



JOYFUL NEWS

SEPT. 2026 | VOL. 9



There is an old saying, “Many hands make light work,” and it is especially true in the life of a church. A church is not built or strengthened by the efforts of just a few people. It takes all of us—each with different gifts, talents, experiences, and abilities—working together to accomplish what God has called us to do.

There is a lot of work that happens in or through our church regularly. You probably see the people who are active during worship. You may not notice the ones who help prepare for worship or who clean up after worship. People from the congregation also serve in the larger community in a variety of ways. And some quietly pray, give, encourage, and serve behind the scenes. Every act of service matters.

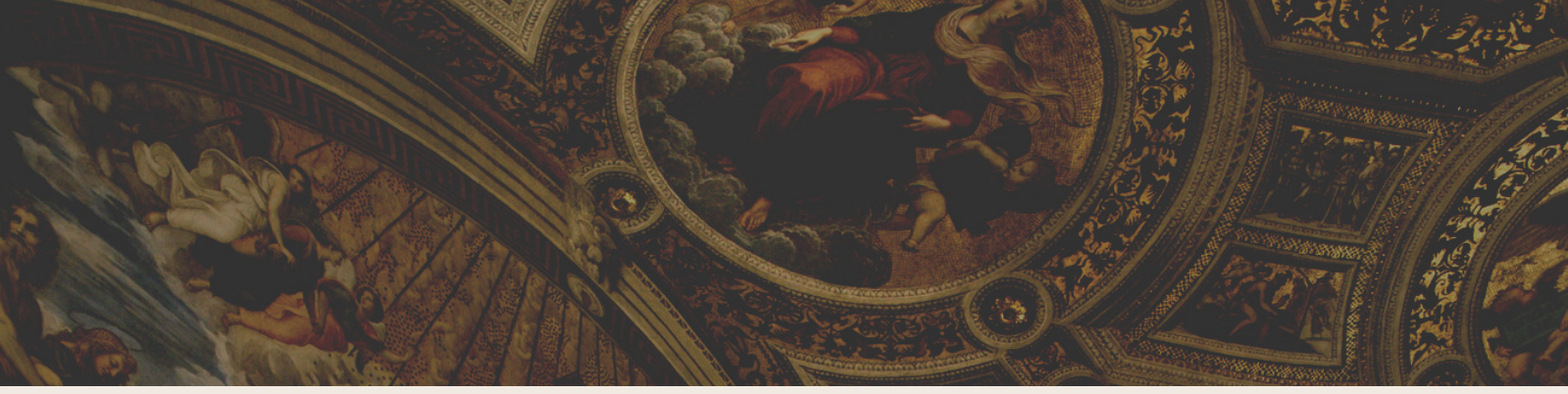
At times, some of these tasks may feel small and insignificant, but scripture reminds us that we are all part of one body, and every part has a purpose (Romans 12:4). A kind word, a helping hand, a prayer, or an hour spent serving can make a tremendous difference in someone's life and in the life of the church.

When we work together, the work becomes lighter, the fellowship becomes stronger, and our church becomes a brighter witness to the love of Christ. We discover that serving is not simply about getting things done—it is about loving God and loving one another.

So, as we look ahead to the days and months before us and consider the annual time and talent survey, let us continue to ask, “Where can I help?” There is always a place for another willing heart and another helping hand.

Thank you to everyone who gives of their time, energy, gifts, and prayers. What we accomplish together is always far greater than what we could ever do alone. It is a beautiful reminder that many hands truly do make light work. Our common work unites us in Christ and reveals to us glimpses of God's kingdom.

Pastor Julie



SINGLES NEWS

Only 8 charming ladies attended our monthly dinner on Thursday, August 13. Please mark your calendars for next month, September 10th, 5:00 pm. at Home Plate. Join us for good food and good conversations. In the meantime, save your appetite for Home Plate's delicious food.
In Christ -----Joyce Geraghty



Outdoor Service and Picnic

Our annual outdoor worship service and picnic at the Cortez pavilion is Sunday, September 27 at 10:00.

Please sign up in the narthex so the Fellowship Team will know how many people are attending. Guests are very welcome to join us.

No tickets are being sold for the picnic catered by Home Plate. We will have a suggested donation amount. If you find the donation amount is a little steep, please come anyway and give what you are able. We want everyone in our church family to enjoy the service, food and fellowship.

Our menu will be pulled pork, fried chicken, potato salad, beans, rolls and lemonade and tea. We are asking for donations of desserts.

This is a BYOB event. Following the service, enjoy your favorite beverage. Join us as we kick off the fall season.



Shoe Box Scramble

Our August 9th Golf Scramble was a great day for golf! A little on the warm side, well, actually, it was hot! But Char and Karen had the refreshment cart to keep us well hydrated and lubricated!! We had a great time and Team #1 had a score of 1 over par 37 with 13 putts followed by Team #2 with 1 under par with 35 and 16 putts. But the grand prize winners were Team #3 of Terry Sterzik, Jerry Barnsike, Don Gehr, and Tom Grasse with a 4 under par 32 and 12 putts. That is a great 9 holes of golf and the guys proudly "honked the chicken"!

