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*Spirit of Joy*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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March 27, 2020

Dear Spirit of Joy family,

We are in the midst of unique times. As I think about the journey our congregation has been on over the last 25 years, I know there is a resiliency and passion to keep our ministry alive and flourishing. 25 years ago, we faced the uncertainty of being a congregational transplant. Roughly 10 years ago, we hurdled the many obstacles to build our own church campus. Just over 3 years ago, we worked through a 2-year stretch with interim pastors. None of these things were easy. However, filled with a Spirit of Joy, we moved through those difficult challenges.

Now is no different. We face a challenge that has unknown variables. I don't know when we will meet in person again but I know we will. I've been encouraged by the phone calls, emails, and online services that have taken place. As these continued, I am struck by Paul's instructions to Timothy. He says, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14-15). Stay strong in your faith and know that our family of believers is here to support you.

In Christ,

*Micah Swenson*

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## VIRTUAL HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

**Palm Sunday—9am—LIVE**

**Maundy Thursday—Noon—LIVE**

**Good Friday—7pm—LIVE**

**Pre-Recorded Easter Vigil—Available Saturday**

**Easter Sunday—9am—LIVE**



Included with this newsletter are resources for study and Holy Week worship.

Check YouTube and Facebook for video devotionals and updates.

## April Birthdays

- 2 – Lucas Hoedl
- 4 – Mike Harvey
- 6 – Kip Stransky
- 8 – Chance Densmore
- 10 – Marilyn Anderson
- 10 – Roger Dunn
- 14 – Bud Hanson
- 15 – Almond Peterson
- 16 – Jean Womack
- 16 – Rich Huber
- 16 – Georgia Brown
- 17 – Marilyn Howisey
- 20 – Lisa Mathe
- 28 – Gretchen Platt
- 29 – Naomi Barcanic
- 29 – Dee Suhr



*If your special day is missing from our list, please call the church office and let us know.*



## Anniversaries

- 10 – John & Betty Diets
- 26 – Valerie Behnke & Jack Carter

## Deaths

Please pray for the families of the recently departed...

Barbara Lattanzi—died January 22, 2020  
Celebration of Life at SOJ on Saturday, May 23rd.

Jan Vargas—died January 26, 2020  
Memorial Service to be announced.

## REWARD PROGRAMS

Spirit of Joy is the recipient of donations from the Amazon Smile Foundation and Fry's Community Rewards programs. You do nothing, other than register, and a percentage of your purchases will be sent to Spirit of Joy. Call the office for more details on enrolling.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



**NOTE:** Fry's Rewards need to be renewed yearly. Instructions and/or help for doing this are in the church office. Make sure you register your funds to go to SOJ in Clarkdale, AZ when signing up!!

*Spirit of Joy*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
330 Scenic Drive  
Clarkdale, AZ 86324

**928-634-4102**

*(We don't have call waiting; if you get voice mail, it may just mean that we're using the phone. Please leave a message or call back!)*

## Office Hours

Mon-Wed-Thur-Fri  
Office closed Tuesdays  
11:00am-3:00pm

## Staff

Rev. Sharon Brown, Pastor  
pastor@sojaz.net  
Mobile/confidential voicemail:  
928-421-2475

Nancy Bright  
Organist/Choir Director  
nancybright@commspeed.net

Rosie West  
Administrative Assistant  
officesoj@sojaz.net

www.sojaz.net  
www.facebook.com/sojaz

Send prayer requests to:  
prayer@sojaz.net

## WORSHIP ON-LINE

Live streaming Sundays at 9am  
via Facebook and YouTube.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 26, 2020

Dear church,

How quickly our world has changed.

Two weeks ago, I sent a letter urging our congregations to suspend in-person worship until early April. And now, I write to urge you to suspend in-person worship until early May, possibly longer.

Arizona's Governor Ducey, Nevada's Governor Sisolak, and Utah's Governor Herbert—acknowledging health expert advice that illnesses and hospitalizations will peak in late April and early May—are urging stronger precautions by the day. The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths grow exponentially.

