



May – A beautiful time of year here in the Verde Valley!

Unfortunately, it is a time we often wish our seasonal members *bon voyage* and Godspeed. We sang “God be with you till we meet again” on April 21st. I thought it seemed too early. However, I’ve heard from many that they will head back to cooler climates in the next few weeks. We will miss you. We pray you bless your winter home congregation as much as you bless us here at Spirit of Joy. Please make sure we have your winter mailing address, so we can keep in touch.



I want to thank all of you for your support and contributions to making Holy Week and Easter a success, and for welcoming our Sedona brothers and sisters as they filled in during my absence. It was a bittersweet trip. Saying goodbye and also getting the opportunity to visit my mother and my children, and connect with old friends. And watching the total eclipse was the experience of a lifetime.

I hope you can bear with me as I get “back in the swing” of things, after being out for two weeks. I am currently in the process of planning some New Member information classes. Some other possibilities are “Making Sense of the Cross” – a study of the various theories of atonement (how Jesus saves) or an ELCA study on civic discourse. I would love to hear your interest in any of these topics. Summer is a time to slow down, but also a time to refresh our understandings of faith and God’s work in the world.

Please keep in mind our upcoming summer Shoe Drive, which will kick off in July or August.

Please keep in your prayers our upcoming Synod Assembly, June 13-15, including a smooth Bishop’s election. Our congregational representatives are Tom and Glenna Atkins. Please keep them in your prayers as well – for safe travel and a positive experience.

I thank you for all your encouragement and support. And I thank God for you.

In Christ,

Pastor Sharon

May Birthdays

Carolyn Ward	05
Fred Saunders	11
Loma Jenkins	15
Marianne Brennan	16
Susan Bro	17
Christine Franklin	17
Paddy Baribeau	19
Deanna Codner	21
Marlene Swenson	25
Torrey Barcanic	29
Judy Haslow	29
Trish Wood	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

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324
928-634-4102

Rev. Sharon Brown, Pastor
pastor@sojaz.net

Rosie West, Office Manager
officesoj@sojaz.net

Website:
www.sojaz.net

Send prayer requests to:
prayer@sojaz.net

Visit us at:
www.facebook.com/sojaz



May Anniversaries

Lisa Simpson & Lucas Hoedl	25
Steve & Christine Franklin	30

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:

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.*



EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH



EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

If you know of someone that needs/wants help, fill out this form and put it in the "Peace" box.

Name(s) of member _____

Type of help wanted _____

How often _____

Your name (optional) _____

Expressions of Faith has been serving the congregation of Spirit of Joy since October of 2023. Our group of wonderful volunteers have provided meals, visits, cards, and phone calls to those needing a little extra help.

There is a new poster in the fellowship hall that identifies members who have been involved in this ministry. Our goal is to continue to identify members needing our assistance. By the poster there are forms to fill out if you need additional help or know of someone from the congregation that needs help. Please put the completed information in the box so that we can get back to you. If you have emergent needs, please contact Pr. Sharon who will convey this information to the team.

Look for cards for you to sign on the table in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cindy Hendrickson, email: parkpoint112@gmail.com

Trish Wood, email: sumlady3601@yahoo.com

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.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at *Italian Kitchen* on Sunday, May 5th at Noon. Please call the office by Noon on Friday, May 3rd to reserve your seat at the table.



Join us!

GATHER BIBLE STUDY

The Gather Bible Study will meet on Thursday, May 16th at 2pm in the Conference Room. We will be using the Gather magazine Study Guide for May.

All are welcome to join us!

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. The silent auction for this painting will continue through next month.

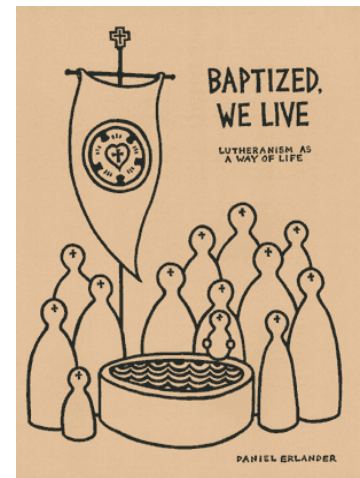
This painting is dedicated to the following former WELCA ladies: Liz Saunders, Myra Piechowski, Vi Hansen and Jan Taylor. It was painted on site at the chapel with Liz Saunders painting at her side. Proceeds from this auction will go to WELCA.

See the bidding sheet on the table in the narthex.

I'd love to learn about....

How would you answer that question?

Starting in June, there will be a "new member" class for those who are interested in making their connection with Spirit of Joy a more permanent one. In trying to find an ideal day and time for this offering, please share with Pastor your interest and your availability. This will help her determine the best timing for this course. This is always open to current members, as well.



This will be a four-to-six-week introduction to *Lutheranism as a Way of Life* using Daniel Erlander's book *Baptized We Live*.

Other possible topics – Making Sense of the Cross (theories of atonement) and Civic Discourse with a Christian approach. Let me know if you have any interest in these topics, or others, and we will work on getting something scheduled.



