



Jewels

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

Summer 2024 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)

Summer Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday 7:30 AM - Noon

From Pastor Phill

Did you know that Crown of Life Lutheran Church has a Constitution? Yup, we have ByLaws and an Employee Handbook, Policies and Procedures – all of it. And we live to those tenets, too, as we are an Arizona Non-Profit Corporation. The Voters' Assemblies we have in November and May are, in essence, our stockholders' meetings. When was the last time you looked at our Constitution? You might have missed:

Our Mission Statement

The mission of this congregation shall be to witness the saving grace of Jesus Christ to His entire world. To accomplish this mission, we preach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, provide religious instruction for all our people, and encourage the growth of God's church through mission work.

We are a mission church, having been birthed by Fountain of Life/Sun City in the 1980s. We, in turn, birthed Word of Life/Surprise in the early 2000s. The mission of Christ is in our DNA. About 14% of our expenditures every year are dedicated to mission work in this country and so many others, including grants to Lutheran schools from preschool to university in order that we have a role in raising up the next generation of Christians and their pastors. Our Mission Board, through your generosity, funds mission in the Southwest Pacific, Italy, Haiti, and around the world.

The ways in which the Mission Statement is played out in our parish are obvious. Each week we read and speak God's word in our services – after all the Lord Himself says: "... faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). We are blessed to have 6 weekly Bible studies, led by studied, faithful teachers. We've been graced lately by several baptisms, and the Sacrament of the Table is made available weekly. "Portals of Prayer" is available to any who desire to have it; as is Pastor Mirly's daily devotional series.

To the community around us we are pleased to offer our GriefCare program, so appropriate in an area where loss is such a part of lives. The Care Ministry at Crown offers lectures, open to the public, on topics from audiology to residential and in-home care and beyond. Weekly, in the school year, Schole meets on our campus, providing a home for that interesting home school program. Have you been to any of the concerts we provide? Hope so.

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Altar Flowers

June 1/2:

Surprise Schole Academy in grateful appreciation to the pastors, staff and congregation of Crown of Life for your gracious hospitality during this past academic year.

June 8/9:

Jerry & Florella Denzin in celebration of Jerry's 80th birthday.

June 15/16:

Mary Kindy in loving memory of husband Jim's 10th year in heaven and in loving memory of son Peter James.

Nee & Penny Hieb in loving memory of Larry Hieb for Fathers day an in celebration of Nee's 80th birthday.

June 22/23:

Bob & Kris Weber in loving memory of son Curtis's 10th year in heaven.

Wes & Eleanor Horen in celebration for their 59th wedding anniversary.

July 20/21:

Rollie & Linda Mann in celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary.

August 10/11:

Jerry & Florella Denzin in celebration of a special day for both.

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.

Note, please, that these various means of mission work are carried out by our leadership, of course, and especially by folks in the pews who simply have a heart to work and give and pray so that His Word will be heard near and far. It might be said that the Vision of our church is carried out by people steeped in Scripture, assured through His Sacraments, equipped by our leaders lay, and professional, and led of the Holy Spirit to understand that *"...we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).

Pastor Phill

From Pastor Mark

A Word about Mission & Vision

The Mission

Our Mission Statement: "The mission of this congregation shall be to witness the saving grace of Jesus Christ to His entire world. To accomplish this mission, we preach the Word of God, administer the Sacraments, provide religious instruction for all our people, and encourage the growth of God's church through mission work."

Biblical Mission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."
Matthew 28:19.

The Vision

So, vision has to do with **Who** we want to be in the *future*...

For example:

- People who love God and others.
- People who learn to be and make disciples.
- People who lead others to discover and live out their calling as God's Children.

We are His church placed in a specific location at a specific time for a specific purpose. We gather as a vital living extension of Jesus Christ. We gather not as an assortment of individuals, but as an interconnected, relational network. We gather not for our own pleasure, but for Christ's. We gather to praise Him and encounter Him in new and meaningful ways, and to be shaped by His word. We gather to understand how we can better serve our community in the name of Jesus!

And **What** would we want to be...

You arrive on Saturday or Sunday and see smiles on people's faces, hear joy in people's voices, feel genuine excitement, and it's contagious. Loving, engaged people are hanging out in the narthex before and after church. Every visitor is greeted and feels thoroughly welcomed. All because God's presence is abundantly evident.

Crown of Life has become the center of neighborhood activities and social events. We have an amazing pool of volunteers and enthusiastic participants in our ministries and in community service. We are effectively reaching more people outside our church walls through people and technology.

