



Joyful News-October

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A Word from Our Pastor



October arrives almost quietly. The days are still warm, but the mornings carry a new crispness. Leaves will begin to change, evenings will come earlier, and little by little, we are being released from the relentless heat of summer. The changing temperatures remind us that no season lasts forever. What once seemed as though it would never end eventually gives way to something new.

Life can feel much the same. There are seasons when suffering seems to stretch on without an end in sight. Grief, illness, uncertainty, loneliness, disappointment, and worry can make us wonder when relief will finally come. Yet October offers a gentle reminder: change is part of God's creation, and even difficult seasons are temporary.

Our Christian hope rests not in the promise that we will never suffer, but in the assurance that suffering does not have the final word. In Jesus Christ, we see God entering fully into the brokenness of our world. Jesus knows our pain, carries our burdens, and promises to remain with us through every season.

Paul reminds us, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). The suffering we experience today is real, and Scripture does not ask us to pretend otherwise. But it also points us toward the hope of what God is bringing. Peter encourages us, "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace...will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10).

As October brings cooler mornings and gentler afternoons, may we receive its changing temperatures as a small sign of a larger truth. Seasons change. Circumstances change. Our suffering changes. And through it all, Christ remains faithful.

Whatever season we are experiencing today, we do not face it alone. We belong to the God who walks with us, sustains us, and leads us toward the promise of new life. Thanks be to God for the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Julie



DOLLARS OF JOY GRANTS

It is that time of year again. The applications for Dollars of Joy Grants can be found in the narthex. Please place your completed request in the Missions Committee mailbox by October 28. The committee is meeting on Thursday, October 29 at 1:30 pm to designate the gifts. If you have questions, please contact Char Maeda or Melanie Pederson.



SINGLES

Ten of us enjoyed dinner at Home Plate this month. Our next Joy in Christ Singles Dinner will be at Home Plate, October 8th @ 5pm.

WORLD FOOD DAY – OCT. 16



World Food Day is one of the most celebrated days on the United Nations calendar with opportunities in 15 countries using over 50 languages to raise awareness of hunger. This year's theme is "Innovate today Nourish tomorrow" which celebrates new solutions to ensure access to nutritious food going forward. ELCA World Hunger is part of this on-going effort to address the root causes of hunger by funding projects, causes, leaders, and "emigrating" training leaders worldwide to address hunger, clean water, housing and poverty in their communities. Here in Arkansas we rank #1 in food insecurity in the whole country—almost 25% of our population does not know where their food for tomorrow is coming from. We have been blessed in this community with God's abundance. World Food Day is a good occasion to consider a donation to ELCA World Hunger or food items for the food pantry that will open soon at the Community Resource Center in Hot Springs. Please watch the E Blast for the exact food items needed for the food pantry.

BIRTHDAYS

Chuck Floy	Oct. 8
Les Baldwin	Oct. 12
Suizi Poulser	Oct. 12
Eileen Miller	Oct. 14
Dick Gunderson	Oct. 17
Millie Heisler	Oct. 17
Carolyn Daniels	Oct. 25
Trina Hacker	Oct. 28
John Keller	Oct. 29



ANNIVERSARIES

James & Judy Klein	Oct. 2 (61 yrs)
Phil & Carolyn Gustafson	Oct. 17 (51 yrs)
Greg & Melanie Pederson	Oct. 22 (33 yrs)





Special Services in the Coming Weeks



Services in the Memorial Garden – Oct. 17/18. These services will be held at the usual times and will include communion. We are in need of a few helpers for both services to come early and set chairs and stay after to take them back into the church. If you can help with this task, please let Pastor or Karen S. know.

Reformation Weekend – Oct. 24/25. Please wear Red and receive your copy of the 95 thesis of Martin Luther.

All Saints Weekend – Oct. 31/Nov. 1. We would like to create a “cloud of witnesses” in the sanctuary. Please send to the office by Oct. 18th the names of those you have lost that you would like to see in this cloud for these special services.



50 Years of Caring Carries On

Stephen Ministries-St.Louis, founded in 1975, continues to commemorate its 50 Years of Building a More Caring World by hosting weekend celebration and learning events across the country. Some of JiC's Stephen Ministry team recently attended one such gathering in Dallas. Dorothy Fager, Jerry Fager and Susan Maser were blown away with the size of the well-planned event, joining hundreds of Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders for



presentations including Unexpected Ways to Care, Cancer Care Ministry, Relating to Those Who Are Grieving, What Jesus Teaches Us About Empathy, and others. What a blessing to receive instruction on new training topics with practical skills that can be put to use throughout life and ministry. Check out this short video featuring Stephen Ministries' founder, Dr. Kenneth Haugk: stephenministries.org/care50



SHOE BOX SCRAMBLE



You can get rained out, flooded out, or snowed out of an event but our Shoe Box Golf Scramble for September got “cooked” out. It was just too darn hot to play so we canceled and went to dinner! But dinner was fun and the fellowship is always rewarding as we build lasting memories with friends and our church family. And don't discount the value of our mission goal to raise funds for the underprivileged students at Mountain Pine and Jessievile High Schools. We only have two more months in our scramble golf season to raise more money for the grants we will provide to the schools. Come join us for either golf or dinner or both and join in the fun. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex waiting for your name!

