



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

COURTYARD WORSHIP BEGINS ...

AUGUST 1st and 2nd following procedures for Phase 2 sent in the previous letter dated July 7, 2020 from the Safe Gatherings Task Force.

Please read Micah's letter carefully. We do not want ANYONE who is concerned about exposure to COVID 19 to feel they must return to in-person worship. As Micah says, online worship will continue, and will keep all music, while courtyard worship will be more limited in singing, responses, etc.

Also, we are using an abbreviated printed bulletin. If you want to follow along with the scripture readings, bring your bible. We use the NRSV translation.

Stay safe, stay connected.

Pastor Sharon

DO NOT put yourself at further risk by heat related difficulties as the temperatures remain high. Use your best judgement and stay home if concerned about COVID-19 or the heat.

*From the
Pastor*

Dear Spirit of Joy Family,

After great discussion on Monday evening, the SOJ church council voted on a return to worship this weekend, August 1st and 2nd. The Saturday (August 1st) worship will take place in the courtyard at 7pm while Sunday (August 2nd) worship will occur at 8am.

As all groups seem to be with this matter, we have a wide array of viewpoints among our congregation. We want to remain cognizant of this and do what we can to meet the needs of our church family.

If you feel comfortable returning to worship this weekend, we invite you to join us for either worship service, following the protocols previously laid out by the Safe Gatherings Task Force Guidelines in a letter dated July 7th - see Phase 2. This would include key things such as wearing a mask and maintaining proper social distancing. We also ask that you only enter through the main gate so we can track attendance. We want you to enjoy your worship experience but do so in a way that gives us all peace of mind. If you plan to attend, we ask that you call the office or email: officesoj@sojaz.net with the following:

FAMILY NAME

CHOICE OF SERVICE: SATURDAY @ 7PM OR SUNDAY @ 8AM

NUMBER ATTENDING

*cont. on page 3
See Courtyard...*

A Mission with a Mission



Imagine you live with elders in an extended family household numbering 14. You and your neighbors are still under stay at home orders issued by President Nez on March 27. Evening and weekend curfews prevent supply runs for food, feed and water. When you risk (\$1000 fine) travel more than 50 miles to the grocery store, you learn that meat counter choices are limited to one chicken item, one beef and one pork item. Whole shelves once loaded with canned goods and bread are now empty. The produce department lacks the desired choices of squash, zucchini, onions, garlic, potatoes and cabbage.

The hardships created by COVID 19 have been felt by all people, regardless of location. Products like toilet paper and paper towels are still in short supply everywhere. However, circumstances have improved for most of us. Not here. The situation becomes more dire with each passing day as lack of access stretches hearts and homes to a near breaking point.

Thanks to you, our generous donors, the Mission continues to be this community's primary emergency response provider. Food, water, masks, sanitizers, utility assistance, fuel costs, emergency transportation, home-healthcare (through Tachiinii Nursing Services) and a daily 'surprise' or two keep the staff hopping from one thing to another. Their talent and creativity have saved the day more than once. **Ahéhee'** is too small a word to express our gratitude for all you are doing and donating to help us care for our students, families and community members.

Your dollars and prayers at work:

230 Summer Feeding Program meals prepared and delivered daily to children under 18
50-60 Hoz'ho Cafe to-go meals daily
1000-1500 gallons of water daily
distribution of 50-75 food boxes delivered weekly to the elderly and at risk residents
monthly coordination of St. Mary's delivery - 225-350 households per month
coordination and response to community needs such as utility assistance,
FedEx/UPS deliveries, wood, hay and office services

We have accomplished much...and there is so much more to do. This crisis is not over and there seems to be no end in sight. Please remember the Mission and staff in your prayers and if you are able, please continue to give generously to the address below:

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission
One Mission Lane
PO Box 354
Rock Point, Arizona 96545



So, What Is a Psalm?

The psalms in the Bible are songs that share with us the excitement of the psalmists' joy in praising God, along with their agonizing cries of grief and petition during times of frustration and calamity.

