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Spirit of Joy
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2020 – A Year of Celebration and Remembrances



Dear Spirit of Joy Family,

Although Spirit of Joy held its first worship service on October 1, 1994, it was not fully recognized as a congregation of the ELCA until August 13, 1995. This makes 2020 our 25th year as an organized congregation. This is something to CELEBRATE! We want to share stories – of the early days, the building campaign, and how our identity has been and continues to be formed.

I'm inviting you to submit your stories of how you came to be involved in this community; what attracted you to this place; what has kept you involved and active where we are called to "reach out with joy to all people with the faith, love, and hope of Jesus Christ." We will publish your stories in our monthly newsletter and use them as jumping off point for events throughout the year. In the near future, we will have a questionnaire form available to help get your memory flowing.

That being said, this is also a call for folks who are interested in serving on the Anniversary Team to coordinate invitations to prior pastors to preach and organize Anniversary events. I suggest we do our Anniversary Celebration event around Reformation Sunday or even later, to include our seasonal members in the fun. **This is a community effort – looking for ideas and suggestions for ways to honor our past and look forward to the future.** A quarter-century mark is worthy of thanksgiving and celebration. I've only been here for one year, but I sense there are many stories to tell, and think it is important that we stop and look back and remember how we got to where we are.

But for this month –

I'm looking forward to Advent and Christmas this month. After three months of Old Testament stories, it will be refreshing to experience the stories, parables and teachings of Jesus and the early church. We plan on welcoming new members on January 12, the "Baptism of our Lord" Sunday. What a wonderful way to kick off our Year of Celebration! God is in this place. Feel the Spirit...the Spirit of Joy in God's presence!

Looking for Assisting Ministers to help lead 8:30 am Sunday Worship.

You may have noticed a few Sundays this past month, I have had an Assisting Minister lead the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise, and the Prayers of Intercession. They can also assist with communion if needed, or lead other portions of worship – like helping with baptism or leading a seasonal litany. This is another role for participating in worship –like ushers, greeters, communion assistants, etc.

We are looking for volunteers to serve in this capacity. You are not required to sing, or wear a robe if that is what is holding you back. You can speak the Kyrie, and the congregation would sing the responses. Ideally, a team of 4-5 would help us cover each month without relying on 1 or 2.

Thank you for considering participating in our worship life in this way.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Sharon



December Birthdays

- 6 – Sid Stelpstra
- 11 – Vicki Loeding
- 16 – Yona Ash
- 17 – Kim Densmore
- 18 – Chris Roby
- 18 – Susan Castle
- 19 – Julie Juhl
- 23 – Karen Harvey
- 27 – Everett Hoedl
- 30 – Paul Graham
- 30 – Russ Haslow

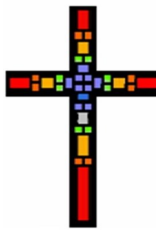
If your special day is missing from our list, please call the church office and let us know.



Anniversaries

- 13 – Jami & Kerri Ash
- 14 - Judy & Russ Haslow
- 16 – Kip & Laura Stransky
- 20 – Gary and Eleanor Covert

Deaths



Please pray for Mary Ann and family of the recently departed...

Jim Schulz—October 24, 2019
Memorial Service on December 4 at 11 am
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



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

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

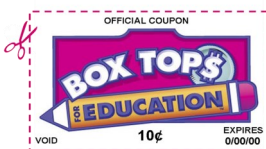
Send prayer requests to:
prayer@sojaz.net

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a *Savior* which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

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!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sanctuary open for private meditation/prayer - Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays—11am—3pm

Blue Christmas—Saturday, Dec. 21—4:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship—7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship—10:00 am

Christmas Day Potluck & Bingo—11:00 am



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!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Come one, come all to the annual Spirit of Joy Christmas Day Pot Luck Dinner and Bingo.

After the Christmas Day service, we will have hors d'oeuvre and punch.

The Pot Luck Dinner will be served at 11:45am. Turkey and ham will be provided.

Bingo will follow dinner. Please bring a small gift to exchange for a bingo prize.

A sign up sheet for name, food items to be provided for the pot luck, and number in party will be in the fellowship hall and the narthex.

A sign up sheet for help setting up, serving, and clean up will also be in the fellowship hall and narthex.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate Christmas at Spirit of Joy.

Please contact Eileen for further information at 928-239-9243.



Weekend Bible Readings

Dec 1: Mark 8:27-29; Psalm 72:1-7; Jeremiah 33:14-18

Dec 8: Mark 1:1-4; Psalm 85:4-13; Isaiah 40:1-11

Dec 15: Luke 2:25-27; Psalm 102:12-22; Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Dec 22: Psalm 113; Luke 1:5-13, 57-80

Dec 24: Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) or Luke 1:46-55

Dec 25: Psalm 108:1-4; Luke 2:8-20 or Matthew 2:1-12

Dec 29: Psalm 91:9-12; Mark 1:1-20





Advent Taize Prayer

During the season of Advent, the sanctuary will be open for meditation and prayer during office hours – Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11am – 3pm.

