



Dear Community of Spirit of Joy,

It certainly was with a Spirit of Joy that our community Blessed and Sent on their way over 100 quilts to be used around the world by Lutheran World Relief for the comfort of refugees, people who are homeless, and those who are victims of violence and disaster. And that's not all the story – you will read further in this issue of an impact you are making across the church through our Quilters. Indeed, it is "God's work, and our hands." This is made possible by people working together, each doing their own part, in the Beloved Community. Our congregation is a precious gift to be nurtured, supported, and celebrated.

In the Beloved Community we have the privilege of learning about God's love for all his creation, and the continuing saga of God's redeeming Grace. It is a chosen environment through which we grow in faith, understanding and the stewardship of our lives – to live with Christ as our Lord and Redeemer.

A number of learning options have begun - a study of the Book of Job is being led by Pr. Niomi Barcanic, the Wednesday evening Worship-Bible study is beginning to work with the book of Genesis through video presentations by Dr. Craig Koester, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, and a Spiritual Growth Group has begun a six-week journey reading Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia.

At the very beginning of that letter Paul writes: "*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father...*" Paul is calling us to hear a Gospel of Freedom – Freedom in Christ; freedom 'from' and freedom 'for'. What is that all about today? What would it be like if each one of us could give a studied and personal witness to what that freedom in Christ means – to us, and to the world. Think about it.

One of those freedoms has to do with how we are stewards of our time, our talents and our 'treasure'. In the coming weeks we will be highlighting 'stewardship'.....stewardship with a Spirit of Joy....stewardship as a choice we make day by day...the stewardship of our lives in the Beloved Community. We do this as we set our hearts and minds to the challenge of finding and calling a new pastor to lead our Beloved Community. We will find that our response to such a challenge begins within each one of us doing business with the Lord.

I look forward to sharing that challenge with you as we continue our 'transition journey' together. In this we are not alone: We are led and guided by the Spirit of Joy. Amen?

In Peace,

Pastor Braaten



Ray Kaminski	4
Tom Atkins	12
Sharon Brown	16
Sandy Knutson	17
Joe Mathe	19
Becky Brakebill	30

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



Prigge, Jim & Sandy	6
Sanders, Kellie & Jenni Kapanen	11
Brown, Sharon & Pat	13
Swenson, Micah & Sara	15



Deaths

Please pray for the families of these members and former members who have passed into eternal life:

Marilyn Howisey, Nancy Sowarby,
Carolyn Ward, George Wells, Yona Ash, Mary Ann Schulz

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 or directly deposited. Contact your bank for more information.

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.



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Clarkdale, Arizona 86324
928-634-4102

Rev. Conrad Braaten
Interim Pastor
prbraaten@gmail.com

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

Communion Ministry



Please see Pr. Braaten if you are interested in taking communion and/or visiting with homebound members.

STEWARDSHIP

Did you know money is mentioned in the Bible over 2000 times and Jesus mentioned money frequently? Statistics indicate 15% of Jesus' teachings and 11 of His 39 parables were about money and stewardship.

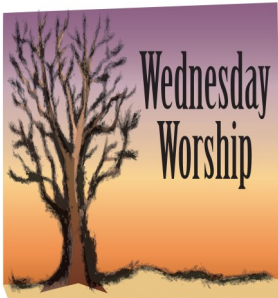
Jesus taught about the responsibility of managing God-given resources and the importance of generosity and tithing.

In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells the story of the Master who entrusts servants with money and are judged on how they use it.

In Luke 12:13-21 Jesus teaches about the futility of hoarding wealth.

So, as we kick off the fall Stewardship Campaign and the 2026 Budgeting process, let's not be afraid to talk about money and the needs of our Church.

Rich Alley, Treasurer



MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Worship-Bible study continues Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm with the series: Reading the Bible, with presentations by Dr. Craig Koester, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. In the coming weeks we will be traveling through Genesis and Exodus, as the people of Israel journey to a land of their ancestors. Ending with Holy Communion, our hour of worship includes hymns and prayers. All are welcome!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUPS

Meeting on Thursdays at 10:00 am, eleven people are participating in our first Spiritual Growth Group with Pastor Braaten, centering on Paul's letter to the Galatians. A second series of Spiritual Growth Groups will be offered beginning on Thursday, November 6th for six weeks, focusing on Paul's letter to Ephesians. Groups will consist of up to 10 people and will be offered at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. You need to sign up with Pastor or Rosie. Talk with someone in the present group – you might find yourself interested in participating!

GATHER BIBLE STUDY

The Gather Bible Study will meet on Thursday, October 16th at 2pm in the Conference Room. We will be using the Gather magazine Study Guide for October. All are welcome to join us!



