



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 Study –
2:00 PM (Parish Hall)

Wednesdays

Read Scripture Study –
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

Resolutions! Bah humbug! Never kept one I made on New Year's Eve, how about you? Maybe if we go at this a little differently, we might get closer to actually retaining the thought a mite longer in the new year. How about Galatians 5? You already know it.

Oh, and where is Galatia anyway, as Paul directed his letter to that far-off place? It was then a region of Asia Minor, Turkey now. In Acts 14-16, Luke writes of Paul's missionary journey in the south of that larger region, teaching in the synagogues he found there. There was opposition to his teaching. He was stoned at Lystra, contended against the circumcisers who insisted on retaining the ancient rituals, and above all, encountered human nature in all its aspects. In his letter to the Galatians Paul reminded them, and us, that while our natures instinctively choose the evil against which Jesus preached, there is also the positive Spirit within us.

Galatians 5:22-26: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no Law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

What if, instead of resolutions that are bound to fail, at least in my case, we remind ourselves regularly as to the fruit of the Spirit? Keeping the fruit – note, it is a single fruit with many dimensions – in front of us may well cause us to be new people in the new year. The Word is always there for us, sometimes we step away from it, forget to live it, as James, brother of Jesus, exhorts us: *But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only...* James 1:22.

Let us all try to do the Word of God in the fruit of the Spirit – think how much kinder this world would be if only... May the Lord bless us all in the New Year!

A few things are happening at Crown in January:

January 4: Confirmation of three of Pastor Airey's students at that Saturday service;

January 6: Epiphany – sadly, the decorations in the church must come down that week. Can you help?

A Few Notes from the Church Office

by Holly Gast

THANK YOU:

A special Thank You to all the volunteers that helped stuff bulletins this holiday season. We are truly blessed to have so many people volunteering their time to help us in the church office. We appreciate all of you!

February Newsletter Deadline:

The February Newsletter deadline has been moved up to January 10.

2025 Contribution Envelopes:

The 2025 contribution envelopes are in the Narthex for pick up. Please do not use the 2025 envelopes until January 2025.

2024 Contribution Statements:

Your 2024 contribution statements will be mailed or emailed this year by late January. Please contact Holly or Cathy in the church office if you have any discrepancies or any questions. Thank you!

Installation of Officers

On Sunday, January 12, the elected and appointed officers of our boards, committees, and organizations will all be recognized and installed into service for the year 2025. The Installation will take place at the Sunday service and will include officers and leaders of our boards and Church Council, our auxiliary organizations, and committees.



January 12: New Church Officer Installation at our Sunday 9 am service.

January 18 and 19: Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall, all the ministries in our church will have tables for information as to what goes on here.

Pastor Phill

From Pastor Mark

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! Yes, it's the beginning of a whole new year. And, yes, we are all wondering what will take place this year. What does the future hold for us, our families...our church?

Instead of worrying, I would like to encourage us all to turn our thinking towards considering the "GIFTS" God has in store for us this year. Remembering that He is a good and gracious God and can do all things!

For us as God's people, that means looking to Him for guidance in our lives and for the life of our church. To receive this, we are called to go to His Word and to pray, there we will find direction and His grace, truth, and love.

Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." This verse reminds us that God's Word is not just a book of knowledge...it's our guide in every season. In the uncertainties and challenges of life, His Word shines even in the darkness of life, leading us to His promises and reminding us of His faithfulness.

Many of you were able to read through the Bible this last year in our "Read Scripture" Bible study, and many others got through a tremendous amount of it and, still others may have read more of the Bible than they ever have before!

This January, I encourage each of you to join our "Read Scripture" Bible study as we will explore the readings for each week helping us to have a deeper worship experience. We will be offering this in-depth study both on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings as a way to journey through the year anchored in God's Word and gain new insight as we worship each week. Together, we will explore the grand narrative of Scripture, discovering how God's love for His people unfolds in every week's pericope and how He points us to the hope we have in Christ. Whether you've read the Bible cover to cover last year or are opening it for the first time, there's always something new to learn, experience, and treasure.

