Join Congregations Across America for Souper Bowl Sunday!

It’s simple. It’s local. It unites. It’s Joy! Joy Church has been participating in this event for 19 years! Joy has raised $3400 and has donated thousands of pounds of food. Help make a difference by donating $1 or a nonperishable food item during the month of February. Or do more, FILL A BAG!!

Lent and Holy Week Worship Opportunities
February 18: Ash Wednesday 7pm - Holy Communion and The Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday evening Lenten services on February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30pm. (Holy Communion on March 4 and March 18)

March 29: Palm Sunday 8:15 and 10:00am worship
April 2: Maundy Thursday 7pm
April 3: Good Friday 7pm
April 5: Ecumenical Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30am at Freedom Park, 8:15 and 10:00am worship at Joy.

See more on page 3.

The Call Committee was selected January, 25 at the Annual Meeting and the search for Joy’s new pastor has begun. See page 7 for more information.

Did you miss the Congregation's Annual Meeting last Sunday? See page 7 for a summary of the meeting. If you have questions about the meeting speak to a council member.
Lent is a time for me of “remember when.” I remember back when it was a time to “give up something.” The idea was that as Jesus sacrificed for us, we should give up something so that, in some small way we experience what it was to “suffer.” Thus, as a young person, I might give up movies or all forms of chocolate. I have vivid memories of waiting for Lent to be over, so I could truly enjoy life again.

One of my fondest memories has to do with my college Roman Catholic roommate. He was, and still is, one who takes very seriously his Catholic tradition. Those days were a time when meat was not eaten except on Sundays. We went out to eat one Friday during Lent and he had been giving me a bad time about maybe becoming a Lutheran. When the waitress came to take his order, he ordered a steak sandwich.

I told the waitress that she could not take that order because he couldn’t have meat on Friday. But he insisted and got the sandwich. Only later, with a big grin on his face, he told me it was a “holy day” and there was therefore no “obligation.”

These memories only remind me of how much Lenten practices have changed. Although it certainly would not hurt me to give up eating certain food; that would improve my diet as well as maybe help me lose weight.

But rather, Lent has become a time in which I add something to my normal routine. One of the additions is that I increase the number of daily devotional books I read. This helps me from a variety of perspectives and writers, to look more deeply into what Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection mean for me. That, in turn, helps me to reflect on what ways I need to grow in my faith relationship and in serving others.

One year, I chose to call the pastors who had been influential in my life to thank them for what they had done and meant to me. It was also a great way to catch up and hear about their lives.

So this year, as Lent begins, I would encourage you to not only give up something, but also add an activity which will help you grow in your appreciation of who Jesus is, as well as deepen your faith relationship.

I would encourage you to be with us on Sundays and Wednesdays for the special Lenten services. Wednesdays will be a tour through Jerusalem during Holy Week, and Sundays will focus on disciples. Please look elsewhere in the newsletter for more information.

My prayer for you this Lent is that it will be a time of greater appreciation of Jesus as your Savior, as well as a deepening of your commitment to be a faithful disciple.

