



WINDSWEEP

April 2022

Surprise Endings

The best surprise ending of any story, especially any true story, is the one that ends like this:

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Luke 22:2-5

This is the first Easter surprise in the Scriptures. But it isn't the last. The first Easter shatters what has always been the perfectly predictable ending to every human story. Now, on this side of Jesus' empty tomb, God continues to rewrite surprises into the ways our stories unfold.

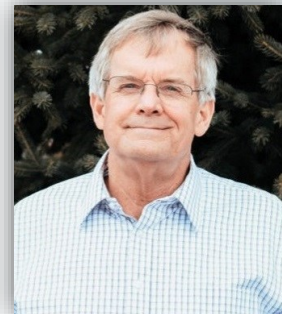
Our world is still awash in death. We're reminded of that fact every day. In two years COVID has killed nearly one million people in our country and more than six million worldwide. The horrific images of the Russian invasion of Ukraine remind us of our never-ending capacity to inflict suffering and death on one another. Several tragedies and deaths of loved ones in our own community remind us that death is never far away.

We come to the cross of Jesus this month to be reminded that not even the Son of God escaped death. His closest friends and followers assumed that his crucifixion was just one more inevitable conclusion to an all too brief demonstration of what God's Will for humanity looks like. Then came Easter morning. The women who came to the tomb expecting to find Jesus' body met two men in dazzling clothes who shocked them with the unimaginable announcement, He is not here, but has risen.

Our Easter hope is that this isn't just an ancient story with an unbelievable plot twist. By the grace of God, the Easter story has become our story. It's the story of those we've loved and lost. Jesus won the victory over death for us. As composer John Ylvisaker wrote in his beloved song,

*When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.*

Hope to see you this month at the Cross and the Empty Tomb. Pastor JE



Jeff Eisele

Lead Pastor

Some of my favorite stories end with a surprising twist. Do you know them?

- But it was real...and you ... and you ... and you were all there!
- Roads? Where we're going, we don't *need* roads.
- I am your father.
- A toast—to my big brother George, the richest man in town.
- No, Ray, it was you.

Email your answers to jeffeisele@spiritofjoy.net to win a free cup of coffee!



Spirit of Joy's Spring 2022 Building Debt Reduction Campaign



You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

~ 2 Corinthians 9:11-12

Watch for your invitation *coming soon* to join other Spirit of Joy ministry partners and friends at one of four dessert gatherings in our mission center. At each gathering we will celebrate Spirit of Joy's history and the growth of our shared ministry, hear from one of our pastors and a few of our ministry partners about the new possibilities for ministry now made possible by our building expansion, and consider how to take the next step of extravagant generosity to tackle the remaining debt on our new building. These one-hour gatherings will be held:

Tuesday, April 12, 6:30pm in The WELL

Tuesday, April 19, 6:30pm in the Shalom Center

Thursday, April 21, 10:00am in the Shalom Center

Sunday, April 24, 6:30pm in the Shalom Center (Childcare provided)

There is no cost for the dessert, nor will you be asked to make a financial gift or pledge during the evening. This gathering is for celebration, storytelling, information, and fellowship.



High School Youth Houseboat Fundraiser: Pie the Pastor

April 10—May 8, donate money to Pastor Jeff or Pastor Eric's jar (or both).
The pastor with the most money in their jar will get pied in the face! All donations will go toward the houseboat trip.

The "Pie-ing" will take place on Wednesday, May 11 after Worship.

Every \$500 raised = another pie!



Outreach Opportunities

Laundry with Love



Children of Joy is collecting quarters for Laundry with Love through April 10. We have passed our goal and are working toward the Challenge Goal of \$1,000. You can collect quarters in the little plastic containers available in the gathering space or simply collect some quarters in a baggie and **drop them off in the blue can by Palm Sunday, April 10.** Any monetary donation is welcome - doesn't have to be quarters!

Spirit of Joy will be volunteering at Laundry with Love on Tuesday, April 26 at The Laundromat Company (701 N Cliff). Three volunteers are needed for the 3:00-5:30 p.m. shift and three volunteers are needed for the 5:30-8:00 p.m. shift. Please sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups.



Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

April 26—Laundry with Love

May 20—Banquet Main

June 5—Necessities for Neighbors

Look for online sign up's at spiritofjoy.net as the event approaches!

