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Spirit of Joy
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Beloved People of Spirit of Joy,

I truly enjoyed worshipping with you on Reformation Sunday! The emphasis on the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition initiated by the Inreach/Outreach folks brought to us a real-time issue of continuing Reformation: a time to repent of past wrongs and injuries, a time to continue the process of healing both victims and perpetrators of assumptions and decisions that have proved to be harmful of body and spirit, and a time to move together into a common future of greater well-being, respect and understanding. Some might dismiss this as 'Critical Race Theory'. I disagree. This is Spirit working in all of us and in history to fix a broken world and heal a wounded humanity. I am so glad that the ELCA has deemed itself to be a part of "NABSHC."

I look ahead with enthusiasm to the times coming up in November and December when we celebrate special events: All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, the season of Advent and then the Joy of sharing the Christmas story through words, songs and pageantry. Indeed, every time we gather to worship in one another's company is extraordinary. Where else do we find an experience that reminds us of the Living Word made flesh, full of grace and truth. This reality, God's presence, is what gives meaning, balance, perspective and noble cause to our lives no matter what we go through.

Our worship and life in community is not something peripheral in our lives but begs to be at the center of who we are as a People of God, and also whose we are as part of the Body of Christ. That is worth considering, over and over again. This is worth supporting. This is worth our time.

I commend you to experience to your fullest all the rich gifts that belong to you in Christian Community: the gift of companionship, the gift of hospitality, the gift of learning, the gift of growing in truth and understanding of your faith, the gift of giving to those in need, and the gift of JOY in the presence of your Lord.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find invitations to worship, opportunities to keep learning, and occasions for fellowship. Use them. They are yours for the taking.

In Peace,

Pr. Braaten



Carol Quin	4
Jim Prigge	7
Carl Mason	13
Glena Atkins	18
Mick Shanahan	21
Georganne Eibe	29



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



Saunders, Fred & Beverly 15

Deaths

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

Nancy Sowarby, Carolyn Ward, George Wells, Yona Ash, Mary Ann Schulz, Ken Suhr

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.

SOJ received \$47.94 for the 3rd quarter 2025. Let's do better and don't forget to designate your rewards when shopping during the holidays!

Call the office for more details on enrolling.



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH



330 Scenic Drive
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

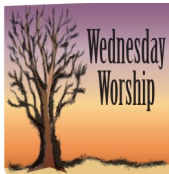
Communion Ministry



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

The Learning Community Continues

Beginning on Thursday, November 6th at 10:00 am, and continuing for six weeks, Pastor Braaten will be leading another "Spiritual Growth Group". This session we will be listening to God's Living Word in Paul's letter Ephesians. This is a wonderful epistle speaking about life in community, and that community's witness in the world. The class is limited to 10 people, so sign up now with either Pastor Braaten or with Rosie in the office. (We will not be meeting on Thanksgiving!) Talk to one of the participants in this last Spiritual Growth Group on Galatians if you want more information, many of whom are repeating this experience with Ephesians!



Worship-Bible Study, featuring presentations by Dr. Craig Koester, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, continues every Wednesday evening at 5:00 pm. The folks who have been gathering for that service, which includes communion, have found it to be very enlightening, meaningful and enjoyable. All are invited!

GATHER BIBLE STUDY

The Gather Bible Study will meet on Thursday, November 20th at 2pm in the Conference Room. We will be using the Gather magazine Study Guide for November. All are welcome to join us!



SOJ's MEN'S GROUP



The Men's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at Red Rooster Café in Old Town for fellowship and to discuss that week's Gospel. In November, they will meet on Thursday, November 13th and Wednesday, November 26th (due to Thanksgiving). For more information contact Tom Berlage, 1-218-576-8861.

PEACE: THE ULTIMATE GOAL 2025 Interfaith Workshops & Service

Interfaith Workshops

Sundays: Oct 26 - Nov 16
Time: 2PM-4PM

Multi-Faith Worship Service
Sunday, Nov 23
Time: 2-4pm

Theme:
Peace: The Ultimate Goal



(refreshments & pie will be served following the service)

HELD AT

**MOUNTAIN
VIEW
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**901 S. 12TH ST.
COTTONWOOD**

Nov 9—Buddhist Faith Nov 16—Hindu Faith
Nov 23—Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

Please bring a non-perishable food item to the worship service to be shared with Old Town Mission. Monetary offerings to assist local homeless population.

