



WINDSWEEP



December 2021

Advent Songs



Katherine and I were driving across town one mid-November afternoon. I was checking out the music playing on a variety of FM stations when I came across David Bowie and Bing Crosby singing, “Come, they told me, pa rum

pa pa pum....”

“It’s starting already!” I complained.

“Here we go again,” my wife replied. “Let the pre-Thanksgiving Christmas music protest begin.”

“It’s too early! They could at least wait until we’ve digested the turkey and pumpkin pie.”

“You make this same speech every year,” Katherine sighed. “Obviously there are lots of people ready to hear and sing Christmas carols *before* receiving your permission!”

Well, okay then. This is most certainly true. It’s not that I don’t like singing Christmas songs in months other than December. (I can verify we have sung *Joy to the World* in our church in July!) One reason for my protest is that I fear we will skip right on by so many beautiful songs for Advent that speak so profoundly to life as we know it right now.

Advent songs are filled with verses about God coming to us as we watch and wait for God to show up and transform this weary and wounded world. Before we get to the manger on Christmas Eve, we hear a pregnant Mary sing of God coming to turn the world right side up:

[The Lord] has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. (Lk 1:52-53)

We hear old Zechariah sing after the birth of his son John:

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.... (Lk 1:78-79)*

We hear the haunting lament of a song that gives voice to those *Lost in the Night*:

*Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish,
Will not day come soon? ELW 243*

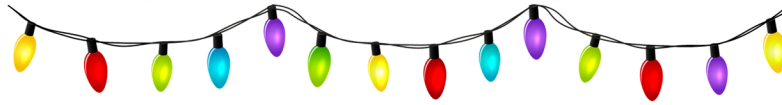
We sing of joyous expectation of the coming of that day which is not here yet but on the way, the day in which God will make all things new:

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory. ELW 242*

The words and tunes may not be as familiar as the many beloved carols we will also sing together this month. I hope you will still be blessed by the longing and hope in these Advent songs as we prepare for another Christmas, and even more importantly, for the fulfillment of the Promise. PJE



Faith Formation



My Church Milestone

A milestone for two-year-olds and their parents (and all 3- & 4-year-olds to catch up!). In November, 8 children gathered to learn about their church and have pictures taken at various places in the church. They will receive a photobook this Sunday during worship.



Kids & Money Milestone

Fourth graders and their parents met in November with Adam Punt to a casual and fun conversation about how money matters to our kids, to us, and to God. Thank you to Adam Punt for his many years of experience with this Milestone!



Upcoming Milestone



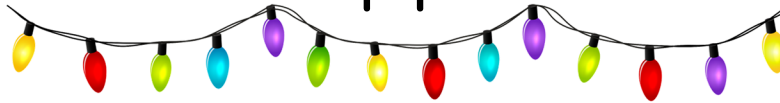
The **Anniversary of Baptism Milestone** for all infants baptized in 2021 and their parents will be celebrated **Sunday, January 9th** at both our 8:45 and 11:00 worship services. We will host a special learning activity for babies and families between worship services that day at 10:00 a.m. in the Galilee Room.

Little Lambs | Sunday, December 5 at 10:00 AM

We will meet in the 3- & 4-year-old preschool room for a joint Advent project creating a wooden nativity set. Parents are welcome!



Outreach Opportunities

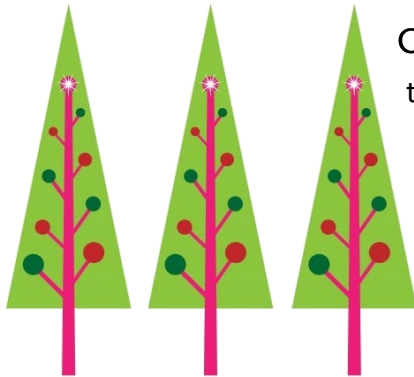


Necessities for Neighbors

Sunday, December 5

Peace Lutheran Church | 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Dress warmly as this will be an outdoor drive up delivery process. Gloves will be provided. Spirit of Joy partners and friends have collected toilet paper through the month of November. All donations will be delivered to Peace Lutheran to use during the distribution. Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups, to join in helping on Sunday, December 5.



