



Glad to be back!

Returning from vacation to double-digit temperatures has been a welcome shift from mid-September. I want to thank Pastor Gwen Brandfass and Jim Butler for covering for me during my absence. And also all those folks that made sure things ran smoothly while Pat and I were enjoying our family and friends and time at the lake. I feel like now is the time to “hit the ground running”. This month we begin Adult Forum, host a speaker from Lutheran Social Services, Hannah Miller, and we celebrate Reformation Sunday on the 31st. I would like to welcome new members (some who joined months ago) on that Sunday.



Please take the time to read through the newsletter. Much is going on – book groups, committees, Joy Pack ministry, Torrey’s Monday/Tuesday class on Philippians, not to mention the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 3rd! Council is gearing up for the Annual Meeting on November 14th. The nominating committee will be seeking out those who are willing to serve in a leadership capacity. Please prayerfully consider your response to an invitation to serve. Or step up and volunteer. This is YOUR church, and our community thrives with the contribution of time and talents from all.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sharon

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church of the Verde Valley will take place on Sunday, Nov. 14th, at 10:15am in the Worship Center. All are welcome to attend. (Members have voice and vote, Associate Members have voice but no vote, friends of the congregation have neither voice nor vote.)

Committee leader annual reports must be emailed to the office no later than Monday, October 18th.

Synod Grants Program – APPLICATION TIME SENSITIVE!

From the synod website:

The Project Support Grant is available for a specific, new or continuing project that serves one or more of the Grand Canyon Synod Strategic Plan goals (Communicate Jesus; Connect People; Create Possibilities); the maximum amount awarded is \$8,000.

*Priority funding this year will be given to projects that seek to mitigate the effects of the current pandemic; examples include, but are not limited to, **food insecurity, unemployment, homelessness, health inequities, and production of online worship opportunities.***

The deadline is October 15th

With our expanded online presence, we plan to apply for a grant to fund a part-time Audio/Visual/Website Technician and perhaps the purchase of additional equipment that may be recommended.

If you have a particular project idea, please contact me immediately to see whether we can make that application deadline. There is an extensive form that needs to be filled out approved by Council (next meeting 10/12) and submitted by the 15th. More information is available on the synod website: <https://www.gcsynod.org/grants>.

October Birthdays

Ray Kaminski	4
Patty Tjelmeland	10
Sharon Brown	16
Joe Mathe	19
Becky Brakebill	30



October Anniversaries



© wondercliparts.com

Knutson, Bob & O'Batey, Katy	4
Prigge, Jim & Sandy	6
Brown, Sharon & Pat	13

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

Deaths

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

L. K. Frederickson and Max Panzer

Memorial donations for L. K. Frederickson can be sent to St. Jude's Hospital or American Cancer Society in AZ.

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Sharon Brown, Pastor

officesoj@sojaz.net

www.soj@sojaz.net
www.facebook.com/sojaz

Send prayer requests to:
prayer@sojaz.net



**MOTORIZED CHAIR
AVAILABLE**

Contact Mary Ann Schulz
928-639-2167

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.

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
Dave Steinke—Recently appointed

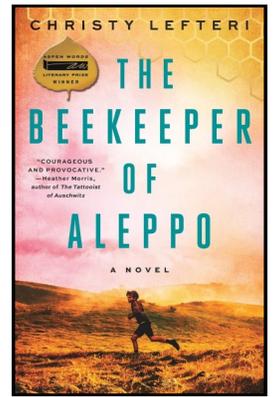
DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

The Beekeeper of Aleppo

Christy Lefteri, 2019

Random House 336 pp.

ISBN-13: 9781984821218



Summary

This unforgettable novel puts human faces on the Syrian war with the immigrant story of a beekeeper, his wife, and the triumph of spirit when the world becomes unrecognizable.

Nuri is a beekeeper and Afra, his wife, is an artist. Mornings, Nuri rises early to hear the call to prayer before driving to his hives in the countryside. On weekends, Afra sells her colorful landscape paintings at the open-air market. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the hills of the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo—until the unthinkable happens. When all they love is destroyed by war, Nuri knows they have no choice except to leave their home. But escaping Syria will be no easy task: Afra has lost her sight, leaving Nuri to navigate her grief as well as a perilous journey through Turkey and Greece toward an uncertain future in Britain.

Nuri is sustained only by the knowledge that waiting for them is his cousin Mustafa, who has started an apiary in Yorkshire and is teaching fellow refugees beekeeping. As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss but dangers that would overwhelm even the bravest souls. Above all, they must make the difficult journey back to each other, a path once so familiar yet rendered foreign by the heartache of displacement.