As we embark on this journey, remember that God's Word is not a task to complete but an invitation to know Him more deeply. Through daily reading, reflection, and prayer, we encounter His grace which accompanies us, His love that comforts us, and His Spirit that empowers us.

Let this be the year we intentionally carve out time each day to listen to God's voice through His Word. Not only will it strengthen our faith, but it will also remind us of the incredible truth...that we are His beloved children, redeemed and called to walk in His light.

INFORMATION UPDATE FORM

Has your address, phone number or email address changed at all in 2024? If it has, please fill out this form and either drop it off or mail it in to the church office by February 12. We are currently updating our system and are trying to ensure we have all your correct contact information. We will also be using this information for our updated 2025 Church Directory.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address(s): _____

Other Updates: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Holly or Cathy in the church office by email at office@colchurch.com or by phone at 623-546-6228.

JANUARY ALTAR

FLOWERS

January 11/12

Bill & Nada McCrea in celebration of their 3rd anniversary.

January 25/26

Gale Lamps in loving memory of Rudy's 3rd year in heaven.

Clint Koenig & Barbara Polhemus in celebration of their 3rd 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. Indicate the date you would like to have flowers placed on the altar along with any preferences. The cost for flowers is \$45, which can be dropped off in the church office or placed in the collection plate, labeled 'Flowers.'



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

By: Diane Hammann

Read more. So many of us set a New Year's Resolution to read more. To read more of God's Word is a Resolution that may bring life-changing rewards.

The Crown of Life Library has many books and many authors that will not only provide history and stories to enrich your mind and help with your daily walk with the Lord, but it will also provide you with Study Bibles, Concordances, Atlases, backgrounds on key people in the Bible and biographies of awesome Christian people and talented Christian authors.

May one of your New Year Resolutions be to read more. If it is, make it reading the Word breathed out by God through the 40 authors in the Holy Bible, or more contemporary writers like C.S. Lewis, Max Lucado, Paul Maier, Lee Strobel and others. They are all in COL's library waiting for you to be blessed by taking the step to know our Lord better.

Check out your library, then check out a book knowing what Isaiah 55:11 tell us...God's Word that comes from His mouth will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and prosper where He sends it.

Flower Committee

By: Denise Trevarrow

Thank you to all the ladies who helped with the flower committee last year. A special thank you to Florella for leading the group for the last ten years. WOW!

I would also like to thank the ladies who stayed on for the coming year and welcome the new ladies who have signed on. These are the ladies who will be putting flowers on and taking them off the altar for 2025. Judy Briddle, Deb Christ, Carol Friday, Robin Coursen, Donna Dempsey, Chris Grundy, Vicki Jolin, Darlene McAfee, Karen Murphy, Julie Pettit, Penny Pinter, Lynda Rud, Denise Trevarrow, Elizabeth Young.

It is not too late to join the Flower Committee, please call Denise at 623-879-2630.



Joining the Church Triumphant

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

Forest Neumann, Nov. 20
Janet Lemp, Nov. 20
David Toepel, Dec. 13
John Sauter, Dec. 19

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

LWML NEWS

Darlene Markle



Before Jesus spoke the Beatitudes, He asked his disciples to bring the people closer to him so they could hear. Jesus' desire was, and still is, to bring people to Himself. Other Bible versions say, "bring them over here to me." Jesus always wants to get His message across. Jesus wants us to come closer. He has an important message for all to read in Matthew 5:3-11. He asks that we should encourage all who we meet as well. Reading scripture daily is a way to stay close to Him. Singing praises and using your spiritual gifts for those you come in contact with is actually a joy! He planned it that way. It actually seems simple and quite natural.

In this new year, you may be thinking of joining one of the many ministries at Crown of Life. Pray and ask the Lord to match you up with your spiritual gifts so you can serve Him. Trying something new keeps us alert and ready to be used by God. It's an exercise for our brains to try new things. He has great plans for you if you're willing. I personally want to try new ministries after the summer months. I'm looking forward to learning what is in store with my new desires!

