



JOY in CHRIST Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2025

110 Balboa Road
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

501-915-9569

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...”

During Advent, we spoke about and anticipated the comings of Jesus in the past, the present, and the future. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the baby in a manger whose arrival signified the salvation of the world. During the season of Epiphany, following Christmas, we realize Jesus is living in, with, and among us and reveals himself to us and to the world frequently.

The word “epiphany” has become part of the vernacular, or common language, to point toward a sudden realization of something important. It is often indicated in cartoons when a bright light bulb appears over a character’s head, implying they have a big idea. Oprah Winfrey often talks about epiphanies; she refers to them as “Ah-ha” moments, those times you finally understand what is happening and why it is significant.

Light is often associated with Epiphany. Epiphany is not about the arrival of something new or a new beginning of something different. The light allows us to see what was already there, what has always been there, but what the darkness hid from us. The light reveals what we hadn’t seen, what we hadn’t known, what escaped our awareness.

The longest night, the winter solstice, the peak darkness of the year is now behind us. The days will be getting gradually longer over the next six months and we will have more and more light from the sun in our lives. What may have been hidden in the dark will be revealed in the light of this season.

The Word is living among us, in Hot Springs Village. I pray the light of these weeks of Epiphany reveals the presence of Jesus here to all of us. May the light of Christ shine both on us and from us as a beacon of life, love, and hope for the world.

Peace be with you all,

Vicar Julie



WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or family discord.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Troubled? One of Joy in Christ's trained Stephen Ministers may truly help. Please contact 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



Greetings to all the Women of Joy!

A heartfelt thank you to Dianne Degner, Sue Fisher, and Angela Nickols for organizing a delightful Women of Joy Christmas Luncheon on December 10th. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of quiche, salad, and homemade desserts. Eileen filled the room with holiday spirit by playing Christmas songs, and we all joined in singing our favorites. Dianne brought the fun with "The Price is Right," while Kathi Mielke entertained us with her answers to "What Would Rudolph Say." The beautifully decorated tables added to the festive atmosphere, thanks to our table hostesses: Diane Degner, Karen Sterzik, Sue Fisher and Jan Folstad.

The Craft, Bake, and Lefse Sale was an incredible success! We raised \$519.50 in craft and bake sales and \$646 in lefse sales, totaling \$1,165.50 of which \$1,000 was donated to the Hope Food Bank to support the Love Lunches program.

Looking ahead, we have a wonderful opportunity to come together for service and fellowship. Can you tie a knot? If so, join us on Tuesday, January 21st at 9:00 a.m. for a blanket-tying project. We will assemble fleece blankets to distribute to our friends at Love Lunches. This Women of Joy service project aims to complete 10 blankets, so bring your hands and hearts ready to work! Everyone is welcome to participate as we share in fellowship and create warm reminders of God's love for all His children.

Let's continue to deepen our connections, strengthen our faith, and celebrate the unique bond we share as Women of Joy.

In Joy,
Melanie



Read the Bible Together

Starting January 1, join us as we read through the bible in a year using the reading plan by BibleProject, which can be downloaded from the link in the eblast or from the BibleProject website. Copies will be available in the office if desired. We'll be meeting weekly on Thursdays at 10:00am throughout the year, beginning with an introduction on January 2, 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.



Missions Committee Donations 2024

As is required by the constitution/bylaws of our congregation, the following is a report to the members of the monies distributed by the Missions Committee in 2024.

January	SCAT	\$1,045 Advent, Christmas Donations)
	Samaritan Ministries	\$265 2023 Angel Tree
	St. Luke's Episcopal Warming Center	\$1,000
February	Habitat for Humanity	\$76.62 Pots & Pans for Home Dedication
March	Potter's Clay	\$500 Potter's Clay Food Bank
	Christian Charitable Medical Clinic	\$500
	Balboa Baptist Emergency Fund	
April	Prince of Peace Food Pantry	\$250
	Faith Fellowship Food Pantry	\$1,110 Includes \$250 Lenten/Easter offering
	Habitat for Humanity	\$150 Pots & Pans for two Home Dedications
May	Smith Family	\$1,000
	Caring Place	\$1,000
	Boys and Girls Club	\$1,000
June	Samaritan Ministries	\$1,000 Used for commercial freezer repair
	Full Circle Missions	\$2,000
August	Habitat for Humanity Faith Build	\$1,000 \$934 Congregation, \$66 Missions
September	A Caring Place of Hot Springs	TBD 2024 Angel Tree Donation
October	Matching Fund for Golf Outing Mon-	\$600
November	Jacob's House of Hot Springs	\$500 2024 Dollars of Joy
	SCAT of Hot Springs Village	\$1,000 2025 Dollars of Joy
	UU Computers for Kids	\$300 2026 Dollars of Joy
	HSVDP Peer Recovery	\$500 2027 Dollars of Joy
	FOCUS Low Vision of HSV	\$1,000 2028 Dollars of Joy
	Altrusa of HSV	\$600 2029 Dollars of Joy
Nov/Dec	St. Luke's Episcopal of HSV	TBD Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offering
December	Habitat for Humanity	\$100 Home Dedication

