

APRIL 2025



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“The Walking Dead” was a very popular television series on AMC, running for more than a decade and available now to stream. The series spawned multiple spin-offs and won countless awards. It was a show about zombies; it was bloody and gruesome. And yet, the idea of living people interacting with the dead makes me think of Easter morning.

The two men in dazzling white (angels?) said to the women looking for Jesus at the tomb on the Sunday morning following the crucifixion, **“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”** (Luke 24:5)

Resurrection is a strange idea. Both the group of women and the disciples expressed some skepticism that first Easter, prior to encountering the risen Jesus. In the natural order of things, there is a clear boundary between death and life that simply only gets crossed in one direction. The path from life to death was understood to be a one-way street.

Resurrection is not a naturally occurring phenomenon. It is miraculous, made possible only by the hand of God. When Jesus is raised from the dead, the boundaries get broken — the boundary between life and death, the boundary between the holy (transcendent) and the profane (immanent), and the boundary between humanity and God created by our sinfulness. Through baptism, we are joined to Jesus in his death and in his resurrection. The boundaries no longer exist for us; we have died in the baptismal waters and have been raised to new and eternal life.

I had to tolerate the violence and graphic nature of more than a few episodes of, “The Walking Dead,” before I really understood the show to be a story of redemption and a story where the boundary between life and death is more blurry than it appears on the surface. I truly believe that we, as Christians, are walking and living among the dead, those who do not yet know or recognize God. God is continually calling out to them, calling them from death and into life. In the Nicene Creed, we confess that, “We look for the resurrection of the dead.” I’ve always been struck by this sentence and the activity it implies. I wonder sometimes how I have experienced and witnessed resurrection, the eradication of those boundaries. As we move together into the Easter season, I invite you to wonder and explore with me how God is erasing the boundaries that separate us from each other and from God.

Peace,
Pastor Julie



WHAT COMES NEXT?

Change is difficult. The reality is that you aren't always going to navigate life transitions perfectly. There are ways to make transitions a bit easier, and meanwhile, it is important to be kind and compassionate to yourself.

Not sure how to do this?

One of Joy in Christ's trained Stephen Ministers may truly help.

Please contact Pastor Julie, Stephen Leader Dorothy Fager 501/226-5215, or Stephen Leader Sue Maser 708/296-6692.

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



Read the Bible Together

Join us as we read through the bible in a year using the reading plan by BibleProject, which can be downloaded from the BibleProject website. Copies are also available in the office if desired.



We meet weekly on Thursdays at 10:00am to discuss what we've read the previous week and to reflect on how this regular spiritual practice of bible reading is enhancing our faith.

All are welcome to join in the conversation.



No commitment required.



LOVE LUNCHES

Joy in Christ will once again have the opportunity to serve Love Lunches on Sunday, April 6th at the Salvation Army in Hot Springs.

We have a full crew but we are still in need of bakers to make 4 dozen cookies for this event. If you are willing to bake, please let Karen Sterzik know ASAP.

We would also like to share the 16 oz. jars of peanut butter with our guests that day. When the food bank can get peanut butter, it is much more expensive than in the past, so Love Lunches has not been receiving any for some months and we are usually asked about peanut butter. If you can, please donate a 16 oz. jar of peanut butter for our April 6th service date. Thank you.



Flowers for Easter

We would like to decorate the church with lots of spring blooming flowers, including lilies, for Easter this year. Please consider sharing a potted plant or two for the Easter Sunday service. You can bring your plants to the church during the week before and leave them in the kitchen. Please put your name on the bottom of your plants and pick them up to take home after the Sunday service. Thank you for your help in making our Easter service beautiful.

Meals on Wheels



Meals on Wheels is a program designed to assure that seniors have a nutritious meal at least once each day. Prior to the pandemic, Meals on Wheels were delivered to Hot Springs Village by volunteers from the many service organizations in the Village and a few churches. Due to safety concerns for both the drivers and the clients, that stopped with the pandemic and hired drivers took over that responsibility. Grant funding has been slashed by the federal government and the Area Agency on Aging, which runs the McAuley Center. They are now looking to go back to the use of volunteers to deliver the meals in the Village. They no longer deliver meals every day, Monday thru Friday, but instead deliver a whole week's worth of frozen meals once per week. There is a Thursday route that covers the western part of the Village and a Friday route that covers the eastern part of the Village and a few homes outside the east gate along highway 5 back to highway 7 then back to the McAuley Center. Because of the cargo space needed to transport this many meals at one time, the McAuley Center will have volunteers drive their refrigerated delivery truck. Each route takes about 3 hours to complete.

