



# May Jewels

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)

## From Pastor Phill

May 19<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost.

So, what is Pentecost, anyway? It was originally a Jewish festival, Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, one of the seven festival observations commanded by God in the Old Testament. It occurred 50 days after the Passover-time celebration called Firstfruits, and was also recognized as the day Yahweh gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. On these festival days, Jewish men were called back to Jerusalem to recognize the holy days. That is why, on the day we call Pentecost, the population in the capital included Jews from all over the diaspora (Acts 2:8-11). Pretty clever of Yahweh to reveal Himself so dramatically on a day when so many could witness it! And why were the apostles in town still? After all, Jesus had freed them from the OT observations. The reason is this:

Acts 1:4 And while staying with them (the Apostles) He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, *“you heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

The resurrected Christ had been on the earth 40 days before His ascension. We don't know when He spoke these words to the 11 – but we do celebrate the Ascension 10 days before Pentecost. And we know, as Luke records it, the apostles asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” They still did not get it, expecting the ancient earthly kingdom to be restored by Jesus. His response: *“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:7-8

Sure enough, 50 days after the resurrection, there was a miracle in Jerusalem, and the apostles did indeed receive power from the Holy Spirit. That day is the birthday of the modern Christian church, and we celebrate it. We are all descendants of those first believers, touched by the Holy Spirit to recognize Jesus as the Christ, as Luke puts it, “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:41

Oh, and you know Passover is delayed this year, as it is a leap year, and the Jewish calendar adjusts the date of Passover accordingly. But that's another story.

May 2024



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



### May Altar Flowers

May 4/5:

Albert & Lucy Stoudemire celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

May 11/12:

Barbara & James Shumate in loving memory of son Scott.

May 18/19:

Nancy Lorenzen & Don Nicolay in celebration of their 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

May 25/26:

Ken & Rita Grover in celebration of their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

If you would like to sign up for flowers, please sign the flower book that is in the Narthex, right outside the Parish Hall. The cost is \$45.

The rest of Luke's second book, Acts, is about the growth of the church in the then-known world, from Syria to Asia Minor (Turkey) to the whole of the Mediterranean basin as far as Gaul (France) and the farthest reaches of the Roman Empire. The balance of the New Testament is the witness of six writers' experience of their, and the worlds', growth in a new Pentecost world.

In other news... we know you will be inconvenienced, for a while at least, by the reconstruction of the bathrooms in the church. Did you know that also under consideration are several other projects: re-landscape of the courtyard, new carpeting in the Sanctuary, new paint throughout the facility, etc? Can't all happen at once, of course – cost and other considerations – so over the next few years we will continue to make improvements in our now 30+ year-old church. After all, it needs to be nice for our next generation of worshippers, right?

Pentecost blessings to you all!

Pastor Phill

### From Pastor Mark

He is risen...He is Risen Indeed! As we leave the Easter season in our rear-view mirror and march into the season of Pentecost, I wanted to remind everyone that He is STILL our *RISEN* Lord. That's something to keep in mind as many of us "Read Scripture" together in our reading of the Old Testament.

While we explore the books of Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Job (all in this month!) I wanted us to look forward to Job in light of some difficult things that seem to be happening in some of our brothers' and sisters' lives. The question that many of us ask when difficulties arise is, "Why is this happening to me?" And yet, this question is not taking into consideration our Great God! It's really a basic challenge to God-in that we are really doubting His wisdom and love in our lives by asking this question. It seems to me that we are taking a bad situation and making it a *lonely* situation of estrangement from the Only Hope. Job was moving in that direction. Of course, his friends were the devil's advocates, pressing him to question the value of God in this material world. Finally, the Lord answers Job from the whirlwind, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding." (Job 38:2-4) Question after question is laid on Job...

Then Job says, "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further." (Job 40:4-5) But God is not finished, for He says to Job, "Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?" (Job 40:7-9)

May 2024

Job could see that an encounter with God was going to be a mismatch. That brings us to the bottom line of the Scriptures. We live by faith in the grace of God to save us. Come to think of it, I think an early Lutheran encouraged us to think that way. (That would be Luther.)

