2

3

5

5

7



Sharing Christ's Love, Growing God's Family

The September 2023 Monthly Newsletter of Community of Joy Lutheran Church

# Inside this Issue

# **People Page**

September Birthdays & Anniversaries In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## **Announcements**

Men Alive! Fall Adult Ed Series Volunteer Need– Counters Beer Buddies

# Youth & Children's Ministry

New COJ Youth & Young Adult Group Sunday School Kickoff FEAST Resumes!

# **Worship News**

Thank you to our Volunteers!

# **Joyful Hearts News**

Joyful Hearts News Collection for AHCH

# Pastor's Ponderings

# **Beyond Our Walls**

Storehouse West Support Good Sam Fund

# Our Church 9-10

Memorial Fund
Assisted Listening System
Sermon on the Amounts
Sunday School Kick-off party pics

# **Introducing:**

# **WORSHIP AROUND THE WORLD**

# An Exploration of Global Christian Spirituality and Sacred Music

At its deepest core, everything that is spiritual is about communing with God's sacred presence. What is your favorite way to commune with the sacred? For some it is prayer. For others its bible study or sermons. Still others find God in nature. But for many it is music. For some mysterious reason, music seems to have an almost magical power over human beings.

We see human beings in almost every culture turn to music to bind community together as it provides the backdrop for holidays, festivals, and all manner of gatherings. We see music teach, (go to any children's story time). At a concert it can unite a crowd of total strangers in a communal experience of joy and inspiration. Or at a funeral, it can offer grieving people comfort and healing. Music has been used to treat depression And and anxiety. amazingly, it can even unlock wounded minds that seem beyond reaching.



I once saw a video where a music therapist played old songs to elderly people who were suffering from late-stage dementia. These were individuals who could no longer speak or recognize even the closest of loved ones. And yet when this therapist played a classic jazz tune for one hunched over old man, he immediately smiled, sat up in his wheelchair, and started singing the first words he had spoken in ages. Another non-verbal and seemingly unreachable elderly woman- who had been a ballerina in her younger years- suddenly started performing her old ballet moves when the sounds of *Swan Lake* were played to her.

Continued on page 6

New Fall Adult Series—see page 3

New Youth and Young Adult Group,
Sunday School Kickoff, FEAST Resumes!—see page 4

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# People Page

# Septemb rthdal

1st: Cody Parrott

Suzanne Waite 2nd: Donna Doles 3rd: Sandy Edwards 14th: Lori Brown

16th: Debbie Hutton 20th: Harrison Lyman

# **Wedding Anniversaries** in September

Sam & Lynn Sampson (65yrs.) 6th: Roci & Rose Gainey-Graham (8 yrs.) 8th: Mark & Lana Rousselle (20 yrs.) 13th:

Marcus & Pat Sanders (28 yrs.) 20th:



**Donna Doles** Dick & Peg Tool Connie White (Stephanie's mom) Joan Bouty, Louise Scott Warren Sullivan Steve Gamrath Paul & Jackie Anderson Norma Gruber David Brown (7/30) Geneva Ellis (7/30) Jane & Charlie Fiedler (7/30) Jasmine & Monika Brown (7/30)Charlie Dillon (8/6)

Capri Dillon (8/6) Danielle Dutton (8/6) Kathy Graham (8/11) Family of Charles Davis (8/13) Gayle Phillips (8/13) Eloise Spradley (8/13) Tung Chau (8/13) Danny & Becky Montoya (8/13) Korda family (8/14) Albert & Breanna Arimendz

(8/17)

Rachel Sanchez (8/17) Vasylenko family (8/26) Cliff & Jay Walker (8/28) Bill Potabi (8/28)

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**

841 Saratoga Dr. NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144 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 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

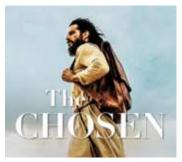
For any reports or information, contact the appropriate person listed above

# **Announcements**

# Men Alive!

**Men Alive!** will be meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays (9/9 & 9/23) at 8:30a.m. for a hearty breakfast, fellowship, and to continue our study and discussion of the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 13 and 14 respectively.

