



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

Worship Schedule

Saturdays – 4 PM

Sundays – 9 AM

Bible Studies

Sundays

Bible Class – 10:15 AM
(Parish Hall)

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Read Scripture Women's Bible
Study -
2:00 PM (Parish Hall)

Wednesdays

Bible Class - 9:30 AM
(Parish Hall)

Fridays

Men's Bible Study - 9:00 AM
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday
(Parish Hall)

Bible Class
10:30 AM (Parish Hall)

Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 7:30-3:30
Fri. 7:30-1:00

From Pastor Phill

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord, Jesus the Christ! I pray your Easter worship was inspired and inspiring, that the music was terrific, that God touched your hearts in the renewal of faith. We bask now in His grace, walking together toward Pentecost, just a few weeks away now.

Some business at hand for the May Voters' Assembly, to be held Sunday, May 5, following the 9AM service:

When Holly Gast began work among us, 3 years ago now, she nor I recognized that her work here qualifies her to receive, should the congregation vote it, a formal Call to her position. In the process of calling Zach Mulso, the Pacific Southwest District office reviewed Holly's documentation and advised us that yes indeed, she can be called here. She is a graduate of Concordia University/Mequon and served 10 years as Worship Leader at her LCMS parish in Wisconsin. After 5 years in private industry, she and her family prayed for a return to parish ministry in Arizona (relatives are here), and, as God would have it, the opportunity presented itself here at Crown of Life.

What difference for her, given that she is completely entrenched here at Crown? A Call recognizes the formal Synodical education she worked for, for one thing, and for another it says that her work here ain't a job, it's a calling – which, if you have worked with her or been served by her, you know that is how she holds her position here. Called in her heart, let's Call her before God.

In terms of her work here, nothing changes. There is no change in her compensation or our budget. As a Called Worker she can take advantage of the opportunity to take some portion of her income as Housing Allowance – we're getting into details now – which does have some tax advantage for her family, if they choose to use it, and again, no liability or cost to the parish. That same advantage applies to your other Called workers, both pastors and Zach Mulso.

And that's an interesting point, that all of your full-time workers here are Synodically trained and Called – for a small parish, that is not typical. I see it as one of the blessings we enjoy at Crown of Life.

April 2024



April Altar Flowers

April 6/7:

Paul & Kathy Beilstein in celebration of their anniversary.

April 13/14:

Jerry Sandmann in loving memory of parents Ira & Florence.

April 20/21:

Jim & Suzanne Duncombe in celebration of Suzanne's birthday.

Arline Orchowski in loving memory of daughter Pamela's third year in heaven.

April 27/28:

In loving memory of Ralph Reinke.

If you would like to sign up for flowers, please sign the flower book that is in the Narthex, right outside the Parish Hall.



Flower Committee

By Florella Denzin

I know the Easter Lilies will be beautiful around the altar praising our Risen Savior. The Flower Committee truly appreciates your generosity!

I want to tell you that Denise Trevarrow is co-leading with me; she is a leader and helper already.

Reminder NOTE: When you sign up and pay \$45 for weekend altar flowers, they are yours to take home after the Sunday service or pick up in office during the week.

Both the Elder Board and the Church Council have approved this idea; Elders asked this: given that her family holds membership at a different Missouri Synod congregation (St Mark's, which has services for her kids that we do not), can she be called here? District advised yes, confirmed when I was over there in March. Why then is this a Voters' issue? Only the congregation, holding the Office of the Keys, can exercise its authority to issue a Divine Call. Consequently this matter will come before the Voters on May 5 as a resolution. If it is passed by you, there will be paperwork for me to do, and at some point soon after we will install her here according to her Call.

You may well have a question or comment; please don't hesitate to raise this issue with me, or Holly, or Council President Gene Kuebler, or Elder Board Chair Tom Mertins.

Meanwhile, we continue to worship together as Christians, called each of us into the light of Christ, blessed by the faith He has given us in our baptism, enjoying the company here of other worshipping Lutheran Christians. Now – on to Pentecost!

Pastor Phill

From Pastor Mark

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

He's Still Risen!

"He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay." (Matthew 28:6)

We ended last month with a wonderful Easter celebration! Easter is the culmination of the whole church calendar, the climax of the play, the fulfillment of Scripture, the end to the story! So, do we turn off the lights, fold up our chairs and go home? As if it's all over.

The lights and festivity of Christmas and the sorrowful music and messages of Lent were all in anticipation of what Jesus would do on the cross. Not stopping at the cross however, because the tomb is where everything changes! Jesus conquered death AND He conquered our sin when he left the tomb.

It doesn't stop at the tomb...really that's the beginning. Really (and especially) it's a *new beginning* for us as Christians. We are saved and reborn because of what Jesus did in the tomb. He left it empty! We get a new beginning, a new story! We are no longer bound by our faults, failures and sins. Just like the tomb, the ledger recording our debt of sins is clear. We are free, we are new!