We had to add a couple of tables to accommodate everyone for dinner at Cafe Isabella since the Edmonson's had a couple of extra guests. I don't remember the actual date of Julie's birthday but we all celebrated it – again!!

Come join us and share in the fellowship while raising money for a good mission project. The kids at Mountain Pine and Jessieville High Schools appreciate all that we do for them. The next scramble is September 13 with dinner following. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



September Birthdays



Susan Maser	September 6
Allan Ness	September 7
Connie Zerfas	September 9
Stan Hatesohl	September 12
Phil Gustafson	September 25
Dorothy Fager	September 28



.and Anniversaries

Bud & Shirley Swanson September 16 (72 years)

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2026

NOTE: Due to the bookkeeping transition, this report may not be totally accurate since some bill paying and accounting may not be up to date. Future reports for July and beyond should rectify this situation and provide more accurate accounting.

	<u>July Actual</u>	<u>July Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	11,332	22,933	139,282	160,530
Expenses	24,535	22,933	147,376	160,530
Surplus or (Deficit)	(13,203)	0	(8,094)	0
Cash on Hand		522,818		
Liabilities		-7,310		
Dedicated Funds		<u>-395,304</u>		
Operating Capital		120,204		

July 2026 the expenses exceeded income by \$13,203 and expenses were above budget by \$1,602. The operating capital has decreased by \$6,270 from the 2025 ending balance of \$126,474.

If you have any questions, please ask.
Ken Poulsen, Treasurer



25th Annual Village Walk for Cancer Research

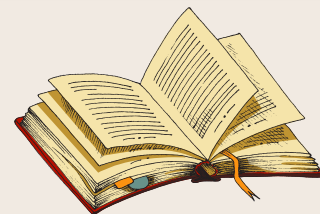
September 26, 2026

The annual Village Walk for Cancer Research will begin with an opening ceremony at Balboa Pavilion at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26th. As in the past, the walk will include the Balboa and Hernando Trails, a total of 5 miles, for those who wish to walk the entire distance. Registration fee is \$35 which includes a t-shirt (\$40 after Sept. 4th) as well as free fruit, water, coffee, hot dogs and brats at the Balboa Pavilion on Walk day. There will also be a bake sale, 50/50, Silent Auction, PSA testing, flu shots, and more. Proceeds from the Walk go to support cancer research and cancer-related projects in our community. This year they will highlight pancreatic cancer. Walk a few feet or the whole 5 miles and enjoy the fellowship of other walkers. Help raise \$110,000 for cancer research this year.

To register for the 25th Annual Village Walk for Cancer Research, please visit the website: www.WalkForCancerResearch.org or watch the newspaper for locations where registration forms are available. Registration forms will be available at church as well.

DISCOVER THE RICHES
OF GOD'S GRACE IN

EPHESIANS



Join us for an uplifting 11-week journey through the book of Ephesians, where Paul reveals God's eternal purpose, His abundant grace, and His desire to unite His people. As the letter beautifully states, God has reconciled us to Himself and to one another, breaking down every dividing wall.

Beginning September 15, 2026, we will gather each Tuesday from 3:30-5:00 pm for group discussion, supported by daily personal study at home.

We meet at Joy in Christ Lutheran Church, 110 Balboa Road
Hot Springs Village.

Participants may use any Bible. Lessons reference the NIV and the Joy of Living Bible Study Guide Part 1 of 2. Please submit \$19 for the guide to Jerry Fager by August 28, 2026.

For more information, contact:

Jerry Fager -- 210-885-2725 --jdfager@yahoo.com

Who Sees Me?



There are times you can be in a crowd of people, both friends and strangers—at church, at a restaurant, at a beach, at a Bible study — and still feel so alone.

You might feel like you're lost in the shuffle of life or forgotten in the clamor of conversation around you. ["Someone – notice me, talk to me, see me!"]



Jesus will find you in a crowd. His specialty is being close and personal. He is all about a one-on-one encounter with you. You are not alone.

† ...and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. John 16:32

STEPHEN MINISTRY OF JOY IN CHRIST

** CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE **

Contact Pastor Julie or a Stephen Leader



JOY IN CHRIST TRUNK SALE

Oct. 3rd, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Are you ready to pass on your valued treasures and make room for more storage space for new treasures? Now is the time to sell your valuable stuff at the congregational trunk sale. The Joy in Christ Trunk Sale will take place on Saturday, **Oct. 3rd** from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Joy in Christ congregation members can begin applying for a parking space to sell their treasures starting **Aug. 1st**. The forms are available in the narthex on the serving counter or online at www.joyinchristhsv.org.

