



“Celebrating and Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ”

**May
2018**

Something Different This Summer

For the last ten years or so, we've maintained a very consistent worship schedule of 8:30 and 11 AM on Sundays with an educational hour in between, while changing things up every summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day by combining our two services into one at 9:30. After considering many pros and cons, our congregation council has decided to experiment with holding both worship services throughout this summer.

In my mind the primary reason to continue to hold both services is to present a consistent schedule that we can share with guests and visitors. Early last summer we had some trouble communicating the change and had five folks show up for the 11 AM service three weeks into the new schedule. Whoops! Fortunately, some of them came back the next week. We also had at least two Sundays last summer where we hit our sanctuary's comfortable capacity. This is a good thing! But it also suggests that this would be an ideal time to try something different.

We also had some visitors attending 9:30 very regularly by the end of last summer who then disappeared without a trace as soon as we switched back. They'd gotten used to 9:30! Some folks who regularly attend one or the other can't or don't want to come to 9:30, and it's hard to tell them apart from those who disappear for other

reasons. A consistent schedule should help us keep better track of who is absent from worship and why.

This will place additional demands on our staff. There will also be some minor expenses with an additional hour or two for air conditioning and our nursery attendant. One reason we went to the single summer service some years ago was to promote unity between the two services--folks at one service want to see more of the other. Great! We want to encourage those folks to hang out between the two services more often.

Please help me thank all our staff who will be putting more energy into Sunday mornings than in summers past. If you have friends at the other service from what you usually attend, please consider trying to see more of them during the hour in between services. And please consider inviting people who have not yet found Joy by telling them about the joy that you have found here!

---Pastor Jon



Summer Children's Sermon Volunteers -

**We have four Sundays during the summer that we need volunteers to cover children's sermons. Please sign up here:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0849AFAD2FA6FE3-summer1**

Family Art Night, Monday, May 7, 2018

Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade and an adult are invited to Family Art Night on the first Mondays of every month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Joy Lutheran Church.



Please RSVP by May 3.

Congratulations to Our Seniors

Benjamin Noah Reyes

"We are delighted to share that Benjamin was named a National Merit Finalist and National Hispanic Scholar. He will be attending the University of Tulsa and plans on majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Music."

Hayly Ann Helm

Hayly is going to Tulsa Community College in the fall to complete all of her basics and determine her major.

Please join us for our

GrandBuddy Brunch

When: Sunday, May 20 @ 9:45 am

Where: Joy Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

LittleBuddies and GrandBuddies: Celebrate the end of the school year with a cereal bar and fun!



Literacy Carnival Night Thank You's

A big thank you to everyone who donated supplies for games and books/monetary donations for the Book Basket. Also thank you to everyone who gathered on Wednesday morning to pack family goodie bags and to all who volunteered their time to play games with the kids at Jenks East on May 1. None of this would have come together without each of your help and prayers! Below are some pictures of the fun and meaningful time we had with the kids.

Thank
You

If you weren't able to be a part of this particular outreach project with the Witness Team but wanted to, there will be other opportunities in the future. Or come to a Witness Team meeting and join us as we brainstorm future outreach and evangelism ideas!

*In Peace,
Sister Jennie Myers*

Thank you and Joy Lutheran for putting together such fun activities for our students. We heard nothing but positive responses from staff and families. They enjoyed it very much. Thank you for being flexible and moving spots on short notice. I'm sorry for the confusion and misunderstanding on the location. It's such a large campus. These nights are always so hectic but we appreciate your flexibility. Again thank you for the fun activities you prepared for our students and the great evening that you spent with them!

*Deanna Elmer, Literacy Night
Coordinator/1st Grade Teacher*

Book Drive Thank You's!

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to donate books or give monetary donations towards our Book Drive for the 1st-2nd grade classes at Jenks East.

