



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

Spirit of Joy Church is a generous group of people! People committed to Jesus. People committed to this church. People obedient to God's command to live a generous life. People who organize their lives around God's mission. People eager to see what God will do next in this place!



Some people in this church give considerably more than I ever would have imagined. It is always eye opening to me to see people practicing first-fruits giving to the work of Jesus' church.

Spirit of Joy's future ministry depends on lots of people participating. The potential for doing ministry is always vast. Potential becomes reality when people step forward and participate.

Thank you for your generous participation as we ponder what God will do next at Spirit of Joy!

We have vital ministries addressing food insecurity, the Navajo Mission at Rock Point, the Homeless Coalition, and other outreach. We serve in whatever capacity we are able. For example, recently two educators have stepped up, offering to lead intergenerational ministry events and outings in the coming year. [They did not even know that this was one of the areas Council recommended to the Stewardship team as one of this year's ministry goals.] God is doing important work in this place!

Most importantly, we proclaim the good news of God in Christ in word and deed.

Look for a letter from Spirit of Joy early in October. The Stewardship team has been hard at work putting together a clear and concise 2023 Ministry Appeal. I hope you will give it your faithful attention. As pastor, Pat and I try to model generosity and plan our giving as part of our family budget. As someone who believes in the importance of generosity in the life of a Christian, we want to make Spirit of Joy a thriving, vital community, and support God's mission through it.

Your gifts make a difference! Your participation matters. Spirit of Joy is a community eager to see where God is leading us. We celebrate generosity. It is the way of Jesus, and it is the way of this church. God bless you as you consider how you can participate in 2023.

I thank you, and I thank God for you.

Pastor Sharon

October Birthdays

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



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

October Anniversaries



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

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

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.

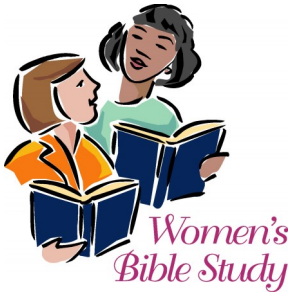
Call the office for more details on enrolling.


You shop. Amazon gives.

Jim Converse—President
Laura Stransky—Vice Pres/Worship
Pam Moody—Secretary/Education



Bill Taylor
Ian Musil—Property
Ruth Tasa—In-Reach/Outreach
Kim Densmore—Youth



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, October 20th at 2pm in the Conference Room and Zoom, if needed.
Contact Judy Haslow if you need a Zoom invite.
We will be using the Gather Magazine Study Guide for October.
All are welcome to join us!

The monthly Out to Lunch Bunch will go to El Patio Restaurant in the Safeway Plaza for lunch at Noon on Sunday, October 2nd. Call the office before noon on Friday, September 30th to reserve a seat at the table. All are invited!



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church of the Verde Valley will take place on Sunday, November 13th, 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.)

Attention Committee Leaders—

Your year-end reports must be emailed to the office no later than Monday, October 10th!

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

Bring your beloved animals for a treat and a special blessing Sunday, October 2nd 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!



WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS

Oct 2—Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29; Luke 17:5-10
Oct 9—Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17; Luke 17:11-19
Oct 16—Joshua 24:1-15; Luke 18:1-8
Oct 23—Joshua 24:15-26; Luke 6:20-31
Oct 30—1 Kings 3:4-9 [10-15] 16-28; John 8:31-36

FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next weekend, October 2nd 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.)



ADULT FORUM

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum returns Sunday, October 2nd at 10:45 following time for fellowship.

We will discuss the options for "Great Course" DVD lectures – to return to the study of Judaism or pick up a course on comparative religions.

