

WIND SWEPT

Monthly Newsletter

February 2023

Grace to you and peace!

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd (we gather for worship at 5 and 7pm). This day of solemnity marks the beginning of our Lenten series on the Seven “I AM” statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. We’ll join our Children of Joy in taking a deeper look at the character of Christ as revealed in these statements.

The phrase “I AM” originated in Exodus 3:14, when, in response to Moses’ question, “Who should I say sent me?” God offered “I am who I am.” In using this expression, Jesus is explicitly identifying himself as God, and bearing God’s presence on Earth.

Written as metaphors, each statement follows a basic pattern. Jesus always provides an explanatory statement with it, so there is no misunderstanding to its meaning. These statements often complement Jesus’ miracles, called “signs” in the Gospel of John. Each of the miracles is interpreted by the metaphorical “I AM” statement. Jesus’ miracles were not just acts of power or mercy, but actions demonstrating the meaning and purpose of his larger ministry and teaching. As an invitation to the larger series, let’s look at just one statement.

“I am the bread of life.” – Jesus

Jesus pointed out in 6:26-27 that there are two kinds of food: food for the body, necessary but not most important, and food for the inner being, which is essential. Neither manna on the journey to the Promised Land in Moses’ time (Exodus 16:13-18) nor loaves in the Promised Land in Jesus’ time (John 6:1-15) could satisfy the core hunger which Jesus came to satisfy.

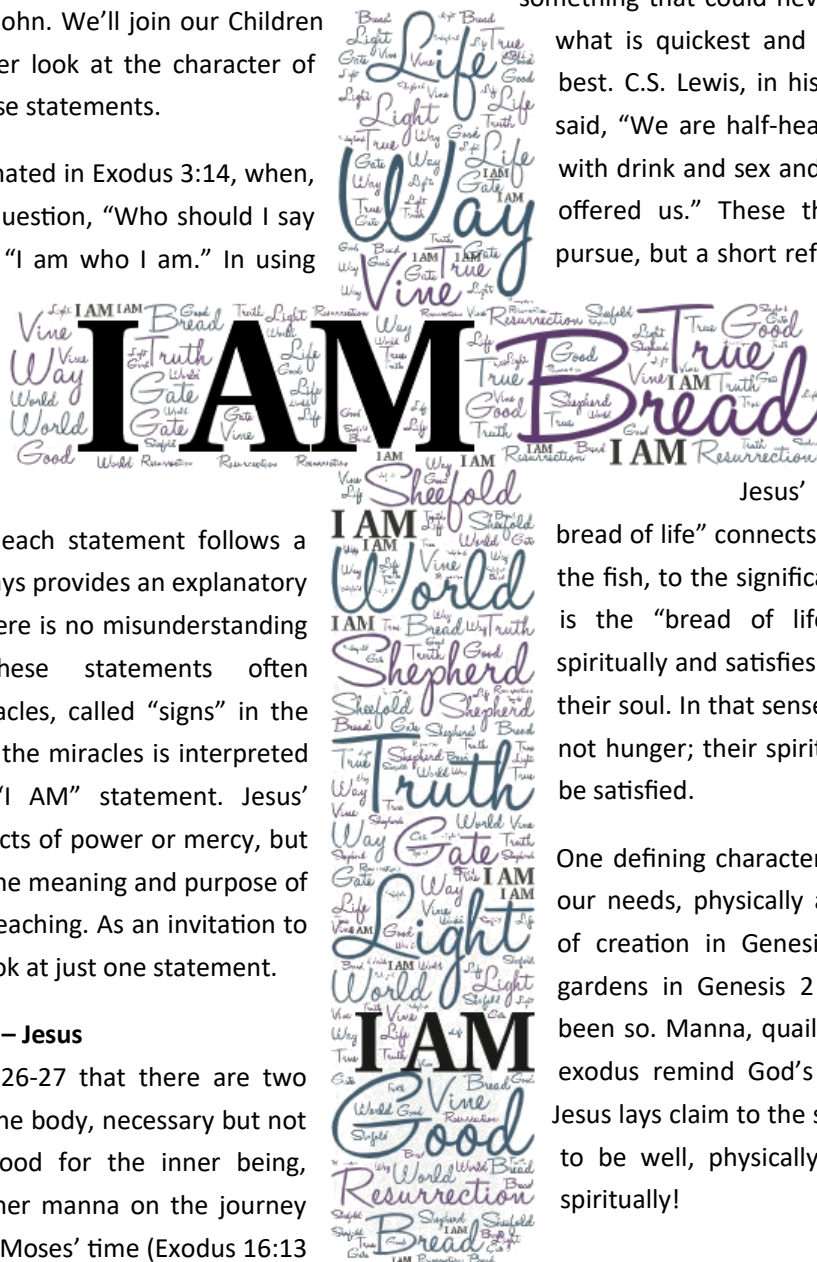
We’re still starving. There is a hunger that lies within each of us and if we are not careful, we will look to be filled by something that could never satisfy. As with all hunger, what is quickest and easiest, may not be what is best. C.S. Lewis, in his book *“The Weight of Glory”* said, “We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us.” These three may not be what you pursue, but a short reflection on what you are most passionate about most likely will reveal what draws you away from the bread of life.

