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## Holy Lands

Holy week can be a joyful time of spiritual renewal. It can also be a time where the shadow of Good Friday and the brokenness of this world loom large. I remember several years ago witnessing the steeple of Paris' Notre Dame catch fire and ultimately collapse. The miracle is that no one was injured and major parts of the church, including the incredible medieval stained glass windows, survived. But there was something striking about seeing such an emblematic, or we could say, *holy*, symbol of Christianity collapse on the very day we remember Jesus' collapse into death.

A similar chord of sadness may echo on this Holy Week when one considers the very unholy events unfolding in the place we often call *The Holy Land*. I will not attempt to offer simplistic solutions to this very morally and historically complex situation. I will simply point out that though we often ascribe holiness to places and buildings, no location is as holy as a life, for no building bears God's image in the way of human beings. But of course, one of the fundamental dilemmas of this conflict is that multiple peoples are claiming ownership of what they view as an especially *holy land*.



In actual fact, I don't think there is any such thing as a Holy Land for Christians, at least not in the singular sense of the term. I don't say that to demean places like Jerusalem, which I have visited in the past. In fact, it is an incredible city, full of beauty and history. And walking in the very places Jesus walked can be a moving experience. And yet if we think of any one place or person as being fundamentally more related to God than another, we are probably missing the point of the gospel.

*Continued on page 5*

## April Adult Education- Language for God

See page 3



## Mark Your Calendar!

Community of Joy Vacation Bible School  
June 17-21, 2024

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## People Page

# April Birthdays

10th: Pat Shodean	25th: Joan Bouty
Myra Williams	27th: Stephen Felty
11th: Stephanie Schick	28th: Deborah Williams
12th: Millie Lyman	29th: Ben Schick
14th: Jake Maser	30th: Peg Tool
15th: Karen Lenoski	
22nd: Joshua Rodriguez	



**This past month we prayed for:**

Donna Doles  
 Dick & Peg Tool  
 Joan Bouty, Louise Scott  
 Warren Sullivan  
 Steve Gamrath  
 Jackie & Paul Anderson  
 Nance Crow  
 Bill & Jean Potabi  
 Paul Blott  
 Patt Crown  
 Charles Gilbert (3/3)  
 Autumn Eckelbarger (3/3)  
 Marge Barol (3/3)  
 Pat Shodean (3/3)  
 Dawson Oder (3/10)  
 Sarah Dutton (3/10)  
 Rachel Sanchez (3/10)  
 Barbara Rousselle (3/10)  
 Pat Buza (3/10)  
 Irma & Rudi Pallas (3/10)  
 Gloria & Tom Wagner (3/12)  
 Jasmine Brown (3/24)  
 Eloise Spradley (3/24)  
 Geneva Ellis (3/24)  
 Gayle Phillips (3/24)  
 Teresa Maser (3/25)

*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).*

### Together in Mission

Camino de Vida—Albuquerque  
 Iglesia Cristo Rey—El Paso, TX

### COMMUNITY OF JOY

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**Phone: 505-896-2543**

**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  
 Barbara Reeves—Vice President  
 Karen Lenoski—Secretary  
 Sandy Edwards  
 Bill Kostel  
 Diane Harmon

### 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
- + **Outreach Ministry:** Elaine Gauden,  
 Karen Lenoski
- + **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

### April Adult Education—*Language for God* Begins April 7

*Language for God* will explore the ways language and images influence us. **Jon Shodean** and **Diane Brauer** will consider how our language and images of God frame how we think about God. We will explore expansive ways to speak and think about God from a Lutheran perspective through scripture, theology, and history.

Join us every Sunday in April following worship as we think about how our words and images for God can best contribute to people hearing the good news of Jesus.

### Rescheduled—COJ HIKES!

#### *Tomé Hill (El Cerro Tomé) Sunday, April 7th at 1:30 p.m.*

Meet in COJ's parking lot at 1:30 p.m. to see if anyone wants to carpool, and depart at 1:45 p.m. We should arrive back at COJ around 6:00 p.m. Bring snacks and water/hydrating beverage, wear sturdy hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, hiking stick/poles. NO DOGS (posted sign).

It is a volcanic area with considerable elevation gain and rocky, uneven terrain. It is considered a moderate hike though some consider it hard enough to count as penance.

