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Worship & Practicing God's Kingdom

This month we invite you to join us in the ancient and beautiful patterns of Holy Week worship. Then again, with all the time it involves amidst our busy lives, some might occasionally wonder, *What's the point of worship?* Or even if we do accept that worship is important in some sense, we still might ask, *What does worship really look like?* Is it an inner spirituality thing or an outer action thing? Or to say it another way- *Is it more important to worship God through communal rituals, or by helping our neighbor?*

I suppose it depends on who you ask, but I would venture that many modern people might say showing love to a neighbor is ultimately a deeper form of worship than



any ritual. Indeed, some passages in Scripture seem to agree, as they call out the pointlessness of empty rituals that fail to translate into outer expressions of love. Then again, just because something can be empty does not mean that it always is. Saying "I love you" could be an empty gesture if it's not really meant. Yet what is more affirming to the soul than hearing someone say these words to us who actually means it?

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Holy Week
Worship
Schedule

Maundy Thursday worship service is at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday worship service is at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 a.m.

Easter Celebration Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

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People Page

March Birthdays

1st: Zach Shotwell	22nd: Greg Edwards
3rd: Melissa Eckelbarger	Abigail Lyman
	Paula Thomas
7th: Karyl Upleger	Nicholas Lyman
12th: Neal Shotwell	Warren Sullivan
15th: John Brown	23rd: Rose Gainey-
16th: Donna Huxtable	Graham
17th: Michael Eckelbarger	24th: Pat Sanders
20th: Pat Luehring	25th: Lynn Sampson
21st: Virginia Upleger	27th: April Mortensen
	29th: Joe Conner
	Jay Walker

Wedding Anniversaries in March



1st: Karyl & Patricia Upleger
22nd: Jon & Shaila Shodean

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



**This past
month we**

Donna Doles	Melissa Eckelbarger (2/18)
Dick & Peg Tool	Linda McCarthy (2/18)
Joan Bouty, Louise Scott	Jasmine & Monika Brown (2/18)
Warren Sullivan	Geneva Ellis (2/18)
Steve Gamrath	Eloise Spradley (2/18)
Jackie & Paul Anderson	Gayle Phillips (2/18)
Nance Crow	Sharon Christensen (2/18)
Sal & Maryann Cano	Family of Norma Gruber (2/20)
Bill & Jean Potabi	Jacoby Christie (2/25)
Paul Blott	Dawn Flynn (2/25)
Patt Crown	Cliff Walker (2/25)
Jon & Jeanine Davis (2/18)	Lucien Remy (2/26)
Elizabeth Cave (2/18)	Mary Kay Crown (2/28)
Pat DiVasto (2/18)	

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

Church Administrator:

Earlene Shroyer earlene@communityofjoy.com

Worship Leader:

Jon Shodean 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

Pathways to the Sacred: *Exploring the Major Religions*

Join Pastor Paul Sundays after worship for an exploration of the four other major religions. Learn about the beliefs, practices, and histories of these spiritual traditions as we discuss the profound impact they've had on our world, the things they hold in common, and how they are different.

March 3rd Judaism

March 10th Islam



**Join Us this Lent for Agape Feast
Wednesdays & Member Reflections
on the Theme of *Falling Upward* –
Wednesdays at 6 pm,
March 6, 13, 20**

This Lent we will once again gather each Wednesday evening (beginning the week after Ash Wednesday), for Agape Feasts. This practice- which has its roots in Jesus' ministry and the earliest Christian communities- is a sort of hybrid between worship and a meal. It consists of a potluck meal that is woven throughout with fellowship, prayers, music, a reflection, and communion.

Each Wednesday during these meals, members of our community will be sharing reflections on the theme of *Falling Upward*. This theme (borrowed from a book by Richard Rohr), will center on stories of how God often uses our hardest moments to call forth in us the greatest transformations.

Food: For the meals, please feel free bring the traditional Lenten soup, or whatever your favorite potluck dish is. (We're Lutherans, we can be flexible!) Or, if you don't have time to make food, buy something- or just come!

**Join Us for Worship in the Sanctuary,
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

Announcements

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AGAPE FEASTS

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

The Fellowship Team is looking for volunteers to help set-up/clean-up for the Wednesday Agape Feasts during Lent (Mar. 6, Mar. 13, & March 20).

If you are available to help us manage these communal meals, come join in! We will need people to set up on Wednesdays (5:30pm) and people to stay and clean up after the meal/service ends (around 7:15pm)

Men Alive!

Men Alive! will be meeting in person on the second and fourth Saturday in March (9th and 23rd) at 8:30 AM. We will have a hearty breakfast and continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 22 and 23.

Contact Charles Fiedler at cwfiedler@gmail.com with any questions.