This is an activity that is open to all men interested in fellowship and the study of the Bible. Please contact Charles Fiedler (cwfiedler@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



# 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!

If you are at any point interested in watching more episodes of The Chosen, the makers of this series have made it free to watch with many different streaming platforms including Netflix, Amazon Prime, Roku, and Peacock. Contact pastor if you would like help in accessing these episodes.

# **Volunteer Need- Contribution Counters**

Do you love this ministry and want a way to serve? And do you know how to add with a calculator? If you answered *yes* to these questions, we would love to invite you to consider becoming a COJ Contribution Counter. These important volunteers help our ministry stay on track by meeting every other week to count our tithes and donations. We are in need of a few new volunteers in this area and would be happy to train anyone who is interested. Contact the office if you think this volunteer position might be a good fit for you.



Community of Joy
Beer Buddies



The Next Meeting -Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

# Youth & Children's Ministry

# **NEW COJ Youth and Young Adult Group**



**Jon** and **Shaila Shodean** are inviting everyone aged 16-26 to our house for dinner to start brainstorming our group and all the fun we will have this year. Please invite friends or siblings too!

**Monday, September 18** at 6pm. 900 Stallion Rd. SE, Rio Rancho. Please contact Jon with questions: <u>Jon@communityofjoy.com</u>

# Sunday School Kick-Off Day September 10, 2023

# Register Now!

Sunday School kicks off on September 10, immediately after the service. There will be two classes, preschool to 4th grade, and 5th-7th grade. Parents can fill out registration forms in the church lobby. We still need teachers to volunteer, and they can teach as often or as infrequently as they want, and we will provide curriculum and training.

Please contact **Shaila Shodean** to sign up as a teacher or if you have any guestions.

Registration forms are on the counter outside the office.

# FEAST RESUMES in SEPTEMBER!!

Date: September 13th (6-7:30 pm)

Potluck: September is National Honey Month—bring a dish that is made with honey

(begins at 6 pm)

**Activity: Summer Outdoor Fun!** 

The theme will be summer outdoor fun, so we will have games such as cornhole, ladder ball and horse-shoes to play. *Please try to park on the north side of the parking lot so we have space to set up on the south side.* Please bring food to share for the potluck! You are also welcome to bring games to play. *Open to everyone in the church!* 

# Worship News



# THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST VOLUNTEERS! Ushers: Lee & Jill Glauvitz, Dennis & Kris Simpson Readers: Charlie Fiedler, Greg Edwards, Karen Lenoski, Josh Welbaum Communion Assistants: Diane Brauer, Melissa Eckelbarger, Meghan Lyman, Laura Reu, Dennis & Kris Simpson, Altar Guild: Diane Brauer, Lynette Schurdevin, Deb Sciortino Communion Bread Baker: Michelle Bennett Audio/Video Team: Diane Brauer, Sandy Edwards, Zach Shotwell Nursery Attendants: Michaela Lovell, Olivia Rousselle Counters: Jean Potabi, Donna Huxtable, Pat Shodean, Karen Lenoski

# Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry

# Joyful Hearts will meet on Saturday, September 9th at 10am

# Joyful Hearts News Churchwide Rummage Sale September 30, 2023



Joyful Hearts will be sponsoring a Church-wide Rummage on **Saturday**, **September 30**<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds will be going to the Memorial Committee and Joyful Hearts. The time of the sale is **8am-2pm**. We will not be pricing items; we will have a free-will donation, and one room with items of more value (e.g. silver jewelry) will be "Make us an offer". We will not accept large electronics, TVs or stereos, mattresses, shoes, and guns/other weapons. Prior to the event, COJ closets will be gone through for items to put in the sale. Each Sunday morning,

there will be a table in the Fellowship Hall with items going into the sale. If you see an item that might be yours, or that you'd like, this is your opportunity to claim it. Whatever remains will be put into the sale.