Jesus’ bold declaration “I am the bread of life” connects the miracle of the loaves and the fish, to the significance of his life purpose. Jesus is the “bread of life” as he nourishes people spiritually and satisfies the deep spiritual longings of their soul. In that sense, those who trust in him shall not hunger; their spiritual longing to know God will be satisfied.

One defining characteristic of God is to provide for our needs, physically and spiritually. The godness of creation in Genesis 1 and the bounty of the gardens in Genesis 2 reveal that this has always been so. Manna, quail, and water in the wilderness exodus remind God’s faithful. And, now, in John, Jesus lays claim to the same character. God wants us to be well, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually!

Join us as we explore these statements in worship.

Sunday @ 8:45 & 11. Wednesday @ 6:15pm.



Join us for Worship

SUNDAYS - 8:45 & 11:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Faith Formation Hour

WEDNESDAYS - 6:15 PM Worship, 7:00 PM Faith Formation Hour

FEBRUARY

February 5: New Partner Welcome Sunday

We'll hear the story of God's people from Creation to the birth of Christ and sing together many of our favorite Christmas Carols.

Annual Meeting, no Sunday Forum

February 12 – Installation Sunday

The Rev. Eric Ohrtman will be installed as the Lead Pastor of Spirit of Joy at both services on Sunday, February 12. Bishop Constanze Hagmaier of the South Dakota Synod to preside. Join us for Festive Worship and a Special Coffee Hour!

Sunday Forum: Missionary Church in Galilee Room

February 19 – LSS Sunday

We'll pray for the week of LSS and bless the Refugee family and those working along side them.

Sunday Forum: Center for New Americans with Amy Meyer from Lutheran Social Services in Shalom Center. Come and hear what God is doing through you and LSS. Antonio, Hanan and Milano will be joining us, please plan to attend and welcome them!

February 22—Ash Wednesday

Join us for worship at 5 & 7 PM. This day of solemnity marks the beginning of our Lenten series on the Seven "I AM" statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. We'll join our Children of Joy in taking a deeper look at the character of Christ as revealed in these statements.

February 26 – Kindergarten Milestone Sunday

Special Blessing for Kindergarteners and their prayer pillows during worship. We look forward to seeing children and families at this important faith formation celebration.

Sunday Forum: Down & Out in Galilee Room

New Partner Sunday

February 5th We Welcome 30 New Partners to Spirit of Joy!



Monica Blacketer



Sheridan & Gail Swee



**Adam & Ladene Case
Keaton, Kolsyn**



**Dan Mark & Amy Dietrich Mark
Summer, Adam, Miles**



Kristen Salzwedel



**Jordan & Ashley Whiteside
Gavin**



**Nicholas Blau & Ashley Blau-Laird
Jay, Shua, Jack, Eliana, Jubilee, Adoniah**



Dwight & Jeannie Wright



Travis Kasten



Faith Formation



Joyful Morning Yoga: (1st & 3rd Thursdays) with Brittany Tennant! Come enjoy a 60-minute yoga flow where we will sync up breathing with strategic movements to renew your mind, body, and spirit. Open to all genders, levels of abilities, and practice. Brittany Tennant is a partner at SOJ, an experienced Yoga Sculpt Certified Instructor, and Licensed Professional Counselor of Mental Health. We are trusting God that if we come as we are, each student leaves class with a deep sense of connection to God and to others on the mats around you. Light lunch provided after yoga. Sign up online. We have 25 spots! Wear comfortable clothing, bring your mat, small towel, and water bottle.

