

November 2015

Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



Because of God's Great Mercy...



Pastor Jeff Elsele

The Mission of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church is:

- To **WELCOME** people into a community of followers of Jesus Christ.
- To **GROW** with one another in faith and hope in Him.
- To **SEND** out one another as Jesus' compassionate servants in the world.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

Martin Rinkart was a pastor in the small German town of Eilenberg in 1618, just as the terrible chaos and bloodshed of the Thirty Years War were beginning. The city became a crowded refugee camp for those fleeing the horrors of war (another old story that is on front pages today).

As the city filled with people, so did its susceptibility to disease and famine. A terrible plague struck Eilenberg in 1637. By Christmas, Rinkart was the only pastor who hadn't either fled the city or died. He conducted 4000 funerals in that year, including up to 50 funerals a day. One was for his wife.

It would have been understandable if Martin Rinkart had lived out the rest of his days feeling bitter and resentful at all the losses he'd endured. He sat down instead and wrote one of the most famous hymns in the German language, *Nun danket alle Gott*. We know it in English as "Now Thank We All our God." The hymn begins, *Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices....* This faithful servant of God viewed life at its worst, and still chose to say thank you to the God of mercy and grace who had given him life, had given him hope, had given him Jesus.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" is the title of Spirit of Joy's stewardship emphasis this year. We begin the emphasis by remembering all that God has done for us. God has created us and made us God's own people. God has chased us with goodness and mercy through our trials.



We will consider together how our giving to Spirit of Joy is a response to the ways we've experienced God's mercy and grace. We will look together at how Spirit of Joy uses our offerings to do God's work within our growing congregation, in our community, and around the world.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will ask you to do two things. First, you will be asked to increase your giving to Spirit of Joy in the coming year by at least ½ of 1% of your household income. Second, you will be asked to consider using an automatic funds transfer program that Spirit of Joy already has in place for your giving. Watch for more about the ways we might respond with extravagant generosity *Because of God's Great Mercy*. PJE

November Sunday Forums* Reformation Roots

November 1— **“From Heretic to Hero”**

November 8— **“From Scholar to Father—
The Domestic Luther”**

November 15—Q and A for next week’s annual fall meeting. Time for questions regarding the endowment, proposed preschool and other mission opportunities.

November 22—Nick Welder from **“Food to You”** will be our special forum guest.

Did you know: that in 2017 we will observe the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation?

The ELCA will be celebrating the great gifts brought about by the Reformation. One of the ways Spirit of Joy will celebrate is by exploring **“Reformation Roots,”** a brand new resource from Select Learning. Join us for this exciting and inspiring new series. While we often think only of **Martin Luther**, there were a number of major Reformation players. Come and meet them.



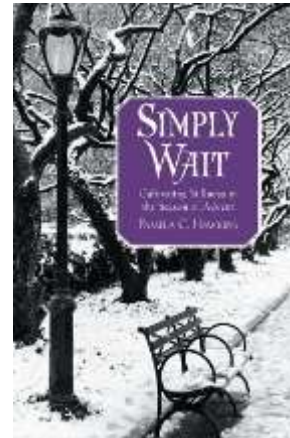
***Sunday Forums** are for EVERYBODY. They are times of hospitality, a time to ask questions, to challenge conventional wisdom, to grow in faith, and to grow in community with one another.

We meet every Sunday (almost) at **10 am in the Galilee Room**—down the hall & across from the kitchen door.

Spiritual Growth

All-Congregation
Advent Read:

Simply Wait



During the season of Advent, you are **invited to pick up a copy of “Simply Wait”** by Pamela C. Hawkins. This little book quietly brings us through four reflections:

**Anticipation, Hope,
Patience,
and Obedience.**

Prepared or not, we are signed up for the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas marathon, and will hurtle toward the finish line. But there is an alternate route.

As you read this, either quietly on your own at home, or engage in one of the small group reflections at Spirit of Joy, we pray you will encounter the Advent message.

Later this month watch for the display table in the gathering space to pick up your copy—or you may contact Katherine Eisele now to secure one.

family@spiritofjoy.net

Small group reflection times will be during Sunday Forums, 10 am, December 6, 13 and 20, and also Wednesday evenings, December 2, 9, and 16 at 5:30 pm prior to our midweek Advent worship services at 6:15 pm. You are invited to join us when you are able.