As we start this new month, we can continue the celebration of our new life found at Christ's tomb. It will invigorate us, inspire us, and fill us with life! Hope is at the heart of the Easter message as the despair of Good Friday is followed by the joy of Easter morning. It is fitting that many of us have been reflecting on the Old Testament reading we have been doing in our Read Scripture journey. This has been a tremendous opportunity for us to reflect on our lives juxtaposed against the backdrop of the Israelites and their cycle of sin, consequences, repentance and new life. This reading can't help but give us hope as Christians and I pray that is exactly what it is doing as we see that we are not the only ones struggling to obey and trust in the Lord.

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April 2024

I want to encourage all of the members of Crown of Life to continue to live in the “new life” mentality of Easter. St. Paul wrote that, unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:17) We’ll still be talking about Christ’s resurrection this month and in the months to follow in our worship services. Pastor Phill will certainly be reminding you that “He is Risen” every week. So, every month every day we can live in our new life...as we worship and fellowship together and as we live out our faith in our families and our communities...even if some of us will be leaving for the north country. We will miss you so hurry back!

He is Risen! AND He’s Still Risen!

In Peace,
Pastor Mark

WANT GOOSEBUMPS? READ ON...

Diane Hammann, Mission Board

The Crown of Life Board for Missions received a report, along with a wonderful Thank You letter, with respect to how the monies our donation has played in the advancement of the Student Recruitment Ambassador Program (SRA). The Lord has blessed the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis with an increase in enrollment for the 2023-24 academic year. A total of 130 new students have started their studies at the Seminary this year.

The 2023-24 student enrollment is as follows:

Pastoral Program	358
Deaconess Program	46
Advanced Studies Programs	198
Non-Degree Students	<u>16</u>
Total	618

The 618 enrollment ranks Concordia Seminary, St Louis 25th of the 300 seminaries in the Association of Theological Schools (all denominations). It is the largest of all Lutheran seminaries. And, the Seminary is on track for another increase in the enrollment of new Master of Divinity students.

Did you get goose bumps? Hope you did. God is blessing COL members' contributions in the SRA program in amazing ways.



Travels with Pastor Vern

Pastor Vern has scheduled an information meeting at COL in the Parish Hall on Sunday, April 7 at 12:30 PM to give details on two trips that many of you might be interested in: ***The Holy Land*** in 2025 or 2026 and ***The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum*** in Kentucky this September.

The owner and manager of ***alpha2omega*** travel, the California based firm that I am working with for the ***March 2025 Holy Land*** trip, will be at the meeting to personally answer all your questions as to:

- *safety-
- *what to expect-
- *payment plans & refunds-
- *travel issues-
- *itinerary details-
- *travel requirements-
- *travel insurance-
- *medical issues-
- *mask wearing-
- *dress codes-
- *& you name it.



There will also be a video on what to expect if you visit The ***Ark Encounter and Creation Museum*** in September. I hope to see you at the meeting and bring anyone you know who might be interested in either trip. I plan on scheduling Israel trips every other year in the future. Check the website travelwithvern.com to see the details on other trips: ***April Canyons Tour***, ***June Colorado Springs***, ***August Pageant of the Masters***, ***October Reformation***, and ***December German Christmas Markets***.

Give him a call if you have any questions: 714-271-6984.

April 2024

Women in Mission

By Darlene Markle

Isaiah 64:8: "But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."



Our Spring Tea is quickly approaching! You won't want to miss this special gathering on April 9th at 1pm in the Parish Hall. We thank God for all the women who graciously give of their time and talents to be a blessing to others. We are grateful that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer have been filled. We will have elections from the floor as well and then proceed with voting. There will be special music sung and a few pieces of pottery on display. If you have a special teacup you want to use, please bring it and share with others at your table why it is special. Come and enjoy this special time with friends.

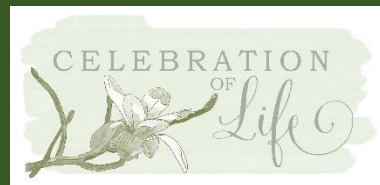
The first weekend in April, Saturday the 6th and Sunday, April 7th there will be an informative video playing on the screens before the church service about Garuna Ministries. Rev. Dr. Jeff Ehlers and his wife Cheryl created this ministry touching lives of people in Thailand, Cambodia and surrounding countries. LWML would like to ask that you prayerfully consider donating to this ministry. Large, colorful bible stories are in the books we hope to provide. Each book costs \$16.00.

Garuna Ministries have 1,800 students in their schools and they continue to grow through donated funds. They build schools so the children can learn about our wonderful Savior. Garuna Ministries also provides uniforms and more. We pray you will consider helping us in this monetary in-gathering. There will be a table set up in the narthex and you get to take a little souvenir to remember and pray for them. We will announce the total collected at the Spring Tea. Thank you in advance for your prayers for this ministry.