Rotational In-Home Fellowship: We meet once a month for devotion ("taking faith home") and fellowship or any activity of interest. We will have a morning and evening group. Contact the office if you are interested-this will help with planning. All are welcome. This month:

- Monday, February 13, 5:30pm at Donna Olson's.
- Tuesday, February 14, 9:30am at Scooters on 85th.

Women's Bible Study–Thursdays 9am & 4pm:

We are exploring the ***Greatest Story Bible Introduction*** series that enlightens us about God's saving grace. Come and enjoy a warm, humorous (at times), and friendly atmosphere where we learn about God's Word. Bring a friend; our Bible Study welcomes partners and non-partners of SOJ.

Women's Social Gathering: Monday, February 6 at 7pm. Enjoy the company of other Spirit of Joy Women. ****NEW** Childcare will be provided!**

Fun & Fellowship for All: Monday, February 27 at 10am. All are welcome!

Prayer Pillow Milestone for Kindergarteners

Calling all Kindergarteners and their families at SOJ to participate in the 5-year-old Prayer Pillow Milestone activities (learn about prayer, visit different stations, children receive pillows, treats, and play time) on Saturday, 9-10:15am, February 25 at the church. Then on Sunday, February 26, 8:45am or 11am (the next day), and Wednesday, March 1st 6:15pm we will have a special blessing for the children and will bless their prayer pillows during worship. We look forward to seeing children and families at this important faith formation celebration.

Upcoming Fellowship Event: Bingo Joy in March (more information coming soon!)



Spirit Of Joy's
Be the Light of the World
Family Fun Night!

PIZZA

MOVIE

GAMES

Friday, February 10th
5:30–9:00 p.m.
for PreK–5th grade kids

RSVP on SpiritofJoy.net/signups by Thursday 2/9
at noon so we can order pizza!

SERVICE PROJECT!

BOUNCE HOUSE

please bring a bag of pre-wrapped
candies to be packaged for
Valentine's Day gifts to local Care
Facility residents



Outreach Opportunities



Church on the Street

Annual Health & Healing Event | Sat. February 4, 1-3 PM

Included in this year's event will be free haircuts, manicures, make-up application, photos by Faith through Frames, blood pressure screenings, an addiction resource table, food, cookie decorating, balloon animals (by Bill Webb), face painting, and a giveaway table (including SoJ's new socks and underwear). There is something for all ages at this event and all are welcome. Several hundred guests will attend this event and be blessed on this day!

Volunteers are needed in several ways to help make our part of this event successful.

**** Thursday, February 2, beginning at 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. at Spirit of Joy**

Sort through new socks and underwear and help label. (way less sorting than last year!)

**** Friday, February 3**

- 4:45 p.m. – Two trucks needed for hauling, Meet at Church to help load items and haul them to the multicultural center
- 5:40 – 8:30 p.m. – additional volunteers needed to help unload and set up at the multicultural center

**** Saturday, February 4 from 12:3-3:30 p.m.**

Meet at the multicultural center and work at the event.

Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups.

Refugee Family Update

Antonio, Hanan and Milano are doing well! They were able to spend Christmas with family and friends in Sioux Falls and enjoyed the Christmas tree and decorations Spirit of Joy Partners provided.

Antonio and Hanan continue with English classes through the Center for New Americans. Antonio has progressed a level since arriving! Milano (6) is enrolled in the English immersion program at Jane Addams Elementary and is enjoying it. The family has been completing medical and dental appointments. They have received their Social Security cards and will be looking for employment.

We would like to meet with anyone interested in helping introduce the family to things in Sioux Falls (ex: Free Fridays at the Washington Pavilion, Sledding, the Zoo) on Sunday, February 26 at 10AM in the library. It would be wonderful to have young families with children spend time with them. If you are unable to meet that day please contact Carole Chell (carolechell@yahoo.com, 605-690-4012).



Creation Care Corner

1 John 3:18 *Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.*

February is often referred to as the month of love. What a wonderful time to reflect on God's love for us. What a wonderful time to send up praise and love to God. What a wonderful time to love our neighbors. What a wonderful time to love the gifts of creation that God has so graciously provided.



1 John 4:19 *We love because he first loved us.*

1 Chronicles 16:34 *O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.*

John 15:12 *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

1 Corinthians 16:14 *Let all that you do be done in love.*

Lutherans Restoring Creation has 10 statements [Why Lutherans Care for All Creation](#). Some highlights include that we affirm God as creator of all. Our human vocation is "to serve and to preserve" the earth. We believe that the church exists for the sake of the world.

