

JULY @

Spirit of Joy
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Three weeks until Pat and I board a plane for Germany!

There is much to be done to make sure we are ready and all things Spirit of Joy are managed in my absence.

First, let me give you a little background on how this Continuing Education opportunity came about. Our son-in-law, Jake and our daughter, Melissa, spent part of his sabbatical in both Germany and Scotland back in 2017. Their children, Clare, George and Julia, joined them for a week in Scotland attending a family program at Iona Abbey.

Then, after taking the kids back to the states and spending a week of family camp there, they traveled to Germany, where Jake created a bike tour of well-known Martin Luther sites – traveling from Berlin down to Munich. Jake and Melissa carried all their luggage on their bikes. We will be putting our luggage on a tour bus. 😊

Jake worked with Reformation Tours to create a Germany bike tour combined with a bus tour (led by his senior pastor) that would culminate with attending the Passion Play in Oberammergau in 2020. Well..... we all know what happened in 2020. The Passion Play was postponed until this year, and we decided to “stick with it” and hope for the best. Luckily, flights and AirBnBs that had been booked were (mostly) fully refunded. If you are interested, you can learn about both tours here: <https://reformationtours.com/package/rbk22/>

Originally, I signed up for the bike tour, but will now be hanging out with our granddaughter, Clare on the bus tour. After the Luther tour, Jake will lead a tour to Dachau.

Knowing that it is highly unlikely that we will have future opportunity to travel overseas, we added Scotland to our trip. We will spend two nights on Iona and visit the Abbey for their Saturday worship service, and an audio tour of the history of the Abbey and explore the island itself. Other stops include Loch Lomond, Oban, the Isle of Skye, Inverness and Edinburgh. Whew. This tour guide link will give you some idea of our plan, but I have modified it to add Iona two nights on Skye, and taking the more scenic options. <https://www.secret-scotland.com/scotlandtours/scenic-flexi-west-to-east>

One addition to our original itinerary is anticipating meeting our newest granddaughter, expected in early August, in Cleveland on our way back to PHX. Did I say “whew” yet?

While I am gone, I intend to post photos and some reflections on the sites that we visit. You can follow me on my blog: <https://gracenotes2.wordpress.com/>

During my absence Gwen Brandfass will lead Sunday worship and Pastor Naomi will cover Saturdays. Council members will be opening the campus and setting up the video streaming. Please take a look at the Worship Assistant sign up and fill in where you can participate in leading worship, so the Council knows these duties are covered in advance.

I am excited to be able to take this trip. I am thankful to Church Council, past and present, for understanding the importance of continuing education for their leaders. I intend to bring back interesting stories about the Reformation times, and the church started by Saint Patrick and Saint Columba. I will have limited online access, but will check email when I can. Prayers for travel mercies are always appreciated.

Pastor Sharon

*From the
Pastor*

July Birthdays

Mary Davis	12
John Diets	12
Mel'O'Dee Gaber	13
Patti Bays	17
Linda Ren	23



July Anniversaries

Huber, Richard & Barbara	11
Piechowski, Myra & Joe	28

If your special day is incorrect or missing from our list, please call or email the church office to let us know.

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Clarkdale, Arizona 86324
928-634-4102

Rev. Sharon Brown, Pastor
pastor@sojaz.net

Rosie West, Office Manager
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Website
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Send prayer requests to:
prayer@sojaz.net

Visit us at:
www.facebook.com/sojaz

Deaths

Please pray for the families of these departed members and former members:
Bud Jenkins, LeRoy Baribeau, Betty Bensen, Jan Taylor, Lorraine Splies

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. Thank you!

Call the office for more details on enrolling.


You shop. Amazon gives.



Jim Converse—President
Pam Moody—Secretary/Education
Dave Steinke—Finance Officer

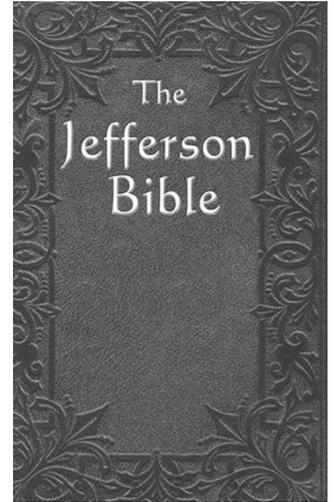


Ian Musil—Property
Laura Stransky—Worship
Ruth Tasa—In-Reach/Outreach
Kim Densmore—Youth

Revisiting Progressive Theology

Being disturbed by some of the things he read in the Gospels, Thomas Jefferson used his penknife to cut out those parts he disagreed with.