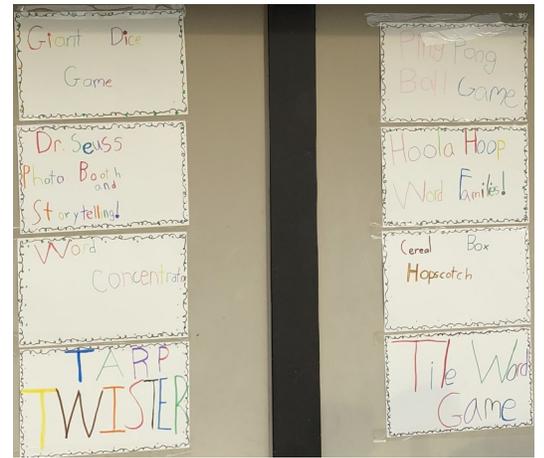
A special shout-out to the *Cluster 5 AR/OK Women of the ELCA* ladies who met for their Gathering at the end of April. They donated 25 books and took an offering of \$50 that allowed us to purchase even more books. We used this money to buy books at the Jenks East end of year Book Sale to further support our community partner school.

Thank you to all!

Sister Jennie Myers & Stephanie Mueller



Jenks East Literacy Night: Joy Lutherans



Jenks East Literacy Night: The Games!



Thanks to Jenks High School Key Club Volunteers for all their help!



Dr. Seuss
Land Photo
Book and
Storytelling

Congregation Council Update

As a reminder, here's a list of our officers and council liaisons for the remainder of 2018:

President: Susan Humphrey

Vice President: Ron Peters (also liaison to Caregivers Team)

Treasurer: Bob Young (also liaison to Finance Team)

Secretary: Dave Dearhamer

Worship and Music Team Liaison: Carol Graham

Witness Team Liaison: Andrew Allen

Property Team Liaison: Mike Lowe, Jr.

Hospitably Team Liaison: Ed Reyes

Ione Allison is our **Financial Secretary**

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Alicia Urban, serves as council liaison to the Learning Team.

D.O.T. (Dining Out Together)



Dining Out Together (DOT) is a monthly activity for adults that began around ten years ago. Susan Humphrey created the name for the group. DOT meets at 5:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month at a different restaurant in the area. A different cuisine is offered every month. Suggestions are encouraged and welcome. Please remember the physical needs of the members, i.e., limited steps and easy to walk around the tables, when making a recommendation.

If you have any questions, please call Jean Dearhamer. Reservations are encouraged and the restaurant choice will be published in the Joy newsletter and bulletin.

The next DOT event will be the second **Saturday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m.** at El Guapos, 81st and Harvard (SW corner). To make a reservation, call Jean or Katherine Tooley.

Caregivers at Joy

Thank you to all caregiving volunteers in helping/praying and showing your care for one another this past year, our combined efforts add up to a big difference to those receiving our thoughts and prayers, in addition to other items like visits, helping hands, and driving hands.

Please let us know if you would be interested in joining one of more of our caregiving groups, which include:

-- *Driving Hands*

-- *Helping Hands Meals*

-- *Hospital/Homebound Visits*

If you are someone who feels you need some extra care and would appreciate a home visit, a home-cooked meal or help getting to church please call the church office.

Looking Forward to June

Interested in Membership?

We will be picking a Sunday in early June to welcome new members. Please talk to Sister Jennie if you are curious or interested in joining our church.

Fathers Day

June 17

Save the Date: Iftar Dinner at Fellowship Lutheran, June 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Last year during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Joy hosted an "Iftar Dinner." As you may know, during Ramadan, Muslims observe a full fast during daylight hours, abstaining entirely from food and drink from sunrise to sundown. They then gather in communal feasts each evening to break their fast together. The good folks from the Turkish Raindrop House & Dialogue Institute of the Southwest have made a habit of inviting their neighbors into conversation, breaking bread together and working to dispel myths about Islam.