Moving, intimate, and beautifully written, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a book for our times: a novel that at once reminds us that the most peaceful and ordinary lives can be utterly upended in unimaginable ways and brings a journey in faraway lands close to home, never to be forgotten.

Join us on October 28th at 2pm via a hybrid Zoom meet. Those who cannot come to the church will receive a Zoom invite from Judy Haslow. All are welcome to participate in the discussions!



FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected this weekend, October 2nd & 3rd for our local food bank.

Please leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

Calling All Creatures Great and Small! 14th Annual Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 3rd, 2 pm

Bring your beloved animals for a treat and a special blessing Sunday, October 3rd at 2 pm in the parking lot. Cats, dogs, and other friendly creatures will receive a hands-on blessing and prayer from Pr. Sharon.

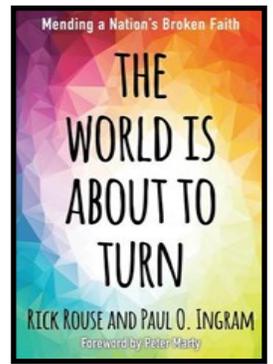
Be sure to have them properly leashed or kenneled for their own safety!



THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN

Pastor Naomi - October 2021

Summary of Chapter One Continues



“How can *salvation* be believed when we refuse to save refugees, or *hope* grasped when we deny it to immigrants, or *justice* pursued when we refuse it to the oppressed, or *faith* accepted when we don’t have faith in those different from us, or *love* known when we deny it to our neighbors, strangers, and even our enemies?”

Where Do We Go from Here?

“The changing religious and political landscape offers incredible challenges as well as opportunities. One need only connect the dots to see how we arrived at our present situation of a polarized climate laced with bigotry, misogyny, and a lack of civility. Societal critics argue that America has lost its way, and we appear to have abandoned such core values as hospitality, fairness, and mutual respect. As a result, it appears Americans may be more divided today than during the Civil War. How do we find common ground so that we can move forward together into a more just and hopeful future?”

“America was founded on a number of freedom principals that are embedded in the US Constitution. (1) the freedom to practice one’s religion without fear of persecution; (2) the freedom of speech and the right to express one’s opinion without fear of reprisal; (3) the freedom of the press to ensure that those in position of power are held accountable; (4) the freedom of public assembly that allows for citizens to legally gather in protest or to campaign for a cause they think is right; (5) the freedom to bear arms in order to protect oneself and one’s country. These freedoms were not necessarily carved out of the Judeo-Christian tradition as some believe, but rather were intended to protect the citizens of a new land against the tyranny and abuse of power they had experienced in Europe. Most of all, these freedoms were intended for the ‘common good’ in America and to promote the welfare of all its citizens. In our individualistic culture of today, that spirit has been lost on those who revel in the partisan divide, claiming their cause is righteous while demonizing those who disagree.

“There is even a growing rift among those of the Christian tradition. Theologian Marcus Borg offers the following observation: *We live in a time of a deeply divided Christianity...Rather, the major division is between what I call ‘an earlier Christian paradigm’ and an ‘emerging Christian paradigm,’ between a belief-centered way of being Christian and a transformational-centered way of being Christian. To use conventional labels the division is between conservative and progressive Christians. The former are commonly called evangelical Christians, both by themselves and others. The latter are found mostly in mainline denominations.*

“Most recently a group of spiritual leaders from mainline American Protestant denominations issued a manifesto called ‘Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis.’ Their main argument suggests that those of the Christian persuasion must begin by understanding the basic message of Jesus and then measure all actions and pronouncements by the gospel’s admonition to ‘love they neighbor.’

“This is a testing time for the country as a whole, but a moment that presents a particular challenge to the Christian Churches. The battle within Christianity (and not just in the United States) can be defined in many ways. It is at least in part between those who would use faith as a means of excluding others on the basis of nation, culture, and too often race, and those who see it as an appeal to conscience, a prod to social decency—and yes, an invitation to love. We are proposing a way forward for a culture that has become confused and conflicted. The promise of our society lies in our ability to envision a new future that is just, fair, and true. (pp 12-15)

[Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.] Sy Miller, Jill Jackson

Get ready for Chapter Two!

Pastor Naomi

IN-REACH / OUTREACH NEWS

Hannah Miller, Director of Community Engagement from Lutheran Social Services will be our guest speaker on October 17th. She will attend some of Adult Forum to give a brief invitation to her talk following worship.



