

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



"Celebrating and Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ"

As we begin the final quarter of 2023, I am overjoyed with the can-do attitude of our congregation. Members are stepping up as needs arise.

We've weathered the initial storm of losing our Pastor and now with a Call Committee in place we shall begin the arduous search for a new Minister. Keep in mind the search for a new minister is a marathon, not a sprint.

In the meantime I think most, if not all, would agree that Rev. Lawrence has served our needs more than adequately. The timing couldn't have been better for him or Joy.

The programs that were in place under our former pastoral team remain in place today. Sunday School begins Sept. 10 for the children while Adult Sunday School starts Sept. 17. Plans are being formulated for Confirmation classes, with additional news to follow. We are still gathering supplies for Jenks East Elementary School.

A baby shower for Music Director Catherine Conger is slated for Sunday, Sept. 10, following church service.

Other activities include a Silent Auction for two baby quilts in September to benefit our Joy Quilters, a Fall Painting party with Susan Humphrey as well as a cookout once temperatures cool down.

Advent and Christmas will be upon us soon. In short, there is plenty of reason for optimism.

Finally, I appreciate the trust Joy members have placed in our council and call committee. Let's make the final quarter of 2023 the best yet to catapult us into 2024.

Sincerely,

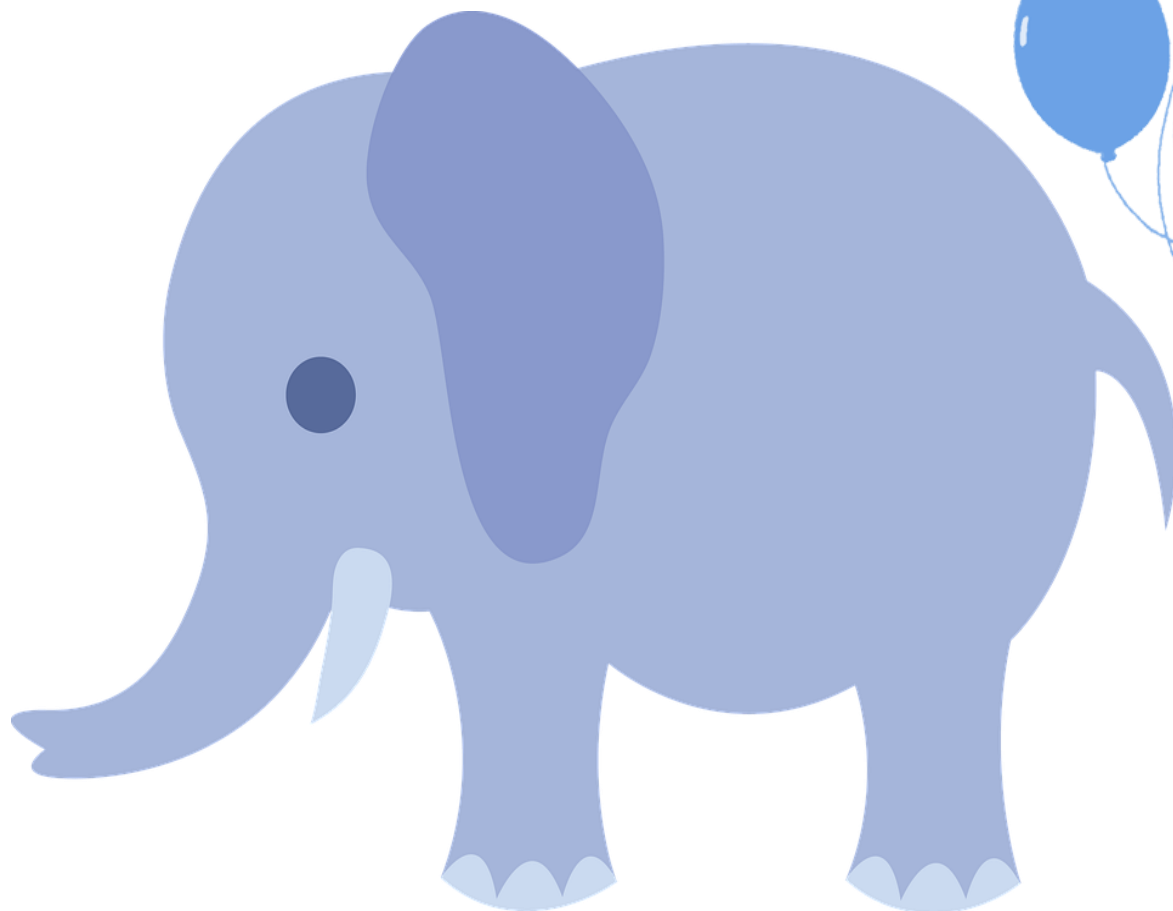
Lynn Jacobsen

Baby Shower for Catherine, Nick, Canon and
Baby boy Conger scheduled to arrive October 13th!

