

# WINDSWEEP

FEBRUARY 2021



## From the Pastor

This month, as our congregation takes our next careful steps towards reopening our church building for worship and some faith formation events, we are also moving forward in the process of who to call next to help lead our ministry. The first step is to put together a ministry site profile that will give candidates for leadership the opportunity to learn something about us before entering the call process.

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to fill out the survey we sent out to assist in this process. Once completed, the site profile will be available for you to read. In the meantime, I would like to share some of the responses we received.

COVID and its impact on our lives and ministry were mentioned frequently. No surprise there. It's hard to talk about where we are in ministry and where we hope to go in the future without acknowledging this long shadow hanging over us. Many of you also celebrated our building expansion AND what a useful tool it will become for connecting with current partners, and for welcoming and connecting with neighbors we've not met yet. You also noted how Sioux Falls continues to grow in population and diversity, and that this provides exciting new opportunities for our ministry in the coming years.

The survey also asked your opinions about the most important areas of responsibilities for our next leader(s), and what are the most essential gifts for ministry she or he will need. The areas of responsibility most frequently mentioned were: Preaching/Worship, Spiritual Formation/Direction, Youth and Family Ministry, Building a Sense of Community, and Innovation/Creativity. The most frequently chosen gifts for ministry deemed essential for serving as a leader with us were: be an effective communicator, be able to share leadership and work in a team, help people develop their spiritual life, build a sense of community among the people she/he works, and bring joy and good humor to relationships.

There will be much more in the completed site profile, but this is a great start. We will be electing a call committee at our annual winter congregational meeting on February 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. held via Zoom. All confirmed ministry partners (members) are invited to attend.



[spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net)

605-333-2004

2208 W LaQuinta St

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

# February Worship Schedule

**Beginning Ash Wednesday,  
February 17**

**In-person worship  
5:30 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.**

**Service also available online**

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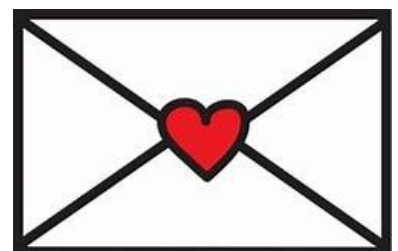
**Join us Sunday mornings and  
Wednesday evenings in Lent  
to walk with us to the Cross.**



The Season of Lent begins this month on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will offer two in person worship services on that day at 5:30pm and 7:00pm, and record Ash Wednesday worship for you who choose to worship with us at home via our YouTube channel. Our worship team has also decided to prepare small containers of ashes for any of you who would like to come by our building on Ash Wednesday and pick up ashes for your use at home. Ashes will be distributed in a safe, physically distanced manner along with Holy Communion at our in person services.

Our theme for this upcoming season is Again & Again. Again & again we falter in our faith and in answering Jesus' call to "follow me." Again & again the world turns away from the One who came to show us the Way to shalom, to abundant living, and to joy. Again & again God comes to us in the Crucified and Risen Christ to show us mercy, and offer us a new way forward! Join us on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings in Lent to walk with us to the Cross.

**Children of Joy Packet Pick**  
**Ash Wednesday, February 17 | 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Packets will be available in the new gathering space**



# Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

## I. Unfinished Business

### A. Building Expansion

- Pay Application #10 January 2021:** Kerri Teitgen moved and Kendra Krueger seconded to approve the payment of \$108,697.20 as noted on the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-10). Motion carried.
- New Flooring for Current Sanctuary/New Fellowship Space:** The Commercial Interior Décor, Inc. bid will be accepted and stone look flooring will be installed. Color to be determined.

**B. Reopening Church Building Update:** In-person services will resume on January 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There will be a sign-up for up to 60 people per service. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Online worship will continue.

**C. Resignation of Pastor Jon Splichal Larson – Interim Coordinator of High School Faith Formation:** Jodi Hansen moved and Sarah Manthey seconded to accept Pastor Jon’s resignation.

## II. New Business

**A. Annual Winter Congregational Meeting—Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.:** Motion by Kendra Krueger and seconded by Andrew Hewitt to approve the Annual Congregational Meeting agenda as written below. Motion carried.

- Election of Ministry Resources Team Leader
- Election of SoJ Call Committee
- Election of Representatives to SD Synod Assembly-June 2021

**B. January Benevolence:** Motion by Jodi Hanson and seconded by Kerri Teitgen to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.