Job lived another 140 years, seeing his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren (As have many of you been blessed with many descendants!). We are not called to pray for more years in our hardships as much as we are called to pray for more FAITH in the difficulties of our life, without which everything good dies. Job teaches us that we are called not to fight the One who we desperately need, but to ask God to stay with us and help us to say, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1)

I pray blessings on your reading of God's Word (even if you are not reading through the Bible with "Read Scripture") as we ask for strength and growth in our faith.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Mark

## The Miracles of Baptism

Diane Hammann, Mission Board

May it fill your hearts to know that the Missions Board hears of numerous stories of miracles. The one that repeats the most is the miracle of baptism.

International missionaries and pastors in the U.S. are administering this wonderful sacrament. People who were formerly "in the dark" about Jesus and our Lord's gift of salvation, have been baptized and brought to the Light.

A few recent examples:

- An 85-year-old lady in Kenya
- Hundreds of people in Tanzania in East Africa
- A lady in mainland China
- A little girl in Vietnam
- A baby in Asia
- 7 students, a teacher, and a toddler in Cambodia
- Students and their families in Detroit

What amazing work our Heavenly Father is accomplishing today when people like us use the gifts He gives us to support others.

Thank you members of Crown of Life!



## Assimilation News

Judith Axelson, Assimilation Committee

Ladies out to Lunch and Friday games will continue throughout the summer. Games are held each Friday at 1 PM in the Parish Hall.

Mark your calendars for an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM in the Parish Hall.



Reservations have been made for Barleens Christmas "Home for the Holidays" matinee on

December 19th. Sign the interest sheet at the information desk now. The fee collection for the show will begin October 5th.

We still need greeters and guest book coverage for the summer, so please sign up.

Have a great summer--- hope to see you at games and the Ice Cream Social!

IN OUR

## Thoughts and Prayers

**Joining the Church Triumphant**

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

Luther Rasmussen, April 11

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

May 2024



Volunteering is at the heart of creating a meaningful and impactful weekend. Every weekend there is something to do, and, who knows, a new opportunity may arise. As I have now realized our numbers for the summers drop significantly, and a majority of volunteers are either on vacation or head back home for the summer, creating a depletion of volunteers. Here at Crown of Life, while the Pastors preach the Word to us, there are a lot more things that have to happen in the first place. Creating a welcoming environment is at the forefront of who we are as a church. We want to welcome new and returning people each week - think of it as welcoming them to the family and making them feel at home. As it is said, first impressions are everything. Creating that sense of a welcoming and a "welcome home" environment means everything to someone looking for a church, and even brings people back as it can be a highlight of their week. If you would like to volunteer with being an usher, please contact Kathy Beilstein (Saturdays) or Randy Schulz (Sundays).

The next thing that makes an impactful weekend is the tech team. If we can't hear the Pastor, how can we hear God's Word clearly and take in what he has to say to us? How can we see what is happening in the service to make it as smooth as possible for those attending? While the Pastor may be at the forefront of the service, the pastor cannot preach without someone controlling the audio allowing those who are here in person to hear. Another huge ministry at Crown is our online worship. We average anywhere from 50-60 people on any given weekend and, believe it or not, people watch our services OUTSIDE OF CHURCH! Allowing people to see what is happening during the service and allowing them to feel like they are here at church is an important factor. But all of this can't happen without volunteers. During the summer, we lose a handful of volunteers who would normally be a part of our team. Because of that, it makes it so that some people have to help out more, but you can help. Suppose you volunteer even once a month for either slides (Saturday, Sunday), lighting/video (Saturday, Sunday), or cameras (Sunday only). In that case, you can make an impact for a service, by volunteering. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer throughout the summer and give it a try (and potentially help beyond summer), please reach out to me. I'm either in the tech booth on Saturdays and Sundays, or you can call the church office, or send me an email and I will help you get trained into where you feel comfortable to help out. If you would like to help out the Tech Team, please contact Zach Mulso.



Our deepest heartfelt thank you to everyone at Crown of Life Lutheran Church for their prayers, cards, visits, and delicious food. Crown of Life has truly been a God's blessing.

Thank you,  
Barbara & James Shumate



**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.

We need to have your address in case we need to get in touch by mail. Blessings and safe travels this Summer!