Be sure to attend the January 14th meeting in the Chapel at 1 pm for a Bible study on the Beatitudes with Lynne Rose.

God's blessings to you and have a Happy New Year.

Mission Board

Diane Hammann, Mission Board

New beginnings. That's what most writers write about in January. Well, I'm no different.

Your Board for Missions sent financial support to a new group. It is called The Word Today. You can look up this radio ministry at www.thewordtoday.org. It began in 1978 with one radio station. Now, this weekly program is being broadcast across the globe in 81 different languages and dialects in 53 countries, including broadcasts to Africa, China, India and Russia.

The Board especially liked that all gifts to this amazing ministry go directly to the work for the Lord. There are no speaker or director fees or salaries paid with the monies. The mission-minded church that started this program with their head pastor, Paul Schroeder, supports The Word Today's building, salaries and all administrative costs.

We also were impressed in how supporting this LCMS outreach is another example of our congregation carrying out God's Great Commission to reach the world with the news of salvation.

The thank you letter COL received from Pastor Paul's son Doug...the current speaker and administrator, read: "We praise God for people who have a zeal to spread the Good News of Jesus!...Thank you for sharing your love and resources with The Word Today."

Undecorate the Church

We need extra helping hands to help undecorate the church on Saturday, January 11 at 8:00am. Extra hands mean decorations come down quicker! We hope to see you there!



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

Christine Escobar, Care Ministry Coordinator



God created us and set us apart for a Holy purpose. Christ has called us together in his church family to represent him in this world, and He has empowered us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it*

is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills (1 Corinthians 12:4 -11).

The Spirit of the Lord is active in every ministry here at Crown of Life Lutheran Church. You can find a listing of our church ministries at the information desk.

Our Care Ministry serves our church family in practical ways that express our love and concern for each other. In 2024, we served **over 170 meals** and made **over 266 visits**. Our handyman/technology team assisted people with home and technology needs **over 43 times**. Contact any of our team leaders listed below with questions or requests.

Thank you for registering for our **Matter of Balance** classes. These classes will meet in the Chapel on **Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. from January 17 to March 7, 2025**. We have reached our maximum of 15 participants. However, you are welcome to register on the waitlist. To add your name to our waitlist, call Christine at 808.778.1141 or email griefcare@colchurch.com.

If you are concerned about falling, discuss your concern with your PCP. Your PCP can prescribe seeing a physical therapist for exercises to help your balance. If you are on any of the following medications, these medications can be linked to falls. Talk to your physician about safer alternatives that may be available.

Psychoactive Medications: Anticonvulsants, Antidepressants, Antipsychotics, Benzodiazepines, Opioids, Sedatives-Hypnotics.

Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and herbal supplements: These include Anticholinergics, Antihistamines, medications affecting blood pressure, and muscle relaxants.

(www.cdc.gov/steady)

If you need assistance, please call our Care Ministry Team Leaders. Thank you!

(Light) Handyman/Technology Services Duane Rawson 928 925 0453	Stephen Ministry Request/Referral Lola Leshney 623 826 9237
Homebound/Care Center Visits Darlene Markle 970 623 9360 Dee Harries 785 562 6801	Community Resource Referral Christine Escobar 808 778 1141 or email griefcare@colchurch.com
Share a Meal Request/Referral Marilyn Goodnight 623 444 7551 Robin Coursen 303 249 2644	Questions: Christine Escobar 808 778 1141 or email griefcare@colchurch.com

Assimilation News

By: Judith Axelson

Sign up for the Jan-March Dinners for 6; sign up is located at the Information Desk. A limited number of tickets have been obtained for the March 27th matinee for "Phantom of the Opera." Pay when you sign up at the Information Desk.

The January Ladies Out to Lunch will be Tuesday, January 21st at Pete's Bistro Chuckwagon in Happy Trails located on Bell and Happy Trails Blvd. Details at the Information Desk.

