



Community of Joy Lutheran Church

MAY 2024

**110 Balboa Road
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
501-915-9569**

**E-mail: office.cofjoy@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.community-of-joy.org**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Dear friends,

Spring has sprung! The flowers are blooming, the birds are chirping, and the days are filled with sunshine. The rain of April has caused the greening of the landscape, and our days get longer with each passing week. Many of us are energized by the arrival of Spring and the new life sprouting around us. With that energy we are making plans to utilize and enjoy this season to the fullest!

Spring and Summer do seem to be our busiest months as we know the glory of this season is fleeting. Many of you have shared with me your plans for Spring cleaning, Spring sports (golf!), and Spring and Summer travel to visit family and friends or to explore new places. We're making plans around the church, too, for new education opportunities, for different worship experiences, and for exciting evangelism initiatives.

As our calendars are starting to fill up, though, I encourage you to leave some time open for both rest and all the things God might surprise us with this season. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God has plans for us, too. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with a hope." I know God's plans for me are probably better than any plans I could make for myself!

As we wonder what God might be up to in our lives and what kind of plans God has for us, it is fitting that we will celebrate Pentecost this month. Pentecost is a celebration of the Holy Spirit and an acknowledgement that the Spirit of God is active and present with us in very real and sometimes very mysterious ways. Our observance of Pentecost this year will be extra special as we are also celebrating the first anniversary of our merged church.

Join me today and all month long in breathing in the fresh Spring air, soaking up the glorious sunshine, and giving thanks to God for all God has done, is doing, and will do in our promised and hopeful future.



Peace be with you all.

Vicar Julie

Treasurers' Report

	March	March	YTD	YTD
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	23,670	22,500	94,502	67,500
Expenses	<u>14,549</u>	<u>19,957</u>	<u>45,248</u>	<u>59,871</u>
Surplus	9,121	2,543	49,257	7,629
Cash on hand	557,328			
Dedicated Funds	<u>427,296</u>			
Operating Capital	130,032			

The month of March ended with a surplus of \$9,121 for the month and \$49,257 for the year-to-date. Income is over budget and expenses are under budget. The operating capital, the difference between cash and dedicated funds, is \$130,032.



Treasurer Report

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.

John Keller, Treasurer

SINGLES DINNER



The singles group met at the Great Wall Chinese restaurant on Wednesday, April 10 at 5 p.m. There were 11 of us laughing and having a good time. We will meet again at the Sunset Grill at Balboa Lake on **Wednesday, May 8** at 5 p.m. We have a new member, and we would like to see more of you singles. For questions, please call Sally Johnson - 922-3360.

Love Lunches on May 12th

Community of Joy will once again be privileged to serve Love Lunches on Sunday, May 12th.

Our weather is warming up and there is a need for more summer-type clothes for our friends at Love Lunches. If you have shorts, tee shirts, wind breakers, summer shoes, etc. that you no longer wear, please consider donating them to Love Lunches. We will be happy to take them with us on May 12th and distribute them.

Please place them in the bin at church marked for Love Lunches.

Thank you. If you would like to know more about Love Lunches, please ask.



Missions Committee

The offering from Lenten and Easter week services totaled \$850, which has been given to Faith Fellowship Food Pantry.

Thank you all for your generosity, which will allow the food pantry to assist more area residents who are facing food insecurity.

You are the best!



Anne King
Mission's Committee Chair

Reader Training

ARE you a reader for the worship services? Would you like to be a reader?

Please attend the upcoming meeting on **Thursday, May 2 at 10 a.m.**

This will include a quick review, some new reader formats and a general exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Eileen Miller



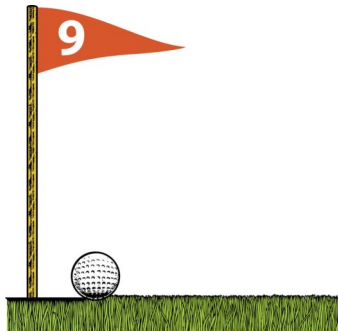
COMMUNITY OF JOY COUNCIL MINUTES

You are welcome to read the minutes from each council meeting. On the church website click on **COJ Documents/Reports**.

