



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello, dear Spirit of Joy Family,

He IS Risen! May God continue to shower us with blessings as we journey on together through the church season of Easter for the next several weeks. (“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song as I Journey,” ELW hymn #808.)

Many thanks to Pastor Conrad Braaten, Pastor David Brandfass, Pastor Gwen Brandfass, and Vicar (intern) Julie Gerrish for leading our Holy Week services in Pastor Sharon's absence. You were so gracious to offer to help us while leading your own services at Christ Lutheran, too.

And “Welcome Home, again, to Pastor Sharon (in a few days)! We hope you are experiencing some special times with all your family back east. Thank you, everyone, for giving her the gift of time to be with family after Pastor’s sister, Ann, passed into eternal life. We know Ann is healed, but her family still needs time to grieve as they begin the healing process.

And speaking of healing, many thanks for your incredible outpouring of love and care and prayers for our own members who have been seriously hurting lately. You continue to lift each other up with prayers and support of all kinds. You provide cheer for each other and light to keep going. “In our darkest hours, we rely on each other to help us keep moving forward and doing what must be done.” – from Doctors without Borders. This is so true. God gives us the gift of each other to help bear burdens and bring healing and light.

I also wish to thank everyone for the wonderful singing all through our Holy Week, especially all the triumphant “Alleluias” on Easter Sunday. Now...let us keep on SINGING! (Many of you know how important singing is to me.)

My music files hold special favorite songs such as these:

“Let There Be Music in This Place Today.” -- Wow! Did we ever raise the roof with our singing in this place on Easter Sunday! The song continues with, “Let there be harmony in this place today; let there be love that knows no ending.” That’s your love for each other and each neighbor God gives to us along the journey.

“In All These, You Welcomed Me.” -- You genuinely welcomed ALL our guests, family and friends who came to share the Easter message with us. Indeed, we are welcoming Christ as we extend welcome to each and every person who comes through our doors.

“With a Voice of Singing.” -- This song says, “Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia! God has delivered His people!” – We are a part of His people!

Let’s continue singing together as if we are one voice. Soon, we will be learning new songs from the new Hymnal Supplement, “All Creation Sings.” (Thanks to Nancy for this new song book!) Indeed, all of Creation IS singing with us!

God is with us and all of Creation, NO MATTER WHAT. Always has been, always will be.
How can we keep from Singing?!!!

Your Church Council Pres., Laura Stransky

April Birthdays

Luke Hoedl	2
Kip Stransky	6
Chance Densmore	8
Marilyn Anderson	10
Roger Dunn	10
Georgia Braithwaite	16
Richard Huber	16
A. C. Gaber	19
Lisa Mathe	20
Jeff Keck	25
Naomi Barcanic	29
Dee Suhr	29



If your special day is missing from our list, please call or email the church office to let us know.

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April Anniversaries

John & Betty Diets April 10

Deaths

Please pray for the families of these departed members and former members:

Almond Peterson, Sid Stelpstra, Dick Nord, Jack Carter, Marsha Pritzel, Delores Fronko, Don Stone, Myra Piechowski, Violette Hansen, Mike Harvey, Randy Hoy.

Celebration of Life services are as follows:

Myra Piechowski—Saturday, April 20, 11am

Karen & Mike Harvey—Saturday, May 4, 11am

REWARD PROGRAM

Spirit of Joy is the recipient of donations from the Fry's Community Rewards program. You do nothing, other than register, and a percentage of your purchases will be sent to Spirit of Joy to be used by the Altar Guild. We received \$47.63 for the 4th Quarter of 2023. Thank you! Call the office for more details on enrolling.



GREATER COTTONWOOD CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Share our new Greater Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce *catalog** of upcoming events. You can scan this QR code or visit

<https://tinyurl.com/3yhke33y>

*Direct people to search for "church" and our listing will come up. Click on "catalog" (*the phone app uses the term "display") to get to the informational brochure and schedule of events. Pastor will offer an informational session on accessing the Chamber page.*



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

From the In-Reach/Outreach Team

WOW! Thank you to all those whose generous participation made our Celtic Sunday a roaring success...from the worship and music all the way to our Celtic dinner!