Sunday, September 10th!! We are planning on a casual baby shower after the service on Sunday. Our music director's new baby BOY will arrive in October. Snacks will be provided. Baby boy Conger is listed on the Amazon Baby Registry under Catherine Conger. Colors: red, grey, black & white. Call Katherine Tooley, 918-428-9331 to offer assistance and/or goodies!

Elephants are good!

We can't wait to
see you all!



September



The Aster—September Flower # 1

A member of the Daisy family (Asteraceae family), which also includes dahlias, marigolds, and sunflowers, asters provide a pop of color as summer turns to fall.

There are hundreds of asters—with estimates between 250 and 350 species—growing around the world. The daisy-like flowers, which come in colors ranging from white and yellow to pink, purple, red, and blue, have thin petals radiating from a white or yellow tubular disc floret (white or yellow centers).

The Morning Glory—September Flower # 2

Members of the *Ipomoea* genus, morning glory plants are known as fast-growing vines with a somewhat unique daily schedule: the flowers open in the morning and close up by the afternoon.

The flower's blue and purple colors are the most recognizable, but morning glories also appear in a range of pinks, reds, and whites. The flowers are trumpet-shaped with five large petals arranged flat around the flower head, making them quite attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.



Happy September Birthday!

Carmen Guild	9/2
Oleta Calvert	9/10
Brynn Daniel	9/10
Jacob Olsen	9/10
Daxson Helm	9/14
Stephanie Mueller	9/19
Robert Bird	9/20
Mike Daniel	9/21
Keith Ryan	9/25
Carolyn Gwartney	9/28
Ronald Peters	9/28

Happy September Anniversary

Connie & Bill Allen	9/1
Tresa & Randy Dorr	9/16
Dixie & Dave Tate	9/30

Youth and Adult Fall Sunday School Date

Change: The adult class, led by Rev. Lawrence will begin on Sunday, September 17th in Fellowship Hall.

Jamie Donohue will be the youth Sunday School teacher again this year and they will begin on Sunday, September 17th in SS Classroom # 103.

Joy Choir Practice Begins!

**Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.
through Wednesday, October 4th.**

**Choir will sing Sunday October 8 (last
rehearsal on October 4)**

**Tentative date for choir practice to resume is
Wednesday, November 15th or 22nd.**

**At this time the dates Catherine will be gone
are Sunday, October 22nd, October 29th,
November 5th and November 12th. We do
not have a name of a sub at this time.**



Lydia Quilt Group

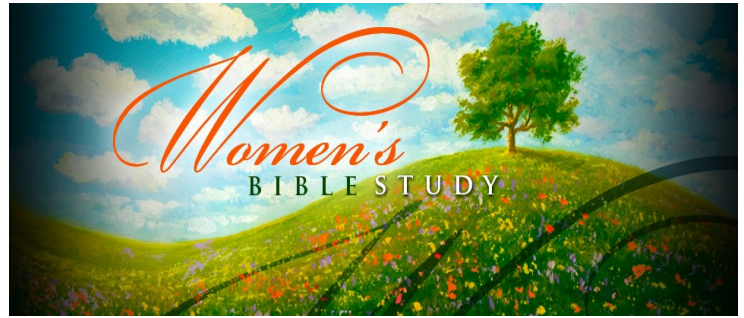
Suzy Prather has donated 2 quilts for the Lydia Quilt Group for a silent auction. At this time we will auction the queen size quilt that is hand pieced and machine quilted.

Suzy has collected quilts for years and loved them. Since she has moved, she has had to weed out her "stash" and only keep single bed or lap quilts. The Lydia Quilt Group will start the silent auction on September 10th. The quilt will be on display in Fellowship Hall. Please donate generously to win a this quilt and/or support your hard working Lydia Quilt Group who make quilts for Grace Hospice and Emergency Infant Services.

FYI: Grace Hospice really appreciated the Americana themed quilts for their veterans!!!



