



# JULY @ Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

By the time you get this, Everett Hoedl and I will be returning from “Campformation” at Camp Pinerock in Prescott. I have hooked up with Pr. Diane Drach-Meinel from Henderson for Home Church Time evening sessions. She has two campers and two counselors from her church attending camp. I’m sure we will have lots of stories to share, and will have made some new friends, as well.



June has been a busy month. Glenna and Tom Atkins and I attended Grand Canyon Synod Assembly, June 13-15. The main business of the Assembly was electing a bishop, approving the budget and electing representatives for Synod Council, the Discipline Committee, and voting attendees for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which will be held July 28 – August 2, 2025. Even if you are not a voting member, this would be an opportunity to attend the national Assembly, as it is being held in Phoenix. More news will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

The bishop’s election was decided on the first ballot. Ecclesial balloting is a process of discernment of the call. All voting members nominate one person on the first ballot. A 75% majority is needed to elect on the first ballot. Otherwise, they go through a process of multiple candidates answering questions and more voting to get down to the top two candidates. Here is the result of the first (and only) ballot:

Number of votes cast: 281

Number of legal votes cast: 267

Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (75%): 201

Rev. Deborah Hutterer: 201

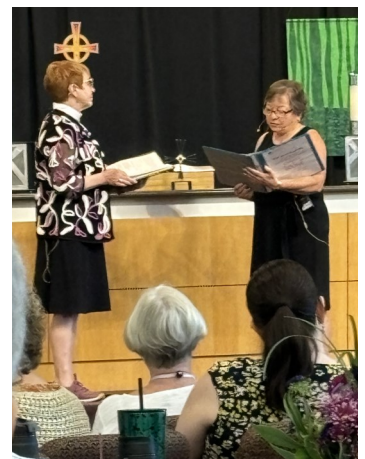
RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT for Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod	
• Rev. Deborah Hutterer: 201	• Rev. Carla Christopher: 1
• Rev. Peter Perry: 17	• Rev. Elizabeth Eaton: 1
• Rev. Christine Stoxen: 15	• Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman: 1
• Rev. David Pavesic: 10	• Rev. Beth Gallen: 1
• Rev. Jacqueline Pagel: 4	• Rev. Mari Larson: 1
• Rev. Steven Crittenden: 2	• Rev. Tim Leaf: 1
• Rev. Ryan Hersch: 2	• Rev. Don Loring: 1
• Rev. Tina Mills: 2	• Rev. Marta Poling-Schmidt: 1
• Rev. Jason Adams: 1	• Rev. Adele Resmer: 1
• Rev. Verónica Alvarez: 1	• Rev. Amalia Vagts: 1
• Rev. Gayle Bintliff: 1	• Rev. Kari Williamson: 1

Check out the photo of the ballot results screen. You may notice a familiar name in the righthand column...

If you want to watch the full assembly (or just parts of it) go to [gcsynod.org](http://gcsynod.org) and scroll down to 2024 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly Summary.

Reminder: We are again recording Sunday worship and posting to our YouTube channel. Just search for Spirit of Joy Clarkdale AZ on YouTube. Videos will be available for one month after they are posted. This is due to copyright issues. I am still trying to stream live, but am working out some bugs in the set up. The service will generally be posted by Sunday afternoon, evening.

*Pastor Sharon*



*Bishop Deborah Hutterer is installed for another six years.*

## July Birthdays

Steve Franklin	2
Mary Davis	12
John Diets	12
Mel'O'Dee Gaber	13
Patti Bays	17
Linda Ren	23
Doug Swenson	25
Chelsea Huber	31



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

## July Anniversaries



Huber, Richard & Barbara	11
Berlage, Tom & Hendrickson, Cindy	21

## Deaths

Please pray for the families of these departed members and former members:

Almond Peterson, Sid Stelpstra, Dick Nord, Jack Carter, Marsha Pritzel, Delores Fronko, Don Stone, Myra Piechowski, Violette Hansen, Randy Hoy, Karen & Mike Harvey

# Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive  
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324  
928-634-4102

Rev. Sharon Brown, Pastor  
pastor@sojaz.net

Rosie West, Office Manager  
officesoj@sojaz.net

Website:  
www.sojaz.net

Send prayer requests to:  
prayer@sojaz.net

Visit us at:  
www.facebook.com/sojaz

## REWARD PROGRAM

Spirit of Joy is the recipient of donations from the Fry's Community Rewards program. 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. Call the office for more details on enrolling.