Most honorable mention: Russ and Jeff, our stalwart dishwashers; emcee Georgia; the main course chefs and servers; the before, during and after worker bees; and Sue Bro for organizing overall.



GATHER BIBLE STUDY



The Gather Bible Study will meet on Thursday, April 18th at 2pm in the Conference Room. Our very interesting study will focus on nature in the form of biblical rivers where we receive a vision of our flourishing creation. All are welcome to join us!

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Out to Lunch Bunch will take a break during Pastor Sharon's absence. Be sure to check next month's newsletter for our next adventure eating out!



HALLELUJAH!



One of our guests at Easter Worship and Brunch wrote this note:

"It was incredible to be with you in your beautiful space. Everyone was so pleasant, kind, sympathetic, and beautiful. On the inside and outwardly, you are just wonderful people."

Again, THANKS to ALL for being so welcoming to guests! - Laura S.

Recurring Offerings

Rather than donating online, you can set up "bill pay" through your bank. Most banks have this service. You save yourself and the church the "transaction fee". We have a number of folks who contribute this way. Checks generally take a week to get through the mail. See pastor or contact your bank for more information.



A CELTIC CELEBRATION!

Sunday, March 17, 2024

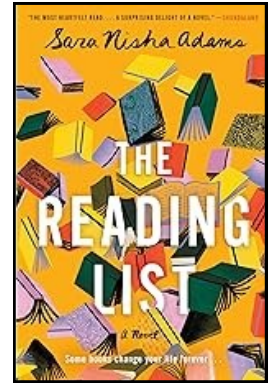


DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

The Reading List

Author: Sara Nisha Adams

ISBN-13: 978-0063025295 400 pgs



Summary:

An unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb. Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life in Wembley, in West London after losing his beloved wife. He shops every Wednesday, goes to Temple, and worries about his granddaughter, Priya, who hides in her room reading while he spends his evenings watching nature documentaries. Aleisha is a bright but anxious teenager working at the local library for the summer when she discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It's a list of novels that she's never heard of before. Intrigued, and a little bored with her slow job at the checkout desk, she impulsively decides to read every book on the list, one after the other. As each story gives up its magic, the books transport Aleisha from the painful realities she's facing at home. This delightful book, recommended by a couple of our group, is available in the YLN as the following formats: large & regular print, audio book and ebook.

Join us for a discussion of this wonderful book on Thursday, April 25th at 2pm in the Council Room.



FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next weekend, April 6 & 7, for our local food bank. Leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

If you participate in the Green Bag program, please bring in your filled bag at this time and leave under the table in the narthex.

(Please remember to check the expiration dates on food before donating.)

JOYFUL MUSIC MAKERS

Join us as we Make a Joyful Noise every Sunday.

9:15am—Joyful Hymn Sing

11:00am—Joyful Music Rehearsal

All singers, instrumentalists and noise makers of all ages are welcome!



WELCA NEWS

The March WELCA meeting was held on Thursday, March 14th, 2024 with 12 members present. Carol S opened a meeting with a quiz followed by devotions from Max Lucado's book of devotions.



Loma J presented the Treasurer's report: We took in \$35 from Fellowship and \$30 from Laura's Table. We purchased a coffee pot for \$83.00.

Mell'O'Dee G read the minutes of the February meeting. There were no corrections or additions.

The following items were discussed:

- Lenten Soup Suppers—we need more volunteers for soup.
- More volunteers for Fellowship and the Easter Brunch.
- Becky K reminded us about getting food handler's certificates.
- Joyful Crafting takes place Friday mornings at 9am. To date they have completed eight quilts.
- Pr. Sharon updated us on all members needing prayer.
- AED (defibrillator) project —Cost is \$1,534—pads \$65 and batteries \$170. The Fire Department grant is \$500, therefore, we need to look for more funds.
- CPR classes were discussed.
- Celtic Sunday is March 17th. This is not a WELCA event but help is needed.
- Loma J suggested we hold a Bake & Craft Sale Dec. 7th and also a Spring Yard Sale. A vote was taken and motion carried.
- Laura's Table—it was suggested that if items do not sell after a while to take them home.
- Pr. Sharon stated that there were no big projects scheduled for the summer months.
- Becky K suggested we have an outing April 11th after our meeting. Everyone was in favor.
- Our 30th Year Celebration plans will begin on April 20th.
- There will be a Celebration of Life of Myra Piechowski on Saturday, April 20, with a catered reception afterwards.

