

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

July 2023



Summer Fun @ Spirit of Joy

Family Fun Night: God Speaks

Spirit of Joy families met on June 21 for the first of three Family Fun Nights. The evening began with Worship led by the High School Youth headed to Outlaw Ranch, followed by crafts, yard games, bonfire and s'mores! Join us on July 19 for more Family Fun.

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit who is shaping us for mission and ministry in 2023 and beyond!

Krista loves to hear me admit when I'm wrong. "I made a mistake" is one of my most important keys to her heart...I hate it. I hate it almost as much when I have to say it to you!

I was hopeful that Pr. Jeff, your Leadership Team, and myself had laid the groundwork to be able to move forward without hesitation. Laying the groundwork with new vision and mission work, outlining a long term plan for our campus, revisiting our core values, welcome statement, and mission statements to create a strategic plan for mission and ministry seemed like the logical steps to be taken as soon as possible. And, I still think they might be. What I got wrong was the timing of "as soon as possible."

Bishop Hagmaier and her Associate, Rev. Renee Splichal Larson encouraged Spirit of Joy to undertake a long and intentional interim process. After 22 wonderful years with Pr. Jeff, they were wise enough to know that we would need to grieve and be together. I, and we, thought we could do without. I was wrong! This spring I struggled as I worked with you trying to launch planning initiatives across different phases of our life together. I wondered why responses were slow and energy low. And then, it dawned on me. The Bishop was right!

And so, I told our Leadership Team that we will hold off on long term planning and big new ministry starts until spring of 2024. Marnie, Deacon Hannah, and myself will all have been in our positions a little over a year. We will have completed some of the nuts and bolts of ministry transitions (policies, procedures, etc.). We will know each other better. And, we'll have a better sense of who we are together. Until then, I've asked our Team Leaders and Staff to focus on two things:

1. Making sure that we stay transparent and successful in our finances (see the Finance and Update elsewhere in this letter), and
2. Relationship development and reconnection.

My request of you? Join us. Wednesday Night Worship is a ton of fun. Family Fun Nights happen each month. In July we have scheduled a special "Night Out" with comedian Nathan Hults and Jamie Lennon will offer a special Brewed Theology teaching us about the crisis in Yemen, sign up! In August we have our first ever "Cruise Night". We'll gather our fun vehicles and go for a drive, before having dinner together. In September, Deacon Hannah and our C3 team will ask you to join them for an 8 week series completing our grant and asking each of us to consider our calling.

I'm often wrong, but I know I'm right in saying, we're better together Spirit of Joy. Join in!



Eric Ohrtman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Ohrtman".

Milestone News

Anniversary of Baptism

Coming soon to a mailbox near you... an Anniversary of Baptism card. Do you know your baptism date? It's like having a second birthday. The day you were born into Christ's family. Knowing this day and celebrating it is a wonderful way to talk about faith at home.

It's easy to celebrate a "tradition", especially with our children and grandchildren. When my son, Finn, was about 4 years old, we weren't doing anything special on baptism days. It just so happened that his four godparents were coming over for dinner that night and I thought "perfect! We can celebrate." So I'm walking around the grocery store trying to think of a way to make it special and I spot some cupcakes with blue frosting (like water!). Blue Baptism cupcakes it was and we celebrated that night. Jump ahead a few months and we are at a dinner at church where there are lots of deserts to choose from. Finn comes to find me and wants to show me something - up on the counter are some



blue cupcakes to which he inquires "Mom, are those my baptism cupcakes?" It's such a great reminder of how amazing God's children are - and how easy it is to make a milestone of faith something to celebrate and remember.

Here are a few other ideas:

- Get a bowl of water and make a sign of the cross on each member of your family, reminding them "You are a child of God"
- Light your baptism candle! It's ok! You can use it!
- Read Isaiah 43:1
- Call or text your godparents and ask them what they remember about your baptism day.
- Eat blue cupcakes!