Through the great commandments to love God and love our neighbor, we understand the need to avoid meeting in person. In this moment—to protect our neighbor and ourselves from potential infection—loving our neighbor means not being physically present with them. In this moment, we find new and creative ways to be present and serve our neighbor.

As we near the end of Lent, what about Holy Week and Easter?

The word “quarantine” comes from quaresima, the Italian word for Lent. Ships were “quarantined” for 40 days in port before they were able to dock and unload people and cargo. Of all the seasons of the year to be experiencing a quarantine, this present season of Lent is very appropriate. Just as Lent ends with Easter, this season of quarantine will end with renewed faith in our Risen Lord—though it will not happen by April 12, 2020.

Easter has always been a changing date. Our Lutheran theology reminds us that every Sunday is a little Easter. When we can safely gather together in person, that will be Easter.

It is challenging to be church in these times. While our pastors and leaders develop new skills and our members extend more effort to stay connected, there are financial implications of not gathering in person. As long as physical distancing continues, it will grow ever harder to continue our basic outreach ministries which serve the poor, the sick, migrants, and the elderly.

There are fears and anxiety about what is next or how we will recover. I can't answer those questions. I do know that in the midst of fear, God in Jesus Christ is present. In this week's revised common lectionary reading from the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus' reassurance, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Therein lies our hope.

Our churches will be full, for we are the church, not our buildings. The resurrection, no matter where it is celebrated, fills us with life and hope.

As the situation develops over the next few weeks, we will discern right ways to observe Easter. We will discern right ways to observe our eventual return to in-person congregational life, proclaiming “Alleluia” with shouts of joy. That will be an Easter Day indeed, celebrating the restoration of new life, having passed through the valley of the shadow of death.

Connecting with so many of you in the last few weeks, I am filled with gratitude.

- Thank you for your creativity.
- Thank you for the ways you have adapted and adjusted to changing circumstances.
- Thank you for keeping connected to those in your care.
- Thank you for being church in your particular location.
- Thank you for following the health guidelines of your state.
- Thank you for speaking words of hope that nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- And thank you for supporting our ministry during these difficult times. Your generosity continues to enable us to live our mission with you and through our partners as we do ministry here and across the country and world.

We are church together, even when we are apart.

Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer  
Bishop  
Grand Canyon Synod

President: Micah Swenson  
 Vice President: Susan Bro  
 Secretary: Donna Woodruff  
 Finance Officer: Marcia Shanahan  
 Facilities: Dave Tjelmeland  
 Christian Education: Susan Bro



In-Reach: Marie Parkinson  
 Outreach: Donna Woodruff  
 Social: Jim Converse  
 Stewardship: Micah Swenson  
 Worship: Jan Graham  
 Youth: Micah Swenson

## “Living in God’s Kingdom”

Classes will be rescheduled to a later date.  
 Check your email for education opportunities at a distance.



## MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATUS

<u>Financial Status</u>	<u>Month of February</u>		<u>Year-To-Date 2020</u>
Income (Total Offering)	\$ 15,253		\$ 32,490
Needed Income (Budgeted)	\$ 22,226		\$ 44,451
Over/Under Budgeted Income	\$ (6,973)		\$ (11,961)
Net Ordinary Income after Expenses	\$ 1,006		\$ 2,222
Change in Bank Balances YTD			\$ (7,794)

Remaining Mortgage Balance	\$ 290,862
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Please note: The difference between Net Ordinary Income and the Change in Bank Balances is the principal portion of our mortgage payments.

## SPIRIT OF JOY MEMORIES

*From Paul & Jan Graham...*

Paul and I were vacationing during my Spring Break from teaching and discovered Verde Santa Fe’s reasonable homes. We looked around Cottonwood for an ELCA church but only found the other two synods. Finally we came upon a small office building on Main St.. A notice was posted on the front door informing us of ELCA services at the 7th Day Adventist Church. That was the beginning of our time at Spirit of Joy. We have been here approximately 18 years!

# Spirit of Joy Memories

*from Naomi Barcanic*

Torrey and I and Jeremiah, my beloved parakeet arrived in Cottonwood on July 3, 2003...all the way from Chicago via two cars. We came to AZ because Torrey had two little granddaughters that lived in Gilbert and he wanted to see more of them. And we were happy to get out of the cold weather...although on that July 3rd we couldn't believe how HOT it was.