Save the date for the Ash Wednesday spaghetti dinner on March 5th after the 4 PM service. Be sure to sign up, it's yummy!

Fear Not, The Lord Has Called Us by Name, We are His!

By Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

The loss of a loved one shatters our world. Our life is not the same. We are not the same. We feel broken and defenseless. We wonder if we will ever feel joy again. How do we go on?

Our strength and our resilience come from our Lord. We can trust the Lord to shelter us through this treacherous time. The Lord reassures us in his Word,

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; ... they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God.... Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you.... Fear not, for I am with you.... Isaiah 43:1-5

If grief is disrupting the precious sleep you need for healing, a helpful practice is to personalize the following scripture verses and read them out loud to the Lord before you go to sleep:

I lie down and sleep, and all night long, you [the Lord] protect me. Psalm 3:5

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

In a dream, a vision of the night. When sound sleep falls on me [men], You [He] open my ears [the ears of men] And seal my [their] instruction. Job 33:15-16

My mind and body may grow weak – You are [He is] my strength, all I ever need. Psalm 73:26

You are [God is] my [our] refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Replenishing our souls with God's Word is essential to staying encouraged and motivated to move forward in our walk with God amid grief, pain, and difficulties. Our GriefCare support groups provide such an opportunity. We offer Christian fellowship, comfort, and encouragement as we draw close to God to get through the challenging and painful time of grieving the loss of a loved one.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please join us. Our winter GriefCare group begins on **January 8, 2025**. We will meet in the Chapel on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please call Christine at 808.778.1141 or email griefcare@colchurch.com for more information and to register. You may also pick up a GriefCare pamphlet in the back of the pew or at the information desk. We welcome Crown of Life members and non-members.



January Servants

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

ELDERS

(4:00) Eddie Mallonen, Tim Krueger, Jeff Holmes
 (9:00) Eddie Mallonen, Bob Gaudinier, Lowell
 Janssen

TRUSTEES

(4:00) Ed Kristof
 (9:00) Harold Rud

FLOWERS

Judy Briddle, Deb Christ, Robin Coursen, Donna
 Dempsey, Florella Denzin, Carol Friday, Chris
 Grundy, Vicki Jolin, Darlene McAfee, Karen
 Murphy, Julie Pettit, Penny Pinter, Lynda Rud,
 Denise Trevarrow, Elizabeth Young

LIVESTREAM

Dec. 31/Jan. 12: Lisa Safago
 Jan. 5: Todd Schutt
 Jan. 19: Zach Mulso
 Jan 26: Henry Munzinger

SOUND

Dec. 31/Jan. 12: Kathy Beilstein
 Jan. 4/5: Cathy Meyer
 Jan. 11: Joe Jellison
 Jan. 18: Dana Boesen
 Jan. 19: Eddie Mallonen
 Jan. 25: Zach Mulso
 Jan. 26: Larry Mills

SCREENS

Dec. 31/Jan. 11/12: Zach Mulso
 Jan. 5: Tom Mertins
 Jan 18: Mila Boesen
 Jan. 19/26: Ken Coffman
 Jan 25: Craig Devroy

TELLERS

Kathy Beilstein, Judy Briddle, Chris Grundy, Dale
 Johnson, Sheila Mecham, sub- Ken Grover



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|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Karen Weitzel | 11 Cheryl Bernhardt | 21 Sue Trevisan |
| 2 Holly Browning | 12 Maria Winfrey | 21 Todd Schutt |
| 4 Wilma Schwandt | 12 Bob Downes | 21 Cindy Buda |
| 4 David Wentworth | 15 Martha Plapp | 23 Judy Engel |
| 5 Larry Branen | 16 Larry Bublitz | 26 Hollis Robbins |
| 6 Don Abrahamson | 16 Roberta Dockweiler | 26 Steve Kayton |
| 6 Nancy Lorenzen | 17 Gloria Andersen | 28 Lillian Holen |
| 6 Donna Roeker | 17 Ed Michel | 28 Chuck Pollock |
| 7 Kathy Schutt | 17 Robin Coursen | 29 Al Stoudemire |
| 8 Connie Rau | 17 Alan Winegarden | 29 Karen Myers |
| 9 Sue Krischler | 17 Ken Marton | 29 Sharon Michael |
| 9 Byron Brown | 18 Loretta Ebel | 30 Diane Hammann |
| 10 Gene Axelson | 18 Paul Richardson | 31 Kathleen Hauck |
| 10 George Maul | 19 Pat Coyle | |
| 10 Dorian Pfeifer | 20 Penny Pinter | |