## GREATER COTTONWOOD CHAMBER of COMMERCE



Share our Greater Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce *catalog*\* of upcoming events. You can scan this QR code or visit

<https://tinyurl.com/3yhke33y>



*Direct people to search for "church" and our listing will come up. Click on "catalog" (\*the phone app uses the term "display") to get to the informational brochure and schedule of events. Pastor will offer an informational session on accessing the Chamber page.*

## SUMMER BREAKS

The following groups will be taking a hiatus during the summer months. See you in September!

- ◆ Daytime Book Group
- ◆ Gather Bible Study
- ◆ WELCA will not have their regularly scheduled meeting during the summer months but will meet informally for breakfast at Denny's, same day and time.
- ◆ No Joyful Crafters during the month of July.
- ◆ No In-Reach/Outreach Team Meeting in July



## WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

July 7: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 14: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 21: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

## “Baptized We Live” Class

“Baptized We Live” classes will start on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm. The class should be about an hour. We will determine the rest of the schedule at that initial meeting. The books have arrived. If you need a copy, please see Pr. Sharon.



## FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next weekend, July 6th & 7th for our local food bank. Leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

(Please remember to check the expiration dates on food before donating.)

## JOYFUL MUSIC MAKERS

Join us as we Make a Joyful Noise every Sunday.

9:00am –Joyful Music Rehearsal

9:15am—Joyful Hymn Sing

11:00am—Joyful Music Rehearsal



All singers, instrumentalists and noise makers of all ages are welcome!



Spirit of Joy Church Family,

Thank you very much for the sympathy cards and kind words after our parents, Don & Peg Stone, passed away. We are grateful that they found a church home in Arizona with you. They met so many friends in your church community. We take comfort in our memories and knowing that they are now at peace and with God. Thanks again for your prayers,

Deb Brown and Julie Stone

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## DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

The Daytime Book Club will not be meeting in July. The list below is for summer reading for future discussions starting in August. If not already a participant, join this lively group in fall. Reminder: YLN (Yavapai Library Network) indicates all books available through the Cottonwood & Clarkdale libraries.

### Book List Updated June 1, 2024



1. *Flying Angels*, Danielle Steel, YLN, Reg, Lrg Prn, e-book
2. *When We Meet Again*, Kristin Harmel, YLN Reg Prn
3. *The Ride of a Life*, Elizabeth Letts Reg, Lrg Prn, e-book
4. *Thursday Murder Club*, Richard Osman, Reg, Lrg Prn, e-book, May 2024
  - a. *The Bullet That Missed*—Fall, 2024?
  - b. *The Man Who Died Twice*—Fall 2024?
  - c. *The Last Devil to Die*—Fall 2024??Items a, b, c are available in the YLN: Reg, Large Prn, e-audio, e-book, and Kindle
5. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* (Patty's recommendation), YLN available in Reg, Large Prn, e-audio, e-book, and Kindle
6. *The Women*, Kristin Hannah, YLN available in Reg, Large Prn, e-audio, e-book, and Kindle, audio book on CD
7. *The Winter Garden*, Kristin Hannah, YLN available in Reg, Large Prn, e-book, and Kindle
8. *The Bodies Keep Coming*, Dr. Brian Williams Reg, Large Prn, e-audio, e-book, and Kindle
9. *Cutting for Stone*, Abraham Verghese, YLN available in Reg Prn
10. *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah (an autobiography about his young life in South Africa), YLN available in Reg, Prn
11. *Demon Copperhead*, Barbara Kingsolver, YLN available in Reg, Large Prn, e-audio, e-book, Kindle and audio on CD



*Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*NEVER underestimate the power of prayer. I am humbled by your outpouring of prayer petitions, get well cards, texts and phone calls during my confinement. Patiently continuing to regain the resilience to which I was accustomed, albeit slowly.*

*I am forever grateful for your support.*

*Marianne Brennan*



## BACK TO SCHOOL SHOE DRIVE

This year marks Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Back to School Shoe Drive!" This event will take place during the last two weeks of July 2024. The goal is to collect NEW shoes to assist K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in our community who cannot afford proper shoes for school. Last year, we collected over 100 pairs of shoes! Our aim is to meet or exceed last year's success.

