

WINDSWEEP

January 2022



Acts 2:42-47 ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

One of my favorite Christmas events ever was a PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Potluck. We ate and drank, laughed, and sang, until late into the evening. There was much to enjoy, but the highlight of the evening was, without a doubt, the singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas (the season of Christmas is twelve days long, beginning at Christmas Day and ending at the Wisemen's appearance on Epiphany- Jan. 6). Each of the twelve days had a different group assigned to sing it every time that it came around, and they were given secret actions and sounds to make along with their part. It probably took ten minutes or more to sing the song, but every second was worth it. Bad voices joined good voices. Dignified older gentlemen squawked and danced right next to the young female scholarship recipients. Snorts of laughter and tears of joy filled the room. It was great. But, why? What made it such a special experience and what can we learn from it that will continue to make Spirit of Joy such a special place in 2022 and beyond?

I think the first important ingredient was a comfortable space. The event was held in the fellowship hall of a small congregation that had spent years welcoming people into its building. So, members or not, everyone had been in the building previously. They'd experienced hospitality at fellowship events and community meetings, and knew that it would be clean, safe, appropriately decorated, and welcoming. **There were none of the uncomfortable moments of searching for coat racks or restrooms, so they could focus on each other.**

Many in this group knew each other, but not all. What they did all share, was a willingness to welcome all. While there were deep friendships and



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those people spent time with each other, they also went out of their way to greet everyone. And, that **welcome didn't stop with a handshake and exchange of names.** It included staying by their side and explaining the agenda for the evening and helping them make connections with others.

Next, I think they were present for something that mattered to them. For many, their reason to attend was to raise funds for scholarships for women. Others were out for a good time. For those who were interested in the fundraising aspect there was an abundance of information, a persuasive reason to give, and a clear goal. Those just out for a good time found ample food, drinks, activities, and people. **The rationale may have been slightly different, but they came together for a singular event and purpose.**

That would not have been the case, though, if they had not been willing to participate. From the moment that you walked in the door; everyone was involved. There were greeters and hosts. Some were running the kitchen while others ran the auction tables. Certain gifted people told the story of their organization and the impact of their gifts. That's great. We have all been to events like that. But **what really made that evening special was their willingness to participate in a way that might have been uncomfortable.** When the hospital CEO and his wife pushed their elbows back, lifted their heads, and kissed (two turtledoves) it gave one final permission for the entire room to fully relax, be vulnerable with each other, and be present in the moment in a rich and unusual way.

Spirit of Joy has shared many moments like this in its history. It's why so many of you are here. And I'd like to call you into those qualities, back into those moments, and deeper into those practices for 2022. **It is our goal that 2022 will be a year of re-engagement and new growth.** Here are a few ways and places that you can continue to grow in your discipleship to experience moments like the one described above.

Our space is gorgeous and welcoming. We're working on signs and getting art on the walls. We continue to welcome

new guests for worship and building users throughout the week. But we need your help. **If you see or experience something we can do better, tell us, or better yet, take care of it!** And you will hear in the coming days of a debt reduction campaign set to begin this Lent. This is a chance to continue living into our core value of Extravagant Generosity. I hope that

you will prayerfully consider blessing all of those who enter our building with a comfortable experience for years to come!



You have shared the core value of Radical Hospitality for years. And you're really good at it. **But I implore you, don't take it for granted!** Don't think someone else will do it or

that what we're doing will always be good enough. **We don't want good enough. We want Radical and Excellent.** Deep friendships and open arms. Family Fun Nights will start back up in the next few weeks. Bring your kids and grandkids. Introduce them to our community and together, we'll introduce them to the good news of God's grace. Hospitality Team will host neighborhood events and a night at Great Shots. Have your own parties, start a small group, or reignite another. Be present with each other.

