



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

Things you should know:

What does it take to operate this church building, administration, and ministries?

Faithful people and servant leaders.

Volunteers.

Cooperation.

Joyful participation.

NOT most importantly, but essential – monetary contributions.

As we move into this season of stewardship, please consider the following:



Our current budget requires we take in \$16K – 17K per month. This breaks down to approximately \$130-\$150/member/week. Yes, we do have other minor income streams (visitors, facility use, special and designated giving) but this is really the MINIMUM of what it takes to keep this place running day-to-day, and does not take into account emergency, maintenance or unusual utility expenses. It also does not take into account the age of some of our technology, which is overdue for upgrades. And most importantly, it does not take into account our desire to grow and expand our ministry to our community.

You should have received a letter with a request to return a giving intent card for 2025. I ask that you take a look at the chart below, find where you giving is now, and consider how you might bring your giving to the next level, or just by a few dollars a week.

I understand that money is not the only way to support the church. Prayerfully consider what you can truly afford as “first fruits” giving to our ministry and mission here at Spirit of Joy. I thank you for your continued faithfulness to our mission and ministry.

I know that I am blessed to be a part of the ministry at Spirit of Joy and hold each of you in my prayers and my heart. I am grateful to be your pastor.

Pastor Sharon

What is your current level of giving? Please prayerfully consider:

- How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the Blessings I receive?
- Where would I be on the chart if I increased giving up one level or two?

PER WEEK	PER MONTH	TOTAL
\$2	\$9	\$104
\$5	\$22	\$260
\$10	\$44	\$520
\$15	\$65	\$780
\$20	\$87	\$1,040
\$30	\$130	\$1,560
\$40	\$174	\$2,080
\$50	\$217	\$2,600
\$75	\$325	\$3,900
\$100	\$434	\$5,200
\$200	\$867	\$10,400
\$300	\$1,300	\$15,600
\$350	\$1,517	\$18,200



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

Carol Quin	4
Jim Prigge	7
Carl Mason	13
Glena Atkins	18
Mick Shanahan	21
Ken Suhr	30



Saunders, Fred & Beverly 15

Deaths

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

Myra Piechowski, Violette Hansen, Randy Hoy,
Karen & Mike Harvey, Marilyn Howisey



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
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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.



WEEKEND BIBLE READINGS




Nov 3: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44
Nov 10: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
Nov 17: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
Nov 24: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37



American Red Cross

Heroes Saving Lives

Join Us. Save Lives.
Be Proud.



Spirit of Joy

Veterans Day Blood Drive

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

9am—2pm

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)

IN-REACH / OUTREACH TEAM



Our Theme for November is *Adventure and Discernment; Finding our location at 7th Day Adventist*. This month we are focusing on the Verde Valley Homeless Coalition and Veterans Day on November 10th. We will be honoring our Veterans with our Annual Pie Sunday at Fellowship following the 9:30am worship.

Thanks for all of the helping hands that made our Kick-Off Sunday a success! - The In-Reach/Outreach Team



EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH



Expressions of Faith has been serving the congregation of Spirit of Joy since October of 2023. Our group of wonderful volunteers have provided meals, visits, cards, and phone calls to those needing a little extra help.

There is a poster in the Fellowship Hall that identifies members who have been involved in this ministry. Our goal is to continue to identify members needing our assistance. By the poster there are forms to fill out if you need additional help or know of someone from the congregation that needs help. Please put the completed information in the box so that we can get back to you. If you have emergent needs, please contact Pr. Sharon who will convey this information to the team.

Look for cards for you to sign on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued support.

Trish Wood, email: sumlady3601@yahoo.com

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

If you know of someone that needs/wants help, fill out this form and put it in the "Peace" box.

Name(s) of member _____

Type of help wanted _____

How often _____

Your name (optional) _____



OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be dining at Belfry Brewery in Old Town on Sunday, November 3rd at Noon. All are invited! Please call the office by Noon on Friday, November 1st to reserve your seat at the table.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next weekend, November 2nd & 3rd 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.)