Missions Committee Annual Donations

We have received many thank yous from recipients of these funds, which are placed in the Missions Binder, and available for anyone to see. One example of how your donations have been used comes from Full Circle Missions of Hot Springs, just in the last two months:

The purchase of 3 children's coats, 3 individuals were put in treatment with the items they needed, a single lady housed in a camper, 4 individuals treated at Levi Hospital, space heaters for 2 elderly individuals, food and straw for twenty-one dogs, as well as 2 dog houses, a bike for a young man for transportation to his job, shoes for a young man, 150 bus passes to get people back and forth to work and doctors appointments, blankets for 14, food for 5 families, water and rental assistance for 3 families, help for 3 individuals to get ID's so they could get jobs, clothing for 4 people to help them retain jobs, meals for 250 people.

Please remember, these donations come from you, and you help SO many people every day. You are boldly serving God with your gracious, kind generosity.

Thank you so much!!!
Anne King, Missions Chair



Tom Grasse	January 1
John Plautz	January 3
Gayle Shaner	January 8
Beth Mielke	January 13
Judy Collins	January 14
Harvey McIntyre	January 15
Carolyn Gustafson	January 29
Linda Griffin	January 30

Bob & Jackie Wilson	January 18 (55 yrs)
Jim & Dianne Degner	January 30 (53 yrs)



FELLOWSHIP

2024 was such an eventful year capped off with a lovely Christmas gathering listening to the delightful harmony of Treble in the Village!! We look forward to another great year which will include a cake and coffee celebration of Vicar Julie's completion of her Seminary Studies and Internship on Sunday, January 26th. Whew! We're sure she's excited! We will continue the Soup Supper tradition for Lenten Services in March and April this year. We will be looking for 3 or 4 soups each Wednesday. Let us know if

you can help with that. Also, we will have a brunch after the Easter service Sunday, April 20th. Details to come. Mark your calendars for our Branson trip May 20th and 21st to see the Sight and Sound production of King David. We are adding a morning show on the 21st at 10:00 a.m. - Beach Boys California Dreaming. Details to come on that too. June will be Pentecost and our church anniversary celebration. In

September we will have the church picnic. And, then, back to a Christmas party in December. Not to say other events may pop up, but that is the calendar for 2025 at this point in time. As always, you are all invited to join our group. We're firm believers in "the more the merrier." Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

Praying you all have had Merry Christmases and Happy New Years!

JOY IN CHRIST COUNCIL MINUTES

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.





Aging with Grace: Seniors Living Their Best Life

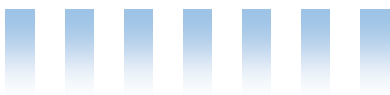
Wednesdays:
January 22 & 29 & February 5
1:00pm-3:00 pm

This program will include topics designed to address the joys and challenges of aging such as:

- Insights on Brain Health
- Strategies for Avoiding Scams
- How to Cope with Social Isolation
- And an overflow of local services available to Seniors.

These sessions aim to equip participants with practical tools and resources for navigating the aging process.

You may register by signing up in the narthex or calling the office at 501-915-9569.

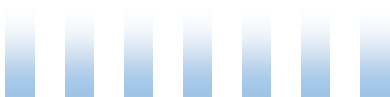


Caring and Sharing Groups



The Fellowship and Evangelism Committees have joined together to form groups within our congregation to promote friendship and camaraderie. By now you should have been

contacted regarding an initial meeting of the Caring and Sharing Group to which you have been assigned for 2025. We hope you said yes! At the meeting, you will receive more information, but really, you are in charge of your group - what it is about, how often you will meet, what activities your group will do. The success of this effort depends on you as a participating member of Joy in Christ. We look forward to you creating your own fun with like minded folks! Join in and be joyful.



Worship Leaders for our Services in 2025

As you may have noticed in the weekly E Blast, we often have many blanks on the schedule for worship leaders for our weekend services. In an effort to have complete schedules in 2025, we are going to try assigning people to the various roles quarterly. All those who indicated on the Time and Talent sheets they would be willing to serve in the various roles have been contacted about availability and preferences as we begin to put the first schedule together. If you did not complete a Time and Talent sheet but would like to serve in some role at our worship services, please contact Vicar Julie or Karen Sterzik so your name can be added to the lists. Thank you.



"Undecorate"Jan. 6th at 9:00 a.m.

At the end of November a group of sixteen folks helped decorate the church and narthex for the Advent and Christmas season. It will be time to take all those decorations down and carefully store them away for another year on January 6th at 9:00 a.m. Taking down is much quicker than putting up, so if you can spare an hour that morning, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

CHANGE IS ON ITS WAY

"Oh no" you say, "more change." Yes, but you already knew it was coming. The Narthex Update Committee is happy to report the contractor will be arriving on January 13 to begin the project. Red Rock Homes, LLC will be replacing the sliding glass window with sheet rock, removing the mission statement and painting the narthex. The project will be completed in 3 to 5 days. Due to Christmas and New Years and also because we have no place to store items, we will be ordering most of the furniture after the holidays. We hope you are looking forward to a refreshed, professional look to our church.

