



Community of Joy Lutheran Church

APRIL
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



Christ is Risen!
He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Easter is the climax of the church year; the resurrection of Jesus from the dead in many ways is the crux upon which our entire faith is based. There is an abundance of literature available that dives deep into the various theological implications of the resurrection of Jesus. None of the literature, however, removes all the wonder and the mystery of the miracle. At its core, the resurrection of Jesus becomes evidence that God is present and active in the world doing something new to restore God's relationship to humanity.

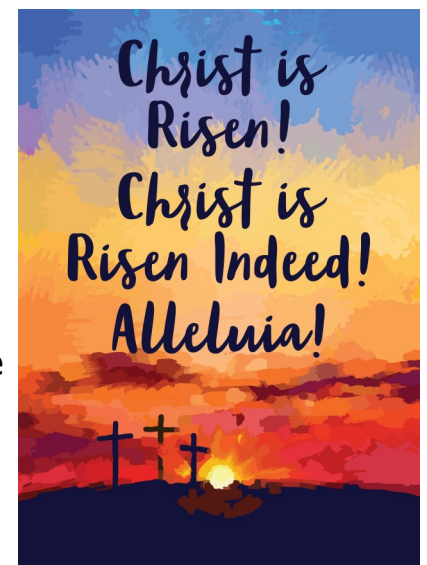
Resurrection is not just a story in the Bible, though. It is the story of how God is working in our lives, bringing us out of death and into life. Resurrection is therefore not an event that occurred in the past nor is it an event that will occur in the future. Resurrection is in the here and now and we are the witnesses.

God is moving in this congregation, here and now. Have you noticed how many announcements we have in worship each weekend or how long the weekly e-blasts have become? The newsletter is more like a booklet and the calendar is overflowing with scheduled events! We aren't just doing "God's Work with Our Hands," we are participating in what God is doing in this place at this time to bring life out of death.

We want to see, acknowledge, and celebrate resurrection regularly. Beginning after Easter, we are going to start talking about and giving thanks for how we are witnessing God's activity in this congregation, in this community, and throughout the world. "Ministry Minutes" will be three-to-five-minute segments of our worship service dedicated to sharing how we are experiencing and participating in the creative and resurrecting work of God within the context of congregational life.

What church activities are you involved in that you would like to share with the congregation? Come talk to me about scheduling your "Ministry Minute" talk. I can't wait to hear about how you are living into your faith, following in the footsteps of Jesus, and sharing light, love, and life with your neighbors.

Peace,
Vicar Julie



Treasurers' Report

	February	YTD	YTD
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgets</u>
Income	26,222	70,832	45,000
Expenses	<u>18,960</u>	<u>30,696</u>	<u>39,914</u>
Surplus	7,262	40,136	5,086



The month of February ended with a surplus of \$7,262 for the month and \$40,136 for the year-to date. Income is over budget and expenses are under budget.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.
John Keller, Treasurer



The Singles gathered at Hibachi Grill on Tuesday, March 12. One of us even used chop sticks!! Good food and conversation had by all.



It was decided that we will go back to our regular time of 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 2nd. We will meet at the Great Wall of China. We were happy to have Judy Brink join our group. Sally & Jerry were missed. Sally's knee continues to improve each day.

We welcome all singles. Please call Sally Johnson at 922-3360 with questions.

February dinner was a lot of fun.
Come join us in March!

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.

Communion Assistants Update

At the Communion Assistants training session held on March 20th, one of the suggestions given was to provide a chair for the communion assistant to sit during the distribution if that would allow a person to serve in this capacity who has not volunteered because standing for long periods of time is problematic.

If this sounds like YOU, please know that it is perfectly fine to serve communion from a seated position. Just let someone know you need a chair placed up front, or you can move a chair when you come to worship. Don't let the standing part keep you from serving.

Thank you.
Worship and Music Committee



DAVID AND PENNY LEWIS

Moved from Rome WI and are 'villagers' parttime – from December thru March. Their passion is volunteering with patients in hospice. Their Shih Tzu (Colby Jack) is a certified hospice dog. They are a blended family with 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 5 great- grandchildren.

