

The Vine

2026

*Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5
God has planted a spirit of joy in our hearts. May the Good News of Jesus flourish!*



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

In accordance with our church constitution, I am calling for a Special Congregational meeting, the date to be May 17th, following the church service. The purpose of the meeting will be to adopt a bylaw that will establish a Spirit of Joy Community Church Endowment Fund. If approved, the fund could then accept the transfer of the current Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, to be managed by their current board. We are blessed with the opportunity to contribute as well. A copy of the proposed bylaw is available at the church office and online at our website.

Several months ago, Valley Community Pantry, an established (60 years) food assistance organization, approached Pastor Brian requesting permission to use a portion of our unused land for a permanent home to maintain their food distribution services. Recently, members of Spirit of Joy Church, including Lyle Roberts, Bruce Mitchell and myself, met with representatives of Valley Community Pantry to discuss such a venture. At our April 20 church council meeting, following discussion of the Valley Community Pantry proposal, a motion was made, seconded and approved "to advise Community Pantry they may proceed with investigation of leasing Spirit of Joy property for their facilities with the City of

Hemet". Valley Community Pantry has been so advised. At some point in the very near future, the congregation will become involved in approval or disapproval of any plans that Valley Community Pantry may present affecting Spirit of Joy Church.

*Respectfully submitted,
Michael Caldwell*

BOOK STUDY & SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP "THE IMMORTAL DIAMOND"

**Tuesday, May 12
11:30 — 12:30**

This will be the second to the last meeting for this group, as Chaplin Mark has been accepted into a doctoral program at a local university. Just over a year ago, Chaplin Mark Ruybalid volunteered to lead a Spiritual Support group at SoJ and what a gift that has been to the folks who have attended.

Most recently, this group delved into the book "The Immortal Diamond" by R. Rohr. This book provided insightful and challenging information while fostering deep contemplation and reflection. We thank Chaplin Mark for his dedication to the folks at Spirit of Joy. We have certainly been blessed by his gentle spirit-filled leadership and compassion.

**Published monthly by Spirit of Joy Community Church, ELCA; 3126 West Johnston Avenue, Hemet 92545
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 12:00 pm — 3:00 pm and Tues. & Thurs. 10:00 am — 3:00 pm
Phone (951) 652-2519 Fax (951) 658-9819 visit us at: www.spiritofjoyhemet.com
FB Users check us out at: Facebook.com/spiritofjoyhemet**



Sunday, May 10

**Bring Mom to
Church on her
Special Day!!!**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Spirit of Joy will be receiving new members in the month of June. If you are interested in pursuing membership, this class is for you!

New Member Class
Monday, June 8 at 5:00 pm

At this gathering, you will be introduced to the basic beliefs of Spirit of Joy Community Church as it pertains to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), and learn the history of the congregation, its challenges and practices, current ministries, and dreams for the future. This time is for all potential new members to become better acquainted and to celebrate our faith! Since this class coincides with our first "Dine Out" event, we will meet at Sizzler at 5:00 for supper and then proceed back to the church for a short meeting.

If you think you might be interested in becoming part of our Christian family or just learning more about Spirit of Joy, please sign up in the Narthex/lobby on a Sunday morning. If you have questions or concerns, please call Pastor Brian at the office (951) 652-2519.

CRAFTY SCRAPPERS
TUESDAYS, MAY 5 & 19 AT 10:30 AM

Whether you are a novice or an advanced scrapper or crafter, this group is for you. If you knit, crochet, stamp, scrapbook, or do needlepoint, you are invited to join us.

This gathering will provide a dedicated time for focusing on your latest project and there will be ample time to visit and enjoy each other's company. Be sure to bring your lunch and favorite beverage.

Can't stay the whole time? No problem...just show up when you can and leave at your convenience.

Other Things You Ought to Know...

Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 9

12:00 pm

Pastels & Petals

Memorial Day Observed

Monday, May 25...Office Closed

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Michael Caldwell, President
Josh Caldwell, Vice-President
Janet Johnson
Leslie Kidder
Lyle Roberts, Secretary
Jackie Severa
Naoma Strock, Treasurer

Serving in an advisory capacity:

Brian Foxworth, Pastor
Audrey Caldwell, Youth Representative
Barbara Gifford, Business & Office Manager

AREA OF MINISTRY LIAISONS/CHAIRS

Stewardship & Finance: Naoma Strock
Inreach: Leslie Kidder
Youth & Family: Josh Caldwell
Outreach: Janet Johnson
Site Maintenance: Lyle Roberts

TASKFORCE & GROUP CONTACTS

Marge Buller: Sunday Morning Volunteers
Pastor Brian: Care Ministry
Lyle Roberts: Men's Group
Ruth Compton: TLC Bible Study
Pastor Brian: Child & Family Programming
Barbara Gifford: Vine Editor
Theresa Berg: Facebook Administrator

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Naoma Strock, Shirley Schumacher, Patty Gaudreau, Betty Bowles, Mary Wright, and Ed Camarillo

SPIRIT OF JOY 25TH BIRTHDAY WISHLIST UPDATE!!!

Believe it or not Spirit of Joy turned 29 years old last December. Below is a list of list of items (*in no particular order*) we are hoping to accomplish by the time Spirit of Joy turns 30...it's a five year plan with 6 months left to go. By donating to the "Fix-It Fund" we can work together to see how many things we can check off the list. We've made an excellent start!

- ✓ 1. Replace/repair current irrigation system
- ✓ 2. Replace/repair light heads on walkway
- ✓ 3. Secure storage bin entry
- ✓ 4. Update ladies' restroom
- ✓ 5. Update men's restroom
- ✓ 6. Update nursery restroom
- ✓ 7. Remove all bushes and replace with desert landscape
- ✓ 8. Install lighting in courtyard
- ✓ 9. Secure trash enclosure
10. Purchase benches for walkway and garden area
- ✓ 11. Paint Jessi's Joy Kids' Center
- ✓ 12. Clean or replace vinyl flooring in hallway & kitchen
13. Replace carpet in sanctuary
- ✓ 14. Install a covering over the office door
15. Purchase memorial stones for the Hesse Memorial Garden
- ✓ 16. Repaint the cross on the side of the building
- ✓ 17. Restripe the parking lot
- ✓ 18. Upgrade lecturn microphone
19. Install a wrought iron fence around sanctuary
20. Complete flagstone walkway to Garden Arbor
- ✓ 21. Install security cameras
- ✓ 22. Plant trees around air conditioning enclosure to hide barbed wire
23. Purchase engraved stone/plaque which reads: "Barbara Hesse Memorial Garden"
- ✓ 24. Purchase new game table for youth room
- ✓ 25. Install new roof

Happy Birthday
Spirit of Joy



TRINITY LUTHERAN & SOJ'S MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY, MAY 16 at 8:00 AM

Are you looking for a good breakfast, fellowship, or a message from the Bible? Well you can obtain all three at one time during May. If you are interested, you are invited to come to J & M Family Restaurant located on the corner of Stetson and State Streets in Hemet.



Breakfast begins promptly at 8:00 am and as soon as the coffee is poured, fellowship ensues. After placing your breakfast order, devotion and prayer follow. All men in both congregations are welcome to attend. Hope to see you at J & M.

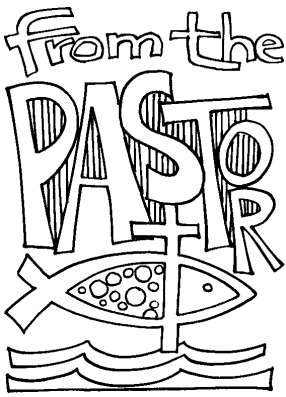
Dollar on Sunday: The Spirit of Joy's Men's Group encourages every member of the congregation to add an extra dollar each and every Sunday. The 'extra' dollar is in addition to your regular offering. The thought behind this suggestion is for everyone to give something every Sunday.

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO THESE FINE FOLKS...

