

WINDSWEEP

April 2021

We're All in This Together

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

One lesson learned from the pandemic is that, like it or not, we are all in it together. It's not possible to do whatever I want to do without it having an impact—positive or negative—on someone else or many others. Writer Peter Mommsen puts it this way:

Covid-19 is proof that, yes, there is such a thing as society; the disease has spread precisely because we aren't autonomous individuals disconnected from each other, but rather all belong to one great body of humanity. The pain inflicted by the pandemic is far from equally distributed. Yet it reveals more clearly how much we all depend on one another, and how urgently necessary it is for us to bear one another's burdens.

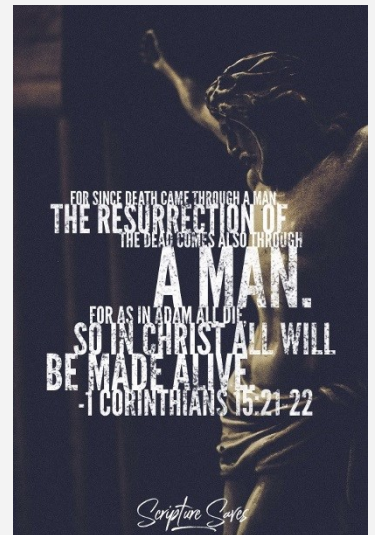
Our interconnectedness was part of God's Plan from The Beginning. Back in the Garden, the Creator realized it was not good that the first human should be alone. Of course, soon after God created the second human, these first parents were pointing fingers at each other to blame the other for the sin pandemic that started with their mutual disobedience. The consequences spread like ripples in a pool from one generation to the next, and this dis-ease that resulted in our alienation from God and one another still kills us. "All die in Adam," just as St. Paul says.

The ripples rolling out from the Garden have distorted our true solidarity as bearers of God's image. We have shrunk what it means to be "in this together" to one or more groups we identify with based on politics, nationality, race, religion, social issues, education, caste, class, age, gender, and on and on and on.

Jesus the Christ came to remind us that we are first and foremost created in the image of God, and that in our sin sickness every one of us needs the grace and mercy of God. God meets us in this solidarity of brokenness with forgiveness embodied by Christ on the Cross and emerging from his Empty Tomb. As all inevitably die with Adam and Eve, so now all are made alive together through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for discovering a new life of love lived across all the walls we erect between ourselves.

It sounds good on paper. It's far easier to say or write, "we're all in this together," than to live it. This is another reason the Holy Spirit gathers us into God's Church, and into our congregation. So we can practice this true solidarity as forgiven and raised people, and not just with those who look and think and vote like we do. The Spirit continues to make us into a house of prayer for all people, however we can safely experience it in an ongoing pandemic, as we discover new life in Christ.

~ Pastor Jeff Eisele



spiritofjoy.net

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New Spaces at Spirit of Joy



Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Unfinished Business

A. Building Expansion

1. **Landscape Proposal:** Discussed additional landscaping needs, including patio furniture. No action taken.
2. **Timing to move MIF building Loan into MIF mortgage?** Discussed timeline for converting building loan to mortgage loan. No action taken.
3. **Capital campaign offerings to keep in reserves?** Discussed what would be a reasonable amount to keep in reserve. No action taken.

B. Call Process

1. **Ministry Site Profile completed**
2. **Next steps for call committee**
3. **Congregational meeting date and time (and way to gather)?**

Discussed the next steps in the call process. The Call Committee may have 3 names to consider within the next week. A May 2, 2021 congregational meeting is tentatively planned to vote on call recommendation.

II. New Business

- A. **Election of Executive Committee:** Chad Wolff and Andrew Hewitt volunteered to join Ron Risty and Kerri Teitgen on the Executive Committee. Approved by the Leadership Team.
- B. **March Benevolence:** Motion by Andrew Hewitt and seconded by Kerri Teitgen to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.

Charis Ministries	\$1000
Pueblo de Dios	\$1000
Lutheran Outdoors	\$1500
Shetek Lutheran Ministries	\$1000

III. **Meeting Review and Lord's Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer.

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **April 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.***

Financials through February 28, 2021

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$97,766.35
Building Fund	\$53,967.72
Donor Restricted	\$26,586.55
Sunday School	\$794.67
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	February 2019	February 2020	February 2021
Attendance	1215	1410	???
General Offering	\$ 107,528.31	\$ 42,521.97	\$ 42,336.91
Building Offering	\$ 6,852.05	\$ 36,415.67	\$ 16,443.38

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$541,704.96
Donor Restricted	\$69,622.09
Total Cash Balance	\$795,002.44

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged : \$2,478,485
Received as of February 28, 2021: \$1,775,436.69

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$96,889.74
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$95,729.31
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	\$1,160.43

Faith Formation

First Communion

Pastor Jeff led Holy Communion Instruction for children and their parents Saturday, March 13, in preparation for First Communion on Palm Sunday, March 28 or Maundy Thursday, April 1. Each child painted their very own communion chalice in our brand new gathering space!



