

# WINDSWEEP

JANUARY 2021



## Where do we go from here?

There are many ways to answer that question depending on what one means by “here.” Here is the beginning of a new year (so long 2020!). Here is in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to cause death and grief on every continent. Here is at the hopeful rollout of a vaccine. Here is the tumultuous change in political leadership in the United States of America.

In our congregation, “here” is a time of transition in leadership as Deacon Katherine and Pastor Christy complete their ministry with us and begin new calls. Here is the time to move into our new building and discern opportunities for new and expanded ministries when we carefully begin to gather again in person. Here is a community of extravagant generosity that responded so wholeheartedly to our end-of-year requests to fully fund our ministry in 2020 with gifts in December totaling more than \$111,000! Partners and friends also gave gifts of more than \$92,000 in December for our *Called in Faith, Growing in Joy* campaign to help pay for our building expansion. Thank you so very much for your generous support in this difficult year!

*So where do we go from here?* The first move this month for Spirit of Joy is to put together a Ministry Site Profile. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is a tool designed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to stimulate reflection and conversation in a congregation about the congregation’s ministry, vision, and values. It invites congregations to gather demographic information, compose a vision for mission, identify key characteristics of the local community and the congregation, and prioritize ministry tasks and essential gifts for the next leader(s). The MSP will be viewed by synod leaders and those interested in our ministry positions.

There will be opportunities for our partners and friends to participate in this process via a survey and/or small group conversations (likely via Zoom). Watch for more information coming soon. You can also help us move forward from “here” *with your prayers*: for this just-beginning call process, for our deciding how and when to use our new, beautiful space, and for how we can continue to love and serve our neighbor through the pandemic in this brand new year.

N. T. Wright writes in his little book *God and the Pandemic* that our vocation right now, right “here” is “to be in prayer, perhaps wordless prayer, at the point where the world is in pain.” It is not the only thing to do—but it is our calling as we set out from here, trusting that the Holy Spirit of Joy will continue to empower us and guide us into meaningful ministry ahead. PJE



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

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Sioux Falls, SD 57108

# January Worship Schedule

You may worship online via our YouTube channel. Watch your email each Sunday morning for a link to that service or visit our YouTube page. **Children of Joy** will remain virtual until further notice.

The Reopening the Church Task Force will be in conversation again this month about returning to in-person worship on a regular basis. We will continue to carefully assess the spread of COVID in our community, and continue to work towards a safe reopening of our building for worship. Please watch your emails, our Facebook page and website for further updates.



## Financials through November 30, 2020

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$17,145.62
Building Fund	\$21,212.09
Donor Restricted	\$72,107.05
Sunday School	\$961.03
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$435,169.50
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,574.22</u>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$620,729.61</b>

	November 2018	November 2019	November 2020
Attendance	1551	1685	???
General Offering	\$ 38,079.86	\$ 48,705.33	\$ 43,008.31
Building Offering	\$ 11,255.44	\$ 50,435.73	\$ 21,212.09

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$516,193.55
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$565,280.51</u>
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>(\$49,086.96)</b>

### Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485  
 Received as of November 30, 2020: \$1,603,991.71

# Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

## I. Unfinished Business

### A. Building Expansion

1. **Pay Application #9 December 2020:** Michelle Stanek moved and Ron Risty seconded to approve the payment of \$306,672.65 as noted on the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-09). Motion carried.
2. **Updated Lighting in Current Building:** Discussed lighting options. Lori Tripp moved and Jodi Hansen seconded to increase base bid for lighting to a maximum of \$40,000.
3. **New Flooring in Current Sanctuary/New Fellowship Space:** Discussed flooring options.

**B. Reopening Church Building Update:** Plan to have Christmas Eve and Christmas services on a limited basis.

**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. Recommendation to Hire Madeline Trosvig for Coordinator of Youth Ministry:** Lori Tripp moved and Sarah Manthey seconded to offer Madeline \$16.00 per hour for a short-term appointment (approximately 5 months).

**B. December Benevolence:** Motion by Lori Tripp and seconded by Jodi Hanson to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.