Down the Garden Path made by Suzy's mother-in-law for her son and herself, with mostly fabric furnished by her family. There was a bunch of fabric reminding her of favorite dresses, so Suzy really looked forward to having it. It was made over a number of years, being enlarged several times, all by hand and the top finally done. The quilt top stayed unfinished for 2 years until our family had it machine quilted. Suzy was never able to use it so she enjoyed displaying it on a quilt rack. So enjoy it on your queen bed, an antique before it was even completed!



Esther Circle Bible Study

Joy Lutheran Church

September 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we study, The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible. We will continue with the story of Esther, the Princess with a Secret! The book of Esther is unlike any other book of the Bible. It's a real-life story that's as captivating as a fairy tale: the journey of an ordinary peasant girl, whisked away to a palace to win the heart of the king.

If you have any questions, contact Carol Rowe-carolrowe@cox.net

2023 Flower Chart for Sunday's

The flower chart is hanging on the bulletin board between the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. The following dates are available. Many dates are available through the end of the year.

Please write your name and the dedication on the chart and mail your check for \$45.00 or place in the offering plate. Also, let the office know by email or a phone call what your dedication will be as it is easy to misread the information. Thank you!

NOTE: Please return the flower container to Joy marked "AG", as we are credited for return of the vase.

Thank you,
Altar Guild

Joy Lutheran Outreach

Joy's Food Chest for the Jenks Community Food Bank

On 19 August I transported a food donation from Joy Lutheran to the Jenks Community Food Bank. The donation weighed 78 pounds. The best part of the delivery was the enthusiastic response that the empty paper bags received. Several of the volunteers working that day were visibly relieved and excited, even saying "Thank you, we are almost completely out of bags". The members of Joy who are actively participating in gathering the donations for the Jenks Community Food Bank can be proud of their efforts so far and are encouraged to keep up the good work. *Michael Mueller.*

Current requested items as of August (September item list was not available) 2023:

Cereal (lots of cereal)

Canned Pasta

**(Spaghettios, Raviolis)
Tomato Soup**

Jelly (No glass)

Brown paper grocery bags, Reasors & Braums

"Helping to feed those in need"

**Thank you Joy members that contribute
items every month!**

**Thank you Michael Mueller for delivering the
food items!**

Operation Hope

Collection of Toiletries

Items needed for families and individuals coming out of prison and getting back into the community.

Deodorant - Shampoo
Conditioner - Body lotion
Moisturizers - Bar soap
Shower gels - Toothbrushes
Toothpaste

Last month a large box of toiletries plus a large bag from our basket was donated by a former member and delivered to Operation Hope by Pr. Norm Dake.





Bishop Installation
BECCA MIDDEKE-CONLIN

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 14 | 11AM

The fourth Bishop of
the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod of the ELCA
Tulsa, OK



God's Grace in Motion



ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNOD

God's Grace In Motion

Tulsa Lutheran Congregations:

I am reaching out to each of you to ask if you would all be willing to help with Bishop Becca's installation coming up October 14th at Fellowship? We are going to do appetizer/finger foods and desserts/bars and cookies after her installation worship service.

I am needing as many volunteers to bring plates of shareable foods on that day. Nothing fancy just easy to pick up, and eat and mingle with each other during the time that follows the service.

Please email Sara Richers to sign up so that we all make sure that Bishop Becca's installation has great food, friends and fellowship. My email is sara@aokelca.org.





ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNOD

God's Grace In Motion



AOK Synod, the Growing in Faith classes are planned to start in September. You can sign up for any synods classes that offer Zoom. For classes like:

Christianity in a Lutheran Key—While all Christians share a common set of theological beliefs, Lutherans look at things through a filter of grace. In this course we will discover more about our Lutheran roots. We will also look forward to challenges that face us in the future.

Introduction to the Old Testament—The aims of this course are: to give the students an overview of the structure and theology of the Hebrew Scriptures and present the varieties of forms used to communicate the truth of God's Word contained in them. Special attention will be given to covenant theology and to relating Old Testament theology and history to our understanding of the New Testament.

Introduction to the New Testament—The goals of this course are to understand the gospel message as revealed in the New Testament (NT), to explore the life and faith of the Christian church in the first century, to understand how the Bible came down to us in its present form, and to understand and use a variety of tools for interpreting the Bible. Throughout the course students will reflect on how the New Testament Gospel has shaped our Christian lives.

Lutheran Creeds and Confessions—This course provides an analysis of the historical context and theological content of the Book of Concord (the Lutheran Confessions) with an eye to establishing the importance of its witness for Christian mission and ministry.

