



# WINDSWEEP

February 2022

## You Are God's Partner

*For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. Hebrews 3:14*

Sometime in the first year or two of our life together, Spirit of Joy decided that we would call our members “partners.” The hope was that by referring to those who choose to become regular participants “partners” instead of “members,” we would communicate that the Holy Spirit has gathered us to do ministry together. We couldn’t call ourselves a “church”—at least not a New Testament kind of church—if our aim was mostly to gather club “members” who would pray and pay while a few professionals did most of the work.

I have been thinking about this lately while reading *God Has a Dream* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, following his death in December. Tutu reminds us again and again that Jesus-followers are not just partners in ministry with one another: we are partners *with God* in fulfilling God’s Dream for our time in our world.

It doesn’t take much these days to become frustrated or close to despair about how broken our society seems right now, and how difficult it is for us to come together about *anything* including taking even basic steps to combat a global pandemic. I angrily wonder when *they* are going to do something about it— “they” being the learned experts, powerful politicians, the Supreme Court, the incredibly wealthy leaders of commerce.

The Bible reminds me again that God almost always chooses different partners than the famous and powerful to heal what is broken in the world and turn it right side up. You and I are God’s partners in this work!

Archbishop Tutu puts it this way:

*You are the indispensable agent of change. You should not be daunted by the magnitude of the task before you. Your contribution can inspire others, embolden others who are timid, to stand up for the truth in the midst of a welter of distortion, propaganda, and deceit; stand up for human rights where these are being violated with impunity; stand up for justice, freedom, and love where they are trampled underfoot by injustice, oppression, hatred, and harsh cruelty; stand up for human dignity and decency at times when these are in desperately short supply.*

When people ask, “Who do you think you are to be so bold about such things, to challenge the status quo and upset what is?” you can say, “I am God’s partner, and God is changing the world this very moment through me.” God is calling us to extend God’s shalom, and we are just the partners God will use to make it happen. ~PJE