Seminary Student Wendi Van Beek \$2000

Synod Benevolence 10% of December giving

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **January 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** We typically ask outgoing and incoming leadership team members to participate at this meeting as we hand off ministry to new leaders and, this year, take the next steps in our call process.*



### Overflow: Living Out the Blessing of God

If you haven't already, we invite you to take a moment to fill out and return your estimate of giving card to the church office. Thank you so very much for the ways you have practiced overflowing generosity with your blessings from God this past year and throughout our life together in God's Church.

# Faith Formation This Month



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

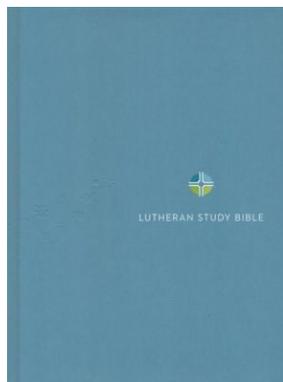
Was your child baptized in 2020? Spirit of Joy celebrated nine small-gathering baptisms in 2020! Some were outside in our prayer garden. Some were in our “old” sanctuary. And a December 20<sup>th</sup> baptism was celebrated in our “new” sanctuary.

No matter where your child was baptized, we want to remember the marvelous promises God made to them and the promises you made on behalf of your child. But we are still in the midst of a pandemic. Please stay tuned to Spirit of Joy news about gathering in person on January 10. If we are *not* worshipping in person, there will still be a blessing for your child during our pre-recorded (or ZOOM gathering) on that Sunday morning.

A pandemic cannot stop us from celebrating. In early January, Growth Team will be delivering packets for your family with some special mementos for your child and their faith chest.

God bless you as you continue to nurture your child in the Christian faith!

~ Deacon Katherine Eisele



## A New Bible for A New Year?

Are you hoping to explore God’s word in new ways in 2021? Sometimes we’ve been stuck with an old confirmation Bible in the RSV or King James version. For some, those translations challenge our engagement (and dare I say enjoyment?) of reading Scripture.

I have loved the Lutheran Study Bible and recommend it to you. The study notes in the margins are accessible, faithful, and helpful. The notes for Luke are written by Augustana University Professor of Religion, Richard Swanson!

There are four brand-new, wrapped Lutheran Study Bibles (Augsburg Publishing) in our main office. Heather can help you if you’re interested. A \$35 donation to Spirit of Joy is suggested.

In January I plan to begin one of the year-long reading plans suggested in the back of my Lutheran Study Bible. If you’re thinking of taking the plunge this year to more regular Bible reading, I welcome you to join me and other sisters and brothers in faith around the world!

God bless you as you read God’s word (no matter what translation or how old or new your Bible!)

~ Deacon Katherine Eisele

*“So faith comes from what is heard,  
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”*

Romans 10:17

# Faith Formation this Month

## Prayer 101: An Introduction for Normal People

Spirit of Joy is calling our new space “a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7b-8). Many of us struggle with what it means to pray, how to pray, and what difference prayer makes in our own lives, and in the life of the church and world. At the same time we are mindful of many invitations in the



Bible to practice prayer. Our congregation will be offering an introduction to prayer for any persons who would like to explore how we might begin to become praying people. No experience required! This introduction will be offered via Zoom on Thursday evenings, starting Jan 21 at 6:30 pm and Friday mornings, starting Jan 22 at 9:30 am. Interested persons are invited to sign up on our website at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).



## Spirit of Joy Preschool

### SOJ Preschool Registration for Fall 2021 begins in January

We would love to meet you. Enjoy a caring community of friends and families, faith formation nurtured throughout daily activities, and active learning curriculum tailored to meet each class' interests and learning styles. Preschool program serves children ages 3-5 years old by September 1, 2021 and meets 2-5 days per week 8am-12pm. Visit the preschool webpage for details: [spiritofjoy.net/preschool](http://spiritofjoy.net/preschool). **Registration for next fall opens January 5 for SOJ partners and current preschool families. New preschool families can register beginning January 11.**



[Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool](https://www.facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool)

Visit the SOJ Preschool Facebook page to see more about our daily events.

