

# May Jewels

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

May 2023

## Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 4 PM

Sundays – 9 AM



## Spring Voters' Meeting

The Spring Voters' meeting will be taking place on Sunday, May 7th at 10:15 AM. Copies of the voter's assembly packet are available for pick up in the Narthex.

## From Pastor Phill

Pentecost this month, the weekend of the 27th and 28th. Acts 2 tells the story of the moment of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and Peter's inspired impromptu sermon to the many gathered. So many heard and witnessed the miracle Luke describes, and the church began to grow into the future God designed for it:

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' preaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through apostles. Acts 2:42-43 (ESV)*

Acts really is the story of the Holy Spirit and the growth of the Christian faith, first through the apostles and then through believers who embraced the truth of the Christ. That story continues today, doesn't it? These days we don't see hundreds come to faith at once, as they did in those ancient days, rather, the Spirit seems to work in one heart at a time in our day. The growth of the church in our century is in the Southern Cone, that is, Africa and Latin America, even as our American culture turns away from the church.

We wonder what we as a parish might do to encourage people to come to church. It will not be in a watering down of our theology of God's Law and His Gospel, our understanding of the gift of the Lord's Supper, or our definition of marriage as between a man and a woman. Those things run counter to the culture around us, likely putting off some with itching ears who desire to hear what they've absorbed from the world around them. So – can we find ways to enhance the impression people have of our physical plant as they visit the first time?

And so the Enhancement Committee was born. That group of folks, long time members and newer members, have come up with a variety of enhancements to our physical plant, small and larger. Such things as a refresh of the bathroom counters and fixtures, replace the card tables in the Narthex with something nicer, improve the signage as you approach the property, and other simple changes that might benefit those of us who are already here, and impress the first-time visitor with how well we care for our physical plant.

Bigger ticket items we'll look at: a movable wall in the Parish Hall, an electronic sign out front, and new carpeting in the Sanctuary and Narthex would, if Council approved, need to be scheduled over time due to cost. At Easter you might have seen the family we encouraged to move out from behind the pulpit to a near-by pew – since we aren't using the pulpit, do we remove it when we recarpet in the future? Future pastors may well want something portable for use up front but I'll be surprised if our lovely pulpit will see much use in years to come.

Here is some news, and a need: On Tuesday, May 9, the Jazz Ensemble from Concordia University Nebraska (you know – Seward) will be performing at Crown. They come in the 9th, and leave again the 10th, exact times still open.

*Continued on pg. 2*



## **Bible Studies**

### **Sundays**

Bible Class – 10:15 AM  
(Parish Hall)

### **Mondays**

Women's Bible Study –  
9:30 AM (Parish Hall)

### **Tuesdays**

Women's Lineage of Grace  
Study –  
3:00 PM (Parish Hall)

### **Wednesdays**

Bible Class  
9:30 AM (Parish Hall)  
Women's Lineage of Grace  
Study Zoom  
10:30 AM (Zoom)

### **Fridays**

Men's Study - 9:00 AM  
(Parish Hall;  
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  
and have a great summer!

The need: we need 6 households to take a total of 13 students the night of the 9th, back to church the 10th for breakfast. That breaks down to one house of 3, 5 homes of 2 each, and I'm told these kids don't mind air mattresses on the floor. We will be providing dinner and breakfast for them, so you don't have to cook. Please, raise your hands.

Easter really is our spring high point in attendance. Our numbers were up at every service and event over recent years, the music was terrific, the hummingbird on the patio worshipped with us at 6AM – it gets no better. For those of you leaving for cooler climes, may God bless your journeys, come back when you can. God willing, we'll be here to greet you in the fall!

## **From Pastor Mark**

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord! As I write this article, I am excited! There is, of course, the warm aftermath of a beautiful celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord! But I also rejoice in seeing the wonderful way our family in Christ comes together. As your "new" pastor I noticed that, as we have been worshipping together, there has been a genuine love that is a predominant fragrance within our sanctuary. There have been many different expressions of this love in all kinds of little ways everywhere I go. Whether it be in our Bible Studies or the amazingly delicious brunch that was shared on Easter Sunday or all the different gatherings both Barbie and I have been a part of.