Dinner for Horace Mann Teachers	\$250
The Banquet West	Per Invoice

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **February 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.***

## Financials through December 31, 2020

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$96,914.40
Building Fund	\$155,461.02
Donor Restricted	\$29,659.69
Sunday School	\$865.53
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	December 2018	December 2019	December 2020
Attendance	2087	2233	???
General Offering	\$ 77,010.81	\$ 53,985.65	\$ 138,167.98
Building Offering	\$ 34,723.57	\$ 120,436.78	\$ 113,318.63

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$433,357.11
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,635.98</u>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$790,453.83</b>

### Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485  
Received as of December 31, 2020: \$1,717,310.34

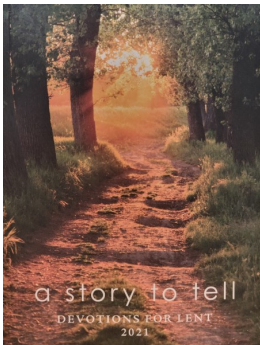
Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$654,571.80
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$628,581.12</u>
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>\$25,990.68</b>

# Faith Formation This Month

## Anniversary of Baptism ~ January 10, 2021 For all Babies/Children Baptized in 2020



Every January Spirit of Joy celebrates the Anniversary of Baptism Milestone for all children baptized the previous year. In worship, we light their baptism candles and bless their families. We enjoy a time of fellowship with babies/children and their parents between worship services. This year, even though we were not able to gather in person, families still participated in the milestone. Packets including their name tags from the baptism banner, a fun little activity, Little Lambs information and more were hand-delivered, by members of our Growth Team, to the homes of those who were baptized in 2020. During our virtual worship service these children were recognized, prayed for and given the opportunity to light their baptism candles at home. Thank you to everyone who participated in the wonderful celebration.



### Advent Devotionals: "A Story to Tell"

A Story to Tell provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Please pick up your family's copy of our Lenten devotional that explores the Gospel of Mark. Copies are on the Welcome Center in the gathering space.

### 2021-2022 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, \$150 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](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups). **Deadline** for scholarship applications for the 2021-2022 academic year is **March 1, 2021**. If college choice has not been finalized - that's OK. Just let us know your selection as soon as possible.

# Serving Opportunities

## Laundry with Love

**Children of Joy** is collecting quarters for Laundry with Love. Twice a month, Church on the Street provides 3 free loads of laundry to anyone in need. You can collect quarters in the little plastic containers available in the gathering space or simply collect some quarters in a baggie and **drop them off in the church office by Friday, February 12.** Any monetary donation is welcome - doesn't have to be quarters!



**Spirit of Joy** will be volunteering at Laundry with Love on Tuesday, February 23 at The Laundromat Company (701 N Cliff). Three volunteers are needed for the 3:00-5:30 p.m. shift and three volunteers are needed for the 5:30-8:00 p.m. shift. Please sign up on our website at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups).



This past month Spirit of Joy partners gathered at The Banquet West to help prep and serve a COVID friendly meal.





# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Preschool News

Preschool friends and families, it's time to prepare for next fall! Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start with seven registrations taken in the first ten days. Can you help keep the momentum going? Please share the preschool enrollment news with your friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Our children are valuable and your recommendation means a lot to a prospective family.

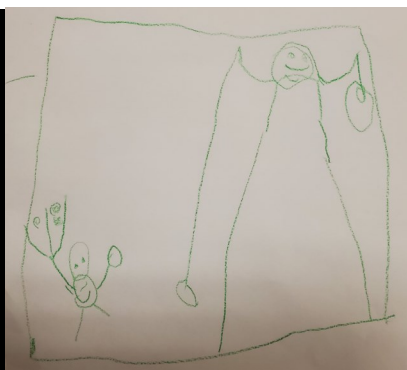
Here are some ways to share the news about preschool:

- \* Buy a SOJ Preschool yard sign or car sticker to advertise and raise awareness. Contact the preschool or office for ways to get yours today: [amycauble@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:amycauble@spiritofjoy.net).
- \* Grab a Preschool Brochure from the preschool kiosk in the Gathering Space to give to a neighbor.
- \* Share the preschool video via email -a great snapshot of your preschool: [www.spiritofjoy.net/preschool](http://www.spiritofjoy.net/preschool)
- \* Join our Facebook page and share your preschool posts with others! [Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool](https://Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool)
- \* Tours are available upon request. All are welcome!

## Preschool Stories–God Enters In

Each day, the children and I have “Circle Time”. Circle Time helps us prepare for the day’s activities. We read a story, sing a song, and say a prayer as one large group. Many days, the prayer ends with the phrase “be with us today as we learn and grow”.