Walking with Jesus Milestone

Four-year-olds had a week of adventure with flat Jesus to remind them that Jesus is with them every day, wherever they go.



Upcoming Milestones

4th Grade Kids & Money Milestone - Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. Together, kids and families can have meaningful conversations about how to spend, share and save God's good gifts. Watch for more information to come. Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups so we can keep our seating distanced and safe.

Teens & Traffic Milestone - Presentation by Sgt. Paul Creviston (partner at SOJ) on April 18, 10 a.m. Teens will hear firsthand stories of the what, why, and how of safe driving. Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups so we can keep our seating distanced and safe.

Earthcare Milestone - April 25, 10 a.m. Learn about how God calls us to care for our creation. Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups so we can keep our seating distanced and safe.

Kindergarten Prayer Pillow Milestone - Wednesday, May 12 6:30-7:30 p.m. We will learn about prayer and have some fun activities, including a visit by a puppet! Each child will receive his or her very own prayer pillow. Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups so we can keep our seating distanced and safe.

Graduation from High School Milestone - Coming up in May 2021

Odds & Ends



Do you have a Cheerful Disposition?

The Hospitality team is looking for additional people to join their team. This is a great way to be more connected at Spirit of Joy. Contact Lori Tripp at 605-366-7834 for more information.



Community Garden

There are a few open spots in the Community Gardens. Each plot is 8' x 20'. Please call Heather in the church office at 333-2004 if you would like more information.



High School Youth Group Happenings

In December, Spirit of Joy welcomed Madeline Trosvig as the new Coordinator of High School Faith Formation. Youth group has been meeting weekly at 7:30, in person and via zoom. Along with weekly meetings, the youth had a Valentines Day cookie decorating party, pizza lunch after a Sunday service, a homeless bags to-go service project, and awesome conversations. We look forward to continuing weekly meetings at 7:30 p.m. (hopefully outside around a bonfire soon) and planning a summer getaway!



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool News.

March is the month of interesting weather! In preschool we have been learning about many types of weather and why they happen: wind, rain, snow, stormy, sunny and rainbow days! The month provides all types of weather so it is easy to learn as it happens. During this month, we track the weather based on LION or LAMB days. Believe it or not, there have been almost exactly half cold and wintry “lion” days and half warm and sunny “lamb” days!

Using hands on activities we were able to practice hand-eye coordination with umbrella bean bag toss games, learn science terms and physics by creating a wind to move heavy and light objects, and determine how rain falls from the clouds to the earth. We also agreed that sunny days are great for eating a picnic through a picnic lunch “experiment”. We have tried it out twice already! (Thank you for the picnic tables donation!)

March has also been about preparing for Easter. Children have been learning one story each week that reflects the last week of Jesus’ life. At Chapel time, we had a parade with palms and coats laid on the floor. Children marched throughout the sanctuary and hallways of Spirit of Joy singing Hosanna songs and shouting “Hosanna!” The joy could be felt and heard by everyone in the building.



Next, we read about the way Jesus showed his love for the disciples by washing their feet. The children recognize how caring it was for Jesus to help others. We gave it a try by taking turns washing one another’s shoes. Compassionate faces looked back at me as we remembered ways we could show kindness as well as ways we have been shown kindness. Here are a few ideas the children thought of: sharing a toy, sharing food, making a card or picture, and giving a hug or smile to someone. We remembered the day Jesus died on the cross. Children have been seeking crosses throughout the sanctuary and building. We can remember the love of Jesus when the crosses are found. Easter is coming, in spite of the confusing, sad day he



died. As one preschool friend reminded me, “Jesus rises eventually, don’t worry.” We will complete the story with Easter stories, art projects, and surprises!



Tours Always Available

Registration forms for Fall 2021 are now being taken. If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool, we would love to meet them! For more information and to see what we are doing each week, visit spiritofjoy.net/preschool or facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool. Tours of the preschool are always available by contacting Amy Cauble, 333-2004 or amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net.

Stickers are still available

Looking for that perfect accessory to your water bottle or car window?! How about a Spirit of Joy Preschool and/or Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church sticker? A fun, colorful logo sticker to support our preschool. Pick up your sticker in the church office anytime for a donation of your choosing!

****Get Creative****

Take a photo of your sticker and we’ll post it on Facebook.





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Return Service Requested



Palm Sunday
March 28 | 9 & 11 a.m.
Procession of Palms,
the Passion Story &
Holy Communion

Online sign up encouraged
spiritofjoy.net/signups

Maundy Thursday
April 1 | 6:30 PM
Holy Communion and
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
April 2
Walking Worship at
6:00, 6:15, 6:30 and 6:45

Online sign up encouraged
spiritofjoy.net/signups

Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 4
Festival Worship with Holy
Communion
7, 9, & 11 a.m.

Online sign up encouraged
spiritofjoy.net/signups