

AUGUST

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Spirit of Joy
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Blessing of the Backpacks

It's that time again!

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Clarkdale
invites you to join us on Sunday, August 4, 2019 @ 9:30am
for ALL STUDENTS and everyone who plays a part
in education in the Verde Valley.

Bring your backpacks, briefcases, computer bags, etc.
and join us for a blessing to start this school year off right!



Finish the summer with a rhyme.

Dig out your Dr. Seuss!

Sundays - Suess style liturgy and
Sermon Series (and a time for the kids) using
themes in Dr. Seuss young reader books:

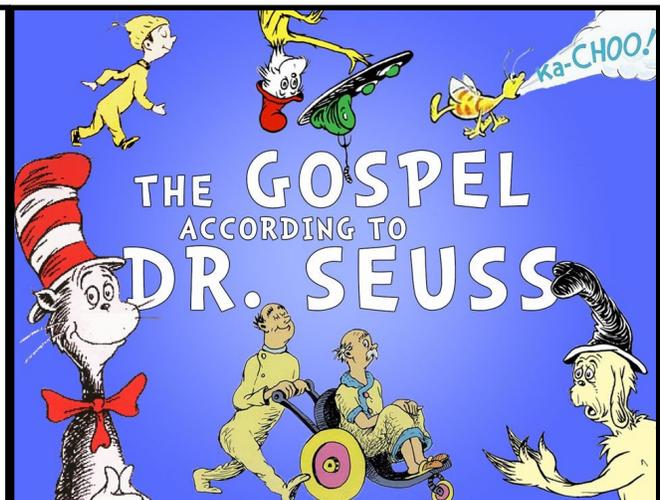
One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish

Green Eggs and Ham

There's a Wocket in my Pocket

Hop on Pop

Fox in Socks



*We come to this place from all kinds of places;
We bring our hearts and our minds and our faces.
We come from near and we come from far.
We come to church just as we are.*



August Birthdays

- 2 – Lillia Gayle Joy Simpson
- 4 - Donna Woodruff
- 8 -- Earl Zimmerman
- 8 – Jan Taylor
- 10 - Pam Moody
- 11 – Jan Vargas
- 12 – Rick Woodruff
- 13 – Laura Stransky
- 15 – Valerie Behnke
- 15 – Jim Ferkin
- 23 - Marie Parkinson
- 24 - Myra Piechowski
- 30 - Roy Platt
- 31 - Roger Anderson

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



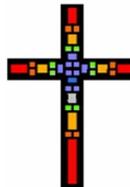
Anniversaries

- 5 - Claudia & Jim Converse
- 5 – Dave & Connie Harms
- 7 – Cheri & Dave Steinke
- 8 – Bud & Ruth Hanson
- 15 - Sandy & Dave Knutson
- 19 – Bill & Jan Taylor

Deaths

Please pray for the family of the recently departed:

Tommy Brennan—May 13, 2019



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

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
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

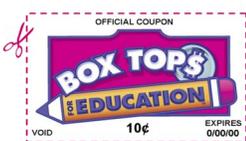
Send prayer requests to:
prayer@sojaz.net

GROUPS

Please put regular and improptu meetings on the office calendar to avoid double booking of rooms.
Thank you!

