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God Revealed in Beauty

Recently our community welcomed Luther House Campus Ministry to our worship as they shared the day's sermon in a kind of conversational faith talk between Pastor Rhonda and young man named Ethan. Ethan is what you might call a spiritual seeker. He loves to visit different religious settings to try to glean whatever wisdom they might have to offer. One of Ethan's core principles is that no one faith tradition has a monopoly on spiritual truth. I have to say, I wholeheartedly agree. God is at work in more than our little corner of the church, and so sometimes it's a good idea to look around and learn from the spiritual wisdom of others.

One of these nuggets of spiritual wisdom I have recently begun to appreciate comes from our Roman Catholic friends who in their catechism describe Christian life as the pursuit of "the good, the true, and the beautiful." I really love that phrase.

Lately I have especially been pondering the role of that last word- beauty. Because in many ways beauty expresses the love of God as deeply as anything else. Indeed, when I ask people what in worship most connects them with God, so many first and foremost point to music. For many, the beauty of a song can say more about God than any sermon.

Maybe this is why in Genesis, in the first chapters of the Bible, the very first job God gives to humanity is gardening. It would seem that nurturing beauty is part of the basic vocation of all who love God. And God has not been stingy with beauty in this world either. It comes in many forms: stories, music, paintings, flowers, stars, friendships, architecture, and more. But in all its forms, beauty inspires, uplifts, and heals.

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In observance of Independence Day,
the Office will be closed on
Tuesday, July 4th.
Happy Fourth of July!



People Page

July Birthdays

2nd: Olivia Rousselle	21st: Norma Gruber
3rd: Sal Cano	22nd: Debbie Sciortino
8th: Jill Glauvitz	24th: Karen Baldwin
10th: Greg Quintana	25th: Naomi Staniszewski
12th: Jim Shotwell	Megan Williams
Linda Simpson	26th: Malaika Shodean
14th: Roger Farrell	Kate Reu
Lee Glauvitz	28th: Tiffani Lovell
16th: Krystyn Lehmann	Thomas Lyman
19th: Lance Himmelberger	30th: Roci Gainey-Graham
20th: Marcus Sanders	

Wedding Anniversaries in July



7th: Matthew & Naomi Staniszewski
23rd: Troy & Meg Parrott



This past month we prayed for:

Charlotte Griffith	Helga Woerner & family (6/19)
Donna Doles	David Brown (6/25)
Dick & Peg Tool	Kelly Strunk (6/25)
Connie White (Stephanie's mom)	Geneva Ellis (6/25)
Joan Bouty, Louise Scott	Monika & Jasmine Brown (6/25)
Warren Sullivan	Eloise Spradley
Charles & Suzanne Davis	Winnie Scrom (6/25)
Steve Gamrath	Maureen Kohn (6/26)
Paul & Jackie Anderson	Vasylenko family (6/26)
Susan Thompson (6/4)	Lucien Remy (6/26)
Kay & Bill Bauer (6/4)	Steve Prekker (6/26)
Manfred Woerner (6/4)	
Bill Potabi (6/9)	
Liz Ball (6/11)	
Jack Wheeler (6/11)	
Betty Sheahan (6/11)	
Nance Crow (6/19)	

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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Pr. Paul Schick
pastorpaul@communityofjoy.com

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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
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:** Stephanie Schick
- ✦ **Tech Ministry Leader:** Kristen Sillence
- ✦ **Worship Accompanist:** Keith Jordan
- ✦ **Beer Buddies:** Tony Sciortino

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

Announcements

Men Alive!

Men Alive! will be meeting in person on the second (July 8th) and fourth (July 22nd) Saturday at 8:30 a.m. We will be studying Chapters 9 and 10 of Matthew. As is our custom, we will start with a hearty breakfast and lively discussions.

Please contact Charles Fiedler with any questions at cwfiedler@gmail.com if you have any questions.

