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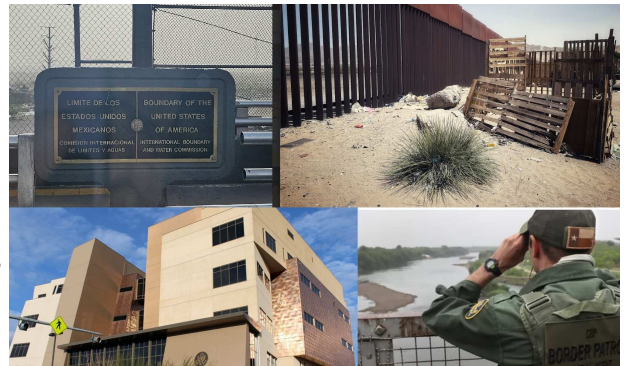
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The month in photos

Border Immersion Reflection

It's been said that faith is less about how we believe and more about how we see. Faith is about whether our hearts can start to see the world God sees, because it's our vision that sets the stage for everything else. Indeed, Jesus seemed to always be trying to get his disciples to see God and neighbor in new ways. In a world that liked to dehumanize the other- whether they were sinners, outcasts, or foreigners- Jesus taught his followers to see the divine DNA in every person. That's not to say he always offered specific policy solutions to all of life's complex problems. But he did repeatedly call on us to see differently, and to love and rehumanize the very neighbors (sinners, gentiles, prodigal sons, enemies), we'd prefer to dehumanize and push away.

As many of you know, recently four of us from COJ returned from a week-long immersion experience on our southern border. During our trip we travelled through El Paso and Las Cruces, and also journeyed across the border into Juarez, Mexico. Now that we are back, many of you may be wondering, *What exactly did we see?*



Continued on page 10



Join us after worship today for a Cinco de Mayo party hosted by Joyful Hearts! This event will include a taco bar, a Mariachi Band from Albuquerque Academy and two pinatas with special treats. See page 7

Baby Sprinkle Next Sunday- May 12th to Benefit the Leeper Family

See page 3

Mark Your Calendar!

Community of Joy Vacation Bible School
June 17-21, 2024

We Need Your Help in a number of ways!

See page 5



People Page

May Birthdays

15th: Ava Rousselle
17th: Mary Bencke
18th: Juliette Schick
22nd: Lillian Parrott
29th: Terri Maser

Wedding Anniversaries in May



May 10th: Dennis & Kris Simpson
19th: Stephen & Leah Felty
Phil & Laura Reu
27th: Scott & Paula Thomas



This past month we prayed for:

Donna Doles
Dick & Peg Tool
Joan Bouty, Louise Scott
Warren Sullivan
Jackie & Paul Anderson
Nance Crow
Cliff Walker
Steve Gamrath
Paul Blott
Family of Patt Crown
Williams family (4/7)
Melissa & family (4/7)
Bernie Macmillan (4/14)

Barbara Rousselle (4/14)
Anneka Parisi (4/14)
Sandy Candelaria (4/21)
Sandy Rubio (4/21)
Peggy Reed (4/21)
Kevin Kinney (4/21)
Mary Kay Crown (4/24)
Anthony Cosiquita (4/28)
Brenda & Mike Hoepfer (4/28)
Rachel Sanchez (4/28)
Austin Eckelbarger (4/28)

If you know of a person or a situation that you would like included in our prayer list, please email them to Earlene (earlene@communityofjoy.com).

Together in Mission

Camino de Vida—Albuquerque
Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey—El Paso, TX

COMMUNITY OF JOY

841 Saratoga Dr. NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
Phone: 505-896-2543

www.communityofjoy.com

Pastor:

Pr. Paul Schick

pastorpaul@communityofjoy.com

Church Administrator:

Earlene Shroyer earlene@communityofjoy.com

Worship Leader:

Jon Shodean jon@communityofjoy.com

Treasurer: Dick Tool, Greg Quintana

Bookkeeper: Earlene Shroyer

Proofreader: Jean Potabi

Congregation Council

Lee Glauvitz—President
Barbara Reeves—Vice President
Karen Lenoski—Secretary
Sandy Edwards
Bill Kostel
Diane Harmon

Ministries Leads

- + **Altar Guild:** Debbie Sciortino
- + **Confirmation:** Pr. Paul Schick
- + **F.E.A.S.T.:** Deborah Williams
- + **Fellowship:** Neal Shotwell
- + **Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry**
Sandy Edwards
- + **Outreach Ministry:** Elaine Gauden,
Karen Lenoski
- + **Memorial Committee:** Bill Potabi
- + **Sunday School:** Shaila Shodean
- + **Tech Ministry Leader:** Kristen Sillence
- + **Beer Buddies:** Tony Sciortino

For any reports or information, contact the appropriate person listed above

Announcements

THE FINAL FEAST (at least for a while)

Date: May 8th (6-7:30 pm)

Potluck: Picnic Food (foods for an outdoor picnic!)
(begins at 6 pm)

Activity: Parking Lot Fun (bring your wheels!)
Enjoy the evening sunset AND a picnic!