Thanks to all who helped on the "water project". We appreciate all your time, efforts and headaches.

There were many prayer requests for members, family and friends.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mell 'O'Dee Gaber, Secretary

SILENT AUCTION

Now on display in the narthex is a beautiful painting of the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona painted by our own Rita Dunn. We will be having a silent auction for this painting for two months with the starting bid at \$250.

This painting is dedicated to the following former WELCA ladies: Liz Saunders, Myra Piechowski, Vi Hansen and Jan Taylor. It was painted on site at the chapel with Liz Saunders painting at her side. Proceeds from this auction will go to WELCA.



See the bidding sheet on the table in the narthex.



WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

April 7: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-5; Mark 8:34-35

April 14: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

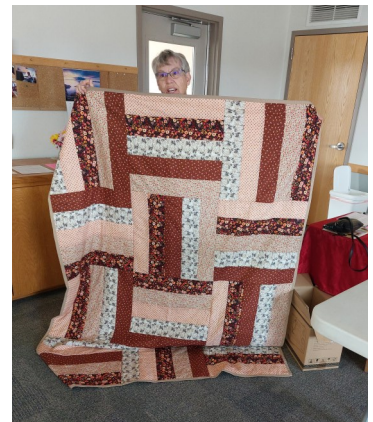
April 28: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8

JOYFUL CRAFTERS

The re-established SOJ quilting/crafting group is busy working on quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other projects such as crocheted caps for newborns. Currently, we have eight finished quilts; two are sewed and ready to be tied, and two more are in beginning stages. Usually eight to ten ladies show up Friday mornings to work on projects, and enjoy social time together. The previous crafting group left several crocheted or knitted Prayer Shawls which we have been blessed to give to some of our members who have been seriously ill.

We're always hoping for new participants. Come check it out! We meet every Friday in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM.

(Pictured here with their first LWR quilts are Ann Matske and Susan Bro.)



"We all do better when we ALL do better." -- Paul Wellstone

**MEMORIALS, HONORS AND GIFTS
March 2024**

MEMORIALS

Kip & Laura Stransky
in memory of Peg Stone

JOY PACKS

Mary Stelpstra
Laura Stransky

MISSION SUPPORT

Naomi Barcanic—NELM

**Council Meeting Summary
March 13, 2024**

Council met on Wednesday March 13 in the Conference Room at 4:30pm. All members were present. Laura led the group in singing *Lord of All Hopefulness* for opening devotions.

Financials were discussed in depth. From the financial report it was determined that we have no real cushion. During the summer, offering usually drops which is another concern. But the reserve is up which is a positive note. The decision on what to do with the \$25,000 legacy gift was tabled.

The Red Cross Veteran’s Day Blood Drive for November 12, 2024 was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Submitted by,

Susan Bro, Secretary



FINANCIAL REPORT—February 2024

Operating Fund

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 21,173.38*	\$14,377.88	\$ 6,795.50

* \$3,000.00 Grant from ELCA Grand Canyon Synod for Joy Packs

Year-to-Date (Jan 1—Feb 29)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 34,634.54	\$ 29,965.25	\$ 4,669.39

2/29/2024 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$68,749.19
Mortgage Fund	5,702.97
Restricted Ministries	<u>16,362.03</u>
Ending Balance	\$90,814.19

Board Restricted Fund

February

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 5,356.00*	\$ 3,254.04**	\$ 2,101.96

