

WIND SWEPT



Monthly Newsletter



December 2022

Matthew 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."



Immanuel. God with us.

It's our Advent theme for 2022. An exploration in worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. An invitation in a weekly devotional, a daily Advent calendar for all generations, and coloring posters in Shalom. And, if I'm honest, it seems unbelievable.

God? With us? I know that I'm not worthy. Inadequate? Yes. Undeserving? Absolutely. And, yet, there God is, made flesh, wrapped in swaddling cloths, laid in a manger... for me, for you.

Jesus was born amid upheaval and historical change and among people who seemed powerless and hopeless. Today, as Ukraine beats back Russia, as school shootings break hearts and ravage communities, as inflation squeezes families, and as we are torn apart by politics and derision, Christ's promise comes to us again. When the world feels hopeless, Advent reminds us God is with us.

In chaos, God is with us.

In suffering, God is with us.

In uncertainty, God is with us.

In whatever our family and our community endures, God is with us.

This Advent, I'd like to invite you to join me in exploring how Immanuel, God-with-us, brings hope, peace, love, and joy to us, especially during hard times. Pick up a weekly devotional, join us at 6:15 on Wednesday nights for Holden Evening Prayer, use the daily Advent calendar with your family, stop in Shalom Center to color and pray, come to our Children's Christmas Program at 11:00 on the 11th, invite a friend to join you at one of our three services on Christmas Eve, or pull up close with your family on Christmas morning and join us as we bring you the good news that God is with us via YouTube and Facebook.

Immanuel. God is with us, Spirit of Joy.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Holden Evening Prayer

Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 * 6:15pm

Children's Christmas Program

December 11 * 11:00am

Blue Christmas Worship

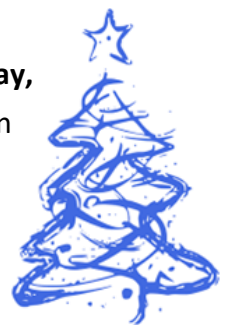
December 18 * 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 * 3:00, 5:00, 7:00pm

Blue Christmas-Lost in the Night Worship Service

Spirit of Joy will offer a worship service of *Remembrance, Healing and Hope* **on Sunday, December 18th 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.

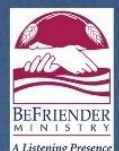


Christmas Blues? *We listen.*

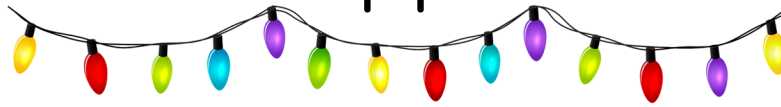
Want to connect?

Church: 605-333-2004

Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663



Outreach Opportunities

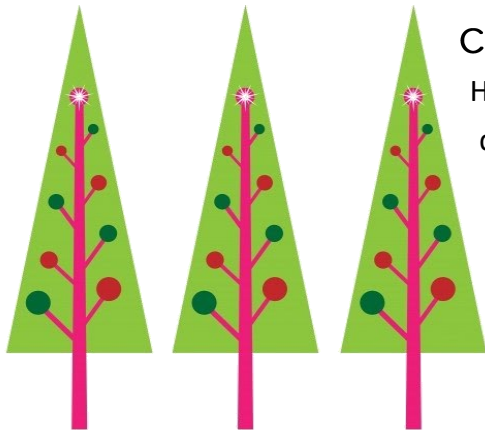


Necessities for Neighbors

Sunday, December 4

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 4.



Children of Joy Collection

Help us bless our neighbors by donating items that can be distributed through our mission partner Church on the Street. Items include: Granola bars, Mini meat sticks, Hot cocoa packets, Stretch gloves, Men's gloves, Hand warmers, Small fleece blankets. Collection boxes will be located in the education wing and by Spirit of Joy's front entrance from Sunday, November 20 - Wednesday, December 14 . Thank you!

