

monthly connections

a publication of joy! lutheran church

Joy! Highs and Lows

- ◆ High - 15+ people attended the GO! Intensive Training
- ◆ High - 17 people signed up for the Kids Hope USA informational meetings
- ◆ High - Attendance was up June an average of 38 people a week and in July 34 people a week.
- ◆ High - Attendance was up in August an average of 34 people a week.
- ◆ High - The Awe and Wonder Team did an incredible job with the Game Changers sermon series
- ◆ Low - Attendance for July was flat, within 4 people of 2013 counts
- ◆ Low - As of 8/10 we were behind budget by \$4,937

New for Electronic Givers!

If you give your offering electronically (through Simply Giving or otherwise), we now have offering cards, which allows electronic givers to physically participate in the offering portion of worship.

- Pick up an offering card off of the usher stand as you enter to worship.
- Place cards in the offering plate during worship.
- Cards will also be available at the Info Center.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl McCumber at badgerfamily5@comcast.net

crucial CONVERSATIONS



By Mark Borgetti, Lead Pastor

I had the honor of spending two days with part of the Joy! staff at the 20th Willowcreek Global Leadership Summit in Barrington. Amazing people! Amazing time! Hoping that in 2015 the entire staff and key leaders in our church can join us!

A friend texted me afterwards and asked me what were my Summit takeaways.

There was one phrase in one talk by bestselling author Joseph Grenny that I just can't shake. I'll get to it in just a minute. First some context.

Joseph was speaking about crucial conversations. What makes a conversation crucial? It's when two or more people need to have a conversation because there are:

- Opposing opinions
- Strong emotions
- High Stakes

We tend to avoid crucial conversations simply because at a remarkably young age we began to believe a myth that we must choose between telling a friend the truth or keeping the friend. We believe in telling the truth we will hurt a friend's feelings so badly they will choose to walk away from the relationship. But, he suggests that crucial conversations actually, if done well and from a posture of humility, can strengthen relationships. I agree with Joseph because of something Jesus said.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

This passage comes at the end of Jesus describing how to deal with sin and conflict in the church. It comes AFTER Jesus prescribes when and with whom to have crucial conversations. He tells his followers anytime they humbly come together to have a difficult conversation ... he's right there with them! The one who reconciled our broken relationship with God goes with us to reconcile broken or strained relationships.

Back to my take away. The one phrase that stuck with me AND also summarizes Jesus' entire teaching on how to deal with sin and conflict between Christ-followers is:

"There are only two responses when the times comes to have a crucial conversation. Talk it out. Or act it out!" Joseph Grenny

(continued on back page)

One Worship Service at 9:45a.m.

Sunday, September 7

Joy!Fest immediately following



Upcoming In Opportunities

Contact Relational Ministry Coordinator, jenelle.ancona@joylutheran.org for more info about the following:

Sept 7th- Joy!Fest all church picnic (all families & friends invited- worship 9:45am, picnic immediately after)

Sept 14th- Church-wide Study (sign up to join a small group during this 5 week series)

Oct 1st- MomsConnect small group begins (all moms welcomed)

Oct 3rd- Marriage group begins (all couples welcomed)

Oct 4th- Men In Motion Event day of service for children in Lake Co., food & fun. (all men welcomed)

Oct 5th- Starting Point Class begins (wanting more info or to become a member? Please join us)

Baptism Class

If you are interested in baptism, join us for a light supper and discussion on Monday, Sept. 29th at 6:30pm. For more info, contact Director Children & Family Ministry Cheryl.oneill@joylutheran.org or call the church office at 847-362-4569.

Story of a Joy! Mom Named Joneen

by Jenelle Ancona, Relational Ministry Coordinator

“Being a mom is the scariest yet greatest job I’ve ever taken on” said Joneen Lannon.

Joneen is the mother of two children, Gianna (11) and Braden (4). Gianna is a girl who “is always looking for the good in people” and Braden is “like Curious George sometimes needing redirection while embracing his curious nature”.

Joneen and her children started exploring Lutheran churches with friends in recent years. Joneen grew up Catholic and was looking for a church that felt progressive yet still had communion on a regular basis. She found Joy! In September 2013 and became a new member in the spring of this year.

The Latest from Council

Pastor Mark provided a report from the Outreach Team. Their updated goal is to pray for, eat with and love our neighbors and trust God will grow the crowd. The new sermon series, Game Changers, will revolve around evangelism. A new partnership with Kids Hope USA was also discussed. Kids Hope USA is church-school mentoring program to provide intervention for at-risk kids. Council voted

Financial Peace University

Back by popular demand! Another round of FPU classes will meet on Friday evenings from 7:00-8:30PM starting September 19th. Great date night!

This 9-week life-changing program empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God’s plan for your life.

She loved how she could feel God’s love when she walked into the Joy! building and says she continues to feel that love today. Joneen was hired for the nursery and truly loves children and has a passion to connect with other moms as she believes “we weren’t made to raise kids alone” but rather as a community. She recognizes that all moms experience highs & lows and need each other on this journey of motherhood. She also loves the idea of kids connecting as she grew up with her mom connected to church families and with church kids as her dear friends.

Because of her passions, beliefs and upbringing and the

way she feels God’s love at Joy!, Joneen is now feeling called to start a new small group called **MOMSCONNECT**.

MomsConnect will meet once a month on the 1st Wednesday starting Oct 1 at Joy! at 945am. Moms are invited to come with their children in tow to support one another while working through a study called [A Year of Encouragement](#).