Easter Celebration: Our hats go off to Pastor Brian and Melissa Caldwell for putting together wonderful Easter baskets for our Joy Kids and friends. Your dedicated service is very much appreciated. Also, a debt of gratitude is owed to Sharon Wynne for her festive Easter décor. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to our musicians Ruth Compton and Josh Caldwell for providing the uplifting Easter music. Kate Rubke-Foxworth and our Joy Kids' joined in the final song, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", playing the chimes and lifting their voices. You all did an outstanding job!

Site Maintenance Crew: A big shout out to Lyle Roberts for picking up and delivering the Easter Lilies. Lyle has provided this service for a number of years. Please take a moment to thank him. Our gratitude is also extended to Jesus is the Way Apostolic Ministry for working to keep our Hesse Memorial Garden, giant field, parking lot, and walkways clear of tumbleweeds and trash. You guys rock!

Easter Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



We live in a time and culture where the concept of people from all different backgrounds coming together and working diligently and peacefully for a common goal might seem impossible. One sacred and beautiful facet of Faith is that it is meant to unite us in a divisive world.

Paul stated the following in Roman 15:

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To live in harmony with one another and God's creation is what faith inspires us to do. When is the last time you heard the word harmony used to describe politics, government, laws, society, etc.? We live often in a state of discord rather than the togetherness that we experience through our faith and ideally in Church. With years of dedication and with the generosity of Trinity Lutheran, we have, as a group of believers, enabled Spirit of Joy to be debt free. Not having a mortgage is wonderful and I thank you all for your commitment and faithfulness! This leaves us, however, with the question of "what do we do now"?

Now that the mortgage is paid off, we have the task and privilege of entering into a new visioning process as to where God is calling us to use the resources now available. Beginning the first Sunday in May, we will kick off the 1st of a year's worth of temple talks at church highlighting how decreased earthly debt paves the way for increased investment in Spirit-filled ministries to help those in need and further open our doors for others to learn about God's love. Is there a cause, project, or ministry that you find close to your heart? The first Sunday of May our brother in Christ, Anthony Pierre, will share more about the ministry the Bread Basket does. This is one ministry we can now more fully commit to thanks to your efforts to pay off that mortgage. I can't wait to hear about the impact the Bread Basket has in feeding our struggling sisters and brothers in the Valley.

I cannot say enough how excited I am to see struggling with the mortgage in the rear-view mirror of Spirit of Joy and looking with hearts and eyes open to the future!

Thank you again for continuing to commit fully to Spirit of Joy! May God bless us all as we strive to serve and care for God's children for years to come!

*Blessings,
Pastor Brian*

DINE OUT IS ON THE HORIZON

Theresa Berg has stepped forward and volunteered to organize a new fundraising opportunity for Spirit of Joy. It's called "Dine Out". Beginning in June and every month thereafter, we will have the opportunity to dine on delectable delights at our local restaurants.

June 8 is the kick-off date...Sizzler is the locale. Anyone interested in joining together for a meal is encouraged to meet at 5:00 for supper. Please note that you can visit this eatery anytime that day, present a flyer, and Spirit of Joy will reap the benefit. If you purchase a visa card from the office to pay for your meal, SoJ will win twice! Hope to see you there.

With Father's Day
and Graduations
right around the corner...

Think Scrip!!!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MAY

May 3

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 24

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

May 31

Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

APRIL REPORTS

Financial

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Bldg. Fund Main't.</i>
Income: \$ 22,699	\$ 3,212
Expenses: (24,126)	(1,184)
Difference: \$ (1,427)	\$ 2,028

Checking Balance: \$ 51,062

Attendance

4/05 — 118	4/12 — 81
4/19 — 83	4/26 — 73

Average Weekly Attendance: 89

Scrip earnings \$ 57.65

Thank you for the financial gifts that you gave last month. With your generous offerings, we were able to assemble wonderful Easter baskets & have an egg hunt for our Joy Kids. What a blessing you are to Spirit of Joy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- 5/09 — Emilia Seraile
- 5/15 — Carolyn Straub
- 5/20 — Amber Pierre
- 5/21 — Barbara Rickett
- 5/24 — Josephine Seraile

