



MARCH 2023

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 3

Community of Joy Lutheran Church



**"Health Stewardship is -
taking care of Me!"**

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Living in God's amazing grace

Dear Community of Joy:

I have enjoyed hearing how some of you have processed the season of Epiphany and how you are preparing yourself for Lent!

Based on the overarching idea of Love being related to me I decided to write this article by baring my soul on what epiphany means from my perspective. Maya Angelou said that epiphany, was a time that "I am loved by Love Itself. There is nothing good that I can't do."

This makes so much sense. I agree, "We are indeed loved by Love itself. Love fills us and empowers us. Love walks with and alongside us. Love animates our lives and moves us to action. And Love never fails."

All things are made possible with that kind of Love. That's not saying we won't face difficult things. Newspapers and newsfeeds bombard us with reasons to doubt the power of Love in the world. The recent acts of terror and violence committed against our elderly Asian community in our cities from Los Angeles to New York City reflect how vulnerable we are at times. The youth of our communities are being confronted with bullying in their schools, subject to physical violence because of cultural/political differences, and told that they are not worthy people until and unless they practice a particular faith. I have heard these comments too many times: "it's my way or the highway" or "I am in pain and deserve to be compensated" or "until you walk in my shoes you can't understand me". Racial bias is running rampant, and we even have people in power positions calling for a "Red" and "Blue" divide (divorce) in our nation – it reminds me of the "north" vs "south" mentality on racial equality.

Will we allow such events and ideas to isolate us and our loved ones out of fear? To push us away from community? Will we succumb to evil, or will we stand up for the "light" that is within us.

We've heard that Love conquers all. Does this include conquering the pervasive evil in the world?

It sounds "pie-in-the-sky-ish", but I think Love can conquer – AND cover - a multitude of evil things. Love can do the impossible – it can transform, renew, reconcile, make peace – but it requires something. Love needs a body to do its work.

Love needs hands and feet and the will to act. Love needs generous hearts, willing souls, determined minds and persistent strength. Love needs us to act. If Love requires anything, it requires our YES and our participation.

Jesus was Love with skin and bones.
And now, may Love be embodied in us.
Fr. Bruce

LENTEN/EASTER OFFERINGS

This year's loose Lenten and Easter week-end offering will go to Oaks Indian Mission. **Lenten services will be at Community of Joy (CJoy) as will the Palm Sunday service. Easter Sunday service will take place at Christ Lutheran (CLC).**

Because we do not have 2023 offering envelopes yet and the delivery date is unknown, please use the green generic envelopes for all loose and check offerings for any services you attend at CLC. The envelopes will be returned to CJoy for record keeping. Label the green envelopes with your name and if this is to be going to CJoy general fund or Oaks Indian Mission. Also, use these envelopes for any services at CJoy if your supply of 2022 envelopes are depleted. Be sure to label these with your name.

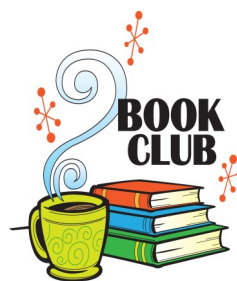
The envelopes can be found by the offering plates, the pouch on the back of the chairs in the sanctuary and on the table as you enter the Narthex.

Thank you.
Missions
CJoy Finance



Book Club **will NOT meet in March** but will resume on Wednesday, April 19th at 10am.

We will continue with our study on the book "Do What You Have the Power to Do" and will be discussing chapter 6. We will discuss the story of the woman who was guilty but not condemned; John 7:53-8:1-11. Jesus reverses the plan of the scribes and Pharisees, and they end up judging themselves guilty. You do NOT have to have read the book to attend.



Please contact Annie Hatesohl, 785-630-0195, if you have any questions.



**General Fund Contributions
Comparative for January**

2021	\$ 11,782
2022	\$ 15,285

Change in 2022: \$ 3,503*

*A number in () is an unfavorable variance

**Treasurer's Report
January, 2023**

Current Month Only

Budgeted Expense	\$ 11,300
Actual Expense	\$ 13,013
Actual Income	\$ 15,902
Difference	\$ 2,889*

YTD Through End of Current Month

Budgeted Expense YTD	\$ 11,300
Budgeted Income YTD	\$ 12,617
Actual Expense YTD	\$ 13,013**
Actual Income YTD	\$ 15,902
Difference YTD	\$ 2,889*

* A number in () is an unfavorable variance

** Included in "Actual Expense YTD" is \$350 which represents a "set aside" of \$350 per month as a contingency for future significant repairs, replacements, and unexpected emergencies regarding CJOY's building and facilities.

Please contact Don Gohr with any questions.



HAPPY REITREMENT SHERYL

On February 4 we had a celebration of 15 years of service for Sheryl Pierce. Sheryl retired this year and the congregation gathered to thank her for her service. Pictured are Melanie Peterson and Sheryl Pierce.



Thank You! Thank You!

I just wanted to thank everyone that was involved in my retirement party. Much thanks goes to Jill & Melanie for getting everything rollin' and for the gift certificate to Bath & Body. I've already been there!! Thank you for the beautiful cake & balloons (had 1 escapee while trying to get them into my vehicle) to the Fellowship Group, to Linda G. for her gift & for us to go out to lunch, Annie B. for her designer cookies (yummy), Jan F. for the Brighton charm, and all the beautiful cards. Thank you to all that attended my retirement party!!

