

June

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Spirit of Joy

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summertime, and the living is..... different

Greetings! It has been wonderful to be able to gather in person the past few months. And now to have a bit more freedom in smaller gatherings. As we move into the warmer (hotter) summer days, we may have to adjust the worship schedule again. At our June Council meeting, we will decide the schedule for July. We are aware that those who may not have gotten vaccinated yet, or who wish to mitigate risk, want to continue to be able to be outside, so we will keep that option for as long as we can.



From the
Pastor

For the summer, we will be going off the Narrative Lectionary and turn to the stories of the Old Testament kings – Saul, David and Solomon. The summer readings also highlight Paul's letters to the Corinthians and Ephesians, plus a little nod to the book of James. My working preaching theme is "Leadership – Then and Now." We hope to be back to a more regular schedule by the fall, including Adult Forum and Sunday School. We just aren't sure of the exact schedule. I also hope to lead a membership/inquiry class for those who wish to learn about who we are as Christians, Lutheran 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. Look in future newsletters for more details and schedule. This will most likely start in the fall.

I know it has been a challenge to live through all these changes and pivots, but I think everyone feels a relief in being able to meet and greet each other, and participate in service events – like our very successful project to assemble Comfort Bags for unaccompanied minors going through the process of getting to their sponsors here in the U.S.

I attended a virtual continuing education event last month. The theme for the conference was – *Preaching for the Future Church*. The most important takeaway from all the sermons and lectures was the assurance that Christ has gone before us, Christ is with us now, and whatever our future, Christ will meet us there. I don't know if "getting back to normal" will be that future, but I do know God will lead us into the future promised in the person of Jesus Christ. Like God's message to the prophet Jeremiah when God's people were in exile:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

We trust in that future with hope.

In Christ,

Pastor Sharon

June Birthdays

Bill Taylor	1
Joan Klauke	3
Katy O'Batey	4
Connie Harms	5
Linnea Simpson	8
Ruth Hanson	9
Becky Keck	9
Sharon Ferkin	11
Eileen Sydow	13
Rosie Zimmerman	17
Jami Ash	20
Bruce Swenson	21



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

Anniversaries

Anderson, Roger & Marilyn	1
Mathe, Lisa & Joe	2
Stelpstra, Sid & Mary	6
Platt, Gretchen & Roy	8
Graham, Paul & Jan	10
Parkinson, Marie & Sturm, Richard	16
Suhr, Ken & Dee	17
Dunn, Roger & Rita	18
Swenson, Marlene & Bruce	29



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Sharon Brown, Pastor

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www.facebook.com/sojaz

Send prayer requests to:
prayer@sojaz.net

Deaths

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

Norma Davidson, Doyle Brakebill, Jan Sanderson and Janet Clark

Celebration of Life of **Bob Quin**—Saturday, June 19th, 10 am in the Courtyard

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. SOJ received \$25.73 for the 1st Quarter of 2021. Thank you!

Call the office for more details on enrolling.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

FOOD STORES
fry's

Jim Converse—President
Dave Tjelmeland—Vice President/
Property
Pam Moody—Secretary/Education



Marcia Shanahan—Finance
Ian Musil—In-Reach/Outreach Team
Jan Graham—Youth
Elizabeth Tavasci—Worship

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Our daytime book group will not be meeting in June and July but we'll possibly meet in August. Watch the newsletter for details.

The following books for fall discussions include:

The Beekeeper of Aleppo, author Lisa See

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats, author Jan Phillip Sendker

Band of Sisters, Lauren Willig (August book if we meet)

The Four Winds, Kristin Hannah

Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane, author Lisa See

Small Great Things, author Jodi Piccoult



Check the YLN website for availability. Happy reading!
Judy Haslow, text or call 928.301.1121 for more details.



FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next Sunday, June 6th, for our local food banks. Please leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

A GENEROSITY STORY

Growing up there were two most important books in our home that were referred to often. The Holy Bible that Dad used when giving devotions at the supper table, and the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Much was learned from both in how to be generous. The Sears catalog always marked their items GOOD, BETTER, BEST. Growing up my sisters and I became quite familiar with those ratings...whether it be on a washing machine for Mom or pairs of saddle shoes for us girls. Of course, Mom and Dad always had the final say on what product to buy...the GOOD one, the BETTER one, or the BEST one. When it came to clothes we sisters rarely agreed with their ratings! But they always explained to us the reason for their ratings. Mom would explain that if we got one item of clothing that was just BETTER, we may be able next time to get something that had a BEST rating. Well, you get the point. And as we grew, this rating system also became a lesson to us when it came to giving away our money to church and charities.. Do I buy those gorgeous \$150 pair of shoes or do I buy the \$50 pair of shoes so I can also give to a secular charity and my church?

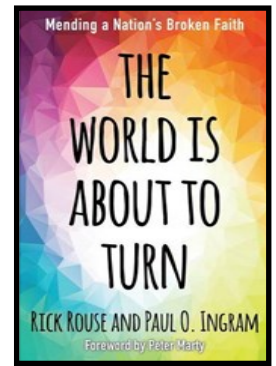
I'd say Mom and Dad were quite clever in exposing us to both those books. In their own way, each book talked about the importance of generosity in our lives. However, there is more to generosity than just dollars and cents. I learned that from my Mom. She was a generous person in how she interacted with others. She gave of her time to listen, I mean really listen. She never judged anybody, telling us always we do not walk in anyone else's shoes so we do not know the whole story. Who can say a generous charitable check is any more valuable than a listening, compassionate ear?

~ Naomi Barcanic

GLAD YOU'RE BACK!

Pastor Naomi - June 2021

I will be quoting from the authors. If I make a comment, it's in [] brackets



INTRODUCTION

“It is the tenth of November as we write this on the eightieth anniversary of Kristallnacht. Referred to as the ‘Night of the Broken Glass,’ this was the night of November 9-10, 1938, when German Nazis conducted a massive attack on Jewish persons and property. Throughout Germany and Austria, Jewish-owned stores and synagogues were seriously damaged ... while authorities looked on without intervening. What is so chilling is that only two weeks ago [October 27,2018] a lone gunman invaded the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh during Sabbath morning worship, killing eleven members of the congregation. It was reported to be the deadliest attack on Jews in US history.

“A government report indicated that there were alarming increases in attacks motivated by racial bigotry and religious bias, as well as a victim’s sexual orientation. While the report showed a nearly 23 per cent increase in religious-based crimes, those against Jews soared by 37 percent. What is so alarming is that this seems to reflect a serious erosion of our core values as Americans.

“Pastor Valerie Gittings of First Baptist Church in Fairmont, West Virginia suggests that religious people may be part of the problem when she says, **‘It breaks my heart that so many people now equate Christianity with against-ness: that Christians are against gay people, against women in ministry, against Muslims. That’s not the gospel. The gospel is a wonderful and astonishing message of love and compassion for a God who created all of us and would never, ever want someone to be cast out and separated from the community.’** [It reminds me of Rabbi Harold Kushner’s words “When did religion turn from how we are to love to whom it is okay to hate.”]nb

“It is said that the opposite of love is not hate but fear. Fear of the other often leads one to hate. And hate can lead to violence. (Intro. p.1)

“It is [the authors’] hope that this book can help summon our *better angels* as we seek a way forward to a more just and civil society as citizens and people of faith.

“Americans appear to live today in a culture of violence and fear of the other ... There is a concern that our country has lost its soul or at least its moral compass. People seem to have lost faith in most institutions, including government and even the church. Yet faith communities are intended to be agents of transformation and hope. We believe that the church, the synagogue, and the mosque all have important roles in the public square and can offer a space for open dialogue about basic core values that are found in a variety of religious traditions. We seek to offer a biblical and interreligious approach to the question of How does God intend for us to live well together in the common life?