In January, I often take time to review what we have learned. I began peeking through the year’s photos and noticed a wonderful pattern. It quickly became apparent that God had entered into our day in many places without a strategic plan on our part. There were drawings of recent Bible stories in the art center, children saying hi to “Goliath”, a tall giant mural as they passed by to wash hands, block creations built to retell a baptism that had been viewed in another place, and friendships secured at Chapel time. These Bible stories and important events were woven into daily activities. While organizing events is important, I am reminded that God enters in even without my plans, that’s just what God does- for nothing will be impossible with God. God is at work in this place and for this we are grateful. I pray that God is also with you today as you learn and grow. Amen.



David & Goliath



Visit us:

[www.spiritofjoy.net/preschool](http://www.spiritofjoy.net/preschool)  
[Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool](https://Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool)

# Coming Up...

## Supper & Stories



Spirit of Joy's Creating a Culture of Calling (C3) team will be hosting three Supper and Stories events in February and March. **We will purchase a large Papa Murphy's pizza\* for every household that participates to pick up at church or receive in a delivery.** As you dine in your home, we ask that you also join other Spirit of Joy partners and friends over Zoom to hear stories about the ways some of our partners are living out God's call in their daily lives. We will be asking two or three of our ministry partners to share their personal stories and personal reflections having to do with the theme for the evening.

These events will be held on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 on February 10, February 24 and March 3.** Please sign up for the night or nights you'd like to join us, indicate the kind of pizza you prefer, and if you would like to pick it up in our church building (after 4:00) on that Wednesday, or have someone deliver it to you (after 5:00) on that day. As we get closer to the events, we will send out a Zoom invitation via email for the storytelling portion of the evenings.

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

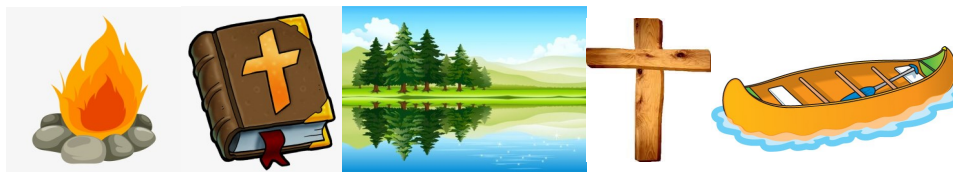
*\* Pizza made possible from a grant through Vibrant Faith*



Registration for  
Summer Bible Camps  
now open!



Bible camp is a great way for kids to grow in their faith while enjoying God's creation, meeting new friends, playing games and having fun! There are a variety of different camp experiences available - check out the possibilities at [www.LOSD.org](http://www.LOSD.org) or [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org).



Spirit of Joy offers camp scholarships to all partners who attend camp. Please contact Michele Vogel at [sojyouth2208@gmail.com](mailto:sojyouth2208@gmail.com) if you plan to send someone to camp. Early bird discounts are also available through April 1st.

# Many Thanks...

## Dear Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$2,300 to support The Banquet ministry. We are grateful for your donation.

- The Banquet serves nearly 200,000 meals with 30,000 of those meals served to children.
- The Banquet relies 100% on private donations to sustain this ministry receiving no United Way or tax dollars.
- Guests receive personal necessities at Christmas, such as hygiene items, undergarments, socks and sweatshirts.
- The Banquet's Project: SOS provides 6,200 local students with the school supplies they need to be successful.

God bless you for this amazing gift!

*Tamera Jerke-Liesinger*

Banquet Executive Director

## Dear Friends,

Thank you for shining the light of Christ's love into the darkness of poverty through your gift of \$50 to Compassion's Christmas Gift Program! May God richly bless you for reaching out to those Jesus called "the least of these."

In Christ,

*Rich Van Eaton*

Sponsor and Donor Relations Director  
Compassion International

## Dear Members of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting Joy Ranch recently with a gift in the amount of \$1,000. Thank you for your generosity and for your continual support of the Joy Ranch ministry.

*Paul J. Hanson*

Executive Director  
Lutheran Outdoors in South Dakota

## Greetings!

Thank you for your gift of \$2,000 in 2020 to help support the people of Pine Ridge. We realize that the COVID restrictions will continue to keep us from hosting groups this summer. We are exploring options to stay in touch.

*Rev. Dan Johnson*

Lutheran/Lakota Shared Ministries  
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

## Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contributions in 2020 totaling \$4,200. Without your generous support last year, we would not be in as good a position to move forward in 2021. We hope to see you here at camp and we hope you'll encourage others to participate as well.