Be on the lookout for your baptism reminder! If you don't know the date off the top of your head, look for it on the card and then you can put it in your calendar to remember each year - or Spirit of Joy will remind you too! And no matter what, remember, God has claimed you as his own and will never let you go.

~ Marnie Dahle Backer



Retirement Milestone

Retirement often signifies a major change in the lives of adults. It may mean the freedom to relax and enjoy life, the freedom to start new opportunities, or the freedom to live out one's dreams. But it can also mean the loss of income, benefits, your identity, or your primary focus in life. Spirit of Joy would like to celebrate these life changing events with you, as well as offer support to you during these times. On July 16, during the morning worship services, all those who have retired in the past 20 years will be acknowledged, appreciated, and blessed for the personal professional wisdom and gifts that they have given to our communities during their careers. For those who have retired within the past year, (July 1, 2022 – June

30, 2023), we will be holding an event on Sunday, July 16 at 5:00 with snacks and drinks included. You will also be acknowledged, appreciated, and blessed; in addition, there will be a time to share the joys and losses with those who also have recently retired. Please RSVP online at spiritofjoy.net/signups. ~ Donna Olson

Outreach Opportunities

Food to You

Thursday, July 27 | 4:30-7:30 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups, to join in helping at this event. Setup starts at 4:30. We need 5-6 people during this time. An additional 10-12 servants should arrive at 5:15. This is a wonderful event for children!

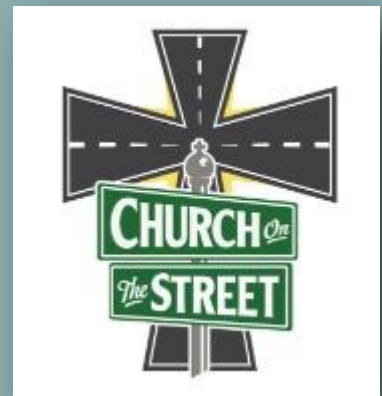


Annual Arts in the Park

Tuesday, July 18 | 4 - 6 p.m.

Heritage Park

All are welcome to join in the fun. Tie Dye Shirts, Crafts, Food and Games. Sponsored by Church on the Street.



Church on the Street

Saturday, August 12

Heritage Park

Spirit of Joy is hosting the meal and worshipping together at Church on the Street the 2nd Saturday of August. Church starts at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meal. Check out the sign up page for food donations and ways to volunteer. SoJ Partners are encouraged to attend the service to get to know the people who worship. **Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups.**

Toy Drive

LSS Center for New Americans welcomed a family last week. The family has several kids all under the age of 15. Spirit of Joy has been asked to help provide toys/activities for the children. Please bring any gently used/new toys you'd like to donate to the church. Thanks so much!



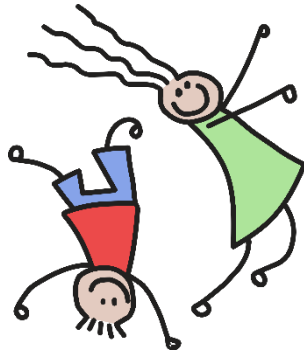
Outreach Opportunities

Horace Mann Elementary School Wish List

Spirit of Joy has partnered with Horace Mann Elementary school since 2018. This school focuses on working with students who struggle behaviorally.

The Outreach Team asked staff for a list of items they use with students in their classroom and will be collecting them during the month of July. Please drop off your donations at Spirit of Joy by Sunday, July 30. The items can be new or gently used. Thank you!