Living as a Christian in the World—Students will discuss and explore their role as a member of a Christian community and the community at large. This course allows students to explore their place in a community that is not necessarily predominately Christian. Begin discernment on future service and ministries in their congregations and communities.

Worship Matters—Why do we worship Sunday after Sunday? Is worship intended for an 'in group' to comfort and console? Is worship intended to equip for mission and service? Is worship for God or for us? As we explore these questions, we will discover tensions in worship: a God focus or a communal focus, a head focus or a heart focus, a structured worship or a free worship, a universal church focus or a focus on the local assembly and its needs.

Go to [Find A Program - The Diakonia Program](#) to find a synod that has classes at a time that works with your schedule. There are some funds available for partial scholarships if needed. Please email me at pastorsteve.ollc@gmail.com for more information.

God's blessings on our synod and on your Growing in Faith!

Pr. Steve
Discipleship Committee

Call Committee Corner

Stay tuned to what's happening each month in this CCC.

Members

Susan Humphrey-Chair
Dan Norford-Co-chair/Scribe
Bonnie Peters
Deb Lovelace
Kathryn Daniel
Ione Allison
Nick Conger

We have begun the process and will be asking for your help as we gather information for our first step, which is a ministry site profile (MSP).

Please keep us all in your prayers.

On Sunday, Sept. 10, congregations will join together for

[“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday.](#)

This year marks the 10th anniversary of our annual day of service!

Over 10 years our hands have ...

- 1. Cleaned parks, beaches and roadways.**
- 2. Collected and donated food items for shelters and pantries.**
- 3. Assembled backpacks, care packages and hygiene bags.**
- 4. Repaired and painted homes, classrooms and community centers.**
- 5. Written letters to military members, first responders and members of Congress.**
- 6. Harvested produce for local food pantries.**
- 7. Sewed quilts and knitted blankets.**
- 8. Prepared meals for volunteers.**
- 9. Greeted homebound members and residents of nursing homes.**
- 10. Performed random acts of kindness.**

Shout Outs!

Bob & Catherine King - who vacuumed and shampooed the carpets last month in the Pastor's office, the connecting hallway and the church office. Thank you for freshening the rooms!

David Humphrey & Bill Allen who mow the Joy property each week! It's a big job and we appreciate your time and efforts, especially in the hot, Oklahoma sun!

Joy's Wednesday sewing group!
Carol Rowe, Catherine King, Darlene Denton, Dorothy Constien, Katherine Tooley, & Nancy Digges, Oleta Calvert, Eleanor Beymer, and Carolyn Murphy.

Thank you ladies for sewing and hand stitching quilts for infants, veterans, and hospital patients. You are a blessing to the community!

Joy counters Ione Allison & Carol Rowe.

Thank you for keeping our contributions accurate and recorded each week!

Altar Guild members who set up our altar each Sunday, including cleaning the linens, changing the paraments for each liturgical season, changing candles, washing communion items!

Shout out to Ione Allison, Janice Lovelace, Michelle Staedeli, Lila Martini, Debbie Lovelace, and Carol Rowe.

Susan & David Humphrey for fixing and replacing the bathroom hallway lights with LED lightbulbs!

We have bright lights again!

Finance Report



Finance Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Joy Lutheran Church Finance Committee will be held on **Thursday evening, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. See below.**

At the last finance meeting, it was agreed to resume our practice of meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Future dates are September 12th, October 10th, November 14th & December 12th.

Financial Report

Following is the financial summary of contributions and expenses for the month of July 2023.

	July, 2023	Year to date
Giving	\$ 11,006	\$ 107,487
Expenses	\$ 9,975	\$ 125,747
Income (Loss)	\$ 1,031	\$ (18,260)

We are replacing part of our HVAC system on the East side of the Sanctuary after 28 years of service. The cost to replace the unit is \$11,800. We are making a Special Appeal for our members to help pay for this replacement.





Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m. is the next monthly Joy council meeting.

2023 Joy Lutheran Council:

(L to R)

Lynn Jacobsen - President

Open - Vice President

Sara Richers - Secretary

David Humphrey - Treasurer

Eleanore Beymer

Brenda Baker

Nancy Sies - *Not Pictured*

Church Staff:

Reverend Bob Lawrence: Pulpit Supply Pastor

Catherine Conger — Director of Music

Sarah Smith — Office Manager

Church Office Hours: Mon.—Thur. from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church office phone: 918-299-3292