

JOYFUL NEWS

Joy in Christ Lutheran Church
110 Balboa Road
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
501-915-9569

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JULIE

This is Part 3 in a series examining the words of our new congregational mission statement and exploring how this statement shapes our identity as a community of faith. Joyfully living by grace through faith to worship, love, and serve.

One of my children suffered significant developmental delays as a young child, including speech delays. He could not speak any actual words until age three, and even then was slow to pronounce words correctly and put words together into phrases or sentences.

Church was especially difficult for this child as sensory processing was also an issue. There was so much stimulation, so many different noises coming from different directions, and the words of the congregational responses were never clear. Speaking was an issue, but I was sure he could listen and learn. Every week during church, I held him cheek-to-cheek so that I could speak the congregational responses directly into his ear. He was comforted by being held so close and I suspected if he could distinguish my voice from the crowd, he would hear and learn the words.

On a Sunday that seemed no different from any other, when the pastor prompted the congregation to proclaim the mystery of faith, my then three-year-old, who was unable to speak more than about ten words total, spoke into my ear in perfect clarity, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." I will never forget the sweet, miraculous sound of his confident voice that morning, the voice of one who could not speak and yet proclaimed faith.

St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord!' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corin. 12:3) and to the church in Galatia, St. Paul identified faithfulness as fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). It was made abundantly clear to the early church that faith is not a good work we perform, but rather evidence of the Holy Spirit working in us.

When St. Paul said to the Ephesians that we are justified by grace through faith (Eph 2:8) he asserted our salvation is the result of God's goodness and mercy. This is a distinctly Lutheran concept proclaimed by Luther himself at the start of the Reformation. These words are in our mission statement to remind us of our unique Lutheran identity and to state clearly what makes us different from every other Christian church.

We receive salvation as a completely free gift from God. Because we don't need to earn it, we are free from the anxiety and fear of not having it. We are free to live joyfully and to focus on how, where, and when we can worship, love, and serve.

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Julie

Stephen Ministry

ONCE IN A WHILE,

Life can get too heavy. It's okay to ask for help.

One of Joy in Christ's trained Stephen Ministers will offer support, in confidence. Contact Pastor Julie or a Stephen Leader.



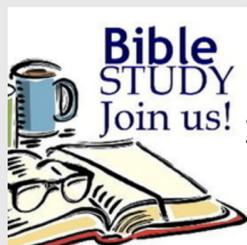
STEPHEN MINISTRY OF JOY IN CHRIST
*** CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE ***



Bible

Treasures From the Parables

Jesus gives examples of natural things that have spiritual truths ... in Matthew, Luke and John.



When

Starts February 3, 2026.

10 Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

Daily study questions at home.

Where

Joy in Christ Lutheran Church, Conference Room.
110 Balboa Road, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

Texts

Your choice of Bible both Old & New Testaments.

Lessons use the NIV Study Bible.

Joy of Living Bible Study Guide

\$16 to Jerry Fager by January 13, 2026

Contacts

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

Erwin Hoeft 501-915-0495 hoeft@suddenlink.net

Don't forget to
Spring Forward
one hour on
Sunday, March
8th.

Happy Birthday

Jeanette Alexander	March 8
Dianne Degner	March 9
Ina Gohr	March 11
Sharon Lawson	March 13
Barbara Keller	March 22
Jim Degner	March 27
Mary Kilker	March 27
Karen Sterzik	March 28
Waltraud Arnold	March 30



Mike & Mary Orman March 29 (57yrs)



Huge thanks to those who participated in the Valentine's Day project.

Women of Joy

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by cooking, eating homemade pizza and socializing with your Joy in Christ Friends.

Women of Joy March meeting is a hands-on cooking class at NATIONAL PARK COLLEGE in Hot Springs.

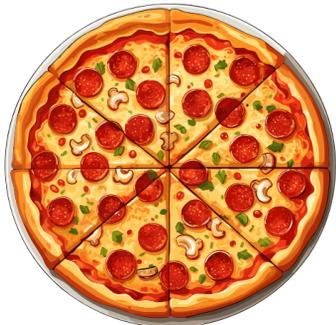
Everyone is welcome!!