I remember two memorable pastors from way back. Pastor Ken Schroeder and Pastor Nancy Fe-niuk...actually she's the one who encouraged me to think about seminary.

We had been in contact with Pastor Bob Jones before our arrival. In fact, he had already lined up some preaching opportunities for me.

I love the people in our congregation! Mostly I remember journeying with them from one location to another...in my case it was the 7th Day Adventist Church and then Suite A,B, and C on Main Street across from Dairy Queen. Of course, previous members had journeyed to other locations even before we came.

Even in those transitions there was no doubt that we would one day have our own church building. And so we worshipped and said goodbye to some very loved people through death. I specifically remember the funeral of Richard Kevin who was such an important figure in passionately working to keep our dream alive of having our own building.

What excitement there was when we finally had the right number of members to be considered eligible to break ground on our purchased property bought many years before.

I remember so well the Tractor Pull we did when we broke ground...all of us members literally pulling together just as we had been doing all along! And I remember the excitement of those days and months when our church building was in process...many joy's but also many setbacks too.

And I remember how John Diets, who directed the massive task, would place his building book on the altar every Sunday ...even after we were in the building with many things yet undone.

You could almost touch the excitement in the air when in January 2010 we held our dedication service. A day I will never forget.

I love our campus and it's Sanctuary! For me, SOJ is my home away from home...a place where I hear over and over again to whom I really belong now and forever...a place that keeps the Light on (Jesus Christ) when I've lost my way...and a place that shows me how to live in this world.

I love the members of SOJ! Some I know better than others, but when we as a congregation come together in worship, I sense a unity among all of us...a unity in spite of all of our differences.

I'm excited about the future of SOJ!

God's Word is alive and well within and without it's walls by the faithful witness of our members in their own way and actions. And so I close with a favorite phrase in one of my sermons I preached at Spirit of Joy.....NUTS to you! (Never Underestimate The Spirit!)

Naomi Barcanic

# DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Thursday, April 23, 2020, 2:00pm

## **Olive Kitteridge**

Elizabeth Strout, 2008

Random House, 286 pp., ISBN-13: 9780812971835

### **Summary**

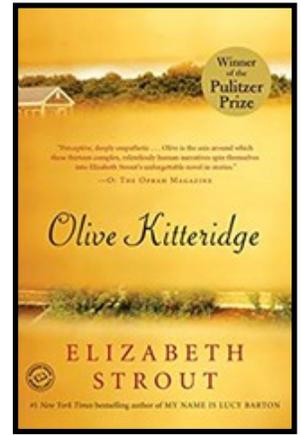
Winner, 2009 Pulitzer Prize

At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large.

But she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her: a lounge musician haunted by a past romance; a former student who has lost the will to live; Olive's own adult child, who feels tyrannized by her irrational sensitivities; and her husband, Henry, who finds his loyalty to his marriage both a blessing and a curse.

As the townspeople grapple with their problems, mild and dire, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life—sometimes painfully, but always with ruthless honesty. *Olive Kitteridge* offers profound insights into the human condition—its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires.

Judy Haslow will be calling our usual participants to see how they would like to discuss this book.



## WELCA NEWS



- Thank-you for all SOJ members and friends who participated in Eleanor Bohm's memorial luncheon on February 29th. Thank you for your time and talents in setting up, preparing food, greeting and serving guests, and clean up. Many guests complimented us on the luncheon. Great Spirit of Joy team work!
- WELCA's Annual Easter Brunch is cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. We will have a *CELEBRATION* brunch once worship services resume.

## In-Reach/Outreach/Social Ministries

1. Hats off to Laura and Kip's Stransky for their Open House. Food was plentiful and gourmet! Many people attended and we all had a great time socializing.
2. SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO: Valerie Behnke wants to have a card party at her home after we get the virus well behind us. She is an expert in making cards and wants to share her expertise with us. It should be a fun way to learn how to make greeting cards for everyone.
3. Heartfelt birthday wishes and get well wishes to everyone for the time we are sequestered.
4. A fond "goodbye" to Patty & Dave Tjelmeland with many good wishes for the very best of blessings in their newest adventure in Baxter, Iowa.
5. Many, many thanks for Pastor Sharon and her tremendous communication skills via computer and phone calls during this time.
6. God Bless you all!