For more information, call 928-274-6289 or email:
verdevalleyinterfaith@gmail.com

The Moral Teachings of Jesus

Radical Instruction in the Will of God

Based on the book by David P. Gushee

Study Leader: Pastor David Brandfass

Wednesdays, 11:00 am – Noon

November, 5, 19, 26, & December 3rd

In person at Christ Lutheran - Sedona

or by Zoom for SOJ and traveling people

November 5 According to Mark

November 19 According to Matthew

November 26 According to Luke

December 3..... According to John

Please sign up in the narthex at SOJ.

Indicate "P" for in person after your name

Indicate "Z" for by Zoom after your name



October 13, 2025

Just wanted to say thanks to all my friends for the prayers and cards. I'm doing everything they have throw at me. No pain. Hope to be back soon.

Love you all,

Ruth Tasa

WELCA NEWS

The ladies of WELCA met on October 9th in the Fellowship Hall for their October meeting. Becky K led as president; and also led an icebreaker. Marie P led devotions and presented a modern interpretation of the 10 Commandments.



- Glena A gave the Treasurer's report
- Deanne C gave the Secretaries' report.
- Sue B presented an update on quilting progress. The Quilters Group will sell bagged lunches at the Oct 17-18 Quail Country Quilters Show and Sale. Cookies for the lunch and snack sales will be needed. She also updated us on the progress of craft projects for WELCA's Taste of Christmas event to be held December 6th.
- Several of the Joyful Quilters and Crafters group have made 18 holiday aprons to be worn by the volunteers at that event, and those were shown by Sue. She also discussed possible uses for 15-20 fabric drawstring bags donated to the quilters. Perhaps to fill them with toiletries and other items useful to those at the Homeless Coalition and/or the Domestic Violence Shelter.
- Marie presented future events planned by In-Reach/Outreach committee including: the SOJ booth at the Fall Festival (held at VV Fairgrounds Oct 24-25, Reformation Sunday Worship/Oktoberfest Potluck Dinner Oct. 26th, WELCA "Noisy Offering on November 23rd, Veterans' recognition "Pie Sunday" worship service and fellowship on November 9th. Also, Interfaith Thanksgiving worship at Mountain View UMC on Nov. 23rd, our Taste of Christmas on Dec. 6th, Red Cross Blood Drive on Dec. 10th, and a Community carol Sing-a-long with the Verde Valley Voices benefitting Joy Packs on Dec. 12th. All of these projects and their dates/times will be highlighted in up-coming bulletins and calendars.

Prayers were given for family and friends of WELCA members who are experiencing illness or special needs.

The meeting closed with the recitation of Our Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Codner, Co-Secretary

WELCA's "Taste of Christmas"

Saturday, December 6th, 8am—2pm

Christmas crafts, homemade goodies including pickles, preserves, cake, pies, cookies, candy, etc. Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex.



IN-REACH / OUTREACH TEAM

The In-Reach/Outreach Team will meet on Wednesday,
November 5th at 10am in the Conference Room.



In-Reach/Outreach Team thanks all the participants who helped make the Verde Valley Fairgrounds Fall Festival and our German Reformation Service and Potluck that also recognized the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. From pumpkin painters, to brat fryers, to kitchen workers to those who provided shade at the fairgrounds and many others who demonstrated we believe in "God's work, Our hands!"





FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Non-perishable food items will be collected Sunday, November 2nd, 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.

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Title: ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time***

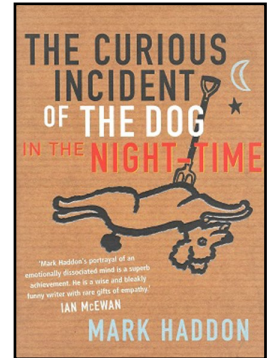
Author: Mark Haddon

ISBN# 978-1400032716

226 pages

Summary:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is about 15-year-old Christopher Boone, a mathematically gifted boy with autism, who investigates the murder of his neighbor's dog, Wellington, a task his father forbids him from pursuing. His investigation uncovers dark secrets, including that his mother is alive, not dead as he was told, and that his father is the one who killed the dog. Christopher flees to London to find his mother, navigates a chaotic new life, but ultimately reconciles with his father and passes a crucial A-level math exam, symbolizing his growing independence and confidence.