To the Men of Joy In Christ:

Let's get a group together once or twice monthly – maybe an evening? – to gather somewhere local for pizza and adult beverages. We'll relax and shoot the breeze, an informal guys' night out.

Who's in?

Contact Jerry Fager; we'll make a plan to suit as many as possible.



Please make sure upcoming meetings, events, etc. are written on the large calendar located on the counter in the office. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

SINGLES DINNER

The C-Joy Singles Group met at the Sunset Grill on December 11th at 3:00 PM. There were 12 in attendance total. There were 10 in the dinner picture & 2 more showed up late due to prior commitments.

Jerry Barnoske brought a Birthday Cake for Sally Johnson's 90th Birthday. It was also Joe Bardega's Birthday and everyone sang Happy Birthday to Joe & Sally and then everyone had a piece of Birthday cake. There was much laughter and friendship chatter. If there are any more singles in church, please call Sally Johnson at 501-922-3360 and say that you would like to join in our fun time with other singles. Our next outing will be on Wednesday, January 8 at 3:00 in the afternoon. As

soon as the sun stays out for another hour, we will be able to move to 4 PM and then later to 5 PM. We will be going to Dolce Vita so brush up on your Italian.

Treasurers Report

	<u>November</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>November</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Income	18,677	22,500	250,992	247,500
Expenses	15,067	19,957	188,284	219,528
Surplus	3,610	2,543	62,708	27,972
Cash on hand		566,359		
Liabilities		4,890		
Dedicated Funds		421,578		
Operating Capital		140,191		



The Month of November ended with a surplus of \$3,601 for the month and a surplus of \$62,708 for the year-to-date. Income is over budget and expenses are under budget for the year-to-date. The operating capital, cash less liabilities and dedicated funds, is \$140,191.

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

Evangelism CHALLENGE:

A New Year has begun...a time to open our eyes in different ways to see God in different ways. Time to dream about a new adventure.

Enjoy the little things that remind us that God shows up when and where we least expect it.

Little things like: make a new friend, dream of a new adventure, etc.



Just Curious...

What ministry in this congregation do you think makes God smile?

Love Lunches



Our Love Lunches crew was blessed to serve Love Lunches 8 different times in 2024. A big thank you to Don and Ina Gohr, Joyce Geraghty, Melanie Pederson, Diane Shaw, Terry Sterzik, Jerry and Dorothy Fager, Sharon Leonard, Tom Funk, Kahi and Bruce Mielke, Anne and Jeff King, Phil and Linda Keller, Joanie Ibinger, Penny Miller, and Greg and Jean O'Brien for making and serving the lunches, distributing the produce from Kroger, and handing out our donations of clothes and shoes over the course of the year. Many of these people served on multiple occasions. Another big thank you to the cookie bakers from 024—Carla Olson, Linda Griffin, Dorothy Fager, Melanie Pederson, Laurel Gunderson, Sue Fisher, Eileen Miller, Alexis Funk, Tom Grasse, Patty Ninke, Ina Gohr, Anne King, and Karen Sterzik. We will start our mission of feeding the hungry for 2025 on January 12th. We will need 4 cookie bakers to make 4 dozen cookies each as well as a crew of 8 to make and serve the lunches. I will be contacting the people who indicated on their Time and Talent sheets a desire to serve with Love Lunches, but if you did not complete a Time and Talent sheet or missed the Love Lunches line, please contact Karen Sterzik and let her know if you would like to be placed on the contact list for 2025. Thank you.

JANUARY 2025

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 10 am BibleProject	3	4 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
5 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	6 9 am Undecorate 12:30-3:30pm Mahjong 2 pm SCAT	7 1 pm Lake Forest Worship	8 9:30 am Missions 10 am Christian Education 11 am Prayers of the People	9 9 am Finance 10 am BibleProject 4 pm Congrega- tional Mtg.	10	11 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5 pm
12 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Love Lunches <u>Council</u> <u>Installation</u>	13 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	14 9am Council 11am Fellowship 3:30 Bible Study	15 11 am Prayers of the People	16 9 am Hymn Plan- ning 10 am BibleProject 1 pm Worship & Music	17	18 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship 5:00 pm
19 Coffee 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am	20 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	21 9 am Women of Joy 10:30 am Endow- ment 3:30 Bible Study	22 11 am Prayers of the People 1-3pm Aging with Grace	23 10 am BibleProject 1pm E-Team at Lake Forest	24	25 Coffee 4:30 pm Worship/Short In- seat service 5:00 pm
26 Coffee 8:30 am Worship/9am Thanksgiving for God's Work Among Us	27 12:30-3:30 pm Mahjong	28 3:30 Bible Study	29 11 am Prayers of the People 1-3pm Aging with Grace	30 10 am BibleProject	31	