SOJ's MEN'S GROUP



A special Men's Breakfast will be held at Spirit of Joy Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 2nd at 8:00 am with the men of Christ Lutheran Church coming to share with us! All SOJ men are invited! Let the office know you are coming! The regular Men's Breakfast meetings will continue on the 2nd and 4th Thursday, October 9th and 23rd. For more information contact Bob Dickson, 480-532-5750, or the church office.

A STEWARDSHIP QUOTE

Each of us are "caregivers and managers of what God has first given us (our time, talents, and possessions)."

WELCA NEWS

WELCA's Homecoming meeting after the summer hiatus was held on Thursday, Sept. 11 in the Fellowship Hall with 19 ladies present.

Becky K. presided and led devotions, as well. She gave a beautiful tribute to the 9/11 victims and survivors; also we shared remembrances of where we were that day and how it affected us. She then led us in an icebreaker, i. e. forming a circle chronologically, according to birth month and day (all this done without speaking—quite a challenge for 19 women).



- Future devotion presenters will be Oct: Marie P; Nov—Ellen D; Dec—Patti B.
- A thank you was given to those who contributed to the new sanctuary seating; both to WELCA for start-up funding and those who individually sponsored chairs.
- In Treasurer Loma's absence, Glenna gave the treasurer's report, Deanna C gave the secretary's report.
- Marie gave a message from Loma concerning upcoming social hour needs.
- Sue B reported on quilting progress. 107 are ready to be displayed during church service on Sept. 21. Two quilts will be given to Verde Valley Homeless Coalition; the rest will be boxed and transported to Glendale and sent to LWR.
- Suggestions for other craft projects and perhaps special days to craft were discussed.
- During the upcoming Quail Country Quilters' "A Covey of Quilts" Annual Show at SOJ on October 17 & 18th, WELCA members will make and sell bagged lunches at the event.
- Possible projects discussed for WELCA/In-Reach-Outreach during the fall and winters are:
 - taking pizza to Clarkdale firefighters
 - a joint meeting with Christ Lutheran in Sedona's WELCA ladies
 - preparing a bag lunch for the VV Homeless Coalition on Sept. 28; also preparing and sharing a meal with them around Valentine's Day in Feb. 2026.
 - German Fest for Reformation Sunday on October 26th. Potluck food donations will be needed in addition to donations for the purchase of brats.
 - Pie Sunday on Nov 9 to celebrate Veteran's Day.
 - a Christmas Day potluck for those unable to celebrate with family.

Prayers were requested for family members/friends who are ill or going through procedures including: Phil, Hal, Connie, Aunt Marie, Caleb and Alice.

The meeting was closed with a prayer circle for Ronda as we recited the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Codner, Co-Secretary

QUILT SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

The Joyful Crafters have had a busy year. On Sunday, September 21, they displayed the quilts made since March, and the total number of quilts made this year adds up to 107. Pr. Braaten blessed the quilts and they will be sent to Lutheran World Relief in October. Laura and Kip Stransky and Elizabeth Tavasci will take the boxed quilts to Atonement Lutheran Church in Glendale for the Ingathering on October 17. From there they will go to Denver, then on to Minneapolis to be distributed around the world to refugees, those needy in war zones, and to those who have lost their homes due to severe weather. Last year Lutheran World Relief sent out over 370,000 quilts to 16 different countries including the US.

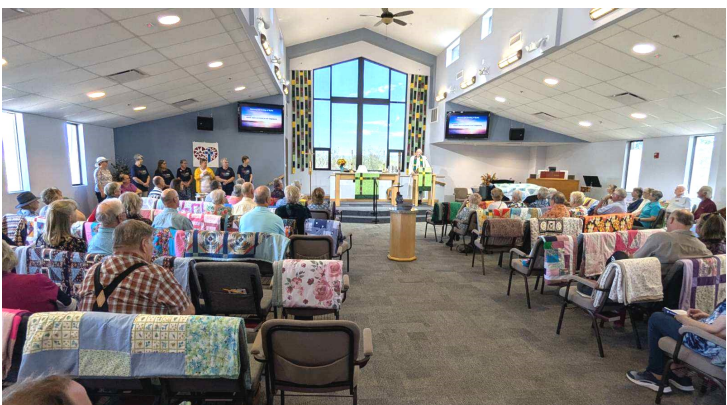
On October 17 and 18 there will be a quilt show at SOJ by the Quail Country Quilters. They will be showing some of their handiwork and also have a boutique where items will be sold. The Joyful Crafters will be serving a sack lunch both days, also coffee and baked goods mid-morning. Please donate some cookies or bars to sell for this fund-raising event and enjoy the show.