**Jeff Eisele**

*Pastor*

jeffeisele@spiritofjoy.net

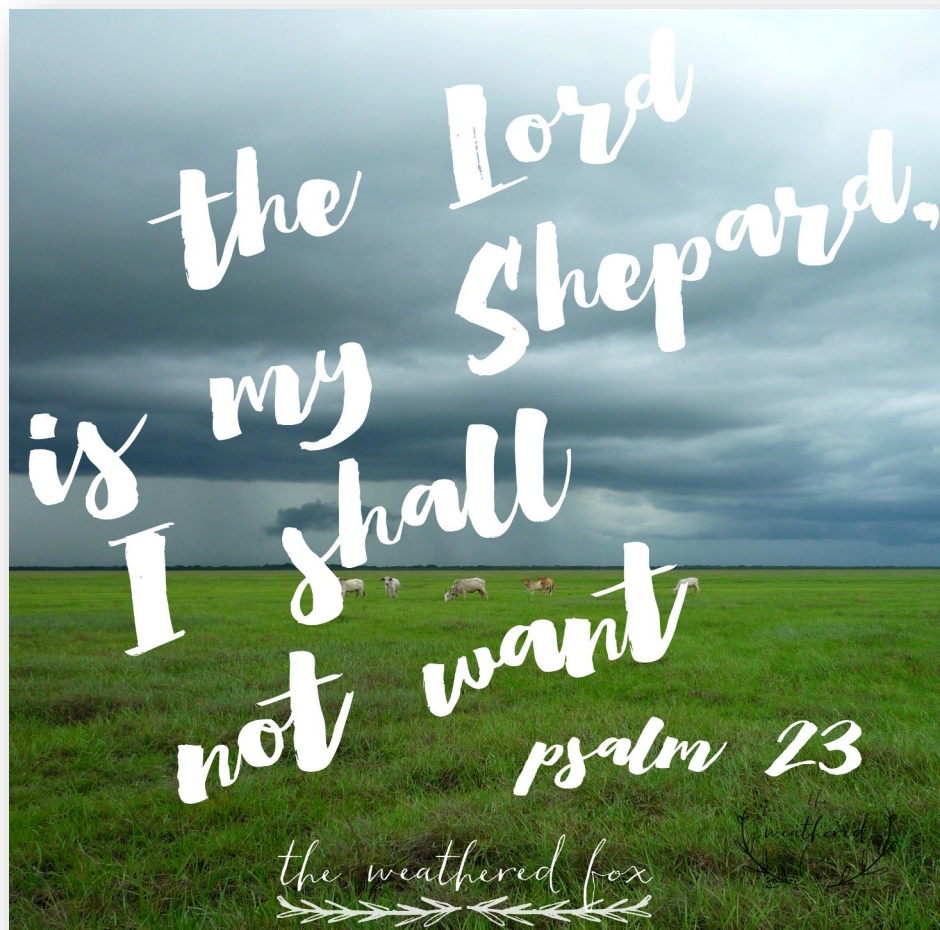
# Ash Wednesday Worship

March 2 | 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



## Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

On the following Wednesdays in Lent, **beginning March 9**, Spirit of Joy will walk with our Good Shepherd Jesus to the Cross by immersing ourselves in the comforting words of **Psalm 23** during **Wednesday Evening Prayer from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m.** We will consider the rich gift of **Psalm 23** verse by verse over five Wednesday evenings through music, words, visual art, and hands on activities during worship.



# Outreach Opportunities



## Church on the Street Service Opportunity

Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 7 PM | Spirit of Joy

Help us sort, organize, and prepare clothing for distribution.

All ages and abilities welcome!

Sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

### Church on the Street will be distributing these packs at a Health & Healing Event

Saturday, February 26 from 1-3 PM at First Lutheran Church.

This is a day of pampering for people in Sioux Falls who are without homes or living in poverty.

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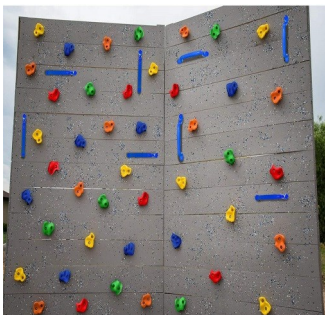
## Children of Joy

Beginning February 4th, Children of Joy will be collecting quarters for Laundry with Love! Twice a month, Church on the Street provides three free loads of laundry to anyone in need. You can collect quarters in the little plastic containers (available to pick up at the church) or simply put them in the children's offering jar on a Sunday morning. If you don't have a child in PreK-5th grade, we invite you to find a child in the congregation to gift your quarters to for placement in the blue jar.



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## Spirit of Joy purchased a rock wall for Bridges at Horace Mann!



Considerable research indicates that exercise can significantly reduce anxiety and depression and increases the likelihood of student engagement. The rock wall is a unique, motivating, full body workout integrating aerobic exercise with muscle building that is not easily accessible in other settings for many Horace Mann students. The tool will give staff the ability to offer another option to grow underdeveloped neural pathways and over-regulated nervous systems that students experience as a result of stress and/or trauma. The benefits are immeasurable! Thank you, Spirit of Joy!

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## Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

February 4-April 10 Laundry with Love Quarter Drive

February 10-Church on the Street Clothing Pack Assembly

March 17 - Food to You

April 17-May 15 Journey of Hope Drive

April 26 - Laundry with Love

**Look for online sign up's at [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net) as the event approaches!**

# Faith Formation

Kindergarten Milestone

## Prayer Pillows!

Saturday, February 26, 2022  
9:00 am - 10:15 am  
Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

### Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Milestones

Teens & Traffic Milestone

*Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.*

2nd Grade Lord's Prayer Milestone

*Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m.*



Plan to join us for:

**Family Fun Night!**  
**Friday, February 4th**

**5:30–9:00 p.m.**

for PreK-5th grade kids

*Pizza, games, bounce house and movie!*



### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**No Children of Joy** Wednesday, February 16 & Sunday, February 20

**No Little Lambs** in February. Plan to join us again on March 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room.