SPIRIT OF JOY FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH / August

DATE /9/1/22

Current

Budget Income

Budget Expenses

\$ 13,215.56

\$ 15,715.58

YTD

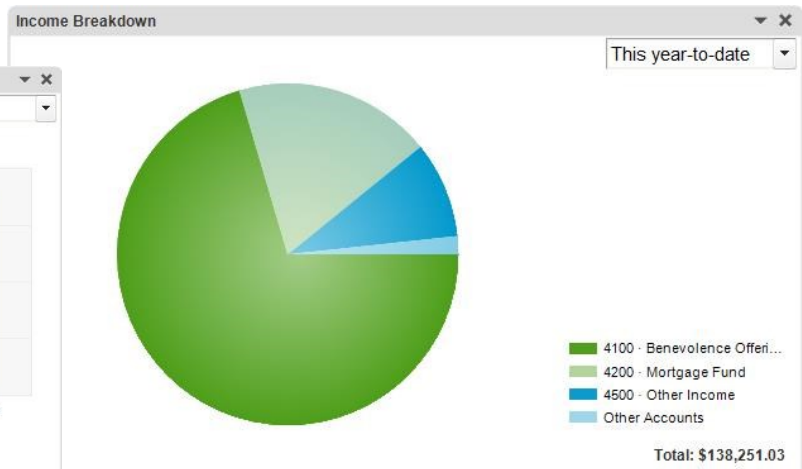
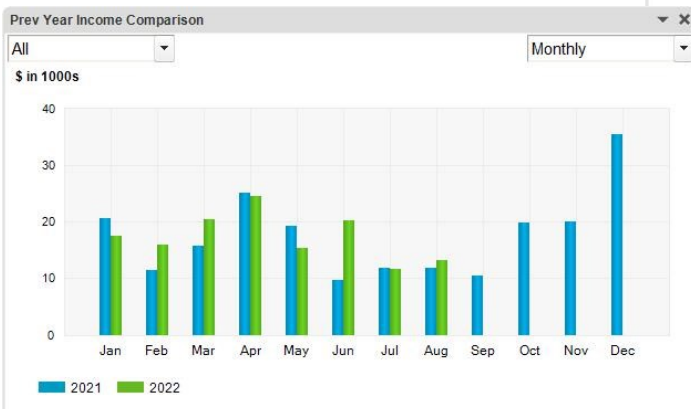
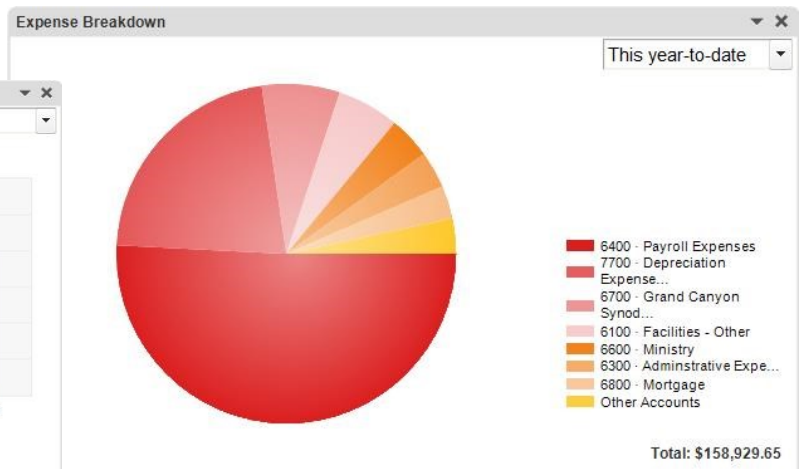
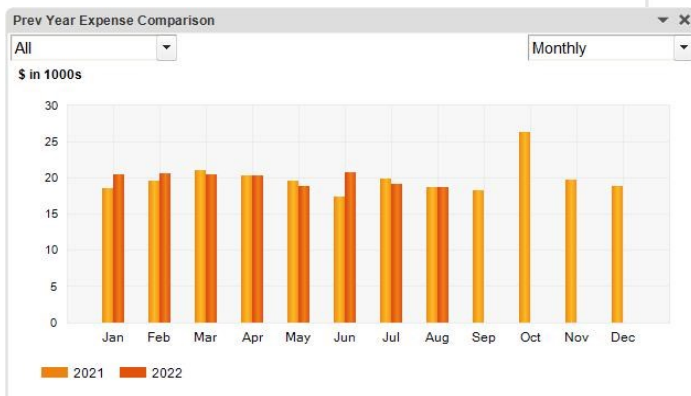
\$124,863.84

\$135,424.04

YTD Additional Income*

\$ 12,615.79

*includes special donations and funds designated for non-budget items





WELCA—Women of the ELCA

The first WELCA meeting after summer hiatus was held on September 8th at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. Refreshments were served as we had a Meet and Greet to welcome us back. Ten ladies were present. Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read.

