

THE OBSERVER

JUNE 2024



Dear friends,

If you've been around the church building in the last two weeks or so, you will notice a lot happening! After many months of research, deliberation, and then just waiting, our solar panel energy system at the church is finally nearing completion. GRP Wegman has been working diligently to get the panels, cables, and other infrastructure installed to get our system up and running. There is still more waiting to do, however, before we begin generating our own electricity. After the installation is complete, Ameren will need to certify the installation and connect our system to the larger electrical grid.

The vision for this project began several years ago, rooted in LoveJoy United's strong sense of environmental stewardship. We have long recycled and used reusable dinnerware, yet we felt called by God to do more. Just over a year ago, the Creation Care Committee began to explore the feasibility of a solar energy system at LoveJoy United. Solar energy is a rapidly growing source of renewable energy around the world. Panels on the roof of the building, in our case, take in the sun's energy and convert it into the electrical energy our lights, air conditioning, organ, and kitchen appliances all use to operate. What is now powered largely by coal and other non-renewables will soon be powered by the sun above us.

Through their research, the Creation Care Committee quickly learned that solar energy is not only beneficial environmentally, but also financially advantageous. This solar project has required a significant up-front investment, but between federal and state incentives, and the amount we will save on utilities, we expect to recoup those initial costs in fewer than five years. We will then be able to direct those savings to the ministries of our congregation.

We don't yet know when our system will be online, but we plan to celebrate our first Sunday 'off the grid' in a big way. Someone did suggest loading a water gun with holy water and spraying the solar panels from the ground 🤪.

I am tremendously grateful for the strong leadership of our church – the Session and others – who have worked so hard to bring this dream to fruition. Continue to pray for the work, ministries, and people of our congregation.

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel

Solar Panel Installation



Stewardship Update

Dear Church Members and Friends in Christ,

We trust this letter finds you healthy, happy, and enjoying life to the fullest.

Within the life of any church congregation, stewardship is a year round consideration. However, as usual there is typically a time when a focus is drawn on this process as a committee evaluates the financial needs for the coming year and at the same time, hopefully, celebrates the passing year's accomplishments.

The 2023 "Let Your Light Shine" stewardship campaign was a resounding success. Because of your generosity, we achieved our 2024 financial goals and are already seeing the positive impacts on our ministry. Some have been improvements to our church facility, such as a new heating/air-conditioning system. Others have enhanced our worship, like the new piano that accompanies our singing. Finally, we are installing a solar panel system that will not only contribute to lowering the church's carbon emissions, but also eliminate the church's monthly electric portion of the utility bill. All of this - directly or indirectly - depends our commitment to the Matthew 25 initiative.

As we begin to prepare for 2025, the stewardship committee has elected to adopt a theme involving the characteristics and all the symbolism associated with the 2024 Olympics and how these align with us as Christians.

While we continue through the remainder of 2024, we hope to identify the many attributes of the Olympics and how these reflect our congregation and our mission/vision as followers of Jesus Christ, which includes such attributes as: personal dedication, inclusion, setting goals, good sportsmanship, being a positive role model, encouraging others, and passion, just to name a few.

We trust that this theme will be a Torch that each of you will be eager to carry toward igniting the non-extinguishable Flame of charity and Christianity not only within the congregation, but throughout our community.

Sincerely yours,

Your Stewardship Committee.

Rob LaMarsh

Herbert Peel

John Rain

John Shugert

Rich Sisk

Pastor Daniel Ervin

CONGRATULATIONS LUPC 2024 GRADUATES



LOGAN KEITH – Logan is graduating high school this year, and will be attending the University of Wisconsin next year.

ZACH KING – Zach is graduating from Civic Memorial High School in Bethalto.

TIFFANY KOENIG – Tiffany will be graduating from Alton High School and plans to pursue a career in the medical field.

REGAN LYNN – Regan is graduating from Roxana High School, and will be attending John A Logan College to play golf and earn a degree in nursing.

NATALIE KEITH – Natalie is graduating Blackburn College. She received an award from Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society for High Moral Character.

MADISON LYNN – Madison is graduating from Illinois State University with a major in Molecular and Cellular Biology and minor in Chemistry.

TACOMA MONROE – Tacoma is graduating from Dominican University with a Masters in Library and Information Sciences.

MICHAEL MUSGRAVE-PERKINS – Michael is graduating from the University of Houston with a Masters in Arts in Theatre Education.

Why are there so many denominations of Christianity ?

According to Christian tradition, the Day of Pentecost commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples in Jerusalem after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many Christians mark this date as the beginning of the Christian Church as we know it. Several thousand people were converted to Christ, and the Good News spread out from there, thanks to the disciples and new followers.

As the church grew, each locality adopted their own traditions, with no real unifying theology across the faith except for following the teachings of Jesus.

Eventually, in the 4th century AD, the Roman Empire Emperor, Constantine, converted to Christianity, and in 325 AD, he organized The Council of Nicaea, which included theologians and scholars. The purpose was to unite the many Christian Church traditions into one big Church. This became the Roman Catholic Church and the official religion of the Roman Empire. The headquarters was placed in Rome, where it is still located.