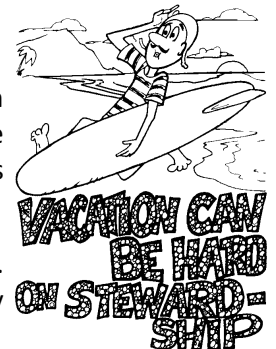
Sunday Morning Volunteers for May:

Lay Readers:	05/03...Greta Tuomenin 05/17...Carolyn Straub 05/31...Roderick Sinclair	05/10...Bev Polito 05/24...Marda-Ruth Roberts
Ushers:	05/03...Betty K. & Shar W. 05/17...Patty G. & Mary W. 05/31...Mary W. & Janet S.	05/10...Anthony M. & Dominic D. 05/24...Leslie K. & Roderick S.
Communion:	05/03...Bruce & Corinne Mitchell & Leslie Kidder 05/10...Janet Langemeier, Judy Addington, & Roderick Sinclair 05/17...Carolyn Straub, Beth Camarillo & Betty Bowles 05/24...Herb & Betty Kern & Lyle Roberts 05/31...Roderick Sinclair, Patty Gaudreau, & Esther Feigenbaum	
Fellowship:	05/03...Shirley Schumacher & Janet Salters 05/10...Betty Kern & Shar Wynne 05/17...Shirley Schumacher & Corinne Mitchell 05/24...Shirley Schumacher & Betty Bowles 05/31...Shirley Schumacher & Leslie Kidder	
Welcome Cart:	05/03...Anthony Mendoza 05/17...Anthony Mendoza 05/31...Patty Gaudreau	05/10...Patty Gaudreau 05/24...Tricia Wilson
Video Techs:	Barbara Gifford, Herb Kern, Letitia Bowles, Melissa Caldwell	

SUMMER VACATION IS ON THE HORIZON

If you are a Sunday Morning Volunteer, please notify the church office of your summer vacation plans...it makes scheduling so much easier. You may call the church office and leave a message for Marge/Barbara or simply make note of it on the back of your attendance card. They will pass it on to those who need to know.

The Finance Ministry Team wants to remind you that the church is here even when you are not. Please remember to submit your tithes and offerings before you leave on vacation, thereby insuring the lights will be on and the air conditioning will working upon your return.



Articles for the Vine are due in the office by Wednesday, May 20 or you may e-mail them to jazzgen2@aol.com by that date. Thanks for your cooperation!

SPIRIT OF JOY PRAYS FOR...

with new concerns, health and otherwise, including: **Susan Pierre, Angela Pierre, Bev Polito, Marda-Ruth Roberts, Charles & Carol Luper, Ron & Marlene** (the Addington's friends), **Kraig** (Greta Tuomenin's nephew), **Tatum** (Lee & Greta Tuomenin's friend), **Ginger** (Kathy Damiani's cousin), **struggling countries**, and **Pierre's Bread Basket**.