Peace and Joy,
Roger
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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| 1 Sunday | Souper Bowl Sunday  
8:15am Traditional Communion Worship Service  
10:00am Contemporary Communion Worship Service  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:30am Special Meeting w/Bishop Hoyme  
*2:00pm Destination Imagination |
| 2 Monday | 7:30am High School Prayer Breakfast  
5:30pm Sing4Joy  
6:00pm Joy Unlimited  
*6:30pm Girl Scouts  
7:00pm Spirit of Joy |
| 4 Wednesday | 9:00am Joyful Quilters  
5:15-6:30pm Wednesday Supper: Spaghetti  
5:15pm Guitar Camp 1 High School  
5:30pm Guitar Camp 2 Elementary & Middle School  
5:45pm High School Praise Band  
6:15pm Shift 6/7  
6:15pm Confirmation Class |
| 7 Saturday | 7:30am Men's Bible Study |
| 8 Sunday | 8:15am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00am Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00am Sunday School  
*2:00pm Destination Imagination |
| 9 Monday | 7:30am High School Prayer Breakfast  
5:30pm Sing4Joy  
6:00pm Joy Unlimited  
7:00pm Spirit of Joy  
7:00pm Joyful Bells |
| 10 Tuesday | 1:30pm Love Circle Women's Bible Study  
6:30pm Service/Fellowship/Outreach/  
Education Team Meeting  
7:00pm Women's Bible Study |
| 11 Wednesday | 9:00am Joyful Quilters  
5:15-6:30pm Wednesday Supper: Pork Stew  
5:15pm Guitar Camp 1 High School  
5:30pm Guitar Camp 2 Elementary & Middle School  
5:45pm High School Praise Band  
6:15pm Shift 6/7  
6:15pm Confirmation Class  
7:00pm Joy Choir |
| 12 Thursday | Community Service Day |
| 15 Sunday | Families in Worship  
8:15am Traditional Communion Worship Service  
10:00am Contemporary Communion Worship Service  
10:00am Sunday School  
*2:00pm Destination Imagination |
| 16 Monday | 7:30am High School Prayer Breakfast  
10:00am Joyful Seniors  
5:30pm Sing4Joy  
6:00pm Joy Unlimited  
7:00pm Spirit of Joy  
7:00pm Joyful Bells |
| 18 Wednesday | 9:00am Joyful Quilters  
5:15-6:30pm Wednesday Supper: Stroganoff  
5:15pm Guitar Camp 1 High School  
5:30pm Guitar Camp 2 Elementary & Middle School  
5:45pm High School Praise Band  
6:15pm Shift 6/7  
6:15pm Confirmation Class  
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service  
8:00pm Joy Choir |
| 21 Saturday | 7:30am Men's Bible Study  
10:00am Bold Cafe |
| 22 Sunday | Bold Women’s Sunday  
8:15am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School  
*1:00pm Piano Recital  
*2:00pm Destination Imagination  
*4:00pm Piano Recital |
| 23 Monday | 7:30am High School Prayer Breakfast  
5:30pm Sing4Joy  
6:00pm Joy Unlimited  
*6:30pm Girl Scouts  
7:00pm Spirit of Joy |
| 25 Wednesday | 9:00am Joyful Quilters  
5:15-6:30pm Wednesday Supper: Baked Potato Bar  
5:15pm Guitar Camp 1 High School  
5:30pm Guitar Camp 2 Elementary & Middle School  
5:45pm High School Praise Band  
6:15pm Shift 6/7  
6:15pm Confirmation Class  
6:30pm Lenten Service  
7:15pm Joy Choir |
| * Building use by outside group  
# Meeting not at Joy Church |
Lent is that special time in the life of our Lutheran tradition when we focus in a special way on what Jesus has done for us and also our faith journey as disciples. Four of the five Sundays in Lent, we will look carefully at one of Jesus’ Apostles and his struggle to be a faithful follower of Jesus. This look will be done in a drama format and will be followed by an application to our own faith journey. This presentation will occur at both services on Sunday morning. The Lenten schedule for Sundays is as follows:

- February 22- Bold Women Sunday
- March 1- Saint Andrew
- March 8- Saint Thomas
- March 15- Saint Peter
- March 22- Saint Judas
- March 29- Palm Sunday- The High Priest Caiaphas

You are invited to see how you are like and unlike these apostles and then to grow in your commitment to be a disciple of Jesus.

**Jerusalem at Passover- A Lenten Tour**

Turn on your radio. Our Wednesday Lenten Service will feature a radio drama of a tour through Jerusalem during Passover week. This is the most holy of times for our Jewish brothers and sisters today as well as the last eventful days of Jesus’ life here on earth. We will be tourists in Jerusalem, going to the very special places in Jerusalem, as well as experiencing what would have happened to Jesus at those places. You will be led by a tour guide and will meet a variety of people and experiences which are part of the Passover experience.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, with our service at 7:00 P.M. This service will include the Imposition of Ashes and the service of Holy Communion. Then on Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30 P.M. and at the same time each Wednesday following, we will begin our tour.

The places we will visit are as follows:
- February 25- The Temple
- March 4- A Jewish Passover Dinner
- March 11- The Mount of Olives
- March 18- Palace of the High Priest
- March 25- Fortress of Antonia –Pilate’s Palace

In addition to the radio drama, pictures of various places to visit will be seen on the screens. So come and journey with Jesus on that last week of his life on earth as we experience Passover in Jerusalem. Everyone, young and old, will enjoy this as we tour Jerusalem at Passover.