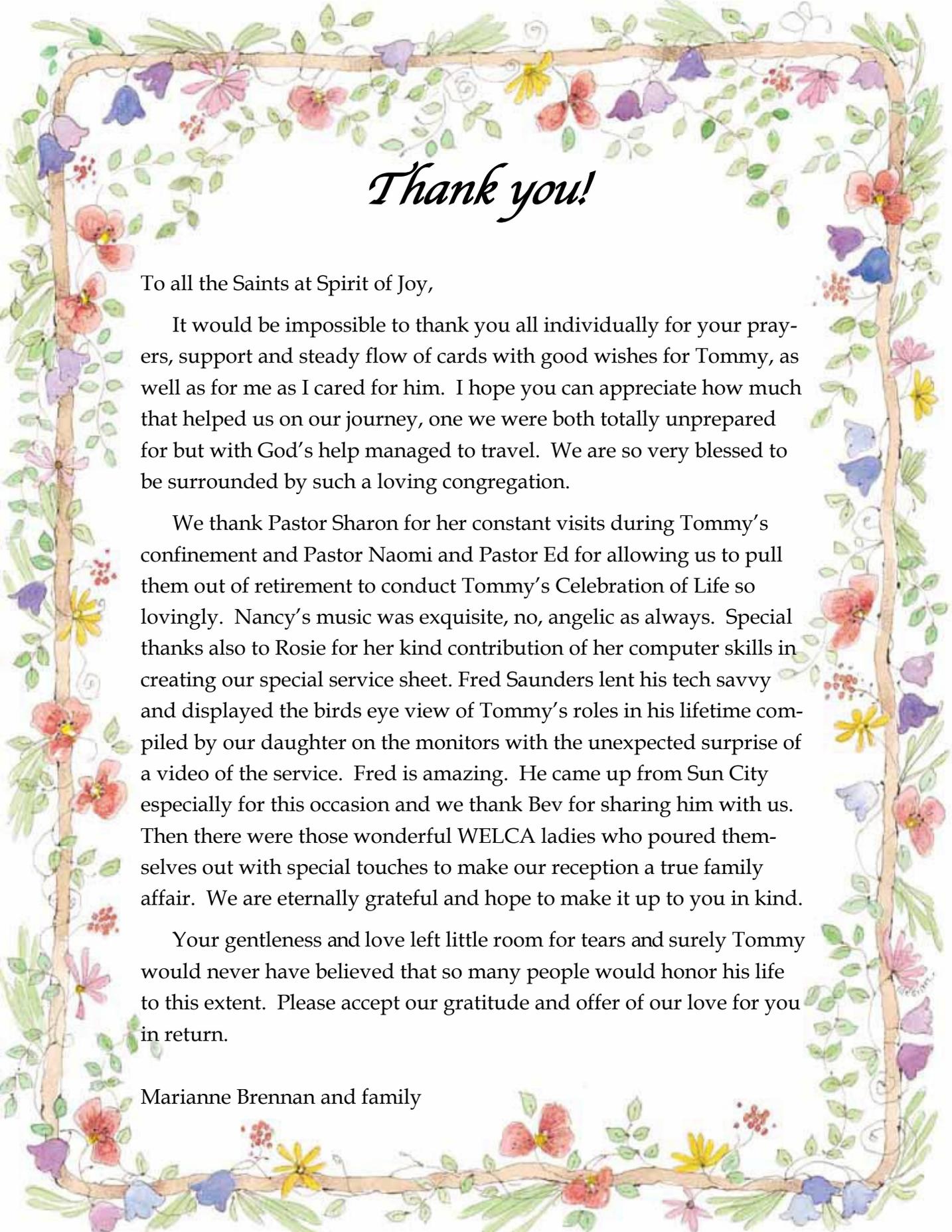
Support the Navajo Lutheran Mission School in Rock Point, AZ

With little effort YOU can support this ELCA mission school and its students. The school is able to use the money they receive from the Box Tops saved by ELCA congregations across the country.



Many products we purchase every day contain **Box Top\$ For Education**

Clip this "box top" and drop it in the jar located in the SOJ Fellowship Hall. It's just that simple! If you have questions, please contact Jan Taylor.
Thank you for your support!



Thank you!

To all the Saints at Spirit of Joy,

It would be impossible to thank you all individually for your prayers, support and steady flow of cards with good wishes for Tommy, as well as for me as I cared for him. I hope you can appreciate how much that helped us on our journey, one we were both totally unprepared for but with God's help managed to travel. We are so very blessed to be surrounded by such a loving congregation.

We thank Pastor Sharon for her constant visits during Tommy's confinement and Pastor Naomi and Pastor Ed for allowing us to pull them out of retirement to conduct Tommy's Celebration of Life so lovingly. Nancy's music was exquisite, no, angelic as always. Special thanks also to Rosie for her kind contribution of her computer skills in creating our special service sheet. Fred Saunders lent his tech savvy and displayed the birds eye view of Tommy's roles in his lifetime compiled by our daughter on the monitors with the unexpected surprise of a video of the service. Fred is amazing. He came up from Sun City especially for this occasion and we thank Bev for sharing him with us. Then there were those wonderful WELCA ladies who poured themselves out with special touches to make our reception a true family affair. We are eternally grateful and hope to make it up to you in kind.

Your gentleness and love left little room for tears and surely Tommy would never have believed that so many people would honor his life to this extent. Please accept our gratitude and offer of our love for you in return.