Summer 2024

The possibilities are endless. It's the church I want to be a part of, don't you? Are we there yet? No. Can we get there? Absolutely, by God's grace. Crown of Life's leadership shares this vision for our ministry, but it requires people, both staff and volunteers.

Vision, as modeled in Scripture and throughout church history, came as God's people saw the needs around them and then sought God for what He wanted them to do. Moses' leading the people of Israel out of Egypt, David's fighting Goliath, Nehemiah's rebuilding the temple wall, Paul's writing to the church in Corinth — these and other accounts in Scripture indicate the vision of these leaders. They saw in their minds a future that was preferred more than the present. And their vision propelled them forward to do courageous things.

Aubrey Malphurs, in his book, *Planting Growing Churches* for the 21st Century writes, "People can't focus on fog! As someone once said, 'If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time!'" He further states, "[Vision] is the ministry compass that helps a congregation and the leaders navigate through the ocean of decision."

All churches fit into two categories: 1) Those with vision have a sense of direction and destiny. 2) Those without vision seem lost and befuddled. A church that develops a vision puts a compass in the hands of its people. Instead of the pastor and leadership pulling and pushing, the people have a common sense of destiny.

Are we called to witness our faith to our friends, neighbors, and people in our lives? Are we called to be more purposeful in putting together events that are "non-threatening" for one to mix with our membership? Should we be inviting in more ways and more frequently?

We are doing many things right at Crown of Life...even this summer! We will continue to study God's Word through Reading Scripture and all of the other Bible Studies offered here. We will invite children and families for VBS again. We will welcome new members into our midst. We will continue our confirmation of young people. We will welcome our brothers and sisters back. We will have an Oktoberfest celebration to invite people to in the Fall, have another cantata and then Christmas! Wow!

Let us do ALL of these things with Godly PURPOSE and a Vision!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mark

Assimilation News

Judith Axelson, Assimilation Committee

Ladies Out to Lunch will continue for the summer. See dates and locations below, signup and watch for more details at the Information Desk as the dates get closer!

June 18th -- Cheddar's

July 16th -- Village Inn

August 20th -- Longhorn Steak House

Friday games will continue throughout the summer and are held each Friday at 1 PM in the Parish Hall. Plan on joining us for some games and fellowship.

Mark your calendars for an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 4th 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.

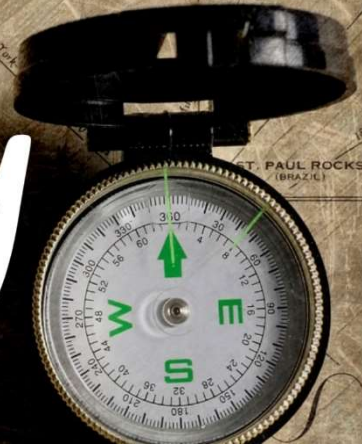


We still need greeters and guest book coverage for the summer, so please sign up at the Information Desk if you are willing to help.

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

Summer 2024

Missionary VOLUNTEERS



How wonderful it was to have the Missionary Family of Rev. Paul Nelson visit with us.

He loves what he does and encourages others to consider missionary work. He brought information that perhaps you, your children and/or your grandchildren might be interested in.

The “Short-term Volunteer Opportunities” sheet shares ways to experience a cross-cultural ministry through LCMS. Examples:

- Working with a team to put on a day camp program for missionary kids,
- Mercy Projects to connect local community members to nearby Lutheran churches, and
- Online English Conversation Partners with English learners around the world.

The “You Get to Tell Them” brochure asks if you want to share the love of Christ with others. If yes, there is a place for you.

Examples:

- Youth Servant events (for a week or weekend),
- Mission trips,
- Mercy Medical teams, and
- Disaster Response teams (a few hours to multiple days), as well as
- Career Missionaries,
- GEO Missionaries (Globally Engaged in Outreach), and
- Military Chaplains (for those with 2+ years of parish experience).

If you or someone you know would like more information, there are brochures in the church office or visit www.servenow.lcms.org.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Mere words can not express the gratitude I feel for your thoughts and prayers, these are being heard! Daily “the great Physician” is blessing me with healing. Your texts, calls, emails, cards and visits make my days pass by. Your gifts of food, errands, driving, and personal items, bring tears to my eyes and joy, peace and comfort to me. Doing what I can to be back with you soon. Miss you and my church! Special “Thank You” to Pastors for your visits, communion, and lifting me up in prayer!

Love & Hugs, Dee Harries

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joining the Church Triumphant

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

George Duffey, April 23

Francis Gebauer, May 5

Dan Mehner, May 16

Leonard Gadeken, May 27

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

Summer 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 April 2024, our volunteers made 30 visits, served 37 meals, and assisted 3 people with light handyman tasks. Thank you to all who have been our Lord's hands, feet, and heart with our church family.