Penny was an early childhood educator. She spends time swimming at the Coronado Fitness Center.

Dave was a band teacher and received his doctorate at Duke. While at Duke, he and 4 others started the very first physician assistance program in the nation. Dave also is a quilter and sews. He especially loves being the dishwasher at various events, including church.

Contact Info:
715-213-5755
penelopem1945@gmail.com
5 Paterna Lane (across from the Catholic Church)



JOHN AND DELORES REYNOLDS

They moved to the village on January 1st of this year, from Fairfield Bay, AR which is just north of Little Rock. John is from Iowa and Dolores from Texas.

John likes to golf. He was an officer in the Department of Corrections in Iowa. He started with the Transportation Department there.

Delores worked in accounting, and loves the arts (museums, music, plays, etc) Her passion is Literacy.

Contact Info:
210-844-8557
iatxark@gmail.com
Renting 11 Zaragosa Way
Building 11 Pacifica Circle



PAUL AND CHRISTINE LAGERQUIST

Moved to the village in Oct 2022 from Rogers, Minnesota. Christine is originally from Shakopee and Paul from Champlin.

Paul was in accounting at Cargill and likes to bowl and golf. Christine was an executive assistant at General Mills and likes to crochet, walk/hike the trails.

They both like board games, specifically a game called Fast Track.

Contact Info:
612-845-3727
16 Pacifica Circle
paul.lagerquist@gmail.com





Karen and Steve Blankenship

49 Atrayente Way
330-204-4286
karenblankenship310@gmail.com

The Blankenship's moved to the Village permanently in May 2023 (they bought their home in 2021). They came from Ohio. Both are retired and were in insurance - Karen was in marketing communications and Steve worked in the commercial side.

They enjoy going to concerts at the Woodlands; spend their days gardening / landscaping their home; hiking; working out at the Coronado Fitness Center; and playing an occasional pickleball game.

HELP KEEP THE VILLAGE GOING – MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH SCAT

Ridership with Village SCAT Transportation is booming, creating an urgent need for additional helping hands. If you're looking for a flexible and rewarding part-time opportunity, consider becoming a Ride Coordinator. Village SCAT is a volunteer organization committed to providing affordable transportation to our community.

As a Ride Coordinator, you'll use your computer savvy and pleasant phone manner to schedule rides, connecting Village neighbors to essential services and beloved activities around town. With the freedom to choose your own volunteer schedule during weekdays, you'll find the flexibility to give back when it works for you.

Whether you're retired and want to stay engaged with your community, or simply have a few extra hours during the month to make a difference, this is a chance to directly enable mobility and independence for your fellow Villagers.

As a bonus, when becoming part of the SCAT team, you will have the opportunity to make new friends with other team members. SCAT has spontaneous social events several times a year where they meet up for pizza or refreshments and enjoy getting to know the other team members.

To learn more about volunteering as a Ride Coordinator – or driver – for Village SCAT, call their office at (501) 915-0087. Or contact Joan Plautz at (262) 352-5749 or via email at joan.plautz@gmail.com. Help provide the rides that keep the Village going. Visit the website www.villagescat.com.

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**



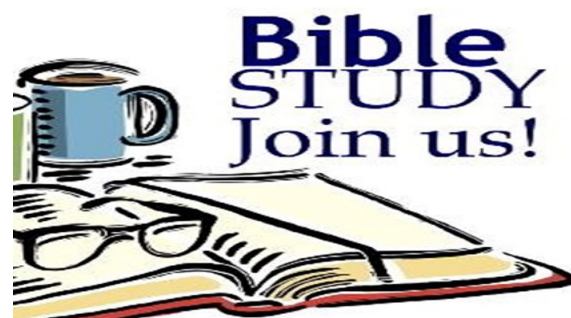
Love Lunches on Sunday April 7th



Community of Joy will once again be privileged to serve Love Lunches on Sunday, April 7th. Our weather is starting to warm up and maybe you are thinking about some spring cleaning. If you find as you go through closets or dresser drawers that you have any tee shirts you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to the Love Lunches program. We will be happy to take them with us on April 7th and distribute them. We are also in need of bakers for the April 7th sack lunches.