Sellers must set up by 8:45 A.M. on the day of the sale and remain until 1:00 P.M. Sellers are responsible for loading, unloading, setting up and removing their treasures on the day of the Sale. They should also bring their own change bag, price their own items, and manage all their own money transactions. This is a church and family event so sale items must be appropriate-no offensive items, CBD products, weapons, etc. Parking spaces for the buyers at our Sale will be limited, so please keep your vehicle at your sale site the entire time of the Sale. Sellers will receive a complete list of guidelines with their application form. Parking spaces will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

In addition, the Trunk Sale will feature:

Joy in Christ Sale: You are invited to donate gently used items to be sold at the Joy In Christ Booth. This will be a special Rummage Sale sponsored by our church to raise additional funds.

Hot Dogs, Water, and Chips will be for sale. The Fellowship Committee sponsors this event.

Bake Sale: We need your delicious homemade cookies, cakes, breads, and other delectable treats to sell at the Bake Sale.

Memorial Garden Tour: The Memorial Garden will be featured with information and tours given.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee: Lynda Grasse, Joan Plautz, Susan Jamison, Beth Mielke, and Karen Sterzik.

September Worship Events

September will be a full month of different worship experiences for our congregation. We will begin with a brand new Festival of the ELCA, The Festival of Creation. It will be celebrated on **Sept. 5/6** with an emphasis on our stewardship of creation, a good follow up of our annual stewardship campaign.

On **Sept. 12/13** we will participate in God's Work Our Hands with the rest of the ELCA by assembling comfort kits for rape victims who come to the hospitals in our area. The weekend of **Sept. 19/20** we will complete the program of the summer youth group by using the Affirmation of Baptism in our worship services. The summer program has been a review of Luther's Catechism and the Affirmation of Baptism is the service used for Confirmation.

Finally, we will celebrate the end of summer with the annual church picnic at Cortez Pavilion on Sunday, **Sept. 27th**. The whole congregation is encouraged to attend the Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy the picnic lunch that follows. Sign ups and further information will be coming. See you at worship this September.



Love Lunches on Sept. 20th

Joy in Christ will once again have the opportunity to serve Love Lunches on Sunday, Sept. 20th. This ministry of our congregation allows us to partner with several other churches to provide a sack lunch for hungry people every Sunday.

In August we gave out 108 lunches, some clothing, and a lot of produce and bakery from Kroger. If you have clothing items, especially socks and underwear, they are always welcome. We will be getting closer to sweater and jacket weather as well. Peanut butter is always a welcomed gift-it can feed a person for many days. Thanks for the generosity you have shown and bless you for your continued support of this ministry. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Karen Sterzik.

Volunteers Needed for the Joy in Christ Trunk Sale!

Mark your calendars! The Joy in Christ Trunk Sale is happening on **Saturday, October 3rd**, and we need **your help** to make it a success. We're looking for volunteers to assist with:

- Directing traffic
- Setting up before the event
- Cleaning up afterward

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve, connect with others, and be a part of a fun day that welcomes our community to share and shop for hidden treasures.

We've scheduled volunteer shifts so you can still enjoy shopping:

- Morning Shift: 7:15 AM – 10:15 AM
- Midday Shift: 10:15 AM – 1:15 PM
- Cleanup Crew: 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Sign up in the narthex to lend a hand. Whether you're available for one shift or just the cleanup, your help makes a big difference! Let's come together to serve joyfully and show the love of Christ to all who attend.

"God's Work, Our Hands" T-Shirts

Show your support for our church community with a 'God's Work, Our Hands' T-shirt. These shirts are a simple way to share our faith and celebrate the hands and hearts that serve others.

WE HAVE MORE



\$20 each

**CALL - Jerry Fager or
Karen Sterzik**

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Sep 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
8:30am Hospitality 9am Worship	12:30pm Mahjong	1pm Lake Forest	11am Fellowship			4:30pm Hospitality 5pm Worship 6pm Dinner
6	7		?	10	11	12
8:30am Hospitality 9am Worship	9am Labor Day 12:30pm Mahjong	9:30am Communications 2pm Mt Carmel	11am Jackson House	5pm Singles Dinner		4:30pm Hospitality 5pm Worship 6pm Dinner
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30am Hospitality 9am Worship 1pm Golf Scramble	12:30pm Mahjong	9:30am Committee Chair Meeting 3:30pm Bible Study	9am Finance	1pm Worship&Music	9am Council Meeting	4:30pm Hospitality 5pm Worship 6pm Dinner
20	21	22		24	25	26
8:30am Hospitality 9am Worship 1pm Love Luncheon	12:30pm Mahjong	3:30pm Bible Study		1pm Evangelism	1:30pm Missions	4:30pm Hospitality 5pm Worship 6pm Dinner
27	28	29		Oct 1	2	3
8:30am Hospitality 9am Worship	12:30pm Mahjong	8am Breakfast @ Home Place 3:30pm Bible Study				4:30pm Hospitality 5pm Worship 6pm Dinner