Many hymns and praise songs that we sing today have their roots in one of the psalms. The most familiar—especially for Lutherans—is “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Martin Luther (who also composed the music, by the way) based his text on Psalm 46, which begins: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

The New Testament speaks of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, three kinds of music used by the early Christians in public and private worship. Psalms are Jewish songs, 150 of them found in the Hebrew Bible. Christians adopted them for their and our own use in worship.

You can learn a lot more about the psalms in the course *A Study of Selected Psalms*, starting shortly after Labor Day, with identical classes on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings. These discussion classes are based on the 125-page notebook you will receive. It contains an up-to-date paraphrase of each of the 36 psalms you will study, the psalm texts from the New Revised Standard Version, questions for discussion, and information to help you better get to know these psalms. While a contribution of \$15 to the SOJ Adult Education Fund is suggested to cover the cost of this notebook, you're welcome to enroll in class even if you can't contribute toward its cost.

Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, this course will be taught online via Zoom. Free coaching can be arranged for you if you are not familiar with Zoom. For more information about *A Study of Selected Psalms*, or to reserve your spot in class and get your notebook, contact Torrey Barcanic at: Torrey@CableOne.Net or (928) 634-2542.

COURTYARD WORSHIP BEGINS ...

(cont. from page 1)

We ask that you respond by Friday afternoon to allow us the opportunity to set up for any unique situations.

For those uncomfortable with a return to in-person worship, we fully respect and want to honor that as well. Online worship services will continue. This means you can still enjoy worship in the comfort of your own home as many of you have been doing since the middle of March. This is important to us as a congregation.

One of our biggest requests is you stay proactive in keeping yourself safe and monitoring your own health. If you have any health concerns or feel symptomatic (COVID symptoms or others), we ask that you stay home and enjoy our online worship platform.

While this process has not been easy, we thank you all for your prayers and understanding. While we aren't "out of the woods" yet in regard to this pandemic, we know in-person worship is important to many of you. Our goal is to provide that to those who want it while keeping everyone as safe as possible. We are greatly blessed to have a courtyard that gives us this opportunity.

Again, if you plan to join us this weekend, we ask that you RSVP.

Peace and Blessings,

Micah Swenson
Council President

Council Minutes from June 17, 2020

The Meeting was called to order by Micah Swenson at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Micah Swenson, Pastor Sharon Brown, Donna Woodruff, Marcia Shanahan, Jan Graham, Sue Bro.

Absent: Marie Parkinson, Jim Converse, and Dave Tjiemeland.

Devotions: Jan Graham provided the devotions to begin our meeting.

Correspondence: No written correspondence to review for action.

Secretaries Report: Was approved with one change to be completed.

Financial Report: Year to date we are 11% over budgeted income, which has occurred with a memorial received in the amount of \$15,000.00. Without the Memorial we are still below the budget for the end of May. The giving by our members has been continuing during the pandemic which has caused us to lock down the church for services. The July mortgage payment, as well as those to follow for the balance of the year, will include the principal portion of the payment. Beginning in September, we are hopeful that the mortgage payments will be increased to make up the three principal payments that were missed. (There was no penalty for missing the principal payments.) The report was approved as presented.

Executive Report: No action was needed this month.

Pastor's Report: The planning for the worship services "online" has been completed through the end of July. Should we be able to have services outside the planning can be switched from on-line to in-person with ease. The worship services have been pre-recorded, which has improved the quality of the sound. 16 of our members do not have access to the internet, therefore the bulletins have been mailed to these members on a weekly basis. Beginning in June short morning and evening prayer videos will be provided via YouTube and/or Facebook. Weekly small groups continue via Zoom. The 25th Anniversary celebration has been rescheduled for April 2021, due to the concerns of the pandemic. For those members that will not be able to attend the outdoor services, online will continue and a "safe" communion basket will be provided. The weekly Zoom coffee time at 10 on Sunday mornings has 1 to 5 members attending. After having completed the "calling of the directory" the focus for June/July will be those members that are homebound. Vacation time has been changed to September due to the Europe Bike Tour being cancelled because of COVID-19.