Our avid book readers will meet on Tuesday, November 25 at 2:00 pm in the conference room at SOJ. Remember this day change because of Thanksgiving. The book is available in the YLN in the following formats: Regular Print, e-audio, e-book, Audio Book on CD, and Kindle.



In need of prayer?

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

WORSHIP SCRIPTURE READINGS

Nov 2: Dan 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 146; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-1

Nov 9: Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9, 2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

Nov 16: Mal 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thess 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Nov 23: Jer 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Col 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Nov 30: Isa 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Rom 13:11-14, Matt 24:36-44





"You're Not Done Becoming"

Sarah Naylor has released her book entitled *"You're Not Done Becoming: Reclaim Personal Power and Purpose to Transform Your Life at Any Age"*. Via Zoom, Sarah will lead conversations about this insightful book from 10:00-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall on November 6th, 13th, and 20th.

If you have questions, ask Gwen Brandfass, Marla Banks, Margit Larsen, and Nancy Oelklaus for more information.

These gatherings will be so much more than book discussions; they will be an opportunity for people to reflect on their own journeys, share wisdom, and be encouraged in faith and life." We hope you'll join us.

Zoom invitation:

"You're Not Done Becoming" class
Time: Nov 6, 2025 10:00 AM Arizona
Every week on Thu, 3 occurrence(s)
[Please download and import the following iCalendar \(.ics\) files to your calendar system.](#)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89892000398?pwd=VfIXQlYCGGxm0tYjZDoVuS9ABM1r.1>

Meeting ID: 898 9200 0398
Passcode: 152499

Shake Up Your Holiday Tradition
Give Blood

Spirit of Joy Holiday Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 10th
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

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

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
Sponsor Code: Joy

Give Something that Means Something®
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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

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

Sharing God's bountiful harvest

In Iowa, your generosity is transforming lives through fresh, healthy produce. Cedar Rapids is a metropolitan area surrounded by small, rural communities. Though the city is known as a good place to raise a family, its government struggles to support the needs of a growing marginalized population that includes many immigrants. By one estimate, 11% of the

county's adult population is food-insecure and 40% of those individuals do not qualify for federal food assistance such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Feed Iowa First, which is supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, is a grassroots community of businesses, faith organizations, schools, farmers and volunteers that combats food insecurity by "growing food and farmers." The food production takes place on underutilized urban land in and around Cedar Rapids, including at a handful of ELCA congregations. At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Feed Iowa First set up an urban farm with bitter gourds, cucumbers and sweet peppers. The garden at Faith Lutheran Church in Marion grows leeks — over 125 pounds just last summer.

A key part of this food production is to increase access to farmland for a diversity of farmers, including immigrants, so they can grow crops for their families and communities and build successful businesses. Darius Nupolu, a graduate of the farming program, grew up in a small village in Liberia with his father. "Farming was the only major source of income for our family," Darius shares. Income from their family farm provided for Darius' education, and over time, he became more interested in agriculture. When he completed high school, he says, "I told my dad that I was going to college to study agriculture so that I would

return to help improve our farming system, ultimately improving the lives of our family members." After college, he had the opportunity to work with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where his interest and passion grew.

In 2015, Darius and his family moved to the U.S. However, not until they relocated to Cedar Rapids two years later was Darius able to begin farming. Through networking, he connected with Feed Iowa First and quickly saw a huge demand in the local African immigrant community for culturally relevant vegetables. Many traveled to Minnesota for such produce, a four-hour drive. With the help of Feed Iowa First and ELCA World Hunger, Darius began growing Liberian bitter ball, eggplant, okra, sweet potato vines, hot peppers, collards and cucumbers. He now operates a thriving business — Nupolu's Emerging Farms LLC — which he continues to expand.