If you would be willing to bake 4 dozen cookies for this event, please contact Karen Sterzik. (sterzik@att.net) If you would like to know more about Love Lunches, please ask.

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 7 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 by March 19, 2024.
Questions	Jerry Fager 210-885-2725 jdfager@yahoo.com Erwin Hoeft 501-915-0495 hoeft@suddenlink.net www.joyofliving.org



Calling all Artists! Do you draw, paint, sculpt, knit, quilt, carve, etc? Please consider donating an item for the Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod Art of Worship Fundraiser Auction on May 4th as part of this year's Synod Assembly.

Questions? Contact Nia Indelicato at life.in.liminal@gmail.com.



Donate your Art!

Your opinion matters.

The Council has been very conscious of the results of the survey that you completed last December. In February all council members attended a retreat that focused on how we can better serve the congregation and address your concerns. Many of the items listed in the survey were discussed. We have been working with the Worship and Music Committee to improve the worship services, name tags have been replaced, fellowship activities have been planned to get the members together more often, town hall meetings will be held to discuss our options regarding a name change (see the article in this newsletter regarding the Town Hall Meetings) and Bishop Becca visited our congregation and addressed the call process and time frame.

The council will continue to work on these areas and other items, and we welcome input from any member of the congregation. The merger began in January of 2023 and we have accomplished a lot in a short period of time. We are not finished yet and ask for your prayers and help as we move forward.

Your Church Council.



Don & Sue Fisher 4/5 (50 years)
 Chuck & Trina Hacker 4/25 (37 years)

Alan Farnsworth	4/4
Barbara Mitchell	4/4
Shirley Swanson	4/5
Bruce Mielke	4/9
Dianne Dehart	4/10
Peter Mielke	4/14
Star Peck	4/17
Lance Miller	4/18
Angela Nickols	4/18
Larry Letchford	4/19
Susan Hallstrom	4/21
Donald Nelson	4/21
Sheryl Pierce	4/21
Chuck Hacker	4/23
Joya Hoeft	4/27
Jerry Mostrog	4/27
Erwin Hoeft	4/29
Carla Olson	4/30



One of the outstanding topics that remains from the merger is the possibility of a name change for Community of Joy. The Church Council feels that it is time to address this topic. Town Hall Meetings are scheduled to allow members to express their ideas and thoughts. There will be two meetings, we encourage everyone to attend at least one of the meetings, but we welcome you to attend both.

There will be a brief overview of the cost, process, and issues that need to be addressed. Then the meeting will be an open forum, and we encourage all members to express their ideas, concerns, and feelings regarding a name change. No suggestions of names will be presented at this time.

After the two Town Hall Meetings, a Congregational Meeting will be held and a vote taken. The vote will be "Change the name of Community of Joy?" Yes or No. If the vote is "Yes" then a committee will be formed to determine a process for selecting a new name and then how to implement that process.

Mark your Calendars:

Town Hall Meetings:

April 18th, Thursday at 4:00 pm
 April 23rd, Tuesday at 4:00 pm

Congregational Meeting:

May, 7th, Tuesday at 4:00 pm

We would like to get the choir program up and going after Easter this year. If you are interested in either the chime choir or a vocal choir, please sign up on the sheets in the narthex. We will try to schedule practices that most can attend. Our first gathering to determine when and where we will meet on a regular basis will be on **Thursday, April 18th at 3:00 pm. If you have questions please contact Kathleen Kinney at 501-282-5404 or at sugarandme@yahoo.com.**



Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Worship and Music Committee



Change is difficult, isn't it?