# Adult Education

## Spring 2022 Sunday Forum Schedule | 10:00 AM

- February 6: Congregation Meeting, 10:00 a.m. in the Worship Space
- February 13: Living Library hosted by Youth Group. The Living Library invites people to an intentional space for sharing stories and creating connected communities. “Readers” are invited to listen to the unique stories of various Spirit of Joy partners, “books”.
- February 20-27: Immigration, Refugees, & Trafficking, Jordan Bruxvoort of The Naomi Project will present current news and trends while introducing us to his work.
- March 6-April 10: Romans-The Book of Faith Series



## Spirit of Joy Woodworking Group

Interested in joining the SoJ Woodworking Group? We’re building internal parts for pediatric wheelchairs in partnership with Hope Haven International! No experience necessary. All are welcome!

**Contact Craig Samuelson with questions: 605-951-1496.**



## Spirit of Joy Mobile App

Download the Spirit of Joy mobile app, through [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). This is a great way to know what’s happening at Spirit of Joy.

# Spirit of Joy Preschool



## Thank You, Thank You

*We now have a preschool van with your help*

Donations began in August at the Family Picnic & Concert Event. Since then, several donation dollars (Over \$14,000) have come in as well as a donated vehicle! Special thanks to Pastor Paul and Pastor Lil Johnston for the donation of a family van. Your preschool is now able to reach out to the community to offer preschool. All monetary donations will be used to maintain, insure, and equip the van with car seats. Money not used will be saved for a future van.

## Preschool Registration for Fall 2022

2022-2023 Preschool Registration is open and all are welcome. Classroom spots for children 3 years old, 4 years old, and 5 years old are available. Registrations are coming in, so reserve your child's spot today with a form and \$75 registration fee. Visit the preschool website [spiritofjoy.net/preschool](https://spiritofjoy.net/preschool) for more information and to register. View a video about the program as well. Share your preschool with friends, a referral program is available.



**For more information or to schedule a tour (available anytime),**  
contact Amy Cauble, teacher & director at 333-2004  
[amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net](mailto:amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net).

**Registration available online or in person**  
[spiritofjoy.net/preschool](https://spiritofjoy.net/preschool) for more information  
Scholarships, partner and sibling discounts available

# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## December Highlights

December was a month filled with JOY! Children were able to share the Christmas story and songs with their family and friends. The program was an interactive event with art, music, and storytelling provided to all in attendance.

Thank you for coming!  
Miss Amy & Miss Kendra



## WE'RE SWINGING INTO SPRING WITH... SPIRIT OF JOY PRESCHOOL'S 1st Annual Mini Golf "PAR-TEE" FUNDRAISER! Sunday, March 6 at 1:30-3:30 PM

Design your own golf ball, play a round of mini golf, and enjoy snacks & time with friends.  
Just \$2 per player. Free will donation for snacks.

### **Wanted: Mini Golf Hole Sponsors/Builders**

Design your golf hole, register online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups), pay your sponsorship fee (\$30), and compete to win prizes for Most Creative Golf Hole, Best Dressed Golfer, and Best Re-purposed Materials Golf Hole. Get creative and have a fun! Incorporate your hobby, use only recycled materials, or build a golf hole out of Lego.



# From the Bishop's Desk

## Partners in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

This month I am coming to you with an invitation. This invitation is especially for all those who serve on the council or those who have been newly elected to the council, and particularly the newly elected ones for whom this is a brand new experience, the ones who can say; "I have never done this kind of thing before, now what?" Please, join synod staff for a 90 minute gathering via Zoom on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 from 7 PM - 8:30 PM. You will be able to meet and be in conversation with your synod staff and others like you, who also serve on the council in their respective community of faith. We will offer brief but precise small group learning opportunities. Some examples of the things we will discuss are: how to lead an effective meeting, what are you asked to do and what are you not asked to do as a council member, and the difference between a mission plan and a budget. As the South Dakota Synod we are committed to each other in journeying together in Christ, it is my sincere hope that you will find this learning opportunity helpful as you accept and carry out leadership positions in your context. Please know that I am personally grateful for your willingness and readiness to lead, your generous gift of your time to the ministry of your congregation, the South Dakota Synod, and the ELCA, and your gift of resources, which make opportunities like this one possible.