I have been very blessed to be part of this wonderful congregation. Thank you so much!!

Happily Retired,
Sheryl

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIKE

A grand celebration of Mike's 90th birthday was held in February .

Mike was overjoyed with the beautiful cake, balloons and cards that were part of the celebration.



Sheryl and Linda Griffin helped Ray Ice celebrate his 90th birthday.



Greetings from the Singles Group.

We met last month on Feb 8 at Home Plate at 3:30 PM. It was a gloomy, foggy, rainy day and some of the group did not venture out of their homes. We had 10 there for a fun filled time. Next month we will meet on TUESDAY March 7, at Las Colinas (used to be Tanners) at 4:00PM. Due to the Lent Wednesday Service we will meet on Tuesday this month.

Would love to see some more singles there. For questions, call Sally Johnson at 922-3360.



Women of Joy

I grew up in Wisconsin where the winters can be long, cold, and dreary. It always felt like a time of hope and new beginnings when spring finally arrived. All the joy and the wonder, all the beauty of heaven could be felt and seen when the tulips bloomed, and the trees turned green. We don't have the dramatic change in seasons here, but I pray you feel the wonder and hope of spring.

Our next Women of Joy meeting falls on the day after spring officially begins. We will meet Tuesday, March 21 at 9:00. The speaker is Hot Springs resident and author, Susan Jennings. She has written **100 K.I.S.S.es From God - Keep It Simple Saints** as well as a follow-up book. She calls it a "how to" book as well as a "why not" book. Everyone is invited to attend as we make plans for our last two meetings with a field trip to New Beginnings Pregnancy Center in Benton in April and a Luau theme potluck and party in May.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, here is an old Irish blessing.

May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours.



Dianne Degner



Dianne Degner	March 9
Ina Gohr	March 11
DeAnne Guzel	March 15
Chris Hanses	March 21
Jim Degner	March 27
Mary Kilker	March 27
Ann Ludder	March 28
Karen Sterzik	March 28
Jared Trussell	March 31

Evangelism CHALLENGE:
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

The most incredible, yet simplest thing someone can ever hear is being told that they are appreciated.



Food Pantry needs for March
24oz Spaghetti and/or Pasta Sauce.



Bob & Pat Sievert	March 27 (40 yrs)
Mary & Mike Orman	March 29 (54 yrs)



"Combined Easter Choir" with Christ Lutheran Church

may be in our future, but only if **YOU** are interested in being a part of it.

Our first rehearsal for Cjoy members will be on March 9 at 2pm. The following rehearsals will be each Thursday after that at 2pm, meeting at CLC.

Please consider this opportunity to celebrate. **A sign up sheet is next to the greeters table.**

Contact **Eileen Miller** (501-538-3381) if you are interested or have any questions.

The Evangelism Team's
Lenten focus:
"Bottles of LUVS"

Begin now to purchase **plastic** baby-bottles to fill with cash collected during **LENT** for **THE CALL**, a county resource center in Benton, AR which provides a **FOSTER CARE CLOSET** of clothing, diapers, blankets, etc. to foster families who learn that they will *immediately* have a child in their home.



Supporting Our Congregation's Mission



Stephen Ministry carries out **Community of Joy's** mission in powerful, tangible ways.

It equips people to use their gifts in ministry. It provides trained care and support for hurting people. It promotes Christian-based healing, recognizing that our loving God provides the actual "cure." It builds up the congregation as a vibrant, caring community. Multiple blessings, indeed!

So, note that trusting your difficult situation to the non-judgmental ear of a Stephen Minister in your time of need will surely be a benefit to you directly, and to many others indirectly as well.

Five (5) CJOY members are currently being trained as Stephen Ministers.

Help is coming soon.

STEPHEN MINISTRY of COMMUNITY OF JOY CHURCH

CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." -1 Corinthians 12:12



Duane Ninke & Joan Plautz celebrating "Fat Sunday" on February 18.





Great time was had by all as we shared burgers, brats, and homemade desserts.



March 2023

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9 Missions 2 Implementation Team 4 Lenten Service	2	3	4 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
5 Coffee 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am	6 3 Property Meeting	7 9:30am-12:30pm Mahjong Singles Dinner 4 pm at Las Colinas (formerly Tanners)	8 2 Implementation Team 4 Lenten Service	9 2 Choir Rehearsal At Cjoy	10	11 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
12  Coffee 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am	13 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong	14 9 Finance 10 Council	15 2 Implementation Team 4 Lenten Service	16 2 Choir Rehearsal at CLC	17 	18 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
19 Coffee 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am	20 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong	21 9 Women of Joy	22 2 Implementation Team 4 Lenten Service	23 2 Choir Rehearsal at CLC	24	25 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
26 Coffee 8:45 am Worship 9:15 am	27	28 7:30 Men's Breakfast at Debra's 9:30am-12:30pm Mahjong	29 2 Implementation Team 4 Lenten Service	30 2 Choir Rehearsal at CLC	31	