May 2024

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

Christine Escobar, Care Ministry Coordinator



*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)*

Our Care Ministry volunteers have been very active in meeting the needs of our church family. In March 2024, our volunteers made 20 visits, served 10 meals, and assisted 5 people with light handyman tasks. Thank you to all who have been our Lord's hands, feet, and heart with our church family.


### Security Tips in the Digital Age

- **Use strong passwords and a password manager.** Strong passwords are critical to protecting data.
- **Use Multifactor Authentication (MFA).** Enable MFA on all online accounts that offer it, especially email, social media, and financial accounts.
- **Recognize and report phishing.** Phishing emails, texts, and calls are the number one way data gets compromised. Don't click on links or open attachments sent from unknown sources. Verify the authenticity of requests by contacting the individual or organization through a trusted channel. Report phishing attempts to the appropriate authorities.
- **Update software:** The best way to ensure your devices have the latest security patches and updates is to ensure your software is up to date.

Contact our Care Ministry technology team if you have questions.

Please mark your calendars to join us for our **Boundaries Book Study and Discussion**. It is open to all.

# SAVE THESE DATES



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

**Come and join us!**  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays:  
12:30-1:30 pm  
(Parish Hall)

2024  
Sept 3 and 17;  
Oct 1 and 15;  
Nov 5 and 19;  
Dec 3 and 17

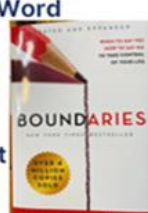
Register at the information desk or 623.218.6793

**\*We will provide a Zoom option and provide books at our cost.**

**Boundaries Book Study and Discussion**  
Care Ministry Facilitators:  
Lola Leshney  
Christine Escobar

The Care Ministry will host a book study and discussion focused on Dr. Cloud's and Dr. Townsend's groundbreaking book, *Boundaries*.

This book presents a biblical view of boundaries and emphasizes the foundational teachings on boundaries in God's Word and the importance of a safe and encouraging support system to help us guard and maintain healthy boundaries that protect our souls.



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](mailto:griefcare@colchurch.com)

May 2024

## Pentecost and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

Many of the Psalms vividly describe the emotions we lack words to describe when we lose a loved one. Psalm 143 reflects how many of us feel after our loved one dies.

### **My Soul Thirsts for You,** A Psalm of David (Psalm 143:1-10)

*Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! ...*

*For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground;*

*he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore, my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands...*

*Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul...*

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*

On the Day of Pentecost, the Lord gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us strength for our journey of grief after the death of our loved ones. We can always call on the Holy Spirit to provide us with the strength and the will to continue in the wake of our grief and distress.

### **Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit** (John 14:15-20)

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever**, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him.*

***You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.***

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*

*Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*

If you find your grief overwhelming, we invite you to join our GriefCare group in the Chapel on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our GriefCare program, detailed in the pamphlets available in the back of the pews and at the information desk, offers hope, comfort, and practical tools to aid your recovery and help you fulfill God's purpose for you in this world. For more information and to register, please contact Christine Escobar at 623-218-6793 or email [griefcare@colchurch.com](mailto:griefcare@colchurch.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, Tim Jehn  
(9:00) Tom Mertins, Mark Budensiek, Carl  
Browning

**TRUSTEES**

(4:00) Tom Ore  
(9:00) David Koelsch

**FLOWERS**

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

**LIVESTREAM**

May 5: Cathy Meyer  
May 12: Zach Mulso  
May 19: Tom Mertins  
May 26: Henry Munzinger

**SOUND**

May 4/19: Kathy Beilstein  
May 5: Henry Munzinger  
May 11: Dana Boesen  
May 12: Larry Mills  
May 18: Joe Jellison  
May 25: Cathy Meyer  
May 26: Zach Mulso

**SCREENS**

May 4/18: Darlene McAfee  
May 5: Lisa Safago  
May 11: Zach Mulso  
May 12: Ken Coffman  
May 19: Bruce Borchert  
May 25: Tom Mertins  
May 26: Neil White

**TELLERS**

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

**ALTAR GUILD**

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

**Ushers**

(4:00) Al Knutsen, Jan Knutsen, Yvonne Pardieu,  
Arline Orchowski  
(9:00) Todd Schutt, Lynne Rose, Rollie & Linda  
Mann



