

The August 2023 Monthly Newsletter of Community of Joy Lutheran Church

## Inside this Issue

### People Page 2

August Birthdays & Anniversaries  
In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Announcements 3

Men Alive!  
Sunday School Resumes  
Solar Panel Project Update  
Beer Buddies

### Worship News 4-5

Music Notes  
Stained Glass Update  
Fall Adult Education Series  
Thank you July Volunteers!

### Joyful Hearts News 6-7

Joyful Hearts News  
School Supplies for Colinas

### Pastor's Ponderings 7

### Beyond Our Walls 8

Storehouse West  
Collection for AHCH

### Our Church 9-10

Memorial Fund  
Support Good Sam Fund  
Sermon on the Amounts  
The month in photos

### Community Connections 11

Rio Rancho Youth Chorus

## What Are We Building?

Recently, my family returned from a wonderful (and very humid) trip to Washington DC. I had not been there since I was a child and had forgotten the sheer scale of all the federal buildings and monuments that adorn Capitol Hill. It's hard not to be impressed by something like the Capital Dome or the Lincoln Monument- not just because of the lovely aesthetics and craftsmanship, but even more so because of what, as Lincoln said, they represent: *A government of the people, by the people, for the people.*

That being said, it's important to also remember that at the end of the day, these monuments are just things. They may represent people, but they are not themselves alive. And whether they truly mean anything really has more to do with how we build up the living people they represent than what we do to the unliving stones we so often admire. That's not to say that we should let our beautiful monuments crumble, but it is to say that ultimately a nation is defined by its people, not its things.

Yet it is fair to say that as human beings we are often more enamored with building up things than people. Many cities will much sooner fund a high-end stadium than build affordable housing apartments. And this is despite the fact that many places have massive problems with homelessness.



Continued on page 6



Blessing  
of the Backpacks

**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**Today during the**  
**Children's Message**

## People Page

# August Birthdays

2nd: Bill Potabi	17th: Lana Rousselle
5th: Janet Cooper	Elaine Gauden
7th: Liz Ball	20th: Kris Simpson
8th: Charlotte Griffith	Manuel Williams
9th: McKenna Hutton	21st: George Gauden
12th: Maryann Cano	28th: Diane Parham
13th: Heather Himmelberger	Sam Sampson
	Terry Reeves
16th: Dick Tool	31st: Raven Sillence

### Wedding Anniversaries in August



2nd: George & Elaine Gauden
5th: Greg & Sandy Edwards
6th: Brad & Diane Brauer
10th: Pete & Erin Doles
Richard & Donna Huxtable
17th: Joe & Jackie Conner
23rd: Ben & Judy Huckleby
29th: Bill & Jean Potabi



**This past month we prayed for:**

Donna Doles  
Dick & Peg Tool  
Connie White (Stephanie's mom)  
Joan Bouty, Louise Scott  
Warren Sullivan  
Charles Davis  
Steve Gamrath  
Paul & Jackie Anderson  
Norma Gruber  
Gayle Phillips (7/2)  
Betty Sheahan (7/2)  
Family of Ron Tafoya (7/2)  
Shotwell family (7/2)  
Lincoln Reu (7/7)  
Quentin (7/10)

Myra Williams (7/17)  
John & Lori Brown (7/17)  
John Homan (7/23)  
Peggy Reed (7/23)  
Anne Kinney (7/23)  
Kay Bauer (7/23)  
Tommy Fiedler (7/23)  
Bill Potabi (7/23)  
Tony Sciortino (7/23)  
Helga Woerner (7/23)  
Elvey & Wayne Walker (7/23)  
David Brown (7/30)  
Geneva Ellis (7/30)  
Jane & Charlie Fiedler (7/30)  
Jasmine & Monika Brown (7/30)

*If you know of a person or a situation that you would like included in our prayer list, please email them to Earlene (earlene@communityofjoy.com).*

### COMMUNITY OF JOY

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Phone: 505-896-2543

[www.communityofjoy.com](http://www.communityofjoy.com)