Financial Statistics Thru September 30, 2015

Checking Account:	
General Fund	\$117,840.90
Building Fund	\$9,776.42
Donor Restricted	\$34,299.83
Sunday School	\$986.96
Petty Cash	\$200.00
Savings Accounts:	
Building	\$60,308.42
Donor Restricted	<u>\$79,514.27</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$302,926.80
Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$378,778.13
<u>Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses</u>	<u>\$367,492.76</u>
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	\$11,301.16

Comparing Facts and Figures

	September 2013	September 2014	September 2015
Attendance	1535	1389	1463
General Offering	\$43,984.17	\$41,300.67	\$33,005.20
Building Offering	\$14,241.50	\$10,955.33	\$11,495.33

Spirit of Joy Information

Pastor: Jeff Eisele
 Office Manager: Amy Orr
 Adult/Family Faith Formation: Katherine Eisele, AiM
 Children and Youth Faith Formation: Mike Haddican
 Interim Ministry Assistant: Laura Phillips
 Worship Arts Coordinator: Jon Mattheis
 Worship Arts: Susan Wold Rohde, AiM
 Church Office: (605) 333-2004

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 8:45am & 10:15am
 Coffee & Fellowship in between services.
 No Wednesday Worship

Nursery available for children accompanied by parent.
 Location: 2208 W. LaQuinta Street
 Website: www.spiritofjoy.net

Leadership Team

Minutes from the October 20, 2015 Meeting

Unfinished Business

Lutheran/Presbyterian Mission Start in Harrisburg Participation. Pastor Jeff gave an update

1. Mission Partner
2. Pastor Jess preach to SOJ
3. Steering Committee Participation.

Mission Endowment Fund Proposal

Chris Bergst presented the proposal.

Leadership Team will take action at the next meeting.

Staff Evaluations will be completed before 11/10.

Sarah Werner, Adam Punt & Daryl Sopko will oversee this years evaluations.

Budgeting Process Nov. 10 at 6pm the Leadership Team will meet to discuss the 2016 budget. Supper will be served.

New Business

Listen! God is Calling Synod Appeal

Pastor Jeff gave information

Benevolence Payments

Laurie Gromer made a motion to give \$1100 benevolence to Kids Against Hunger and \$1000 benevolence to ELCA. Chris Bergst second. Motion carried.

Full ministry team reports and meeting minutes can be obtained from Amy in the SOJ Office.

End of the Year Giving

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Please have any end of the year gifts that you wish to be counted towards your 2015 giving to the church office by no later than Wednesday, December, 30th at noon. Gifts received after this date will be counted towards your 2016 giving.

Thank you to all who support the mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy.

Contact Amy at the SOJ office with any questions.

Spirit of Joy welcomes New Partners!



Craig and Wendy Donelan, Zoe, Isaac and Brach



Pam Merchant, Courtney and Parker

Thank you Spirit of Joy volunteers who served at **Food To You** the Mobile Food Pantry last month. 86 families were fed!



Dorothy Merchant



Spirit of Joy will serve **The Banquet** on Wednesday, November 11th. Many hands are needed! Please sign up by contacting Laura@spiritofjoy.net or using the sign-up sheet in the gathering space!

Community Offering

For the month of November we will collect tuna and Tuna Helper to be distributed by **Food to You** in December.

Please leave your donation in the basket in the church gathering area, or include in your Food on the 4th bag!

Other items needed currently are: peanut butter, pasta, ziplock baggies-quart or gallon size, toilet paper and bars of soap.

Food on the 4th Sunday will be November 22nd! Join us in this opportunity to love our neighbors. Recyclable grocery bags are available throughout the month to pick up at Spirit of Joy. Grab a bag, fill it up and return it on the 22nd during offering. These offerings will be distributed to Food to You and to the Sioux Falls Food Pantry. Also available are bags to make Hygiene Kits for Food to You. Thank you for your continued generosity to these important ministries! Also on November 22nd, **Nick Welder from Charis Ministries** will be sharing a message with us about his work at Food to You.



Prayers of the Church

Healing and Strength for:

Dennis Ellingsen, Jett Markman, Gloria Winterton, Dominic Hagebock, Kerstin Schempp, Gary Molzen, Pete Eisele, Jim Welch, Mike Kelley, Joan Bjorklund, and Debbie Gallipio.

Thanksgiving for:

*the wedding of **Jim Reich and Linda Nolen** on October 3rd
 *the wedding of **Andrea Hass and Joey Larson** on October 10th

Comfort for:

***Pastor Dennis Hansen and family** upon the death of Dennis's wife Mona.

Guidance, Protection, Help and Encouragement for:

*the **twenty-two confirmation students** who affirmed their faith in our worship services on October 25th:
Hayden Michael Cole, Samuel Avery Detert, Landon Hove Dinger, Mariah Lynn Dokken, Samantha Ann Hagebock, Ian Michael Kock, Sydney Rose Koolstra, Meghan Marie Krull, Tessa Joy Marie Kruse, Hannah Annette Markman, Rachel Marie Nelson, Annika Lyn Paulsen, Brady Paul Samuelson, Avery Isabelle Thorson, Peyton Thomas Timmer, Abbie Kristine Versteeg, Emma Jean Vogel, Madison Marie Wassink, Annika Faith Dahl Webb, Austen Lee Wibeto, Blaine Arthur Wittrock, and Megan Grace Yee

*for **students, teachers, and administrators** in Harrisburg as they continue to heal.

*for young people who are struggling with loneliness, addiction, mental illness, or finding a place to belong

*for our **partners in mission** in Sioux Falls, especially **Table of Grace** in Harrisburg, and **Pastor Jess Daum, Westside Lutheran Church** and **Pastor Heidi Binstock; Pueblo de Dios** and **Pastor Jeanette Clark;**

*for leaders in movements to slow climate change, and guide us in faithful **stewardship of the whole planet**

*for our bishops **David Zellmer** and **Elizabeth Eaton.**

*for sisters and brothers in our companion synods in



November Words for Worship

November 1st-All Saints Sunday

John 11:32-44

The raising of Lazarus

November 8th-24th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 12:38-44

A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy of the scribes

November 15th-25th Sunday after Pentecost

Commitment Sunday

Mark 13:1-8

The end and the coming of the Son

November 22nd-Christ the King Sunday

John 18:33-37

The kingdom of Christ

November 29th-First Sunday in Advent

Luke 21:25-36

Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man

Junior/Senior High Vocal Group

We would like to put together a group of junior/senior high students to sing a selection in church on December 13th. We will be rehearsing a few Wednesday evenings before and possibly Sunday evenings. Please talk to Jon or email him (jon@spiritofjoy.net) if you or your child has an interest in being part of the group.

Advent Festival!



Sunday, November 29, 3 pm

- Crafts
- Story Time
- Lefse-Making
- Games
- Display of Nativities from Around the World



For all ages! Join us at 3 pm in the sanctuary, then we'll have an "ADVENT-ture"

Handbell Choir is forming again this month and planning to play in church on November 22nd. Rehearsals will be November 9th and 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are invited that are interested in playing handbells. No previous experience required, but must be able to read music. Please contact Tom Gannon at 271-2275 or TomGannon@msn.com for more information.





**Spirit of Joy Library: Answers for Your Questions--
New Reference Books**

To help with your study of Bible history, the SOJ Library has three new reference books appropriate for high school students and adults. They rely heavily on illustrations-- photographs of scenery in the Holy Land, maps, diagrams, **timelines, artist's drawings, and examples of ancient arts and crafts.** In our era, many archeologists, historians and scientists have discovered an abundance of interesting information about biblical times.

Great People of the Bible and How They Lived is organized chronologically, covering both the Old and New Testaments. It opens with a cross-section showing a typical historic manmade mound with the levels or strata that an archeologist might find in doing excavations. This helps us understand how information is collected.

Jesus and His Times is organized by topics such as Village Life, Life of the Mind, and Trade and Travel. There are many details about daily existence--food, clothing, tools, etc.--especially as revealed in mosaics, pottery and sculpture from that time.