- Puzzles
- I Spy Books
- Games
- Stickers
- Shaving Cream
- Playdoh
- Modeling clay
- Ziploc baggies (all sizes)
- Smelly Markers
- Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils
- Perler beads
- Chalk
- Individually wrapped candy/snacks
- Construction paper
- Velcro strips/dots
- Watercolor paints
- Colored Pens
- Sharpies (all colors)
- Notebooks
- Coloring books
- Sticky notes



- Clorox wipes
- Kleenex
- Sticky labels
- Peel and stick magnet strips
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Plastic folders
- Kinetic Sand
- Thinking Putty
- Individual snacks – goldfish, animal crackers, fruit snacks, etc.
- M&M's
- Skittles
- Sour Patch Kids
- Colored Cardstock Paper
- Balloons
- Baby Wipes
- Girls/Boys Deodorant
- Pants/Shorts (XS-M) for Boys & Girls
- Squishies
- Legos
- Matchbox Cars



On-Going Collection for Church on the Street

Gently used backpacks, reusable cloth grocery bags, plastic grocery bags. All donations can be left on or under the candy collection table in the gathering space at church. Thank you!



Faith Formation



BREW ED THE OLOGY

Jamie Lennon to lead
discussion about

YEMEN

Monday, July 10 | 7 PM
Remedy

RSVP: spiritofjoy.net/signups pre-reading is available at signup

JULY 19 | FAMILY FUN NIGHT | 6:30-8:00

WORSHIP, DUNK TANK, SNOW CONES

God Protects



Congregational Life

Women's Rotational In-Home Fellowship

Monday, July 10, 5:30 p.m.—Donna Olson's Home

Tuesday, July 11, 9:00 a.m.—McDonald's on 85th and Minnesota

Contact Suzanne DeBoom or Deb Stapelman with questions. All are welcome!

Women's Weekly Bible Study

Join us at 9am on Thursdays as we explore who the real Jesus is in the Bible and our everyday lives. Pick up your copy of Phillip Yancey's book "The Jesus I Never Knew" for our study. ALL are welcome. Bring a friend-Lutheran or Non-Lutheran welcome! There will be no evening study this summer.

Women's Coffee Time @ Scooters (85th & Minnesota)

Meets the 3rd Monday each month at 10:00 a.m.

Women's Social Gathering - not meeting in July

We will resume our monthly Women's Gathering on Monday, August 7, at 7pm.

Spirit of Joy Town Hall

All partners of SoJ are invited to a town hall meeting on Wednesday, July 12 at 7pm or Sunday, July 16 at 11:10am. We would like to offer a check in for the congregation to update on staffing, finances, ministry programming, and answer any questions people might have. Information only, no decision will be made at these meetings. We want you to know what's happening at Spirit of Joy!

Check out the color in the wildflower strip!
Pictures courtesy of Arlene Brandt-Jenson





FEAST ON LAUGHTER, SAVOR THE NIGHT!

Join us for an adult event featuring comedian, Nathan Hults, and a fabulous dinner served by Chef Jeni in her beautiful dining room.



HERE'S THE SCOOP:

***Thursday, July 20th, 2023**

***6:30pm - 8:30pm**

***\$50 per person**

**Limited seating - order
your tickets today!**

Questions...contact Deacon Hannah at
605-333-2004

Chef Jeni - 3638 S. Southeastern Ave.





MENU: 

***Green Goddess Salad**

Butter Lettuce, Apple, Gorgonzola, Candied Pecans, Tomato, Green Goddess Dressing -
Gluten Free & Vegan

***Italian Bruschetta Chicken**

Chicken Breast, Roasted Tomato, Garlic,
Fresh Basil Sauce - Gluten Free

***Roasted New Potatoes**

***Grilled Seasonal Vegetable**

***Bread & Butter**

***Dessert**

***Beer & wine available for purchase**

Get Your Ticket Now! - Deadline is July 1st

spiritofjoy.net/signups - Checks payable to
Spirit of Joy to reserve your spot.

Giggling Guaranteed!



Chef Jeni



Upcoming Events



SPIRIT OF JOY CRUISE NIGHT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

6:00 Meet and Greet at
Spirit of Joy

7:00 Depart Spirit of Joy

7:30 Dinner Together

***CLASSICS, CONVERTIBLES, MOTORCYCLES, UTVS, JEEPS, OR
JUST THE CAR YOU DRIVE EVERY DAY!***

Books that Matter

Led by Pr. Eric. Donuts and coffee provided.