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**Pastor Roger Grow**

pastor@joy-church.org
Joy's ELCA Profile has been written. A final draft is in the church office. This profile represents Joy to potential pastors. This is the first thing they will see about Joy. It was compiled with input from recent member survey/listening sessions and Vision/Mission work with Kairos. The Profile Committee, selected by the Church Council, consisted of Carroll Lehman, Donna Boatman, Marcia Lindseth, Ken Roen and Steve Sizemore. The Profile Committee worked October 2014 to December 2014 to compile the profile.

**Sunday, January 25, 2015** - As a part of the Annual Meeting, nominations and election of the Call Committee will occur. This Committee’s job is to work with the ELCA to provide information, attract candidates, interview, visit and schedule trips to Joy, check references and bring forth a recommendation for calling a new pastor for Joy. This will take some time and effort on those considering the Call Committee. It is a super way to get involved to shape the future of Joy.

**Sunday, February 1, 2015** - At 11:30 A.M. there is a Special Meeting for all interested members and the newly elected Call Committee. Bishop Hoyme will walk members and the Call Committee through the profile and the process on calling a new pastor. It is at this meeting that the profile will be officially approved. All church members are invited.

Joy's Profile will become available to interested pastors after the February 1, 2015 meeting with Bishop Hoyme.

The Call Committee will have a brief training session on Mission/Vision/Core Values of Joy. Time and date are to be determined.

The Call Committee will work together to define/refine their process. They will review the materials prepared and work with the ELCA/Synod office to assess, interview and do reference checks on candidates, etc. A great deal of focus will be spent determining if a pastor feels a connection to Joy's Mission/Vision and Core Values.

The Call Committee is responsible for communications and keeping the Church Council and church members (via Newsletter) updated as to their process and progress.

The Call Committee may visit, invite in, do phone and in-person interviews, (etc) to bring forth a single recommendation to Church Council for approval.

The Church Council will work with the recommended pastor to negotiate the 'HR' aspects of a new position. This could take 30+ days depending on people's availability. A congregational meeting will then be held to approve the recommended pastor.

Finally, there will be a transition period and then we will have a Welcome and Introduction developed for Joy's new pastor. (We will also conduct a farewell to Pastor Roger Grow for his great service to Joy as our Interim Pastor.)

Joy will then enter a new chapter with a new spiritual leader!
Long Term Goals
(three-to-five years)

These goals were developed by the Church Council to align with Joy’s vision/mission and are critical to moving Joy towards a healthy and bright future in 2015. They are:

• Develop a long-term spiritual generosity around giving
  ○ Lead a debt reduction campaign in 2016 to reduce overall mortgage by 10%, by the end of 2017
  ○ Increase the number of giving units by 20% by the end of 2017

• Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership
  ○ Provide assistance and guidance around Team development
  ○ Expand ministry leadership to all members
  ○ Expand congregational participation - get everyone in on the fun

• Provide more opportunities for Christian education for all ages
• Deepen our sense of connection to GOD and one another through more inspiring worship

Goals for 2015:
2015 is a year to rebuild Joy in a relevant, hopeful and generous manner.

• Conduct a successful and prayerful Pastor Call Process and Transition to new Pastor
• Be open and hopeful in welcoming of members/visitors to Joy and to serve God
• Expand and encourage faith education for all ages
• Manage to budget while planning for further debt reduction

Luther Park Celebration!
Luther Park Bible Camp had a wonderful Annual Meeting January 24th. At the meeting we were able to announce Luther Park has now paid off the long term debt! We owe many thanks to churches, church groups, individuals, volunteers and gifts “in Kind” We want to thank all who helped with this last push to eliminate the debt and all who keep this wonderful ministry in their prayers. Your prayers and support has not only allowed Luther Park to pay off a 20 year loan but also to grow! Camper numbers were up in 2014 by 25% Guest group usage and non-summer programmed events also increased!

God is good! We are immensely grateful, and want the enthusiasm and support to continue as there is much to do! We can now focus on moving forward needed projects and renovations the debt had delayed. We pray you keep this wonderful ministry in your prayers as you are always in ours.

Luther Park Staff
Highlights of 2014 and Election Results!
From Joy’s Annual Meeting, January 25, 2015

NEW Music Coordinator
A new position has been created, Music Coordinator, who will coordinate all music groups at Joy. Job posting is open now; see joy-church.org or call the Church Office for more information.