Have a safe summer and we will meet again in September.

Faithfulness
springs up from the ground, and
righteousness
looks down from the sky.

Psalm 85:11 ESV



Upcoming Memorial Services are listed below:

The Memorial service for Byron Blackmore will take place in the Crown of Life Sanctuary on Saturday, April 13th at 10:30 am.

The Memorial service for Carol Natale will take place in the Crown of Life Sanctuary on Saturday, April 27th at 11:00 am.



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.

April 2024

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

Christine Escobar, Care Ministry Coordinator



God created us for community, and Christ has called us together in his church to represent him in this world. Christ commanded, *love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these* (Mark 12:29-31).

Our Care Ministry volunteers have been very active in meeting the needs of our church family. In February 2024, our volunteers made 45 visits, served 22 meals, and assisted 3 people with light handyman tasks. Thank you to all who have been our Lord's hands, feet, and heart to our church family.

Security Tip: Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS):

Medical alert systems serve as lifelines for individuals, providing a safety net in times of need. Medical alert devices, especially those with fall detection, voice capabilities, and automatic alerts, can ensure aid is promptly dispatched, even for those with mobility issues, developmental disabilities, or prone to seizures.

Those who benefit most include the following:

- 1) Seniors living alone.
- 2) Individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.
- 3) Individuals with mobility issues.
- 4) Active aging populations.

We invite you to join us for an educational session with **Sylvia Butler, Community Liaison for Hospice of the West**, on **Monday, April 22, 2024**. Please register at griefcare@colchurch.com.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

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

Come and join us!
Monday, April 22, 2024
2:00 - 3:00 pm (Parish Hall)
Register at [Griefcare@colchurch.com](mailto:griefcare@colchurch.com)

Upcoming Event

Guest Speaker: Sylvia Butler
Community Liaison
Hospice of the West

Sylvia has worked in the hospital and healthcare industry for over 35 years. She is skilled in Physician Relations, Elder Care, Healthcare Management, Hospice and Palliative Care, Support Group Facilitation, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease.

Hospice 101
What do you need to know before selecting hospice care?

A portrait of Sylvia Butler, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark top and a necklace.

Contact any of our team leaders listed below with questions or requests and to volunteer with our ministry.

(Light) Handyman/Technology Services

Duane Rawson (Trustees) 928 925 0453

Homebound/Care Center Visits

Darlene Markle 970 623 9360

Dee Harries 785 562 6801

Share a Meal Request/Referral

Marilyn Goodnight 623 444 7551

Robin Coursen 303 249 2644

Stephen Ministry Request/Referral

Lola Leshney 623 826 9237

Community Resource Referral

Christine Escobar 623 218 6793

Questions:

Christine Escobar 623 218 6793 or
email griefcare@colchurch.com

April 2024

Our Soul Waits for the Lord

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22)

When we lose a loved one, we turn to the Lord, as never before, to cling to His promises to restore our soul to the living. We find comfort, healing, and reassurance throughout the Bible. Some verses in the Bible that are particularly comforting when we are grieving include:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **He restores my soul.** (Psalm 23:1-3)*

***He heals the brokenhearted** and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)*

*Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.** (Psalm 66:8-9)*

*But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because **he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!** (Psalm 66:19-20)*

*So also you have sorrow now, but **I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.** (John 16:22)*

Jesus placed his trust in His Father's will his entire life. We can follow Jesus' example and place our trust in Our Father's will after He calls our loved ones home to Heaven. *For to this, you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21)*

The Lord has provided for our loved ones, and He still has a purpose for us in this world. Because of Jesus' suffering for our salvation, we will be reunited with our loved ones in Heaven. *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thess. 4:13-14)*

Our Christian community's comfort and support are critical to our resilience and healing after losing a loved one. If you are grieving a loved one's death, please join our GriefCare group. Our spring GriefCare group will start on **April 3, 2024**. We will meet in the Chapel on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Please join us as we strengthen each other with our Father's Word, love, and compassion and move forward in a way that glorifies our Father and honors our loved ones.

Please call Christine Escobar at 623.218.6793 or email griefcare@colchurch.com to register.



I want to thank "COL" for helping me celebrate my 100th birthday with greetings, cards, and gifts. The news today is rarely good so it is very comforting to know we have wonderful caring people at "COL" and I'm so blessed we chose it for our church home.

-Louise Fountain

April 2024

Sounds of the Southwest Singers with Sounds of the Southwest Chorale

Sacred Sounds SPRING Concert Series

Unleash Your Passion in Song!