Projects previously discussed were finalized including:

- ◇ October 30, which will be Cowboy Sunday. This is a project of In-reach/Outreach with WELCA assisting in serving. Non-alcoholic beer, pretzels and finger foods are to be served and donations are requested of our congregation. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex and fellowship hall. 500 invitations will be sent out with special invitations to Clarkdale First Responders. Thank you for donating food, drinks and etc.
- ◇ November 5 & 6 will be Veteran's Recognition Days during church services those days. At Sunday social hour pies will be served. Sign-up sheets for pies will be in the narthx prior to that day. Those days also include Noisy Offerings. Please empty your banks of change into the metal container "noisily". Donations go to National WELCA.
- ◇ November 14—Monday, is the Red Cross Blood Drive in the fellowship hall, 9am—2pm
- ◇ November 19—We will be holding our Fall Rummage Sale from 8am-2pm. Please, no clothing! We concentrate on home décor, Thanksgiving and Christmas items. Be creative! Set-up is Friday, Nov. 18 starting at 2pm. We may need MAN-POWER to move tables.
- ◇ December 10/11 and 17/18 is the date for The Works of Christmas (formerly Taste of Christmas). Baked and other goodies will be available after services on those days.

Devotions for the Sept. 8th meeting were offered by Dee Suhr.

The meeting was closed with prayer and mercy requests for Becky K's grandson, Caleb; Ruth T's great granddaughter, Clarise; Pat R's son, Gray; Deanna C's nephew, Mark; Marie P's niece, Marie; Dee S's "daughter" Sheila; and travel mercies for Pastor Sharon's trip to Ohio.

Respectfully submitted, Deanna Codner, Secretary

IN-REACH / OUTREACH

The In-Reach/Outreach team are currently collecting items for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) & Verde Valley Homeless Coalition (VVHC).

NELM's current list of items needed: medical supplies, flashlights, batteries, layette kits, winter clothing, socks, children's underwear, pajamas for all ages, men's clothing, backpacks, canned vegetables, packaged dry goods, and condiments.

VVHC needs include: new and used (in good shape) coffee mugs, sugar & coffee creamers, dish soap, toilet paper, and "z fold" bathroom towels. These items can be put in the labeled totes in the Fellowship Hall under the tables by the windows.



COWBOY SUNDAY



Donations of pretzels, non-alcoholic beer and finger foods for Fellowship on Cowboy Sunday, October 30th are needed. There are sign up sheets for your items/help in both the narthex and the fellowship hall.

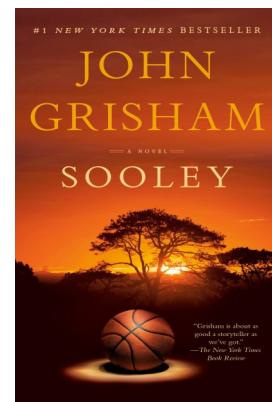
WELCA is also requesting help with cleanup on that day.

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Sooley

Author: John Grisham

ISBN-13: 978-0593359532 496 pages



A totally different John Grisham Book, **Sooley**: The beginning of Chapter 1 below gives you a beginning to learn of the horrors of the Sudanese Civil War and basketball. Grisham has been known for legal thrillers. This book isn't one of those. It's a sports book; one of the few he's written. Grisham writes a lot about the game, using every basketball cliché in the book- booring. In the end, Grisham can't resist a legal finish. Upon reflection, one can't help but wonder if the book is about basketball or about third world poverty and conflict?

In April, when Samuel Sooleymon was invited to try out for the national team, he was seventeen years old, stood six feet two inches tall, and was considered to be a promising point guard, known for his quickness and vertical leap, but also for his erratic passing and mediocre shooting.

In July, when the team left Juba, the capital of South Sudan, for the trip to America, he was six feet four inches tall, just as quick but even more erratic handling the ball and no more accurate from the arc. He was hardly aware of his growth, which was not unusual for a teenager, but he did realize that his well-worn basketball shoes were tighter and his only pair of pants now fell well above his ankles.

But back in April when the invitation arrived, his neighborhood erupted in celebration. He lived in Lotta, a remote village on the outskirts of Rumbek, a city of 30,000. He had spent his entire life in Lotta doing little more than playing basketball and soccer. His mother, Beatrice, was a homemaker, with little education, like all the women in the village. His father, Ayak, taught school in a two-room open-air hut built by some missionaries decades earlier. When Samuel wasn't pounding the basketball on the dirt courts throughout the village, he tended to the family's garden with his younger siblings and sold vegetables beside the road.

There are multiple formats of this book at the YLN. Also, Patty Bays of the book group has a copy that she is sharing. Check with one of the members to see who has it. We'll meet on October 27 at 2:00 pm to discuss it. Notify Judy Haslow (text or phone—928-301-1121) if you need Zoom to join or see you at the church!

American Red Cross
Heroes Saving Lives

Join Us. Save Lives.
Be Proud.