Faith Formation

Upcoming Milestones



First Communion Milestone

Saturday, April 2 | 9:00-11:30 AM

All first graders and older students who have not yet received instruction are invited to join us. We will serve First Communion at our Palm Sunday worship services on April 10.



5th Grade Earthcare Milestone

April 24, 10:00 a.m.

Come and learn about bioluminescence -- the way that special creatures glow to communicate! Shetek Lutheran Ministries' Environmental Education Director Katie Chapman will be leading the 5th grade milestone project to connect the glow of creatures with how we shine our light into the world as Christians! Project will include a fun glow-in-the-dark craft!

RSVP online spiritofjoy.net/signups by April 20

Children of Joy Sponsorship

Beginning Easter Sunday, our children's offering (collected in the blue can) will sponsor 9th grader Elavarasan from India through Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

Our gifts help provide his education, accommodations at the Hostel, quality meals and clothing!



Elavarasan
Birthday: January 11, 2008

Adult Education

Spring 2022 Sunday Forum Schedule | 10:00 AM

March 6-April 10: Romans - The Book of Faith Series

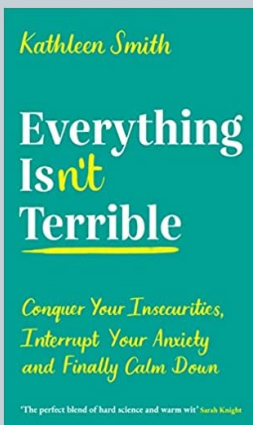
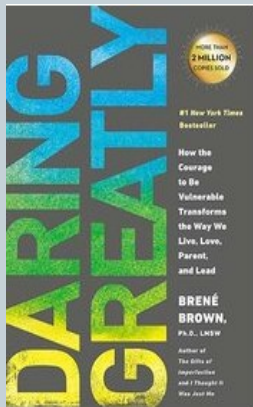
April 24: Hope Haven International

Our goal is to deliver wheelchairs to people in desperate need of them around the world. Through this process, we're bringing together people in need with people who have a heart to help. Join us to learn more!

May 1: St. Dysmas Prison Ministry

May 8: Summer Lifelong Faith Formation Preview

Learn where you can plug in and grow at Spirit of Joy this summer!



Looking Ahead...

Faith & Film with Pastor Jeff
Praying the Labyrinth

Family Fun Nights (June 8, July 13, August 10)
High School Faith Formation (meet bi-monthly)
Brene Brown Book Study with Margie Schade
Family Systems Theory with Paul Johnston

Watch for more information
coming soon!

Spirit of Joy Preschool

The 1st Annual Mini Golf Par- Tee was amazing!

Golfers of all ages enjoyed mini-golf, cotton candy, popcorn, guessing games and lots of laughs! We had TEN golf holes this year and raised \$683.00 towards the preschool fund with over \$500 going towards the future outdoor playhouse. Thank you to all the participants and volunteers for your contributions. Plan to join us again next year! We can't wait.



Check out what people are saying:

"This was SO FUN!"

"What a great idea, you should definitely do it again!"

"What a fun afternoon, I haven't golfed in so long!"

"So many creative ideas (golf holes), it's just fun to see!"

"Go, Mom!"

Special thanks

Girl Scout Troop 41111 for lending a hand,
Thrivent's Partnership & Action Grant,
SOJ Preschool Team for your helping hands.



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool Registration for Fall 2022

Spirit of Joy Preschool Registration is open & all are welcome! There are so many reasons to join our community:

1. Faithful Hearts - weekly chapel time, Bible songs and stories integrated into activities and lessons throughout the week.
2. Caring Community of friends and families - preschool friendships are lasting friendships.
3. Play and active learning opportunities that help preschoolers learn in age-appropriate ways.
4. Kindermusik Programming – exposure to musical instruments, games and activities.
5. Outdoor gardens to explore.
6. Transportation to and from preschool is an option.
7. Partner discounts and scholarship dollars are available.
8. Share your preschool with a friend or family member and receive a referral bonus!
9. Opportunities for your favorite preschooler to socialize in a new setting with his/her peers.
10. An amazing group of caring adults-SOJ Partners and Friends- that support your child and your family.



For more information or to schedule a tour (available anytime)

contact Amy Cauble, teacher & director at 605-333-2004

amycable@spiritofjoypreschool.net.