- Sunday, April 21 - 3 PM
American Lutheran Church
17200 N Del Webb Blvd. - Sun City
- Sunday, April 28 - 3 PM
Crown of Life Lutheran Church
13131 W Spanish Garden Dr,
Sun City West

Matt Deller, Founding Director

Sounds of the Southwest Singers, Inc.
is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

www.soundsofthesouthwestsingers.com

FREE ADMISSION

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Classes will be on April 20 & May 4 from 9 am-12 pm in the Chapel. The classes are open to folks who are new to Crown of Life and our members who would like a "refresher" Bible study dealing with what makes us Lutheran.

Please give Holly or Cathy a call in the office at 623-546-6228 to sign up.

THE GRACE OF THE LORD
Jesus Christ
AND THE LOVE OF
God
AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE
Holy Spirit
BE WITH YOU ALL.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14, ESV

Valley Lutheran High School Golf Outing

Monday, April 29

Start Time	7:00 AM
Individual	\$125
Foursome	\$500
Hole Sponsor	\$150



Register at www.vlhs.org/golfouting



The Voters' Assembly will take place on Sunday, May 5th after the 9 am worship service.



The next Ladies Out to Lunch is on April 16th at Good China on Union Hills and 91st. Be sure to sign up at the Information Desk.

April 2024

April Servants

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

ELDERS

(4:00) Jeff Holmes, Bob Gaudinier, Tim Jehn
(9:00) Jeff Holmes, Ron Mara, Tom Mertins

TRUSTEES

(4:00) David Toepel
(9:00) Merv Tvinnereim

FLOWERS

Judy Briddle, Florella Denzin, Vicki Jolin, Sheila
Mecham, Karen Murphy, Darlene McAfee, Judy
Razo, Lynda Rud, Denise Trevarrow, Jan
Tvinnereim

LIVESTREAM

April 7: Zach Mulso
April 14: Tom Mertins
April 21: Henry Munzinger
April 28: Todd Schutt

SOUND

April 6/21: Kathy Beilstein
April 7: Neil White
April 13: Dana Boesen
April 14: Larry Mills
April 20: Joe Jellison
April 27: Cathy Meyer
April 28: Eddie Mallonen

SCREENS

April 6/20/27: Zach Mulso
April 7: Eddie Mallonen
April 13: Mila Boesen
April 14: Bruce Borchert
April 21: Judy Brodzeller
April 28: Gerry Harpt

TELLERS

Judy Briddle, Chris Grundy, Sheila Mecham, Dale
Johnson, Sub – Ken Grover

ALTAR GUILD

(4:00) Arline Orchowski, Nada McCrea
(9:00) Carolyn Ziegler, Lynne Rose



3 Colleen Doede	10 Kathe Schmidt	19 Paul Beilstein
4 Mark Brauer	11 Lou Burgess	20 Suzanne Duncombe
4 Brenda Rosenberg	11 Joan Gruver	20 Ken Hagemann
5 Sue Finck	12 Cheri Kuchta	20 Van Vanavichai
6 Arlin Bates	12 Kay Rasmussen	22 Leonard Gaden
6 Pam Wehking	12 Bob Weber	23 Russ Wenk
6 Mary White	13 Ann Babcock	23 Patricia Williams
6 Sandra Zimburean	13 Sharon Mann	24 Bill McCrea
7 Betty Landercasper	13 Barbara Williams	25 Gordon Kath
7 Cookie Rawson	14 Cheryl Budensiek	25 Paul Rogner
7 Mike Safago	14 Miriam Dotson	25 Judy Vogel
8 Barb Earl	14 Darlene Markle	26 Marlie Abrahamson
8 Byron Hildahl	16 Bob Gaudinier	26 Eugene Renico
8 Carl Niemeier	16 Dick Miller	26 Madeline Renico
9 David Koelsch	16 Cindy Owens	26 Doug Sonnenburg
9 Patricia Logid	16 Al Waldron	27 Becky Stinar
10 Marlena Meyer	18 Elaine Treftz	27 June Wilde
		30 Sally Hemmerling



4 Al and Jan Knutsen	13 John and Pam Wehking
6 Paul and Kathy Beilstein	15 Mark and Cheryl Budensiek
6 Larry & Sandra Hoecker	18 Jerry and Florella Denzin
6 Donald and Evelyn Sandstede	22 Wiley and Darlene McAfee
10 George and Paula Duffey	25 Mark and Becky Gambardella
10 Bruce and Lynn McKeag	27 Don and Barbara Williams
10 Harold and Wilma Schwandt	28 Ron and Deb Christ
	29 Hank and Mary Striewing

Ushers

(4:00) Dave Toepel, Faye Toepel, Karen Jellison, Joe Jellison
(9:00) Arlin Bates, Chris & Julie Schmidt, Roger Wehrli

GREETERS

Saturday: Arline Orchowski, Joan Byrd, Chris Grundy,
Susie Tomaszewski
Sunday: Lowell & Ginett Janssen, Kathy Schutt