You will be asked for a password (if you do not know the password, call the church office to get it)

Scroll down and all the minutes are listed for your viewing.

Golf Scramble Update



Our first Shoe Box Golf Scramble for the year was a big success. We had 5 4-somes, the weather was good, the golf great, and the fellowship at the dinner gathering afterward was fantastic!

Our next outing will be May 19 (we are deferring to Mother's Day on the 2nd Sunday)! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Put it on your calendar to come join us and support a worthy cause for Mountain Pine and Jessieville schools.

Dick Coulson

Missions Committee

The Mission's Committee has invited Nina Alder from A Caring Place in Hot Springs to our May meeting. She will discuss the program at Caring Place, which is an adult day-care facility for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients and is connected to Levi Hospital. Our meeting begins at 9:30 on Wednesday, May 1, at Community of Joy.

Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend and learn about the facility and the program.

If you know of someone who is not a member of CJOY, but who wants to attend the meeting, please invite them to come and learn.

Thank you!
Anne King
Mission's Chair



Food Donations

The Pantry needs for May are 1 lb. bag dried pinto beans.

Save the Date

The annual Fall Picnic for our congregation, as well as our friends from Prince of Peace in Hot Springs, is scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2024, at the Cortez Pavilion. It will begin with a social time at 10:00 am, the annual outdoor church service at 10:30 am, and a catered picnic-style dinner at 11:15 am...(give or take a few minutes!!!)

The meal is being catered by Home Plate, will include smoked chicken, pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, coleslaw, and baked beans. Beverages will include sweet and unsweet tea, lemonade, water, and coffee. Adult beverages may be brought from home by attendees. The cost will be \$15 per person.

Ticket sales will be from mid-August to mid-September. We will need to give Home Plate a final count by Sept. 19th. It will be a good time, and so far, the forecast is great!!!

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Outdoor Worship &
Church Picnic

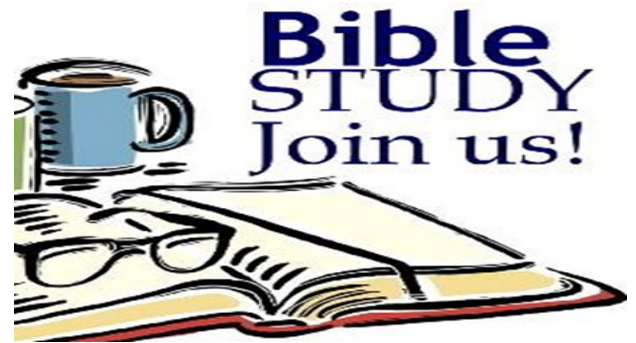


Evangelism CHALLENGE:

Help a neighbor or friend with household or yard work.



Books	Philippians & Colossians Two letters of Paul written to Christians in AD 60. <u>Philippians</u> is recognized as his joyous epistle and as his “friendship letter”. The big idea of <u>Colossians</u> is: Christ is all; you need no supplements!
Texts	Your choice of Bible (both Old & New Testaments) Joy of Living Adult Study Guide.
When	<u>Daily</u> study questions at home. <u>Weekly</u> class, every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. May 14 to July 2, 2024.
Where	Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Conference Room 110 Balboa Road, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas
Cost	Daily Study Questions & Weekly Commentary (NIV) \$14 payable to Jerry Fager.
Questions	Jerry Fager 210-885-2725 jdfager@yahoo.com Erwin Hoeft 501-915-0495 hoeft@suddenlink.net www.joyofliving.org



Rear View

You are (or someone you know is) focused on how life used to be. It’s important to cherish what was; but be alert, watching for doors that God is opening for you. Could be it’s time to look to the “now” and to what God has in store for this new stage of life. A Stephen Minister is a great listener, in complete confidentiality, as things get worked out ... may one of our team help?