Children of Joy is collecting items that will be distributed through our mission partner Church on the Street. Please consider donating granola or protein bars, mini-meat sticks, cocoa packets, stretch gloves, handwarmers, full size shampoo and conditioner, body wash or bars of soap and full size towels. All items should be dropped off by Sunday, December 19th. Thank you!

Anti-Racism Book Group

You are invited to participate in our ongoing conversations about race and racial justice in our country and in our church in the form of a book discussion. Wendi Van Beek will facilitate a discussion of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown, available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, or available as audiobook on Audible.

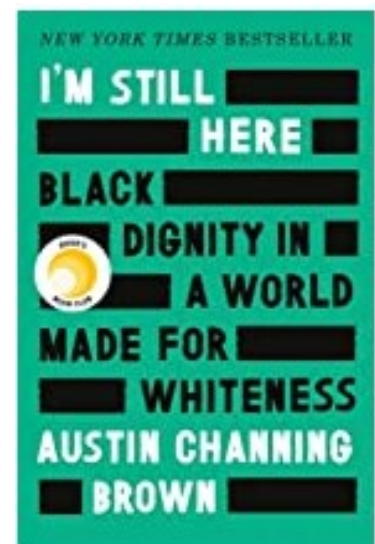
We will be meeting via Zoom:

Tuesday, January 25 at 7:00 PM

Thursday, January 27 at 10:00 AM

To receive the Zoom meeting link,

please email Wendi at wvanbeek@wartburgseminary.edu



Podcast Listening Group



Listen. Learn. Grow.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and for many, the most stressful! December's Podcast Listening and Discussion Group turns to The Bible Project's series on Sabbath. Listen to an episode per week. Then, meet once per month to discuss. Each month people will come and go. If a topic is interesting, join us! If you have too much going on and can't make a gathering. Listen anyway! Have a friend from someplace else that you'd like to invite to participate? Invite them!



Next Gathering: Monday, Jan. 3

Scooter's at 85th and Minnesota @ 7pm

Overview Page: <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/7th-day-rest-sabbath/>

What is the Sabbath? It's more than an antiquated law. It's about the design of time and the human quest for rest. The Sabbath and seventh-day rest is one of the key themes that starts on page one of the Bible and weaves beautifully all the way through the biblical story.

The week of Dec. 5: The Restless Craving for Rest- Episode 159, Originally aired 10/14/19

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/restless-craving-rest>

The week of Dec. 12: The Significance of Seven- Episode 160, Originally aired 10/21/19

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/significance-7>

The week of Dec. 19: Two Kinds of Work- Episode 161, Originally aired 10/28/19

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/two-kinds-work>

The week of Dec. 26: Hebrews: The Quest for Final Rest- Episode 172, Originally aired 12/30/19

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/hebrews-quest-final-rest>

Welcome Newest Partners of Spirit of Joy

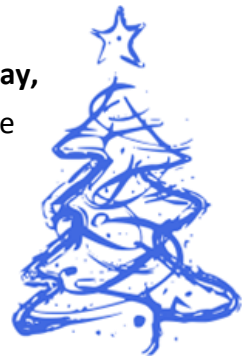
Craig & Lori Goth
Sam Hopper, Taylor, Elizabeth Quinn
James (Chip) & Linda Joyslin
Payton & Ashley Larsen
Don & Sharon Lehmann

Pastor Eric, Krista, Jonah, Elsa Ohrtman
Donna Mae Olson
Paul Radmacher
Jon & Jane Skaar
Rich & Mary Victor

Upcoming Events

Blue Christmas-Lost in the Night Worship Service

Spirit of Joy will offer a worship service of *Remembrance, Healing and Hope* on **Sunday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m. in our worship center.** This worship service allows us to pause in the middle of a hectic season for “making merry” and acknowledge that for many of us it can be a season of anxiety and sorrow. We gather for Advent songs, readings from Scripture, silence and prayer with others needing support and healing this Advent season.



Adult Forum - Advent Read

Join us for our Sunday Adult Forums in December at 10:00 a.m. (between worship services) as we focus on the themes and messages of “The Polar Express”. Each week we’ll read a section of the book, watch a clip of the movie, read an accompanying scripture, and discuss.