Marianne Brennan and family

On the Lookout for an Archivist for Spirit of Joy

(Don't be scared – I just wanted to use a fancy word for Historian/Keeper of Photos, etc.)

First, we need people to look back through old photo albums and help determine names of folks and/or events.

Also – we are looking for someone to maintain a Church “Scrapbook” of sorts – with publications and photos of our events. If this interests you, please let Rosie, our secretary know via email at officesoj@gmail.com or stop by the office MWF between 11am – 3pm.

All God's Children Gather - VBS



All God's Children VBS wraps up July 31st. I am so grateful for all those who have pitched in to make this a successful faith formation activity. I didn't get photos every week, but trust me – it was as fun as it looks. ~ Pastor



IMPORTANT NEWS!

We've Got the Spirit!

Over the summer, our Christian Educators and the Worship Teams have been deliberating on the most faithful way to make Sunday Faith Formation activities accessible for all, including our youth and families, and to be more united as a worship community. Our Wednesday night VBS has proven to be quite successful as a growing and learning time for all ages. We would like to bring this G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) into our Sundays.

We are in the process of reviewing the current Sunday worship and education schedule and will work with Council to develop a schedule that reflects our mission and goal to foster relationships and participation for all ages. We are in the midst of research and reflection on our current mission and growth. Our desire is to propose a prayerful and Spirit-led outcome.

Ministry Fair September 8th

Our programming year begins September 8th with a Ministry Fair. During Fellowship time we will highlight various faith formation opportunities and ways to be involved in the mission of Spirit of Joy. Descriptions of our ministries and opportunities to serve will be available. Christian Education will have brief introductory sessions following fellowship.

Have a service project idea for “God’s Work. Our Hands.” (date TBD)?

See Pr. Sharon.

COMING THIS FALL - NARRATIVE LECTIONARY & SINGING A NEW SONG

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

First - *What is a Lectionary? A lectionary is simply a schedule of readings. There has been a 2-year Lectionary, which was revised to a 3-year lectionary, and before that, pastors would just make up their own, and some still do. A lectionary gives us/forces us to preach on difficult passages that make up the story of God and Jesus. SOJ currently follows the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)*. The benefits are that most mainline churches also follow the RCL so you can compare notes with your neighbor about the sermons you both heard on Sunday.*

Beginning this fall, we will be following a four-year cycle of readings in worship instead of the Revised Common Lectionary.*

On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.

The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.

Though the Revised Common Lectionary* has united the church in its reading of scripture and has given much-needed structure, it doesn't present scripture -- especially the Old Testament -- in a way that helps people to become fluent in the first language of faith. The Narrative Lectionary is an attempt to take nine months to do just that.

Over the summer months, particular books or themes and/or Martin Luther's Catechism are highlighted.

My intention with these two new things is to focus on learning God's story as it relates to our story and to unite us. I hope you will enter into this new adventure with an open mind and heart and with joy and thanksgiving.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Sharon

SINGING A NEW SONG



At Grand Canyon Synod Assembly, we were introduced to 26 new songs and worship music. The lyrics are scripturally based and the tunes are easy to learn, and are intended for congregational singing in a comfortable vocal range. We will use the worship music beginning in September and stay with that for a few months, like we usually do with settings in the ELW, *Now the Feast*, etc. I think you will find the songs uplifting and joyful. You will hear some of these new tunes during the Prelude and/or Postlude. Of course we will continue to use hymns and beloved songs, and encourage you to request ones you want to sing.

** The Revised Common Lectionary, first published in 1992, derives from The Common Lectionary of 1983, both based on the Ordo Lectionem Missae of 1969, a post-Vatican II groundbreaking revision of the Roman Lectionary. "The post-Vatican II Roman Lectionary represented a profound break with the past. Not only were the readings organized according to a plan whereby a richer fare of scripture was read in liturgical celebrations, in contrast to the medieval lectionary where the choice of readings was simply helter-skelter, but for the first time in history the Sunday lectionary covered a period of three years, each year being dedicated to a particular synoptic author--Matthew, Mark, or Luke. A fourth year was not dedicated to the gospel of John because readings from this gospel permeate the sacred seasons, especially the latter part of Lent and most of Easter." (from The Roman Lectionary and the Scriptures Read in Church, by Frank C. Quinn. National Catholic Reporter, Volume 31, no. 5 (November 18 1994), p. 6)*