I bring this service opportunity to the congregation to see if the members of Joy in Christ would be interested in volunteering for one month to deliver these meals to the residents of Hot Springs Village. It is suggested that we have 2 person teams for each day, a driver and a navigator as you find your way from one home to the next. For most months that would require 16 volunteers for the 8 days (Thursday and Friday each week). Of course, the same volunteers could do more than one day if they choose.

If you would be willing to serve the Village in this ministry, please contact Karen Sterzik, (501- 922-0465). Once we have enough volunteers, we will check with the McAuley Center for an available month and set up a schedule. Thank you in advance for serving in this way.



The Women of Joy got together in March as the weather finally was beautiful - a perfect day to start decluttering. Our speaker was Kathy Clark who we found out was a neighbor of our President, Melanie Pederson. Kathy spoke to us about her mission of helping folks declutter. Kathy's website is Begin Today Organizing. She had great tips to share and the inspirational thought - start today, little increments help.

The April meeting, organized by Lynda Grasse, will be "Stories about the Beginning and Development of Hot Spring Village". Tuesday, March 15 at 9am. You don't want to miss it.

Planning ahead: The 2025/2026 year is fast approaching. Got ideas for a program you would like to see? There are seven months available. Help us fill them with what interests YOU. It is also time for a new president. Please prayerfully consider leading the meetings.

Call Melanie Pederson or Char Maeda to volunteer for this important role.

Zachary Wesley	April 2
Alan Farnsworth	April 4
Barbara Mitchell	April 4
Shirley Swanson	April 5
Bruce Mielke	April 9
Peter Mielke	April 14
Lance Miller	April 18
Angela Nickols	April 18
Larry Letchford	April 19
Susan Hallstrom	April 21
Donald Nelson	April 21
Sheryl Pierce	April 21
Amelia Wesley	April 22
Chuck Hacker	April 23
Joya Hoeft	April 27
Jerry Mostrog	April 27
Erwin Hoeft	April 29
Carla Olson	April 30

Don & Sue Fisher	April 6	(51 yrs)
Phil & Linda Keller	April 17	(32 yrs)



Treasurers Report

	February <u>Actual</u>	February <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>
Income	16,808	22,625	55,257	45,250
Expenses	<u>18,913</u>	<u>22,585</u>	<u>39,912</u>	<u>45,170</u>
Surplus	(2,105)	43	15,345	80
Cash on hand	554,078			
Liabilities	5,356			
Dedicated Funds	<u>403,513</u>			
Operating Capital	145,209			



The month of February ended with a deficit of \$2,105. Income for the year-to-date is over budget due to some members making their annual contributions all at once. Year-to-date expenses were under budget. The operating capital, cashless liabilities and dedicated funds, is \$145,209.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.
John Keller, treasurer

JOY IN CHRIST COUNCIL MINUTES

You are welcome to read the minutes from each council meeting. On the church web-site click on:

**COJ Documents/
Reports.**

You will be asked for a password (if you do not know the password, call the church office to get it).

Scroll down and all the minutes are listed for your viewing.

Caring and Sharing Groups



Caring and Sharing

Hey everyone! Is your group doing something fun and exciting that other groups may want to join in on? One group for March is visiting the stables at Oaklawn for a guided tour. The Arkansas Museum of Modern Art in Little Rock is a free, close and great place for a docent lead tour. Are games happening in your group?

Get busy folks. It is a glorious spring and time to have FUN!

Holy Week at Joy in Christ

Maunder Thursday 4/17/25

Worship 11:00am

Car Wash 1:30pm-3:30pm

Good Friday 4/18/25

Worship 11:00am

Stations of the Cross 12:00pm

Easter Vigil 4/19/25

Worship 5:00pm

Easter Sunday 4/20/25

Worship 9:00am

Brunch 10:00am



Time for Spring Cleaning! Don't toss!