Celebrating the Baptism of Autumn Eckelbarger
Sunday, May 12, 2024

Baby Sprinkle May 12th to Benefit the Leeper Family



The Leepers are about to have a baby daughter!

In celebration and support of this exciting day, we are holding a **Baby Sprinkle** for Taylor and her family following worship on **May 12th**.

Please bring your gifts for this occasion to church on May 12th or anytime before.

The Leepers invite gifts in the form of:

1. Diapers (not newborn size please)
2. Baby girl clothing

Meal Train for the Leeper Family

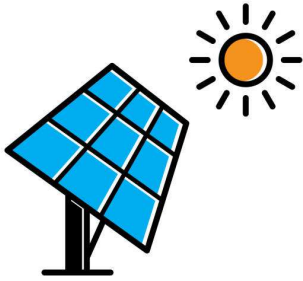
Help us support the Leeper family during the first two weeks in June as they welcome their new baby!

Please visit this website to sign up to take the Leeper family a meal (toddler friendly): <https://mealtrain.com/wlm510>



*If you are sending a Door Dash gift card,
don't forget to also select an available date on the calendar!*

Announcements



Solar Update- May 19th:

We are moving forward with our Solar plans and will be providing an update to congregation during the announcements on the May 19th.

Join us as Bill **Kostel** shares the latest news and welcomes your questions and feedback.

Women's Bible Study "Mad Mary"

Wednesdays in May—2PM at COJ

Contact Elaine Gauden for details

Men Alive!

Men Alive! will be meeting on the second and fourth Saturday in **May (11th and 25th)** at **8:30AM**. We will have a hearty breakfast and continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 24 and 25.

Contact Charles Fiedler at cwfiedler@gmail.com with any questions.

Beer Buddies

The next gathering of Beer Buddies will be **Thursday, May 16th** at **6PM**. The location is still being determined but **SAVE THE DATE!**

This is a men's only event for beer and eats. Bring a friend if you wish, all are welcome.

Watch the COJ e-gram for additional information.



COJ is a Polling Site for the Regular Local Election

We have agreed to be a polling site for the Primary Election on **June 4**. Our premises will be used by the County Clerks office for early voting. Please note these dates when voting will be done on premises: **May 18—June 1**.

We have designated the Pinon room (the room adjacent to the kitchen) as the voting site. The church will be open for voting from 10am until 6pm.

The normal business of our church will continue to go on during this time. Our office hours are 8am—4pm. We are pleased that there will be a honorarium given to the church for use of our facility.



Vacation Bible School



Community of Joy 2024 Vacation Bible School June 17—21, 2024

This summer, come be a part of **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp's Vacation Bible School** as we explore *Created To Be!*

When? June 17—21, 2024

What Time? 9am—2pm Mon.—Thurs.

9am—12pm on Friday

Grades? Elementary through Middle School

Registration forms are on the table outside the Sanctuary, or online at communityofjoy.com

We Need Your Help in a Number of Ways:

1. Housing camp staff : We are hosting 4-5 staff members coming to help us run VBS this summer. We will have two male and two female staff. We need a (or more then one) home for the week.
2. Feeding camp staff (lunch & Dinner)
3. Providing and leading daily snack time for campers
4. Leading daily craft time for campers
5. Helping with registration desk

Do you have room to house 2 or 4 staff this summer for one week? They will arrive on Sunday, June 16 from camp in Colorado and will return back after camp on Friday June 21. All host families must be fully vaccinated and provide proof in accordance with RTLK policy. You will need to provide a place to sleep and breakfast. Lunch and dinner will be provided by other congregation members. Staff will have their own transportation. Please let Earlene know as soon as possible if you are able to help.

There are sign-up sheets on the table outside of the Sanctuary. Let Pr. Paul or Earlene know if you can help.

**Thank you to
Kristen Sillence
and her
Girl Scout
Troop 10292**



The troop did a trash/ weed pickup this past Tuesday evening. It looks wonderful!

April 30, 2024 7:17 PM

Worship News



AED Training Sign Up

In the near future we are scheduling an AED training session. If you would like to be included, please contact the office and let us know.

