



Twenty-Five Years: Spirit of Boldness and Hope

As is the way of DRAFT schedules, they are likely to go through some revisions. During the anniversary month of March, we remember the **boldness** and **hopefulness** of our charter members as they moved forward into a new future.

On October 1, 1994, Pastor Peter Rose-Kamprath arrived in Cottonwood to minister to Spirit of Joy as our first called pastor; worship size was approximately 40. Pastor Rose-Kamprath was installed on August 13, 1995. Our Living Charter was signed January 29, 1995, and the congregation was recognized as an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) congregation in the Grand Canyon synod on April 23, 1995.

Worship was held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church up until 2010, when we moved to 101 S. Main Street in Cottonwood. Our office was in Suite D; Suite E was the Fellowship Suite, and Suite F was the Worship Center. This was the first time in our history that our office and worship space were located in the same building!

GUEST SPEAKER

To coincide with the theme of boldness and hope, we have invited Charlotte Shurtz from Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of the Southwest to speak between services on March 15th, and an additional community-wide presentation at 1:00pm, including ways to advocate for fair and compassionate policies and treatment for those fleeing harm's way and a better life. She will share with us the ministry to refugees and asylum seekers being done by LSS offices in Phoenix and Tuscon.

We are a church formed from and by immigrants. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and LSS have been doing refugee resettlement for over 80 years, and quite possibly assisted one of our own ancestors when they came to this country. Boldness and Hope certainly describes the attitude needed as a refugee.

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

We will be assembling much needed diaper kits for Charlotte to take back with her. We will assemble them during Sunday School and fellowship hour beginning March 1st. Cash contributions to help purchase items for these kits are needed. Just mark your offering envelope – LSS Kits. Charlotte says they “also always need gently used toys that can be collected from people’s home if your kids/grandkids no longer use them. Or Goodwill always has good toys for a few dollars. Please sanitize toys with Clorox-like wipes before donating. We then deliver the toys to families. Many refugee children have their vital needs met, but few receive toys. So this is a great opportunity to spread joy and foster development in little children. **NO SMALL PARTS OR SMALL TOYS PLEASE, AS THEY CONSTITUTE A CHOCKING HAZARD :)**”

Pastor Sharon
Laura Stransky, Committee Chair

March Birthdays

- 1 – Claudia Converse
- 3 – Jan Graham
- 6 – Jim Converse
- 9 – Ed Womack
- 10 – Liz Lombardi
- 12 – Sherri Zwetzig
- 13 – L. K. Fredericksen
- 13 – Micah Swenson
- 15 – Kylie Densmore
- 16 – Pat Ruese
- 22 – Jennifer Musil
- 28 – Ian Musil
- 29 – Eric Young



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



Anniversaries

- 5 – Barry & Janet Clark

Deaths

Please pray for the families of the recently departed...

Barbara Lattanzi—died January 22, 2020
Celebration of Life at SOJ on Saturday, May 23rd.

Jan Vargas—died January 26, 2020
Memorial Service to be announced.

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!!

 **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

Mon-Wed-Thur-Fri
Office closed Tuesdays
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

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.

25th Anniversary NEWS

Theme for FEBRUARY of our Anniversary year —“Spirit of NEW BEGINNINGS.”

WOW! SOJ helped make a “new beginning” for students at Cottonwood Community school!

You helped where help was needed.

A great big THANK YOU! to all who gave SHOES and SOCKS to help fill this need.



What's our theme for March of Anniversary year?

Glad you asked! (see Pastor Sharon's front page letter.)

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be going to Denny's on Sunday, March 1st at 12:30pm.

All are welcome...invite your friends and neighbors to join us.
Call the office by noon on Friday, February 28th to reserve your seat at the table!



PLAN AHEAD FOR LENT

Our Lenten theme is using the book “**Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise**” by Richard Beck. This book, written in 2017, is widely available online. Thursday evening homilies will be centered on the chapters in the book.



Ash Wednesday is February 26th

There will be a service at 12 Noon and 7:00 pm.
Both will feature the imposition of ashes and communion.

Wednesdays, starting March 4th

Lenten prayer service at Noon.

Thursdays, starting March 5th

Soup Supper at 6 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer liturgy at 7:00 pm.
There is no charge for supper, but we will accept donations.

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving

We are invited to journey with our neighbors in hope for a just world where all are fed.
Study guide and resources will be available Ash Wednesday.

