



A New Year - we celebrate our New Life in Christ and look back on our history as a congregation.



Save the date! Grand Canyon Synod Bishop Deborah Hutterer graciously accepted our invitation to preach on Reformation Sunday (October 25th) as we celebrate our 25 years of ministry as an ELCA congregation here in the Verde Valley!

We are in the process of lining up events and guest preachers throughout the year leading up to that date. If you are willing to serve on the Anniversary Team, please let Pastor Sharon know.

What do you remember about making Spirit of Joy your home congregation? At the bottom of this page are a few questions to get your memory flowing. Please take some time to answer the questions and submit them to the office via email office@sojaz.net. If you do not have email access, bring a copy to the office. We would like to feature stories in the newsletter and/or compile a book of remembrances for our anniversary.

We now have our Mevo camera set up to record directly through the sound system. Thanks to all who pitched in to sponsor this a/v project. Although we had some technical issues with uploading the video recordings of the worship services, I believe we are close to solving most of the troublesome audio issues.

I also want to thank all those who contributed to the success of our Christmas events – our worship services and the dinner on Christmas Day. Both were well attended and a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Pat and I thank you for all the lovely cards, gifts and goodies for Christmas.

In Christ' Service

Pastor Sharon

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

When did you start attending SOJ? Who was your most memorable pastor? Why?

What brought you here? What's kept you here?

Share a story about transitioning from a mission congregation to building our current campus.

What makes you nostalgic about this community? What excites you about our future?

January Birthdays

1— Dave Harms
7—Linda Waters
7—Cameron Musil
11—David Knutson
13—Dottie Sperger
13—Sharon Thaler
15—Bev Saunders
16—Barry Clark
27—Mary Ann Schulz
27—Max Panzer
28—Lorraine Splies
28—Dave Steinke
30—Lauren Mudro Peterson



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

 **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

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.



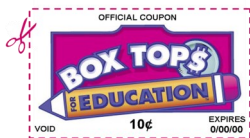
amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!!

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!



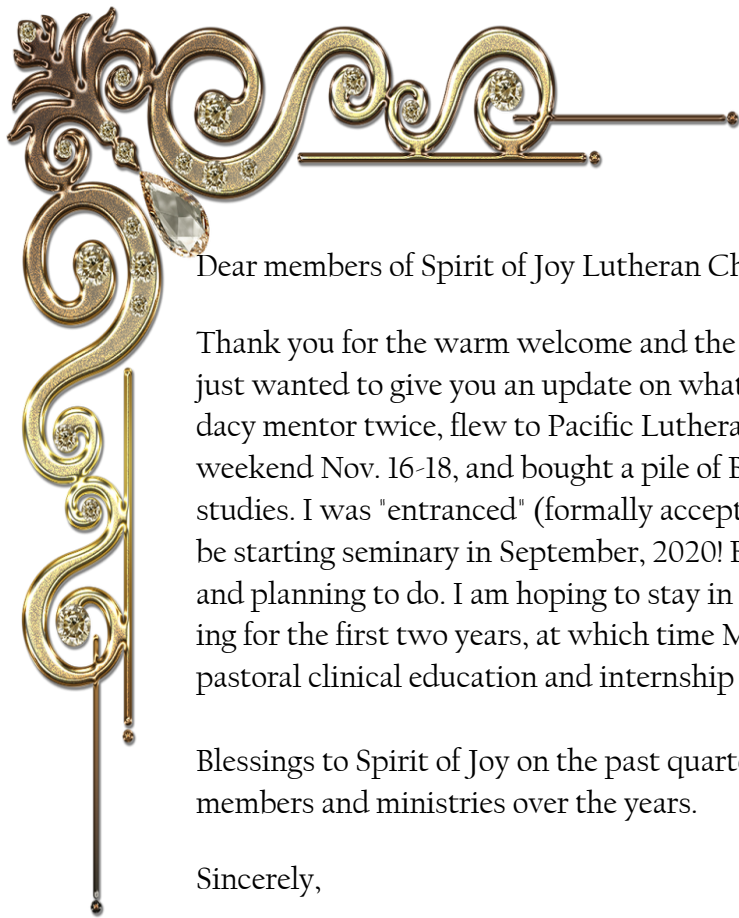
...for your generous support of the mission of Spirit of Joy.

In response to our end of year stewardship letter, we have received over \$17,000 as of December 31 to "fill the gap" between our income and spending!

We enter new year with a heart of gratitude for your faithful stewardship here at Spirit of Joy.