**Pastor:**

**Pr. Paul Schick**  
[pastorpaul@communityofjoy.com](mailto:pastorpaul@communityofjoy.com)

**Church Administrator:**

**Earlene Shroyer** [earlene@communityofjoy.com](mailto:earlene@communityofjoy.com)

**Worship Leader:**

**Jon Shodean** [jon@communityofjoy.com](mailto:jon@communityofjoy.com)

**Treasurer:** Dick Tool, Greg Quintana

**Bookkeeper:** Earlene Shroyer

**Proofreader:** Jean Potabi

#### Congregation Council

Lee Glauvitz—President  
Karen Lenoski—Secretary  
Sandy Edwards  
Bill Kostel  
Diane Parham

#### Ministries Leads

- ✦ **Altar Guild:** Debbie Sciortino
- ✦ **Confirmation:** Pr. Paul Schick
- ✦ **F.E.A.S.T.:** Deborah Williams
- ✦ **Fellowship:** Neal Shotwell
- ✦ **Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry:**  
Sandy Edwards
- ✦ **Memorial Committee:** Bill Potabi
- ✦ **Sunday School:** Shaila Shodean
- ✦ **Tech Ministry Leader:** Kristen Sillence
- ✦ **Beer Buddies:** Tony Sciortino

*For any reports or information, contact the appropriate person listed above*

## Announcements

### **Men Alive!**

**Men Alive!** will be meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays, **August 12 & 26**, as we continue our study of Matthew reviewing Chapters 11 and 12. We will gather at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a hearty breakfast, lively conversation and engaged review of the chapters we are studying.

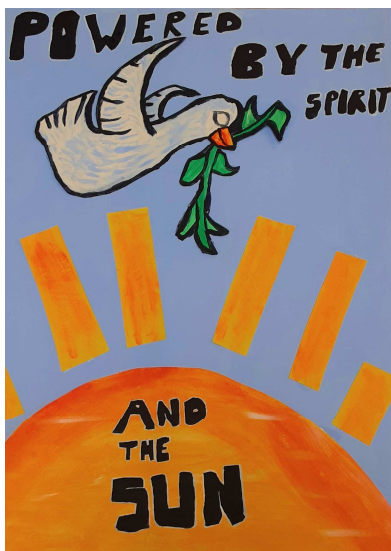
**Please contact Charles Fiedler with any questions at [cwfiedler@gmail.com](mailto:cwfiedler@gmail.com) if you have any questions.**

### **Sunday School Resumes Sunday, September 10th!**

Children's Sunday School is back, **September 10, 2023!**

Children in Kindergarten - 6th grade are invited to participate.

Sunday School will take place after church at **11:05 -11:45 a.m.**



### **Solar Panel Project Update**

Solar Update: After successfully meeting our fundraising goals through your amazing generosity, last month we signed a contract to make our solar installation plan official. Since then, engineers and installers have reviewed our space and provided us with the official blueprint. From here, we have been told to expect a sluggish process that could take as much as a year, mainly due to the slow process of permitting. But our part is now complete and we are eager to see it all come together when everything is ready!

Community of Joy  
Beer Buddies



**The Next Meeting -  
Thursday,  
August 17, 2023  
at 6:00 p.m.**

## **Worship News**



### **Farewell, but the door is always open.....**

This past Sunday was bittersweet for me. I am excited for Keith and his new opportunity, but I/we are really going to miss him.

I have known Keith since around 2001(ish). We first met at Calvary on Osuna under the direction of a man named Michael. Keith played the piano and while I was not a regular on that worship team, I got to fill in on the electric guitar a few times a year. I remember scrunching my face at Keith when an unexpected Journey or Kanas song would be interjected into a worship song. It got me every time and Keith would just look at me straight faced and then just smile from ear-to-ear. It always helped to make things more exciting!

Well, fast forward a few years and here we are.

Keith has been an integral part of worship over the course of the last 5 years here at COJ and he is such a blessing to all of us! From his graceful perspective on life to his war stories about being a teacher, I have loved how he has become a part of our church family.

I just want to take a moment and thank God for the many, MANY people who have come into this church and have been such a light and joyful presence to so many.