Journeying in Christ with you,

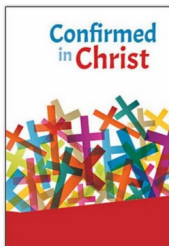
**Rev. Constanze Hagmaier**

*Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA*



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## Middle School Confirmation Schedule



### February

2- 1st and 2nd Commandments

9- 3rd Commandment

**16- No Class**

23- *Road Trip to the State Theater*

### Wednesday Schedule

6:15-7:00 — Worship

7:00-7:30 — Large Group Teaching

7:30-8:00 — Small Group Discussion

Meeting times for fun events and service projects will vary depending on evening activity.  
Watch your email and get connected to Spirit of Joy on our Tithely App!



# Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. at Spirit of Joy

## I. Unfinished Business

- A. **2022 Mission Plan (Budget) Revisions:** Discussed revision in the 2022 budget for Pastor Eric Ohrtman's compensation package. Kendra Krueger moved and Jason Ahrendt seconded to revise 2022 budget as presented and discussed. Motion carried.
- B. **Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Revision:** Discussed recommendation to remove the pastor requirement in the MSP. Jason Ahrendt moved and Kendra Krueger seconded to revise the MSP. Motion carried.

## II. New Business

- A. **Seminary intern proposal:** Discussed request to accept a seminary intern. No action taken.
- B. **Designation of Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Discussed using these donations to support SoJ's transportation needs, including insurance and upkeep for donated van, as well as planning ahead for new transportation that could be used for the preschool, youth, and other SoJ groups. Pastor Eric Ohrtman moved and Jason Ahrendt seconded to use the 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars to support SoJ transportation costs. 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, February 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.***

## Financials through December 31, 2021

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$73,352.68
Building Fund	\$65,679.75
Donor Restricted	\$47,427.67
Sunday School	\$149.44
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	December 2019	December 2020	December 2021
Attendance	2233	???	???
General Offering	\$ 53,985.65	\$ 138,167.98	\$ 84,392.93
Building Offering	\$ 120,436.78	\$ 113,318.63	\$ 65,679.75

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$97,767.20
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,473.15</u>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$358,409.99</b>

### Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485  
 Received as of December 31, 2021: \$2,186,154.01

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$577,822.44
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$599,200.61</u>
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>- \$21,378.17</b>

# BeFrienders

BeFrienders are here for you.

We all need a listening ear.



With this pandemic raging and other concerns right now, we all need a listening ear. **Adults and teens,** BeFrienders are trained confidential listeners, and we are available to you. No concern or fear regarding the pandemic or any other issue is too small to verbalize. You may only need to meet with a BeFriender once to speak your fears out loud.

**Want to connect with a BeFriender?**

Call the church office (605-333-2004) or  
Linda Beckman (605-759-4663) or a pastor.

Here are some of the tools BeFrienders have learned that we can all use to be good listeners for one another.

- Let the person who is talking tell what they are dealing with in their own way. Don't rush them; let them choose their own words. Relax as a listener.
- Don't interrupt with questions or opinions that may divert the story or change the direction the storyteller envisioned.
- Don't discount the feelings of others by saying, "You shouldn't feel that way." Feelings are real whether they seem justified or not. (Remember to listen to kids and teens the same way.)
- Restate what you have heard, e.g. "I heard you say that you are feeling afraid about ..."
- Thank the person for sharing with you. Often just saying their concern or fear out loud will help lessen their anxiety.

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## Spirit of Joy @ Camp

Summer Camp Registrations at Lutherans Outdoors and Shetek are now open. Spirit of Joy offers camp scholarships to all who attend.

**Contact Michele Vogel ([sojyouth2208@gmail.com](mailto:sojyouth2208@gmail.com)) for more information.**

**February 25-26** Family Retreat at Shetek. Sign up now at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

**June 26-July 1** Family Camp at Outlaw Ranch. Register at [losd.org](http://losd.org)

**July 24-29** Spirit of Joy Week at Shetek. 3rd—9th Graders Register at [shetek.org](http://shetek.org),  
be sure to use the code "Spirit of Joy" when the form asks for your GHR ID



# Joyful Moments



# High School News

## High School Youth Group

In January, high schoolers and their parents were invited to a meeting with Madeline and Pastor Jeff. We discussed the importance of faith formation and the new Wednesday night model.