Each of us has something that we care deeply about that keeps us coming around. Celebrate that! Because we don't celebrate the same things does not mean exclusion, quite the contrary! **Our diversity of reasons for being here makes us beautiful and pushes us to be better.** There's room on all our teams for new members. And, there is something happening all the time. Gardening. Worship. Service. Faith Formation. Art. Music. Live your passion. Celebrate it and the passions of others. That's when we become great!

And, finally, remember that **you are Spirit of Joy.** Not me. Not Pr. Jeff, Michele, Heather, Amy, Eric, or Madeline. Not the building. Not the campus. You. The people are what has made and will make this a special community. And, yes, we need greeters, coffee hosts, and gifted people to help tell our story, but more than that we need YOU. To show up on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and in between. To share your gifts, in ways that we've always served, and in ways that we've not yet imagined. Relax, be vulnerable with each other, and be present in the moment in a rich and unusual way, there you will find a Spirit of Joy!

~ Pr. Eric Ohrtman

Outreach Opportunities

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

The Banquet West

710 N MARION, SIOUX FALLS
(5TH & MARION)

sign up at spiritofjoy.net/signups



2022 Outreach Dates

January 26 - Banquet West
February (TBD) – St. Dymas
March 17 - Food to You
April 26 - Laundry with Love
May 20 - Banquet Main
June 5 - Necessities for Neighbors
July 28 - Food to You
August 12 - Banquet Main
August 23- Laundry with Love
September 10 - Church on the Street
October 13 - Food to You
November 9 - Banquet West
December 4- Necessities for Neighbors

These are our offsite service events. You can also support our ministry partners financially, by participating in drives, by attending adult forums when they present, and by praying for them!

Look for online sign up's at spiritofjoy.net as the event approaches!

Faith Formation

Upcoming Milestones



Anniversary of Baptism Milestone—Sunday, January 9.

All infants baptized in 2021 are invited to bring their parents to a special faith milestone gathering on Sunday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Galilee Room. We will remember together how to “walk wet” as baptized children of God in the new year! Leader of our monthly Little Lambs Sunday gatherings for newborns-three year olds will also join us to introduce this wonderful ministry to our youngest partners and families. You are also encouraged to attend either of the Sunday worship services for a special milestone blessing.



Walking with Jesus Milestone—Sunday, January 30

Every week one of the 4 year olds will take home our special Jesus doll. We want them to know that Jesus goes with them wherever they go - to preschool, playing in the snow, on a walk with their dog... Jesus is with them everyday! We will kick off this milestone on Sunday, January 30th at both worship services.



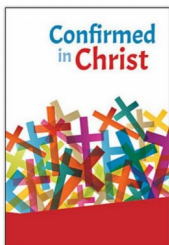
Plan to join us for:

Family Fun Night!
Friday, February 4th
5:30–9:00 p.m.

for PreK-5th grade kids

Pizza, games, bounce house and movie!

Middle School Confirmation Schedule



January
5- *Empire Bowl*
12- *Job*
19- *Esther*
26- *Kids Against Hunger*

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!

Adult Education

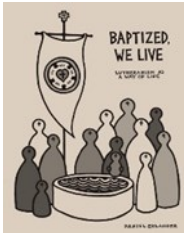
Podcast Listening Group: Listen. Learn. Grow.

Our January gathering has been cancelled. Keep your eyes open for more discipleship and faith formation opportunities coming to SoJ in the near future!



Adult Forum

January 9-30: Baptized, We Live



The Rev. Dan Erlander's beloved book tackles the question, "Now what do we do?" in response to post-cultural Lutheranism. No more are we defined by our pre-American ethnic backgrounds. No longer does the culture of the old ways hold us together. His response? "The way of teaching, worshiping and living as Christians which grew out of a sixteenth-century church renewal movement should continue within the beautiful diversity of the whole Christian church. Let's do it and do it well, and let's invite people of all backgrounds to join us." Join us this January as we use Select Learning's DVD course to learn how to live...baptized.