INTERFAITH WORKSHOPS AND WORSHIP SERVICE

All are invited to the 2024 Interfaith Workshops and Worship Service.



Interfaith Workshops, 2-4 pm

Nov 3—Charles Lohman—Islam

Nov 10—Venkat Venkateswaran—Hinduism

Nov 17—Susan Jones—Baha'i Faith

Multi-Faith Worship Service

Sunday, November 24, 2-4pm

Please bring non-perishable food items to the Worship Service to be distributed through Cottonwood's Old Town Mission. Monetary offerings payable to Verde Valley Homeless Coalition.

Workshops and Worship Service held at Mountain View United Methodist Church, 901 S. 12th St.

SPIRIT OF JOY MEN'S GROUP

Tom Berlage is interested in starting a Men's Group at SOJ. When we have enough people interested in this group, we will discuss what we hope to accomplish as a men's group and when and where to meet. If you are interested in attending, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Any questions, please call Tom at 218-576-8861.



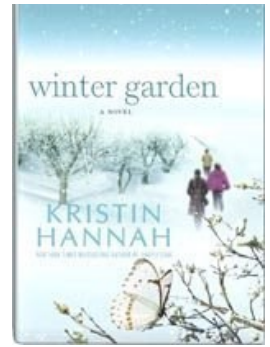
DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

The Winter Garden

Author: Kristin Hannah

ISBN-13: 978-0312364120

394 pgs

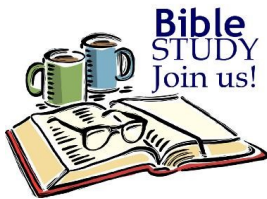


Summary:

This historical novel is based on the Siege of Leningrad (St. Petersburg) during World War II, and features several themes that explore what it means to overcome grief, issues surrounding identity and family, and the power of women's relationships. Winter Garden is a historical fiction novel by Kristin Hannah. It tells the story of the Whitson sisters, Meredith and Nina, and their mother, Anya. The book alternates between the past and present, and tells the story of Anya's life in war-torn Leningrad. Some say it's a heart-wrenching, historical book with a twist ending.

The following copies are available in the YLN: Regular and large print, e-book, and Kindle.

Because the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving, we will meet on Tuesday, November 26 at 2:00 pm in the Conference Room.



GATHER BIBLE STUDY

The Gather Bible Study will meet on Thursday, November 21st at 2pm in the Conference Room. We will be using the Gather magazine Study Guide for November. All are welcome to join us!



VETERAN'S DAY PIE SUNDAY

We honor our veterans by serving pie during fellowship on Sunday, November 10 following the 9:30am worship. Come join us!



SPIRIT OF JOY CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

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

Kim Densmore—Vice President
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Ruth Tasa—In-Reach/Outreach
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928-634-0501 (h); 928-300-8779 (c)

Deanna Codner—Worship
928-300-7138



Blessing of the Quilts—September 29

Our Joyful Crafters have been busy the past few months making 32 quilts to be sent to Lutheran World Relief for disaster victims around the world. Pr. Sharon blessed the quilts at worship on Sunday, September 29th and later were boxed up and delivered to the "Ingathering" church in Glendale, AZ. In total, the Glendale church had accepted 577 quilts from AZ churches.

(Pictured: SOJ's quilts in preparation of Pr. Sharon's blessing and Sue Bro with the boxed quilts.)



SAVE THE DATE!



- Nov 3 "Interfaith Workshop" at Mountain View UMC, 12th Street, 2pm
Speaker: Charles Lohman—Islam
- Nov 10 Veteran's Day/Pie Sunday
Interfaith Workshop at Mountain View UMC, 12th St, 2pm
Speaker: Venkat Venkateswaran—Hinduism
- Nov 12 Veteran's Day Blood Drive, 9am—2pm, Fellowship Hall
- Nov 17 Interfaith Workshop at Mountain View UMC, 12th Street, 2pm
Speaker: Susan Jones—Baha'i Faith
- Nov 24 WELCA's "Noisy Offering" at 9:30am Worship
Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship at Mountain View UMC, 12th Street, 2pm

RITA'S ARTWORK

Our lovely and talented Rita Dunn has many unframed watercolor paintings that she is sharing through a silent auction.