Those with ongoing health concerns and our shut-ins including: **Betty Kern, Dan Straub, Lana Andre, Howard & Esther Feigenbaum, Michael Buller, Jo Neely, Jean Miller, Barbara Rickett, Christina Rickett, Charlie Sams, Tricia Wilson, Keith & Sue Johnson, Earnest Wilson Jr., Maria Boyd, Mike Caldwell, Gordon & Doris Mensch, Judy** (Marge Buller's sister), **Pete** (9th Shield Night Supervisor), **Mike** (the Luper's son), **Judy** (Jennifer Hanson's sister), **Isabel** (Janet Johnson's granddaughter), **Richard** (Carolyn Straub's brother), **Vera** (Laurel Ojeda's friend), **Noah & Luca Barajas, Tim Acevedo, Janet Beeson, Richard** (Marda-Ruth Roberts' brother), **Todd** (Mike & Mary Lou Caldwell friend), **George Grijalva** (Barb Gifford's grandson), **Kim** (Melissa Caldwell's friend), **Anthony Pierre & family** (Bread Basket), **Sakima** (Leah Christian's friend), **Tony & Faby** (Marge Buller's friends), **Stacy Lynn** (Esther Feigenbaum's niece), **Tim** (Mike Caldwell's friend), **Bob** (Shar Wynne's step-son), **Lee** (the Eller's friend), **Jeff** (Mike Hanson's friend), **Linda, Shane, Connie, Darrell, & Janine** (Shar Wynne's friends), **Betty** (Marge Buller's friend), **Paul** (Herb Kern's nephew), **John Schenien** (Marge Buller's nephew), **Tom Bennett** (the Addington's friend), **Leanne** (the Damiani's family member), **Glenn** (Bruce Mitchell's cousin), **Mary** (Carolyn Straub's sister), **Sue** (Betty Kern's sister-in-law), **Paul** (Esther Feigenbaum's nephew), **Gary** (the Kenyon's son-in-law), **Neil** (Sharon Wynne's son), **Erik** (Marge Buller's Godson), **Mary Ann** (Betty Kern's sister), **Brenda** (Ashly Acevedo's friend), **Linda** (Esther Feigenbaum's friend), **Vince** (Betty Kern's brother), **Jared** (Betty Kern's grandnephew), **Rob** (Lana Andre's nephew), **Nicole** (Kathy Damiani's niece), **Marsha** (Esther Feigenbaum's sister-in-law), **Ryan** (Ruth Compton's grandson-in-law), **Joyce & David** (Janet Salters' sister and brother-in-law), **Simon** (Kathy Feste's friend), **Kathy** (Corinne Mitchell's friend), **Janet** (Lana Andre's sister), **Violet** (Marge Buller's great granddaughter), **Walt Block** (Marge Buller's brother), and **Enid** (Marge Buller's friend).

Those with cancer including: **Mary Lou Caldwell, Nancy Eller, Marge Buller, Lyle Roberts Jr., Bob Flavell, Chuck Buller, Lisa Kramer, Danny McGarry, Debbie Piper, Judy Britain, Fred Taylor, Kevin Baum, Jim, Robert, Kathy, Joseph, Gary, Gladys, Katie, Louis, Barbie, and James**

Those experiencing difficult times and/or seeking employment including: **Josh** (the Damiani's nephew), **Jon** and **returning veterans**

For Those Who are Expecting: **Selena Guadamez** (Barb Gifford's great-granddaughter)
Kristina (Jennifer Hanson's daughter)

For Those Who Mourn: **Linda St. Jean and family mourning the loss of her husband, Bernard "Saint"**

BECAUSE YOU ASKED...below please find Gordon & Doris Mensch's Canadian address. Consider dropping them a short note as they will not be able to make the trip here this year. Please note that Canadian postage rate is different than the United States. If you need a Canadian stamp, please stop by the office or purchase one at your local post office.

Gordon & Doris Mensch
P. O. Box 117,
Langenburg, SK
Canada S0A 2A0



GRADUATION SEASON IS NEAR...

If you or a loved one is graduating from high school, college, or a trade school, please contact the office, so that we can list them in next month's Vine and lift them in prayer. You may, also, make note of that special occurrence on the back of your attendance card. Please include the following information: Name...relation to you...school they are graduating from...degree (if applicable)...future plans...date of graduation.

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 Grief Group	2
3 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	4	5 10:30 am Crafty Scrappers	6	7	8 10:00 Grief Group	9 12:00 Pastels and Petals Tea <i>Happy Birthday Emilia S.!</i>
10 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	11	12 11:30 am Spiritual Support Group	13	14	15 9:00 Grief Group 11:00 Bunco <i>Happy Birthday Carolyn S.!</i>	16 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Group (J&M's)
17 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	18 6:00 pm Church Council	19 10:30 am Crafty Scrappers	20 <i>Vine Articles are due!</i> <i>Happy Birthday Amber P.!</i>	21 <i>Happy Birthday Barbara R.!</i>	22 10:00 Grief Group	23
.....Pastor Brian on Vacation.....						
24 10:00 Worship <i>Happy Birthday Josephine S.!</i>	25  <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i>	26	27	28	29 10:00 Grief Group	30
.....Pastor Brian on Vacation.....						
31 10:00 Worship						
.....Pastor Brian on Vacation.....						