Please contact:

Stephen Leader Dorothy Fager 501/226-5215,
or Stephen Leader Sue Maser 708/296-6692.

STEPHEN MINISTRY OF CJOY

CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE



Annelle McCaskey	May 2
Jim Hess	May 2
Gail Taylor	May 4
Terry Bayes	May 5
Jan Floy	May 6
Gary Wilkins	May 6
Bertie Monson	May 12
Steve Angel	May 13
Linda Keller	May 19
Paul Anderson	May 22
Mary Orman	May 23
Nancy Wilkins	May 26
Laurel Gunderson	May 27
Jan Folstad	May 28
Phil Keller	May 28
Larry Griffin	May 30

Jim & Judy Collins	May 1	(58 yrs.)
Alan & Peggy Farnsworth	May 8	(48 yrs.)
Peter & Beth Mielke	May 23	(37 yrs.)
Duane & Patty Ninke	May 23	(43 yrs.)
Ron & Beth Ytzen	May 28	(41 yrs.)

Dear Church Members,

We're excited to announce that we are updating the new church directory, and we need your help to make it complete! To ensure that everyone is included, we will be taking photos of all members. So far we have taken photos of half of our church members.

Photo Session Schedule

- **Saturday Night Service (5:00 PM):** [Dates from now until the end of May]
- **Sunday Morning Service (9:00 AM):** [Dates from now until the end of May]

If you haven't had your photo taken yet, don't worry! We will continue taking photos until the end of May to accommodate everyone's schedules.

Important Notes:

- Photos will be taken before and after the specified service times.
- If you miss the initial sessions, there will be periodic updates throughout the year to ensure everyone is included.
- We encourage all members to participate to help us create a comprehensive directory for our church community.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation in this important project!

Blessings,

Beth Mielke and Jan Folstad



Community of Joy Mission Endowment Fund: Enhancing Our Impact

A Brief Overview of the Fund:

Established on May 15, 1997, the Community of Joy Mission Endowment Fund, formerly known as the Christ Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund, has served to support our mission-driven initiatives. Over the years, the Fund has grown to exceed \$200,000 which is conservatively invested in income-producing securities (government backed bonds and certificates of deposit). The Fund's bylaws mandate that the principle of all gifts remain invested in the Fund. However, the earnings they generate are given to deserving organizations beyond our congregation, enabling them to help do our Lord's work. Early this year the earnings from 2023 allowed us to provide gifts totaling \$6,475. We project that this year's earnings will allow us to have an even greater impact next year.

How you can have an impact:

We invite you to join us in furthering our mission by supporting the Community of Joy Mission Endowment Fund. Examples of ways to contribute to the Fund are:

- Bequests in wills
- Life insurance proceeds
- Naming the Fund as a beneficiary in trusts
- Memorial gifts
- Donating appreciated stock

Or "just a gift that keeps on giving."

As you consider your charitable giving, we encourage you to include the Community of Joy Mission Endowment Fund in your planning. Every contribution, regardless of size, contributes to our collective efforts to foster positive change within our community. Whatever the source of your gift, you can be assured that the principle will remain intact, allowing for your gift to have a continuing impact far into the future.

Annual Fund Allocations:

The Fund Team has traditionally allocated donations to non-profit organizations across three key categories:

- ELCA Church-Wide Initiatives (\$2,000 in 2024)
- AR/OK Synod Support (\$2,000 in 2024)
- Local Mission Organizations (\$2,475 in 2024)

Your support empowers us all to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, both locally and beyond.

For more information about how you can support the Community of Joy Mission Endowment Fund, please reach out to any of the Fund team members: Phil Keller, Connie Zervas, John Plautz, and Jean O'Brien.