Christmas Collection for Horace Mann Elementary School Students

Horace Mann Elementary is a unique school within the Sioux Falls School District. Students enrolled have shown an inability to regulate their emotions/behaviors at their home school. Horace Mann teachers and staff integrate behavior management strategies and skills along with their general education plan.

One of the behavioral techniques used are **SOAR** tickets. Students have the opportunity to earn **SOAR** tickets when they are observed demonstrating the skills of **S**afety, **O**wnership, **A**cceptance, and **R**espect. Each day the soar tickets are counted, students save them and spend them on a variety of things when the SOAR store is open.

Help us fill the store with items from our wish list. You can find the wish list near the school bus on the Welcome Center at church. Items may be new or gently used. Please return the items by Sunday, December 11th. We want the students to have an opportunity to purchase items before Christmas break!



Faith Formation



2023 Marriage Enrichment Retreat

“Refreshing Perspectives” | April 28-30, 2023, at Shetek



Marriage is one of the most rewarding lifelong and sometimes challenging experiences. Join us for a relaxing weekend focused on exploring skills to help enrich our marital relationships. Pastors Lon and Heidi Kvanli, partners at Spirit of Joy, will facilitate the weekend retreat. Pastors Lon and Heidi have been trained and certified to lead marriage enrichment retreats and have been doing this for many years. Retreat participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm marital topics/issues you would like covered, share their stories in new ways, and listen with a refreshing perspective. We will climax Saturday night with a romantic dinner. The atmosphere for the weekend is laid-back. Dress comfortably and in layers. Cost per couple: \$250.00. Registration forms are on the Welcome Center at church. There is room for 15 couples, forms and payment will secure your spot.

Thank you, Spirit of Joy for:

- Bringing your 2-year-olds to one of the best milestones-My Church Milestone.
- Participating in the Veteran’s Day Milestone. Thanks for honoring our veterans and current military service members with pictures and fellowship.
- 4th graders and parents for exploring with us the ways we give back to God. We appreciate Josh Swanstrom for facilitating the discussion on money with our 4th graders and parents.
- Thanks to Linda Beckman and Mary Tranberg for hosting the Women Social Gathering. Thanks, Women of Joy for the fun and treats! See you at our next Women’s Gathering at 7pm December 5.
- Joining us for a time of Fun & Fellowship in the Shalom Center. Meets first Monday of the month at 10am. All are welcome!

Coming Soon: Family Nerf Fellowship Night! We are working on finding a space for our Family Nerf Fellowship Night. We will keep you posted as soon as we reserve a spot.



Upcoming Events

Ukulele Christmas

Wed., December 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Want to experience Christmas music in a new way? Sing Christmas songs accompanied by a band of ukuleles. It's a sing along; it's kazoos; it's instrumentals. It's the 17-member Kazukes. Three partners of Spirit of Joy are members of the band – Sandy Ellingsen, Alec Boyce and Linda Beckman. The preschool will join us!



Sunday Forum

December 4---Sharing the Dream with Lauren Vaske

December 11---Celebrating Christmas During Difficult Times with Dr. Karen Soli

December 18--Yay Christmas: Christmas Cookies & Other Family Traditions with Dr. Heidi Kvanli

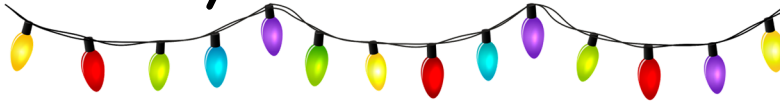
December 25—No Sunday Forum. Merry Christmas!

Church Office closed

Monday & Tuesday, December 26 & 27
and Monday, January 2

Year-End Giving. Any gift that you would like to be reflected in your 2022 giving must be into the Spirit of Joy office by no later than noon on Thursday, December 29. Thank you for continued support of the mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy.