Women's Bible Study "Bad Girls"

Tuesdays in March

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

COMING IN MAY- "Mad Mary"

Meeting Wednesdays 2PM at COJ

New Member's Sunday—March 17, 2024

We are once again welcoming in new members!

Following worship we are holding a ***pizza party reception***.

We invite all members to join us for the party and will hold an orientation following the meal.

If you would like to join our church, please let us know!

Beer Buddies

We will be meeting on **Thursday, March 21st** at **6pm** at **The Local Brewhouse**, 300 Unser Blvd SE, Rio Rancho. The restaurant has a full menu of American favorites.

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



Holy Week at Community of Joy

Palm Sunday, March 24th begins Holy Week at Community of Joy. Our service begins outside at the foot of the cross with the Palm Sunday Procession.

Maundy Thursday worship service is at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday worship service is at 7:00 p.m.



He Is Risen!

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 a.m.

Easter Celebration Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast Potluck and Easter Egg Hunt—9:00 a.m.

Please bring a dish to share!

WE NEED CANDY

In preparation for our annual ***Easter Egg Hunt***, we are asking members of Community of Joy for donations of **candy** that can be used to fill the Easter eggs. The eggs will be filled the week of Palm Sunday. There is a bin placed near the entrance.

Thank you!



**The Office will be Closed on Monday,
April 1st (Easter Monday!)**

Worship News

Worship & Practicing God's Kingdom

Continued from page 1



Not long ago, one of our council members led a devotion. His devotion took the form of a reflection on this very topic as he spoke about his first experiences of Community of Joy. And the thing that really struck him early on was how much joyful giving emanates out of our worshipping community. He was just totally blown away by all the people he met who were eager to be generous and use their lives to help others. And as he shared, the more he spent time in this community, the more he also felt the desire to give.

This reminds me of one of my seminary professors who used to say that at its deepest level worship is all about *Practicing the Kingdom* – much like a musician or athlete practices their craft. We confess our shared need for grace, we make joyful noise in song, we share peace with our neighbor, we give of what we have- all to remind us of what our lives should look like outside of worship. We hear God's word to remember that God still speaks to us. And in the end, we freely receive Communion with God, and are sent to freely offer it to others.

I hope that you have also seen the fruits of what we do together in community and how it forms us into the people God calls us to be. I have certainly often seen these fruits in each of you. And so again, I invite you to join us this Holy Week season as we practice what it might look like to be resurrection people. Because when we practice being Christ's resurrected body, more often than not, we soon discover that we are!

A blessed season of resurrection to you all! Yours in Christ,

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.

The Memorial Fund has helped fund several improvements that needed to be made but couldn't be covered by the church budget. The purchase of an **AED** (automated external defibrillator) has been made and is an example. In this way, your Memorial gifts to honor or remember people who are or have been special to you go on to benefit our Community of Joy. An AED is used to help those experiencing **sudden cardiac arrest**. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

So now, in addition to improvements made to the church, a life can be saved, all made possible by your Memorial Fund contributions.

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.



Children & Youth Ministry

LOVE GOD LOVE NEIGHBOR

ABQ YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

Youth Event at COJ - For Youth, Ages 6th Grade & Up March 10th - 12:30 pm - 3:30 PM

This March COJ will be hosting a collaborative youth event with other ABQ area Lutheran churches. Our gathering will begin at the church where we will share a meal, play games, and worship together. Following this, we are heading to *Loving Thunder Horse Therapy* in Corrales for a service event.

Join us for this time of faith, fellowship, and fun!



There are a few weeks open with **no Sunday School teacher (oh no!)**, so if anyone would like to sign up, please contact **Shaila Shodean** or the office. We would be happy to chat and provide you with training.

THANK YOU!! to our Sunday school volunteer teachers for the month of February: David Schick, Brooke Kerns, Laura Reu and Shaila Shodean.

Sunday School

***Sunday mornings from
11:05—11:45 a.m.***

Children's Sunday School is available for preschool to 7th grade with two classes—one for pre-k through 4th grade and one for 5th-7th grade.

If you are interested in volunteering, have questions about Sunday School, or to register children to participate, please see **Shaila Shodean**.



Our Church

Next COJ HIKES!

Tomé Hill (El Cerro Tomé) Sunday, March 17th at 1:45 p.m.



Dominating the landscape between Los Lunas and Belén, this landmark along the El Camino Real (the Royal Road) has been used as a religious site, a refuge from hostile enemies and floods, and as an observation point since prehistoric times. More than 1,800 petroglyphs have been recorded on the hill, some of which date back more than 2,000 years. At the foot of the hill is a large steel sculpture called La Puerta del Sol (Gateway to the Sun) and is intended to reflect the diverse cultures of the region.

Here's the plan....

Meet in COJ's parking lot at 1:45 p.m. to see if anyone wants to carpool, and depart at 2:00 p.m. We should arrive back at COJ around 6:30 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.