Thanks to all the crafters for their giving of time and talent, thanks to all who have donated fabric and sheets for making quilts, and thanks to all of you who have bought a quilt and donated money so that we can afford to buy batting for the quilts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sue Bro



Quilt designed by Ronda Hatfield and based on the Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) Affinity Pin.





FOOD BANK / GREEN BAG SUNDAY!

Non-perishable food items will be collected next Sunday, October 5th for our local food bank. Leave your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex. If you participate in the Green Bag program, please leave your filled bag under the table in the narthex.



(Please remember to check the expiration dates on food before donating.)

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

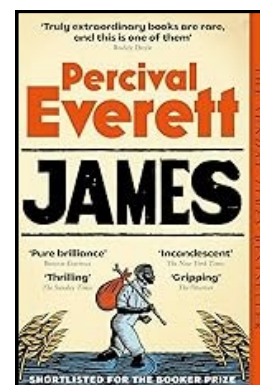
Title: **James**

Author: Percival Everett

ASIN: B0F1CWX9LF 401 pages

Summary:

James by Percival Everett retells Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of the enslaved Jim, who becomes the novel's first-person narrator, James. The story begins with his escape from slavery after Miss Watson plans to sell him, and it parallels Huck's journey but focuses on James's more complex, literate, and subversive inner life, revealing the horrors of slavery and the profound power of language, both for resistance and for survival, as he becomes a calculating intellectual who navigates a dangerous world with a secret identity.



We will meet October 23 at 2:00 pm in the conference room to read this very interesting book. YLN Reg and Large Print, ebook, Kindle, playaway (physical item for those who cannot access ebooks or Kindle).



In need of prayer?

Please direct all prayer requests to Laura at klstransky@gmail.com or call 970-749-2270.

WORSHIP SCRIPTURE READINGS

Oct 5—Hab 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Oct 12—2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Tim 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Oct 19—Gen 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Tim 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Oct 26—Jer 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Rom 3:19-28; John 8:31-36



IN-REACH / OUTREACH TEAM

The In-Reach/Outreach Team will meet on Wednesday,
October 1st at 10am in the Conference Room.



ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

The In-Reach/Outreach Team will again be sponsoring a booth at the city wide **Fall Festival at Verde Valley Fairgrounds, October 24 & 25 from 8:30am-4:00 pm.** We are looking for volunteers to help man the booth, also for SOJ people to come and see us! It will be an exciting event where we can let the community know all about SOJ. We will be hosting some children's activities such as pin the nose on the pumpkin, mask making, coloring events, etc. Our focus: We will be sharing the wonderful ways SOJ serves both our congregation and the community. We will also share our Joy Packs mission. Did you



know "Hallow"-een and All Saints Day connect. Historically the Celts, the Aztecs & Spaniards celebrated the spiritual and no-so-spiritual connection. Does Lutheran's All Saints Day connect to Halloween? There will be a signup sheet in the narthex and fellowship hall. You are asked to indicate a one and or two hour session where you can help. Wear name badges and SOJ/Thrivent shirts or a costume. Call Judy @ 928-301-1121 with questions.



In-Reach/Outreach again asks the congregation to join us in the celebration of a **brat fest meal on Reformation Sunday**, October 26th. The potluck will feature brats, kraut and other German foods. Please contact Judy Haslow with donations of brats or money donations toward their purchase. A potluck signup sheet is in the fellowship hall. This festival combines the 9:30am Reformation service with the German meal following the service.

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission—NELM

Plan for fall collection of school items/winter clothing/Xmas gifts. Below is the wish list from the NELM website: Please put your donations in the plastic tote in the fellowship hall labeled NELM. Their needs are great. If you have questions, contact any In-Reach/Outreach member. Log into their website also for more information www.nelm.org



Medical supplies
Flashlights
Batteries
Backpacks
Canned vegetables
Packaged dry goods
Condiments

Children's underwear
Pajamas for all ages
Men's clothing
Winter clothing
Socks
Layette kits
School supplies



**Quail Country
Quilters**

A Covey of Quilts

Fri., Oct. 17th * 9-4
Sat., Oct. 18th * 9-2:30



"Another Dawn"
Size 88" x 101"

*** Boutique Items**

*** Raffle Quilt**

**RECOMMENDED
DONATION:**

\$5.00 Adults

\$2.00 Ages 9-18

Under 8 & Over 80 FREE!

LOCATION:

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
330 Scenic Dr, Clarkdale AZ
~ Free Parking ~

For More Information:
Debbie Rednour 520-213-7941

*"Generosity's
purpose and power
is to care for and
heal the world."*

—Elizabeth Hunter,
Editor of ELCA's
"GATHER" magazine.

JOYFUL MUSIC MAKERS

Join us as we Make a
Joyful Noise every
Sunday.

