June 2023 Newsletter from Pastor Tim.

Changes continue at Harbor of Joy and that’s not all bad! God is in the business of change. He loves to change us from the inside out, that‘s changing our hearts and giving us a new nature to follow Him. The Holy Spirit works in us and allows our new nature to get stronger and our old nature will hopefully become weaker. There is nothing good about our old nature anyway! Due to the Semi-Annual business Meeting, at the end of April, we haven’t had a Newsletter. So, as I look back, here are a few things that come to mind. Our Easter Service was well attended. The Joy Kids and Joy Us Wednesday After school closing program was awesome! The Church Council made the decision to hire Amy Johnson earlier this year to head up the Joy Kids Program, Summer Bible Camp and Vacation Bible School! We welcomed 12 new members into Harbor of Joy in April. Craig Holmen played his first trombone solo, and Bobbi Berry played the piano one Sunday for the first time (all of our regular piano players were gone!) We handed out 50 pink carnation flowers to all the moms and grandmothers on Mother’s Day! We are glad to have and see everyone back from going down South for the winter too! These are all changes that have strengthened Harbor of Joy!

We will be seeing a change this month, Charly Hertel has resigned, effective May 31, 2023, as the Church Secretary after 12 and a half years. She has stated her reason as health issues. There will always be changes within the church as pastors come and go, people move way, some get older and for health reasons have to stop doing what they have always loved to do. And we have some who also die too! Change is inevitable and is hard no matter when it happens. But we do have a God Who never changes and helps and provides for us along the way. When Jesus ascended into the clouds, that was a big change for His disciples. The early church experienced a lot of changes over the years, but it still exists today! We, too can depend on God’s faithfulness to us as well.

The ministry here continues in ways we don’t always see or know about. I think of the ladies from HOJ who go to the Nursing Homes and touch the lives of those who live there. The “Blessing Box” has gained another helper in restocking the “Box” with Ken Hansen. Dave Rief and John Arthur do such a great job in keeping the “Blessing Box” restocked! Thank them when you can and ask them how it’s going with the “Blessing Box”? As a mission-minded church we are grateful to God for what is happening with Next Life Foundation, in Tanzania, under the supervision of Patti Griffiths, and S.W.I.M. that provides a way for clean drinking water I different Countries in Africa. The L.C. M.C. is 1000 congregations strong and will be looking at making some changes in moving forward this Fall in St. Charles, MO. I think we will be able to Livestream this Annual Gathering, here at Harbor of Joy, Milford, IA rather than attending to save travel time and expenses for delegates. Dr. Steve Meyer is the Director of STEMM, asks for prayers as he ministers in feeding and educating children and pastors in Tanzania, Africa. Let’s also remember that little things to us can be big things to our widows! Yard work, air conditioning and heating settings, leaky faucets, planting glowers, oil changes, replacing batteries in smoke detectors for fobs. Simple home repairs can brighten u their day when they know that there is someone to ask or call.

Thank you for being the people that you are at Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church! I appreciate the Church Council, the staff, the folks who make harbor of Joy their church home and everyone who is a friend of HOJ.

May you have a safe and blessed Summer!

Pastor Tim

**Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church**

**Church Council Contact Information**

**Updated April 2023**

Name Phone Email

**President:**

Dean Ramsey 712-330-6829 [cdramse@evertek.net](mailto:cdramse@evertek.net) 3yr term--2026

**Vice President:**

Karen Dokken 507-339-3374 [karendokken@gmail.com](mailto:karendokken@gmail.com) 3yr term--2024

**Secretary:**

Lyn Creswell 712-332-1338 [ccscreenprinting@yahoo.com](mailto:ccscreenprinting@yahoo.com) 2yr term—2025

**Treasurer:**

Karen Sunde 712-209-1695 [wk.sunde@mchsi.com](mailto:wk.sunde@mchsi.com) 2yr term--2025

**Financial Secretary:**

Kristi Peck 712-260-3200 [bkpeck2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bkpeck2001@yahoo.com) 2yr term--2024

**Council:**

Barb Rohlf 712-330-5137 [barbarajo.rohlf@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajo.rohlf@gmail.com) 3yr term--2024

Jim Kraninger 712-330-6329 [bojibeekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:bojibeekeeper@gmail.com) 3yr term--2025

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Steve Moore 712-330-1679 [masboji@gmail.com](mailto:masboji@gmail.com) 3yr term--2025

Julie Hansen 712-330-3037 hansenjulie@ gmail.com 3yr-term--2025

Pastor Tim Voth 701-690-3701 pastortv@harborofjoy.com

satavoth@gmail.com

Financial Secretary, treasurer, council secretary each serve 2 terms before voted on again.

Their time limit is unlimited.

The 3 year term members can serve 2 terms (6 years) after finishing someone else term.

Memorial Committee Chair—Becky Roe--712-330-735 rebroe66@gmail.com

Property Committee—Dale Gehrels

Prayer Chain Leader—Patt Gehrels—712-330-1584 [pdgehrels@gmail.com](mailto:pdgehrels@gmail.com)

Parish Ed for Youth—Dean Ramsey

Promotion/Media—Barb Rohlf

Mission/Benevolance—

Youth Ministries--

Music Minister Bob Floss—712-330-2845 [bojiblis@msn.com](mailto:bojiblis@msn.com) ([floss@harborofjoy.com](mailto:floss@harborofjoy.com))

Harbor of Joy—712-338-2355 or 338-4032 www.harborofjoy.com

PARISH ED MINUTES—May 7, 2023

* Five members present.