- Congregational Council

*From Charter Member
Gail Kenny*



Dear members of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the warm welcome and the opportunity to lead worship at SOJ in September. I just wanted to give you an update on what has happened since that time. I met with my candidacy mentor twice, flew to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for a visitation/discernment weekend Nov. 16-18, and bought a pile of Biblical Greek materials to get a jump on my seminary studies. I was "entranced" (formally accepted to the candidacy process) on Nov. 20, and I will be starting seminary in September, 2020! Between now and then, there's a pile of paperwork and planning to do. I am hoping to stay in Prescott Valley and attend classes via distance learning for the first two years, at which time Mike and I will need to pack up for parts unknown for pastoral clinical education and internship -- wherever I am assigned!

Blessings to Spirit of Joy on the past quarter century, and for the Spirit's dance with numerous members and ministries over the years.

Sincerely,

Gail Kenny,
Charter SOJ member
Candidate for ELCA Word and Sacrament Ministry

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be going to Randall's
on Sunday, January 5th at 12:30pm.

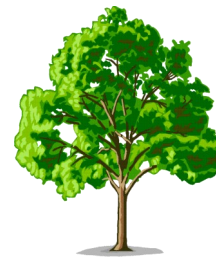
All are welcome...invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

Let Pr. Sharon know if you will be attending.



Finding Your Roots

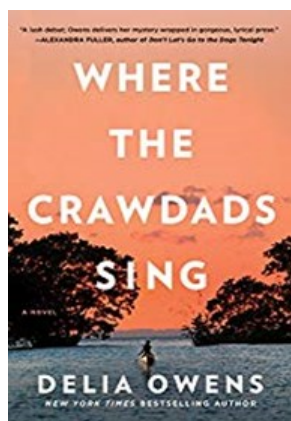
It's Free



A Genealogy class on DVD's is being offered by Spirit of Joy Church for **Free**

All are welcome. To register, simply call the church and give you name and phone number. Church Phone #: 928-634-4102

The class consists of eight one-hour sessions, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at 1:30 pm for 4 weeks. Classes start on January 28th.



DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 2:00pm

SOJ Conference Room

Where the Crawdads Sing

Delia Owens, 2018

Penguin Publishing, 384 pp. ISBN-13: 9780735219090

Summary:

How long can you protect your heart?

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl.

But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

This book is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder.

Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Be certain to join our discussion on January 24 at 2:00 pm for this very fun, spellbinding book. In February we read another book by the author of *A Man Called Ove*. The title: *My Grandmother asked me to tell you she's sorry*, author Fredrik Backman. It is on Amazon for \$11.55 or \$16. There are numerous copies at the library in all formats with very few holds. A New Year's resolution: Reading will be a great distraction from the political ads that will soon be upon us. Understanding and getting a greater perspective happens when you come to a discussion.



To Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your donations to our
Food Sharing/Food Bank. We are grateful to
you and your continued support as we provide this
needed assistance to people in our community.

Blessings,
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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!



Weekend Leaders for January

Worship leaders are needed in all areas for both Sunday worship services.

Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex to help out where you can.

Thank you!



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.

Lent

ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS of Giving

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance, of sacrifice and self-examination. But Lent is also a season of hope — hope in the work God is doing in the world, even in the most challenging times.

Spirit of Joy is participating in ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. We will experience how the grace of Christ moves us to engage in transformative works of love around the world through as God calls us into the ministry of hope, liberation and restoration for our world.

This Lenten season we will journey with our neighbors in hope for a just world where all are fed. Look for these resources soon to be available:

- ◆ A devotional calendar with daily ideas for reflection and action;
- ◆ A weekly study with inspirational stories and information about how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work in the world; and
- ◆ Additional resources, including an inspirational weekly email series and coin jar wrappers to invite children and families into the practice of giving to programs to end hunger and poverty.

We invite you to study, pray and give with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th

ADULT FORUM

“Living in God’s Kingdom”

Happy New Year! We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us as we study God’s Word and God’s works in the world during 2020. We will start with the final video lecture of The Historical Jesus on “The Prophet of the New Millennium.” The lecture series will then be made available in our library to be checked out and viewed at home.

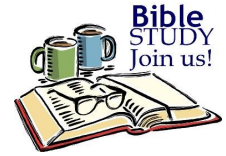
Then we will take a new look at the old story of the sufferings of Job. The four sessions will be led by Pr. Naomi Barcanic, using The Message Bible in contemporary language.

Come, learn, and experience lively discussions! Join us at 10 A.M. Sunday mornings in Bible Study 1.