Finances at Joy
Treasurer’s Report was given by Dick Horken at the Annual Meeting. Overall giving has been flat for 3 years. Simply Giving is at 57% of Contributions! 4th Quarter giving helped to close out the year at a better place! Dick Horken spoke at the Annual Meeting regarding the Audit Report. Generally this is completed before the Annual meeting. This year, due to Sue Hood’s accident, the Audit has not yet been completed, but will be as soon as possible. We wish Sue the best in her recovery!

Budget/Mission Plan Approved.
Dick Horken presented the proposed 2015 Budget. 2015 Budgeted Expenses are $19,573 over Contributions. This gap is due to the fact that this is a forecast, not an exact science. The new Pastor expenses are reflected in the expenses for the second half of the year at the highest amounts. But the one thing to take away is that we will live within our means! The Budget was approved. Two people commented on the need to return to Benevolence tithing as giving rises.

New On Council
Tracy Banitt, Vice President, thanked President Shawn Bernick for his time and service. Phil Helgeson and Lisa Jenkover were also thanked for their service on Council. Anita Huber has agreed to run for a second 3-year term. Newly elected Council members are: Anita Huber, Tom Gujer, Kristin Tibayan and Tom Peterson. (Council Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.) After the Annual Meeting the new Council met and elected the Executive Board:

President- Tracy Banitt
Vice President Tom Gujer
Secretary Donna Boatman
Treasurer Dick Horken

Luther Park Delegates: Elected were Carol Peterson and Georgia Freidel.

Joy Delegates for Northwest Synod Assembly, a two-day meeting in May where ELCA business is voted upon and Walking Together event held, are Tom and Carol Peterson. Next year the Council will seek Council Members and elect these delegates at a regular Council meeting.

2015 Nominating Committee: Elected were: Shawn Bernick, Marv Lindseth, Stephanie Brantner, Kathy Sommer, Ken Roen, and Galen Seipel. Their role is to gather the 2016 Council nominations.

Call Committee Election:
This group will work with the ELCA to provide information, attract candidates, interview, visit and schedule trips to Joy, check references and bring forth a recommendation for calling a new pastor for Joy. Committee will work and be in place until JOY’s new pastor is installed. The newly elected Call Committee consists of Alan Klein, Abbi Nawrocki, Kristen Gray, Tom Peterson, Marv Lindseth, and Dave Johnson. (There is a Feb 1st Meeting with Bishop Hoyme for Call Committee and all interested members to review Profile and discuss Call Committee responsibilities.

Thankful For:
At the Annual Meeting Council members and many individuals were recognized for their service to Joy. Thank you to:
Ernie Schultz (Property & Grounds)
Alan Klein (Finance Manager)
Dick Horken and Bill Satchell and their entire Cleaning Crews
Kelly Poff for Annual Meeting lunch, Wednesday night dinners, and Sunday Muffin Ministry
Profile Committee: Donna Boatman, Carroll Lehman, Marcia Lindseth, Steve Sizemore, and Ken Roen for their work on writing the ELCA Ministry Profile.
Entire 2014 Council (Shawn Bernick, Tracy Banitt, Dick Horken, Donna Boatman, Kristen Gray, Anita Huber, Steve Sizemore, Lisa Jenkover, Hope Olson, and Phil Helgeson).

Please note: The Annual Meeting packets with all the Team reports and budget information are available in the narthex for those people who did not receive one at the Annual Meeting.
Joy Lutheran Church, in cooperation with the Prescott Area Churches Association and Community Education, will help with a Community Service Day on February 12th. Students will have that afternoon off from school and will be involved in activities to help others. Joy would like to have people volunteer in 1 ½ hour shifts to help with this afternoon of activities and/or volunteer to contribute items that will be used in activities planned for that day. Some of the activities and organizations that will benefit from that day are as follows:

- Pine Ridge Reservation – make wooden toys
- Food Shelf – donate any items – goal to have groups rotate for a tour to the food shelf
- Wishes and More – make Fleece Blankets for children with life threatening illnesses from the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and general mid-west area.
- Prescott Senior Meals, Prescott Nursing and Rehabilitation Community (Nursing Home) - Valentine’s placemats
- Prescott Nursing and Rehabilitation Community (Nursing Home) - Valentine’s cards – goal to have a select group of kids go to deliver the cards directly to the residents.
- Veterans - Cards
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder service dogs – bring the service dog and talk about how they are helpful and how to approach a service dog.
- Sandwiches for homeless.
- Jeans for Teens – Any jeans for teens, adults or children are needed. Jeans are donated to homeless shelters.

