

May 2025



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Easter Season

by Meta Herrick Carlson
"Speak it Plain"

Fifty days for impossible,
unlikely encounters,
signs of new life,
creative resilience,
and speechless joy.

Fifty days for scars shown,
real human bodies
alive, telling stories
about what has hurt
and been made whole.

Fifty days for peace enfleshed,
moving through locked doors,
down dirt roads,
and on the beach
smoking fish to eat for breakfast.

Fifty days for Spirit breathed,
forgiveness unleashed,
presence that's pure,
courage that finds us
together for good.

Fifty days for jubilee,
debts fully repaid,
broken life restored,
people rejoicing
and raised from the dead!



DOWN, NOT OUT

Recent disappointments are piling up. As you dwell on them, it's hard to control tears that begin. You groan, "I just want to be happy!"

Turns out, happiness isn't just a feeling, it's a skill that you can get better at.

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 June 15th.

In preparation for that service day, Christine Lagerquist and her team of crochet workers are creating soap holders for us to distribute at that time. We are looking for regular sized bars of soap to put in the holders when we distribute them. If you are willing to donate some regular sized bars of soap for this project, please place them in the offering basket or the Love Lunches drawer in the narthex.

Thank you. Karen Sterzik



In May we are collecting 10.25 oz. cans of soup (any kind).

Thank you for your help.

JOY IN CHRIST COUNCIL MINUTES

****Due to unforeseen circumstances our website is undergoing some "issues". All will be fixed soon.****

You are welcome to read the minutes from each council meeting. On the church website 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.

Singles
Dinner



The Singles group met on Tuesday, April 8 at Charlies Pizza Parlor. What a bunch of friendly people. There were 17

of us there including Pastor Julie and we filled the room with laughter. They voted to go to the Balboa Grill for our May outing. This is in the Balboa golf course club house. It is a very casual grill so you can wear your golf cap. It will be on Wednesday, May 14 at 5 P.M. We hope that you all come and have a fun time.

For all of you who remember Bernice Connelly, she says a big Hello. She is 95 now and lives in Minneapolis with her daughter. She plays



Bunko on Wednesday, Bingo on Friday and goes to church on Sunday. She is doing quite well for her age, and we had a good chat. If you have any questions, just call me (Sally Johnson) on 922-3360.



On Saturday, May 3 representatives from the congregation will attend the dedication of a new home made possible by Habitat for Humanity.

The congregation donates quilts for the family and provides pots/pans/utensils for their new kitchen.

Contact **Ina Gohr** for information if you are interested in attending the dedication ceremony. Contact **Karen Sterzik** if you'd like to be involved in making quilts for the next habitat family.

We give thanks to God for the work of Habitat and for the new home this family will have. May God's blessings be with them and may God's peace fill their new home.

Women of Joy presents Queen for a Day



Come to the Royal Tea Party and be the queen for a day or perhaps a duchess, baroness, or countess. All women from Joy in Christ are invited to attend the Royal Tea Party which will be held on Tuesday, **May 20th** at 9:00 am. Tea will be served following the meeting. Fun activities/games with prizes will complete the morning.

Please sign up to bring a sweet or savory contribution to our tea menu. Some suggestions are included on the sign-up sheet. Bring your own teacup if you have one. We will also need another teapot or two for the tables if anyone has one to lend.

Get in the spirit and come to the gathering of royal ladies at Joy in Christ.



Jim Hess	May 4
Gail Taylor	May 4
Terry Bayes	May 5
Jan Floy	May 6
Gary Wilkins	May 9
Bertie Monson	May 12
Steven Angel	May 13
Linda Keller	May 19
Paul Anderson	May 22
Mary Orman	May 23
Nancy Wilkins	May 26
Laurel Gunderson	May 27
Jan Folstad	May 28
Phil Keller	May 28

Alan & Peggy Farnsworth	May 8 (49 yrs)
Peter & Beth Mielke	May 23 (38 yrs)
Ron & Beth Ytzen	May 28 (42 yrs)



Treasurers Report

	March <u>Actual</u>	March <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>
Income	23,386	22,625	78,543	67,876
Expenses	<u>18,605</u>	<u>22,585</u>	<u>58,518</u>	<u>67,756</u>
Surplus	4,681	40	20,025	120
Cash on hand	559,651			
Liabilities	6,103			
Dedicated Funds	<u>403,644</u>			
Operating Capital	149,904			

The month of February ended with a surplus of \$4,681. Income for the year-to-date is over budget. Year-to-date expenses were under budget. The operating capital, cashless liabilities and dedicated funds, is \$149,904.

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

John Keller, treasurer



On Maundy Thursday, Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show His love through action. This congregation has historically shown Christ's humility and service in a similar way every Maundy Thursday by offering a FREE CAR WASH. This is offered to not only the congregation members, but also to all living in Hot Springs Village .

This year, over 27 cars were washed, rinsed and dried by many church members.

The donation of \$260 will be presented to Mt Pine Schools.

Volunteers this year included Dick Coulson, Lynda Grasse, Susan Jamison, Jim Klein, Char Maeda, Eileen and Lance Miller, Suzi Poulson, Pastor Julie Wesley, Gary Wilkins, and Connie Zervas.



Our **Caring and Sharing group** enjoyed a barn tour at Oaklawn and breakfast at the Track Kitchen. It was an interesting and fun morning. Sandy & Norm Knoke



Have you been missing out? One group toured the stables of the Oaklawn racetrack and found a whole new world, including a chapel with two serving ministers! Many groups have met, shared stories and a meal. What have you learned about the members of your group?