Spirit of Joy Welcomes Family



Hanan Milano Antonio

At the beginning of Bible Study, Deacon Hannah asks where we have seen God. God was at the Sioux Falls Airport on November 3rd when Spirit of Joy partners and representatives from Lutheran Social Services welcomed Antonio, Hanan and Milano to Sioux Falls. God was at

the new apartment as Spirit of Joy partners and LSS representatives helped get the family settled on November 4. Thank you to Spirit of Joy for your commitment to Radical Hospitality and Extravagant Generosity!

Becoming Settled in United States

What is the difference between an immigrant and a refugee? Immigrants choose to leave their homes and may come with temporary visas, allowing them to remain for a period of time or under certain conditions such as students or tourists. They may have permission that allows them to remain indefinitely. Refugees flee their homes because they are afraid for their personal safety. They are unable to return home because of fear of persecution. Refugees arrive with temporary residency and may apply for legal permanent status residency after one year. After five years, legal permanent residents may apply for citizenship. All refugees are eligible for employment.

Why does the United States resettle refugees? It is part of a global humanitarian mission begun after World War II when more than 250,000 Europeans were resettled. It may take up to ten years or more for the refugee process when coming to the United States. It starts by running to other countries due to a fear for their safety. The next step is to apply to the United Nations High Commission (UNHCR) for protection. If approved, they are assigned to a refugee camp. They may be sent back to their country of origin or accepted for resettlement. Some are allowed to meet with U. S. government officials to compile personal information and conduct security checks. If accepted, this can take between 18 months and two years. They wait for an

interview with U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. They are also fingerprinted, go through a series of medical checkups, and are photographed. After all these steps individuals are then connected with agencies such as Lutheran Social Services. LSS resettled 50 refugees in South Dakota in 2020. This is less than .5% of the total refugees settled in the United States.

How does LSS help? LSS helps with initial housing and basic needs assistance. Through federal funding, refugees are eligible for up to eight months of cash assistance until self-sufficiency is reached. To receive this, employable adults must cooperate with an employment program and attend at least six hours a week of English language training and 30 hours of community orientation. Core services provided by LSS include community orientation and education, case management, employment services, English Language training, immigration services, and interpreter services. LSS case management and employment services are available for up to five years. All refugees are legally qualified for employment upon arrival. Employment services assist in finding first jobs as well as job upgrades. English language training is available four days and two nights a week. Classes focus on oral and written English skills. LSS immigration attorneys assist refugees who are pursuing permanent residency or U.S. citizenship.

If you have questions about refugee resettlement in South Dakota, please contact Tim Jurgens, Program Director and State Refugee Coordinator at Tim.Jurgens@lsssd.org or 866-242-2447.

Information for this article was provided by Lutheran Social Services and printed with their permission.

~ Elaine Frary



Move in day! Pictured L to R: Million Yosief, Antonio, Elaine Frary, Carole Chell, Hanan, Bob Chell, Paul Johnston, Ron Frary. Not pictured: Missing are Lil Johnston, Bob Jenson, Daryl and Sharon Sopko.

Creation Care Corner



☞ *Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy...*

Hope, peace, love, and joy to our Spirit of Joy partners from the Creation Care Team as we meet in the season of Advent and celebrate and rejoice in the birth of Christ – love come down to earth. As we sing songs about **peace on earth**, let us reflect on ways we can help this beautiful planet we have been gifted. Maybe we can turn our attention to ways we can show God’s love by helping the earth and all God’s creatures.

Did you know about ELCA Good Gifts (<https://goodgifts.elca.org/all-gifts>)? Here, you can purchase gifts anywhere from \$10 to over \$500 that do good for others such as purchasing a fruit tree seedling that will not only thrive in dry conditions and prevent soil erosion but also provide food to adults and children. Or you can buy a shared plot of land and soil, add drought-resistant seeds, and top it off with the gift of honeybees. Check it out and/or join up with others to make a lasting impact.