While in my mind I know that change is inevitable, it doesn't make my heart accept it any less. Things will look and perhaps even sound a little different on our worship team for a while, but the relationships and "community" that we are building here on the corner of Saratoga and Northern are making an impact on people's lives in ways we can't fully comprehend.

So all this to say, thank you Keith for being our brother in Christ.

Thank you for your heart and dedication to lead people to Jesus.

Thank you for being a part of our community.

Thank you for your incredible gifts of music, for mentoring our youth, and being part of our family.

I think I can safely say on behalf of the entire congregation that we love you and will miss you.

We wish you the best in your new position!!!

But just know, our door is always open.

So let it be known that this does not just apply to Keith, but to all.

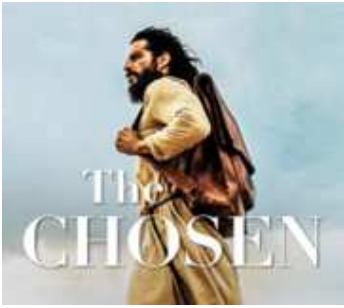
It is through the work of Christ that all are welcome. And welcome back if you've been gone for a while. We are always happy to see you!

Be well.

Jon

**Are You Interested in Joining Community of Joy Church?  
Let Pr. Paul or the Office Know!**

## Worship News

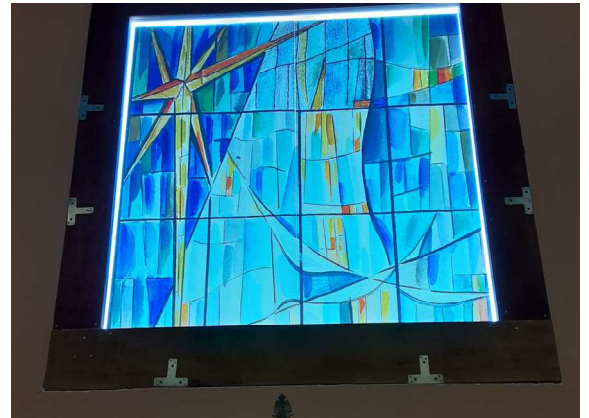


### Fall Adult Ed Series – *The Chosen* – Starting Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Sundays after Worship, around 11:15 AM

This fall, our Sunday Adult Education will be based around a series called *The Chosen*, which tells the story of Jesus' life and explores the history and culture that shaped it. Each week we will watch a segment of an episode, followed by a discussion. Join us after worship for this wonderful opportunity for learning and spiritual growth!

### Stained Glass Window Update

Earlier this summer, Pete Doles helped us to build an inner frame that refitted the window space to the shape that was needed for our stained glass project. (A beautiful cover frame will later be added once the new window is installed.) Then, this past weekend, Phil and Jane from Watkins Studio visited the church to take precise measurements- which is the last stage needed for them to construct the actual window. We are excited to see the window start coming together over the next few months and will be sure to share updates when it is ready to be installed!



## THANK YOU TO OUR JULY VOLUNTEERS!

#### **Ushers:**

Lee & Jill Glauvitz, Meghan Lyman, Pat Shodean, Dennis & Kris Simpson

#### **Readers:**

Ron Bencke, Greg Edwards, Karen Lenoski, Jake Maser, Lynette Schurdevin

#### **Communion Assistants:**

Diane Brauer, Melissa Eckelbarger, Laura Reu, Pat Shodean, Dennis & Kris Simpson, Josh Welbaum

#### **Altar Guild:**

Diane Brauer, Sandy Edwards, Lynette Schurdevin, Deb Sciortino, Kris Simpson

#### **Communion Bread Baker:**

Michelle Bennett

#### **Audio/Video Team:**

Diane Brauer, Sandy Edwards, Zach Shotwell

#### **Nursery Attendants:**

Michaela Lovell, Ava Rousselle, Olivia Rousselle

#### **Counters:**

Lynette Schurdevin, Pat Shodean

## Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry

### Joyful Hearts Meeting

**CHANGE IN MEETING DATE – Now meeting on August 19, 2023 @ 10 am**



### Joyful Hearts News

Our God is an awesome God, and the members of Community of Joy are just as awesome! I was amazed at the response to the School Supplies Collection for Colinas Del Norte Elementary School! Referring to Sunday's lesson, a mustard seed was planted, and it grew into a wonderful, amazing gift! Below is a listing of the number of "packages" collected and then the number of individual items in each package. Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful, worthwhile community outreach program!!