Verde Valley Annual Fall Festival

In Reach/Outreach Team is again sponsoring a booth at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds 9th Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 30th from 8am-4 pm. Please help SOJ spread the good news of who we are at SOJ. What a great time to share the historical beginnings of Halloween and how the Mexican communities celebrate Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead) associated with the Catholic All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebrations on November 1st & 2nd.

This will be an event for children, but also a time for adults to fully understand how these two holidays intertwine or overlap.

For this event to be successful we need volunteers to man the booth and donations of the following: bottled water and prizes for the games (corn hole and pin the nose on the pumpkin) and a coloring table. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for tending the booth. If you have questions, please call team members.

In Reach/Outreach Team

Marie Parkinson Laura Stransky Roger Dunn Ruth Tasa Connie Harms Judy Haslow

Our In Reach /Outreach Team continues to encourage everyone to share with our NE Arizona neighbors, the Navajo Nation. Kate Adelsman, director, lists the following in their newsletter:

WISH LIST! HERE ARE CURRENT PROJECT NEEDS PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN



- Sheets, twin and queen size
- Pillows and pillow protectors
- Reading books for children
- *Diyin God Bizaard*, The Holy Bible in Navajo language. Available at American Bible Society
- 4—mini-split air conditioners for Navajo Mission Preparatory School classrooms - \$2,500 each
- 2—75" SMART Boards with computer interface - \$6,000 each
- 5—52" round classroom tables (\$160 each) and 24 chairs (\$30 each)
- Guest House bathroom addition - \$4,500
- Padded stackable chairs for House of Prayer worship center \$60 each

The In Reach/Outreach Team is also sponsoring the Christmas Drive for LSS. We are asking for donations of new queen sized bed sheets for older adults and people with disabilities. Any abundance of donated sheets will be distributed to people in need across our programs, including people experiencing homelessness, new refugee arrivals, and children in foster care. Your gift of new sheets preserves the dignity and respect of our neighbors. These donations must be delivered by December 13 to the LSS office.

Our Team suggests you directly contribute to NELM at www.NELM.org, click on Make a Donation.

Council Minutes from August 10, 2021



Dave Tjelmeland called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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

Devotions: Dave provided devotions to open the meeting.

Correspondence: None

Secretary's Report: was accepted as corrected to show accurate attendance and to correct role titles under Old Business.

Financial Report:

- The reports provided by Marcia were reviewed and the advertising expenses and placement were discussed.
- Marcia moved that we accept the financials as submitted and Elizabeth seconded. Reports accepted unanimously.

Executive Committee Action: An email vote was held between Council meetings regarding the worship schedule for this fall.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reviewed her report (see attached).

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Christian Education**—Pastor mentioned plans for Adult Forum and for a Faith in Motion exercise.
- **In-Reach, Outreach and Social Ministry**—The shoe project is going well. The committee is also considering participation in the Fall Festival at the Fairgrounds.
- **Property**—Paul Graham gave a detailed report about the air conditioning systems and informed Council we will be receiving a proposal for installing filters and servicing the A/C units. He also reported another unit on the SW side stopped working and he was able to fix it with a part he had on hand from his home system which he will donate.
- **Worship and Youth**—Pastor will be blessing backpacks this coming Sunday. We may try to do something in addition to that to celebrate the return to school.

Old Business: Dave Steinke has agreed to join the Council to fill the open seat resulting from Sue Bro's resignation last year. Council voted unanimously to appoint Dave to this position. He will also start training with Marcia to take over the Finance Officer duties for 2022. There is one additional open seat on the Council.

New Business:

- Marcia reported back regarding her research on the possibility of a Red Cross blood drive on our campus. Discussion was held and the decision was made to go forward for a drive in early November. We will need to recruit 25-30 donors for a successful drive.

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- Discussion was held regarding recent rise in COVID cases in Yavapai County, opening and closing volunteers for September, and arrangements for Fellowship hour to start up in September. Handwritten notes to people who helped with the Saturday work day will be sent.

Next Regular Council Meeting: September 14, 2021 @ 5:30pm via Zoom. (Pr. Sharon will be gone.)

Devotions for next meeting: Elizabeth will lead devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATUS—AUGUST 2021

Financial Status	Month of August		YTD 2021
Income (Total Offering)	\$ 11,853		\$ 125,440
Needed Income (Budgeted)	\$ 21,589		\$ 172,710
Over/Under Budgeted Income	\$ (9,736)		\$ (47,270)
Net Ordinary Income after Expenses	\$ (2,490)		\$ 5,514
Change in Bank Balances	\$ (3,714)		\$ (29,084)
Remaining Mortgage Balance		\$	203,643

As the summer months progress, we continue to experience a shortfall in giving to cover our expenses. The above chart shows we used an additional \$3,714 of our cash reserves during the month of August and year-to-date have used \$29,084 of our reserves. Please also note the opportunity to help offset costs of necessary air conditioning repairs elsewhere in this newsletter. God bless!