However, the huge Roman Empire began to decline over the centuries until it split into two sections – the Western and Eastern Roman Empires. During the 11th Century the Church also split in two, The Roman

Catholic Church in the West and the Orthodox Church in the East.

Again, the Roman Empire continued to break up into smaller kingdoms and nations, but in the 1500's, Europe experienced a "reawakening" or renaissance in culture and free-thinking. There was a resurgence of growth in the arts, literature, education, theater, science, and society, including ideas about religion. In 1517 AD,



Martin Luther, a devoted Roman Catholic Monk expressed his ideas for reforming the Roman Catholic Church by posting 95 theses on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Many Christians agreed with his ideas so the Lutheran Church was established, beginning what we call the Protestant Reformation. Other Christians wanted changes, also, but differently from Martin Luther's ideas. The number of ideas for changing exploded and so did the establishment of many denominations. This explosion of denominations continued through the centuries, and is still ongoing. Today, there are over 200 denominations in the USA, and over 45,000 worldwide.

Although there are so many denominations of Christianity, the Christian religion has over 2 billion followers in the world. In some ways each denomination is different, but the central focus for following Jesus Christ unites us into one universal church.

FIELD TRIP NOTICE

SAVE THE DATE

The “Christian Education Committee for Children & Youth” has decided to establish opportunities for our youth to experience traditions of other churches, including churches of other denominations, and also a Jewish Synagogue.

Our first trip will be to the **ST. THOMAS, THE APOSTLE ROMANIAN OTHODOX CHURCH**, located in St. Louis South County.

The visit is planned for **SUNDAY, JUNE 30**. We will carpool there. Parents/Guardians are welcome to come along.



MORE DETAILS FOR TIMING AND PLANS WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

Other visits are being discussed for the future, including -
Moro Presbyterian; Third Presbyterian Church; Roman Catholic mass; Pentecostal worship; Jewish Synagogue



Save the Date – Rummage Sale

September 26th – 28th

Many of you have been asking if we are planning another Rummage Sale and the answer is YES! We are looking at September 26th – 28th,. More information will be available later but meanwhile ---- start gathering your donations and mark your calendars to assist us the entire week of September 23rd when we begin sorting and pricing donations.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Mission and Outreach is hosting a Blood Drive

When: Wednesday - July 31, 2024

Where: LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

Time: 2 PM - 6 PM

Questions: Contact Hershel Henson - Mission and Outreach Committee

Announcements



Happy Birthday

1	19
Joann Lamar	Karon Barry
Selinda Jensen	Keely Rust
3	Kent Barry
Joya Freeman	21
Madison Klaas	Linda Peel
4	22
Abel Bristow	Ray Gvillo
5	23
Maximus Hatcher	Eileen Miller
Tiffany Milburn	24
6	Alice Buzzard
Amy Hanold	25
7	Jean Day
Preston King	27
8	Tom Wyatt
Aaron Miller	Jessica
Michelle St.	Gardener
Peters	28
9	Patty Miller
Delilah Shelton	29
11	Kaitlyn Lewis
Kathi Cooper	Richard Sisk
13	30
Jo Carter	Aline Russell
Lisa Hemphill	William Hatcher
16	Alexis Suerig
Linda Shugert	Janet Barringer
18	
Carol Hanold	

April 2024 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as 4/30/2024 \$107,863.04
Savings Account Balance as of 4/30/2024 \$14,265.18
Ending Balance as of 3/31//2024 \$123,499.02
Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$70,354.96
Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$124,203.71.
The interest rate is holding at 2.15 %
7 Month CD: The current amount in the fund \$30,000. The interest rate is 5.11%.

My Father's House

With my heart, I love my Father.
From Heaven, my Father watches over me.
For in return my Father loves me unconditionally. For he has bestowed unto me many gifts.
So, God my Father commands my heart.
Every Sunday, there is quietness in my Father's house.
And in that peacefulness, God my Father speaks to me.
"How is it going, my son?"
"Is there anything I can help you with?"
So there I sit talking with my Father.
For both of us are key players of discussion.
In My Fathers house, I shall give thanks to him.
A than you to God my father for the wonderful things he has done.

Poet Laurete,
Herbert J. Peel

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club's current book is BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah. We ZOOM it on 06/19 @ 7:15p. Our next book is A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW by Amor Towles. We ZOOM it on 07/17 @ 7:15p.

June 2024

June

July

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Memorial Day 12a Office Closed	28 A Place of Grace Mission Madness Office Closed 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30 3:30p Matthew 25 Vision Team	31	6/1 Saturday Café First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
2 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship	3 11:30a Worship Committee 1:30p Good Samaritan	4 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Mission and Outreach	5 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	6	7	8
9 Confirmation Attends Orthodox Church 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Lovejoy Children and Youth	10 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	11 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Christian Formation Mov 11a Staff Meeting	12 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	13 6:30p Children & Youth Christian Ed	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Sunday	17 1:30p Good Samaritan	18 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6p Finance Meeting	19 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub	20 1p ACE Committee Meeting	21	22
23 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:15a Eileen Miller's Birthday Celebration 11:30a Confirmation Check-In 11:30a LoveJoy Children & Youth	24 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	25 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	26 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	27 6:30p Session Meeting	28	29
30 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship						



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
A WELCOMING, NURTURING,
PRAYING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