Blessings in 2021,

*Marv Nysetvold*

Executive Director  
SHETEK Lutheran Ministries

## Dear Spirit of Joy,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in December 2020. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

In Christ,

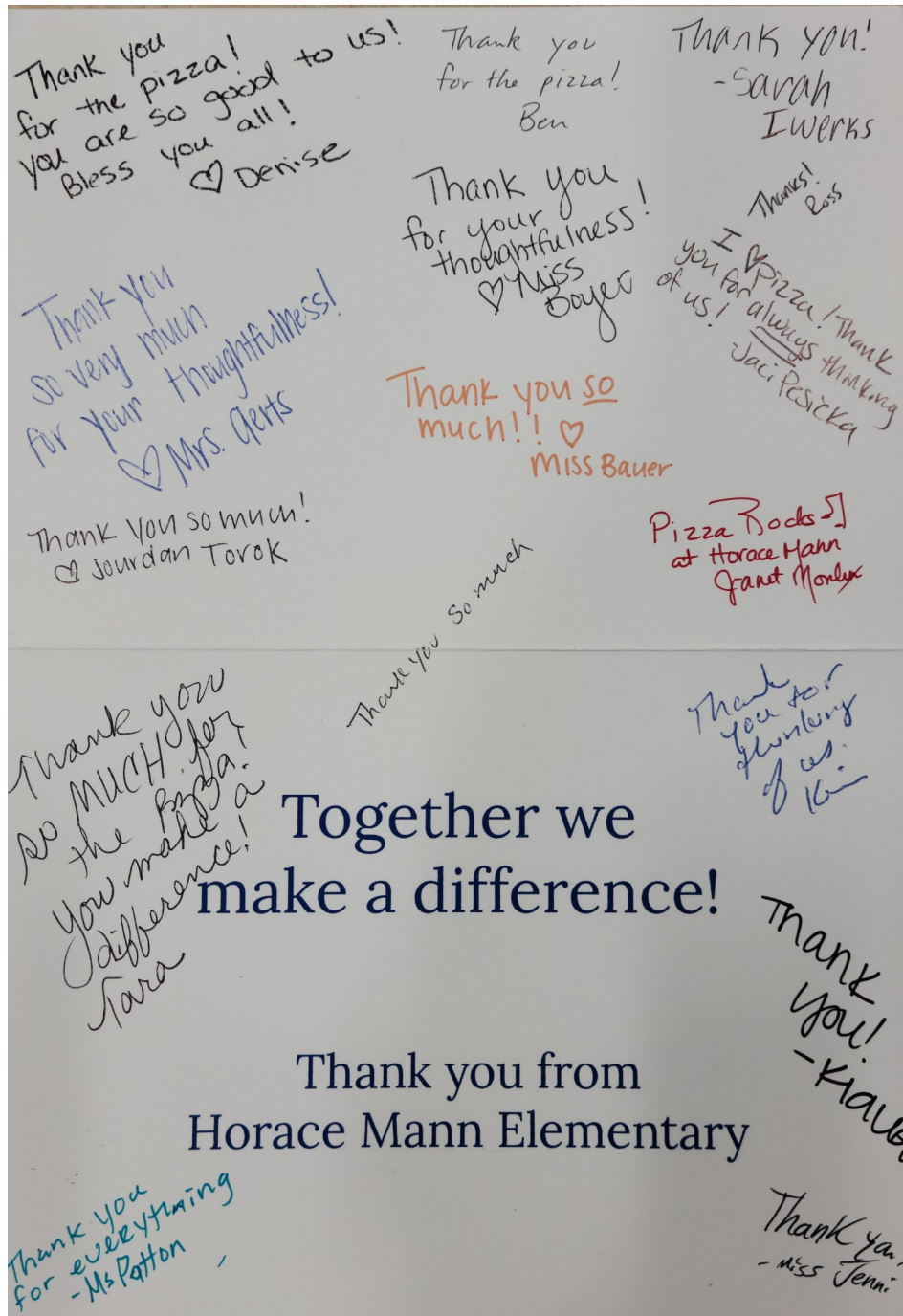
*The Rev. Robin Brown*

Mission Funding Director, Congregations

Thank  
you!



# Many Thanks...



The thank you card above came as a thank for the pizza that was served during conferences last month. The teachers have sent personal thank you notes expressing their appreciation for the support Spirit of Joy has shown this past year. Watch your Saturday emails to read a few each week!