This will be a time for individual reflection and “quiet time” with our Lord, as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. There will be prayer stations and Taize music softly playing in the background. We will have no scheduled mid-week services. This allows you the freedom to come at a time convenient for you.

“Living in God’s Kingdom”

During this Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate God’s greatest gift to us, his son Jesus, who, as an adult, teaches the radical idea of loving God above all else during the Roman occupation of Israel, and loving neighbor as oneself; he teaches us how to live in God’s kingdom.

We will be viewing and discussing the final lectures of The Historical Jesus, presented by Prof. Bart D. Ehrman, throughout December and the first Sunday of January 2020. Then the DVD series will be available to check out from our library, along with copies of the outlines of each lecture, for anyone interested. It’s an interesting and thought-provoking course! Join the group in Bible Study 1 on Sundays at 10 am.



- 12-1-19 ***The Historical Jesus***—“The Last Days of Jesus”
- 12-8-19 ***The Historical Jesus***—“The Last Hours of Jesus”
- 12-15-19 ***The Historical Jesus***—“The Death and Resurrection of Jesus”
- 12-22-19 ***The Historical Jesus***—“The Afterlife of Jesus”
- 1-5-20 ***The Historical Jesus***—“The Prophet of the New Millennium”

Who We Are Inquiry Classes

This class is for anyone who wishes to learn about who we are as Christians, Lutherans of the ELCA brand and members of Spirit of Joy. Learn about how we live out our faith in Christian community, our neighborhood and in the world. Especially for those interested in becoming members of Spirit of Joy, but all are welcome to attend as a *refresher*.

Classes held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Noon – 3:00pm (light lunch will be served)

Upcoming Classes: December 15th January 12th – Receive new members

See Pastor Sharon for more details and to register, so the appropriate number of books are available, and for a lunch count. We will be using Daniel Erlander’s *Baptized We Live* for our study.



A Taste of Christmas

Saturday, December 7th from 8 am - 2 pm

Come to WELCA's annual fundraiser "A Taste of Christmas"!

We will have lefse, cookies, candies, breads, pies, cakes pastries, jelly, pickles, and much more.

Beautiful Craft Items

Recycled Christmas Items

Coffee & Hot Cider

Verde Valley Voices

Holiday Concert

"Our Favorite Christmas"

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 3 pm

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
700 Bill Gray Road, Cottonwood

Tickets for sale in the SOJ office
Adults-\$10, Children 12 and under – Free



Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 4pm. Hot cider & hot chocolate will be served afterwards.

See the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to participate!



A Cancer Survivor Support Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm in the Community Room of **Highland Square Apartments**, 532 W. Mingus Ave., in Cottonwood. (Please enter on the right side through the glass door directly into the meeting room.) "This support group is geared to help individuals by providing the opportunity to meet and share information, plus provide moral support. We are here to help you connect with others who have faced the same challenges while adding friendship and support." For more information, please call: Julie 928-899-9498.

An Alzheimer's Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am at Verde Valley Medical Center in Conference Room A.

Joy packs

The Joy Pack Ministry provides weekend food bags to 10 children at the Clarkdale-Jerome School and 35 children at the Cottonwood-Oak Creek School in Cornville who are food insecure. These children qualify for, and rely on, the school's free breakfast and lunch programs during the week but lack sufficient food on the weekend.

In November, the Joy Pack Ministry received a donation of \$1,000 from Country Bank thanks to Mark Tuft, bank manager. A big thank you to Randy Boardman, a friend of Spirit of Joy, for helping with the application process.

Thank you to Thrivent Members who have sponsored monthly Thrivent Action Teams for the Joy Pack Ministry in 2019. The cost of the Joy Pack Ministry runs between \$400-\$450 per month. Each Action Team Activity provides \$250 to be used to purchase needed items for the weekend bags.

Thrivent members are needed to sponsor a Thrivent Action Team in the months of January–May 2020. Requesting funds for an Action Team Activity is easy and can be done online or by phone. Request the funds and file an end of activities report. Every Thrivent Benefit Member can sponsor two Action Teams per year allowing you to help others. For more information contact Mary Stelpstra, 928-301-0280.

Having had the opportunity to see the smiles and excitement of several children who are receiving the weekend Joy Packs, we know the extra food is greatly appreciated.