- |                     |                        |                     |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Janet Lemp        | 10 Laurel Branen       | 20 Paul Heimbuch    |
| 2 LeAnna Grell      | 11 Lou Connolly        | 20 Jeanette Martin  |
| 2 Dale Stoltenow    | 11 Patricia Petersen   | 20 Lorna Richardson |
| 4 Myrna Borchert    | 13 Tom Mertins         | 20 Audrey Rolf      |
| 4 Karen Downes      | 13 Harold Oswald       | 21 RN Lepird        |
| 4 Marilyn Goodnight | 14 Joan Byrd           | 22 Joyce Hall       |
| 4 Lawrence Mills    | 14 Suzette McPhail     | 22 Dave Roeker      |
| 4 Joan Price        | 15 Rhonda Adam         | 23 Shirley Gadeken  |
| 6 Lynn McKeag       | 15 Fran Wallin         | 24 Greg Brown       |
| 6 Elizabeth Young   | 16 Ron Mara            | 24 Gloria Mansfield |
| 7 Mel Howry         | 16 Dianne Mertins      | 26 Mary Mehner      |
| 8 Ed Kristof        | 18 Debbie Mirly        | 27 Dan Mehner       |
| 8 Tammy Renico      | 19 Ruth Anderson       | 28 Marion Abraham   |
| 9 Donald O. Carlson | 19 Mary Fritz          | 28 Lynn Johnson     |
| 9 Kenneth Grover    | 19 Gloria Redburn      | 30 Forest Neumann   |
| 9 Barbara Murray    | 19 Bill Schulzetenberg |                     |



- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Mark and Trena Brauer           | 22 Henry and Dene Munzinger |
| 5 Kurt and Joan Price             | 23 Mark and Rhonda Adam     |
| 8 Ed and Sharon Kristof           | 24 Jerry and Karen Myers    |
| 12 Ken and Laurel Coffman         | 24 Chris and Julie Schmidt  |
| 14 Steve and Cindy Buda           | 25 Kenneth and Rita Grover  |
| 14 Eddie and Tina Mallonen        | 26 Chuck and Carol Worst    |
| 17 Don Nicolay and Nancy Lorenzen | 29 Al and Lucy Stoudemire   |
| 18 Phil and Christine Moore       | 30 Dale and Shirley Johnson |
| 21 Bob and Annie Somermeyer       |                             |

**GREETERS**

Saturday: Joan Byrd, Evelyn Lackey  
Sunday: Judith Axelson, Marty Herberger, Carol Kleinschmidt  
Guestbook: Joan Thiese

**Church Summer Office Hours Starting May 28**



**Monday – Thursday**

**7:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Friday**

**7:30 AM - Noon**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> 9:00a Food Drive (Parish Hall) 9:00a LWML Mites (Info Desk) 9:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 10:15a Voters' Meeting (Sanctuary)	<b>6</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel) 1:00p Care Ministry (Chapel)	<b>7</b> 8:30a Elders (Chapel) 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 2:00p Women's Read Scripture (Parish Hall)	<b>1</b> 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel)	<b>2</b> 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)	<b>3</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>4</b> 9:00a New Member Class (Chapel) 4:00p Food Drive (Parish Hall) 4:00p LWML Mites (Info Desk) 4:00p Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
<b>12</b> Mothers' Day 9:00a Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)	<b>13</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel)	<b>14</b> 9:00a Stitchers (Parish Hall) 2:00p Women's Read Scripture (Parish Hall)	<b>15</b> 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel) 2:00p Church Council (Chapel)	<b>16</b> 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)	<b>17</b> 9:00a Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	<b>18</b> 4:00p Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
<b>19</b> Pentecost 9:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30a New Member Reception (Parish Hall)	<b>20</b> 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel)	<b>21</b> 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 9:30a Card Ministry (Music Room) 11:30a Ladies's Out to Lunch (TBD)	<b>22</b> 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel)	<b>23</b> 7:30a Schole (Entire Church)	<b>24</b> 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	<b>25</b> 4:00p Worship (Sanctuary)
<b>26</b> 9:00a Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)	<b>27</b> Memorial Day	<b>28</b> 9:00a Stitchers (Parish Hall) 2:00p Women's Read Scripture (Parish Hall)	<b>29</b> 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare (Chapel)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00a Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	
<b>Church Office Closed</b>						