Did you know that food loss and food waste in the US alone typically equals the annual carbon dioxide emissions of 42 coal-fired power plants? (this doesn’t even include emissions from food waste rotting in landfills) Have you ever composted? Did you know there is a countertop composter from Lomi that can turn your food waste into plant-friendly dirt? There is a pilot program happening now with SoDak Compost and IronFox Farm that will hopefully have more drop-off sites for compost soon in Sioux Falls. Composting is actually a fun habit to pick up for 2023 and beyond.

Did you know that you can recycle wrapping paper as long as it rips BUT you cannot recycle wrapping paper that has foil, glitter, or is super shiny? You can also recycle Christmas cards as long as they are paper with no foil or glitter. You can recycle gift bags as long as they are paper and not shiny or foil or glittery. Photo paper, Christmas photo cards, bows, and ribbons are NOT recyclable and should go in the garbage. Did you know that if your Christmas lights don’t work anymore, you CANNOT recycle them BUT you should not throw them away either? Instead, take them to the Sioux Falls Household Hazardous Waste Facility off of N Cliff. Better yet, round up nonworking lights from people you know so you only use 1 vehicle and make 1 trip to the facility!

Looking to mix it up this year with gift giving? Check out these recommendations <https://greenthatlifecom/green-gifts-for-good/>. This site also has good tips on doing research before any charitable giving to make sure your money is going where it should.



Colossians 3:15-17 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Spirit of Joy Preschool



Fall 2023 Registration opens in January
We would love to see your family here!

Spirit of Joy Preschool provides a caring community for children three years to five years to experience the love of God and the love of learning. Weekly areas of exploration include literacy, math, social skills, faith, science, art, and music. Curriculum meets South Dakota Early Childhood Learning Guidelines and provide active, play-based learning.

Preschool Class Offerings 2023-2024

<i>3 year old class meets Tuesday, Thursday 8am-12pm</i>	<i>\$160/month & \$75 registration fee</i>
<i>4 year old class meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-12pm</i>	<i>\$200/month & \$75 registration fee</i>
<i>PreK class meets Monday-Thursday 8am-12pm</i>	<i>\$225/month & \$75 registration fee</i>

**Ages based on a September 1, 2023 cutoff date. For your convenience, drop off times begin at 7:40am and pick up times extend to 12:20pm. Transportation services offered with limited seating and monthly fee.*

Reserve your child's spot for next year with a registration form and \$75 registration payment.

- January 4-8 Registration open for current students & SOJ Partners.
- January 8 Open Registration for the Community.

Paper forms are available at the Welcome Center beginning December 24 and online forms are available beginning January 4. Payments must be made via check, there is no online payment option at this time.

Contact Amy Cauble, Director, with questions or to tour the preschool anytime. All are welcome!



Odds & Ends



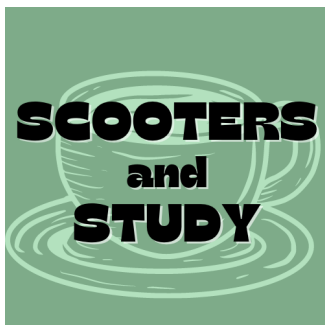
Hospitality Team



Sara Mayer
Amy Eisenbeisz
Rhonda Samuelson
Heather Ahrendt
Eric Ohrtman (Staff)
Not Pictured:
Linda Beckman
Kristen DeVries
Arlene Drew
Marilyn Gannon
Lori Goth
Donna Olson



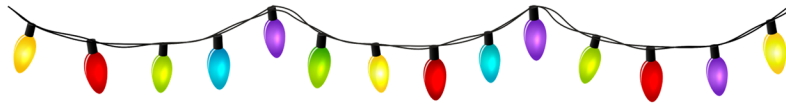
Scooters and Study-Intergenerational Bible Study
Kick-Off is January 11 at Scooters Coffee (85th & Minnesota)



We are pausing our Intergenerational Bible Study for high schoolers and adults during the month of December. Deacon Hannah and Madeline are re-working parts of the study and want to invite you to join them again in January, this time at **Scooters Coffee on 85th and Minnesota**. Having a separate location will provide stability and something different from the regular Wednesday night routine. Deacon Hannah and Madeline can provide rides from the church after Wednesday night worship or you can meet us there at 7:00 pm. We'll end at 7:45 to allow time to get back to the church.