ATTENTION COMMITTEE LEADERS!

Committee reports for the 2021 Annual Report are to be emailed to Rosie at: officesoj@sojaz.net no later than Monday, October 18th. Thank you!

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



ADULT FORUM

ADULT FORUM

Lutheranism as a Way of Life.

That's the subtitle for Daniel Erlander's book "Baptized we Live". Join us in the Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 8:30am beginning October 3rd for Adult Forum, as we look at Christianity through a Lutheran lens: A way of seeing, hearing, teaching and following Christ. A sign-up to order books is in the Narthex. Books cost is \$4.50 and will be distributed the first day of class. We will try to break at 9:15am to prepare for worship. A Zoom meeting link will be sent out a couple of days before so that those who prefer to attend virtually can join the meeting live. We will not record the Zoom meeting. Hope to see you there!

Pastor Sharon

*Autumn...the season that teaches us
that change can be beautiful.*

WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

Oct. 3—John 8:58; Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17
Oct 10—John 6:51; Exodus 16:1-18
Oct 17—John 20:21-23; 1 Samuel 3:1-21
Oct 24—John 7:24; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14
Oct 31—John 2:19-21; 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13



Join Us. Save Lives.
Be Proud.



Spirit of Joy Veterans Day Blood Drive

Monday, November 15, 2021
9:00am—2:00pm

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
330 Scenic Drive, Clarkdale, AZ 86324

Join us in honoring our veterans by donating blood.

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Sponsor Code: Joy



WELCA Bible Study...

...will meet on Thursday, October 21st at 2pm in the Conference Room
Call Judy Haslow if you prefer to join via Zoom.
We will be using the Session Two Bible Study Guide from the Sept/Oct.

WELCA NEWS



September 9, 2021, 9 AM at Georgie's Cafe. Seven ladies in attendance including Pastor Sharon.

- It was decided that WELCA at SOJ would continue its meetings, as it was agreed that members enjoy the social interaction in a service capacity to SOJ.
- Dee Suhr and Marie Parkinson are the new co-presidents for the next year. Deanna Codner continues to be the secretary pro-tem. Dee Suhr will contact Vi Hanson regarding the treasurer's position, as Dee is co-signer on the WELCA bank account.
- Discussion regarding future projects:
 - ◇ Taste of Christmas: Food items for sale is questionable at this time due to COVID concerns. (Maybe coffee and hot apple cider and purchased individually wrapped snack items for a nominal fee?). Instead, we could have a craft show and/or a church rummage sale similar to the one we had the last time in the courtyard. It was noted that Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is having their annual craft fair the first weekend of December, and in the past years, Cottonwood also held the Christmas Parade.
 - ◇ Pastor Sharon encouraged WELCA organizers ask for help from the congregation to promote community comraderie.
 - ◇ WELCA is open to any other ideas for events this year.
 - ◇ Coffee and snacks have resumed in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday service. To be a Host or Hostess, please sign the Fellowship schedule. (You have your choice of dates.)

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 am on October 14th in the Fellowship Hall, at which time a pantry clean-up will commence. Ruth Tasa and Patti Bays are the co-hostesses. Church member participation would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted: Dee Suhr, Marie Parkinson, Deanna Codner

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all of you who so graciously reached out to me with your thoughts, prayers and cards during the past few months...the Body of Christ in Action!

Sincerely,

*Ruth Roehrman
(Naomi Barcanic's Twin)*



September 6, 2021

Thanks for the cards you have sent to Myra. She is doing as well as can be expected. Enjoys sitting outside in the sun.

Thanks,

Joe Piechowski





LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive

Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



October Worship Schedule

Worship—Saturdays 4:30pm
Adult Forum—Sundays 8:30am
Worship—Sundays 9:30am
Fellowship—Sundays 10:30am

ALL WORSHIP INDOORS

October Highlights

3—Food Bank Sunday
Blessing of the Animals, 2pm
4—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting, 10am, hybrid Zoom
9—Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm via Zoom
14—WELCA Meeting, 9am at SOJ
21—Women's Bible Study, 2pm, hybrid Zoom,
28—Daytime Book Group, 2pm, hybrid Zoom
30—SOJ Booth at Verde Valley Fall Festival, held at
Fairgrounds, 8am-4pm