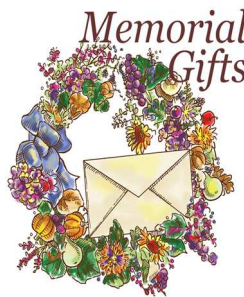
Community of Joy
Beer Buddies



The Next Meeting -
Thursday,
July 20, 2023
at 6:00 p.m.



Memorial Fund



We recently received gifts to our Memorial Fund in memory of **Barbara Shotwell**.

We thank **Bill & Jean Potabi** and **Earlene Shroyer** 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!

Sunday School and Confirmation are on Summer Break. We will continue to offer Children's sermons during worship and also plan to arrange some youth and family gatherings later this summer.

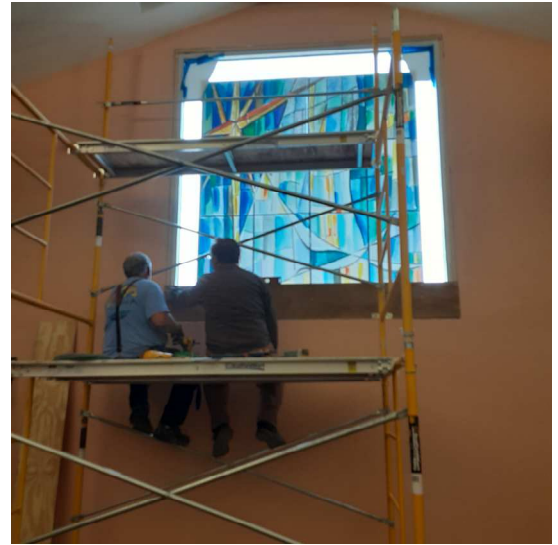
Worship News



Stained Glass Window Update

A wooden frame is being constructed by **Pete Doles** with help from **Lee Glauvitz**, for future installation of the stained glass window.

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Lee & Jill Glauvitz** for their donation (!!!) of new scaffolding, -critical for the whole process.



THANK YOU TO OUR JUNE VOLUNTEERS!

Ushers:

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

Readers:

Ron Bencke, Lynette Schurdevin, Karen Lenoski, Jake Maser

Communion Assistants:

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

Altar Guild:

Lynette Schurdevin, Diane Brauer, Kris Simpson, Deb Sciortino

Communion Bread Baker:

Paula Thomas

Audio/Video Team:

Michaela Lovell, Diane Brauer, Zach Shotwell

Nursery Attendants:

Michaela Lovell, Kyra Sillence, Olivia Rouselle

Counters:

Jean Potabi, Donna Huxtable, Pat Shodean

SERMON ON THE AMOUNTS

Giving for Year through May 31, 2023

Giving	Actual	Budget	Actual Giving more/(less) than Budget
Programs:	\$95,937.00	\$106,175.00	(\$10,238.00)
Building:	\$19,746.00	\$22,250.00	(\$2,504.00)
Both Funds:	\$76,537.00	\$84,850.00	(\$8,313.00)

Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry

Joyful Hearts Meeting—THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY!!



Joyful Hearts News

A big thank you goes out to the members of COJ for donating **\$839.00** for *Haven House*! The money raised from the *Derby Day Tea Party* has already been sent to them. We are planning to present a check for the remaining amount at an upcoming Sunday worship service.

Vacation Bible School was held June 19th-23rd. Joyful Hearts provided refreshments for an ice cream party at the end of the VBS. The VBS attendees kicked off our School Supplies collection for Colinas Del Norte Elementary School in Rio Rancho. Almost 50% of the students receive free or reduced lunch, so they do need our help! The list included in this newsletter was given to us by the staff at Colinas Del Norte, so **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ON THIS LIST!!** Joyful Hearts will be using a Thrivent Action Team gift card to purchase 25 backpacks. **At the end of our collection period, Sunday, June 30th**, we will box the items collected and deliver them to Colinas Del Norte, so they have them for the start of school.