*Please consider sharing our "Back to School Shoe Drive" with neighbors and friends. It's easy. Pick a shoe size, purchase a pair of shoes, and bring them to the church by July 31<sup>st</sup>. The more shoes we purchase, the more students we help!!!*

Pastor Sharon will pray over the shoes before they are dispersed to Clarkdale-Jerome and Cottonwood Schools' nurses in August so they can give them to the children in need. It is an incredible way to "kick off" the school year!

Sizes that we need are:

Girls - 10 Children, 11C, 12C, 13C, 1 Youth, 2Y, 3Y, 4Y, 5Y, 6Y

Boys - 10 Children, 11C, 12C, 13C, 1 Youth, 2Y, 3Y, 4Y, 5Y, 6Y

Thank you, for helping us spread joy and shoes to the children in our community!



### Verde Valley Homeless Coalition Needs List

#### Greatest Needs:

- ◆ Blankets or comforters (twin and full size)
- ◆ One or two-person tents and tarps
- ◆ Sleeping bags
- ◆ Backpacks
- ◆ Men's pants/jeans waist size 28-34
- ◆ Men's and women's undergarments
- ◆ VOLUNEERS! A couple of hours a week is so helpful to the facility. When you sort and put away donations, or greet people at the door, every kind word and action counts!



Always helpful for those experiencing homelessness: reading glasses (only \$1.25 at Dollar Tree!), earbuds, can openers, pens, small pads of paper, slime for bicycle tires, razors, period products, band-aids and antibiotic ointment (or small first aid kits), foot powder, towels, washcloths, fingernail clippers, small sewing kits, lip balm, hair brushes, toothbrushes, "instant" any food product (oatmeal, noodles, soup, hot chocolate, single serve crackers, cookies, etc.)

Always helpful for the shelter: 13- and 35-gallon trash bags, coffee, sugar, disposable plates, bowls, disposable utensils, (real) coffee cups, dish soap, laundry soap, salt and pepper, mayo, mustard, ketchup, hot sauce, salsa, jam, jelly.

What we have no need for at this time:

- ◆ Socks
- ◆ Clothing, for now, unless a special need has been identified.
- ◆ Large bottles of shampoo/conditioner (travel size is always welcome). Remember, they have to carry these things.

# GRAND CANYON SYNOD ASSEMBLY— JUNE 13-15, 2024

Glena and I felt privileged to represent Spirit of Joy at the 2024 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly in Mesa.

It was all new for us as we had never attended a Regional Synod Assembly. Not knowing what to expect we just followed the agenda, helped with the service project, visited with exhibitors and attendees and participated in the Workshop sessions.

The highlight was the re-election of Bishop Deborah Hutterer on the First Voting Ballot receiving 75% of the qualified ballots.

We attended three of the workshops:

**Getting Your House in Order**—The workshop focused on End-of-Life Preparation. We all have good intentions but fail to plan ahead. This puts added burden on our family and our pastor. Nearly half of Americans over 55 do not have a Will. We need to encourage estate planning which includes Wills, Power of Attorney, funeral arrangements, endowments and planning for ways to support the mission of Christ and your Church.