- Marie Parkinson

## Our Prayer List

as of 3-26-20



### **SOJ Members and Friends** Valerie Behnke, Dave Steinke,

Karen Harvey, Doug & Jan Sanderson, Lisa Mathe, Dottie Sperger, Dee Fronko, Norma Davidson, Dave & Connie Harms, Sam Chaudoin, L. K. Fredericksen, Joe Mathe, Tom Griffith, Marilyn Howisey, Roger & Rita Dunn, Luis Vargas, Lisa Simpson, Carolyn Ward, Judy & Russ Haslow, Jane Jacobson

### **Friends, Neighbors, Family Members**

**Health Concerns:** Jim & Marilyn, Pat, Judy, Ian, Peter, Ellen, Mark, Vernon, Bob, Kailee, Luis, Kailee, Bill, Dawn, Lars, Len, Julie, Jarrett, Linda, Kitty, Ann, Anita, JD, Hannah and baby, Anita, Bobbie, Joyce, Tom and family, Lynne, Denein, Mateo, Elizabeth, Chris, Jeff, Kris, Rick, Bonnie, Eva, Duane, Drew, Kathy

**Fighting Cancer:** Margaret, Fred, Jim, Laurie, Christina, Moriah, Alyce, Brad, Jerry, Lisa, Laura, Heather, Manny, Barbara and David, Allison, Donna, Jeff, Herb, Bailey, Tom, Dave, Mark, Char, Thom, Pat, Brent, Greg, Charlie, Bill, Jerold, John, Linda, Terri, Nick, Gina, Steve, Heather, Joan, Daniel, Dave, Sherry, Michael, Judy, Laura

**In Hospice:** Donnie, Larry, Mike, Chris, Kimberly, Scott, John, Ann, Joyce, Linda

**Other Concerns:** the family of Adam; Clifford, Sarah and family, the family of Earl Zimmerman, Vickie and family, the family of Sandra Roby, family of Dean Simpson, the family and friends of Pastor Bud Roufs, family and friends of Mary Ann Schulz, Dee, the family of Ann Young, the family of Eleanor Bohm, the family of Don Bays, the family of Gerry Knaeble, the family of Ann, Jeanette and family, the family of Jan Vargas, the family of Barbara Lattanzi, the family of Rev. Herb Chilstrom, the family of James Pietraszek, the family of Len Serder

**Those serving in the military,** including: Peyton, Tina, Matt, Michael, Zach, Christopher

**Our Mission Partner, Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan Valley**

**Lutheran Campus Ministry at NAU**

*Names will remain on our prayer list for one month unless otherwise requested.*

*To add or update a prayer request, please email: [prayer@sojaz.net](mailto:prayer@sojaz.net)*

## April Bible Readings

Sunday, April 5—Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:25-29

Maundy Thursday, April 9—Mark 14:22-42; Psalm 116:12-19

Good Friday, April 10—Mark 15:16-39; Psalm 22:1-2, 14-21

Easter Sunday, April 12—Mark 16:1-8; Psalm 118:21-27

Sunday, April 19—Acts 1:1-14; Mark 6:7-13

Sunday, April 26—Acts 3:1-10; Mark 6:53-56



# *Spirit of Joy* LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive  
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*  
*Luke 24:6*

## Spirit of Joy Virtual Worship

ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE LIVE

**Palm Sunday—9am—LIVE**

**Maundy Thursday—Noon—LIVE**

**Good Friday—7pm—LIVE**

**Pre-Recorded Easter Vigil—Available Saturday**

**Easter Sunday—9am—LIVE**

## April Highlights

- Wednesdays at 2:30pm— Small Group Bible Study via Zoom
- Check out our Lenten Series “Who Killed Jesus” presented by Pr. Naomi Barcanic on YouTube. Search for SOJ Clarkdale.