There are many different indicators to show how this congregation has a great love for one another and how it is blessed with progress and leadership...but I will leave the particulars of those strides to our President's and Treasurer's articles. I want to concentrate on the Spiritual aspect of our journey and what is ahead.

As we have come together around the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection this Easter, I have watched as little flames of the Holy Spirit's work have appeared! There have been many positive comments coming from our members and the visitors I have had the opportunity to talk to. There has been a strong feeling of family, of working together, and of answered prayer! People have talked about prayers being answered in healing, new beginnings, and family coming together here at Crown of Life.

There has been a wonderful reception of the biblical truths that have been discussed through sermons and Bible Studies along with an element of transformation that has taken place as we have walked together these past months.

All this being said, I believe our Lord would not want us to become complacent in our comfort. We are called to look forward and also outward. I believe we are called to move into a new era of mission and ministry. As we do that, we need to look at what it is that the Lord is calling our family of believers to do in the community around us at this time.

With our rich and varied backgrounds and our understanding of God's Word, Crown of Life is poised to be very effective at helping people connect with Jesus and experience the blessings that God desires for all people in Sun City West, Sun City, "The" Grand, Festival, Peoria, Surprise...and to the ends of the earth!

To that end, we are preparing a plan to facilitate our outreach as a congregation. You will be hearing more about this in the following months. Our future is exciting, and I am excited about what has been happening and what I believe the Lord has in store for this body of believers we call Crown of Life Lutheran Church!



# May 2023

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA



## Join us for a special concert on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm Crown of Life, Sanctuary

Under the direction of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, Concordia University Nebraska's Vocal Jazz Choir, a 13-voice select ensemble which performs standard jazz and pop-influenced choral music, and will perform at **Crown of Life** as part of their 2023 tour. You won't want to miss it!

## LWML May News

By Rita Grover

Our Congregation will have an Ingathering of backpacks and school supplies beginning June 3 until July 2. Each backpack will contain the following items.

- |  |                     |                                      |                    |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 scissors   | 1 ruler             | 2 spiral notebooks                   | 1 pencil sharpener |
| 2 pencils  | 2 pens              | 2 glue sticks                        | 1 eraser           |
| 10 sheets construction paper                             | 1 box of 24 crayons | 1 package-colored pencils (12 count) |                    |
| 1 backpack, drawstring athletic bag or homemade tote bag |                     |                                      |                    |

Please stack flat items together. Place all items inside bag. Close bag.



These backpacks will be going to the Native American Reservations and unhoused children here in Arizona. If you would rather donate just certain items, that is fine, however complete backpacks are suggested. This is just a heads-up for when the school supplies come on sale. If you would like to donate money, please make the check out to Crown of Life Lutheran Church and designate "Grain Train Backpacks". Thank you so much.



## Crown of Life Women's Tea

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, women of Crown of Life and some sister churches came together and enjoyed some good Barbershop music (Girl's Night Out), goodies, and visiting with one another. Pastor Phill installed the new LWML Officers: Darlene Markle- President and Barbie Aden – Vice President. Continuing officers are Terri Worster – Secretary and Rita Grover – Treasurer.

Thank you to all of you that made this a special time for all.



## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

### Joining the Church Triumphant

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

Alberta Rodriguez, April 13

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



## Ascension Day and Heavenly Reunions

By Christine Escobar, Care Coordinator

Knowing our loved ones believed in Christ when they died and that we will be reunited with them in Heaven when God calls us home gives us great comfort. John 3:16 tells us, *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.*

Jesus reassured us before his crucifixion, *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself* (John 12:32). Mark 16:14-20 states that after Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples and commissioned them to *Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.* Acts 1:3 states, *He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.* Acts 1:9 describes Jesus' ascension: *He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.*

When our loved ones die, we feel torn apart from them. Sometimes we think about how could God give us such a precious and loved gift and then take them back to Himself. When I think along these lines, I consider how it must have felt for God to sacrifice his relationship with His Son when He sent him into the world to reconcile us to Him. I also consider what joy there must have been in their reunion when Jesus ascended back to Heaven. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit know our pain and have a plan to end our pain, tears, and death. *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away* (Revelations 21:4).

If you feel your grief is all-consuming, please join our GriefCare group in the Chapel on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You will find GriefCare pamphlets with our schedule at the information desk. You will find hope, comfort, support, and practical tools to help you get back on your feet and fulfill God's purpose for you in this world. Call Christine Escobar at 623-218-6793 or email [griefcare@colchurch.com](mailto:griefcare@colchurch.com) for more information and to register.