This condensed version of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, originally called *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*, came to be known as *The Jefferson Bible*. He discarded references to the supernatural, including all of Jesus' miracles and any claim that Jesus may have been divine. *The Jefferson Bible* is still in print and is available online.



Many conservative Christians have been taught that progressive Christians (who in the past were called “liberals” and even earlier, “modernists”) basically followed Jefferson’s lead in personally determining what to accept as their theological beliefs. Although progressive Christians may not use a penknife as our third president did, many think they simply ignore and eliminate what they don’t agree with or just plain don’t like, much as President Jefferson did.

Contrary to this erroneous understanding, a considerable body of scholarship underlies progressive theology. Ongoing studies continue to be conducted, often by dedicated Christians with their Ph.D.’s in the fields such as archeology, linguistics, history, and sociology. This in depth research keeps revealing new data related to the progressive interpretation of scripture.

Weekday discussion classes about progressive theology were held at Spirit of Joy a couple of years back. They were unfortunately cut short by the onset of Covid-19. This fall, the course ***Progressive Theology Revisited***, will cover the ideas that were not completed then. But it will also get into a number of additional topics. You are invited to take part in this new course even if you did not attend the previous one.

As the pandemic declines, it is hoped that this fall’s classes may be held on SOJ’s campus and carried simultaneously on Zoom. You’ll receive a discussion guide, containing the questions that will be talked about, along with multiple handouts which provide additional information on the topics discussed. There is no charge for these materials if you receive them as email attachments; alternatively, you may contribute \$15 to SOJ if you want printed copies.

Have a question about ***Progressive Theology Revisited***, or do you desire some additional information? Contact Torrey Barcanic at (928) 634-2542 or torrey2542@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected this weekend, July 3rd for our local food bank. Please leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

(Don't forget to check the expiration dates on food before donating.)



SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY WRAP-UP



In May of last year, we conducted the "Spirit of Generosity" stewardship appeal. During the appeal we shared stories of generosity from individual members and celebrated our mission by sharing outcome stories about various projects completed in our community. During the appeal, we mailed out 94 Intent cards and asked each member to prayerfully consider their personal stewardship response for the coming 12 months. 45 of those Intent cards were completed and returned

to the church representing \$119,000 of combined financial commitment in support of our mission.

I'm pleased to report that these 45 families contributed a total of \$124,000 for the 12 months following the campaign (June 2021-May 2022) which is \$5,000 more than the original commitments made! In addition to those gifts to our mission, other members and friends of the church contributed \$80,000 over that same period. (Includes general, mortgage and designated fund giving.)

If you have not yet completed your estimated giving commitment or are one of our dedicated members/associates who did not complete an estimate of giving last spring, please continue being generous with your resources to support our work. It is due to the generosity of each of you that we are able to continue to fulfill the mission of Spirit of Joy: "God has called us to reach out with JOY to nurture all people with the faith, love, and hope of Jesus Christ."

Marcia Shanahan

WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

July 3—Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16; Psalm 66:1-9; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10—Colossians 1:1-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 10:25-37

July 17—Colossians 1:15-28; Psalm 15; Luke 10:38-42

July 24—Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]; Psalm 138; Luke 11:1-13

July 31—Colossians 3:1-11; Psalm 49:1-12; Luke 12:13-21



Reclaiming a Generation

Reflections from Tim Jorgenson

June 10, 2022

Greetings in Christ,

Over the last 18 months I've managed to make a number of presentations introducing audiences (including school-aged audiences) to Intelligent Design (ID). I hope to continue offering such presentations, not least because they open eyes to the possibility that sound science does not support the Darwinian, materialist perspective that holds sway in the scientific community and in Western society.

While I've been out and about teaching (or hoping that I'm teaching) about ID, I've come to appreciate the concern that so many Christian parents have for the materialist and me-centered culture and academics to which their kids are or will be exposed to in public schools. After much prayer and reflection about this situation, I don't have any answers or silver bullets for correcting the school culture. But I do have a growing conviction that our Lord is calling for community-wide prayer circles (or collegiums) to seek His wisdom, provision, and protection for the new generation.