Joneen’s mom always told her to live life to the fullest so come join her in doing that together! If you are a mom of young children and are looking to connect here’s your chance! Contact Joneen at jmlannon8@gmail.com.

by Laura Shabat, Council Secretary

council for approval when they involve money, above and beyond what is allocated in budget. However, Council would like to receive periodic updates from the goal teams.

Council also discussed, voted on and approved a training and development policy, as presented by HR Team.

on and approved funding for training to become a director for Kids Hope USA.

A postcard campaign begins soon. Six postcards will be sent to new people who move into the area.

Council discussed our role in the church-wide decision making process. It was determined that items would be brought to

which includes workbook, [Complete Guide to Money](#) book, 9 Audio CDs with case, budgeting tools, progress chart, & lifetime FPU membership.

Sign up at the kiosk or contact Mike Morse at mmorse7777777@yahoo.com/847-757-7623) or Frances Simons at frances.simons@bairdwarner.com.

The cost is \$100 per family,



Backpack Drive Huge Success

by Michelle Hood & Pat DeBreau

We would like to thank you for your generous support and prayers for the Backpack Ministry. Each year this ministry has grown, allowing us to help more kids in need start off the school year with a new backpack and supplies. With contributions of over \$4800 and supplies, Joy! was able to completely fill 263 backpacks! This surpassed our goal by over 30%!

Each of our 263 backpacks contained a

notecard wishing the child success, including a personal note and Joy!'s contact information. In this way, we are able to let the families know that they are being blessed by Christ's radical love.

During distribution, we saw many faces, young and old, who were so grateful for the supplies provided. We heard stories about how proud the parents were of their children and how these supplies

would be a great help for their continued success. We heard "Thank You" and "God Bless You" many times.

We both feel so blessed to be a part of this community, both Joy! and Gurnee. Thank you, again, for being the light to over 284 children and their families. You said GUM...and He replied, providing you with this direction. **WELL DONE, JOY!**

God Use Me

by Cheryl O'Neill, Director of Children & Family Ministry

20 years ago, I walked into a small gym in the Woodland Primary building where Joy! Lutheran Church was located. There were approximately 30 people in worship...and I immediately felt a connection...God's presence. Shortly after my first worship experience, I sat down with Pastor Jeff in my living room and he shared that there was a need for someone to coordinate the Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings.

After much "fighting" with God...and using every excuse imaginable why I was not good enough, I had no experience in ministry (except teaching Sunday School at a former church to Preschoolers...because I had to be smarter than a 3 year old) I had very little knowledge in God's word and no leadership skills, there was no way I was "qualified" for this opportunity. But through this process, I finally let God knock down all the walls and excuses. I thought, I have 3 children under the age of 6 years old who can benefit if I said yes (honestly...thinking I can help for a year or two...then it will be someone else's turn)!

As Pastor Mark recently said in a message for Game Changers... GUM (**God Use Me**)... I had no idea that after all this time, by saying yes to God Use Me, how God is truly changing my life...year after year, the Pastors and staff, Children's Ministry leaders I work with, volunteers, youth, the families & the children who have touched my heart with the love of Jesus...I say THANK YOU!!!!

As we begin this new program year of Kids' Adventure Klub....I invite you to partner in ministry with me, allow God to use you to touch the lives of children...you might be surprised...through these children God will change your life too!

Register for Kids' Adventure Klub (a/k/a Sunday School) in the Connection Café on Sunday mornings!

Children 3 years old through 5th grade at 9:00 & 10:30am.

Forms are located on the Joy! website or at the registration table.

Classes begin September 14th.

Volunteers needed...contact Director of Children & Family Ministry, Cheryl.oneill@joylutheran.org or call the church office at 847.362.4569 for more information.

Joy! to the Core

by Tim Maguire

Hello People of Joy! I have begun a journey in writing about my passion for Joy! I will be doing so both in a Blog, <http://joytothecore.weebly.com/> and here in the Joy! newsletter. Here is my first post! Enjoy!

Time: What a great summer at Joy!: rummage sale, VBS, mission trips, volunteering, congregational meeting, pool party and so much more. If you found yourself participating in any way, good for you. Could you have spent more time? How? In what ways? Can you commit to doing so next year?

Talent: I hope that you connected with someone new while participating. I hope you built new relationships and even more importantly, it felt good doing it. Did you step out and try something new? Did you use your gifts and contribute this summer?

Treasure: This summer was a great time at Joy! We passed our new budget and have grown. Are there ways this next year you can grow your contribution to Joy!, Can you commit to electronic giving? Can you reach deeper with the gifts God has given you to grow and give more?

My prayer is that the people of Joy! find themselves on a journey to the core of Joy! If you want to learn more, please contact me, I'd love to discuss this with you in person!

Children to Receive Bibles

Children 1st grade & older will receive a Bible in worship on Sunday, September 28th.

For more information and to sign up, stop at the Children's welcome desk in the Connections Café or contact Director Children & Family Ministry, Chery.oneill@joylutheran.org or call the church office at 847.362.4569.

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Crucial Conversations (continued from front page)

In others words, unless Christ-followers come together to "talk it out" ... the unresolved tension and conflict will cause each other to "act it out." So even though we may not tell someone what's on our mind, our behavior and actions will!

- Passive aggressive comments says something!
- Avoiding someone says something!
- Withholding conversation and fellowship says something!

And when this happens,

the myth becomes true. When we act out the crucial conversation, people are hurt and friendships dissolve.

People in the church, may we seize the opportunity to dispel the myth that truth shared in love damages friendships? Let us demonstrate to the watching world crucial conversations will lead us to reconciled and stronger relationships! Not because of what we are doing. But because Jesus goes with us when we have those conversations.

Amen? Amen!