This year, rather than host our own Iftar dinner, we will be taking part in a dinner hosted by Fellowship Lutheran on Sheridan Road. They sent many folks over to our dinner last summer and it would be good for us to repay the favor. Our Muslim neighbors will bring all the food and it will be delicious. All you need to bring is yourself, an open heart and mind, and maybe a friend or two. The event at Fellowship will begin with Pastor Jon making a brief presentation at 7:30, then a presentation by someone affiliated with the Dialogue Institute, and finally we will help them break their fast at dusk (just after 8:30). Ask anyone who joined us last year, it's great food and great conversation, living into the call to love our neighbors.

Save the Date: ACTION Accountability Session for District 69 at Joy, June 10 at 4:30 p.m.

Joy is affiliated with ACTION (Allied Communities of Tulsa Inspiring Our Neighborhoods) through the work of Fellowship Lutheran Church on behalf of all the ELCA ministries in the Tulsa area. ACTION's Education Team has asked Joy to host an "accountability session" with all the candidates for representative to House District 69 (Bixby, Jenks and parts of Tulsa in between) to hear what they promise to do about public education issues if elected this fall. ACTION is a nonpartisan coalition primarily composed of Tulsa-area congregations working on behalf of issues of interest to families.

If you are interested in this issue, you may also be interested in another event before the one Joy is hosting. On Thursday, May 24 at 7pm at Fellowship Congregational Church (2900 S. Harvard Ave), Oklahoma Policy Institute executive director David Blatt will be making a presentation, "After the Walkout: Educate. Elect. Engage." David will be giving a nonpartisan overview and analysis of legislation that did and did not pass during the most recent legislative session, identifying key players and offering concrete steps between now and November.

Thank You to the Cluster 5 Quilters



Dear Lydia Quilt Guild,

Thank you so much for the lovely handmade quilts. The families who come to E.I. S. (emergency infant services) will be grateful, just as E.I.S. is grateful for your donations.

*Thanks again,
Jacque, Volunteer*

Thank you also for the new clothes for the children.

*Thank you,
Catherine Kirk*

Dear Lydia Quilters,

What a wonderful treat you bestowed upon our patients on Wednesday. The blankets are lovely and well made. I went up to Infusion (chemotherapy) and the first patient I ran into was in the midst of a session of chemo that was lengthy. She loved the quilt, chose a black & darker one and told me it was a timely gift... she was thrilled. She explained they were travelling home to Missouri as soon as her chemo ended... a 5 hour drive and she planned to lay down in the backseat. The quilt would be her cover...she really was so happy to have it. We gave quilts to the nurses to hand out Wed. evening. You have truly uplifted many patients spirits as well as helping them stay warm. Bless you all for all the time and work you put into the quilts. I pray God blesses you all for your very kind deeds.

*Sincerely,
Gary Ann*

Family Promise April 2018 Updates

FAMILY PROMISE OF TULSA COUNTY WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Family Promise[®]
of Tulsa County**

Building community, strengthening lives.

Family Promise of Tulsa County is an interfaith nonprofit organization that provides shelter, meals, and support to homeless children and their families. Our vision is a county in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and a chance to build a better future.

After a 5-month intensive search, Family Promise of Tulsa County is pleased to announce the selection of **Ms. Kendra Morgan** as its first Executive Director. Family Promise of Tulsa County selected Ms. Morgan after an extensive national search led by Rev. Jeff Jaynes, Personnel Committee Chair, and a team of current Board Members.

*Cindy Beasley
Board Chair
Family Promise of Tulsa County*

Esther Circle

At University Village @ 10:00 am

May 19, 2018

All are welcome... is our May Bible Study. More than just “good manners,” hospitality is a spiritual matter. In welcoming and in being welcomed, we experience the love of God who breaks down human barriers and draws us into community with one another. In this study we will explore several Bible passages that invite us to reflect on dimensions of hospitality within our own lives and congregations.

Invite a friend!!! Come and join us for discussion and fellowship. Contact Carol Rowe-- carolrowe@cox.net or Susan Humphrey—dabbl54@gmail.com if you have questions about the Esther Circle.