President: Micah Swenson
Vice President: Susan Bro
Secretary: Donna Woodruff
Finance Officer: Marcia Shanahan
Facilities: Dave Tjelmeland
Christian Education: Susan Bro



In-Reach: Marie Parkinson
Outreach: Donna Woodruff
Social: Jim Converse
Stewardship: Micah Swenson
Worship: Jan Graham
Youth: Micah Swenson

“Living in God’s Kingdom”

Living in God’s Kingdom is not always easy. We face challenges on a daily basis, choices and decisions to make. But we are invited to put on the whole armor of God and welcome the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit as we face these challenges.

We will hear from Marie Parkinson on senior scams and ways to be aware of and protect ourselves from them. We will have another chance in a Ministry Fair to hear about opportunities to live our faith by serving the church and community and learn more about our faith in the various Bible studies, classes, and presentations. We will hear from Charlotte Shurtz of the work of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest in a special presentation for all in the sanctuary. And will discuss with “Rabbi” Torrey and each other the important question, “Why Did Jesus Die for Us?” March will be a full and challenging month!

- 3-1-2020 “Senior Scams” Marie Parkinson -- BS1
- 3-8-2020 Ministry Fair Sunday – Fellowship Hall
- 3-15-2020 “Refugee Resettlement” – Charlotte Shurtz, Lutheran Social Services of the SW -- Sanctuary; also at 1 pm
- 3-22-2020 “Why Did Jesus Die for Us?” 1 – Torrey Barcanic – BS1
- 3-29-2020 “Why Did Jesus Die for Us?” 2



Verde Valley Homeless Coalition Update

Verde Valley Homeless Coalition is seeking volunteers who are dependable, caring, and have a commitment to serve. Please call Naomi Barcanic, 928-634-5457, even if you just have questions!

Big Changes Are Here... Box Tops for Education (Collected for Navajo Lutheran Mission School at Rock Point)

Each Box Top is still worth 10 cents for the school. No more coupon clipping is required for the new “scannable” product items. Box Tops has a new Mobile App available FREE from the App Store or Google Play. This must be used to **scan the store receipt** (it will search for qualifying products).



Box Top\$ For Education New Product Label

If you see this label the receipt must be scanned within 14 days of purchase. It will apply the 10 cents per qualifying item to the account for [Navajo Lutheran Mission School](#). If you have questions, please contact Jan Taylor. Place any old style “Box Tops” in the container in the Fellowship Hall piano area. Thank you for your support! Many churches together make this project a winner!

LOOK for the **EXPRESS CHECK OUT LIBRARY BOX** in the church narthex!

There are six books waiting to get checked out.

1. Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom

What happens when an 82 year old Rabbi asks one of his former students who has not only left town, but also left God behind? It's the author's personal story.

2. Unafraid of the Dark—A Memoir by Rosemary L. Bray

Her ability to rise to her challenges as a child of the working poor is an inspiration and encouragement to the disheartened everywhere.

3. Raising Nonviolent Children in a Violent World by Dr. Michael Absatz

Great to share with the kids you know, but also a refresher course for any age.

4. The Signature of Jesus on the Pages of Our Lives by Brennan Manning

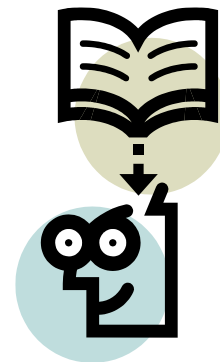
Readers are urged to take the risk to live what we say we believe.

5. 40 Day Journey with Madeleine L'Engle - A Devotional

The heart that rests in God is one that lives with deeper awareness, deeper creativity, deeper energy, & deeper commitment to the things that matter to God.

6. The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

What wisdom would we impart if we knew it was our last chance? What would we want as our legacy? Read how the author answers those questions for himself.