We really do not have space to store items for the sale, so we have scheduled two times for dropping them off: the first is AFTER SERVICE (until 1pm) on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> for clothing and smaller

items. The other time is **3:00-7:00pm** on **Friday**, **September 29**<sup>th</sup> (the day before the sale). If neither of these times work for you, you can contact Sandy Edwards (<u>sandraledwards1957@gmail.com</u>) or Barbara Reeves (<u>bjreeves216@att.net</u>) and we will make other arrangements.

Flyers will be available on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. **We encourage** you to take them to your place of business and promote the sale to your friends and colleagues. This sale is open to the public. We will be publicizing on social media and other online sites.



# 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.



Shaving supplies Deodorant (male and female) Lip balm Sunscreen
Travel size tissues
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.

# Pastor's Ponderings

# **Introducing: WORSHIP AROUND THE WORLD**

# An Exploration of Global Christian Spirituality and Sacred Music

Continued from page 1

I once saw a video where a music therapist played old songs to elderly people who were suffering from late-stage dementia. These were individuals who could no longer speak or recognize even the closest of loved ones. And yet when this therapist played a classic jazz tune for one hunched over old man, he immediately smiled, sat up in his wheelchair, and started singing the first words he had spoken in ages. Another non-verbal and seemingly unreachable elderly woman- who had been a ballerina in her younger years- suddenly started performing her old ballet moves when the sounds of *Swan Lake* were played to her.

Music is one of those gifts of God that transcends concepts and ideas, and frequently it speaks to the soul in ways that words often can't. Perhaps this is why music has always been one of the great expressions of spirituality. Indeed, for every culture that has found life in Christian spirituality, beautiful sacred music quickly follows. Thus, as we who seek communion with God, one of our clearest paths to the sacred is this is a vast and rich heritage of sacred music.

This September, Community of Joy will begin a worship series that celebrates this rich heritage of sacred music called *Worship Around the World*. Each week for four weeks, we will explore the sacred music of different regions and cultures, as we worship in a service shaped by the stories and spiritual traditions that created them. Here is a brief schedule:

September 10<sup>th</sup>- Hymns of the Irish and English Isles

September 17<sup>th</sup>- American and African American Hymns and Spirituals

September 24th- Sacred Music of Continental Europe

October 1st- Music and Worship from the Global South

We hope that you can join us and experience God's loving power through the power of sacred music from around the globe!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Paul

Are You Interested in Joining Community of Joy Church?

Let Pr. Paul or the Office Know!

The Office will be Closed on Monday, September 4th in Celebration of Labor Day

7

# **Beyond Our Walls**

# \*\*\*\*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!



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 lowmoderate 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 175 lbs. of food were delivered to Storehouse during the month of August. Thank you for your donations! Please continue to support Storehouse West and help feed our community.

# 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!

# **Our Church**



Farewell to **Lynette Schurdevin**, who has moved to Las Cruces.

We will miss you, Lynette.

# COJ Memorial Fund



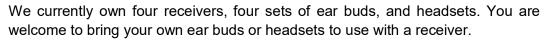
We recently received gifts to the COJ Memorial Fund in memory of Charles and Suzanne Davis.

We thank Tom & Liz Ball, Pat Shodean, Bill & Jean Potabi, Bud White, Paul & Jackie Anderson, and John & Renee Mitsunaga 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!

# **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.





# **SERMON ON THE AMOUNTS**

Giving	Giving for Year through July 31, 2023		Actual Giving
	Actual	Budget	more/(less) than Budget
Programs:	\$112,253.00	\$118,600.00	(\$6,347.00)
Building:	\$29,432.00	\$31,150.00	(\$1,718.00)
Both Funds:	\$141,685.00	\$149,750.00	(\$8,065.00)

Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

# **Our Church**











# Sunday School Kickoff Party

We had an amazing Sunday School Kickoff party! A big thank you to **Diane Harmon** for hosting us and opening up her house and pool to the COJ kids!