Joy in Christ is sponsoring a Trunk Sale on Saturday, October 4, 2025.

Bring your gently used items in your car trunk to the church parking lot and sell them. A portion of your sales will be donated to Joy in Christ.

More details to come.



Singles Dinner



Hi Everybody: The Singles group is having a wonderful time. Why don't you Singles that are staying home being sad because you don't have anyone to laugh with come and join us.

We went to El Jimador last month and even Pastor Julie joined us. Have no idea where Joe was. Guess we will have to go and get him. Mike Anderson called Jerry and said that he had fallen and had some scratches, but he was alright now. We sure do miss him.

Our next outing will be on TUESDAY, APRIL 8 AT 5:00 p.m. at CHARLIE'S PIZZA PARLOR. Please put this on your calendar. For questions call Sally Johnson at 501-922-3360.

Evangelism CHALLENGE:

Pay a good deed forward by reading to someone who is alone and/or is in a nursing home.

Just Curious...

What kind of project or ministry energizes you?



Special thanks to the **Worship & Music Committee** who provided refreshments before worship during the month of February.

In April the **Christian Ed Committee** will be providing the goodies.



Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Vigil, and Easter

We will celebrate Palm Sunday/the Sunday of the Passion on the weekend of April 12/13. This special service requires 10 readers for each service. If you get an email from Pastor about reading on Saturday or Sunday, please respond with your willingness to serve in this way. The service will include a procession with palms as we begin this holy week.

Our Maundy Thursday service (11:00 a.m.) will include personal absolution, communion, and the stripping of the altar at the conclusion of the service. Volunteers are needed to assist with the stripping of the altar. Please be ready to say yes when asked to help with this part of the service. The car wash that day will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Good Friday Service (11:00 a.m.) will take place in a darkened sanctuary. There will be no communion, and it will be a quiet, contemplative service. After worship, join us for Stations of the Cross in the Narthex. Stations of the cross is traditional spiritual practice of Good Friday. We will meditate on a series of fourteen "stations" of Jesus' passion through scripture, prayer, and art with an emphasis on the suffering of the earth and all of creation.

The Easter Vigil service (5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19th) is a longer than usual service beginning outside at a fire pit in the parking lot. The light of this fire is carried into the church as the service begins. This service includes 14 readings, so many readers are needed. Please say yes when Pastor emails you about helping. The paraments and fair linen will be added to the altar during the service, ready to receive the communion vessels as the services progresses.

The week of special services culminates in the celebration of Easter at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Easter lilies and other spring blooming plants will adorn the sanctuary and the paraments and banners will be white in celebration. We will be using the canticle of praise, "This is the Feast", and the hymn after communion will be the "Thankful Hearts and Voices". We will be returning to the older version of the Lord's Prayer for the Easter season. The Fellowship Committee is planning an Easter brunch, catered by Home Plate for after the service and tickets are on sale now.





APRIL 2025

Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Thurs,
Friday
10:00 - 2:00
501-915-9569

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 1:00 Lake Forest 2pm SCAT 3:30 pm Revelation Bible Study	2 10 Prayers 11:00 am Lenten Service/Soup 12:30 pm Communications Meeting	3 10 am BibleProject	4 3pm Property	5 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship
6 8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Worship	7 9am Finance 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	8 9am Council 1pm Fellowship	9 10 Prayers 11:00 am Lenten Service/Soup	10 10 am BibleProject	11	12 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship
13  PALM SUNDAY 8:50 am Hospitality 9 am Worship 1pm Golf Scramble	14 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	15 9am Women of Joy	16 10 Prayers	17 9am Christian Ed 11 am Maundy Thursday Service 1:30 Car Wash	18 11 am service  GOOD FRIDAY	19 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Easter Vigil
20  EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Worship/Brunch	21 9am Stephen Ministry 10am Focus 12:30 Mahjong	22  <i>Earth Day</i>	23  Administrative Professionals Day 10 Prayers 11 am Stephen Ministry	24 10 am BibleProject 11:30am Mission Ad Hoc Mtg. 1pm E-Team	25 Newsletter Articles Due	26 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship
27 8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Worship	28 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	29 8am Men's Breakfast	30 10 Prayers			



Celebrate Together