December 5: The Journey to the North Pole

Luke 12:1-8

Luke 1:26-38

December 12: The North Pole

Luke 2: 1-7

Luke 2:8-18

December 19: The Ride Home

Matthew 4:18-22

Acts 1:1-8

Together for Joy is the theme of this year’s annual gathering of estimates of giving for support of Spirit of Joy’s mission and ministry in 2022. We share gifts of time, talent and treasure in response to the God who “shows us the path of life” and never tires of gathering us into God’s Church to experience the “fullness of joy” in God’s presence and with one another. We invite all of our ministry partners to prayerfully decide how you will help us live out God’s calling and mission in the coming year. Commitment cards have been mailed to all of our ministry partners and are available in the church office and gathering space. You can also securely indicate your financial commitment for 2022 by going to our website: spiritofjoy.net/signups. As commitment cards come back, we’ll fill our jar with “Joy”. Watch the jar fill up and all candy will be donated to Church on the Street in January!



Thank You



Dear Spirit of Joy partners,

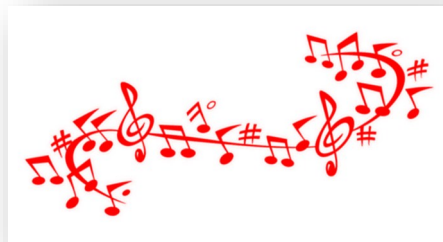
Thank you for twenty wonderful years of sharing life and ministry together with Spirit of Joy. I am exceedingly grateful for the many opportunities to worship, sing, learn and serve together. It was my great joy to serve as a deacon of worship and music and I'll be forever grateful.

Thank you for the beautiful quilted wall hanging, delicious luncheon and many good wishes. Paul and I were very touched by the gift of your blessing at the conclusion of worship on All Saints' Sunday. Your expressions of love and support have helped us face challenges and celebrate milestones over the years. Your blessing on what has been and on the new ventures ahead are greatly appreciated.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

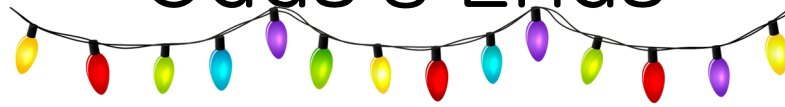
With love and thanksgiving,

Deacon Susan Wold Rohde



Sunday, November 7: All Saints Sunday,
Choral Led Worship "Come by Here, My Lord"

Odds & Ends



Women's Retreat at Joy Ranch

The women braved the first snowfall of the year and met at Joy Ranch for cozy weekend full of shared stories, scripture, worship, laughter and food. This year's theme was *Accompaniment: God's Story, Your Story, My Story*, with special guest speaker, Renee Splichal-Larson.



National Youth Gathering Fundraiser: Lefse

The youth and family and friends were busy in November making and selling Lefse. Thank you to all who donated time and money toward the fundraiser!



National Youth Gathering Fundraiser: Babysitting

Saturday, December 4 | 9 AM—NOON

Friday, December 17 | 5—9 PM

Free Will Donation

Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Sign Up Now

Spirit of Joy Preschool



Preschool News

It may seem early, but this is important stuff - early childhood education. Schedules, transportation, and child care all need to be sorted out. Families have many things to consider and prepare.

Beginning Monday, December 13, Spirit of Joy partners and existing preschool families can sign up for Fall 2022 Preschool classes. Complete a paper form found on the Kiosk or visit the website for an online form. Then, submit your \$75 registration fee to secure your spot for next year. EASY! *There is a ten percent tuition discount for Spirit of Joy partners and siblings. Scholarship dollars are available.

DON'T HAVE A PRESCHOOLER? YOU CAN HELP!

Personal recommendations make a difference: share/forward the preschool registration video (emailed out to partners soon) with colleagues and neighbors; like us on Facebook and share posts about daily activities; or invite someone for a preschool tour.

Let's make 2022-2023 our best year ever!!

For more information and to see what we are doing each week, visit spiritofjoy.net/preschool or facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool.

Contact Amy Cauble, teacher & director at 333-2004 or amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net.

Preschool Van Fund Continues!

The preschool van fund is 60% of the way there! We are grateful for your support! During the month of November 2021, the preschool received significant donations towards the purchase of a van- totaling \$10,030! We have nearly reached \$15,000 of the \$25,000 goal. Thank you!