### May Altar Flowers

6-7 Elizabeth Young in celebration of her birthday.

Barbara & James Shumate in loving remembrance of their son Scott.

27-28 Ken & Rita Grover in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.



To Crown of Life Members,

Thank you for the prayers and meals this past month. All were truly appreciated since my recent back surgery.

Sincerely,  
Susie Tomaszewski



**Are you a creative woodworker?**

**Do you know of someone who loves to create beautiful things out of wood?**

The church is looking for someone to create two wooden crosses to display in our narthex. If you would be interested or if you know of someone that might be able to do this, please contact Linda Sawyer, 480-252-0458, for more information.





## Set Apart to Serve as the Body of Christ in this World.

by Christine Escobar, Care Coordinator



Mark 16:14-20 states that after Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples and commissioned them to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. When we follow Jesus's teachings, we affirm the Gospel of Christ to the world.

Our Crown of Life family demonstrates our love for our Savior in the many ways we serve our church body and community. Our Care Ministry was formed to serve our church family in practical ways that show our love and concern for each other. Don't hesitate to contact our Care Team leaders if we can lighten your day with our support.

### SAVE THE DATE



Crown of Life Lutheran Church  
13131 W Spanish Garden Drive  
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Wednesday, May 24, 2023  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm (Parish Hall)

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Michael Harper**  
**Area Agency on Aging,**  
**Maricopa County AZ**

The Area Agency on Aging  
provides programs and services  
to adults aged 60 and older and  
family caregivers of older adults.

RSVP:

Christine Escobar  
623.218.6793 or  
[Care@colchurch.com](mailto:Care@colchurch.com)

Our Care Ministry is also scheduling monthly presentations to provide information on valuable resources in our community. **On Wednesday, May 24, Michael Harper from the Area Agency on Aging** will be here to explain the vast array of community programs and services available to adults aged 60 and older and family caregivers of older adults. Feel free to invite guests who would benefit from this presentation.

**Please pick up a copy of this flyer from the office or on the information desk.**

If you have a need or want to join one of our Care teams, don't hesitate to contact one of the team leaders listed below.

Duane Rawson (Trustees) 928-925-0453  
(Light) Handyman/Technology Services

Darlene Markle 970-623-9360  
Homebound/Care Center Visits

Christine Escobar 623-218-6793  
Community Resource Referral

Marilyn Goodnight 623-444-7551  
Share a Meal Request/Referral

Dee Harries 785-562-6801  
Stephen Ministry Request/Referral

**Questions:** Call Christine Escobar at 623-218-6793 or [care@colchurch.com](mailto:care@colchurch.com)

## LWML Sisters in Christ

By Darlene Markle, LWML

Dear LWML sisters-in-Christ,

What a privilege to serve this amazing group of women for the next year along with Barbie Aden, Terri Worster and Rita Grover.

Thanks to Rita, Denise Trevarrow, Lisa Safago, Terri and Barbie for your dedication. If ever there were a group of women on a mission, it's the 5 of you! The monthly programs as well as all the activities and speakers that were presented this past year have been such a blessing to many outside the church. What an exciting door to walk through as an outreach.

Stay safe this summer and may our gracious Lord protect all who are traveling and bring us back together in September. Take in all God's goodness as you stay in the Word and sing praises to Him. Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you."

Blessings always,  
Darlene Markle

## Your Mission Board At Work

By Gene Axelson, Mission Board

In addition to sending the budgeted \$5,000 grants last month to both Concordia University schools in Seward, NE and Irvine, CA for their scholarship funds restricted for a student majoring in a church work program, we added a \$5,000 grant to Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This is earmarked for tuition assistance for Cory Luedemann (grandson of retired Pastor Ron Luedemann), with the stipulation that he remain in his major to become a church worker in the LCMS system. This grant is not renewed automatically.

The Mission Board also approved a \$2,000 grant for Garuna Ministries for the schools being built in Cambodia. We will again address this request at one of our fall meetings in 2023.



## Crown of Life is a Praying Church

By Kathe Schmidt, Prayer Team

As a member of the Prayer Ministry at Crown of Life Lutheran Church, this is a good time to let you know once again that prayer needs, as soon as expressed by you, are sent to God's attention in one of two ways.