	PKGS	TOTAL
Expo Dry Erase markers, wide tip	28	145 dry erase markers
Spiral Notebooks (wide ruled)	54	4,570 pages
Plastic pocket folders with prongs	62	62 plastic folders
Plastic Sheet protectors (3-hole punch)	18	1,103 sheet protectors
Loose leaf paper – (wide ruled lined)	26	4,580 sheets of paper
Two-inch 3 ring binders (any color)	13	13 binders
Glue sticks	29	160 glue sticks
Crayons	53	1,078 crayons
Markers	23	332 markers
Colored pencils	31	468 colored pencils
Regular Pencils	1	24 regular pencils
Tissues	24	2,705 tissues
Lysol wipes	16	1,112 disinfectant wipes
Backpacks	10	72 backpacks
Individual Dry Erase Boards	15	15 dry erase boards

**GRAND TOTAL**

**403**

**16,439 individual items**

## Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry

### Churchwide Rummage Sale—September 30, 2023

Joyful Hearts will reconvene on **Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am** to discuss the **Churchwide Rummage Sale** the group will be sponsoring on **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. The proceeds will be going to the **COJ Solar Panel Project / Memorial Fund** and **Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry**.



It's not too early to set aside items you might want to donate. Please- no large electronics (e.g. TVs, stereos), clothing and shoes, or mattresses/box springs. Specific details will be in the September monthly newsletter.

## Pastor's Ponderings

*Continued from page 1*

Sadly, neither are religious communities immune. Recently I learned of a church-run private high school in another state that moved into an ornate new complex, complete with a golden dome. It cost 38 million dollars to build. This is a school that purports to be based on Christian values, which hopefully they do teach in many ways. And yet none of these millions have gone towards assisting poorer students with the \$5000/year tuition, which I'm told is a detail that has not been lost on the local community.

In a certain sense, you could say that one of the big spiritual reforms Jesus pushed for was a shift of focus from things to people. When many religious folks were willing to neglect struggling people for the sake of attending to buildings and strict rulebooks, Jesus offered a different vision for spiritual life.

For instance, the disciples liked to praise the beauty of the Temple building, yet Jesus stated that what God truly seeks are those who "will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth..." Likewise, when Jesus and his followers were criticized for breaking the religious codes by harvesting on the Sabbath, Jesus responded, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

The message is clear: *God is more concerned with people than things- even religious things.*

So as we gear up for a new school year and a busier season of life and ministry, it is good for us to remember this teaching. It's nice to build visually beautiful things, especially if they can be a blessing to our community. But it's much more important to build spiritually beautiful people, who can truly bless this world by bringing God's love near.

I am thankful for each of you and the ways you help us build up Christ's body in this place!

Yours in Christ, -Pastor Paul

### Thrivent T-shirts

Anyone who is interested in receiving a free Thrivent T-shirt please contact **Sandy Edwards**.  
Sizes available:

- 4 - 2XL
- 3 - XL
- 1- S, M, L



## Beyond Our Walls



**Storehouse West** is a food pantry and children's clothes closet that serves individuals and families who are residents of Sandoval County, New Mexico and meet the federal income guidelines for low-moderate income households. **Storehouse West** can supply registered households with an

emergency food package once a month and can assist with water and Waste Management bills once per year

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**Storehouse West** distributed more than 5,000 food packages in 2022, equaling almost 210,000 pounds of food. Community donations are an important part of our supply chain. This month the pantry has a short, but essential list that we need for our monthly food distributions.