Hello Community of Joy members,

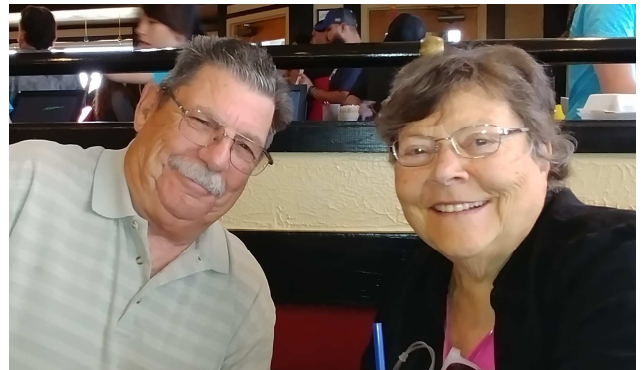
We wanted to carry on the passion our parents had for your church by making a donation of \$25K to the Memorial Fund in honor of Charles & Suzanne Davis.

They took pride in this church, the members and the many friends they made there. They enjoyed their volunteer activities, helping grow and support this Community of Joy.

We would ask for this donation to be used for the continued improvement of the facility and support of the staff and their programs.

Thank you for helping us honor their memory in this way. Thank you for all you do!

Jon, Jeanine & Emery Davis



Memorial Fund Committee News

The **COJ Memorial Fund** comes from donations that people have made to honor or memorialize a spouse, parent, grandchild, sibling or any person who is of special importance to them. The names of the special person and the donor are recorded in the Memorial Book. This book is available for viewing inside the church entrance.

Our latest purchase has been **four chair risers**, which provide additional height for those who have mobility challenges. These risers have not yet been installed. ***If this device would be helpful to you, please let us know and we will place one in the needed area.***

NEW Donation Forms: We have placed new donation forms for the Memorial Fund on both the Welcome table and the entryway Memorial table. Check them out! Please keep this possibility to contribute in mind.

If you have any questions for how to contribute, please contact a committee member: Bill Potabi, Kristen Sillence, Sandy Edwards, Pat Shodean or Earlene Shroyer.

Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry



Joyful Hearts will be meeting on **Saturday, May 11th** at **10am** in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to join us! 9

For additional information, you can contact Sandy Edwards, President, at sandraledwards1957@gmail.com

Joyful Hearts News

Our next big event is a **Cinco de Mayo** party after church **THIS Sunday, May 5th** to kick off our collection for **Haven House**, the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. This event will include a taco bar, a Mariachi Band from Albuquerque Academy and two pinatas with special treats.

We will be collecting monetary donations for **Haven House** starting on **Sunday, May 5th** and ending on **Sunday, May 26th**. Our monetary donations will enable Haven House to use the money for their current needs.

July will be here before we know it! Once again, we will be collecting school supplies for **Colinas del Norte Elementary School** in Rio Rancho. We will be getting a specific list of items from the school, and that information will be disseminated soon. We will begin our collection on **Sunday, June 30th**, and collect until **Sunday, July 28th**.



Joyful Hearts collects toiletries for Albuquerque HealthCare for the Homeless

Joyful Hearts collects toiletries for **Albuquerque HealthCare for the Homeless** year round. We have a Collection Bin in the Fellowship Room for your donations. The homeless population is growing and there is always a great need for these items. If you travel, save the hotel *travel size toiletries. They can also be purchased at any store that has a *travel size section in their pharmacy area. Below is a list of needed items. You can go to <https://www.abqhch.org> to learn more about this worthwhile organization. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.



- ◇ **Shaving supplies**
- ◇ **Deodorants (male and female)**
- ◇ **Lip balm**
- ◇ **Sunscreen**
- ◇ **Travel size tissues**
- ◇ **Toothbrushes/toothpaste**
- ◇ **Band-Aids**

*We package these items into hygiene kits and the small size is needed to fit into the gallon Ziplock bag. **No mouthwash please.** If you have any questions, please contact Debbie at: dsciortino.rr@gmail.com

Beyond Our Walls



Storehouse West is a food pantry and children's clothes closet that serves individuals and families who are residents of Sandoval County, New Mexico and meet the federal income guidelines for low-moderate income households. **Storehouse West** can supply registered households with an

emergency food package once a month and can assist with Water and Waste Management bills once per year

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

In the calendar year 2023, **Storehouse West** distributed over **370,000 pounds** of food to almost **5,100 households**, representing **14,809 individuals**. Food was delivered to schools, senior living facilities, senior centers, and residents of pueblos. Without your support, and that of others, many of our fellow citizens, who are food-insecure, would not have had a reliable food source. Food security is a basic foundation for daily life, work and school success.

Greatest NEED
***Pasta— all shapes and sizes,
but spaghetti is a favorite!
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Breakfast Cereal***

PANTRYWISH LIST

- PEANUT BUTTER**
- RAMEN NOODLES**
- DRIED BEANS—red, black or white**

Monetary donations for on-going needs can also be made by check to **Storehouse West** and mailed to: **Storehouse West, 1030 F. Veranda Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124**



Kid's Clothes Closet is now collecting shorts, short sleeve shirts and bathing suits. The children served range in age from newborn to 18 years old.