# Looking Ahead



## Joy Ranch, the Women of Spirit of Joy Miss You! Save the Date ~ November 12-13, 2021

We were so saddened to cancel the 2020 Spirit of Joy Women's Retreat. But we are very hopeful to keep the date we have with Joy Ranch on November 12-13, 2021.

Pastor Renee Splichal-Larson, Assistant to the Bishop of the SD Synod, will be our guest presenter. Included in Pastor Renee her husband Jon's household are their two young sons, Gabriel and Elias, and Jon's sister, Liz. They have all been participating in the life of Spirit of Joy (pandemic-style) since they moved to Sioux Falls. Pastor Jon was our director of high school faith formation up until a few weeks ago. He is now serving as interim pastor in Madison.

Pastor Renee will bring a strong and compelling message for our women. We will be blessed by her gifts and her story. And we love, love, love the time together as women of Spirit of Joy. Please make plans to attend - we will trust that it will be safe. Watch for signups later this year.

# Serving Opportunities



## The Banquet West

**Date:** Wednesday, January 27

**Location:** 710 N Marion, Sioux Falls, SD 57107

**Volunteers are needed:** 2:00 p.m. for prep and  
5:00-8:00 p.m. for serving

**Sign up on our website  
at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)**

- Due to Covid-19 we are currently serving meals to go at the door. We will let you know when the dining room opens up. Gloves and masks are provided to our volunteers.
- Typically 150 to 225 people are served at this meal.
- 5-6 volunteers are needed at 2:00 p.m. to prep for the meal
- 6-8 volunteers are needed at 5:00 p.m. to serve the meal
- The meal is served to our guests from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Volunteering at this meal ends usually by 8:00 p.m.
- Children need to be 13 and up to work in the kitchen and usually 10 and up in the dining room.
- Note: Due to Covid-19, we ask that you do NOT bring clothing, shoes, quilts, etc. There are many other agencies in Sioux Falls that do take these items.
- You are welcome to prepare a prayer or devotion before the meal.

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## Seeds of Hope for Nicaragua

Through our congregation's benevolence budget, we have supported the ongoing work of the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope in Nicaragua and the salary of our South Dakota Synod missionary, Rev. Dr. Soliette Lopez Ortega. This Advent and Christmas season, the South Dakota synod is raising money to buy seeds for the future and hope in Nicaragua.



Each cooperative's seed will cost them \$1,445.00. The South Dakota Synod has set a goal of raising \$14,000.00 for the farmers in Nicaragua. You can send donations (any amount is appreciated!) through Spirit of Joy OR donations can be sent directly to the South Dakota Synod, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197. Please mark your donation "Seeds of Hope for Nicaragua". Thank you for being a people of Extravagant Generosity and for your prayerful support of our siblings in Nicaragua.

# Christmas Eve in Our New Worship Space



# Many Thanks...

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you all so much for providing lunch for us here at Sanford Clinic. It was a pleasant surprise for all. Thanks for thinking of us! Happy Holidays to you all!

*Sanford Clinic Staff*

Spirit of Joy,

We at Lewis so appreciate your kindness and generosity of sub sandwiches for lunch. They were so good! We look forward to serving you in 2021.

*Lewis on Louise Ave.*

Dear Members of Spirit of Joy,  
We send this card to thank you for your continued generous and faithful support of Church on the Street. In spite of COVID-19 your gifts are touching lives in the City of Sioux Falls & we are grateful.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Shelly Gehring  
Associate Pastor

Dear friends at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church,  
Thank you! You have our "heartfelt" appreciation for your kindness, generosity and support. Your wonderful donation of 19 family kits and toys really help to make our "house" a "home" for our guest families.

Blessings,  
Ronald McDonald House



Spirit of Joy donated a coupon for each student at Horace Mann Elementary to select and purchase a book.

# Many Thanks...

Dear partners in ministry,

Thank you. For four years of honesty, openness, conversations, tears, laughter, and questions. For venturing with me into new places and relationships, particularly with BeFriender Ministry, Horace Mann Elementary School, and Jacomo and Angelina's family—the Eritrean refugee family we welcomed together a couple years ago. For welcoming me into your lives and your stories, and into the story of Spirit of Joy. For joining me this year in difficult reckoning about racial injustice in our nation.