FEED THE HUNGRY

FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next weekend, May 4 & 5, for our local food bank. Leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

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

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

The Thursday Murder Club

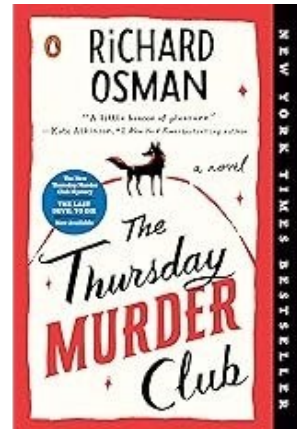
Author: Sara Nisha Adams

ISBN-13: 978-1984880987 384 pgs

Summary:

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

Join us on Thursday, May 23, 2024 in the Council Room for this completely different genre from what our group has been reading. This is a series. If the group wants to continue reading the series for fall discussion, please join us to know the result. The following copies are in the YLN: Regular Print, Large Print and e-Book. And for summer reading: The Man Who Died Twice, The Bullet That Missed, and The Last Devil to Die, all by Richard Osman. Available in the YLN: Regular Print, Large Print, e-Audio, e-Book and Kindle.



JOYFUL CRAFTERS



The Friday morning crafting/quilting group doesn't just work with fabrics and quilts. As you can see by the pictures, some of the ladies also knit or crochet various projects such as caps for newborns, hats, prayer shawls, blankets, and ponchos. Some of these projects are destined for family, for donation or gifts. They welcome anyone with or without a project to work on or someone who wants to learn something new.

They meet on Fridays at 9:00am in the fellowship hall.

(Pictured here Anita Swenson and Ann Matzke crocheting.)



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!



**MEMORIALS, HONORS AND GIFTS
April 2024**

JOY PACKS

Anonymous -
In Memory of Don & Peg Stone
Lucy Acheson

GIFTS

Kip & Laura Stransky
In honor of all April birthdays



**WEEKEND
BIBLE READINGS**



May 5

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:9-17

May 12

Acts 1:15-17; 21-26; Psalm 1; John 17:6-19

May 19

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; John 15:26-27,
16:4b-15

May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; John 3:1-17

FINANCIAL REPORT—March 2024

Operating Fund

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 19,473.60	\$15,419.77	\$ 4,053.83

Year-to-Date (Jan—March)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 54,583.01*	\$ 46,254.89	\$ 5,328.12

*\$ 3,000 Grant from ELCS Grand Canyon Synod for Joy Packs

3/31/2024 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$ 75,286.36
Mortgage Fund	4,753.54
Restricted Ministries	<u>14,964.73</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 95,004.63

Board Restricted Fund

March

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 285.00	\$ 4,523.56	\$ (4,238.56)

Year-to-Date (Jan—March)

Board Restricted Income	Board Restricted Expenses	Net Income
\$ 5,681.00*	\$ 7,377.60**	\$ (1,696.60)

*Thrivent Choice Dollars \$ 396.00
Landscaping \$ 5,000.00

**Landscaping/Water Repair \$ 6068.07
AED (Defibrillator) \$ 1,209.53
Piano Repair \$ 400.00

3/31/2024 Ending Balance

Mortgage Principal	\$ 1,133.00
Building Fund	0.00
Landscaping Fund	1,911.02
Organ/Piano Fund	2,600.87
Restricted Undesig- nated	28,528.79
Restricted Designated	<u>3,340.70</u>
	\$37,514.38

Bank 11 month CD \$10,000

Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance \$2,411.70

Mission Investment Fund
Savings Balance \$ 2,410.94

Mission Investment Fund
Mortgage Owed \$145,014.31

WELCA NEWS



The April WELCA meeting was held on Thursday April 11th with 12 members present. Carol Schatz opened the meeting with a quiz. (Which, by the way, no one passed!) Devotions were shared by Deanna Codner.

Loma J gave the Treasurer's report.

Income from Fellowship—\$25, Soup Suppers—\$83, Laura's Table—\$70, Celtic Dinner—\$170,

Memorial for Vi Hansen—\$150

- A new set of kitchen knives were purchased and an electric knife will be purchased.
- Loma will send Thank You notes for memorial donations
- Fellowship for Sundays and Summer Fellowship was discussed
- Carol S made a motion to purchase donuts or rolls for fellowship. Deanna C seconded and the motion was carried.
- Sue Bro reported that we now have an AED defibrillator (cost was \$1,209) and it will be located on the shelf in the narthex. She will arrange a date for an instruction class and also CPR classes.
- Food handlers are still needed. Sue B will check to see if a kitchen inspection is needed to make lefse, strudels, etc. for our Dec. 7th Taste of Christmas. Loma suggested asking crafters to set up in the courtyard. More discussion on the sale will be later.
- Memorial services coming up—Myra Piechowski on April 20th and Mike & Karen Harvey on May 4th. Workers may be needed.
- It was suggested that we sing the Table Prayer before meals are served.
- More volunteers are needed for Altar Guild.
- Carol S made a motion to give the quilters \$300 for material. Ruth T seconded it and the motion carried. The quilters will look for another sewing machine.
- A request was made to help with the cost of piano repair and tuning. Deanna C made a motion to give \$300, Sue B seconded it and the motion carried.
- Marie P reported 61 were served at the Celtic Dinner.
- There is a Chamber of Commerce mixer meeting at the Haven on April 18th, 6-8pm.
- The Bishop will be here for our 30th Year Celebration in October. More plans are forth coming.
- A suggestion was made to have a booth at the 4th of July parade in Clarkdale.
- Outside catering was discussed for occasions.
- It was decided that WELCA will meet for breakfast during the summer months.
- Thank you to those who worked on the water issue.