If you have not been contacted about being in a group and you want to be, let Char Maeda know: 626 824-5444 or Charlvsdisney@aol.com. She will get you connected.

You may be on your way to visit the Esse Purse Museum, or on a walking tour of the murals in Hot Springs. Have you visited Garvan Gardens lately?

All adventures await YOU!



COMING SOON!

- A session with a Thrivent representative to learn more about action team grants and how these can be used to help fund our ministry projects
- Education series focused on the basics of using technology
 - how to access the church website
 - how to receive the weekly e-blast
 - how to view the newsletter online
 - etc.

be on the look out for more information in the coming weeks

Shoe Box Scramble

The weather was beautiful, the golf course was in great shape, we had a good turnout including, Phil and Carolyn Gustafson's son, David, who was visiting for the weekend, the fellowship was fantastic, and the outside dining at Cafe Isabella capped off a memorable day. Sorry if you missed it!

We also had a hard fought competition with two teams finishing 2 under par. Team #1 with Larry Letchford, Suzi Poulson, Lynda Grasse, and John Reynolds took top honors of "Honking the Chicken", with one less putt than the other team.

The next Shoe Box Scramble will be May 11 at 1:00 pm!! Mark your calendar and come join in the fun, even if it is only for dinner!



Special thanks to the **Christian Education Committee** who provided refreshments before worship during the month of April.

In May, the **Women of Joy** will be providing the goodies.



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.



Easter Vigil



Easter Brunch



JACKSON HOUSE

Jackson House is a non-profit organization that provides support to homeless and deficient housing people. One of their biggest ministries is to provide a hot lunch for everyone who comes to the serving location on Malvern Avenue near Grand Avenue. Jackson House uses volunteers from multiple groups, many of which are church groups. These volunteers come to the House around 11 AM and assemble the lunches to be distributed between 12 noon and 1 PM. Three or four volunteers are needed for this process each day.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hot Springs and Joy in Christ Lutheran Church from Hot Springs Village combine to provide these volunteers on the second Wednesday of each month for this ministry. The lunches are prepared by Jackson House staff using donated food supplies and the volunteers assemble and distribute the meals. We need your help to support this ministry by volunteering to work when you are available. Three to four people, once a month, for 2 hours to feed our neighbors.

If you can help, you will be contacted each month to ask about your availability. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us the parable including caring for the hungry. Here's your chance.

Contact Jerry and Dorothy Fager. 501-226-5215 or jdfager@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Fellowship Committee is to promote activities that encourage fellowship in the congregation. With that mission in mind, we are looking for ideas for the future and would like your help and participation.

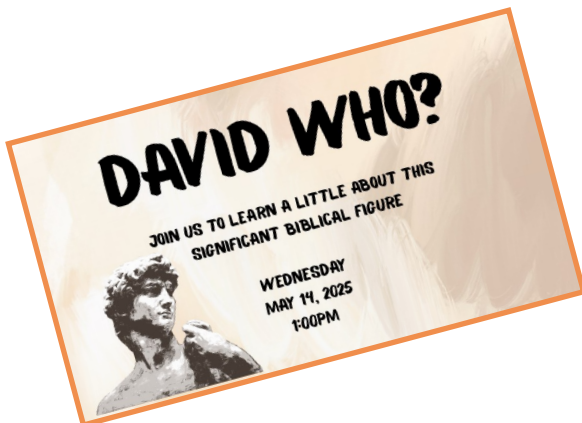
Our activities include Lenten soup lunch/supper, Easter brunch, fall picnic and Christmas party.

Would you participate in MORE activities such as a themed potluck meal, game (cards, dominoes, board games) day party, movie night, summer cookout, an ice cream sundae or root beer float party or a trivia contest?

Would you be willing to participate - to help the fellowship committee plan, promote, set up, serve or clean up one of these activities?

Should we have more events catered or potluck?

Please give us your feedback. We will be happy to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Talk to Sandy or Norm Knoke, Bertie Monson, Laurel Gunderson, Gayle Shaner, Joanie Ibinger, Dick Coulson or Dianne Degner.





Special thanks to the **Christian Education Committee** who provided refreshments before worship during the month of April.

In May, the **Women of Joy** will be providing the goodies.





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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 10 am BibleProject	2	3 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Service of the Word
4 8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Service of the Word	5 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	6 9 Communications 1 pm Lake Forest	7 10 am Prayers	8 9 am Finance 10 am BibleProject	9	10 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship
11  8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Worship 1pm Golf	12 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	13 9 am Council 1 pm Fellowship	14 10 am Prayers 1 pm Education "DAVID" 5:00 pm Singles	15 9am Christian Ed 1 pm Worship and Music	16	17 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship
18 8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Worship/Brunch	19 12:30 Mahjong	20 9 am Royal Tea Party-Women of Joy	21 <u>Branson</u> 10 am Prayers	22 <u>Branson</u> 10 am BibleProject 1pm E-Team	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 10:30 am Internment/Memorial Svc for Bill & Elsie Haws 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship
25 8:30 am Hospitality 9 am Worship	26 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong 	27 8am Breakfast at Debra's	28 10 am Prayers 1 pm Stephen Ministry	29 10 am BibleProject	30	31 4:30 pm Hospitality 5 pm Worship