#### PANTRY WISH LIST

- Dry Beans - 1-2 lb. bags; large bulk bags
- Breakfast Cereal
- Canned Soup
- Ramen Noodles

*We are doing great with our drive-thru donations for Storehouse West. If you would like to donate, simply swing by the outside church entrance and drop off your **non-perishable** food donations in the cart.*

Monetary donations for on-going needs can also be made by check to **Storehouse West** and mailed to:  
**Storehouse West, 1030 F. Veranda Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124**



*The Storehouse West Kids Clothes Closet would appreciate donations of children's swimwear and boys baseball caps. These could be left with the food donations.*

*Over 159 lbs. of food were delivered to Storehouse during the month of July.  
Thank you for your donations!  
Please continue to support Storehouse West and help feed our community.*

### \*\*\*\*A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP\*\*\*\*

After Sunday worship service, can you help load the donated groceries for Storehouse West into the Potabi's van?  
Many hands make light work!

## Joyful Hearts collecting toiletries for Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless



As you travel this summer, please remember to bring home travel-size personal care items for the hygiene kits distributed by Albuquerque **Healthcare for the Homeless**. Our friend Anita Cordova of ABQHCH reports that the need is great and our donations are much appreciated.

#### Needed Items:

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Shaving supplies            | Sunscreen               |
| Deodorant (male and female) | Travel size tissues     |
| Lip balm                    | Toothbrushes/toothpaste |
|                             | Band aids               |

For the hygiene kits, all items need to be smaller size to fit in a gallon Ziplock bag and NO mouthwash, please.



## Our Church



### Memorial Fund



We recently received gifts to the COJ Memorial Fund in memory of **Barbara Shotwell, Ron Tafoya and Suzanne Davis.**

We thank **Pat Shodean, Warren Sullivan, Donna & Bud White and Sal & Maryann Cano** for their generous and gracious gifts to our Memorial fund.

***Thank you to all who have contributed to COJ's Memorial Fund which made the purchase of our new Automatic Doors possible!***

## AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT COJ'S GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

### ***Smith's Inspiring Donations***

This is an easy way to provide funds to Community of Joy's **Good Samaritan Fund.**

If you are not already a Smith's Rewards Card member, you can register for one at <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations> Then, link your account with **Community of Joy Church (MJ324)**. Use your Smith's card every time you shop. It's as simple as that.



***During the period of April 1 — June 30, 2023 we earned \$39.15 for the Good Samaritan Fund!***

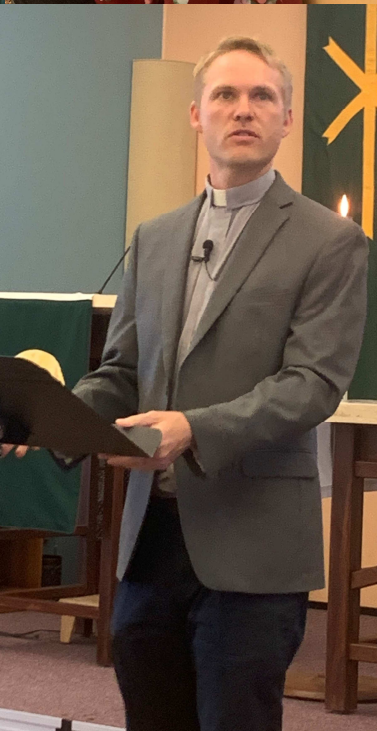
## SERMON ON THE AMOUNTS

### Giving for Year through June 30, 2023

Giving	Actual	Budget	Actual Giving more/(less) than Budget
Programs:	\$94,934.00	\$101,450.00	(\$6,516.00)
Building:	\$24,739.00	\$26,700.00	(\$1,961.00)
Both Funds:	\$119,673.00	\$128,150.00	(\$8,477.00)

***Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.***

# Our Church



# Community Connections



# Rio Rancho Youth Chorus

Registration for Aug-Dec session is Now Open for kids in 2nd-5th Grade and youth in 6th-12th Grade

**Saturday, August 26th**

2nd-5th Grade: 12:45 pm - 1:45pm

6th-12th Grade: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Join us at at Star Heights Recreation Center for an introductory meeting for new, returning, and interested parents/guardians while the singers rehearse!



**NO AUDITION OR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!**

Tuition is \$125 per singer. Pay in full by August 14 for \$25 off! Payment plans and multi-child discount are available.

Registration ends September 9



**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT**

# RR-CC.ORG



RIO RANCHO



YOUTH CHORUS

A HARMONY OF MUSIC, YOUTH, AND FUN