Each Joy Pack includes 13 items: 2-Entrees (Mac N Cheese, Soup, Chili, etc.), 2-Breakfast Items (cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bar), 1-Shelf Stable Milk, 1-100% Juice Box, 2-Protein Items (Vienna Sausage, Tuna, Nut Butter, etc.), 2-Individual Fruit Cups, 1-Individual Vegetable Cup, 2-Snacks (cookies, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.).



Our participation in the Verde Valley Neighborhood Food Project's bi-monthly Green Bag food collection event, other direct food donation from members and friends of our congregation, and community action grants (Thrivent and Country Bank) help keep the cost of this ministry down. However, some food items (above) must be purchased to meet the need. Monetary donations to help with the purchase of these items are greatly appreciated. Checks/cash marked "Joy Packs" will be used for this ministry.

Want to lend a hand? Join volunteers on Wednesdays, 3:00 pm in Bible Study 2, to fill the bags. Volunteers are needed to help with the Verde Valley Neighbor Food Project collection event the second Saturday of even months through the year (Feb., April, June, August, Oct., Dec.) from 9:45—11:30am at the Mountain View United Methodist Church parking lot on 12th Street in Cottonwood. The next collection event will be Saturday, December 14th.

Weekend Worship Leaders for December

Volunteers are needed in all areas of worship. See the sign up sheets in the narthex.



Out to Lunch Bunch will go to **Mai Thai on Main** on Sunday, December 1st at 12:30pm.

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

Call the office by Friday, November 29th to reserve your spot!



Welcome Alexandra (Alex) Musil!

On Sunday, November 3, we welcomed into the SOJ family **Alexandra Mae Musil**, infant daughter of Ian and Jennifer Musil and sister to Cameron.



Did You Know?

If you have a qualifying IRA Account, you can reduce your gross income by having your Required Minimum Distribution sent directly to Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church as a contribution. By doing so, you may possibly reduce your tax burden, but to be sure, you would need to consult with your tax advisor on how to properly handle this contribution relative to your tax return. Check with your bank or financial institution to determine if your IRA can be reported to the IRS as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for this tax benefit.

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
Social Concerns: Vacant

Our next Church Council meeting will be at 4:30pm on December 18th.

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.



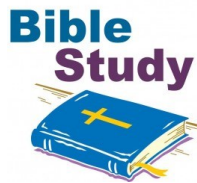
If you do your holiday shopping online, make your purchases work for SOJ!



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!!

Daytime Book Group

The Daytime Book Group will not be meeting in December. We will resume on January 23rd. Note there are five Thursdays in January. We may be discussing the following books in the new year: Sing Unburied Sing, Don't Tell the Rabbi, Where the Crawdads Sing, and other selections to be determined. Watch the January newsletter for January's selection. Come and join us!



Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets every Friday morning at 9 am.
All men are invited to join this weekly group.

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.

GROUPS

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

VERDE VALLEY HOMELESS COALITION NEEDS

Body Wipes

Deodorant

Body Wash

Razors

Shaving Cream

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Bandanas



Men's T-shirts Lg or XL

Men's Jeans Sizes 30-34

Men's Sneakers Sizes 9-14

Or Hiking Sandals



Men's Boxer Briefs Med or Lg

Tents and tarps

Blankets and

Backpacks





OUR PRAYER LIST

as of 11-20-19

SOJ Members and Friends

Valerie Behnke, Dave Steinke, Karen Harvey, Doug & Jan Sanderson, Lisa Mathe, Dottie Sperger, Lynn Makow, Dee Fronko, Norma Davidson, Dave & Connie Harms, Jim Schulz, Sam Chaudoin, Carl Mason, Myra Piechowski, L. K. Fredericksen, Yvonne Kinsella, Dave Tjelmeland, Eleanor Bohm, Georgia Brown, Deanna Codner, Joe Mathe

Friends, Neighbors, Family Members

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

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, Jerold, John, Linda, Terri, Nick, Gina, Steve, Heather, Joan, Daniel, Dave, Sherry, Michael

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

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

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

We are looking for members to help plan our
2020 Year of Celebration for 25 years as an ELCA congregation.

See Pr. Sharon..

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

Spirit of Joy Weekly Worship

SATURDAY WORSHIP—4:30pm
(Casual and Perfume-Free)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship—8:30 am
Fellowship—9:30 am
Sunday School—9:45am
Adult Forum—10:00am
Praise Worship—11:00 am



Some December Highlights

- Dec 1—Out to Lunch Bunch to Mai Thai on Main, 12:30pm
- Dec 7—Taste of Christmas, 8am-2pm
- Dec 12—WELCA Meeting, 9am
- Dec 18—Council Meeting, 4:30pm
- Dec 19—Women's Bible Study, 2pm
- Dec 21—Blue Christmas Worship, 4:30pm
- Dec 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7pm
- Dec 25—Christmas Day Worship, 10 am
Potluck Dinner and Bingo, 11am