MISSION: DONATE BLOOD

Spirit of Joy
Veterans Day Blood Drive
Monday, November 14, 2022
9:00am—2:00pm

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

Save the Date!

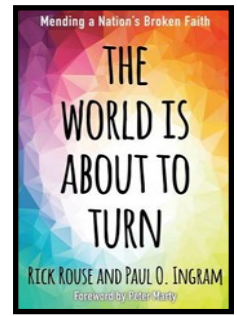
Pastor David Lose (one of Pastor Sharon's preaching professors and author of a number of "Making Sense" Bible Studies* will present: "Why Don't My Children and Grandchildren Go To Church? (And What Can I Do About It)"

This event will also be live-streamed on Wednesday, November 2, 10 am. More details are forthcoming.

THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN

Mending a Nation's Broken Faith

Continuing in Chapter 4 – *Walking Humbly with God:
Repentance and Reconciliation as a Path to a More Civil Society*



We look at the Sin of Arrogance

“Nearly every society appears to have a superiority complex. It seems every country, nation, and tribe wants to believe that it is better than others and will choose to act in its own self-interest. That is one of the reasons for the legacy and scars of war left on the planet. So when Northern European powers began their worldwide expansion known as colonialism, they sought to impose the religion and culture of what they believed was a superior society. Christianity was the religion of the empire and was used unapologetically as a weapon of subjugation by both conquerors and missionaries. It could be argued, of course, that any religious group that seeks to put down others commits the sin of arrogance. And there is usually a power differential at work whenever one group declares that ‘We have the truth’ at the expense of others.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary updated its definition of racism in 2020 to read: *A belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.*

The issue of religious or cultural superiority is addressed in the Judeo-Christian scriptures. The Old Testament implies that the Jews as God’s Chosen People were given license to expand their territory and conquer the inhabitants. In the New Testament, we witness the prejudice of the Pharisees and Sadducees—religious leaders of the Jews—as well as the Jewish people themselves toward Samaritans, Moabites, and others. Then Jesus came along and upsets the order of things when he suggested we are to love our neighbor whoever they may be and also to pray for those who persecute us.

Liberation Theology suggests we read the Bible through the lens of those on the margins of society rather than those of religious leaders and others in authority. The Gospel narrative is driven around a conflict of values; Jesus set his teaching over against the religious and political leaders of the time (who stood for the status quo). He was in conflict with those who were benefiting from the current political and social system—Jesus offered a vision of flourishing life in the midst of oppression and taught alternative practices that could lead to an alternative and more hopeful reality.

[The authors have us look at the story of the Gerasene Demoniac. (The country of Gerasene is an area east of the Jordan River consisting of a Greek population). Please read this story in the Gospel of Luke 8:26-39 so you can follow how the authors of our book respond to it.]

Luke was not simply telling another healing miracle of Jesus. This story is also an allegory meant to relate a greater truth, one of liberation from the powers and prejudices that oppress people and hold them captive. The demon-possessed man who had been chained up in a cave may represent all who were being oppressed by the Roman government in that time. Legion, the name of the demon, could have a double meaning as well. It may represent the Roman legion of soldiers who kept the people restrained and in line. It could also refer to the many who were constrained by their own religious and cultural prejudices. Note the reaction of the crowd when they realized the man had been healed and made whole. They asked Jesus to leave because he had disturbed the status quo. Jesus, like Atticus Finch in the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*, held up a mirror to society, and they did not like what they saw—Luke has revealed a defect in the system that makes certain people—usually those on the margins – a scapegoat for the rest of society. Instead of being able to admit one’s own shortcomings, it is easier to blame others—especially those on the margins of society. And the real sin of arrogance is when those at the top of society—the rich, the powerful, and the privileged of any culture—dismiss or look down on those they do not believe to be as worthy as themselves.” (pp 42-44) **[Forgive us, O God, for we do not know what we do!] Pastor Naomi**

[Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do!] nb

See you next week when the authors explain going **From Arrogance to Humility!**

Council Minutes from August 10, 2022



Present: Jim, Bill, Dave, Kim, Ian, Loma (guest)
Absent: Pam, Laura, Pastor Sharon, Ruth

Devotions: Jim

Guest: Paul asked Loma to come to the council to talk about gardening and cleaning up the campus. Andrea has offered to clean and plant the Columbarium. Loma purchased the plants and Becky and Andrea planted iris in the Columbarium. They used the Columbarium fund to purchase the plants. Loma waters the courtyard and has helped Andrea with the Columbarium. Loma has a fund from Bud to help with the grounds. She asked if there was anything that Council needed such as replacement of a tree or bush to use Bud's money on.