“We begin this journey together with an analysis of how we arrived at this fragile time in history. We will look at what we consider the failure of the American religious experiment. We then turn to Judeo-Christian scripture and the writings of other faith traditions that reveal common values such as compassion, hospitality, justice, and care of creation.” (Intro. p. 2).

Chapter 1 begins next month!



In-Reach/Outreach Team

“Thank you” Spirit of Joy members, friends and WELCA for the wonderful donations for Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan Valley, AZ. Spirit of Joy was supported as a mission church by Christ Lutheran in Sedona many years ago and now you have all done likewise for the Crossroads Lutheran Church. Blessings to all of you for carrying out the call we as a committee extended.

In Reach/Outreach Team

Laura Stransky

Roger Dunn

Marie Parkinson

Judy Haslow

Ian Musil, council liaison

Pastor Sharon, ad hoc member



Again, Spirit of Joy members and friends: Our In Reach/Outreach Team says thanks for answering the call. Your contributions and working hands supported another Team Outreach Mission with Comfort Bags for Unaccompanied Minors at the border. Special thanks to those who contributed their Thrivent Action Team cards and all the workers that contributed to, organized, and packed the Comfort Bags. Special thanks to the Stelpstras for the knowledge and actions of obtaining Costco’s small-sized hygiene items AND delivery of these completed comfort bags to the LSS office in Phoenix. It is such a joy to see “*God’s Work, Our Hands.*”

In-Reach/Outreach Team Members

See p 10 for more pictures

Council Minutes from April 13th, 2021



Jim Converse called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Attendance: Pastor Sharon Brown, Jim Converse, Marcia Shanahan, Elizabeth Tavasci, Jan Graham and Pam Moody. Absent were Dave Tjelmeland and Ian Musil.

Devotions: Marcia provided devotions.

Correspondence:

Pastor Sharon mentioned an ELCA Church Together mailing she received.

Marcia received upcoming policy update thru State Farm which is routine but suggested Mary Stelpstra be advised.

WELCA has committed to match funds from the congregation up to \$500 until May 15th to support the Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan Valley.

Secretaries Report: Jan moved to accept the March minutes as presented with a second by Marcia. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Marcia reviewed the financial reports.

She said the mortgage rate has gone from 3% to 4% but because of the extra that has been paid throughout the first 10 years of the 20-year mortgage our payments will go from \$5919 down to \$2240. Marcia requested permission from the Council for herself and Jim Converse to sign whatever documents were necessary. Pam so moved and Jan seconded with a unanimous approval from the Council.

Pastor suggested building up a maintenance fund for future repairs.

The Council admits that we need to build up membership to help with finances. The Stewardship Committee will actively engage in this.

Executive Committee Action:

The Executive Committee met to discuss a survey for the membership regarding vaccinations and decided against that survey. Discussion within the Council of the best ways and when to begin coffee social time between services met with the decision to keep watch on what is happening and then make a final decision.

Volunteer appreciation was discussed.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor read her report (see attached) and a discussion of masks in the courtyard was held with the decision to continue to follow CDC guidelines.

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Ministry Team Reports

Christian Education: no report

In-Reach, Outreach and Social Ministry: no report

Property: Paul Graham reported the drip system has been acting up. He replaced three heads for \$15 each and has asked for a group of people to walk the entire drip system and check for issues. Pastor will announce from the pulpit.

The door to the Joy Pack room will be fixed.

Paul suggested we stay with B&W for fire system maintenance.

Worship: no report. The current schedule will be maintained.

Youth:

Jan said there were three kids at the Easter Egg Hunt and they had a ball!

Old Business:

Dave and Cheri Steinke will apply to the Synod Assembly nominations for Synod Council and Voting members for Church-wide Assembly in Ohio in 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will continue with current times for worship.

Discussion of going to one service in June was discussed but we decided to keep two services. We may change the times to accommodate fellowship.

Nancy is taking vacation the week of May 16. We will be using new music. Nancy's computer is on it's last leg and a new one will be needed soon.

Changing to a less expensive communion piece was discussed.