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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 Tamara and Albert Willars | 28 Sam and Sheila Mecham |
| 10 Jerry & Lisa Royer Nicholson | 29 Barbara Polhemus and Clint Koenig |
| 16 John and Sandra Holten | 30 Tim and Barbara Aden |
| 24 Ken and Jeanette Hagemann | 31 Gordon and Roxanne Kath |
| 25 Jim and Janice Drake | |



ALTAR GUILD

(4:00) Nada McCrea, Arline Orchowski
 (9:00) Deb Christ, Bettie Ore

USHERS

(9:00) Jim & Carol Friday, Harold & Lynda Rud, Randy & Lori Schultz

GREETERS

Saturday: Linda & Chris Beck, Joan Byrd
 Sunday: Paul and Martha Plapp, Judy and Dave Koelsch, Becky and Mike
 Downey. Guestbook: Shirley Swartz



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2 3:15p Choir (Sanctuary)	3 10:00a GriefCare Facilitator (Chapel) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	4 4:00p Food Drive (Parish Hall) 4:00p LWML Mites (Info Desk) 4:00p Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
5 9:00a Food Drive (Parish Hall) 9:00a LWML Mites (Info Desk) 9:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)	6 Epiphany 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel) 1:00p Care Ministry (Chapel)	7 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 11:30a LWML Board Mtg (Chapel) 1:00p Assimilation (Conference Room) 2:00p Read Scripture Study (Parish Hall)	8 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:30a Trustees (Conf. Room) 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare Support (Chapel)	9 7:30a Schole (Entire Church) 1:30p Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 3:15p Choir (Sanctuary)	10 9:00a Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 9:00a Mission Bd (Conf. Rm) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 8:00a Undecorating Church (Entire Church) 1:00p LWML Zone 26 (Chapel) 4:00p Worship (Sanctuary)
12 9:00a Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) 9:00a Installation of Officers 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)	13 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel)	14 8:30a Elders (Chapel) 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 1:00p LWML (Chapel) 2:00p Read Scripture Study (Parish Hall)	15 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare Support (Chapel) 2:00p Church Council (Chapel)	16 7:30a Schole (Entire Church) 1:30p Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 3:15p Choir (Sanctuary)	17 9:00a Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p 'Matters of Balance' Class (Chapel) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	18 4:00p Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) Ministry Fair (Parish Hall)
19 9:00a Worship (Sanctuary) Ministry Fair (Parish Hall)	20 MLK Jr. B-day 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel) 1:30p Card Ministry (Music Room)	21 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 11:30a Ladies' Out to Lunch (TBD) 2:00p Read Scripture Study (Parish Hall)	22 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare Support (Chapel)	23 7:30a Schole (Entire Church) 1:30p Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 3:15p Choir (Sanctuary)	24 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p 'Matters of Balance' Class (Chapel) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	25 4:00p Worship (Sanctuary)
26 9:00a Worship & Communion (Sanctuary) 10:15a Bible Class (Parish Hall)	27 9:30a Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall) 10:30a Prayer Team (Chapel)	28 9:00a Quilting / Stitchers (Parish Hall) 2:00p Read Scripture Study (Parish Hall)	29 9:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 9:30a GriefCare Support (Chapel)	30 7:30a Schole (Entire Church) 1:30p Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 3:15p Choir (Sanctuary)	31 10:30a Bible Class (Parish Hall) 1:00p 'Matters of Balance' Class (Chapel) 1:00p Cards & Games (Parish Hall)	