BLUE STONE MINISTRY

You may have noticed our baptismal font now contains a collection of stones. If you look closely, you will see pretty blue glass stones shimmering through the water. These Blue Stones are part of a beautiful new ministry. When you pass by the baptismal font, you are invited to take one of the Blue Stones and carry it with you at all times. If you meet someone; friend or stranger, that is having a difficult struggle in their life, this Blue Stone can help. Hand that person your Blue Stone and explain the following: "Please take this blue stone and carry it with you. Let this be a reminder that God loves you, and you will always have his love no matter how difficult your life may become. Let this also remind you that I care about you and will keep you in my prayers."



After you have given away your new stone, please replace it with another from our baptismal font.



SOJ LIBRARY NEWS

Highlighted Book of the Month in SOJ Library

Do you ever yearn to put into words what your heart is praying for?

Why not let someone help you? Not just anyone...how about Pastor Peter Marshall?

I'm assuming some of you remember that name. He was born in Scotland in 1902 and came to America at age 24 and attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister and served churches in Atlanta and Covington GA and also in Washington DC where he was also appointed Chaplain of the Eightieth Session of Congress from January 1947 until his untimely death in January 1949 at the age of 46.

His wife, Catherine Marshall, edited and compiled "The Prayers of Peter Marshall."

The book is divided in 3 parts:

Part One - Prayers for Personal Needs

Part Two - Prayers for Special Days

Part Three - Prayers for the Nation and the World (during his time as Chaplain)

Its words are a bit dated at times, but there is no doubt that they, still today, come from the mind and heart and spirit of a preacher gifted with an ability of expression and a confident trust that God hears every word.

SOJ Library is not always open on Sunday mornings but you can call the church office for a time to come by and CHECK IT OUT!

President: Micah Swenson
Secretary: Donna Woodruff
Finance Officer: Eric Young/
Marcia Shanahan
Facilities: Dave Tjelmeland
Christian Education: Rita Dunn



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

Weekend Worship Leaders for August

Worship Assistants are needed for the next couple of months.
If you've never been a Greeter, Usher, Reader or Communion Assistant—why not give it a try?
Sign up sheets are in the narthex.



Out to Lunch Bunch will go to Colt Grill on
Sunday, **August 4th at 12:00pm.**

Enjoy lunch and fellowship with friends after Sunday worship.
Invite your friends and neighbors!

Call the office by Wednesday, July 31st to reserve your spot!

VERDE VALLEY HOMELESS COALITION NEWS

The VVHC Drop-in Center is MOVING!!! Yes, starting in September (we hope), we will be located at 327 South 15th Street and are so excited to be doubling our space and located behind DES. The allowable beds for our overnight emergency shelter will increase from 12 to 20!!!

A neighbor of the new location has filed an appeal to our Conditional Use Permit allowing us to move into 327 S 15th St and **we have to go before the City Council on August 15th, at 5:30pm at the Recreation Center in Cottonwood to defend it. We need supporters to come and speak on our behalf.** We believe this building is perfect for us as it is directly behind the DES building and at the dead end of the street. The neighborhood is commercially zoned as well. Please come!

Raena Avalon
VVHC Executive Director
www.verdevalleyhomelesscoalition.org



Calling All Mystery Shoppers!

(Those who donate cleaning, kitchen and bathroom supplies*, that is.)

The Finance Team is working on a preliminary 2020 budget and we need your help. If you regularly donate items to Spirit of Joy and do not submit a "gift in kind" receipt, it is difficult for us to judge what we really need in each budget line. We would like the budget to reflect what we actually spend, and to have enough in each area in case our generous mystery suppliers can no longer contribute those items, or move on. For example – The Kitelingers provided paper products that have lasted 8 months after they're departure...now we need to figure those costs into our budget.

Trust me, we are very grateful for all the things that folks do for this congregation. And it can be a bother to try to keep track of every little thing you buy for the ministry of the church. However, if you can simply give our treasurer Mary Stelpstra a ballpark figure and what type of things you generally help out with, that will make our work much easier and more reflective of what our actual costs are. Thank you for your help!

Theology Never Changes, Does It?