Donations of the following items are requested: (Please put them in the collection boxes in the narthex.)

- For cards for Veterans, cards for Nursing Home residents and placemats for the nursing home and Senior lunch: valentine’s stickers, valentine’s stamps (ink), puff paint, fun foam shapes that are valentine shapes/flowers/flags.
- Boxes of sandwich baggies /Ziploc baggies (zipper is ok but not necessary, not fold over)
- Boxes of granola bars for kid’s snack, bottled juice, apples, paper cups (any left over’s will be donated)
- Sand paper
- Fleece for blankets for Wishes and More Children (who are dealing with a life threatening illness)
- Gently used Jeans for the Jean collecting project through the High School Volunteer group.

Afternoon of Service – Volunteer Forms are available in the narthex.

Please bring donated items to the church by Sunday, February 8th
Sharing and Caring Hands

THANK YOU to all who helped with Sharing and Caring Hands on January 6!!

Food preparation: Dick & Phyllis Hoffmann, Ken Roen, Hope Olson, Roger Grow, Jayne Parmeter, Marv Lindseth, Karen Lehman, Kelly Poff, and Steve Kaufman

Providing Cakes/Jello: Jayne Parmeter, Charlotte Burgeson, Em Horken, Julie Fiedler, Shirley Johnson, Joan Northouse, Deanna Roen, Janette Canfield, Robyn Keyport, Lisa Kleinschmidt, Hope Olson, Tom Peterson, Tracie Lee, Judy Hamann, Susan Metcalf, Gloria Sebion, Mike & Pauline Volkman, Craig & Tammy Orf, Sue Hood, Karen Lehman, Erica Keezer, and Marcia Lindseth

Drivers: Jim Flatz, and Tom Geistfeld
Servers: Jim & Bobbi Flatz, and Carol & Roger Grow

Thrivent dollars ($250) were also used to help with this project. Thanks to Jim & Bobbi Flatz.

Coming up in March:
World Day of Prayer.
March 6, 2015 at 11:00 at St. John’s UCC.
Please plan to attend.

February 1
8:15 Jerry & Betty Pederson
10:00 Stephanie & Ella Brantner

February 8
8:15 Gene & Dorothy Meier
10:00 Vicki & Emily Bowen

February 15
8:15 Julie Fiedler
10:00 Ernie, Patti & Ella Schultz

February 22
8:15 & 10:00 Bold Women Sunday

February 1
8:15 Lee Northouse
10:00 Lisa Kleinschmidt

February 8
8:15 Tom Peterson
10:00 Shawn Bernick

February 15
8:15 Mark Huber
10:00 Paul Steger

February 22
8:15 & 10:00 Bold Women Sunday

February 1
8:15 Craig Orf, Susan Metcalf & Joan Northouse
10:00 Hope & Erik Olson & Paul Steger
Valentine for Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi is the companion church for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. We have had the opportunity to provide hospitality at Joy to several visitors from Malawi. We also contribute, through our Mission Apple Pie sales, funds to our companion church in Mikolongwe, Malawi.

On January 13, 2015, President Arthur Peter Mutharika of Malawi declared a state of disaster for Malawi because of flooding. In addition to the flooding, the situation is more dire because the rains came late, and the survival of the crops is now in question as well. As of now, 48 Malawian lives have been lost. Malawi needs more than $500,000 to mitigate the impact, and to save lives. Please pray for the people of Malawi and that the crops do survive and that a famine can be averted.

Joy’s response to Malawi’s flooding crisis is a multi-faceted response and an opportunity to help show our love and concern for the brothers and sisters of ours in Malawi. The need is there because:

- The crops were planted but no rain came and hence no crop
- The rains came – torrentially, violently – and flooded the land
- No crops so no bread; too much rain so no drinking water; homes destroyed;
  - 70,000 are homeless.

The need is for dollars to meet these issues. Therefore........

Help us show our love to our Malawi brothers and sisters. Choose an opportunity that fits for you.

1. Valentine cards and gifts have been donated and will be available for purchase on February 1, 8, and 15. The proceeds go to the Malawi people.
2. Home made breads and rolls will be available on February 1, 8, 15. Enjoy here or take some home. Proceeds will go to Malawi relief.
3. Two quilts have been donated by the Joyful Quilters. We will have a silent auction on February 8 and 15. Proceeds will go to Malawi relief.
4. Joy Sunday School kids will be collecting money$ to send to Malawi. Look in narthex for “baggies” to fill.