### *Men Alive!*

*Men Alive!* will be meeting on the second and fourth Saturday in **April (13th and 27th) at 8:30AM.** We will have a hearty breakfast and continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 24 and 25. Contact Charles Fiedler at [cwfiedler@gmail.com](mailto:cwfiedler@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Beer Buddies

We will be meeting on **Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at Bosque Brewing Company 10250 Cottonwood Park NW, Albuquerque. It is in the old Toltec Building.

This is a men's only event for beer/beverage and eats. Bring a friend, all men are welcome.



### April FEAST

**Date: April 10th (6-7:30 pm)**

**Potluck: Spring Fling! (begins at 6 pm)**

**Activity: TBD**

## Announcements

### Women's Bible Study "Bad Girls" Tuesdays in April

Contact Elaine Gauden for dates, location and details,  
or contact the office.

### COMING IN MAY- "Mad Mary" Meeting Wednesdays 2PM at COJ

### Border Immersion trip

Later this month, Pastor Paul and three COJ members will be heading to El Paso, TX to participate in a Border Immersion Experience. While there, they will hear stories from ministries and professionals engaging those on the border, and also from border patrol officials, all while pondering how God is calling us to respond in this time. We look forward to returning with many stories to share.

### Synod Assembly / Bishop's Election

*April 25—27, 2024, Loveland, Colorado*

Towards the end of April, Pr. Paul and our delegate, Diane Brauer, will be heading to CO to attend this year's Synod Assembly. Top of the agenda for this year's assembly is the election of a new Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Please pray for wisdom for all those who will be attending and making decisions for the future of our synod.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Community of Joy  
Vacation Bible School  
June 17-21, 2024



Planning for this year's VBS has begun, and as in past years, we are looking for volunteers to host and feed councilors, organize snacks, lead crafts, and help with the registration table.

Please let us know if you are interested in helping!

### SERMON ON THE AMOUNTS

#### Giving for Year through February 29, 2024

Giving	Actual	Budget	more/(less) than Budget
Programs:	\$29,674.00	\$29,295.00	\$379.00
Building:	\$6,836.00	\$7,250.00	(\$415.00)
Both Funds:	\$36,509.00	\$36,545.00	(\$36.00)

*Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.*

## Worship News

### Holy Lands

*Continued from page 1*

Now many times we prefer to see holiness only in special or exceptional people and places- it almost seems to be human nature. Well this may be the normal mindset, but it is not a particularly Christian one. The gospels suggest that it is immature spirituality that wants to limit God's presence. But the mature spirituality of Christ always wants to expand it.

Indeed, one of the striking things about Jesus is how often he pushes against a limited view of God's presence. When his followers praise the Temple Building, he says it's going to be knocked down- but that it would rise again through a person (him) and his people (us). When the woman at the well asks him where true worship takes place, Jesus says true worship is not about a place, but spirit and truth. His community expects rabbis to refuse fellowship with outcasts, but Jesus dines with sinners. His disciples expect their message to be only for Israel, yet he commands them to share it with all nations.

The gospel is not a message about a holy land. It is Jesus teaching us to build holy lands everywhere. That's why Jesus instructs us to look for the image of God even in enemies. That's why he prayed for the very Roman soldier that was actively crucifying him. Because when we really see the image of God in everyone, we cannot really hate them or throw them away. We may think of them as lost, or view their way of life as problematic or even destructive. But we cannot dismiss the possibility that they might someday be a Temple of God's presence.

And so as the conflicts of this world loom large, let us remember the central lesson of the Easter story: Since God made Christ's own death sacred, then everyone is sacred and every land is holy. For if the cross and the tomb can be transformed into new life, then God's presence can make a home anywhere. And that most certainly includes each of you.

*Easter Blessings, Pastor Paul*

## Memorial Fund Committee News

The **COJ Memorial Fund** comes from donations that people have made to honor or memorialize a spouse, parent, grandchild, sibling or any person who is of special importance to them. The names of the special person and the donor are recorded in the Memorial Book. This book is available for viewing inside the church entrance.