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

TRY THE NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE.

Have you used the church website lately? Joyinchristhsv.org. If you haven't now is the time to see our new and improved site. It has been redesigned to make it easier for you and others to navigate, current calendar is available and other information readily available. Take a few minutes and see the new changes. Another method to keep you updated and to draw visitors to Joy in Christ is through social media. If you use Facebook or Instagram, you are needed. This is an valuable media to spread God's Word to members and others. If you can help us, we would like to talk to you. Contact Pastor Julie or Lynda Grasse for more information. This is volunteer opportunity that can be done at home and at your convenience.





We are so grateful to Char Maeda for making our newest banner. Thank you Char.

TRUNK SALE



ALL ARE WELCOME!! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD—TRUNK SALE

Volunteer, donate, sell, buy, and bake and eat a hot dog. The Trunk is one of Joy in Christ's major events and you are needed. There are many ways that you can help. Please consider being part of this fun event.

Sign-up to be parking attendants, work the bake sale, set-up or clean-up on October 3rd.

Bake some goodies for the bake sale. Last year this was very successful and people were requesting more. Put on your apron and bake some cookies, breads, cupcakes, etc. Baked items can be delivered to church on Friday, October 2nd between 1:00 & 3:00.

Donate your items that have been taking up space in your closets. Bring household items, décor, kitchen items, linens, rugs and small furniture to church anytime during the week before the sale. Contact John Plautz if you have larger items that you want to donate. The office is open Tuesday-Friday from 10:00-2:00. If you cannot deliver during these times, please call Lynda Grasse.



BOOK DISCUSSION: MAKING SENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Join us on Thursday, October 1, at 9:30 a.m. as we read and discuss Making Sense of the Christian Faith by David Lose.

Written in a conversational style, this book invites readers to become part of the conversation. Rather than trying to persuade readers to a particular point of view, the book encourages us to think, ask questions, and explore our faith together.

Would you like a copy of the book? Please see Joan Plautz or call her at 262-352-5749. Joan will be happy to deliver a copy to you.

If possible, please read Chapter 1 before October 1. But don't worry if you haven't finished the reading—come anyway! We welcome everyone and look forward to a meaningful conversation and time of fellowship together.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



PLANNING AHEAD FOR DECEMBER 5

Do you always plan ahead? With our busy schedules and full calendars, it is often necessary. The Fellowship Committee is planning ahead for a December 5 sale at Mountainside Church. We will be making lefse (Norwegian flatbread) and hand crafted items to sell. We are asking for helping hands - men and women- to make lefse and crafts. Money raised will go to the mission and ministry of our church. Please watch for future announcements for scheduled lefse baking sessions and craft projects we can make together.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
CHURCH PICNIC 10am - Worship	12:30pm - Mahjong	8am - Breakfast @ 3:30pm - Bible Study	9am Strategy 1pm Finance	9:30am - Educational Book Study 1pm Community Mtg	1pm - Trunk Sale Setup	9am - Trunk Sale 4:30pm - Hospitality 5pm - Worship 6pm - Dinner @ Mulligan's
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am - Hospitality 9am - Worship	12:30pm - Mahjong	1pm - Lake Forest Worship 3:30pm - Bible Study	11am - Fellowship	9:30am - Educational Book Study 5pm - Singles Dinner @ HomePlate		4:30pm - Hospitality 5pm - Worship 6pm - Dinner @ Mulligan's
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am - Hospitality 9am - Worship 1pm - Golf Scramble	Columbus Day 12:30pm - Mahjong	9:30am - Communications 2pm - Mt Carmel Worship 3:30pm - Bible Study	9am - Finance 11am - Jackson House	9:30am - Educational Book Study 1pm - Worship & Music	NewsletterArticle Deadline 9am - Council Meeting	4:30pm - Hospitality 5pm - Worship 6pm - Dinner @ Mulligan's
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am - Hospitality 9am - Worship	10am - FOCUS 12:30pm - Mahjong 1pm - Stephen Ministry	3:30pm - Bible Study		9:30am - Educational Bookstudy		4:30pm - Hospitality 5pm - Worship 6pm - Dinner @Mulligan's
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am - Hospitality 9am - Worship	12:30pm - Mahjong	8am - Breakfast @Debras 3:30pm - Bible Study	1pm - E Meeting	9:30am - Educational Bookstudy 1:30pm - Missions		Halloween 4:30pm - Hospitality 5pm - Worship 6pm - Dinner @ Mulligan's