*Thrivent Choice Dollars \$ 356.00
Landscaping Donation \$5,000.00

**Landscaping/Water Repair \$3,254.04

Year-to-Date (Jan 1—Feb 29)

Board Restricted Income	Board Restricted Expenses	Net Income
\$ 5,396.00	\$ 3,254.04	\$ 2,141.96

2/29/2024 Ending Balance

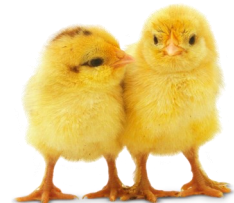
Mortgage Principal	\$ 848.00
Building Fund	0.00
Landscaping Fund	4,825.05
Organ/Piano Fund	3,000.87
Restricted Undesignated	29,738.32
Restricted Designated	<u>3,340.70</u>
	\$41,752.94

Bank 11 month CD \$10,000

Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance	\$ 2,410.94
Mission Investment Fund Mortgage Owed	\$146,641.03



SPRING WORD SEARCH



WORD LIST

APRIL
 BASEBALL
 BIRDS
 BLOSSOMS
 BUMBLEBEE
 BUTTERFLIES
 CHICK
 CLEANING
 CLOVER
 CROCUS
 DAFFODIL
 DAYLIGHT
 EQUINOX
 FLOWERS
 FORSYTHIA
 GARDEN
 JACKET
 LADYBUG
 MARCH
 MAY
 PICNIC
 PUDDLES
 RAINBOW
 ROBIN
 SEEDS
 SHOWERS
 SPRING
 UMBRELLA

W	A	O	A	H	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	S	Y
H	Y	N	I	B	O	R	D	C	T	X	C	E	B
R	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	V	Z	P	I	W
S	D	E	E	S	G	N	I	R	P	S	X	L	Z
U	A	U	C	G	N	S	C	V	I	O	Z	F	P
C	L	C	X	B	V	E	E	L	N	Z	F	R	D
G	L	K	B	F	L	A	D	I	N	L	L	E	Q
V	E	E	K	F	U	O	U	R	A	S	O	T	M
O	R	I	A	A	N	Q	S	D	A	O	W	T	X
R	B	D	O	N	E	J	Y	S	C	G	E	U	P
R	M	O	A	O	I	B	X	P	O	O	R	B	X
Y	U	U	S	F	U	N	U	M	S	M	S	L	N
E	E	H	C	G	F	D	G	A	D	T	S	C	H
E	T	X	S	E	D	O	X	Y	R	F	S	T	Q
B	T	I	Q	L	S	W	D	O	I	O	R	E	M
E	N	Z	E	B	I	P	U	I	B	R	E	K	A
L	T	S	C	R	O	C	U	S	L	S	W	C	R
B	L	T	H	G	I	L	Y	A	D	Y	O	A	C
M	C	R	A	P	A	D	Z	P	S	T	H	J	H
U	F	H	V	X	I	P	E	H	T	H	S	J	A
B	U	P	I	H	Y	C	R	G	X	I	R	D	Z
J	X	I	R	C	T	N	I	Z	A	E	M	V	
D	R	S	E	I	K	N	B	I	L	U	R	M	X
D	C	L	O	V	E	R	G	V	C	G	N	A	H

everydaychaosandcalm.com

SPIRIT OF JOY CHURCH COUNCIL

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Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
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April Highlights

- 2—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting (CR), 10am
- 7—Food Bank & Green Bag Sunday
- 9—Finance Team (CR), 4:30pm
- 10—Council Meeting (CR), 4:30pm
- 11—WELCA Meeting (FH), 9:30am
- 13—Green Bag Collection, Mountain View UMC, 10am
- 18—Gather Bible Study (CR), 2pm
- 19—Mutual Ministry (CR), 11am
- 20—Celebration of Life of Myra Piechowski, 11am
- 25—Daytime Book Group (CR), 2pm

SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

Worship—Saturdays 4:30pm
Worship—Sundays 9:30am
Fellowship—following worship

"April is the kindest month.
April gets you out of your
head and out working in the
garden."

~ Marty Rubin ~

#sagebrushnursery

