



W I N D S W E E P T

A pastor was having a conversation with a neighbor about the congregation she served. The neighbor was wondering why it mattered for him to “go to church” when there were so many other things for him and his family to try and squeeze into their week. Those other things seemed just as important and often more enjoyable.



The pastor didn’t argue about the value of the other events on the family calendar. She simply spoke for herself when she said, “The church is enlarging my heart. That’s what it does for me. It is opening my eyes and ears and mind to what matters beyond my own existence. It keeps reminding me of God’s unconditional love and grace for me and my neighbor, and frees me to care for my neighbor, especially my neighbor who is suffering in some way. The church is helping me follow Jesus better than I could on my own.”

What a great mission statement! This will be one of my persistent prayers for our congregation in 2020: that Spirit of Joy enlarge hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit by following Jesus with one another. I hope it will be yours too.

Pray that God will enlarge our hearts by gathering regularly in worship to meet Jesus in songs of praise and lament, in confession and the announcement of forgiveness, in exchanging the peace of the Lord, and in eating and drinking at his table.



Pray that God will enlarge our hearts as we dwell in God’s Word together in multiple milestone events, Children of Joy classes, confirmation and high school small groups, Sunday forums, Brewed Theology, and ministry and leadership team meetings.

Pray that God will enlarge our hearts as we meet and serve others in our community at food distribution centers, breakfast and dinner tables, area schools, behind prison walls, and at elder care centers.

Pray that God will enlarge our hearts as we live out our callings to follow Jesus in our usual daily routines in our workplaces, our play spaces, in cyberspace and our too-rapid pace.

Pray that God will enlarge our hearts as our nation enters an election year in which the rancor and issues that divide us threaten to shrink us into a cantankerous collection of little tribes with little hearts who will only associate with their own kind.

The church is enlarging my heart because that is what the Holy Spirit does with me and you as we gather together to follow Jesus. Come and see!

Pastor Jeff Eisele

Financials Through November 30

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$75,994.72
Building Fund	\$30,504.30
Donor Restricted	\$ 507.50
Sunday School	\$1,530.09
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$596,713.39
Donor Restricted	\$69,548.48
Total Cash Balance	\$779,358.58

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$585,478.32
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$580,338.32
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry.	\$5,140.00

	Nov. 2017	Nov. 2018	Nov. 2019
Worship Attendance	1560	1551	1685
General Offering	\$51,164.30	\$38,079.86	\$48,705.33
Building Offering	\$9,723.33	\$11,255.44	\$50,074.21

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2019

I. Unfinished Business

A. Maternity Leave: Needs clarification. Will consult with partners who work in HR for policy revision language.

II. New Business

A. Schwab account authorization change: Darlene Weber-Scott motioned to remove Tracy Dahl-Webb and Daryl Sopko as the authorized persons on the Spirit of Joy Charles Schwab account for access to financial transactions and to add Amy Orr and Michelle Stanek as the authorized persons on the Spirit of Joy Charles Schwab account. Sarah Manthey second. Motion carries.

B. Benefit Options for full-time non-rostered employees: The Leadership team will consider benefit options for non-rostered full time staff members during the 2020 year. The benefits may start once the employee qualifies on tenure.

C. Benevolence: Carole Chell moved to make benevolence payments to the following. Darlene Weber-Scott second. Motion carries :

1. Lutherans Outdoors - \$500
2. Charis Ministries - \$1,075 (as invoiced)
3. Pueblo de Dios - \$2,500
5. Pine Ridge Retreat Center - \$500
6. Bridges at Horace Mann - for tables
7. Shetek Lutheran Ministries - \$500
8. LSS Refugee family support fund of \$5,000 to be paid to LSS Center for New Americans
9. Seminary Student Support of \$2,000 to be paid to Luther Seminary

What's happening this month

Little Lambs

Little Lambs will meet at 10 am, January 5! All wee ones not yet in Children of Joy Sunday School are invited to come. Parents, this is a comfortable time to meet other parents and share time in faith with your little ones. Meet in the youth room in the far SW part of the education wing. Story this month: Jesus is Baptized!

Epiphany Sunday Forums

Starting January 26 we will explore the ways our larger church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is at work in our communities and world. Spirit of Joy is a generous contributor to the work of God's church. Come and see where and how ministry is happening! See you at 10 am in the Galilee Room.



Anniversary of Baptism

Sunday, January 12! For ALL babies/children baptized in 2019. We will celebrate baptism in worship with a special baptism candle lighting. Between services at 10 am we will gather the children and parents/grandparents/sponsors in the Galilee Room for a special activity. Watch for your invitation in the mail.