Please be generous in your response to this need in Malawi. We have all been blessed to be a blessing to others.
Please Donate Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

During this season of Lent, Joy will walk with people around the world afflicted by war, displacement and poverty. We are joining Lutheran World Relief’s Baskets of Promise campaign and will collect specific items to assemble Personal Care Kits. These simple items are powerful tools for families to stay healthy when recovering from a disaster. Items needed include:

* bars of soap – any brand (in original wrapping)
* combs
* bath towels (light weight, dark color, max: 52x27)
* nail clippers
* adult tooth brushes (in original packaging)

Beginning Sunday, February 15th pick up a Ziploc bag in the narthex of the church, fill the bags with the items listed and return it to the basket labeled “Baskets of Promise.” Please return items by Easter Sunday.

Thank you for helping needy people around the world.

Volunteers are Needed for Cleaning Crews!!

Our Joy cleaning crews would like to add some volunteers to help with the weekly cleaning of the church. If you can donate a couple hours every other week to help clean the church, contact crew leaders: Dick Horken (715-262-4728) Bill Satchell (612-382-2729)

Attend Handbells Concert

Come hear romantic music for Valentine’s Day played by Bells of the Bluffs, a regional handbell ensemble, on Sunday, February 8th at 2:00 at First Presbyterian Church in Red Wing, MN. Robyn Keyport is a member of this ensemble and will be able to answer any questions. Call 715-262-4340. Sweet treats and a silent auction will also be available.

Thank you to all who donated food and /or helped with the funerals for Leroy Burgeson and Leora Rawn.
All Women are Invited to the February Bible Study

“Making Conversions Last”

Join the women of our church who are gathering monthly for Bible Study. This year’s study focuses on “Transforming Life and Faith.” In February we will discuss several conversion stories that illustrate the factors that can help religious transformation succeed or fail. Discussion of these passages will help us understand how we can strive to create environments that nurture spiritual growth. The theme verse is Acts 8:38-39: “He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.” All women are encouraged to attend either of the following Bible Study sessions on Tuesday, February 10:

1:30 P.M. Fireside Room at Joy (note change of location)
Wilma Timm, Leader

7:00 P.M. Fireside Room at Joy
Marcia Lindseth, Leader

JW/ELCA NEWS

WELCA Worthy . . . .

√ Young adult women are invited to the new Bold Café Group that began last month. The next meeting will be Saturday, February 21, 10:00-11:30 A.M. in the church Fellowship Hall. Come for discussion, gentle yoga exercises, snacks, and enjoy the opportunity to grow your faith. Contact leaders, Mandy Bernick or Kathy Sommer, for more information. This is an awesome opportunity to connect with other young women at Joy!

√ All women are invited to the JWELCA General Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 P.M. in the Fireside Room at church. The main item of business will be planning for the Spring Banquet that is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th. Devotions will be given by Charlotte Burgeson and dessert will be provided by Hope Olson.

√ Make plans now to attend World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6th, 11:00 A.M. at St. John’s UCC Church in rural Prescott. This year’s World Day of Prayer Service was written by the Women of the Bahamas. The WDP Service will focus on the biblical text John 13:1-17. “After washing the feet of his disciples, Jesus asks, ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’” The women of the Bahamas describe Jesus’ action as an act of “radical love.” Join us as we celebrate and worship together with the women of the Bahamas, our sisters from the Prescott area churches, and our partners around the world. Lunch will follow the service. (Note: If you’d like to be a participant in the WDP service, please contact Marcia Lindseth.)
The Joyful Quilters are quilting again! They gather every Wednesday at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to join the quilters in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You do not need to know how to quilt to join the quilters. Fabric is still needed for our quilting efforts. If you have questions about quilting or material donations, please contact Karen Lundgaard or Joan Schaack, co-chairs of the Joyful Quilters.

Have you looked at the pictures on the JWELCA Bulletin Boards in the narthex? See new pictures of our Advent program, our quilters, The Alternative Gift Fair and our Treats and Treasures Event, including the making of the lefse!

Be sure to take time to read the December 2014 issue of “The Northwesterner” that is hanging on the JWELCA bulletin board in the narthex hallway. Many exciting things are happening in our Synod Women’s Organization and you can read about them in the recent newsletter. (See article below for some of what is happening!)