**Hands on Church Physical**—This session was led by people from Las Vegas, Yuma and Scottsdale that had closed their church, sold their property or merged with another congregation. They centered on three signals of trouble: 1) elderly aging congregation, 2) fewer giving members & 3) growing budget deficit annually. Recognizing that many congregations are faced with having to identify and make major changes, the sooner the required information is gathered and analyzed the better chance of long-term survival. Most of the information can be obtained through ELCA's website. Even though funding seems to be the center of discussions, growth of the membership needs to happen. They provided a copy of a Congregational Assessment Survey that can be found on the website and recommended that it be used as a beginning point to identify strengths and weaknesses. The average age of serving pastors is 70. Ministry is changing its looks from the old traditional way in order to attract the younger generation. The overall feeling I got from the attendees was: "How are we going to survive!!!" It was recommended that a church start by having all of the members and guests complete a Congregational Assessment Survey, then check the ELCA website or Grand Canyon Synod reports for vitality. There are many reports available about your church that can be analyzed to help support decisions to be made.

**The Station Coffee Co.**—Crossroads Lutheran Church of San Tan Valley was brainstorming ideas to create a steady source of income for the Church and also benefit the community. The idea of a Coffee Shop in Florence surfaced and with assistance from various locals, found a historic building on Main Street in Florence, obtained a loan from the ELCA Foundation, and after remodeling opened the coffee shop with paid employees and an office manager. They are presently utilizing an area in the shop for outreach to meet with local people and also streaming the service on Sunday's during the winter months. So far, the shop has been profitable after debt servicing and paying all expenses. Thus providing funds to the Church monthly.

Tom & Glena Atkins

*You can view more photos and watch the entire assembly at [www.gcsynod.org](http://www.gcsynod.org)*



## OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be having lunch at  
Vinnie's Pizzeria on Sunday, July 7th at Noon. Join us!



# Bereavement Support Program

We understand that grief often begins long before death. When a life-limiting diagnosis is given, grief can begin. When the loved one is declining, grief may increase. When the loved one is in pain and suffering, grief may amplify. We also understand that the months following a death can be difficult and confusing.

We are here for you and committed to providing you with support as you walk this journey of grief. As each person has a unique experience with grief, we offer options within our bereavement program to meet your individual and family needs.

Our commitment to you and your family includes the following services:

- Support groups
- Individual counseling
- Family counseling
- Phone support
- Bereavement support newsletters
- Memorial services
- HospiceWePromise.com – our own online resource offering an in-depth look at hundreds of hospice topics including a dedicated grief support section.

In addition, our bereavement services continue for at least thirteen months after your loved one has passed.

**For more information on our bereavement program services, please call us today.**



203 S. Candy Lane, Suite 2A • Cottonwood, AZ 86326  
Phone: 928.639.6676 • Fax: 928.639.6078



## NORTHERN ARIZONA HOSPICE PRESENTS

### “A TIME TO TALK”

Small Groups for the Grieving Heart

Cottonwood Wednesdays—3-4pm, No AZ Hospice Office, 203 S Candy Ln, #2A  
Camp Verde Fridays—9-10am, Camp Verde Library, 130 Black Bridge Loop Rd

NO COST TO ATTEND—OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY



# Council Meeting Summary—June 19, 2024



The SOJ Church Council met in the Conference Room on June 19 at 4:30pm.

President Laura Stransky and Financial Officer Rich Alley were unable to attend and excused. Vice President Kim Densmore called the meeting to order.

Devotions were given by Dee Codner.

- Kim reported a donation of \$700 was received in memory of Myra Piechowski for the Annual Shoe Drive— \$200 for socks and \$500 for shoes.
- Kim presented the financial reports for Rich. Last month the offering fell short \$59 for the budget.
- Bill Taylor reported the fire alarm system had its annual testing and was found to be okay. The annual cost is \$500.
- Pastor reported Bishop Hutterer was re-elected to her position at the Synod Assembly in Tucson.
- Mick Shanahan expressed concern for members needing more help at home. Council agreed we each need to be aware of those needing our assistance and make a concerted effort to help as we are able.
- A report was presented on Laura Stransky's progress following her recent stroke. Many have been to visit which she has graciously appreciated. Mick reminded, and Susan agreed, that visits need to be kept short to not wear her out. She is also starting physical therapy now and that will also require rest periods. Please limit visits to no more than one hour.
- The Facility Policy was reviewed. Council approved the limited consumption of beer or wine on the premises but no hard liquor. Susan will update the policy to reflect.
- Thanks to Tom and Glenalee Atkins for attending the Synod Assembly. Thanks to Naomi Barcanic, Rita Dunn, and Susan Castle for their Thrivent donations. Thanks to the Cottonwood Fire Department for teaching the AED class. Thanks to the shoe drive donor for their generous donation. Thanks to Russ Haslow and Paul Graham for their work on the property.