Tuesday, March 17TH, 10:00-12:30. (Carpooling from church at 9:00 a.m., if interested)
Cost: \$30.00

Chef Tommy Stanco will entertain and teach a hands-on class for our group and then our creations become our lunch.

Reservations and payment must be made by Sunday March 8th. Sign-up sheet is in narthex. Make checks payable to Joy in Christ and give checks to Lynda Grasse or leave in envelope by the sign-up sheet.



Call Lynda if you have any questions: 501-915-3303

All PEOPLE of Joy are invited to participate!



March 8th Love Lunches

Joy In Christ Lutheran Church will have the opportunity to serve Love Lunches on March 8th. We are in need of 4 bakers who would like to make 4 dozen cookies for the lunches that day. If you would like to volunteer for this service, please contact Karen Sterzik.

Our guests for lunch are always most appreciative of additional items like socks, shoes, jackets, etc. If you have any items you would like to share, please bring them to church by March 8th and make sure Karen Sterzik knows about them. Small items can go into the drawer by the front door.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry to the hungry and homeless in Hot Springs.



We are making plans for 2026!

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate!

Maundy Thursday Car Wash: Thursday, April 2

Easter Brunch: Sunday, April 5

Red, White, and Blue Party: Wednesday, July 15

Celebration of Sacred Music: Sunday, August 16

Church Picnic: Sunday, September 27

Community Trunk Sale: Saturday, October 3



Exploring World Religions

Thirteen members of The World Religions Study Group recently traveled to Hot Springs for a visit to Congregation House of Israel; a congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.

Founded more than 150 years ago, the synagogue has remained a presence in the community despite enduring devastating fires and floods. During our visit, Rabbi Shelly Kleinman graciously shared the history of the congregation, explained elements of Jewish worship, and introduced us to traditions that shape Jewish faith and daily life. It was an informative experience that deepened our understanding of our Jewish neighbors.

If you would like to explore the world's religions "The Complete Idiot's Guide to World Religions Third Edition" is being used as a resource. The group meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Currently the origins of Christianity, and the historical development of the branches of the Christian Church are being discussed. All are welcome to join the study group.



Recycling at Joy In Christ

Joy in Christ Lutheran Church recycles many items in order to keep them out of local landfills. We are called to be good Stewards of God's creation.

In the bins out the back door of the narthex we collect #1 and #2 plastics, aluminum cans, tin cans, and glass containers. Please note that we can only take #1 and #2 plastics-the rest please put in your trash. Check the number in the recycling triangle-if there is no triangle or the number is something other than 1 or 2, we can not take it. Tin cans can have their labels, but please rinse them out. We can only take glass containers without lids. No window glass, light bulbs, etc.



On the window sill at the back windows in the narthex you will find containers for used ink cartridges, used eye glasses, dead batteries, etc.

Newspapers and corrugated cardboard can be left inside the back door of the narthex if you let Karen Sterzik know so she can remove it quickly.

If you have questions about our recycling program, or would like to participate please see Karen Sterzik.



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

	Jan. Actual	Jan. Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	28,617	22,933	28,617	22,933
Expenses	22,068	22,933	22,068	22,933
Surplus or (Deficit)	6,549	0	6,549	0
Cash on hand	534,539			
Liabilities	6,825			
Dedicated Funds	<u>394,837</u>			
Operating Capital	132,877			

January 2026 income exceeded expenses by \$6,549 and expenses were under budget by \$865. The operating capital has increased by \$ 6,403 over the 2025 ending balance.

If you have any questions please ask. I'm the new guy/rookie so if I don't know the answer to your question, I'll try to find it.

Ken Poulsen, Treasurer

Holy Week at Joy in Christ

Maundy Thursday 4/02/26

Worship 5:00pm

Car Wash 1:00pm-3:00pm

Good Friday 4/03/26

Worship 5:00pm

Easter Vigil 4/04/26

Worship 5:00pm

Easter Sunday 4/05/26

Worship 9:00am

Brunch 10:00am



Our beautiful church at sunset.

Food Pantry

In March, we are collecting Instant Mashed Potatoes and Cookie Mix for Prince of Peace in Hot Springs.