SERMON ON THE AMOUNTS

Giving for Year through January 31, 2024

Giving	Actual	Budget	Actual Giving more/(less) than Budget
Programs:	\$14,989.00	\$15,814.00	(\$825.00)
Building:	\$3,340.00	\$3,700.00	(\$360.00)
Both Funds:	\$18,329.00	\$19,514.00	(\$1,185.00)

Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

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

Our Church



Thank you to **Elaine Gauden**, who baked this spectacular SNICKERS cake in celebration of all the COJ members who celebrated a birthday in February.

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 February VOLUNTEERS!

Ushers:

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

Readers:

Karen Lenoski, Deborah Williams, Jean Potabi,
Josh Welbaum

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

Counters:

Pat Shodean, Barbara Reeves

Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry



Joyful Hearts will be meeting on Saturday, March 9th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing plans for upcoming projects and our Haven House kickoff event. All women are welcome to join us!

For additional information, you can contact Sandy Edwards, President, at sandraledwards1957@gmail.com

Joyful Hearts News

Thank you to Community of Joy partners in ministry for your generosity! On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 11th, COJ collected just under \$1200 to donate to **Storehouse West**. **Suzanne Waite**, the Joyful Hearts Treasurer and **Pat Shodean** presented COJ's donation to Storehouse West on Wednesday February 21st! They are extremely grateful for our generosity! Several commented on the variety and "goodness" of the soup this year. With that in mind, if you made soup and are willing to share your recipe, please email it to me at sandraledwards1957@gmail.com by March 15th. We are looking to compile them and make them available to those who would like them.

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

Joyful Hearts decided that we will not do a rummage sale this year, but possibly next year.



Suzanne Waite, Treasurer of Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry presents a check and cash totaling \$1,181.00 to Deborah Bock at Storehouse West from the recent very successful Souper Bowl Sunday.

Assisted Listening System

Community of Joy owns a **Peavey Assisted Listening System**. The equipment pulls signal from the audio system and sends it to wireless receivers that individuals can check out to use each service. This will allow people to hear the scripture readings, the sermon and the music.

We currently own four receivers, four sets of ear buds, and headsets. You are welcome to bring your own ear buds or headsets to use with a receiver.



Beyond Our Walls

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House



We've recently delivered to **Ronald McDonald House** in Albuquerque 3 ½ pounds of aluminum pull tabs collected by our members. **Ronald McDonald House** has an arrangement with a local recycling company that takes the tabs and donates double their value back to the House. **Ronald McDonald House** in turn takes that money and uses it to provide low- or no-cost housing for out-of-town families while their child is a patient at one of our local hospitals.

Please remember to save your aluminum pull tabs, bring them to church and put them in the cardboard **Ronald McDonald House** on the shelves near the front door. Tabs can come from beverage cans, soup cans or pet food cans. If you're not sure if they are aluminum, just hold a magnet to them (any refrigerator magnet will work). If they stick, they're steel. If they don't stick, they are aluminum!



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.

PANTRYWISH LIST

- PEANUT BUTTER!!!
- BREAKFAST CEREAL!!
- CANNED FRUIT!!!
- RAMEN NOODLES!!!
- DRIED BEANS—red, black or white

**Greatest NEED
is
CEREAL !**

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.

113 lbs. of food, 1 hand-knitted cap, 1 baby blanket, and a new child's coat was delivered to Storehouse West during the month of February. Thank you for your donations!

Beyond Our Walls

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH!!!

Following worship on Palm Sunday a representative from **Lutheran Family Services Refugee and Asylee (LFS)** program will join us to share what the current situation is regarding arrivals at the Albuquerque location and the programs and support offered to these weary travelers. Community of Joy has been a partner with LFS since the Albuquerque office opened in helping to provide items needed to welcome people to their new homes. Below is a list of the supplies that are most needed right now:

- Bedding: bed sheets, blankets (new or gently used for twin and full size beds)
- Pillows (NEW)

Cash donations or gift cards are accepted as well. Gift cards for Walmart, Smith's, and Target so they can use these to buy clothes and/or shoes.

The items listed above should be brought to church by March 24.

FURNITURE DONATIONS: CONTACT LEE GLAUVITZ ** DO NOT BRING TO COJ! **

- Gently used furniture: sofas, couches, dining table and chairs

Grand opening of Roadrunner Hospice



Dianne Hensley and **Pat Shodean** were recently invited to the opening of **Roadrunner Hospice's** newest location in Albuquerque. They are so thankful for Community of Joy's contribution of many lap blankets for their patients and they describe the look of gratefulness when they are gifted. This gift is presented with a very special prayer and a note of where the handmade blankets have come from. **Roadrunner Hospice** offers a variety of services including palliative care, home health and other transitional care.