Joyful Hearts will reconvene on **Saturday, August 12th** at **10am** to discuss plans for a Church-wide Rummage Sale the group will be sponsoring. It is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, September 30th**. The proceeds will be going to the COJ Solar Project/Memorial Committee and Joyful Hearts. It's not too early to set aside items you might want to donate. Please, no electronics, clothing, or bedding (mattresses/box springs). Details to follow.

School Supplies for Colinas Del Norte Elementary School June 19th-July 30th, 2023



- Expo Dry Erase markers, wide tip (most said black, a few said color)
- Spiral Notebooks (wide ruled)
- Plastic pocket folders with prongs
- Plastic Sheet protectors (3-hole punch)
- Loose leaf paper – (wide ruled lined) and (graph)
- **Two-inch** 3 ring binders (any color)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons/Markers
- Colored pencils
- Tissues
- Lysol wipes

**PLEASE PURCHASE
SUPPLIES THAT ARE ON
THIS LIST!
THESE ARE ITEMS THAT
THE SCHOOL STAFF HAVE
SPECIFICALLY ASKED
FOR!**

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

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.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Needed Items:</u> | Sunscreen |
| Shaving supplies | Travel size tissues |
| Deodorant (male and female) | Toothbrushes/toothpaste |
| Lip balm | Band aids |

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

Summer Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Pastor's Ponderings

God Revealed in Beauty

Continued from page 1

And I'm not just waxing poetic. Numerous studies have begun to reveal the many benefits of natural beauty on human life. One study revealed that a 10% increase in trees roughly equaled a 12% decrease in crime! It stands to reason that beauty is good for the soul because God made our souls and God loves beauty. So we flock to beautiful spaces. Just the other day, I heard a famous comedian admitting that she loves to visit churches even though she is not religious, because in her words- "religious people build the prettiest buildings."

Conversely, it has been shown that ugly spaces do measurable harm and lead to higher rates of stress, depression, and crime. Is it any wonder when one beholds some of the massive soul-sapping concrete boxes that fill so many modern cities? It's almost as if some of them were intentionally designed as assaults on the concept of beauty. (And actually, if you research the history of modernist architecture, many of them were!) It turns out that when the pursuit of beauty is abandoned, (surprise-surprise) society becomes uglier.



The pursuit of beauty and its opposite.

But the opposite is also true. When we lived in Cairo, Egypt, we would sometimes visit the Christian areas of town. One reason for this is that these neighborhoods quite frankly tended to be the most beautiful areas of the city. When most streets were concrete jungles covered in trash, the Christian neighborhoods were clean and adorned trees and flowers. When we pointed this out to a local, they responded proudly, *Of course! We Christians praise God by keeping our streets beautiful!* Our experience was that Egyptian Christians did indeed take their vocation to beautify this world as a serious part of their witness.

Of course, there are many other vocations within our Christian faith, but we should not neglect the importance of loving and nurturing beauty. We should not overlook that planting a garden can be a prayer to God. That making music or art can be an act of faith. That building beautiful friendships can reveal the face of Christ. Or as a visiting Jewish teacher told our confirmation class last year-

*As people who love God, we should always try to add goodness to this world.
And if we can, we should try to make it beautiful. Because look at this world God made.
Clearly God loves beauty.*

May the pursuit of God in the good, the true, and beautiful be yours!

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

***Pastor Paul will be away on travels July 18th through the 25th.
Please contact the office if there are pastoral needs.***

Community Connections

Vacation Bible School 2023

We especially give thanks to all those volunteers who made this week possible by coordinating programs, housing and feeding our counselors, leading crafts, serving snacks, and much more, with special thanks to:

Michelle Bennett, Melissa Eckelbarger, Elaine Gauden, Barbara Guerra, Diane Harmon, Karen Lenoski, Meg Parrott, Christine Schei, Paul & Stephanie Schick, Deb Sciortino, Pat Shodean, Shaila Shodean, Neal Shotwell, Earlene Shroyer, Kristen Sillence, Hugh Simpson, Paula Thomas, Suzanne Waite, and all others who helped in any way!