In 2024, with your support, Feed Iowa First produced 43,655 pounds of fresh, chemical-free produce. More than 32,000 pounds were delivered to local food banks, pantries, community refrigerators, apartment complexes and clinics. Some of this produce is distributed through the organization's "veggie van," which gives vegetables to anyone who stops by — more than three thousand people last year alone. At one stop last year, a gentleman thanked volunteers for coming to his apartment complex in a part of town where it is difficult to find affordable, fresh, healthy food. "These are the only vegetables I see all week," he said. For Feed Iowa First, the act of meeting neighbors where they are is essential when those neighbors face food insecurity, income disparities, health problems, mobility problems and other social disadvantages.

Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you ensure that people have access to the food they need, which is critical to building vibrant communities where everyone can reach their full potential.



With your support, Darius (right) began growing Liberian produce in Iowa. He now operates a thriving agricultural business.



FINANCIAL REPORT—September 2025

Operating Fund—September

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Pastoral Call Fund Adj.	Net Income
\$ 15,385.02	\$ 12,410.13	\$ 4,200.00	\$ (1,225.11)

Year-to-Date (Jan-Sept)

Operating Fund Income	Operating Fund Expenses	Pastoral Call Fund Adj.	Net Income
\$ 161,792.51*	\$111,846.28**	\$ 37,800.00	\$ 12,146.23

*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

9/30/2025 Ending Balance

General Fund	\$89,515.29		
Mortgage Fund	6,000.01		
Pastoral Call Fund	\$37,800.00	(Banking: current vs full-time Pastoral expenses	
Restricted Ministries	<u>12,192.20</u>		
Ending Balance	\$145,507.50		

Board Restricted Fund—September

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00

Year-to-Date (Jan-Sept)

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$ 7,804.00*	\$23,706.14**	\$ (15,902.14)

*Thrivent Choice Dollar \$1,154.00 WELCA for Chairs \$5,000.00 Donation for Chairs \$1,650.00
 **Youth Camp Fee \$250.00 Piano Tuning \$700.00 Building HVAC \$9,145.73
 Parking Lot \$5,415.00 Landscaping \$1,100.00 Chairs \$7,095.41

9/30/2025 Ending Balance

Building Fund	\$ 0.00		
Landscaping Fund	0.00		
Mortgage Principal	2,066.00		
Organ/Piano Fund	2,300.87		
Restricted Designated	0.00		
Restricted Undesignated	<u>14,563.37</u>		
	\$18,930.24		
Bank 11 month CD		\$ 10,000.00	
Mission Investment Fund Savings Balance		\$ 2,426.22	
Mission Investment Fund Mortgage Owed		\$112,160.90	

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.*

OCTOBER 2025

JOY PACKS

Lucy Acheson
Fred & Sally Huff
Anita Young

GIFTS

Kip & Laura Stransky
in honor of
our faithful Prayer Team



JOYFUL MUSIC MAKERS

Join us as we Make a
Joyful Noise every Sunday.

9:00am—Joyful Music Rehearsal

9:15am—Hymn Sing

11:15am—Joyful Music Rehearsal

All singers, instrumentalists
and noise makers of all ages
are welcome!



Spirit of Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



November Highlights

- 2—Food Bank Sunday
Interfaith Workshop, Mtn View UMC, 12th St., 2-4pm
- 5—In-Reach/Outreach Meeting (CR), 10am
- 9—Veteran's Pie Sunday (FH) after 9:30am Worship
Interfaith Workshop, Mountain View UMC, 2-4pm
- 13—Men's Group @ Red Rooster Café, 8am
WELCA Meeting (FH), 9:30am
- 16—Interfaith Workshop, Mountain View UMC, 2-4pm
- 19—Church Council Meeting, 4:30pm
- 20—Gather Bible Study (CR), 2pm
- 23—WELCA's Noisy Offering during worship
Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, Mtn View UMC, 2-4pm
- 25—Daytime Book Group (CR), 2pm
- 26—Men's Group @ Red Rooster Café, 8am
- 28—Thanksgiving Day
- 29—Day after Thanksgiving —Office Closed
- 30—Healing Sunday

SOJ Weekly Worship Schedule

Mid-Week Worship—
Wednesdays 5pm

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