Winter/Spring 2022 Adult Forum Schedule

January 9-30: Baptized, We Live

Feb. 6: Congregation Meeting

Feb. 13: Ministry Partner

Feb. 20-27: Immigration, Refugees, & Trafficking

March 6-April 10: Romans- The Book of Faith Series

**WORD
AT
THE
TABLE**

Join Pastor Eric for lunch at the SoJ kitchen table to read & discuss the lectionary texts.

Mondays @ Noon
No prep or experience necessary

Upcoming Events

Spirit of Joy's New Creation Care Team

Tuesday, January 4 | 6:30 PM | Galilee Room

We will meet again to consider ways we might help our congregation live out our first calling to care for the creation in our neighborhoods and the wider world. Our new team hopes to serve as "leaven" to integrate care for the creation in many ministries of the congregation.

Three things we hope to focus on in 2022: a combination of recreation and education in an *outdoor club* that would meet quarterly or every other month; consideration of how to use some of our church grounds for *prairie restoration*; and a yet to be determined path of advocacy *in the public square to combat climate change*.



High School Youth Group Meeting

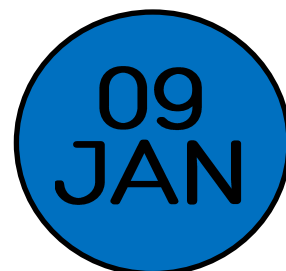
Wednesday, January 5 | 7:00 PM | Shalom Center

High schoolers and parents are invited to attend a meeting with Madeline and Pastor Jeff. This meeting will highlight the importance and purpose of faith formation in high school. Additionally, we will discuss how Wednesday night youth group is going to function differently from the past. Please make an effort to join us!

Woodworking Group Informational Meeting

Sunday, January 9 | 10:00 AM | SoJ Library

Learn about future projects and an exciting new partnership with Hope Haven International! No experience necessary. All are welcome! Contact Craig Samuelson with questions: 605-951-1496.



Spirit of Joy's Living Library

January 12 | 7-8 PM | Shalom Center

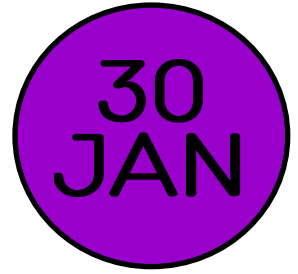
High school youth group is hosting a multigenerational Living Library for all to attend! Partners are invited to hear the stories of God working throughout the lives of fellow partners. Presenters will be seated at tables in the Shalom Center, while groups rotate from person to person every ten minutes or so. Mark your calendars to come and hear how God can and does show up in all walks of life

Upcoming Events

Discovery Class for new ministry partners

Sunday, January 30 | 12:00—3:00 PM | Shalom Center

If you or someone you know is looking for a new church home, we would welcome the opportunity to introduce you to mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church. Our next gathering for persons who want to find out more about us, and/or who would like to share the journey of faith with us, will be Sunday, January 30th from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. We begin with lunch together, then share a concise overview of our key values, practices and ministries. To find out more, or sign up, contact Pastor Eric or Pastor Jeff, or go to our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups



Anti-Racism Book Group

Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 PM | Thursday, January 27, 10:00 AM | Zoom

You are invited to participate in our ongoing conversations about race and racial justice in our country and in our church in the form of a book discussion. Wendi Van Beek will facilitate a discussion of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown, available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, or available as audiobook on Audible. Please email Wendi at wvanbeek@wartburgseminary.edu to sign up and receive the zoom link.



Family Retreat

Friday—Saturday, February 25-26 | Shetek Bible Camp (near Slayton, MN)

Join us for an intergenerational time away to relax, learn, play, worship and get acquainted with others in the comfortable Shetek Retreat Center. Register at spiritofjoy.net/signups. This year's retreat theme: Incredible You. We'll explore the movie *The Incredibles* & 1 Corinthians 12 and use Rev. Arle Fadness' Spiritual Gift Inventory as our building blocks.