Task Force Update: They have completed the plan for Phase Two and are currently working on Phase Three. Phase Two will have the services on the courtyard with chairs positioned at least 6 feet distance between each of the 2 chairs. Masks will be required for those attending the services, for the protection of others in attendance. Only one person will be allowed in the restroom at a time to allow for the social distancing. Pastor to provide page numbers for the hymnals, which will allow for attendees to follow along (there will be no screen). There will be no singing to protect those in attendance. The final meeting of the task force will be on June 30, 2020. A special Council meeting will be held on July 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to present Phase Three and Phase Four plans.

New Business: Micah will contact Fred Saunders to confirm whether he in fact does want to step down from the position of IT tech for the church. The Council felt it would be best to have two people for this position so that if one is on vacation the technology at the church could be handled. Mary Stelpstra has installed the new Microsoft office on the 4 computers. Pastor will install on her lap top. The license covers 5 computers. Bishop Hutterer has voiced concerns about communion due to COVID-19. She listed 4 steps to consider and Pastor has addressed this for our church. Pastor Sharon would like to have one individual to take on the task of lining up the readers, ushers, and communion assistants for the services. At this time the most important positions are for the readers.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2020

Devotions for next meeting: Marcia Shanahan

Outreach/Social Ministry Committee

Your continued support of the **Navajo Evangelical Mission** is greatly appreciated. See article on page 2. Go to www.nelm.org to watch a nice video. You may support the Navajos with monetary donations or the following much needed items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, shampoo & laundry detergent. We recommend sending/delivering checks to SOJ and specify for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM). Products and donations collected will be sent on September 1st. A tote will be outside the gate at church for hygiene products. Thank you!



In-Reach Report

We are organizing fellowship meetings in August for the congregation. At this early stage, we are considering an on-line Zoom fellowship hour, a Back Patio/Riverside fellowship hour (with masks and distancing), as well as a smaller evening Back Patio fellowship hour.

Our idea is to use these fellowship meetings as a way to connect with members of the congregation on a more personal level. The fellowship would be a catching up and sharing of our lives since this COVID 19 started, how everyone is coping being isolated from regular church activities, etc., on a more person-to-person, open-ended informal level. In addition, we would be sharing prayers for each other.

Anyone interested in participating, please contact one of the calling team leaders:

Diane Griffith, 301-9691 or Jan Graham, 634-7563

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Parkinson
In-Reach Liaison

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATUS—June 2020

<u>Financial Status</u>	<u>Month of June</u>	<u>Year-To-Date 2020</u>
Income (Total Offering) *	\$ 12,774	\$ 135,576
Needed Income (Budgeted)	\$ 22,226	\$ 133,353
Over/Under Budgeted Income	\$ (9,452)	\$ 2,223
Net Ordinary Income after Expenses	\$ (2,658)	\$ 45,867
Change in Bank Balances	\$ (2,958)	\$ 30,324

Remaining Mortgage Balance	\$ 285,636
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WELCA



Just in case it's not listed on your calendar, WELCA's next meeting is September 10th at 8:30am. That may seem like a long way off, but, we need to start thinking about the rest of this year. We need to be thinking positive. I've spoken to Pastor Sharon about the possibility of meeting using the same guidelines as outlined by the Task Force in Phase 2 for return to worship. (Courtyard worship).

We would like to hear from you. Would you attend a courtyard meeting using Phase 2 guidelines? If this is not possible, would you be open to trying another Zoom meeting?

E mail us your thoughts:

Lisa Mathe mathe_lisa@yahoo.com
 Diane Griffith Griffith_diane@hotmail.com

Church Council will be meeting soon and the outcome should help us come to a good solution.

WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

August 2: Isaiah 64:1-8; Psalm 34:15-22; Luke 11:1-4
 August 9: James 1:17-27; Psalm 15; Luke 11:1-8
 August 16: 2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13; Psalm 146; Luke 5:17-26
 August 23: James 3:1-12; Psalm 116:1-9; Luke 10:25-27



Council Minutes—Special Meeting

July 1, 2020

Attendance: Micah Swenson, Pastor Sharon, Marcia Shanahan, Marie Parkinson, Donna Woodruff

Absent: Jan Graham, Jim Converse, Sue Bro, Dave Tjeimeland

The Church Council meeting to hear the Task Force's recommendations was called to order by Micah at 9:00 a.m.

The Council would like to express how proud they are of the Task Force and the thankfulness they feel for the Task Force Team.

Micah reviewed the document from the Task Force explaining each of the 4 Phases for which each has specific guidelines. The Task Force used the Arizona Department of Health Services website to obtain information concerning the number of COVID-19 cases and specific recommendations.

Phase 1 is the current status of worship, which is online only.

Phase 2 will be outside worship in the courtyard, with the chairs spaced 6 ft. apart and each member attendee wearing a mask, covering both the nose and the mouth. During this phase, should the weather be an issue, the services will be cancelled. White grape juice, for communion, will be used during this phase to eliminate the possibility of spotting attendees clothing. (Self-serving toss kits for communion will be used during this phase) Each attendee will be required to check in as arriving for the service. This will make contacting those in attendance should anyone in attendance contact us with information about contacting COVID-19. There will be no checking of temperatures. One of the pianos will be moved to the Fellowship Center and the large doors opened for ease of hearing. Restrooms in the narthex will be opened for use with only one person using at a time and 10 to 20 seconds between each use. Phase 2 is recommended to begin the weekend of August 1st and 2nd. Online worship will still be needed during this phase for those members/viewers that choose not to attend the in-person services in the courtyard.

Phase 3 will move the attendees/members indoors. The windows and doors will be opened to allow for air flow into the sanctuary. Being indoors we will be able to use the organ for the music. This phase will bring a much better worship experience. The social distancing and wearing of masks may still be required. This will be determined at that time with review of the Arizona Department of Health Services website. Attendees will notice a large difference between phase 2 and phase 3.

Phase 4 will bring the worship services, as much as possible, back to prior pandemic.

The members of the congregation will be notified of these recommendations and phases via a letter from the Church Council. Along with the letter will be the document prepared by the Task Force explaining each phase and the steps with each phase.

The Council approved the Task Force recommendations as presented and the implementation of those phases moving on to Phase 2 the weekend of August 1st and 2nd, 2020 at the earliest.

The Council will meet on July 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom to determine if any changes have occurred in and around Cottonwood to cancel moving to Phase 2. Should there be no changes, it is recommended at this time Phase 2 will be implemented on August 1st and 2nd.

The Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Check out our YouTube channel for Worship Services, Morning and Evening Prayers, and Reflections from Pr. Naomi Barcanic.

August Birthdays

Lillia Simpson—2
Donna Woodruff—4
Carl Juhl—6
Janice Taylor—8
Pamela Moody—10
Richard Woodruff—12
Laura Stransky—13
Valerie Behnke—15
James Ferkin—15
Marie Parkinson—23
Myra Piechowski—24
Roy Platt—30



August Anniversaries

Converse, James & Claudia—5
Harms, David & Connie—5
Steinke, David & Cheri—7
Hanson, Bud & Ruth—8
Knutson, David & Sandy—15
Taylor, William & Janice—19



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 to be used by the Altar Guild.

We received \$33.95 for the 2nd Qtr of 2020 from your purchases.

Thank you!



Call the office for more details on enrolling.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



WELCA Bible Study

will meet on Thursday, August 20th at 2pm via Zoom. We will be using the July study guide from our Gather magazine.

All are welcome to join us!

Email: pastor@sojaz.net to be sent a Zoom invite.



"Just when the caterpillar thought the world was ending, he turned into a butterfly." —Anonymous proverb