- 1-5-2020 The Historical Jesus 24—“The Prophet of the New Millennium”
- 1-12-2020 The Book of Job 1—Pr. Naomi Barcanic
- 1-19-2020 The Book of Job 2
- 1-26-2020 The Book of Job 3
- 2-2-2020 The Book of Job 4

Men's Bible Study

Every Friday at 9am. All men are invited to come for faith and fellowship!



SCIENCE AND RELIGION SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

The popular and thought-provoking series of programs for the “Science and Religion Lecture Series”, part of the Clergy Letter Project, will take place on each of the four Sundays in February at 2:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Guest speakers for the series are as follows:

- ◆ February 2nd — Wayne Ranney, renowned geologist and authority on Antarctica
- ◆ February 9th — Ken Zoll, Director of the Verde Valley Archeological Society and Director of their museum in Camp Verde
- ◆ February 16th — Samantha Gorney, Deputy Director of Education, Lowell Observatory
- ◆ February 23rd — Georgia Braithwaite, Spirit of Joy Member and Botanist

As in the past, the lectures are free and open to the public. Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall will follow each program.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS

<u>Financial Status</u>	<u>Month of November</u>	<u>Year-To-Date 2019</u>
Income (Actual Offering)	\$ 17,455	\$ 192,138
Needed Income (Budgeted)	\$ 21,325	\$ 234,575
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (3,870)	\$ (42,437)
Actual as a % of YTD Budget	82%	82%
Change in Cash Balance	\$ (3,232)	\$ (60,839)
Remaining Mortgage Balance		\$ 306,342

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

Council Visioning Retreat—January 11th, 9am—Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Our next Church Council meeting will be at 4:30pm on January 15th.

SERMONS ON-LINE

Find Pr. Sharon's recent sermons on our website at www.sojaz.net under the "Worship" tab. Recordings of 8:30am worship services can be found on our Facebook page and the website home page. Available for 90 days after the event.

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



WELCA NEWS

- Thank to all who contributed to our "Taste of Christmas" event. We were able to send approximately \$2700 to Lutheran Disaster Response from the proceeds of our sales.
 - To all who donated to our Navajo Lutheran Mission for their children's Christmas gifts, and to their school supplies: We sent a full pickup, driven by the Youngs, who willingly took all we had to the mission a few days after "Taste of Christmas." We have a generous congregation!
 - We put together 23 goodie bags to be given out to kids who came to our Christmas worship services.
 - The next meeting for WELCA is Thursday, January 9th at 9 am. All ladies are welcome!
- Jan G and Eileen Sydow

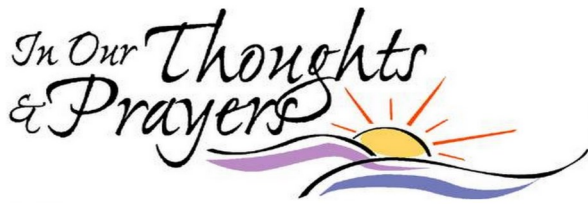


Laura Stransky, Carol Schatz and Loma Jenkins at the WELCA breakfast on Dec. 12th.



Giving Tree gifts under the tree and then loaded up and driven to the Navajo Lutheran Mission





OUR PRAYER LIST

as of 1-3-20

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, Sam Chaudoin, L. K. Fredericksen, Deanna Codner, Joe Mathe, Tom Griffith, Jan & Luis Vargas, Marilyn Howisey, Rita Dunn

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, Denein, Mateo, Elizabeth

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, 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, the family of Eleanor Bohm; the family of Don Bays; the family of Gerry Knaeble, the family of Ann, Jeanette and family

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

Weekend Bible Readings

Jan 5: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 12: Psalm 103:6-14; Mark 2:1-22

Jan 19: Psalm 126; Mark 4:1-34

Jan 26: Psalm 89:1- 4; Mark 5:1-20



 **Spirit of Joy**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

Happy New Year!!

**Spirit of Joy
Weekly Worship**

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Traditional Worship—8:30 am
Praise Worship—11:00 am

Some January Highlights

- 1-5 Out to Lunch Bunch to Randall's, 12:30pm
- 1-6 In-Reach/Outreach Meeting, 10 am
- 1-9 WELCA Meeting, 9am
- 1-11 Church Council Retreat, 9am—Noon
- 1-11/12 Welcoming New Members
- 1-13 Progressive Theology Evening Class resumes, 7pm
- 1-14 Progressive Theology Morning Class resumes, 10am
- 1-15 Council Meeting, 4:30pm
- 1-16 Women's Bible Study, 2 pm
- 1-23 Daytime Book Group, 2 pm
- 1-28 "Finding Your Roots" Class, 1:30pm
- 1-30 "Finding Your Roots" Class, 1:30pm