After Jesus, The Triumph of Christianity covers the 600 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, as paganism and classical antiquity died out and Christian civilization became important in the world. There is information about people like the Apostles, martyrs, and early theologians, as well as artwork and manuscripts that helped preserve and spread the Gospel message in the known world.



**Spirit of Joy
Christmas Cantata**

Nearly everyone likes Christmas music. Its's even more fun and meaningful to sing the familiar carols and new arrangements about Jesus' birth. Anyone who likes to sing is invited to sing with the Spirit of Joy Choir in this years Christmas Cantata on December 20th. Anyone middle school through adult is invited to participate. You need not commit to choir rehearsals for the entire year. Join us for rehearsals, Wednesdays at 7:15pm in the Well throughout November and December. The choir will be happy to welcome you!



Book Clubs & Studies

Evening Book Club will meet Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 in the church library to discuss And The Shofar Blew by Francine Rivers.

Morning Book Group will meet December 3 to discuss All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. (Please note the change of date because of Thanksgiving.) We meet at 9 AM in the church library.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

All Spirit of Joy men are invited to come for breakfast and conversation Thursday mornings, 6:30-8:00am at the Fryin' Pan on 41st Street.



REACH Support

For the past several years members of Spirit of Joy have helped support teachers in India at the REACH Home. The support involves \$120 a year to provide an extra \$10 per month to add **to the teacher's monthly income.** This year we are requesting the same support. Each teacher receives an extra \$10 a month from these gifts added to their monthly \$50 income. Any help you could provide is very much appreciated. This REACH Home is run by Kusuma Paul, a personal friend of Dennis and Sandy Ellingsen. She houses, feeds, educates and cares for 300 orphans in India, and these teachers are a vital part of her ministry and calling. Thank you for your consideration. Checks can be made out to Spirit of Joy. Thank you to all those who have supported this program both this year and in the past!





Women's Retreat at Joy Ranch—October 9-10
"Teach Us to Pray"



Adam Punt, Growth
 Team Leader, will lead
"Kids and Money"

Kids and Money—4th Grade Milestone

Sunday, Nov. 15 at 10 am OR Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7 pm

When? During your child's Sprouts hour.

Who? At least one parent should plan to attend with your child.

Where? In your child's Sprouts classroom.

Why? To explore how we can faithfully use the gifts and talents God has given us all!

NOTE: Every child will receive a blue piggy Save/Give/Spend piggy bank provided by Thrivent Financial.

Thank you to our friends at Thrivent!



Little Lambs Sunday School—November 1 at 10 am



This month's story—The Story of Creation

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers not old enough for Sprouts—all welcome!

Upcoming Events for Children and Their Families

November 1—Little Lambs Sunday School 10 am in the "youth room" (far SW classroom)

November 15 or 18— "Kids and Money" 4th Grade Milestone during Sprouts hour.

November 29— **ADVENT FESTIVAL** 3 to 5 pm Sunday afternoon. Crafts, games, lefse-making, stories...

This is an **Advent-ure** for ALL ages! Bring grandma or grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins...



Sprouts Stories - Joseph & His Brothers

Kids learn in the Science Workshop that Joseph's coat was a sign of protection his father wanted him to have. Similarly, God the Father wanted to protect Joseph through a series of events that led Joseph to become a man of power in Egypt.

Preschool students are learning about Joseph for the first time! They are hearing about his colorful coat and how Joseph had some sad times in life and some happy time. No matter what, God was with him through all of it!

Sprouts Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13th 3pm

Just a Little Christmas

Join our Preschool & Elementary youth as they tell the story of Jesus' birth through storytelling.



Preschool Re-creation of Joseph's Coat



Got Magazines?

Do you have old magazine subscriptions around the house? Donate them to the church. Sprouts and the High School Youth Group need magazines for upcoming lessons.

Drop them off across from Mike Haddican's office through the month of November.

Thank you for those who've already dropped off magazines! They'll be put to good use!

Wed. Sprouts Re-creation of Joseph's Coat



Need to contact Mike Haddican?
Email: mike@spiritofjoy.net

Sunday Nights at Spirit of Joy

Spirit of Joy will be open for High School youth from 5-9pm on Sunday Nights! Teens are invited to come over to study, pray, rest, read a book, watch a movie together, play games and more!