Your anchor amid change and transition is knowing that God is immovable and does not change. Hold on to that truth and begin to embrace the changes in your life. A trained Stephen Minister will walk beside you in total confidence as you muddle your way through. Reach out.

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

Women of Joy



Do you remember bell bottoms, miniskirts, and jackets with big shoulder pads? Did you wear culottes, turtlenecks, or track suits? Fashion has been influenced by Jackie Kennedy, Jane Fonda, Princess Diana, Madonna, and many others. Our styles are always changing. So come to the fashion show on Tuesday, April 16th to see what is new. Fashions will be presented by The Dogwood Tree. Our meeting and refreshments begin at 10:00 (please note the time change) and the fashion show will begin at 11:00. Please bring a friend to enjoy the show with us.

The signup sheet for next year's Women of Joy programs, projects and parties is available in the narthex. Please sign up for 1 month and arrange a speaker, demonstration, field trip or tour, a service project or plan a party.

Thank you to Karen Sterzik for arranging the service project we completed in March with Altrusa. Thank you to everyone that helped. Twenty-five Comfort Kits for sexual assault victims were assembled to be donated to 3 area hospitals. We also donated \$150.00 to Altrusa for more supplies. We welcome **other** ideas for service projects.

Blessings to all,
Dianne Degner



Women of Joy made bags for sexual assault victims on behalf of Altrusa International.



The Pantry needs for April are 5 oz. cans of Chunk Chicken.




Evangelism CHALLENGE:
 It is important for you to have compassion for yourself. Make time for one (1) self-care act each day; like going for a walk, eating a nutritious meal, etc.



GRANOLAS & GRINS
SCHOOL BUS MINISTRY
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
HOT SPRINGS
 109 Hobson Avenue
 For more information
 See sign-up sheet in the Narthex
 Please arrive by 3:10
 Busses arrive at 3:30

Missions Donation

 The Missions Committee has voted to give a donation to Balboa Baptist's Disaster Relief Team to assist them in their efforts to help with the tornado disaster relief effort in Hot Springs Village. They were very grateful to receive our donation, and thanked us very much.
 Anne King, Missions Committee Chair

Local

MISSIONS
Missions Committee Field Trip
 On February 28, several Missions Committee members toured Potter's Clay, Samaritan Ministries, and Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic. We learned a great deal about each of the ministries and the many clients they serve.
 We will share much of what we learned with the congregation in the near future. There are summaries of the trip posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Missions determined that donations of \$500 to CCMC and to Project Hope Food Bank for use by Potter's Clay were appropriate.
 Thank you for being so generous with your money, so that we are able to provide these donations.
 Anne King, Missions Chair



IT HAPPENED!!

"GOD'S GIFTS. OUR HANDS."

THANK YOU to All Artists and Crafters and Lecturers!



YOUR gifts and talents were celebrated and shared with the congregation as well as the Hot Springs Village community at the Gallery Show at Community of Joy. YOU helped to Honor God's gifts to us. It was an exciting event!



A few pictures from the God's Gifts, Our Hands display that was held in our narthex in March. We have some very talented members here.



APRIL 2024

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 10am Focus 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong 3pm Property Meeting	2 10an BSC Meeting 1pm Good Sams	3	4 9 am Finance	5 10am Focus	6 Coffee 3:30 pm Worship 4:00 pm
7 <u>LOVE LUNCHES</u> Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	8 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong	9 9am Council 10am Focus 1pm Fellowship	10	11 11am Internship Committee	12 10am Focus	13 Coffee 3:30 pm Worship 4:00 pm
14 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Golf Scramble 1pm Isabella	15 9am Stephen Ministry Meeting 9:30 Focus 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong	16 10am Women of Joy	17	18 11am Worship & Music 3pm Choirs information meeting 4pm Town Hall	19 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 10am Focus	20 Coffee 3:30 pm Worship 4:00 pm
21 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	22  12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	23 4pm Town Hall	24 	25	26	27 Coffee 3:30 pm Worship 4:00 pm
28 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	29 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	30 8am Men's Breakfast at Debra's				



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