Summary of January's Adult Forum on the Book of Job:

1. God does NOT cause suffering.
2. Job was NOT patient
3. It's NOT just about us. Every creature—human & nonhuman—plus land and sky and bodies of water are ALL important to God. **THINK GLOBALLY NOT LOCALLY.**

IN-REACH/OUT-REACH/SOCIAL MINISTRIES

- ◆ Another congregational Open House will take place on Saturday, March 7th, 2-5pm, hosted by Kip and Laura Stransky as a "Thank You" for all the help they received after their home flooded a year ago. Please RSVP by calling 970-749-2270 or email klmn2@frontier.net.
- ◆ We are looking forward to the SOJ Volunteer Ministry Fair on Sunday, March 8th in the Fellowship Hall between services. This is a great way to learn about the different SOJ organizations and activities and how you can get involved.
- ◆ Lenten Soup Suppers start Thursday, March 5th. Scheduled servers are as follows:

March 5: In-Reach/Outreach/Social Ministries	March 12: WELCA
March 19: Church Council	March 26 & April 2: TBD

Circle the date!! April 8, 2020, 4:30-6:30pm

Rabbi Bernie will be with us as he brings the Seder Meal to SOJ.
Join him in remembering the Jews' escape from Egypt in this special meal.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



January 30, 2020

Thank you

Spirit of Joy Lutheran church
330 Scenic Dr
Clarkdale, AZ 86324-3740

Dear Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$215.00 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your leadership in the vital ministries that we do together—and for your very good gift!

In God's abundant grace,

Rachel Wind
Executive for Development

WELCA NEWS



WELCA met February 13th and planned Eleanor Bohm's memorial luncheon for February 29th after the 11 am service. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 12th. Also, WELCA will provide for the Lenten Soup Supper on March 12th.

Diane Griffith and Lisa Mathey will co-chair. We now have a full board for 2020!

All women are welcome at WELCA, which meets 2nd Thursday at 9 am.

We need more items for the treasure table in fellowship hall...then we'll get more sales!
Our check for over \$3000 went to Lutheran Disaster Response. Thanks for your support.

Jan Graham, Eileen Sydow

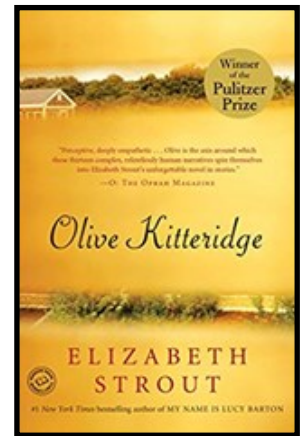
DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 26, 2020, 2:00pm

Olive Kitteridge

Elizabeth Strout, 2008

Random House, 286 pp., ISBN-13: 9780812971835



Summary

Winner, 2009 Pulitzer Prize

At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large.

But she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her: a lounge musician haunted by a past romance; a former student who has lost the will to live; Olive's own adult child, who feels tyrannized by her irrational sensitivities; and her husband, Henry, who finds his loyalty to his marriage both a blessing and a curse.

As the townspeople grapple with their problems, mild and dire, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life—sometimes painfully, but always with ruthless honesty. *Olive Kitteridge* offers profound insights into the human condition—its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires.

Join us for a discussion of this book on Thursday, March 26th in the Conference Room.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATUS

<u>Financial Status</u>	<u>Month of January</u>		<u>Year-To-Date 2020</u>
Income (Total Offering)	\$ 17,237		\$ 17,237
Needed Income (Budgeted)	\$ 22,226		\$ 22,226
Over/Under Budgeted Income	\$ (4,989)		\$ (4,989)
Net Ordinary Income after Expenses	\$ 1,216		\$ 1,216
Change in Bank Balances	\$ (3,786)		\$ (3,786)

Remaining Mortgage Balance	\$ 296,026
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Please note: The difference between Net Ordinary Income and the Change in Bank Balances is the principal portion of our mortgage payments.

Science and Religion Lecture Series



Left: Ken Zoll, Executive Director of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in Camp Verde, presents a lecture on "Ancient Native American Astronomical Practices" to a gathering of approximately 80 people as part of the 2020 Religion and Science program which took place here at SOJ each Sunday during the month of February. Other participants in the program were Wayne Ranney, geologist and authority on Antarctica, Samantha Gorney, Deputy Director of Education at the Lowell Observatory and Georgia Braithwaite, Spirit of Joy member and Botanist.



Right: Samantha Gorney responds to questions at her recent Religion and Science lecture program. Her talk was entitled "We are the Same, Only Different: A Profound Story of Connection Revealed by Science".

The 2020 Religion and Science series is part of our participation in the Clergy Letter Project, an association of religious leaders and scientists who believe there is no necessary conflict between religion and science.