As mentioned last month, we recently installed a new AED device, another example of your generous donations at work. Our latest purchase has been **four chair risers**, which provide additional height for those who have mobility challenges. These risers have not yet been installed. ***If this device would be helpful to you, please let us know and we will place one in the needed area.***

***NEW Donation Forms:*** We have placed new donation forms for the Memorial Fund on both the Welcome table and the entryway Memorial table. Check them out! Please keep this possibility to contribute in mind.

If you have any questions for how to contribute, please contact a committee member: Bill Potabi, Kristen Sillence, Sandy Edwards, Pat Shodean or Earlene Shroyer.

## Our Church

### A Visit from Lutheran Family Services

Thank you, COJ, for your generous response to the call to support Lutheran Family Services Refugee & Asylee program in welcoming weary and hopeful families to make a new, safe life for themselves in our community. Contact **Lee Glauvitz** if you have furniture you wish to donate. The list of needed items and the collection bin are in the entryway for those who would still like to contribute.



### Want to share your musical gifts?

Do you sing or play an instrument, and would you like to get involved with COJ's music ministry? Our praise team is always open to new singers and musicians. Contact Jon Shodean with your interest or come to a rehearsal. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Join us!

### THANK YOU TO OUR March VOLUNTEERS!

#### Ushers:

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

#### Readers:

Lori Brown, Ron Bencke, Charlie Fiedler,  
Greg Edwards, Karen Lenoski

#### Communion Assistants:

Pat Shodean, Diane Brauer, Laura Reu,  
Kris Simpson, Josh Welbaum

#### Kitchen Angels:

Neal Shotwell, Dianne Hensley, Suzanne Waite

#### Altar Guild:

Sandy Edwards, Kris Simpson, Barb Morton,  
Debbie Sciortino, Diane Brauer

#### Communion Bread Baker:

Paula Thomas

#### Audio/Video Team:

Diane Brauer, Sandy Edwards, Zach Shotwell

**Nursery Attendants:** Michaela Lovell,  
Ava Rousselle, Olivia Rousselle

#### Counters:

Jean Potabi, Donna Huxtable

**Communion Bread Baker:** Michelle Bennett

## Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry



**Joyful Hearts will be meeting on Saturday, April 13th at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be finalizing and decorating for our Haven House kickoff event, a Cinco de Mayo party after church on Sunday, May 5th. All women are welcome to join us!

For additional information, you can contact Sandy Edwards, President, at [sandraedwards1957@gmail.com](mailto:sandraedwards1957@gmail.com)

### Joyful Hearts News

Our next big upcoming event will be a **Cinco de Mayo** party after church on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** to kick off our collection for **Haven House**, the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. We will be finalizing plans for this event at our April 13th meeting.

This event will include a taco bar, a Mariachi Band from Albuquerque Academy and two pinatas with special treats. We will be collecting monetary donations for Haven House starting on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and ending on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Our monetary donations will enable Haven House to use the money for their current needs.



### Joyful Hearts collects toiletries for Albuquerque HealthCare for the Homeless

**Joyful Hearts** collects toiletries for **Albuquerque HealthCare for the Homeless** year round. We have a Collection Bin in the Fellowship Room for your donations. The homeless population is growing and there is always a great need for these items. If you travel, save the hotel \*travel size toiletries. They can also be purchased at any store that has a \*travel size section in their pharmacy area. Below is a list of needed items. You can go to <https://www.abqhch.org> to learn more about this worthwhile organization. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.



- ◇ **Shaving supplies**
- ◇ **Deodorants (male and female)**
- ◇ **Lip balm**
- ◇ **Sunscreen**
- ◇ **Travel size tissues**
- ◇ **Toothbrushes/toothpaste**
- ◇ **Band-Aids**

\*We package these items into hygiene kits and the small size is needed to fit into the gallon Ziplock bag. **No mouthwash please.** If you have any questions, please contact Debbie at: [dsciortino.rr@gmail.com](mailto:dsciortino.rr@gmail.com)

## 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**

In the calendar year 2023, **Storehouse West** distributed over **370,000 pounds** of food to almost **5,100 households**, representing **14,809 individuals**. Food was delivered to schools, senior living facilities, senior centers, and residents of pueblos. Without your support, and that of others, many of our fellow citizens, who are food-insecure, would not have had a reliable food source. Food security is a basic foundation for daily life, work and school success.