If you have been considering moving to a senior community, here are some of its benefits.

Reasons to Move into a Senior Community:

- You don't want to worry about home maintenance or repairs.
- You want someone else to grocery shop and cook for you.
- You have better ways to spend your time than doing chores.
- You want more opportunities to socialize and connect.
- You want to have access to on-site services and support.
- You like knowing that help is available when you need it.
- You want low-maintenance living.
- You want to consolidate expenses.

Please mark these dates on your calendars and plan to join us.

SAVE THE DATE

Come and join us!

Upcoming Event



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

Monday, June 17, 2024
2:00 - 3:00 pm (Parish Hall)

Guest Speakers:
Crystal Littlejohn, MHSA, CMC, CSA
Kate Sawert, PT, MA
Geriatric Resources, LLC





Geriatric Resources helps you prepare for the support you'll eventually need and will walk beside you for each stage of your journey.

Crystal and Kate will answer these questions and any other questions you have.

- What is a Care Manager/Advocate?
- How does a Care Manager advocate for me relative to my healthcare?
- What if I need legal or financial assistance?
- How can a Care Manager help me if my loved ones live far away?
- How can a Care Manager help me stay in my home?
- What is a Care Manager's role if I need to leave my home?
- What is Thoughtful Engagement?

SAVE THESE DATES

Come and join us!



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

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

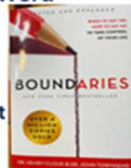
2024
Sept 3 and 17;
Oct 1 and 15;
Nov 5 and 19;
Dec 3 and 17

Register at the information desk or 623.218.6793

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

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.



(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

Stephen Ministry Request/Referral

Lola Leshney 623 826 9237

Community Resource Referral

Christine Escobar 808 778 1141

Questions:

Christine Escobar 808 778 1141 or

email GriefCare@colchurch.com

Our Hope is in the Lord

Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator



Thessalonians 4:13 states, *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.* Nevertheless, after the death of a loved one, we may question whether we will ever feel joy again. Where can we turn to claim the steadfast hope that we will experience joy again after a devastating loss?

The first place we can turn to is God's Word. Throughout the Bible, God reassures us that he loves us, protects us, and has our lives in His hands. God also created us for a purpose in this world. These are a few scripture verses we can turn to strengthen our confidence that joy will return.

- *We wait in **hope** for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him, our hearts rejoice, for we **trust** in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our **hope** in you (Psalm 33:20-22).*
- *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the **joy** of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit (Psalm 51:11-12).*
- *Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose **hope** is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever (Psalm 146:5-6).*
- *Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who **trusts** in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for **joy**, all you upright in heart (Psalm 32:10-11).*
- *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope** (Jeremiah 29:11).*
- *For in this **hope** we were saved. Now **hope** that is seen is not **hope**. For who **hopes** for what he sees? But if we **hope** for what we do not see, we wait for it with **patience** (Romans 8:24-25).*
- *He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by **patience** in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life** (Ephesians 2:6-7).*

We can also find healing, comfort, and strength in our worship services, church activities, and spending time with our Christian family. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one and feel alone and overwhelmed, please attend our GriefCare group. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. through June 26, 2024. Our fall group will begin on September 4, 2024. Please call Christine Escobar at 808-778-1141 for more information.



OKTOBERFEST IS BACK!



Spaß, Glaube, und Gemeinschaft!
(Fun, Faith and Fellowship)



Friday evening, October 11th from 4pm – 8pm at Beardsley Park, Sun City West

Don your lederhosen and put on your polka shoes! Enjoy an evening of brats, beer, games and music with your fellow COL members and neighbors under the setting sun in beautiful Beardsley Park.

Details to follow soon, along with information on how to sign-up to attend or volunteer to be a part of the Oktoberfest Team.

Be sure to mark your calendars now!

Summer 2024

LOVE MEAL MINISTRY

Marilyn Goodnight, Meal Ministry

I want to thank our volunteers who so lovingly prepare and deliver meals to those in our church who are going through health issues and troubled times. The month of April we provided 45 meals & the blessings we received were so meaningful.