New and gently used shoes are always welcome.

62 lbs. of food and 32 pounds of pet food was delivered to Storehouse West during the month of April. Thank you for your donations!

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT COJ'S GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Smith's Inspiring Donations

This is an easy way to provide funds to Community of Joy's **Good Samaritan Fund**.

If you are not already a Smith's Rewards Card member, you can register for one at <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations>

Then, link your account with **Community of Joy Church (MJ324)**.

Use your Smith's card every time you shop. It's as simple as that.



During the period of January 1—March 31, 2024 we earned \$34.02 for the Good Samaritan Fund!

Our Church

THANK YOU!! to our Sunday school volunteer teachers for the month of April: David Schick, Brooke Kerns, Laura Reu and Shaila Shodean.

Want to share your musical gifts?

Do you sing or play an instrument, and would you like to get involved with COJ's music ministry? Our praise team is always open to new singers and musicians. Contact Jon Shodean with your interest or come to a rehearsal. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Join us!

THANK YOU TO OUR April VOLUNTEERS!

Ushers:

Dennis & Kris Simpson, Lee & Jill Glauvitz,
Pat Shodean, Brooke Kerns,
Tom & Meghan Lyman

Readers:

Lori Brown, Jean Potabi, Ron Bencke,
Josh Welbaum

Communion Assistants:

Pat Shodean, Diane Brauer, Laura Reu,
Kris Simpson, Josh Welbaum, Tracy Lizon,
Jean Potabi

Kitchen Angels:

Neal Shotwell, Dianne Hensley, Suzanne Waite,
Brooke Kerns

Altar Guild:

Sandy Edwards, Kris Simpson, Pat Shodean,
Debbie Sciortino,

Communion Bread Baker:

Michelle Bennett

Audio/Video Team:

Diane Brauer, Sandy Edwards, Zach Shotwell

Counters:

Pat Shodean, Donna Huxtable

Assisted Listening System

Community of Joy owns a *Peavey Assisted Listening System*. The equipment pulls signal from the audio system and sends it to wireless receivers that individuals can check out to use each service. This will allow people to hear the scripture readings, the sermon and the music.

We currently own four receivers, four sets of ear buds, and headsets. You are welcome to bring your own ear buds or headsets to use with a receiver.



Digital Worship: We offer worship online on our [YouTube Channel](#) (Community of Joy ELCA). We record the services live, and will be available from 10 AM onward on Sundays. You can find the service bulletin on COJ's website.

Our Church

Border Immersion Reflection

Continued from page 1

Well if you were to listen to many of the loudest voices on the issue of immigration, you might draw the conclusion that we must have seen many monsters. And you might think this because we are often told that our border is full of monsters- though we can't always agree on who they are. For some, the monsters are lawbreaking immigrants, who export violence, drugs, and criminality with reckless abandon. For others, the monsters are heartless border agents and merciless judges, who bully already suffering people at their most vulnerable moments.

Well here's the truth. On our immersion trip, we met with many people, including: asylum seekers, border agents, shelter workers, lawyers, and an immigration judge. And what did we see? Maybe the better question is what we didn't see- because there were no monsters to be found. What we did meet along the way was a variety of humans making the best decisions they could amidst profoundly difficult realities.



We met with a family from Honduras who would have very much preferred to stay in their homeland. But they chose to flee to save their young son from being forcibly recruited by the local cartel. We met border agents, who wanted to do their jobs with honor and dignity. And yet they told stories of often being overwhelmed due to an outdated system and overwhelming numbers. We met with a judge who hates the fact that our society and asylum seekers face years-long backlogs. And yet his hands are tied due to the brokenness of the system.

In every case, those we met with were acting as rationally and morally as they could, given the limited options they had to choose from. And difficult policy questions swirled all around as we took in their stories. But at the end of the day, the biggest thing we saw was that these people are all children of God. And as a society, we can debate the issues. But as the church, our job is simply to honor that image, and love the neighbor sitting across from us.



We also met wonderful new friends, not least among our mission partners at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey- the Spanish speaking ELCA congregation who led our experience. In the months ahead, we are excited to explore new ways of partnering with them as we look to keep sharing these stories.

Until then, find us sometime and ask us more about our trip. And if you'd like to join in on a future

immersion experience, please let Pastor Paul know.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Border Immersion Reflection



Our Church



Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Charles Becknell



COJ Hiked to Tomé Hill Sunday, April 7, 2024



Pete Doles Lee Glauvitz, and David Lizon painting the Sanctuary wall—back to eggshell



Thank you to all of our Volunteers !