Third Annual Interfaith Day

Join the South Dakota Synod, Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, and South Dakota Voices for Peace for the third annual Interfaith Day at the State Capitol in Pierre, SD.

Honoring our commitment to the free exercise of religious faith, guaranteed by the First Amendment, we would be grateful if you joined us for a day at the Capitol as we engage in conversations and stand together with our neighbors of all faiths across the state of South Dakota.

For more information, contact Deacon Katherine at family@spiritofjoy.net or call 605-333-2004.

Brewed Theology: God in Sports

Join us for our seasonal Brewed Theology around the topic "God in Sports." We'll ponder these questions, among others: Have you ever seen an athlete pray or cross him/herself before or during a game/match? What, if any, relationship exists between God and sports? Pam Gohl, Director of Athletics for the University of Sioux Falls and Spirit of Joy partner, will also talk with us about how her vocation at USF connects with her faith. Join the conversation on Tuesday, January 7, at Cody's Smokehouse (6401 S. Louise Ave.)! Show up and order your food and beverages by 6:15. Conversation will begin promptly at 6:30. Before the conversation take a few minutes to check out the homework on our website.



MINISTRY MOMENTS

Advent Festival

Spirit of Joy children and families “Followed the Star” to Bethlehem on December 1 by exploring the Advent and Christmas stories through music, story, crafts, treats, and family devotion ideas. Thanks to Jan Noer and Mary Tranberg for coordinating this great tradition and thank you to all the helpers and families who made it so fun!

Follow the star!

YOUR



Children of Joy Christmas Program

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Children of Joy Christmas program “Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!” on December 15. It was a joy to have our youngest partners share with us the Good News of Jesus’ birth!



Recent Outreach Efforts

Bridges at Horace Mann

- September: provided book coupons for each student
- October: provided a meal for parent/teacher conferences
- November: the Children of Joy students made cards and wrote notes in them. They were given to each staff member with a coupon for a free loaf of bread at Breadsmith.

Church on the Street

- Children of Joy students made 19 “Warm Hands Warm Hearts” glove kits and 27 Health Care kits for Church on the Street. The kits were distributed to our neighbors here in Sioux Falls over the Christmas holiday.
- We will be doing Laundry with Love in April and hope to worship with Church on the Street in September.



Other Outreach efforts

- Served at the **Banquet West** in November
- St. Dymas** in November
- Necessities for Neighbors** in December



Joy Ranch Winter Family Retreat



February 14-16, 2020

(Friday evening through Sunday morning)

For parents, grandparents, singles,
empty-nesters, and kids

- sleigh rides, (bring your sleds or snowshoes, too!)
- games and crafts,
- cozy private rooms/bath plus fireside family time,
- great food,
- special quiet time for adults
- evening treats,
- and closing camp Worship together Sunday morning

This is a long holiday weekend. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to get away with your family at beautiful Joy Ranch.

We have rooms for 15 families.

Sign up in the gathering space at the display table!

Questions? Check with Deacon Katherine at family@spiritofjoy.net or call 333-2004 or 254-4130.

**Joy Ranch is our Lutheran Church's newest Bible Camp in South Dakota – beautifully replicating an old west town, and completely accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Just NW of Watertown, SD.*

Spirit of Joy's Revised Congregational Constitution

This past fall, Spirit of Joy's leaders began the work of updating our congregation's constitution. The congregation will be voting on these revisions at our winter congregational meeting on Sunday, February 2, at 10am. An opportunity to discuss the proposed changes will at 10am on January 19. Copies of the proposed revisions will be made available in January the gathering space. The proposed changes will include:

- Changes in the congregational model constitution made by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at last summer's churchwide assembly. These include the insertion of language outlining the process for ordaining deacons into the ministry of Word and Service.
- The inclusion of all called pastors on our congregation's leadership team.
- Moving our congregation's mission statement and core values from the body of the constitution to our bylaws.
- Establishment of a mission endowment fund.



PASTOR CHRISTY'S HAVING A BABY!

The Hospitality Team will be hosting a baby shower for Pastor Christy on Saturday, February 1, at 9:30am, at Spirit of Joy.

Christy and her husband Jon are registered at Target and Amazon and they are planning on using cloth diapers. We would like to ask this if its not too hard, please bring a book instead of a card!

Please RSVP online so we know approximately how many people will be attending. You can find the sign-up at spiritofjoy.net/signups.