I don't think it's a mere coincidence that just yesterday (9 June) I learned that, of all things, right here in Arizona there's a Christian couple based in Phoenix who are leading two efforts relevant to fostering prayer circles: [Bridge Builders International](#) and [PrayerSaturated.Life](#). I learned of these efforts after reading ['Reclaim a Generation: 21 Days of Prayer for Schools'](#). I won't be able to follow up soon on participating in an Arizona prayer collegium focused on the rising generation. My wife (Jean) and I are slated to spend about six weeks away in the Upper Midwest this summer. But I hope to follow up when I return in August, seeking to participate in any Verde Valley prayer circle or collegium that's focused on the rising generation. There's much to be done--not least praying--for this generation, but there's much to be hoped for in our Lord and Savior. May He continue to bless the faithful and the unfaithful with His...

Grace+Truth,
Tim Jorgenson

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Can you spare one Sunday (or more) a month? Please see sign up sheet in the narthex.

Sunday Worship Assistants needed:

- Reader – 1 needed
- Greeter/Usher – 2 needed
- Communion Assistants – 2 needed
- PowerPoint – 1 needed
- Camera Operator (Micah's understudy)



Council Minutes from May 11, 2022



Jim Converse called the meeting to order in the Council room at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance: Pastor Sharon Brown, Jim Converse, Pam Moody, Laura Stransky, Kim Densmore and Ruth Tasa. Absent were Ian Musil and Dave Steinke.

Devotions: Laura provided devotions regarding welcoming everyone to church. This led to a thoughtful discussion reminding us to be welcoming to everyone.

Correspondence and Feedback: Many positive reactions to Easter Vigil and to the choir on Easter Sunday

Secretarial Report: accepted as sent out to Council members with one correction

Financial Report: Dave is recovering from surgery.

Executive Committee: No report

Pastor's Report: see attached

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Christian Education:** Adult forum wrapping up at end of the month
- **In Reach/Out Reach:** See Judy Haslow's attached report.
- **Property:** The new Irrigation pump was paid for by a donation from a church member. The Council expressed deep thanks.
- **Youth:** Kim is trying to think of ways children can be more involved in using the facility. Basketball hoop was a popular suggestion.
- **Worship:** no report

Old Business:

- The Constitution rewrite committee, Laura and Pam, will meet next week.
- Weekly AA meetings will be held Tuesday night in the Council room
- Facility rentals were decided on to see how things go. See attached rate sheet
- Scattering Garden discussed. No decision made.
- The cost for Stewardship for all Seasons was clarified to be \$200 and we approved the expenditure.

New Business:

- Thank you notes were discussed
- Grounds Maintenance was discussed. Pastor will approach neighbor to see if he can give us a bid
- WELCA asked about a booth at the July 4th event in Clarkdale. More discussion will follow next month

Next Regular Council Meeting: June 8, 2022 @ 5:30pm

Devotions for next meeting: Laura will lead devotions with a song.

Meeting adjourned at 6.59 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

SPIRIT OF JOY FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH / May

DATE / 6/1/22

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Current	\$15,369.59	\$15,919.22
YTD	**\$93,356.95	\$86,070.80

** Some members made their yearly offering at one time

Special Notes:

April's Financial report was completed but held pending Council's direction of future reports. New charts have been made for easier understanding this month.