*** Save the Date *** Sign-Up *** Attend *** Join in Fellowship ***

Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool Registration for Fall 2022

There are so many fun ways to learn-we need to start preparing now for Fall 2022! Registration for preschool is open for SOJ Partners and currently registered families. Hurry to sign up & reserve your spot.

Invite your friends and coworkers to visit our preschool, too. Beginning January 10 classes will be open to the public. All are welcome to join the preschool where active learning and faithful hearts are integral to learning activities.

Classes are open to children 3-5 years old from 8am-12pm weekdays. The school year schedule follows the Harrisburg school calendar closely. We want 2022-2023 to be our best year yet! We hope you can join us.



For more information or to schedule a tour (available anytime),

contact Amy Cauble, teacher & director at 333-2004
amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net.

Registration available online or in person
spiritofjoy.net/preschool for more information
Scholarships, partner and sibling discounts available



1st Annual Preschool Miniature Golf Tournament Sunday, March 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Shine up your putters, get ready to compete...there is more than one way to win! Pull out those hammers and color wheels, it's time to get creative with golf holes. Enter to win BIG prizes while raising funds for Spirit of Joy Preschool including a traveling trophy!

Competition includes:

- Most creative golf hole: "Youth" & "Mature" Age groups
- Most challenging golf hole
- Largest number of contributors to one golf hole

Watch for ways to sign up, coming soon!

In the meantime, grab those measuring tapes so you can be sure to fit your golf hole into the building.



Staff Feature

Tell us a little about your background

Working with children and in children's ministry has been my calling for over thirty years. My professional life began as a Preschool Teacher, growing into Director of Children's Ministry for ages 3-15 and writing curriculum in-house as well as for Sparkhouse Publishing prior to working at Spirit of Joy. I began my sixth year as Spirit of Joy Director/Developer of Preschool Fall 2021. Working with children is fast paced and requires living in the moment- there are never two days the same. Come and visit the preschool anytime- you will love it!

What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

A perfect day for me would be a morning family bike ride around a lake with tons of trees. We love to visit Northern MN to ride bikes. Our longest ride has been thirty-three miles so far. Tacos & Diet Coke for lunch followed by a trip to the bookstore for a great book and inevitably, a nap.

What are some little-known facts about Amy that would surprise you?

- 1) I can understand spoken Spanish but may not be able to respond.
- 2) I have purchased a Mary Engelbreit calendar for my refrigerator every year for the past fifteen years.
- 3) My favorite food is pizza, even though I am gluten free.
- 4) I have owned three miniature Schnauzers in my lifetime: Fritz, Winston, & Wrigley. All love to run!
- 5) I don't like to attend large concert events but I love music. Big name concerts attended growing up were Amy Grant (two times), Neil Diamond (thanks to my mom's love of his music), George Winston, and Sting.

Guilty Pleasure Movie/Television Show (Or create a question you would prefer)

One of my favorite TV shows is NCIS with Mark Harmon. The writing is excellent, storylines suspenseful, and characters rich. It also manages to make me laugh on occasion. I could easily skip a workout for this show. ☹️

What is one of your favorite hymns/Christian songs?

Amazing Grace is one of my favorite hymns. I learned the hymn as a child with my grandpa playing the organ and my grandma playing the piano in their living room. The hymn is comforting not only for the lyrics but also remembering these moments with my grandparents. I cannot help but think of my grandfather every time I hear it.



Amy Cauble

Director of Preschool

amycauble@spiritofjoy.net

From the Bishop's Desk

Partners in Ministry, sojourners in Christ,

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

As 2022 stretches out in front of us I pray that hope and joy in Christ will be yours. We know that trouble always finds us, but be assured that in the baptismal waters Christ found and claimed you long before trouble will find you. Therefore let us set out to journey together in Christ with the confidence that nothing between heaven and earth will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, which comes to us in and through Christ Jesus. Personally, I am looking forward to journeying with you in Christ through your congregation's joys and challenges. I am always up to join you for Sunday morning or midweek worship services, congregational forums, coffee fellowship, or a potluck meal. Please, know that I am available to come and be with you, but also know that my door is always open in case you have questions or concerns about the SD Synod or how we are being church together as the ELCA. I continue to be committed to listening to you, learning from you, and caring for you. Let's begin the new year in the good hope that God's still God and the assurance that no matter what we are God's people journeying together in Christ.