It has been my great joy to serve as your pastor for four years. I will miss you. And yet such is the multi-faceted paradox of change in callings: the changes bring sadness and joy, grief and hope, regret and reassurance.

Part of my continued responsibility to you will be to respect the future leadership of the congregation. Although my family and I will still live in Sioux Falls, I will no longer be a ministry partner of Spirit of Joy, which is in line with the South Dakota Synod's guidelines for pastoral transitions. As such, I will entrust all forms of pastoral ministry and care to current and future pastors. I know without a doubt that Pastor Jeff and your leaders yet-to-be-called will be worthy of that trust.

I will pray for the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance as you begin the process of calling your next rostered ministers (that is, pastors and/or deacons). Spirit of Joy is a vibrant, healthy, open, generous, gifted, and caring congregation. You are sure to attract the very best leaders our church has called and equipped.

In the mean time, my love and prayers go with you. God's peace be yours, now and always.

In hope,

*Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask*



Dear Spirit of Joy Partners,

Words cannot express my gratitude to you for the financial contribution to my education at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Spirit of Joy has been such a large part of my faith formation, and my short time thus far at Wartburg allows me to further discover my own calling in our church and in the world.

As I began my studies at Wartburg this fall, I did so with the love and support of so many of you at Spirit of Joy. I had quietly considered a calling to seminary for several years prior. In this year of quarantine, quiet, unrest, and isolation, the Holy Spirit took this opportunity to move that quiet calling to a full-on shout. This! This is the year to go to seminary! This is the year to discern your calling! This is the time to learn how you might follow the example of Jesus to make a better world for your siblings in Christ! And if you have ever had a shout from the Holy Spirit, you know that she will not be ignored!

Not knowing what to expect as a distance seminary student, I found that same love and support at Wartburg that I have come to know at Spirit of Joy. Radical Hospitality is alive and well in both our church and in seminary. With a strong focus on worship, theological scholarship, and servant leadership, I have found no better educational home than Wartburg to guide me through the life-giving work of service to others and to the church.

Again, thank you for your generosity, and for your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

*Wendy Van Beek*

Thank  
you!

# Many Thanks...

## A Note of Thanks,

It has been a great privilege to serve as your Deacon. Thank you for the opportunity to walk this journey of faith with you. And thank you for your expressions of gratitude and good wishes as I take my leave. I cherish your kind words.

God is present in every age and stage of life. For Spirit of Joy this is a new stage of life – with beautiful new spaces in which to worship, to gather, and to learn. I rejoice with you as we move back in – slowly and safely – in the coming months and year. God has always and will always be present wherever we are.

A favorite truth: “Where Christ is present in faith, home is church, too.” My, how we’ve experienced this truth in the past year! As we practiced living out our faith, worshiping, teaching our children, and serving Christ in new ways, we celebrated God’s presence with us wherever we were.

But this place, this Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church physical place, will continue to be a space to gather to worship our faithful God. And a place that will - through excellent faith formation opportunities - equip us for mission beyond our walls.

As you continue to gather and scatter, my prayers are with you. I know God will continue to guide and lead this congregation forward.

I am so grateful for partners in this congregation who have been by my side in faith formation at every turn. I give heartfelt thanks to the Growth Team leaders past and present who have supported me and led with faith and joy: Mary Tranberg, Deb Tams, Angie Schrader, Adam Punt, and Sarah Manthey. You are not only partners in life-long faith formation, but also life-long friendships. Thanks to my dear colleagues on staff of Spirit of Joy who have made working at Spirit of Joy a true joy. Thank you to Pastor Rebecca, Pastor Christy, Pastor Jon and Deacon Susan who gifted me with the true sense of partnership in ministry. And finally, to Pastor Jeff who navigated the somewhat complex waters of being colleague, supervisor, partner in ministry, and spouse - we made it! And thank you.

In Christ’s Love,

*Deacon Katherine Eisele*