Next Regular Council Meeting: May 11, 2021 @ 5:30pm via Zoom

Devotions for next meeting: Pam will lead devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

June 6—2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1; Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20 [11:14-15]

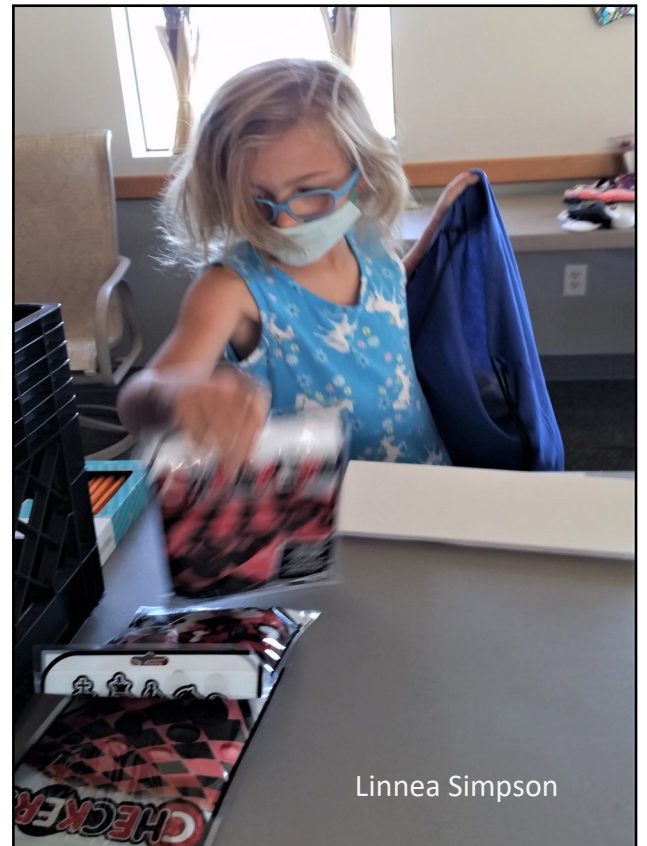
June 13—2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17; Psalm 20; Samuel 15:34—16:13

June 20—2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Psalm 133; 1 Samuel 17:57—18:5, 10-16

June 27—2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27



ASSEMBLING COMFORT BAGS



Linnea Simpson

Need an in-home communion kit or refills for participating during live on-line worship? Call or stop by the church office.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATUS—APRIL 2021

<u>Financial Status</u>	<u>Month of April</u>		<u>YTD 2021</u>
Income (Total Offering)	\$ 25,132		\$ 72,974
Needed Income (Budgeted)	\$ 21,588		\$ 86,355
Over/Under Budgeted Income	\$ 3,543		\$ (13,381)
Net Ordinary Income after Expenses	\$ 9,252		\$ 11,008
Change in Bank Balances	\$ 4,078		\$ (10,182)

Remaining Mortgage Balance	\$ 217,230
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The Spirit of Generosity

During the month of May we celebrated generosity through our 2021 stewardship appeal. The “Spirit of Generosity” theme highlighted the fact that God has provided us everything and we have enough, even enough to share. During the appeal, we mailed out 94 Intent cards and asked each of you to prayerfully consider your personal stewardship response for the coming year. To date, we have received 32 completed Intent statements. In reviewing those received, it is apparent that many of you were inspired to increase your stewardship commitment over the prior year. We are thankful for every single Intent received and encourage you to drop off, mail or email your Intent if you have not already done so. God Bless and thank you for your generosity!

WELCA Bible Study...



...will meet on Thursday, June 17th at 2pm via Zoom.
 We will be using the June study guide from our Gather magazine.
 All are welcome to join us!

Email Judy Haslow at: jccjmh45@gmail.com to be sent a Zoom invite.



LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive

Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

June Highlights

9am Worship in the Sanctuary and Livestreamed
10am Worship in the Courtyard

June 6—Food Bank Sunday
June 8—Council Meeting, 5:30pm via Zoom
June 11 & 12—Synod Assembly
June 17—Women's Bible Study, 2pm
June 20—Father's Day