Theology remains the same forever, right? The Bible says it; I believe it; that settles it! Like, why in the world would theology ever change?

- When Jesus came on the scene, starting to teach and heal in about the year 30, do you think that altered some people's theological ideas...at least the people who believed him?
- In the 1800s scholars began comparing biblical passages with newly revealed facts about the people who lived where they were written. These people's lifestyles led to some quite different interpretations compared to what was considered traditional or orthodox theology.
- More recently, numerous ancient scrolls were found in the Qumran Caves in the Judean Desert near the Dead Sea. The content of these scrolls has shed light on many verses in the scriptures, indicating that some theology may not be what it had always been considered to be.

Based on these and many other discoveries and various people's experiences, scholars are constantly seeing new and different nuances of what Christian theology is all about.

You're invited to learn more about **Progressive Theology**, which is definitely changing all the time. Identical classes are held on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings, right here at Spirit of Joy. They start up again the week of September 9th.

For more information about these **Progressive Theology** classes—or to reserve your place and receive notebook that contains more than 150 pages—contact Torrey Barcanic at (928) 634-2542 or Torrey@CableOne.Net. Hope to see you getting in on the discussions of the interesting ideas in **Progressive Theology**.

REWARD PROGRAMS

Spirit of Joy is the recipient of donations from the Amazon Smile Foundation and Fry's Community Rewards program. 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. We received \$42.83 from Fry's for the 2nd Quarter 2019 . Thank you!



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!!

Joyful Community

Joyful Community meets every Monday morning at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Currently we are knitting and crocheting baby blankets and prayer shawls.

All are welcome—from beginners to experts!



Our Prayer List



SOJ Members and Friends

Valerie Behnke, Dave Steinke, Karen Harvey, Doug & Jan Sanderson, Lisa Mathe, Russ & Judy Haslow, Dottie Sperger, Lynn Makow, Dee Fronko, Norma Davidson

Friends, Neighbors, Family Members

Health Concerns: Jim & Marilyn, Pat, Judy, Claire, Ian, Peter, Ellen, Mark, Vernon, Bob, Kailee, Luis, Kailee, Bill, Dawn, Lars, Dave and Trish, Len, Julie, Jarrett, Linda, Kitty, Ann, Darlene, Shorty, Mardell, Anita, JD, Hannah and baby, Anita, Bobbie

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

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

Other Concerns: the family of Lea Begay; the family of Ron; the family of Cindy Mason; the family of Ed Acheson; Kim & Cade Densmore and family; the Alex Valdez family; the family of Ken & Dee Suhr; the family of Tommy Brennan; the family of Anita, Dave & Patty Tjelmeland; Amy and family; Clifford, Sarah and family, the family of Earl Zimmerman, Vickie and family

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

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

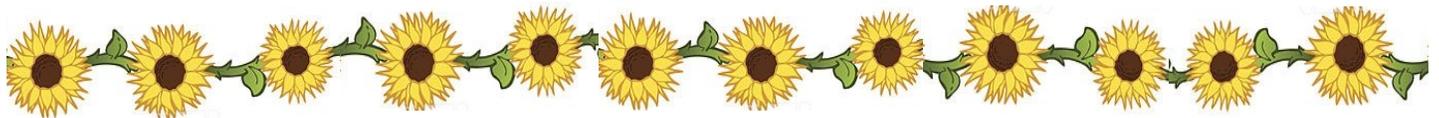
Weekend Bible Readings

Aug 4: Eccles. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
Aug 11: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
Aug 18: Jeremiah 23: 23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56
Aug 25: Isaiah 5:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12: 18-29; Luke 13:10-17




LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



Spirit of Joy Weekly Worship

SATURDAY WORSHIP at 4:30pm—in Bible Study 1 (Casual and Perfume-Free)

SUNDAY WORSHIP—9:30 am, followed by Fellowship in the Hall

Some August Highlights

Aug 4—Blessing of the Back Packs at 9:30 am worship
Out to Lunch Bunch goes to Colt Grill, Noon
Aug 11—Team GIFT meeting, 10:45 am
Aug 15—Women's Bible Study, 2 pm
Aug 21—Council Meeting, 4:30 pm

SERMONS ON-LINE

Find Pr. Sharon's recent sermons and video of worship on our website at www.sojaz.net under the "Worship" tab. Sermons are kept for 90 days.