Wings of Wisdom Cluster 5 AR/OK Women of the ELCA

Spring Gathering News

Women from First and Joy Lutheran meet this past weekend for a spring Bible Study at Joy Lutheran Church. On the Wings of a Dove...finding and sharing wholeness and peace in difficult times. Shared Wisdom – an effective style of Leadership is a Women of the ELCA resource that explores ways of decision-making that can help us in our own personal lives and as we participate in our congregations, circles and other church meetings. In it Mary Benet McKinney writes that “as we come together” as Christians, “the Spirit, in order to share with us the wisdom of God, promises to each of us a piece of wisdom.” It was such a inspirational day and so much fun meeting with old friends and making new ones.

Our service project was collecting books for the Jenks East Literacy Program. We were able to collect 25 books for 1st-2nd grade and donate \$50!!! What a blessing!!

If you were unable to attend and would like a flyer of the study, let Carol Rowe or Susan Humphrey know.



April Property Work Day

Volunteers willing to brave the cold and wet conditions successfully put the Crepe Myrtle bed retaining wall back together, weeded the Labyrinth, and removed brush surrounding the Labyrinth to create a better appearance. At the start of the day I thought our chances of getting the brush cut away looked rather slim, but when Gary went back home to get his chain saw and Mark showed up with his assortment of Stihl power tool attachments the small trees and bushes fell like dominos and the job became mere child's play. Next property work we'll be focused on fixing our sprinkler system, weeding/planting flower beds out front, and hopefully planting something in the Labyrinth. The Property Team has no funding to purchase plants for the Labyrinth which can get to be expensive, so anyone willing to help out with a donation should contact Mark Newgard at 918-371-0977 or email (mmnewgard@sbcglobal.net) as soon as possible.



Finance Ministry



Finance Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Joy Lutheran Church Finance Committee will be held on **Tuesday** evening, May 8 at 6:15 p.m.

Financial Report

Following is the financial summary of contributions and expenses for the month of March and the January 1 – March 31, 2018 year-to-date summary.

Finances for the Month of March 2018

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Net
General Offering	\$21,455	\$24,271	(\$2,816)
Debt Reduction	\$4,150	\$4,893	(\$743)
March 2018 Totals	\$25,605	\$29,164	(\$3,559)

Finances Year-To-Date January 1 – March 31, 2018

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Net
General Offering	\$61,245	\$74,133	(\$12,888)
Mortgage Reduction	\$10,271	\$14,679	(\$4,408)
Year-To-Date Totals	\$71,516	\$88,812	(\$17,296)

Monthly Energy Production Report for Joy Lutheran Church

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
04/01/2018 - 04/07/2018	6,143 W	125.76 kWh
04/08/2018 - 04/14/2018	5,654 W	192.10 kWh
04/15/2018 - 04/21/2018	6,121 W	242.02 kWh
04/22/2018 - 04/28/2018	5,452 W	186.36 kWh
04/29/2018 - 04/30/2018	5,648 W	79.58 kWh
April 2018 Total:		825.82 kWh
Previous Month Total:		800.80 kWh
Year to Date:		2,560.04 kWh

Enphase Energy maximizes your solar energy production and keeps you informed about your system. Your monthly energy report shows how your system performed and how much you contributed to offsetting the global carbon footprint. Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 1,260.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of 15 Trees



Volunteers are the Lifeblood of Tulsa Habitat For Humanity

Spring Build Season is Hopping! We Need Your Help

With numerous construction and remodel projects operating simultaneously, we have immediate openings for volunteers. Individuals and small groups are welcome.

To learn more, visit us online and register on our Volunteer Hub to view available openings.

Questions? volunteer@tulсахabitat.org

National Women Build Week

Tulsa Habitat joins Habitat affiliates in more than 300 communities nationwide for the 11th Annual Women Build Week - powered by Lowe's.

Tulsa Habitat has devoted a community build day to anyone who wishes to volunteer. No experience is necessary. You just may find your next great passion some of our most dedicated volunteers got their start during Women Build Week.