Because the need for prayer comes to us at the most unexpected times at various levels of intensity, it needs to be expressed to someone to relieve stress and anxiety. For those closest to us, our immediate families – young or old in years – a call is placed to the church office to have the prayer need made known to the congregation by the pastors. They are the ones who announce the name of the affected member from the altar during prayer time.

For friends and neighbors dear to us, ill or distressed for whatever reason, Crown of Life has an online option to make that need known to church members who have signed up to speak to God on behalf of the person listed in the email. The email address to submit any prayer request for yourself or a friend is: [prayer@colchurch.com](mailto:prayer@colchurch.com). It is found on the back of the weekly worship folder. For those experiencing difficulties getting online, please use this same link in your email program, starting with the "New Mail" option. On completing the prayer request, press the "Send" button and it will be received by those who signed up to pray for the person in need. To sign up as a member to be a recipient of email prayer requests, please call the church office and you will be given the information.

In addition, Crown of Life members are welcome to join the Prayer Team who meets at church mid-morning on Mondays. These folks are dedicated to present petitions and intercessions to the Lord for any brother or sister in need. This group of prayer warriors does include all the names already made known from the altar and the email requests received the previous week.

If you have any questions at all, please call Kathe Schmidt at 307-277-3447, or the church office at 623-546-6228.

## Crown of Life Vacation Bible School 2023

### CSI: Christ's Special Investigators

Monday, June 5 to Friday, June 9th

2PM – 5PM



**Your Mission... should you choose to accept it....**

Volunteer to help with CSI VBS-

Help with: **Crafts, Snacks, Supplies, Games, Music, Set-up, or Decorations.**

**Volunteer Meeting: Wednesday, May 17 at 1pm (Parish Hall)**

Sign up at the Information Desk or Contact Lead Detective Barbie Airey 636-399-7910

[lovedbytheshepherd@yahoo.com](mailto:lovedbytheshepherd@yahoo.com)



## May Servants

Senior Pastor Rev. Phill Robbins  
Associate Pastor Rev. Mark Airey  
Pastoral Assistants Rev. Vern Ermeling, Rev. Ray Mirly

### ELDERS

(4:00) Tom Mertins, Al Stoudemire  
(9:00) Tom Mertins, Mark Budensiek

### TRUSTEES

Saturday: Tom Ore  
Sunday: David Koelsch

### FLOWERS

Judy Briddle, Florella Denzin, Vicki Jolin, Sheila Mecham, Karen Murphy, Darlene McAfee, Kathe Schmidt, Denise Trevarrow, Jan Tvinnereim, Cora Weiss, Ellen Wolfgang

### LIVESTREAM

May 7: Henry Munzinger  
May 14: Lisa Safago  
May 21: Henry Munzinger  
May 28: Cathy Meyer

### SOUND

May 6/20: Cathy Meyer  
May 7: Gerry Harpt  
May 13/27: Joe Jellison  
May 14: Bruce Borchert  
May 21: Kathy Beilstein  
May 28: Todd Schutt

### SCREENS

May 6: Lisa Safago  
May 7: Eddie Mallonen  
May 13: Deb Christ  
May 14: Ken Coffman  
May 20: Cathy Meyer  
May 21: Bruce Borchert  
May 27: Darlene McAfee  
May 28: Judy Brodzeller

### TELLERS

Duane & Orv Neal, Howard Ludden, Sheila Mecham, Ellen Wolfgang, Dale Johnson, Chuck Blakley Sub - Ken Grover

### GREETERS

Saturday: Tom & Lola Leshney, Arlene Orchowski

### ALTAR GUILD

(4:00) Lola Leshney, Karen Jellison  
(9:00) Karen Murphy, Carol Huff

### USHERS

(4:00) Al & Jan Knutsen, Joan Byrd, Rita Grover  
(9:00) Arlin Bates, Don & Evelyn Sandstede, Merle Huff