Pastor Jeff shared the story of a youth group that faced a close call with one of their participants and how that time changed their youth group for the better. Instead of coming together to play games and have fun, the youth group gathered in the waiting room to pray over their friend. Soon, other members of all ages from the congregation started coming to the waiting room. It was in the waiting room that the youth and the adult members started sharing different stories of their personal experiences that brought them into the



waiting room to pray over the sick youth member. After the youth member recovered, the discussions that happened in the waiting room found their way at the heart of discussions in the youth group. The children thirsted for the stories of the adults and wanted to have talks about the meaning of life, purpose, and God in these stories.

After two years of isolation due to the pandemic, it is more crucial than ever to build connections among our youth and adults at Spirit of Joy. Each month, we want to have storytelling and discussions with adults for two Wednesdays, a Wednesday of service, and a Wednesday for fun. If you feel called to share your stories or want to listen in on the stories of our partners, please join us Wednesday nights from 7-8:30. This is a 14+ club with no cap on age!

## 2022-2023 Scholarship Application

If your senior is headed to college/tech school/university this fall, they may wish to apply for the Spirit of Joy scholarship. The church offers a **one-time scholarship** for students who are **full time** and seeking their **first degree**. The scholarship checks are sent during the summer directly to the institution of choice.



ALL scholarship applications must be completed **on-line** at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups). **Deadline** for scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 academic year is **March 1, 2022**. If college choice has not been finalized - that's OK. Just let us know your selection as soon as possible.

# Mental Health Check In

## To Learn More

*Human: The World Within* available today on Netflix or PBS

Episode 2 | Pulse

Dive into the world of an ice climber, a bus driver, a woman in labor and a senior dance club to show how the human heart and the circulatory system power our physical and emotional lives and create the pulsing rhythm of our world. Specifically, this episode looks at the mechanisms in our brain that cause anxiety and depression.

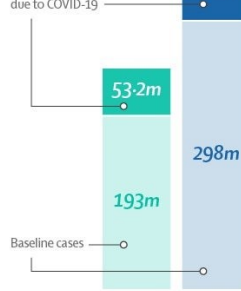
## The COVID-19 pandemic has had a large and uneven impact on global mental health

Cases of mental disorders rose sharply during the pandemic

Cases in 2020

Major depressive disorder  
Anxiety disorders

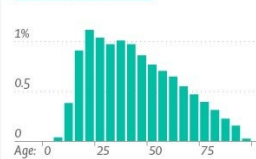
Additional cases due to COVID-19



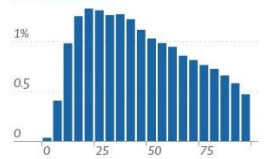
Younger people were hardest hit

Additional prevalence due to COVID-19, by age

Major depressive disorder



Anxiety disorders



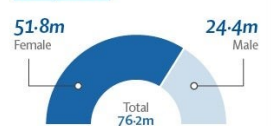
Increases were higher among females than males

Additional cases due to COVID-19, by gender

Major depressive disorder



Anxiety disorders



Read the full paper: Santomauro DF, Mantilla Herrera AM, Shadid J, et al. Global prevalence and burden of depressive and anxiety disorders in 204 countries and territories in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Lancet*. 2021. Published online October 8.

THE LANCET



The mental health stressors of the pandemic have hit us all harder than expected. However, women and young people have been hit hardest. Give yourself a break. Seek professional help without shame or judgment. Know that you are not alone.

## Some strategies for managing your mental health

- **Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories.** Consider limiting news to just a couple times a day and disconnecting from phone, tv, and computer screens for a while.
- **Take care of your body**
  - \* Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate
  - \* Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals
  - \* Exercise regularly
  - \* Get plenty of sleep
  - \* Avoid excessive alcohol, tobacco, and substance use
  - \* Continue with routine preventive measures recommended by your healthcare provider
  - \* Get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine
- **Make time to unwind** — Try to do some other activities you enjoy
- **Connect with others** — Talk with people you trust about how you are feeling
- **Connect with your community or faith-based organizations**