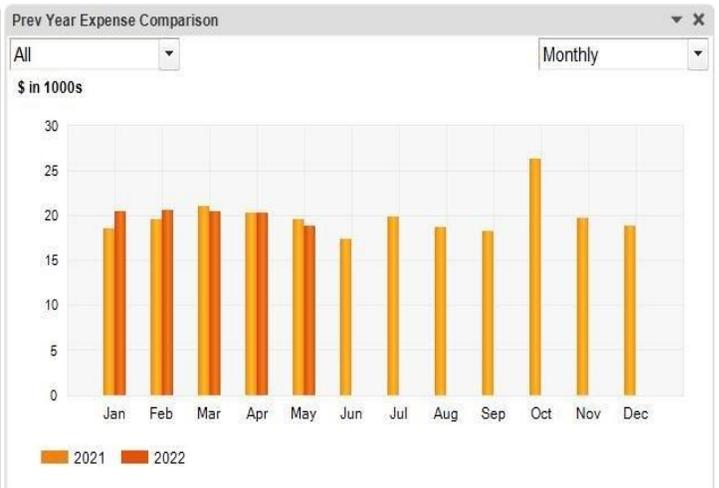
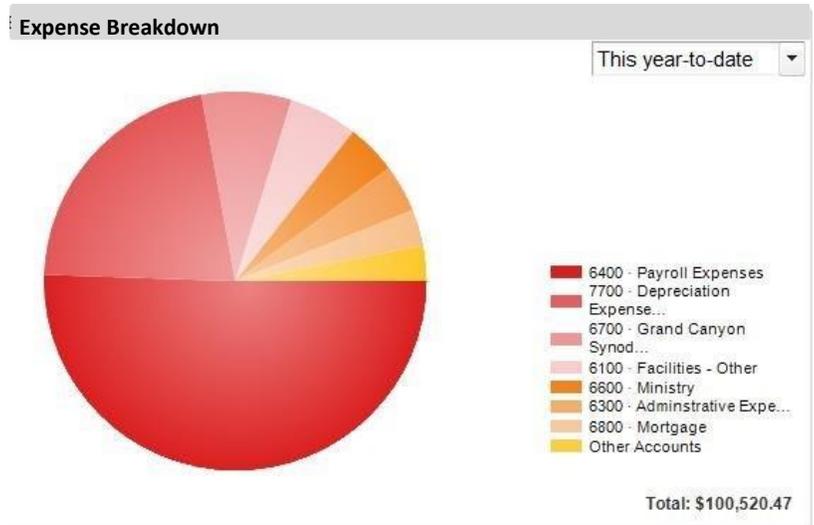
Council to discuss Budget Contingency Plans as requested by an Executive Council meeting held 5-31-22. Components of the Contingency Planning should include a) Operating Reserves, b) Cash Flow Projections, c) Budget Reductions and Banking Relationships as outlined by the GC Synod. Updates will be given by council as council reviews the plan. However, this planning may never be implemented but should be in place if needed per GC Synod.

WELCA will be asked to advise on what expectations are needed if council wishes to open the limited facilities at SOJ. Currently we are honoring prior approved groups for their gatherings.

Upcoming potential expenses:

- Water pump for irrigation
- Landscape labor
- Alarm and Fire System required upgrade
- Live bird deterrents
- Parking lot repair
- Office upgrade/repair for air conditioning
- Increase in electric costs (air conditioning)

Dave Steinke
Finance Officer



Dear Church Family,

Thanks for your care and prayer support for us and our grandson, Caleb,
and his parents through his open heart surgery and recovery.

May God bless you all!

Becky & Jeff Keck



A Note from Damien Browning, Steps to Recovery Homes *(Featured speaker during our Lenten series)*

Dear Spirit of Joy members,

Hope you are well and safe.

We want to Thank you for all of your support and continued encouragement. We are extremely Grateful.

We are evolving and excited for the future.

Here is a brand new News Story on our new venture.

<http://journalaz.com/2022/06/07/steps-to-recovery-merges-into-new-site/>

Also we are very humbled to have just received this Award:

Congratulations!

Steps to Recovery Homes has been selected as a 2022 recipient of the:

Harold E. Hughes Award of Excellence for Exceptional Rural Program

Multiple nominations were submitted for this program, and we wanted to share with you a very small portion of what Mary Huntley and Jon Schuderer submitted:

“Simply put: Damien and Anne Browning have put their entire lives on the line (finances, time, emotions, etc.) to create, offer and run a program which is profoundly improving the lives of the most hopeless and drug addicted citizens of our society. Never seen a sacrifice and a result like theirs.”

“Steps to Recovery Homes opened in 2013 and encourages residents to take a holistic approach to recovery and supports them with life skills classes throughout the week. STRH provides a safe and supportive atmosphere to help those in early recovery establish their new lives in sobriety...”

“STRH is not your regular treatment program. Damien and Anne truly have created an amazing thing there in Cottonwood, AZ...”

STRH will receive the award in person during the annual **National Rural Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictions** June 26-30, 2022.

Just wanted to share some good news with you.

Take care.

Damien Browning
Steps to Recovery Homes, Executive Director
stepstorecoveryhomes@gmail.com
928-649-0077

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive

Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



Weekly Worship Schedule

Worship—Saturdays 4:30pm
Hymn Sing—Sundays 9:20am
Worship—Sundays 9:30am
Fellowship—following worship

July Highlights

July 3—Food Bank Sunday
Out to Lunch Bunch to Thai Palace, Noon
July 4—Independence Day—Office Closed
July 5—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting, 10am (CR)
July 7—Christmas in July Hymn Sing, 3pm
July 13—Council Meeting, 5:30pm (CR & Zoom)
July 14—WELCA Gathering at Denny's, 9:30am
July 21—Women's Bible Study, 2pm