Correspondence: Letter from Mary (concern of mail, collection handling, and budget for 2023)

Comments From Congregational Members: Email from Laura (two interested with Budget Committee: Micah & Torrey), Call from Dee stating that WELCA may be able to make one month's mortgage payment.

Secretary's Report: all approved

Financial Report: Year to date we are about \$4,000 ahead, but we are anticipating lean times ahead. Upcoming expenses: Alarm and Fire System required upgrade, parking lot repair, increase in electric costs (air conditioning).

Executive Committee:

Pastor's Report: absent

MINISTRY TEAM REPORT:

- Christian Education (Pam) – none at this time
- In/Out-Reach, and Social Ministry (Ruth) – October 30th Cowboy service with bandanas, beer and pretzels.
- Property- (Ian & Bill) – caulking around Columbarium needs to be redone, door lock needs to be repaired into the children's classroom, checking on screens after storms.
- Fire/security Alarm Issue – Continued to be investigated. Bill is meeting with company.
- Worship (Laura) – none at this time
- Youth (Kim) – Back to School shoe drive going on July through August. Still time to donate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Constitution Review: Pam & Laura [On hold for synod assembly guidance]
- Stewardship For All Seasons (Priority Focus: Intergenerational Ministry, Food Insecurity, Ministry Excellence) – Letter and Update from Marcia and Kristi - October 25th Commitment Sunday and Appeal the last week of September.
- Visitation Program

continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget Committee - Torrey and Micah are interested and Dave will contact them.
- Office Management [Mail Sorting] – Jim will talk with pastor.
- Counters and counter duties [safeguarding of offering] – Kim will talk to Lisa and the counters about needs and procedures.
- Audit Committee Members – Jim checking on date of need.
- Ministry Team Reports – need those by October. Year summary of what went on in each team.

Next Regular Council Meeting: 09/14/2022 @ 6:00pm Office or Zoom

Devotions for next meeting: Kim

**Special Council Minutes
August 31, 2022**

Jim Converse called the meeting to order in the Council room at 3:02 p.m.

Attendance: Pastor Sharon Brown, Jim Converse, Pam Moody, Laura Stransky, Dave Steinke and Ruth Tasa, Mary Slepstra and Paul Graham. Absent was Ian Musil and Kim Densmore.

Devotions: Pastor Sharon offered a prayer for discernment.

The **purpose** of this meeting was to discuss and decide on the proposal given by Verde Valley Alarm Services to replace the existing fire alarm system. The conversation was in depth and questions were asked and possibilities discussed. Jim placed a call to Matthew Buehrer, specialist/owner of the company and our questions were presented and answered. A motion was presented by Bill that we replace the current fire alarm system and include the communication antenna. Ruth seconded the motion was unanimously accepted.

The money for the system work will be covered from the building fund and restricted funds from the Wild Estate.

Jim will contact our current company, B&W, to let them know that we will no longer need them for the alarm system, but they may submit a proposal to continue with the fire extinguisher and sprinkler systems which need to be relicensed with the city in November.

Old Business:

- Laura and Pam reported that the Constitution revision will not be conducted until the new Constitutional amendments are released in the winter.
- Facility rentals will no longer be available after the June 18th memorial.
- Scattering Garden decision was tabled.

New Business:

- Jim reminded people that ministry reports were due. Mary said that the budget committee is working on the 2023 budget.
- Jim reported that the 2021 audit committee report is ready for the annual meeting.
- Pastor will be gone from 9/2 thru 9/9.
- Pam said that she will not be at the September 14th meeting. Laura will take the minutes.

Next Regular Council Meeting: September 14 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.



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

October Highlights

Oct 2—Food Bank Sunday

Out to Lunch Bunch, Noon

Blessing of the Animals, 2pm (parking lot)

Oct 4—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting, 10 am (CR)

Oct 8—Green Bag Food Collection, 10 am, Mtn View UMC

Oct 12—Council Meeting, 6pm (CR & Zoom)

Oct 13—WELCA Meeting, 9:30am (FH)

Oct 20—Women's Bible Study, 2pm (CR & Zoom)

Oct 23—Commitment Sunday

Oct 27—Daytime Book Group, 2pm (CR & Zoom)

Oct 30—Reformation/Cowboy Sunday