Did You Know?
The Northwest Wisconsin Synod Women’s Organization (SWO) is conducting a “Drop Your Drawers” campaign. In coordination with Lutheran Social Services of the South, the SWO is going to collect items to help the 57,000 unaccompanied minors at our southern US border. We will be collecting toiletry items (bath towels, wash cloths, soap, shampoo, combs, toothpaste/toothbrush) and clothing items (T-shirts, polo shirts, warm-up tops/jackets, jean pants for women and men, men’s undershorts, women’s panties, socks, and athletic shoes). Watch for more information to come, but start saving these items if you would please.

The SWO is also working on a project to help girls and women who are victims of sexual trafficking. If you are interested in learning more about this topic or helping with this project, contact Dawn Wicklund at dwicklund@chartermi.net, or call her at 715-394-2507. You may also learn more about human trafficking by visiting the web site: www.polarisproject.org. If you suspect someone is being trafficked, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at 1-888-3737-888.

The Phebe Hospital in Liberia is in need of solar power due to the lack of electricity at the hospital because of the collapsed infrastructure in the whole country after 14 years of war. If you’d like to do some research and provide information to our Synod churches so members will know how any donations are being used, please contact SWO President, Sue Saarem at pmssaarem@yahoo.com or call 715-268-5586.

Our SWO is also involved in a new initiative to help our Malawi sisters learn to read their Bibles! This has been a long-time concern for our sisters in Malawi and now we’re going to try and do something about this problem. A committee has been formed in our SWO. Look for more information to come shortly as to how we can help with this new initiative. Contact Marcia Lindseth for more information as she is on the SWO Committee for the Malawi Literacy effort.
Confirmation Youth sent out 20+ handmade Christmas Cards to ten different church members, and Pastor Rog hand delivered some for us as well! This is the 2nd card making event completed by the youth. The other was for Edna Aamodt’s 100th Birthday Party. Youth are learning what it looks like to provide care for others, and that God is calling us to LOVE others….even if we do not know them!

On December 29th, Joy students 8th – 12th grade and adults traveled to Minneapolis to Mary’s Place, a transitional shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Thirteen youth and three adults did way more than just volunteering….they SHOWED GOD’S LOVE to over 200 kids! Before we left the church we spent time in scripture and prayer for the day's mission. We learned about some of the challenges homeless youth and parents face while living in a shelter. Students were trained to focus on LOVE and SAFETY! Joy students did an amazing job providing a safe and loving place for these children….and proved a nice break for parents! As requested by the youth, we will be returning to serve those in need at Mary’s Place.

Nerf Games was December 30th at Joy! Students played Games, had some Pizza, and spent time in prayer for those who live in areas of WAR. We also spent time in scripture and did a group devotion related to war and persecution of Christians.

Thunder Bay, Canada
June 10th - 21st
Cost $350 includes transportation, camping fees, meals, service sites, and entrance fees. (Passport or Pass card fees not included. Students 18 and under only need a birth certificate) Deposit $50 Non-refundable due February 4th. We will do 2-3 fundraisers to help with the cost. Several students last year were able pay for their entire trip with fundraisers. If assistance is needed please let Christy know ASAP. We will be camping at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park near Thunder Bay Canada. While at Sleeping Giant we will be spending time helping the park rangers care for God’s creation in the park. This may include painting tables, clearing brush, trimming trees, breaking trails, digging trails, or hauling firewood. We will also have some FUN hiking, swimming, campfires, visiting tourist attractions, fishing, canoeing, learning about God’s creation and much more. This trip is for students going into 9th grade to adult. Space is limited so sign up on the youth Bulletin Board Today.


Vacation Bible School, July 20-24, 2015

TEC, February 19-22, 2015

Colonial Church Edina, MN TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is for youth 9th-12th grade. Visit the website www.utec.org for more details and to register.

The 10-12th Grade Retreat, February 26-28, 2015 at the Roen’s Cabin. Please Text Christy 715.441.6366 to sign up

150 Mile Journey, June 26-July 5, 2015
$60 covers meals, transportation, camp fees. (You need to supply your own hiking/camping gear) For those 18 years and older! Do you have what it takes to cover 150 miles in 9 days? Camping by night and hiking by day, join us on this spiritual Journey as we hike 150 miles of Wisconsin’s Ice Age Trail.