The meeting adjourned at 6pm. Our next meeting will be August 21st.

Submitted by

Susan Bro, Secretary

## SPIRIT OF JOY CHURCH COUNCIL

### Officers

**Laura Stransky—President**  
klstransky@gmail.com; 970-749-2270

**Kim Densmore—Vice President**  
kim.densmore@yahoo.com, 928-274-2326

**Susan Bro—Secretary**  
npsbro@outlook.com, 928-254-7029

**Rich Alley—Finance Officer**  
norgerich@aol.com; 928-713-2961

### Liaisons

**Bill Taylor—Property**  
j\_and\_btay@outlook.com;  
928-202-3337 (h); 928-274-1321 (c)

**Mick Shanahan—Faith Formation**  
mobilrrtaz@gmail.com, 402-679-7990

**Ruth Tasa—In-Reach/Outreach**  
peng45@msn.com;  
928-634-0501 (h); 928-300-8779 (c)

**Deanna Codner—Worship**  
928-300-7138



# QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

In an effort to save on printing costs, Quarterly Contribution Statements are now being printed or emailed on demand.

If you would like to receive your latest Statement of Giving, please contact Rosie in the office.

<b>MEMORIALS, HONORS AND GIFTS</b> <b>June 2024</b>
<b>JOY PACKS</b> Mary Stelpstra Anita Young
<b>SHOE DRIVE</b> In Memory of Myra Piechowski

## Recurring Offerings

Rather than donating online, you can set up “bill pay” through your bank. Most banks have this service. You save yourself and the church the “transaction fee”. We have a number of folks who contribute this way. Checks generally take a week to get through the mail. See pastor or contact your bank for more information.



**PASTOR’S OFFICE IS GETTING A MAKE-OVER!**

## FINANCIAL REPORT—MAY 2024

### Operating Fund

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 15,358.22	\$ 15,417.59	\$ - 59.37

### Year-to-Date (Jan—May)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 89,849.79*	\$ 78,165.17	\$11,684.62

\*\$ 3,000 Grant from ELCS Grand Canyon Synod for Joy Packs  
 \$2,000 Grant from Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County for Joy Packs

### 5/31/2024 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$ 78,438.73
Mortgage Fund	3,252.14
Restricted Ministries	<u>16,672.56</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 98,363.43

### Board Restricted Fund

#### May

Board Restricted Income	Board Restricted Expenses	Net Income
\$ 348.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 348.00

### Year-to-Date (Jan—May)

Board Restricted Income	Board Restricted Expenses	Net Income
\$ 6,639.00*	\$ 7,377.60	\$ (738.60)

\*Thrivent Choice Dollars \$ 1,339.00      \*\*Landscaping/Water Repair \$ 6,068.07  
 Landscaping \$ 5,000.00                      AED (Defibrillator) \$ 1,209.53  
 WELCA Donation for Piano Repair \$300.00      Piano Repair \$ 400.00

### 5/31/2024 Ending Balance

Mortgage Principal	\$ 1,791.00
Building Fund	0.00
Landscaping Fund	1,911.02
Organ/Piano Fund	2,900.87
Restricted Undesignated	28,528.79
Restricted Designated	<u>3,340.70</u>
	\$38,472.38
Bank 11 month CD	\$ 10,000.00
Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance	\$ 2,413.32
Mission Investment Fund Mortgage Owed	\$141,791.93

# Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive  
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



## July Highlights

- 6/7—Food Bank Sunday
- 7—Out to Lunch Bunch at Vinnie's Pizzeria, Noon
- 11—WELCA Breakfast @ Denny's, 9:30am
- 11—Start of *Baptized We Live Classes*, Thursdays, 6:30pm



### SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

- Worship—Saturdays 4:30pm
- Worship—Sundays 9:30am
- Fellowship—following worship

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY, AMERICA!!**