Sign-up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups to help us plan for materials.

Youth News



High School Summer Trip: Adventure Camp



Who: Anyone completing or going into 9th-12th grade. Only 20 spots are available!

What: This small-group adventure experience includes full-day or part-day adventures such as hiking or overnight backpacking, biking on the Mickelson Trail, lake and creek kayaking, caving, service projects, and the low ropes challenge course and trail horseback ride. The week includes daily worship, Bible study, great food, and awesome counselors!

Where: Outlaw Ranch, Custer, SD

When: June 25-30

How: If you are interested or just need more details, please attend one of the short informational meetings, either November 30th at 8:00 (right after confirmation) or December 11th at 7:00 (right after youth group). If you cannot make it to a meeting and want more information and/or sign up, contact our High School Director, Madeline at madeline.spiritofjoy@gmail.com.

Cost: \$250 total. \$100 deposit due by January 8. Balance due by April 1. Scholarships are available upon request, reach out to Madeline with questions.



Gardening Season Comes to a Close

Thank you to all Spirit of Joy volunteers that kept the prayer garden and community garden in great shape this summer. Many helping hands keep the gardens a favorite place to visit for Spirit of Joy partners and friends.

Preparations have already begun to move the community gardens away from the shade of the trees for next summer.



Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes



November 17, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy



I. Rev. Paul Johnston and Mary Victor, SoJ Call Committee:

- A. **Vote on Call Committee Recommendation:** Motion by Jodi Hanson and second by Kendra Krueger to accept the Call Committee's recommendation to call Pastor Eric Ohrtman as Lead Pastor. Motion carried.
- B. **Call for Special Congregational Meeting:** Motion by Heather Krzmarzick and second by Andrew Hewitt to call a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of considering a candidate for Lead Pastor. The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 following notification on two consecutive Sundays prior to the vote. Motion carried.

II. 2023 Mission Plan: The Leadership Team reviewed the proposed 2023 Mission Plan with each Team Leader providing justification for their sections of the budget. Chad Wolff moved and Andrew Hewitt seconded to approve the 2023 Mission Plan with several revisions. The 2023 Mission Plan will be presented to the SoJ congregation for approval at the Fall Congregational Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 2022.

III. Unfinished Business

- A. **Audit Committee Update:** The Leadership Team reviewed the Audit Committee report and discussed implementation of recommendations. Jason Ahrendt moved and Kendra Krueger to approve the report. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

- A. **The Parkwood:** Andrew Hewitt and Chad Wolff provided information about the meeting with representatives of Parkwood. No action taken.
- B. **First Reading of the Constitution:** Pastor Eric Ohrtman provided an overview of the changes to the SoJ Constitution. The changes are consistent with language approved at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. The second reading and vote by the Leadership Team will be completed at the December 2022 meeting before going to the congregation for approval.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at 4301 E Mission St.***

Financials through October 2022

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$2,875.10
Building Fund	\$30,515.51
Donor Restricted	\$28,710.35
Sunday School	\$1,025.37
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022
Attendance	???	???	916
General Offering	\$ 36,511.35	\$ 39,351.62	\$ 45,612.65
Building Offering	\$ 76,908.31	\$ 18,881.51	\$ 28,515.51

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$177,665.55
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,478.23</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$314,830.21

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485
Received as of May 31, 2022: \$2,297,671.32

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$484,834.82
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$556,374.07</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$71,539.25

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770
Received as of October 31, 2022: \$143,588.93



Non Profit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Sioux Falls, SD

Permit No. 7771

Return Service Requested



The Leadership Team has called a special
Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, December 4, 10:00 AM

For the purpose of considering
Reverend Eric Ohrtman
as Lead Pastor at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