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



Call Committee Update



Spirit of Joy's **Call Committee** met on Thursday, December 9th to look over the single rostered ministry profile we received from the South Dakota Synod in our search for a full-time director of lifelong faith formation and worship arts. The committee decided to interview this candidate on Thursday, January 6th. In the meantime, we will continue to welcome interest by lay leaders interested in the full time position, or possibly two part-time lay leaders for the two different areas of ministry.

The answer to the question, "When will we have someone in place for this staff position?" depends on who hears about our position, who we interview, who we discern is the right fit for the position, and when the person we call is available. The call committee will refer their candidate of choice to the leadership team who will refer that person (if a rostered leader) to the congregation to issue a call.

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Eisele home

I. Unfinished Business - None

II. New Business

- A. **Prioritization of Remainder of Benevolence Spending for 2021:** Sarah Manthey moved and Jodi Hanson seconded to approve 2021 benevolence payments as indicated below. Motion carried.

Necessities for Neighbors \$1,000

Horace Mann (Scooter Gift Cards) Remainder of line item

Based on a percentage of the final 2021 budget, the priorities are:

Charis Ministries

The Banquet

Lutheran Outdoors

- B. **Building Debt Reduction Appeal—Spring 2022:** Discussed hiring a consultant vs. using the human resources within the congregation to lead the campaign. No action taken at this time.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.***

At our January meeting we typically have invited outgoing and incoming leadership team members to share a meal and then use some of our time for visioning and planning for the entire next year.

Financials through November 30, 2021

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$51,747.36
Building Fund	\$38,663.24
Donor Restricted	\$46,115.46
Sunday School	\$143.26
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$96,429.16
Donor Restricted	\$69,472.20
Total Cash Balance	\$307,130.78

	November 2019	November 2020	November 2021
Attendance	1685	???	???
General Offering	\$ 48,705.33	\$ 43,220.63	\$ 63,986.09
Building Offering	\$ 50,435.73	\$ 21,996.93	\$ 38,663.24

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485

Received as of November 30, 2021: \$2,120,474.26

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$493,227.83
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$536,456.65
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$43,228.82

Joyful Moments



Christmas Joy



Odds & Ends

Coffee Fellowship

We want to continue serving coffee on Sunday mornings between services and your help is needed! You would serve coffee once every few months. An experienced host will serve with you and show you the process for making/serving coffee. The coffee hosts are not bringing treats to serve at this time, Please contact the church office if you're willing to help.

Looking for All Thrivent Members

We believe that you may be able to impact our ministry in 2022 with financial benefits in excess of \$20,000. It is our hope to coordinate with you to access your member benefits to support things like: Family Fun Night, Church on the Street, Necessities for Neighbors, Food to You, The Banquet, Kids Against Hunger, Hope Haven International,

our 2022 Debt Reduction Campaign, and so much more. Please sign on the clipboard in the Gathering Space, visit spiritofjoy.net/signups, or contact the office to let us know that you are a Thrivent member. And, if you are willing to be our Congregation Coordinator, your time and energy could make an enormous impact for SoJ and our community!


Lutheran Disaster Relief

The ELCA Disaster Relief ministry is continuing its work to assist those who have lost loved ones and property in the devastating storms that rolled through Kentucky and nearby states in December. To help with these efforts go to community.elca.org/USTornadoRelief.

Every gift designated for "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used entirely to assist those in need.



VAN FUNDRAISER
**** EXCITING NEWS ****
Coming to Worship, January 16



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.