The proceeds will go toward SOJ and/or WELCA, to be determined at a later date.

Rita's artwork is displayed in the fellowship hall with bid cards attached to the pictures.

See what treasures you will find. Paintings will be rotated through out our 30th celebration months. Some will conclude with WELCA's "Taste of Christmas" and some with the culmination Sunday, April 27, 2025.



WELCA “Taste of Christmas”

Saturday, December 7th, 8am—2pm

Christmas crafts, homemade goodies including pickles, preserves,
cake, pies, cookies, candy, etc.

PLUS a raffle for a quilt made by the late Betty Bensen and Rita Dunn paintings for sale.

Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex and fellowship hall.



WELCA NEWS—October 2024

Our meeting was held on Thursday, October 10 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall, with a Meet, Greet, and Welcome by Becky K. Becky also led devotions entitled “The Power of Word”.



- ♦ Loma J, Treasurer, gave her report and asked WELCA members to suggest community activities to which we could make donations in the upcoming months.
- ♦ Deanna C read the secretary's report of the September meeting.
- ♦ Becky K reported that more people are needed to provide hospitality for post service social hour; at least two per Sunday. Plus sign-up sheets for upcoming special events, ie; Oktoberfest and Pie Sunday on November 10, were also recirculated.
- ♦ Marie P reported from In-Reach/Outreach that plans for Anniversary Year events are in progress.
- ♦ Sue B of Joyful Crafters reported that approximately 30 quilts are being sent soon to victims of disasters, thanks to all who participated in this project. Donations of fabric for quilts; also sheets for quilt backing are gratefully accepted. Sue also reports more people need to be county-certified as food handlers for our kitchen.
- ♦ WELCA's Taste of Christmas is planned for December 7, 8am-2pm. There will be tables for Christmas crafts, homemade goodies, including pickles preserves, cakes, pies, cookies, candy, etc. 30th Anniversary mugs will also be available for \$5.00 each.
 - Raffle tickets will be sold for a lovely quilt made by the late Betty Bensen and donated by her family. Tickets are \$5 each or 5/\$20.
 - Some Rita Dunn paintings will be available for purchase.
 - Set-up for the event will be on December 6, 10am—Noon.
- ♦ A future WELCA project will be a baby shower for Elizabeth Tavasci and family. Welcome Baby Audrey Jane. The shower will take place in December.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14 at 9:30am.

The meeting closed with prayer requests for family and friends, and the Lord's Prayer prayed in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Codner, Co-Secretary

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Spirit of Joy has the joy-filled mission to reach out and nurture all people with the joy of Christ Jesus: within our congregation, our neighborhoods, our larger community, and the world! What a grand and challenging Mission!

And this year we celebrate 30 years as a congregation in the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)! You can find more details in the letter sent out by the In-Reach/Outreach Team and in our newsletters. We continue to find ways to be a community center in Clarkdale, AZ – welcoming our neighbors to our campus and into our ministry of service and community involvement.

We are writing to you now, during this Stewardship season, encouraging you to prayerfully consider how you will support the ministry of Spirit of Joy in the coming year. Our Annual Meeting will be held January 19, 2025. We ask that you fill out a “Giving Intent” card (available in the narthex), and bring it with you to worship on Sunday, November 10th, and place it in the offering plate as an act of commitment to share in supporting the work God continues to do through Spirit of Joy. You may also return it by mail or drop it off at the church office any time up to November 10th. This is a hard deadline for our budget committee to begin their work.

Our church and all ministries are solely funded with the generous support of the congregation. We send a portion to the greater church, rather than receiving funds from them. Our goal is to match our giving with our budget expenses, so it is important you respond, even if you cannot estimate at this time. Simply put a minimum amount or zero on your card. At least we know you are committed to help in whatever way you can. Please be assured your intent can be revised at any time throughout the year if unexpected circumstances arise.

Whatever your ability, please consider in reflective prayer God’s generosity to you, and how you might share that generosity with your neighbors near and far – through SOJ and synodical and churchwide ELCA ministries.