Food, Fun and Fellowship at Debra's



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

VESPERS 5:00PM
FOLLOWED BY SOUP SUPPER

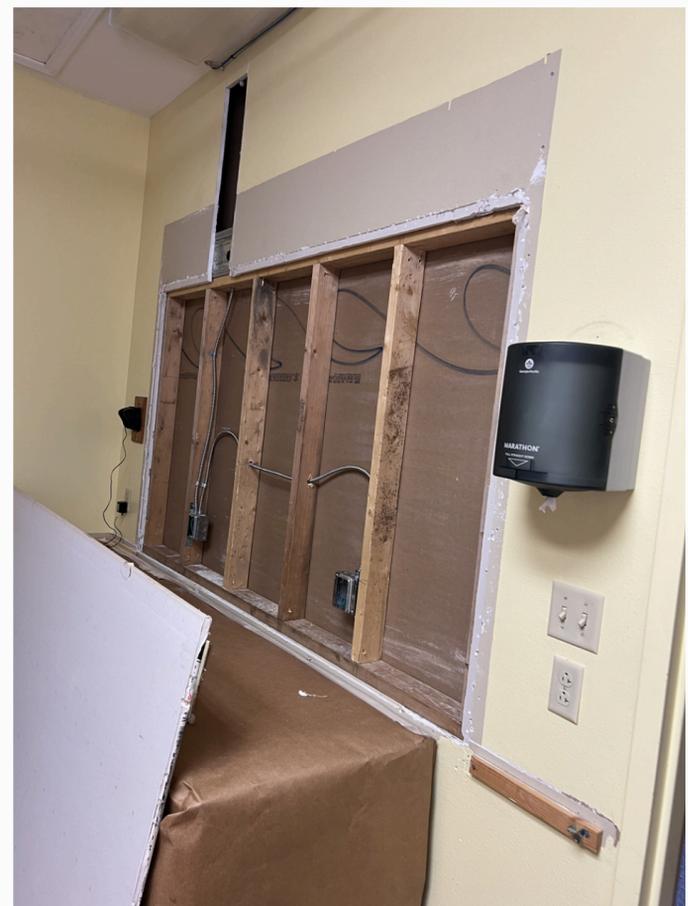
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joyinchristHSV.org



**Our
kitchen is
changing!**

**Special thanks
to Jacob
Castleberry
for donating
the work and
the materials!**



Car Wash

**SUPER
CLEAN**

FREE!



**THURSDAY
APRIL 2
1:00PM -
3:00PM**

**JESUS WASHED FEET
WE WASH CARS**

**VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP
IN NARTHEX**

**JOY IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
110 BALBOA RD
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR**





2026

MARCH 03

MONTHLY PLANNER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:30am Hospitality 9:00am Worship	2 12:30 Mahjong	3 9:30 am Communications 1pm Lake Forest Worship 3:30pm Parables of Jesus Christ Bible Study	4 11am Fellowship 5pm Lenten Worship - Soup Supper	5 9:30 WRD	6	7 4:30pm Hospitality 5:00pm Worship
8  LOVE LUNCHEES 8:30am Hospitality 9:00am Worship 1pm Golf 	9 12:30 Mahjong	10 1:30 pm Mt. Carmel Worship 3:30pm Parables of Jesus Christ Bible Study	11 10:30 Jackson House 3pm Property 5pm Lenten Worship - Soup Supper	12 9:30 WRD	13	14 4:30pm Hospitality 5:00pm Worship
15 8:30am Hospitality 9:00am Worship	16 10am FOCUS 12:30 Mahjong 1pm Stephen Ministry	17 9am Women of Joy Trip to NPC 3:30pm Parables of Jesus Christ Bible Study	18 9 Finance 5pm Lenten Worship - Soup Supper	19 9:30 WRD 1pm Worship & Music	20 9am Council 10am Strategy NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21 4:30pm Hospitality 5:00pm Worship
22 8:30am Hospitality 9:00am Worship	23 12:30 Mahjong	24 3:30pm Parables of Jesus Christ Bible Study	25 5pm Lenten Worship followed by soup supper	26 9:30 WRD 1pm Evangelism	27	28 4:30pm Hospitality 5:00pm Worship
29 8:30am Hospitality 9:00am Worship 	30	31 8am Debra's Breakfast	 H O L Y W E E K			