VBS:

1. Amy has changed VBS program to Babylon which we already have. She has set up registration online for parents to register their children at Myvbs.org/hoj
2. There are two boys from JoyKids who are bullying other kids and will not be allowed to attend VBS. We will support Amy’s decision.
3. Marianne will do the decorating.
4. Amy will prepare a flyer to give to Barb for advertising.
5. T-shirts will be donated by Lyn. (Thank you Lyn!)
6. At this time, Sara Rief will be lunch directo

* Amy will redo contents of quiet bags for worship services and Lyn will donate bags with HOJ logo. (Thank you again Lyn!)
* Amy would like to have a fun get together once a month during the summer for JoyKids/JoyUs. We will have the first fun get together May 31st from 9-11 am.

Dena Struck

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Harbor of Joy Church is the place to be,

To hear God’s Word and friends to see.

There are activities for young and old,

To hear God’s word as it was told.

The sermons are interesting and great

With biblical truths to contemplate.

Bible study for young and old,

To spread God’s Word and help us be bold.

God tells us not to fear, for

He is in control and always near,

So let us pray for peace throughout the world,

With pride in our nation and flag unfurled.

Love one another as He loves us,

By accepting one another it builds mutual trust.

We know Jesus is coming, we don’t know when,

But will praise Him and Glorify Him until the end.

Submitted by a Friend

**Prayer Requests**

* Wayne Sunde is home. He is asking for prayers for continued healing of his heart.
* Dean Ramsey continued healing.
* Curtis Jass is being released from home health care but will continue to take physical therapy for continued healing from knee surgery.
* **Congratulations** to Steve & Anna Moore for a new grandchild born in Colorado. Aspen Skye Moore.
* Prayers and condolences for the family of Madeline, Norma Lubinus’ great granddaughter as they go through this difficult time. Madeline’s funeral was Friday at 2:00 p.m. with visitation from 12-2p.m. at Corner Stone Church in Ames, IA. Should you wish to send a card to the family you can send to Norma Lubinus 2256 165th St. Spirit Lake IA. 51360 or David Gravlin 3425 Taft, Ames IA 50010.

**Up Coming Events**

* **Men’s Breakfast** June 3rd, 7:30 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant. All men are welcome to join in.
* **Prayer Group** Meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.  **All** are welcome to join in prayer.
* **Garage Sale** June 9th from 2:00-7:00 p.m. and June 10th from 9:00- 1:00 p.m. Bring items the week before sale. Items will not be priced but a free will donation will be taken. All proceeds will go to our Wed. after school Joykids/Us program. If you would like to help us, there is a sign-up sheet on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Thanks from the Activity Committee. Cheryl Mier, Dean Ramsey, Patt Gehrels, Carol Banta, Karen Sunde, Cathy Vermeys, Barbara Rohlf.
* **Council Meeting,** June 13th at 7:00 p.m.
* **Wednesday Night Fellowship** at 6:00 p.m. June 21st.
* **Tea Party** June 28th at night. More info to come.
* Other activities are in the works. If you have some ideas for fun things to do, contact Pastor Tim.
* **Vacation Bible School:** We are excited to announce that VBS will be July 31st - August 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for students who have completed Kindergarten through 4th grade.  Our theme this year is *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity*.  You can register your child(ren)/grandchildren at [www.myvbs.org/HOJ](http://www.myvbs.org/HOJ).  In order to make VBS a success, we are in need of as many volunteers as possible, 5th grade - adults.  Contact Amy if you are interested in helping in any way! Thanks.
* **Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps:** Just a reminder that if your child(ren) are interested in attending Bible camp, there scholarships available. Also register for camp online @ www.okoboji.org. Please contact Amy Johnson if your child is going to Camp this year. Thank you!

Charly’s Two Cents

I will rain down bread from heaven for you. Exodus 16:4

**String Too Short To Use**

Aunt Margaret’s frugality was legendary. After she passed away here nieces began the nostalgically bittersweet task of sorting her belongings. In a drawer, neatly arrayed inside a small plastic bag, they discovered an assortment of small pieces of string. The label read: “String too short to use.”

What would motivate someone to keep and categorize something they knew to be of no use? Perhaps this person once knew extreme deprivation.

When the Israelites fled slavery in Egypt, they left behind a life of hardship. But they soon forgot God’s miraculous hand in their exodus and started complaining about the lack of food.

God wanted them to trust Him. He provided manna for their desert diet, telling Moses, “The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day” (Exodus 16:4). God also instructed them to gather twice as much on the sixth day, because on the Sabbath no manna would fall (vv 5, 25). Some of the Israelites listened. Some didn’t, with predictable results (vv 27-28).

In times of plenty and times of desperation, it’s tempting to try to cling, to hoard, in a desperate attempt at control. There’s no need to take everything into our own frantic hands. No need to “save scraps of string”—or to hoard anything at all. Our faith is in God, who has promised, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

In what ways do you sometimes take things into your own hands?

How has God proven Himself to be faithful to you in the past?

Father, help me to take You at Your word and to trust You with everything.

~Time Gustafson~