Prayer requests were made and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

After the meeting, 10 members met Laura S in Rimrock. We checked out some little shops and went to lunch at The Peach Tree. We thanked God for our blessing and had a wonderful lunch. Afterwards, we went to Stransky's and had dessert on their patio while enjoying nature and one another. Praise be to God!

Respectfully submitted,

Mell 'O'Dee Gaber, Secretary

Council Meeting Summary—April 10, 2024



All members were present; Pastor joined us via Zoom from Ohio. Kim started us off with devotions.

- Angie Watson will be working on a packet for new members, providing information about the various groups here at Spirit of Joy.
- More counters are needed for counting offering. The procedure has changed since many members now have a monthly check sent directly from their bank to the church instead of doing a weekly offering. If you are interested in helping with counting, please contact Marianne Brennan or a council member.
- Mary Stelpstra will be doing the bookkeeping due to the resignation of Jane Fielding. We appreciate Mary's efforts and her dedication.
- Rich reported the offerings generally drop about 25% during the summer. Please do not forget SOJ when you go on vacation. We always have bills to pay each month.
- Bill reported the plumbers had to be called back to repair their repair job on the water leak. Thankfully there was no additional charge, but the water bill may not be as low as we would like.
- Laura reported she will be looking to renew our CD since it matures May 1st. She will check to see if there is another option that will give us the same or better interest.

Many thanks to all who work to make our services meaningful with special music, keeping our building secure, clean and repaired, providing treats for fellowship and making the necessary coffee and finally those who administrate the several groups that meet each month. All your volunteer efforts keep us going and you each are very special. We need each and every one of you.

SPIRIT OF JOY CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

Laura Stransky—President
klstransky@gmail.com; 970-749-2270

Kim Densmore—Vice President
kim.densmore@yahoo.com, 928-274-2326

Susan Bro—Secretary
npsbro@outlook.com, 928-254-7029

Rich Alley—Finance Officer
norgerich@aol.com; 928-713-2961

Liaisons

Bill Taylor—Property
j_and_btay@outlook.com;
928-202-3337 (h); 928-274-1321 (c)

Mick Shanahan—Faith Formation
mobilrrtaz@gmail.com, 402-679-7990

Ruth Tasa—In-Reach/Outreach
peng45@msn.com;
928-634-0501 (h); 928-300-8779 (c)

Deanna Codner—Worship
928-300-7138

Name: _____ Date: _____



Mother Knows Best!



- AFFECTIONATE
- APPRECIATE
- AUTHORITY
- BREAKFAST
- CARD
- CARETAKER
- CELEBRATE
- CHILDCARE
- CHILDREN
- COMFORTING
- COMPASSIONATE
- DAUGHTER
- DEVOTION
- FAMILY
- FLOWERS
- FONDNESS
- GENEROUS
- GIFT
- GIVING
- GRACIOUS
- GRANDMOTHER
- GRATEFUL
- GUARDIAN
- HELPFUL
- HOLIDAY
- HUG
- INFANT
- INSPIRATION
- KIDS
- KINDHEARTED
- LOVING
- MAMA
- MATERNAL
- MATRIARCH
- MAY
- MEMORIES
- MOMMY
- MOTHERHOOD
- NANA
- NEWBORN
- NURTURING
- OFFSPRING
- PARENT
- PROTECTIVE
- REMINISCE
- RESPECT
- SHELTERING

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



- SON
- STEPMOTHER
- SUNDAY
- SUPERVISE
- SUPPORTIVE
- SYMPATHETIC
- TEENAGER
- TENDERNESS
- THANKFUL
- THOUGHTFUL
- TODDLER
- TOLERANT
- TREASURE
- UNDERSTANDING
- VISIT
- WARMHEARTED
- WISDOM
- WOMAN



© Puzzle Cheer

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



May Highlights

- 4—Celebration of Life of Mike & Karen Harvey, 11am
- 5—Food Bank Sunday
Out to Lunch Bunch @ Italian Kitchen, Noon
- 7—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting (CR), 10am
- 9—WELCA Meeting (FH), 9:30am
- 12—Mother's Day
- 14—Finance Team (CR), 4:30pm
- 15—Council Meeting (CR), 4:30pm
- 16—Gather Bible Study (CR), 2pm
- 17—Mutual Ministry (CR), 11am
- 23—Daytime Book Group (CR), 2pm
- 27—Memorial Day—Office closed

SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

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

*Happy
Mother's Day!*