January 6, 2020

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
Women of the ELCA
330 Scenic Dr
Clarkdale, AZ 86324



Dear Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$508.37. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Thanks to your support, Women of the ELCA is always busy with life-changing ministry throughout the church. Synodical women's organizations are busy with conventions, gatherings, and all kinds of other programs. Your 21 elected churchwide board members and 10 churchwide staff members are preparing for the Eleventh Triennial Convention—and you know how much is going on in your congregational units!

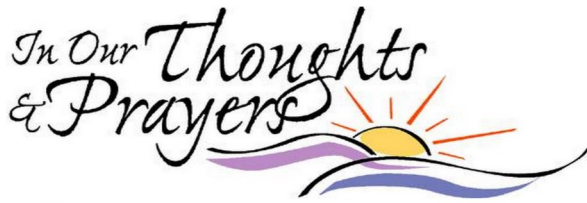
Our Gathering coming up in Phoenix in July of 2020, will be a life-changing event for all who take part. Will I see you there? I hope so! Take a look at www.welcatg.org for more information—and to register for the Gathering.

Your generosity makes all this possible, and so much more. Thank you. To learn more about our ever-growing work together, please see www.womenoftheelca.org.

Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Linda Post Bushkofsky
Executive Director



Our Prayer List

as of 2-19-20

SOJ Members and Friends Valerie Behnke, Dave Steinke, Karen Harvey, Doug & Jan Sanderson, Lisa Mathe, Dottie Sperger, Dee Fronko, Norma Davidson, Dave & Connie Harms, Sam Chaudoin, L. K. Fredericksen, Joe Mathe, Tom Griffith, Marilyn Howisey, Roger & Rita Dunn, Luis Vargas, Lisa Simpson, Carolyn Ward

Friends, Neighbors, Family Members

Health Concerns: Jim & Marilyn, Pat, Judy, Ian, Peter, Ellen, Mark, Vernon, Bob, Kailee, Luis, Kailee, Bill, Dawn, Lars, Len, Julie, Jarrett, Linda, Kitty, Ann, Anita, JD, Hannah and baby, Anita, Bobbie, Joyce, Tom and family, Lynne, Denein, Mateo, Elizabeth, Chris, Jeff, Kris, Rick, Bonnie

Fighting Cancer: Margaret, Fred, Jim, Laurie, Christina, Moriah, Alyce, Brad, Jerry, Lisa, Laura, Heather, Manny, Barbara and David, Allison, 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, Judy

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, the family of Eleanor Bohm, the family of Don Bays, the family of Gerry Knaeble, the family of Ann, Jeanette and family, the family of Jan Vargas, the family of Barbara Lattanzi, the family of Rev. Herb Chilstrom

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

March 1: Mark 10:17-31; Psalm 19:7-10

March 8: Mark 10:32-52; Psalm 34:11-14

March 15: Mark 12:1-12,[13-17]; Psalm 86:8-13

March 22: Mark 12:28-44; Psalm 89:1-4



Weekend Worship Leaders for March

Volunteers are needed in all areas of worship during the month of March. Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex for Greeters, Ushers, Readers, and Communion Assistants. Thank you!



Spirit of Joy

LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

Office Hours

As of March 1st, the office will be open on
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 11am—3pm.



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

LENTEN WORSHIP
Wednesdays—Noon
Thursdays—7pm—
Holden Evening Prayer

Some March Highlights

- Mar 1—Out to Lunch Bunch goes to Denny's, 12:30pm
- Mar 2—In-Reach/Outreach/Social Ministries mtg, 10am
- Mar 4—Lenten Prayer, Noon
- Mar 5—Soup Supper, 6pm, Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm
- Mar 7—Open House at Stransky's, 2-5pm
- Mar 8—Ministry Fair between worship services
- Mar 11—Lenten Prayer, Noon
- Mar 12—WELCA meeting, 9am
- Mar 12—Soup Supper, 6pm, Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm
- Mar 15—Charlotte Shurtz, Lutheran Social Svcs, 10am, 1pm
- Mar 18—Lenten Prayer, Noon
- Mar 18—Council Meeting
- Mar 19—Women's Bible Study, 2pm
- Mar 19—Soup Supper, 6pm, Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm
- Mar 25—Lenten Prayer, Noon
- Mar 26—Daytime Book Group
- Mar 26—Soup Supper, 6pm, Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm