

April-May 2018

Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran



Pastor Christy
Hallenbeck Ask

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship
8:45 am & 11:00am

Wednesday Worship
6:15pm

Office Hours

Mon.-Fri.: 8:30-4:30

The Mission of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

- 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.

Let's celebrate new life. Together.

"Do you really need a community to be a Christian? Can't you be a Christian by yourself? in your own house?"

This question has been lingering in my mind for a few months. It's not a new question, I know. But it felt particularly pressing coming to me from an Augustana student during a Religion 110 class I visited in January. I wasn't about to give a flat "yes" with no substantial reasoning, nor was I going to wield Matthew 18:20 like a legal threat ("[Jesus said,] for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"). Augustana students don't put up with thoughtless answers. I know; I've been one.

"I mean, is the whole 'church' thing really necessary?"

Perhaps the question felt pressing because I've wondered it myself, quite apart from my own salary's dependence on the existence of the church. I asked the question a time or two a decade ago while sitting as a student in the same building at Augustana. I asked it while trying to find my own way as a twentysomething in the Twin Cities.

I still sometimes ask the question when my iPhone vehemently chimes in my right ear on Sunday morning. Or when I hear about the wonders of Sunday morning NPR programming or the best Sunday brunch fares in town.

And most poignantly, I face the question when many of my own friends and family members seek—and often find—spiritual experiences outside of and apart from a faith community.

"I need the community," I told the students in January. "I'll just speak for myself."

I need the singing, the promise-hearing, the laughter, the yearning, the crying, the story-hearing. Together.

During Jon's and my five-week hike through Spain in 2016 (insert groan here—you know the story), our ambitious walking schedule left us with no time to worship. Ironic, I know, given that the Camino de Santiago is a historic Roman Catholic pilgrimage. And ironic, if not hypocritical, given that we were both seminary graduates. Noted. Confessed.

During those five weeks I felt an emptiness I could not quite describe or understand. **Until, that is, we returned to the States and worshiped at Jon's home church. With the first note of communal singing, unexpected tears rolled down my face. Suddenly I knew, and felt, the truth that I was not alone—that Jon and I were not alone—in our journey of faith.**

In this era of hyper connectivity but meager connection, we in the church get to bask in the beauty of life together, in the flesh: life with persons of all generations, life together in times of sorrow and joy, life shared within God's ongoing story of love and grace. Life with the communion of saints who have sung and worshiped long before us.

It's a life worth sharing, both with those who are here among us and with those longing for community and connection.

Thanks for sharing in the story and in the singing.

With gratitude, Pastor Christy

Financial Statistics Thru February 28, 2018

Checking Account:	
General Fund	\$129,847.44
Building Fund	\$10,992.33
Donor Restricted	\$4,349.25
Sunday School	\$1665.51
Reserve Fund	\$73,956.93
Petty Cash	\$200.00
Savings Accounts:	
Building	\$72,781.96
Donor Restricted	<u>\$69,514.27</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$363,307.69
Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$154,009.17
Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses	<u>\$118,384.09</u>
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	\$35,629.79

Comparing Facts and Figures

	Jan./Feb. 2016	Jan./Feb. 2017	Jan./Feb. 2018
Attendance	1589/1667	1564/1474	1575/1516
General Offering	\$34,299.49/ \$46,461.42	\$51,518.08/ \$87,825.83	\$104,318.63/ \$49,690.54
Building Offering	\$8,674.33/ \$9,725.33	\$25,533.33/ \$8,501.42	\$8,012.33/ \$10,992.33

Spirit of Joy Staff

Lead Pastor:	Jeff Eisele
Associate Pastor:	Christy Hallenbeck Ask
Office Manager:	Amy Orr
Adult/Family Faith Formation:	Katherine Eisele, Deacon
Children/Youth Faith Formation:	Mike Haddican
Preschool Director:	Amy Cauble
Communication Coordinator:	Audrey Shattuck

Spirit of Joy Is hiring!

Spirit of Joy is currently looking for a pianist/keyboard player to serve as a paid, part-time accompanist for our worship band. Our band plays two Sundays/month at two morning worship services, and rehearses on Wednesday evenings. More information and a complete position description can be obtained by contacting Pastor Jeff Eisele at jeffeisele@spiritofjoy.net, or at 605 333-2004.

Leadership Team February 2018 Meeting

Unfinished Business

1. Funding of SOJ Preschool - Discussed options for the preschool holding a fundraiser. Darlene Weber Scott moved to subsidize the preschool with \$5,000 from the general operating fund at this time and revisit the preschool's financial need for support quarterly. Rick Lundberg second. Motion carries.
2. Spirit of Joy Preschool representation on Leadership Team: If the preschool wants a full seat on the Leadership Team it would require a change in the constitution. This is about a two month process. Representation without a vote would allow the preschool advisory team to communicate but not participate in other matters. Would ask that a representative be a partner of Spirit of Joy. More discussion on this will be had in the future.

New Business

1. Election of Audit Team - Tabled this discussion.
2. Befrienders Ministry - Jason Appel moved to launch the BeFriender's Ministry and host the training session at SOJ April 9-12, 2018 with an estimated cost of \$2,176 to be funded from the Leadership Training budget line. Lori Tripp second. Motions carries.
3. Funding for post-secondary scholarships - Rick Lundberg moved to add the \$1600 in Thrivent Choice Dollars to the post secondary scholarship fund and to revisit funding options if more students apply for scholarships. Sarah Manthey second. Motion carries.
4. Reserve Fund - Tabled this discussion.
5. Benevolence Payments: Lori Tripp moved to make the following benevolence payments: Darlene Weber Scott second. Motion carries.

Banquet	\$500 plus food costs
TOG	\$1,000
Lutherans Outdoors	\$1,000
Shetek	\$1,000
Pueblo de Dios	\$1,000

For complete reports from all of our teams contact Amy Orr in the Spirit of Joy office.

Prayers of the Church

Healing and Strength for:

Virgil Eckhoff, Karen Soli, Debbie Gallipo, Trish Swanhorst, Kailee Versteeg, Zach Selchert, Gloria Winterton, Jude Schumacher, Kay Wold, Ordell Winterton, Connie Evenson, Janice Kelley, Betty Lawrence, Jeremy Halstenson, Sheila Dovenmueller, Edith Alberty, Riley Conway, Gary Molzen, and Steve Schmidt.

Thanksgiving for:

*our First Communion students who now join us in eating and drinking at the Lord's Table.

*all of our bread bakers who provide bread for our table when we receive the Lord's Supper

*visual artists and musicians who help us learn the story of God's Love in Jesus Christ.

Comfort for:

*Evie Brouwer Thomson and her family as they mourn the death of Evie's father.

*Victims of school shootings in Florida & Maryland
***families and friends of those who've died during** military service in Iraq and Afghanistan

Guidance and Encouragement for:

*our congregation and the JLG Architects team as we discern possible options for expanding our space for present and future ministry

*our new neighbors from Eritrea: Jacomo, Angelina and their children, whom we are sponsoring through the Lutheran Social Service refugee resettlement

***member of Spirit of Joy's C3 (Creating a Culture of Calling)** team as they attend a first convocation in Baltimore

*Spirit of Joy partners participating in our first Befrienders training

*Spirit of Joy partners attending our next listening and learning retreat in Pine Ridge

*our bishops Elizabeth Eaton and David Zellmer

*our mission partner congregations in Sioux Falls: Pueblo de Dios and Table of Grace

*our global mission partners in the Lutheran Churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon

*persons discerning a call to public service and who are running for public office.

*those who work for peace in Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine, south Sudan, Mexico, North and South Korea, and in the cities and schools of our country

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday

March 29th at 6:30pm

The season of Lent comes to an end as we enter the hinge of human history: Three Days in which the **Son of God institutes the Lord's Supper**, washes his disciples feet, endures a sham trial, and is tortured and crucified. Come and hear Part 1 of this story on Thursday; our service will include:

Open Space for individual prayer and absolution

Footwashing

Lighting Candles in Prayer

The Lord's Supper

Stripping of the Altar

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Good Friday

March 30th at 6:30pm

Where the Word Meets
the World:

Prayer Around the Cross



You are invited to join us as we read/meditate on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross

Jesus' words give voice to the experiences of God's People in brokenness and suffering as Jesus meets us there. Pictures of these broken places, intermixed with images of Christ on the cross and the singing of hymns, will help us contemplate the wondrous love of a God who meets us in our suffering.



A Prayer for Easter

On Easter morn
we welcome you, Jesus,
into our lives.

We welcome your resurrection for it is life changing, life giving and life sustaining.
We welcome the hope it brings to our world.
We welcome the joy it brings to our darkness.
We welcome the empty tomb for we know that it means you are on the loose.

The Preschool Post

Preschoolers Explore God’s Creation

Over the last two months, preschoolers have been discovering winter. Many things change when winter arrives. We have been noticing those changes and asking questions: what changes do you see, why do we want winter weather, how do we stay warm, what is ice, which animals like cold weather and which animals do not, how can we help the animals, what can we do in the winter?



One question often leads to another. Working together, we search for our answers. Science, math, and literacy skills combined with hands on activities are fun ways to uncover an answer. Along with important academic skills, children remember who created the cold, crisp winter weather and awesome animals. Winter is amazing. We give God thanks for and praise God for the changing seasons.



“Dear God, thank you for winter weather. Amen.”

Take a peek at some of the ways preschoolers celebrate God’s creation.

God made the snow. Measuring with “snowballs”.

How can we drive on slippery, icy roads? Salt helps!



God made the clouds. God made the wind.

God made the bears. Bears hibernate in winter.



Sprouts InterGenerational Prayer Stations

March 21st and March 25th marked the 3rd Annual Sprouts InterGen Prayer Station event where parents & kids were invited to come to Sprouts together to experience some new ways to pray.

Thank you to everybody who joined us!



Paper chain prayer
(prayers for family and friends)

Paint Sample Prayer
(each color represents a different type of concern)



Rock Prayer (reminder to give up grudges)



Tie Blankets for Project Warm-Up

In March our High School students joyfully worked on our 3rd quarter service project. They made 3 Tie Blankets for Project Warm-Up, a ministry in Sioux Falls that provides free blankets for the homeless. Special thanks to Kris Detert and Terese Hammerstrom for leading this time of service!



Thank you for your Financial Support for Houston!

Partners & Friends of Spirit of Joy, it is with a thankful heart that I am happy to report that we have fully fundraised our Houston trip for ALL 18 teens that will be going! Thank you for your support through allowing us to serve you during:

- the Reformation Dinner in October,
- the Lefse fundraiser in December
- our Kids' Night Out events in Dec. and Feb.
- our Sub Sandwich fundraiser in February
- our Mystery Sponsorship event in March & April. Your

support, both prayerful and financial support, let's us know that you value our efforts to make it to Houston this Summer. Thank you again, and don't forget that if you are the Mystery Sponsor of one of the 18 teens, please pray for them while they're in Houston and don't forget to return your financial donation of \$30 and the personal note by April 27th.

Faith Formation – Through Music?

Music has always been an avenue of the Spirit to teach the faith to us and form faith in us. Christian composers know and trust this good news. As we learn the hymns and songs of faith – sometimes from our childhoods – the words sink deeply into our souls. Choirs inspire us, Christian songs on the radio may refresh us, accompanists guide us, and through it all the Spirit speaks to us.

We will sing the hymn below on Good Friday. I invite you to contemplate the words, sing it if you remember the tune. When we worship together, know the Spirit is forming faith in you and in our children so that we are strengthened to love and trust God and serve one another. Glory be to God!

*“Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.”*

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW #338

Holy Week and Easter Blessings to You and Yours,
Deacon Katherine Eisele



Faith Formation at Spirit of Joy A Labor of Love

By the time June rolls around, and the next newsletter is in your hands, our cycle of Faith Milestones will be complete for another year. It simply would not be possible to share faith in these meaningful ways in all ages and stages without the wonderful volunteers that step up to plan, lead, sew, teach, laugh, guide, mentor, craft, sing, read, pray, and love.

To all of you who help in our many milestones, THANK YOU! You mean so much to our church and to me!

Here are a few quotes I found regarding volunteers. I think they are beautiful and they apply to YOU:

“Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don’t live in the world all of your own.”

~Albert Schweitzer

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”

~Oscar Wilde

“We give always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

~ 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



Giving thanks to you, dear partners in Christ, for your ministry to our children and youth,

Deacon Katherine Eisele

March 24, 2018

Women of Spirit

Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 pm

**“Families: Hopes, Dreams,
and Unexpected Surprises”**

–a panel discussion. Hear stories of family and faith from friends and partners of SOJ. Refreshments served. All are welcome.



Upcoming Milestones for YOUR Child:

April 22—Earthcare Milestone for 5th Grade Sunday at noon. Pizza and outdoor activities on our church grounds.

Taking care of God’s creation: It is a gift and a privilege! For kids and parent(s).



**STUDENT
DRIVER**

May 6—Teens and Traffic for new and almost new drivers. Sunday at noon with pizza and guest, Officer Joey Larson of the SFPD. For parent(s) and kids.

May 20 and June 3 — High School Graduation. At the 8:45 worship service on either date. You decide what works best for you. PLEASE RSVP to Katherine with your date preference! We have a beautifully hand-sewn quilt for each senior.



Outreach Encounters

We celebrate the ways Spirit of Joy has recently engaged with our neighbors and mission partners in the community and around the world:

Refugee Family Sponsorship: We continue to support Jacomo, Angelina, Selama (age 19), Merestela (age 14), and Keni (age 10) as they settle into their new life in Sioux Falls. The family is Kunama by ethnicity and Eritrean by nationality. The younger two children have now begun attending school in the Sioux Falls School District; both parents are attending English classes at Lutheran Social Services; and Selama, the oldest son, is receiving long-awaited medical care to best address the realities of life with cerebral palsy.



Fun fact: lefse griddles serve well as stoves for injera bread, a staple of the family's East African regular menu! Two SoJ partners generously donated a lefse griddle for this reason, and the family has been delighted to now make their own injera at home.

Jacomo thanks you all for your support, saying that thanks to Spirit of Joy, "we know we are not alone."

"Souper Bowl" Sunday: For this year's "Souper Bowl" Sunday commemoration, Spirit of Joy partners raised funds for St. Dysmas Lutheran Church by purchasing pre-mixed soup containers to benefit the congregation behind the prison walls. Our hearty soup supply heartily sold out!



The Banquet: On February 27 Spirit of Joy partners of many ages served 357 guests at the Banquet. This was SoJ's first-ever evening shift at the Banquet, and it was a great success! We have historically served only breakfast at the Banquet but wanted to offer an evening opportunity for partners with limited morning availability.

Table of Grace: On February 28 SoJ partners Kevin and Deb Nelson served as worship missionaries with Table of Grace, our ELCA -Presbyterian mission start congregation in Harrisburg.

Lutheran Church in Nicaragua: Bishop Victoria Cortez Rodríguez of the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua served as our guest preacher on March 4. SoJ went bilingual for the morning!

Confirmation Students and Leaders around the Community: During their monthly service night, on February 28 our confirmation students and leaders served at the Pueblo de Dios, the Boys & Girls Club, the Bowden Youth Center, Hope Haven, and Kids Against Hunger.

Food to You: Twenty SoJ partners shared their evening with our downtown neighbors on March 22 through the Food to You Mobile Food Pantry.



Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church and Preschool
2208 W. LaQuinta Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

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Return Service Requested

Celebrate Easter!



Maundy Thursday, March 29
Worship at 6:30pm

Good Friday, March 30
Worship at 6:30pm

Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday

Worship at 7:00, 8:45 & 11:00am

*Easter Egg Hunt immediately
following the 8:45 service