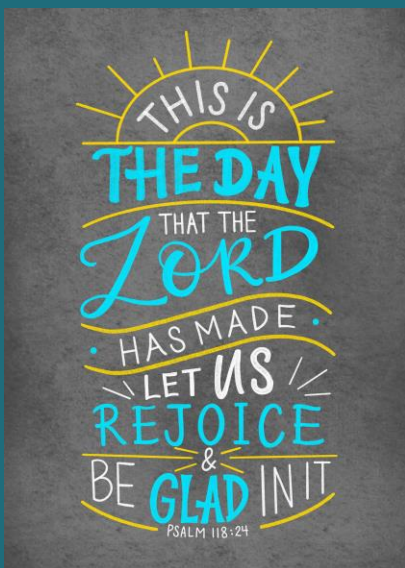
In times of grief, we can draw close to the Lord through praying the Psalms of Lament. The Psalms of lament provide the words to express the suffering we may not have in our overwhelming anguish. In Christ's victory over death on the cross and his outpouring of the Holy Spirit into our hearts, we share in Christ's victory over death.

Through the Psalms, we can lament and rejoice in God's promises to us. All of God's promises find fulfillment in Christ and life in him by the Spirit. God promises us eternal life in Heaven. However, while we are in the world, we are stewards of his good gifts. God created us for a purpose, and we honor God by fulfilling his purposes for us. Each day of our lives is a gift from God. Each day is a day he walks with us and transforms us into his image.

When we pray the Psalms, we bring every part of ourselves before our Triune God as his adopted children. We can praise, complain and even vent. God asks us to take all our concerns to him. We do so trusting in his promises to us to always be with us and never forsake us.

As the song "What a Friend We have in Jesus" reminds us, *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer.*

If you are currently grieving a loved one's death and feel alone in your grief, please join our GriefCare group on Wednesday mornings via Zoom. We are meeting every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. In our meetings, you will find comfort, support, and tools to help you get back on your feet and find joy once again. Call Christine Escobar at 623-218-6793 or email griefcare@colchurch.com for more information and to register. We plan to resume in-person meetings in the fall.





Originally **Memorial Day** was known as **Decoration Day**, meant to honor the Union and the Confederate soldiers who died during the American Civil War. By the 1900s it had become a **day** to celebrate all American soldiers who died while serving in the military. It wasn't until 1967 that it was legally named **Memorial Day**.

This Memorial Day we salute the men and women who served to protect our Country.

Servants

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

ELDERS

(4:00) Al Stoudemire, Tom Mertins, Chris Beck, Joel Block
(9:00) Tom Mertins, Chris Beck, Joel Block, Dave Sawyer

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Joe Jellison
(9:00) David Koelsch

FLOWERS

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

SOUND TECHNICIANS- Tim Gast, Coordinator

May 1: Joe Jellison
May 2: Mike Krischler
May 8 & 29: Dave Sawyer
May 9: Cathy Meyer
May 15 & 22: Tim Gast
May 16: Bruce Borchert
May 23: Kathy Beilstein
May 30: Gerry Harpt

SCREENS - Tom Mertins, Coordinator

May 1: Lou Garippo
May 2: Ken Coffman
May 8: Deb Christ
May 9: Bruce Borchert
May 15: Ginger Stribling
May 16: Cathy Meyer
May 22: Wiley McAfee
May 23: Kathe Schmidt
May 29: Lou Garippo
May 30: Kathy Beilstein

TELLERS

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

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

May 1 & 15: Susan Schaffer
May 8 & 22: Darlene McAfee
May 29, 4pm Cathy Meyer

Saturday Greeters

Linda & Chris Beck, Pat Coyle, Vicki Mork

Altar Guild

(4:00) Ginger Stribling, Karen Jellison
(9:00) Karen Murphy, Kathy Beilstein



- 1 Janet Lemp
- 1 Thom Light
- 1 Dave Potter
- 2 LeAnna Grell
- 2 James Kunzie
- 2 Dale Stoltenow
- 4 Myrna Borchert
- 4 Marilyn Goodnight
- 4 Lawrence Mills
- 6 Nancy McAfee
- 6 Lynn McKeag
- 6 Don Raridon
- 6 Elizabeth Young
- 7 Mel Howry
- 8 Ed Kristof
- 9 Donald O. Carlson
- 9 Ken Grover
- 11 Patricia Petersen
- 11 Paul Stuempfig
- 13 Tom Mertins
- 14 Joan Byrd
- 15 Rhonda Adam
- 15 Fran Wallin
- 16 Ron Mara
- 16 Dianne Mertins
- 18 Debra Mirly
- 19 Ruth Anderson
- 19 Mary Fritz
- 19 Bob Holstein
- 19 Gloria Redburn
- 19 Bill Schulzetenberg
- 20 Don Dupras
- 20 Paul Heimbuch
- 20 Jeanette Martin
- 20 Lorna Richardson
- 20 Audrey Rolf
- 22 Joyce Hall
- 22 Dave Roeker
- 23 Shirley Gadeken
- 24 Greg Brown
- 24 Gloria Mansfield
- 24 Ed Pisacich
- 25 Roberta Lane
- 26 Mary Mehner
- 27 Dan Mehner
- 27 Joe Rau
- 28 Marion Abraham
- 28 Lynn Johnson
- 30 Forest Neumann
- 31 Roger Engelbrecht
- 31 Phyllis Naumann



- 2 Mark & Trena Brauer
- 8 Ed & Sharon Kristof
- 12 Ken & Laurel Coffman
- 14 Duane & Orvillena Neal
- 22 Henry & Dene Munzinger
- 24 Dave & Dawn DuRocher
- 24 Jerry & Karen Myers
- 25 Ken & Rita Grover
- 26 Chuck & Carol Worst
- 29 Rev. John & Vi Pope
- 29 Al & Lucy Stoudemire
- 31 Don & Colleen Lekawa



(4:00) Joan Byrd, Rita Grover, Al & Jan Knutsen

(9:00) Emil Tomazin, Chuck Blakley, Ed Kristof, Lola Leshney, Tom Leshney, Rollie Mann, Linda Mann, John Schalk, Cheryl Schalk, Lorna Richardson, Myron Holen, Jan Drake, Jim Drake, Gerry Harpt, Lynne Rose, Carl Browning Jr., Holly Browning