Adult volunteers to help host the teens should contact Tim Krause at skatimmy737@gmail.com. A background check is necessary for all adults who wish to help. More info about this opportunity can be found at www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com. November dates are Nov 1, 8, 15, 22. We will not meet Nov. 29th due to the Thanksgiving break.

Small Groups Meeting Off-Site

Very soon, Mike will again be scheduling times for teens to get together in small groups of 3-5 **people for some discussions about life, prayer concerns and faith formation questions.** We'll meet at Scooters, Fly Boy Donuts, Dairy Queen or other yummy hang out spots.

The time and date always depend on who is available and who is interested in chatting.



Our High School Youth carving pumpkins while we talked about how sometimes our faith involves fear. But with God as a strong foundation, our faith stands firm.



Got Magazines?

Do you have old magazine subscriptions around the house?

Donate them to the church. Sprouts and the High School Youth Group need magazines for upcoming lessons.

Drop them off in the box **across from Mike Haddican's** office.

Thank you for those who've already dropped off magazines!

Need to contact Mike Haddican? Email: mike@spiritofjoy.net
 Check out the Youth Website: www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com for
 * Youth Calendar * Events * Faith Formation Opportunities

November Birthdays

Jodi Pixler	Jared Ducommun	Emersynn Haugland	Andrew Dierks
Phillip Hagen	Beth Keller	Jeanie Mayer	Marilee Driver
Carter Nelson	Tiffany Wallace	Matthew Olsen	Joseph Holt
Ian Kock	Carter Ballew	Becca Ryan	Jeff Thomson
Julia Stanek	Collin Ballew	Kai Yungbluth	Renae Wiseman
Jack Zimmer	Jason Becker	Kyle Sheik	Hailey Wallace
Brooke Boyle	Josephine Buss	Rachael Cheatum	Paul Creviston
Brittni Punt	Michael Ryan	Ryan Eisenbeisz	Sela Olivier
Owen Watson	Jacob Bettencourt	Laurie Gromer	Dale Schempp
Haley Syverson	Mick Evanson	Mallory Krull	Whitney Alexander
Jorja Appel	Lois Klein	Kason Syverson	Samuel Henderson
Briana Hammerstrom	Larry Gruseth	Brek Christensen	Orvin Torstenson
Matthew Ryan	Andrew Hewitt	Lane Knutson	Ella Voss
Sherri Schneider	Jerry Awe	Erika Thedens	
Ben Eisele	Eric Backstrom	Michelle Bergst	
Karis Weeg	Brady Fink	Aubrey Hewitt	
Kaylee Craig	Alice Geraets	Hannah Lane	
Greg Krzmarzick	Nicholas Gromer	Kyle Hill	
Angela Tordsen	Sarah Roth	Barb Campbell	
Hayden Cole	Jimmy Schneider	Linda Christensen	



November Anniversaries

Mike & Kari Munke	11/03	Andy Vos & Jodi Hanson	11/28
Peder & Shawn Lunde	11/20	Daryl & Sharon Sopko	11/30
Tiffany & Treven Wallace	11/23		
Eric & Shannon Backstrom	11/25		
Alan Gabor & Jennifer Bergan Gabor	11/28		



Spirit of Joy publicizes birthdays and anniversaries in our newsletter as a way to encourage our partners to pray for one another throughout the year. If you have a July birthday or anniversary that is not included here, please contact the church office at 333-2004 or email us at: info@spiritofjoy.net

Check out our new website and follow us on Facebook!

A great way to keep up on events at Spirit of Joy is to “like” us on facebook. You can find us at www.facebook.com/spiritofjoy. Also take a minute to check out our new website at www.spiritofjoy.net. You can find online versions of newsletters, articles, upcoming events, and more!

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

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2208 W. Laquinta Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

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Return Service Requested

Fall Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 22nd

Noon-Lunch

12:45-Meeting

Agenda items include proposed preschool launch, establishment of mission endowment fund, 2016 mission plan (budget), and election of congregational leaders



All confirmed partners urged to join us!