9:00am—Joyful Music
Rehearsal

9:15am—Hymn Sing

11:00am—Joyful
Music Rehearsal

All singers, instrumental-
ists and noise makers
of all ages are welcome!



Spirit of Joy Hosts

Verde Valley Voices'

ANNUAL YARD SALE!

Where: SOJ Courtyard

When: Thursday, Oct. 9, 8am –2pm

Friday, Oct. 10, 8am – 2pm

Saturday, Oct. 11, 8am -1pm



Household Items!

2025 SPIRIT OF JOY CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

Kellie Sanders—President
ksanders0410@gmail.com, 815-751-1133

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

Pam Moody—Secretary
SOJCCPAM@gmail.com, 802-503-2598

Rich Alley—Finance Officer
norgerich@aol.com; 928-713-2961

Liaisons

Bill Taylor—Property
j_and_btay@outlook.com;
928-202-3337 (h); 928-274-1321 (c)

Mick Shanahan—Faith Formation
mobilrrtaz@gmail.com, 402-679-7990

Sue Bro—In-Reach/Outreach
npsbro@outlook.com, 928-254-7029

Ex Officio

Pr. Conrad Braaten
prbraaten@gmail.com, 202-213-4235

FINANCIAL REPORT—August 2025

Operating Fund—August

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Pastoral Call Fund Adj.	Net Income
\$ 16,510.48	\$ 13,708.67	\$ 4,200.00	\$ (1,398.19)

Year-to-Date (Jan-August)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Pastoral Call Fund Adj.	Net Income
\$ 130,582.01*	\$100,777.16**	\$ 33,600.00	\$ (3,795.15)

*Fundraising Income— \$775.95; Youth—\$700.00; Shoe Drive—\$3,268.00; Joy Pack Grant—\$1,926.00
 **Youth \$800.00; Shoe Drive \$1,542.72

8/31/2025 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$85,940.85	
Mortgage Fund	6,153.21	
Pastoral Call Fund	\$33,600.00	(Banking: current vs full-time Pastoral expenses)
Restricted Ministries	<u>16,864.36</u>	
Ending Balance	\$142,558.42	

Board Restricted Fund—August

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$ 437.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 437.00

Year-to-Date (Jan-August)

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$ 7,779.00*	\$23,706.14**	\$ (15,977.14)

*Thrivent Choice Dollar	\$1,129.00	**Youth Camp Fee	\$250.00	Parking Lot	\$5,415.00
WELCA for Chairs	\$5,000.00	Piano Tuning	\$700.00	Landscaping	\$1,100.00
Donation for Chairs	\$1,650.00	Building HVAC	\$9,145.73	Chairs	\$7,095.41

8/31/2025 Ending Balance

Building Fund	\$ 0.00	
Landscaping Fund	811.02	
Mortgage Principal	2,041.00	
Organ/Piano Fund	2,300.87	
Restricted Designated	2,950.70	
Restricted Undesignated	<u>10,801.65</u>	
	\$18,905.24	
Bank 11 month CD		\$ 10,000.00
Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance		\$ 2,425.40
Mission Investment Fund Mortgage Owed		\$113,864.36

MEMORIALS, HONORS & GIFTS

*If you have felt blessed by someone,
give a gift in their honor or memory.
You are sharing that blessing
with others.*

SEPTEMBER 2025

JOY PACKS

Lucy Acheson
Mary Stelpstra
Anita Young
Deanna Codner in Memory of
Mary Ann Schulz

GIFTS

Kip & Laura Stransky
in honor of
Pr. Naomi Barcanic & Tom Berlage



QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

In an effort to save on printing costs, quarterly contribution statements are now being printed or emailed on-demand.
If you would like to receive your latest statement of giving, please contact the office.

Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 Scenic Drive
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324
www.sojaz.net



October Highlights

- 1—In-Reach/Outreach Team (CR), 10am
- 2—Joint Men's Breakfast w/Christ Lutheran (FH), 8am
- 5—Food Bank/Green Bag Sunday
- 9—Men's Group @ Red Rooster Café, 8am
- 9-11—Verde Valley Voices Courtyard Sale, 8am-2pm
- 11—Green Bag Food Event, 10am, Mtn View UMC
- 12—Rev. Pat Reed, Synod Congregational Transition
Coach at worship
- 15—Church Council Meeting (CR), 1pm
- 16—Gather Bible Study (CR), 2pm
- 17-18—Quail Country Quilter's Quilt Show, 9am-4pm
- 23—Daytime Book Group (CR), 2pm
- 26—Reformation Sunday, Oktoberfest Meal after worship

SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

Mid-Week Worship—
Wednesdays 5pm

Worship—Sundays 9:30am
Fellowship—following
Sunday worship