May we continue to build and grow the kingdom of God in this time and this place, as we joyfully commit to secure the future of our ministry together! God has no hands on earth but ours.

As your sisters in Christ, we thank you and we thank God for you!

Peace,

Laura Stransky, President
Spirit of Joy Congregation Council

Pastor Sharon Brown
Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



BUNK BEDS NEEDED

A friend of SOJ has taken in two foster kids and is looking for twin bunk beds for them. Contact the office if you can help this family.

MEMORIALS, HONORS AND GIFTS OCTOBER 2024

JOY PACKS

Anita Young
Deanna Codner—
In Memory of brother Doug Kratz

IN HONOR/MEMORY

In Honor of Tatiana Hnatiuk—
Kip & Laura Stransky

GIFTS

Bill Taylor

Recurring Offerings

Want to give a recurring offering to SOJ without writing a check every time? Most banks have a free "bill pay" feature that you can utilize to have a check mailed directly to SOJ. See pastor or contact your bank for more information.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

(aka Pastor Sharon goes to the dogs!)

Pr. Sharon blesses several canine friends on Sunday, October 6th in honor of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day.

Pictured with Pastor is Kristen McGrew and Mark Goodwin, Sharon Thaler, and Steve Franklin, along with their furry companions.

FINANCIAL REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2024

Operating Fund

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 15,094.82	\$ 16,503.46	\$ (1,408.64)

Year-to-Date (Jan—Sept)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Net Income
\$ 143,572.28*	\$ 139,737.60**	\$ 3,834.68

*\$ 3,000 Grant from ELCS Grand Canyon Synod for Joy Packs

\$ 2,000 Grant from AZ Community Foundation of Yavapai County for Joy Packs

\$ 1,090.00 Shoe Drive

**\$ 1,090.00 Shoe Drive

9/30/2024 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$ 72,737.77
Mortgage Fund	2,387.13
Restricted Ministries	<u>15,607.01</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 90,731.91

Board Restricted Fund—September

Board Restricted Income	Board Restricted Expenses	Net Income
\$ 18.00	\$ 2,771.00	\$ (2,753.00)

Year-to-Date (Jan—Sept)

Board Restricted Income	Board Restricted Expenses	Net Income
\$ 6,657.00*	\$ 11,348.60**	\$ (4,691.60)

*Thrivent Choice Dollars \$ 1,357.00

Landscaping \$ 5,000.00

WELCA Donation for Piano Repair \$300.00

**Landscaping/Water Repair \$ 6,168.07

AED (Defibrillator) \$ 1,209.53

Piano Repair \$ 400.00

Camp Pinerock Registration \$800.00

HVAC Repair \$2,771.00

9/30/2024 Ending Balance

Mortgage Principal	\$ 1,809.00
Building Fund	0.00
Landscaping Fund	1,911.02
Organ/Piano Fund	2,900.87
Restricted Undesignated	27,757.79
Restricted Designated	<u>2,540.70</u>

\$ 31,919.38

Bank 11 month CD \$ 10,000.00

Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance \$ 2,416.56

Mission Investment Fund Mortgage Owed \$135,298.68

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324



November Highlights

- 3—Food Bank Sunday
Out to Lunch Bunch at Belfry Brewery, Noon
Interfaith Workshop, Mtn View UMC, 12th St., 2-4pm
- 5—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting (CR), 10am
- 10—Veteran's Pie Sunday (FH) after 9:30am Worship
Interfaith Workshop, Mountain View UMC, 2-4pm
- 12—SOJ Blood Drive (FH), 9am-2pm
- 14—WELCA Meeting (FH), 9:30am
- 17—Interfaith Workshop, Mountain View UMC, 2-4pm
- 20—Church Council Meeting, 4:30pm
- 21—Gather Bible Study (CR), 2pm
- 24—Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, Mountain View
UMC, 2-4pm
- 26—Daytime Book Group (CR), 2pm
- 28—Thanksgiving Day
- 29—Day after Thanksgiving —Office Closed

SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

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