#### **Greatest NEED**

***Pasta— all shapes and sizes,  
but spaghetti is a favorite!***

***Canned Fruit  
Canned Vegetables  
Breakfast Cereal***

#### **PANTRYWISH LIST**

**PEANUT BUTTER**

**RAMEN NOODLES**

**DRIED BEANS—red, black or white**

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**



***Kid's Clothes Closet is now collecting shorts, short sleeve shirts and bathing suits. The children served range in age from newborn to 18 years old.***

***New and gently used shoes are always welcome.***

***285 lbs. of food was delivered to Storehouse West during the month of March.  
Thank you for your donations!***

### **\*\*\*\*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!**



## Stained Glass Window Update



### **An update from the Stained Glass Window Team:**

This is Phil's recent work on the stained glass window.



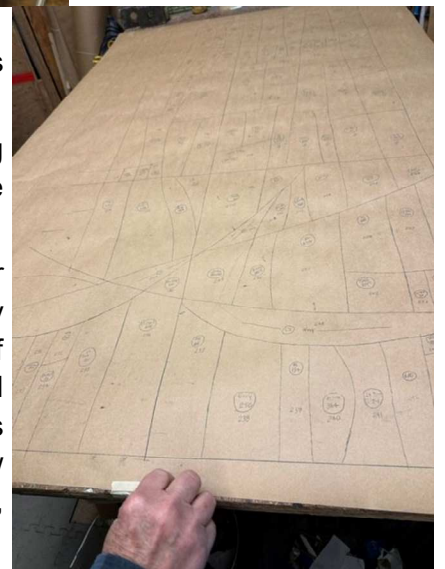
Creating the stained glass cartoon—a drawing of the work is traced on brown pattern paper with carbon between them.



Cartoon has been traced on this pattern paper.

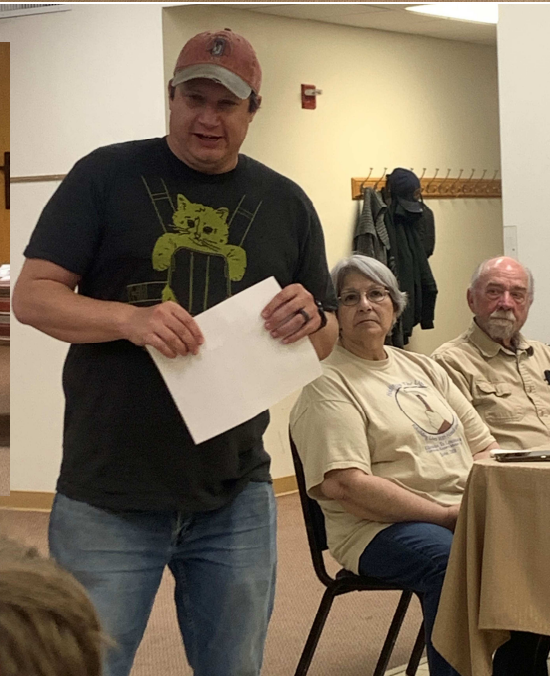
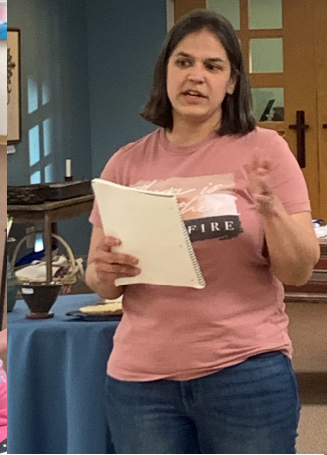
Phil uses his pattern shears (3-prong scissors) to cut each pattern, so the glass will be the perfect size.

Each pattern piece is sorted by color and corresponding glass number by Jane. Phil attaches the collection of patterns to the matching glass and then cuts. Jane places the cut glass back onto the cartoon. The window will then be: glazed with lead, soldered, cemented, then cleaned.



COJ Council President **Lee Glauvitz** has just returned from a visit with Phil and Jane, and will be able to provide more information about future installation plans—watch the weekly COJ newsletter for updates!

# Our Church



*Wednesday Agape Feast*



*Our Newest Members (l-r):  
Marjatta Deschepper,  
Solvejg Wills, and Brian Kelly*



*Children's Sermon*