Registration available online or in person

spiritofjoy.net/preschool for more information

Scholarships, partner and sibling discounts available

From the Bishop's Desk

Easter People,

May the risen Christ greet you in the midst of your own grief and the grief the world finds itself in. All four Gospels share various shades of Jesus' resurrection. They may not align on the details, but they leave no doubt about Christ's resurrection.

He has risen!

He has risen indeed!

In the midst of life's turmoil, unfathomable realities of war and strife, and our daily grind, we know that death is real. It shows up differently for each one of us, but we know it is real. But as Easter people, people who trust and believe that God raised Christ from the tomb in spite of what others say, we know that Christ is real and that no matter what stronghold death thinks it can hold over us, God will find us in the midst of our grief and bring about life in the midst of death and out of death. Therefore, dear Easter people, let us cling to the promise that nothing, absolutely nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God. Thanks be to God!

Journeying with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



Befriender...

A CONFIDENTIAL LISTENER

Want to connect?
Church: 605-333-2004
Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663

BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY
A Listening Presence

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy

I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Call Process:** The Leadership Team was updated on the progress of the Call Committee. A candidate was interviewed and has been invited to visit Spirit of Joy in a few weeks for a face-to-face interview.
- B. **Overflowing! Building Debt Reduction Appeal:** The Leadership Team reviewed the plans for the upcoming appeal. Kendra Krueger provided a list of 8 potential choices for the 2% appeal gifts. Pastor Eric Ohrtman provided an overview of each organization. The list will go to the SoJ partners for a vote on May 1 and 4, 222. The top 5 choices will be recipients of the gifts.

II. New Business

- A. **Transfer of \$1,000 from Restricted Miscellaneous Fund to Sunday School Fund:** Chad Wolff moved and Kendra Krueger seconded to approve the transfer of \$1,000 from Restricted Miscellaneous fund to Sunday School fund. Motion carried.

III. Meeting Review and Lord's Prayer:

The meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer.

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.***

Financials through February 28, 2022

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$60,736.90
Building Fund	\$3,823.06
Donor Restricted	\$33,112.63
Sunday School	\$108.32
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	February 2020	February 2021	February 2022
Attendance	1410	???	973
General Offering	\$ 42,521.97	\$ 42,681.91	\$ 45,486.79
Building Offering	\$ 36,415.67	\$ 16,443.38	\$ 10,253.24

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$154,948.72
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,470.30</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$326,760.03

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485
Received as of February 28, 2022: \$2,198,339.17

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$96,548.87
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$109,605.67</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$13,056.80

Odds & Ends

Creation Care Corner

Join our congregation on **Sunday, April 24**, as we celebrate **Creation Care Sunday**, two days after the worldwide celebration of Earth Day. Our worship together shall include readings from Scripture, hymns and songs, photos, and hopeful stories celebrating God's Creation and our calling to care for this precious planet that God has given to us for a home.

If weather permits that Sunday, we will conclude worship outdoors with a blessing of our congregation gardens and share a gift for enjoying God's Good Creation wherever you live!



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This month Spirit of Joy's new creation care team will be taking first steps towards restoring up to an acre of our grounds northeast of our building to native prairie and wildflowers. Watch for more information about how you can help with this project.

SOJ CHURCH APP

Download the Spirit of Joy app and take us with you throughout the week.

NEED EXTRA HELP?

There will be a team of App Installers to answer any questions on

Sunday, April 24 - All Morning!

including the download of the SoJ app on your device



SAVE THE DATE: Spirit of Joy partners and friends are invited to join our neighbors in a walk to stop suicide on Sunday, May 1st, 2022 at the Harrisburg High School football stadium. Check in begins at 1:00 p.m. followed by an opening ceremony at 1:30 p.m.

For more information and to register for the walk visit afsp.org/HarrisburgSD



Joyful Moments



Teens & Traffic Milestone



Thank you to all who volunteered and donated for Food To You in March. We had a terrific turn out!



Mom's Group with their Golf Hole



Non Profit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Sioux Falls, SD

Permit No. 7771

Return Service Requested



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday

April 10 | 8:45 & 11 a.m.

Procession of Palms,
& Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday

April 14 | 6:30 PM

Holy Communion &
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross

April 15

Walking Worship at
6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00

Sign up online

spiritofjoy.net/signups

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 17

Festival Worship with Holy
Communion

7:00, 8:45, & 11:00 a.m.