1 Janet Lemp	11 Lou Connolly	20 Jeanette Martin
1 Dave Potter	11 Patricia Petersen	20 Lorna Richardson
2 LeAnna Grell	13 Tom Mertins	20 Audrey Rolf
2 Dale Stoltenow	13 Harold Oswald	22 Joyce Hall
4 Myrna Borchert	14 Joan Byrd	22 Dave Roeker
4 Karen Downes	14 Suzette McPhail	23 Shirley Gadeken
4 Marilyn Goodnight	15 Rhonda Adam	24 Greg Brown
4 Lawrence Mills	15 Fran Wallin	24 Gloria Mansfield
4 Joan Price	16 Ron Mara	24 Ed Pisacich
6 Nancy McAfee	16 Dianne Mertins	25 Roberta Lane
6 Lynn McKeag	18 Debbie Mirly	26 Mary Mehner
6 Elizabeth Young	19 Ruth Anderson	27 Pamela Hjerpe
7 Mel Howry	19 Mary Fritz	27 Dan Mehner
8 Ed Kristof	19 Bob Holstein	28 Marion Abraham
8 Tammy Renico	19 Gloria Redburn	28 Lynn Johnson
9 Donald O. Carlson	19 Bill Schulzetenberg	30 Forest Neumann
9 Kenneth Grover	20 Paul Heimbuch	31 Phyllis Naumann
9 Lyle Thompson		



2 Mark and Trenna Brauer	22 Henry and Dene Munzinger
5 Kurt and Joan Price	23 Mark and Rhonda Adam
8 Ed and Sharon Kristof	23 Gerald and Amy Dunaway
12 Ken and Laurel Coffman	24 Jerry and Karen Myers
14 Steve and Cindy Buda	24 Chris and Julie Schmidt
14 Eddie and Tina Mallonen	25 Kenneth and Rita Grover
14 Duane and Orvillena Neal	26 Chuck and Carol Worst
18 Phil and Christine Moore	29 Al and Lucy Stoudemire
21 Bob and Annie Somermeyer	30 Dale and Shirley Johnson

## Assimilation News

By Judith Axelson

The next Ladies out to Lunch will be May 16th at Olive Garden.  
Sign up at the info desk. Details there.

Ladies out to lunch on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and games  
every Friday at 1 PM will continue through the summer. Join us!





Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
		<b>1</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Conference Room) 1:00p Care Team Meeting (Chapel)		<b>2</b> 8:30a Elders (Chapel) 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 3:00p Lineage of Grace BBS (Parish Hall)		<b>3</b> 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel) 1:00p Enhancement Comm (Conference Room)		<b>4</b> 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)		<b>5</b> 9:00a Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:00a Grief Fac. (Chapel) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)		<b>6</b> 4:00p Food Drive (Patio) 4:00p LWML Mites (Info Desk) 4:00p Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)	
<b>7</b> 9:00a Food Drive (Patio) 9:00a LWML Mites (Info Desk) 9:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 10:15a Voters' Meeting (Sanctuary)		<b>8</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Conference Room)		<b>9</b> 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 1:00p LWML (Chapel) 3:00p Lineage of Grace BBS (Parish Hall) 4:00p Concordia Nebraska Vocal Jazz Concert (Sanct.)		<b>10</b> 8:30a Trustees (Conference Room) 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel) 1:00p Enhancement Comm (Conference Room)		<b>11</b> 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)		<b>12</b> 9:00a Mission Bd (Conference Room) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)		<b>13</b> 4:00p Worship (Sanctuary)	
<b>14</b> Mothers' Day 9:00a Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)		<b>15</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Conference Room)		<b>16</b> 9:00a Card Ministry (Music Rm) 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 11:30a Women's Out to Lunch (TBD) 3:00p Lineage of Grace BBS (Parish Hall)		<b>17</b> 8:30a Church Council (Conference Room) 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel) 1:00p VBS Volunteer Mtg (Parish Hall)		<b>18</b> Ascension Day 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)		<b>19</b> 9:00a Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)		<b>20</b> 4:00p Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)	
<b>21</b> 9:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)		<b>22</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Conference Room)		<b>23</b> 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 3:00p Lineage of Grace BBS (Parish Hall)		<b>24</b> 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel) 1:30p Presentation on Aging (Parish Hall)		<b>25</b> 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)		<b>26</b> 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)		<b>27</b> 4:00p Worship (Sanctuary)	
<b>28</b> Pentecost 9:00a Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)		<b>29</b> Memorial Day		<b>30</b> 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 3:00p Lineage of Grace BBS (Parish Hall)		<b>31</b> 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel)							

**Church Office Closed**