Your preschool team is seeking opportunities to serve the Sioux Falls and Harrisburg communities by offering transportation to children unable to attend preschool otherwise. The van will help secure a strong foundation to young children nurturing both faith and academics. As the 2021 year comes to a close, please prayerfully consider if you can also assist the preschool in reaching this goal.

**Another option:* If you or someone you know is ready to trade in their used family van, the preschool would be interested. The funds gathered to this point will offset costs of insurance and car seats. Please contact Amy Cauble for more information. Thank you.





November
Fun



Preschool Christmas Program December 21 or 22 | 10:30-11:00 AM

You are invited to Christmas Family Storytime with the preschoolers. Come and share a short story of Christmas symbols and familiar songs. A celebration for all ages to remember the events surrounding Jesus' birth. All are welcome!



SAVE THE DATE

It's coming! Practice your golf swing!

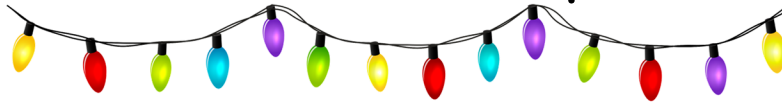
The First Ever Miniature Golf Tournament - March 2022

Start designing your mini-golf hole.

Don't put away the putter. Stay tuned for details!



From the Bishop's Desk



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! I am inviting you to tune in to our second annual South Dakota Synod Advent Podcast. The title is plain and simple "Shortage." It seems that much of our life these days is determined by what we don't have, whether it is in material, emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual sense. The world is always right at hand to shout at us loud and clear what we are short of, what we are not, and where we miss the mark. The Bible calls these shortcomings sin.

As we wait for more than packages to arrive at our doorstep, as we try yet one more time to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, as we take a deep breath hoping that tomorrow will be better, I invite you to tune in this Advent season and listen to Tangled Blue's tunes and synod staff's faithful conversations with partners in ministry. And as we arrive every week to listen, we trust that the Holy Spirit will open our ears and hearts to the message of hope-filled abundance so that we are ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ at Christmas time. So, watch and wait with me, as details for our annual Advent podcast are unfolding abundantly in the midst of shortages in the World. Peace be with you!

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

SHETEK BIBLE CAMP
(NEAR SLAYTON, MN)

FAMILY RETREAT

FEBRUARY 25-26

THEME: Incredible You
Exploring "The Incredibles"
& 1 Corinthians 12

Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for Call Process for Director of Lifelong FF and Worship Arts:** Lori Tripp moved and Kendra Krueger seconded to approve the MSP with one correction as noted by Pastor Jeff Eisele. Motion carried.

II. New Business

- A. **2022 Budgets:** The Leadership Team reviewed and revised the following budget proposals.
- a. **Mission and Ministry:** Lori Tripp moved and Jodi Hanson seconded to approve the Mission and Ministry budget. Motion carried.
 - b. **Building:** Deferred until updated.
 - c. **Preschool:** Chad Wolff moved and Andrew Hewitt seconded to approve the Preschool budget. Motion carried.
- B. **First Alternate for Call Committee:** Discussed potential candidates. No action taken.
- C. **November Benevolence:** Kendra Krueger moved and Lori Tripp seconded to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried. St. Dymas, \$2,000; Lutheran Social Services, \$500; Mission Partner—Pueblo, \$1,000; The Banquet, invoice + additional up to \$1,000.

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

Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Financials through October 31, 2021

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$44,542.14
Building Fund	\$18,245.79
Donor Restricted	\$33,417.57
Sunday School	\$215.01
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$96,829.57
Donor Restricted	\$69,473.16
Total Cash Balance	\$267,283.34

	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021
Attendance	1921	???	???
General Offering	\$47,259.90	\$36,511.35	\$39,351.62
Building Offering	\$400,081.32	\$76,908.31	\$18,881.51

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485

Received as of October 31, 2021: \$2,081,811.02

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$429,240.24
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$481,966.86
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$52,726.62



Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage PAID
Sioux Falls, SD
Permit No. 7771

Return Service Requested

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15 | 6:15 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19 | 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24 | 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 26, One Service at 9:30 a.m.