At Spirit of Joy, the Creation Care Team strives to be intentional about praising God, serving God, and preserving His Creation. We are always looking for ideas and ways to live sustainably and be good neighbors and stewards of the earth. Earthkeeping is a term that has been used by people of faith to describe what we are undertaking.

We are looking forward to the return of the growing season to see what our strip of land returned to native grasses and wildflowers will do. In the months ahead, we will be trialing a new kind of Communion cup made from sugarcane pulp; this is a compostable cup (not just commercial/industrial, but home compostable), so we are aiming for products that are part of a closed-loop or circular economy.

"God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars." (This text is attributed to Martin Luther's writings but exact source is unknown.) And to this we say, **"Thanks be to God!"**



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Fall 2023 Preschool Registration is Open

FALL 2023 Preschool Registration is open and all are welcome. Classroom spots for children 3, 4, and 5 years old are available. Registrations are coming in, so reserve your child's spot today. Visit the preschool website spiritofjoy.net to view a preschool video of the program. Find more details, parent testimonials and registration information, too.

Share your preschool with friends, a referral program is available. Scholarships and SOJ Partner Discounts are offered.



We Want to Thank You!

Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, donations, and resources with the preschool. If you would like to donate and have not had a chance, the QR code is available to scan here or visit the preschool giving tree located near the preschool classroom doors. Items can be returned to the church or preschool office anytime you are here.

Did You Know...Preschool Edition

- Spirit of Joy owns and operates a preschool. Enrollment capacity is currently 28 for ages 3-5.
- The Preschool has three teachers, Director Amy Cauble, Kendra Namanny and Jamie Appel.
- The Spirit of Joy Preschool partners with Hope Coalition to provide early childhood education to students who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity.
- The preschool serves students from Sioux Falls, Harrisburg, Brandon, Crooks, Tea! All are welcome!
- Preschool registration opens in January 2023 for Fall enrollment.

SHAKE OFF THAT CABIN FEVER! ALL ARE WELCOME!

2nd ANNUAL MINI GOLF "PAR-TEE"

Sunday, March 26, 2-4pm

Design your own golf ball, play a round of mini golf, and enjoy snacks & time with friends.



Sign Up Today!

SOJ @ THE STAMPEDE

FEBRUARY 19, 4:05 PM

Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups by 2/15
\$15/ticket (payable to Spirit of Joy)

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

Refreshing Perspectives



April 28 - 30

PASTORS LON & HEIDI KVANLI

Facilitated by the Kvanlis, join us for a weekend at Shetek focused on exploring skills to help enrich marital relationships

Pick up a Registration Form at the Welcome Center

Cost per Couple: \$250

Room for 15 couples

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Forms and payment will secure your spot

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

I. Special Guest: Deacon Hannah Fleming presented on The Liberia Project, a school being built through the generosity and effort of her family.

II. Unfinished Business

- A. Endowment Policy
- B. Gift Policy

M/S/P Ali Lennon, Jodi Hanson, Unanimous. To approve the Endowment Policy and Gift Policy as presented. Thank you to Joel Christensen, Ron Risty, and Darlene Weber-Scott for their work on these policies.

III. New Business

A. Thrivent Choice Designation

M/S/P Kendra Krueger, Ali Lennon, Unanimous. To designate the first \$1,000 received via Thrivent Choice in 2023 to the Transportation Fund and the 2nd \$1,000 received to The Liberia Project. Matching gifts are available for both \$1,000. Anything beyond \$2,000 will be split evenly between the two funds.

B. Discernment Process/Structure/Staffing

Pastor Eric presented an overview of a discernment process that will focus on the three questions, "Who are we?", "Who is our neighbor?", "Who is God calling us to be?" Potential team members were brainstormed and the process will begin in Feb/March.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy.***

Financials through December 2022

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$12,717.26
Building Fund	\$69,929.59
Donor Restricted	\$55,120.26
Sunday School	\$1,171.31
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$227,806.39
Donor Restricted	\$69,478.24
Total Cash Balance	\$440,783.15

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$613,356.08
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$673,562.03</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$60,205.95

	December 2020	December 2021	December 2022
Attendance	???	???	1826
General Offering	\$ 138,167.98	\$ 84,392.93	\$ 82,130.24
Building Offering	\$ 113,318.63	\$ 65,679.75	\$ 69,929.59

Capital Campaign Totals

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

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770
Received as of December 31, 2022: \$255,050.70