Women of Joy

Here are some reasons to come to the next Women of Joy meeting on Tuesday, May 21:

- I have backaches.
- I have stiff and painful joints.
- I want to improve my strength, flexibility, and balance.
- I get headaches all the time.
- I want better posture.

Our guest speaker is Physical Therapist, Mindy from Good Sams. A physical therapist can address many issues to keep us healthy and moving. Please join us at 9:00.

We will have a salad potluck luncheon to celebrate our final meeting for the "23-24" year. Sign up in the narthex for the type of salad you will bring. There will be 3 categories – main dish (something with meat, seafood, cheese, etc.), vegetable/ pasta or fruit, gelatin or "fluff" salads. A beverage, roll and dessert will be provided.

Have you been keeping track of the single word written in bold that was in each month's newsletter for the past 8 months. There will be a prize for you if you correctly unscramble the 9 words to make a bible verse. I **challenge** you to identify the bible verse.

Blessings to all,
Dianne Degner



Learning New Hymns

It has been brought to the attention of the Worship and Music Committee that not all of the hymns we have been using are familiar to all of you. In an effort to help you learn a few new hymns from our hymnal, we are going to try an experiment this summer.

For each month, June, July, and August, we will use the same hymn each week as the closing hymn, giving you 4 opportunities to become familiar with that hymn.



We will seek your feedback next fall about this method of learning a new hymn. Please give it a good try.

Thank you.

Communion CARE



Those of us who provide the set up and cleanup of Communion are looking for volunteers to assist.

If you have an interest in Saturday's contact Patty Ninke 501-226-5190 or pattyninke@yahoo.com or Sunday's contact Mary 501-915-0269 or mary.orman@att.net.

We will schedule a time for instruction on the set up.

Thank You.

Thank you for supporting the E-Team's
"God's Work. Our Hands." Maundy
Thursday **FREE CAR WASH!**

Many workers made for a great day of service to others.

Special thanks to the following volunteers:

Back Row: Dawn Beckett, Ina & Don Gohr, Vicar Julie Wesley, Arv Hallstrom, Lance Miller, Jerry Fager, Jim Kline

Front Row: Char Maeda, Eileen Miller, Beth Ytzen

A sum of over \$200 has been donated to the Food Bank at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR.



Celebrate Pentecost and the Anniversary of our Merger



One Year Anniversary

We will celebrate Pentecost this year on **Sunday, May 19th**. This will also be the celebration of the anniversary of our merger into one congregation. Please wear red for this festive occasion and plan to attend on Sunday morning if possible. There will be a short, in-seat service on Saturday with no music, for those who cannot attend on Sunday.

We would like to decorate the church with lots of red potted plants. If you would be willing to share your red potted plants for that service, please bring them to the kitchen by Saturday afternoon so they can be arranged for the service. Please pick up your plants after the service on Sunday.

There will be a celebration cake and coffee time after the service in the narthex, so please plan to stay a while after the service. Please come and celebrate the birthday of our church and our 1st anniversary as a united congregation.





MAY 2024

Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Thurs,
Friday
10:00 - 2:00
501-915-9569

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 9:30 am Missions	2 10 am Readers Meeting	3	4 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
5 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	6 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong 3:30 pm Property Meeting	7 9am Finance 10am E-Team 1pm Good Sams 4pm Congregational Meeting	8 5pm Singles Dinner Sunset Grill	9 9am Finance 11am Intern- ship Meeting	10	11 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
12 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	13 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong	14 9am Council 1pm Fellowship 3:30 Bible Study	15	16 1pm Worship & Music	17 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	18 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
19 Pentecost Sunday Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am 1pm Golf Scramble	20 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	21 9am Women of Joy 3:30 Bible Study	22	23	24	25 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
26 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	27 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	28 8am Men's Breakfast at Debra's 3:30 Bible Study	29	30	31	