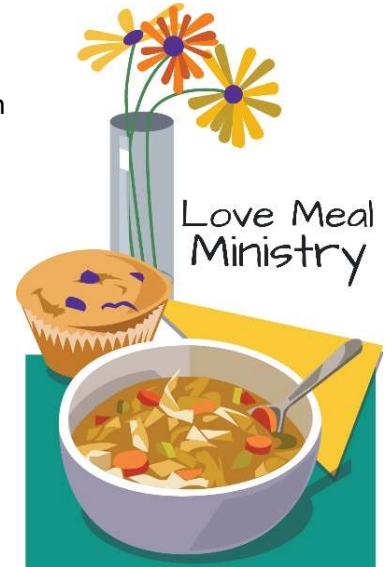
Personally I just love to glorify God in the Kitchen. After washing up and turning on my gospel music full blast I concentrate on praying for the household I am preparing a meal for. I also pray that the flavor will be just right and it will also be pleasing to God. I am in need of a driver to deliver the meals I prepare as I do not drive.

Some members of our team are (snowbirds) and leave for awhile. This leaves us short handed. I am appealing to all of you out there who are still wanting to fix a meal and brighten someone's day by making your favorite main dish, salad & whatever comes to your mind for that person to enjoy.

I praise God for your prayers and the encouragement you give to each one of us...
BUT WE NEED YOU TO PRAY ABOUT SERVING IN THIS EXCEPTIONAL MINISTRY.

There is also a sign up sheet on the Information Desk. Feel free to call me for more details at 925 548 2324.

Marilyn Goodnight



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



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

Monday, August 12, 2024,
12:00 - 4:00 pm (Parish Hall)
*[Register at 623.471.9355](tel:623.471.9355)

AARP Safe Driving Course

The AARP Smart Driver course may help you receive a multi-year discount on your auto insurance.

Course highlights:

- Research-based safe driving strategies.*
- Information on the effects of medication on driving.*
- Preventive measures to reduce driver distractions.*
- Proper use of safety belts, airbags, anti-lock brakes, and new technology found in cars today.*
- Techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way, and roundabouts.*
- State-specific rules and regulations.*

Come and join us!

Upcoming Event

Save The Date!

LWML Fall Celebration

Saguaro Zone 26

Saturday, October 26

8 am – 2 pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 450 Rose Lane,
Wickenburg, AZ

Registration: 8 – 8:45 am

“Let Your Light Shine”

Guest speakers from Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat

Bible study led by Counselor Pastor Spicer

Ingathering:
Non-Perishable food for Wickenburg CAP office

Summer 2024

**The Pacific Southwest District LWML Convention is June 7 – 9, 2024.
The Ingatherings at this convention will be the Gifts from the Heart.**



Our mission is to empower pregnant and parenting women in need to reclaim their lives and build successful family legacies. Pasadena, CA



Our mission is to provide food, resources, and services from a faith-based perspective to those in need. We value the dignity of all individuals and strive to promote their independence. Irwindale, CA



Our mission is to serve children, single mothers, the elderly, and families in outlying areas of Tijuana. We also assist in planting mission churches and beginning new ministries. Tijuana, Mexico

Please bring gift cards for donation and mark your donated gift cards with the dollar value in permanent marker. They are accepting gas gift cards, Walmart gift cards and Visa gift cards.

If one of these Ingatherings touches your heart your gift card can be given to Rita Grover (Saturdays) or Darlene Markle (Sundays). They will take them to the convention. They will be leaving Thursday, June 6.

Thank you for supporting these special mission opportunities.

Beat the heat this summer and “travel with Vern”.

The Colorado Springs trip: **TRAINS, PLANES, HALLS of FAME & other things**, is scheduled for JUNE 24-28. Sites include *The Garden of the Gods, US Airforce Academy, Olympic Hall of Fame, Cowboy Hall of Fame, Royal Gorge and Pike's Peak* railroads, and more. We will travel to Colorado by plane.



THE CALIFORNIA GETAWAY is scheduled for August 12-15. Venues will include the Broadway musical **PETER PAN**, the world-famous **PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS** in Laguna Beach, lunch and tour of **Concordia University Irvine**, evening dinner & harbor cruise at Newport Beach and some optional museums. This trip is designed to be relaxing and walker and wheelchair friendly.

As of now there are still openings for the Ark Encounter trip in September and the Reformation Trip in October.

All the details for each trip can be found on Pastor Vern's website: travelwithvern.com or you can contact him by phone at 714-271-6984 or email vermeling1946@gmail.com.



If you'd like to help set up, work with the children, donate items, or be prayer support, sign up at the Information Desk or contact Pastor Mark or Barbie.

**We need volunteers for:
Crown of Life
Vacation Bible School
VBS 2024
Jesus is My SuperHero!
Monday, August 19 – Friday, August 23
2PM – 5PM**

**VBS information meeting on June 8
at 10 AM in the Parish Hall**