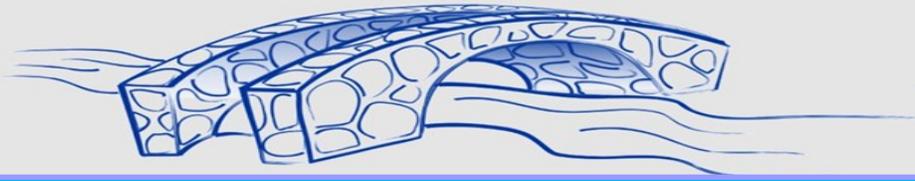
Oh, and guys are welcome, too.



Building Bridges Racism, Diversity, and Justice

2018 Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Assembly

May 4 - 6, 2018



ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNOD
Boldly Sharing God's Grace with Everyone!

A Message from Bishop Mike Girlinghouse

Beyond the Fold

Easter 4, John 10:11-18

"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold..." John 10:16

Not long ago, I was standing in line to get a receipt at a gas station near Oklahoma City. I was wearing my black clerical uniform so it was obvious that I worked for the church. The woman behind the counter, maybe in her thirties, handed me my receipt, looked me up and down, and asked, "you a priest?"

"A pastor." I responded. "I believe in God." She said firmly. "But I don't go to church."

A man behind me had one of those big twenty-four packs of water bottles impatiently perched on his shoulder. There wasn't much time for conversation.

"Oh..." I mumbled. Not one of my greatest evangelical moments.

"I don't think you need to go to church to be Christian." She continued. "I think God just wants you to have a good time."

"Really." I said dubiously as the man pushed by me and dropped his water bottles on the counter.

I pondered that almost-conversation during the two hour drive home. I wondered why she felt compelled to share that bit of her life with me? Confession? Affirmation? Argument?

I'll never know. But Jesus' words about "other sheep" came back to me somewhere toward the end of hour one.

Was this woman one of those "other sheep"? I know she was. Beloved by God, she heard God's voice, even if she didn't understand it the same way I do. Claimed by a God, who, I am convinced, will be with her even when the good times she seemed to be pursuing failed her. I felt guilty about not doing more to "witness" to her, but, in fact, I realized she had witnessed to me. She bore witness to the Good Shepherd who is always out there beyond the fold working in the lives of people we, who are church folk, might think are the most unlikely candidates for membership in the flock.

God is at work in the world. I am convinced of that too. Sometimes through us. Sometimes in spite of us. Sometimes in places where we wouldn't dream to look. That is, until the Spirit opens our eyes.

That's where the Church of Jesus Christ needs to be. On the margins. In the cracks in human lives. In the gaps where so many people live. In the places where God's sheep beyond the fold witness to the grace that belongs to all of us, ALL of us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Peace,
Bishop Mike

Keep your eyes open for God at work in the people you bump into along the way! Thanks for reading.

-- Peace, Bishop Mike

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNOD, ELCA



Taking Care of The Earth

PROTECT GROW CONSERVE

“...and God said it was good!” Genesis 1:10

MANAGING GOD'S ABUNDANCE GOD'S CREATION - OUR CARE - EVERY DAY

May - Grow

The Lord took man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it.
Genesis 2:15

A time to plant, a time to harvest. . . Ecclesiastes 3:2b

People have been farming and growing plants since the beginning of time. As Christians, we engage in conversation with our brothers and sisters who work the land to become more conscious of our food sources and the resources that it takes to produce and deliver them to us.

Growing a few veggies in a small garden or even in a pot will cut down on plastic packaging and gas emissions produced in the transportation of food to table. A garden is also a good place to get some exercise, gain better nutrition and reduce stress by reconnecting with nature. Share your abundance with family and friends. The gift of fresh produce is greatly appreciated, especially at local food pantries.

If you garden, do you have a compost pile? Composting is easy and a good way to dispose of fruit, vegetable peelings and egg shells.

Find out who else in your congregation gardens. Trading gardening tips and techniques can help to grow new friendships.