This month we're reading

"Long Way Down" by Jason Reynolds

Discussion: Thursday, August 10- 9am at SoJ

Next month: "God: A Biography" by Jack Miles

Discussion: Mon, Sept. 11



Creation Care Corner

“The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a sprig of water whose waters never fail.” Isaiah 58:11, NRSVUE



The Dog Days OF SUMMER

Summer is upon us. The “Dog Days” of summer run from mid to late summer with the Old Farmer’s Almanac placing them from July 3rd to August 11th. This sweltering period of heat and humidity coincides with the rise of Sirius, the Dog Star, which is part of a constellation called Canis Majoris, the “Greater Dog.” In ancient Rome and Greece, this time period was thought of as a time of unrest, drought, and bad luck when man and dog would be driven mad by the extreme heat.

For certain, this time of the year has always been hot; however, according to climate scientists, regardless if it’s summer or winter, the *temperature of the planet has been trending upwardly by 1°C or 1.7°F since 1900*. Further, each of the last five decades has been consecutively warmer than the decade before, hence the use of the term, global warming.

But how could we have such cold winters if the planet is warming, you might ask? Let’s review some terms. Weather is what happens in a certain place at a certain time. Climate is the long-term average of weather over at least 20-30 years. Thus, weather may fluctuate from day to day but climate is the long-term average of those temperatures.

Here are some interesting facts: We broke over 10,000 records for low temperature in 2017. When climate isn’t changing, we break about the same number of hot temperature records. However, since 2000, more than twice as many hot temperature records have been set on average in comparison to cold ones. For example, in 2017 when there were over 10,000 cold temp records broken, there were 36,305 hot temperature records broken. So, think about it this way: Any individual record set (hot or cold) is weather. Far more hot records are being set now than 30-50 years ago, so the ratio is changing and that is what is referred to as climate.

Did you also know that warmer temperatures can increase the amount of snow that falls? Did you enjoy the never-ending, cold and snowy winter we had this past year? As temps warm, the air holds more water vapor so when a storm happens, there’s more of it to be swept up and dumped down and if it’s cold enough, then it falls as snow.

When we hear scientists and governments say we need to limit global warming to 1.5°C, we may think, “What’s the big deal about 1.5 or even 2 degrees?” Think about your own body. Our temperature should ideally be 98.6°F (37°C). What happens when your temp increases by 2°? You start to feel it – achy, tired, overheated, not functioning as you typically do. Then, imagine you go see the doctor and they confirm you have a fever and also that they have consulted about your case with other doctors around the globe who all agree that you have a fever; furthermore, they all concur that your fever is the result of your lifestyle choices. See the correlation? The earth is running a fever, but the causes are not natural cycles of the sun, volcanoes, or the earth’s orbit but rather our lifestyle choices (Burning coal, gas, and oil are ¾ of the problem while deforestation and agricultural practices are ¼ of the problem).

Beloved, let us keep praying for God’s creation. Let’s keep reaching out to policy makers and leaders so changes are made in the way we do things before it’s too late. We will discuss more about what we can do in future entries.

information for this newsletter entry was taken from almanac.com and Katharine Hayhoe’s Global Weirding series



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool Openings Fall 2023 All Are Welcome!

Thinking about preschool but not quite sure, that's OK. Come for a visit to see what the preschool experience is all about. Preschool provides a strong foundation for future learning while making new friends in a faithful, caring community. Two-, three-, and four-day options are available but spaces are filling. Transportation services offered to and from preschool.



Schedule a tour time that works for you. We would love to meet you!

Amy Cauble

Director & Teacher

amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

605-333-2004

SOJ Preschoolers- Playgrounds & Popsicles

Monday, July 10 6:30-7:30pm

Past, present and future preschool families are invited to the preschool playground. Join us for summer fun in the sun with friends! Bring a water bottle to beat the heat. Popsicles provided. Come & go as you are able! We can't wait to see you, Miss Amy

*watch facebook for any weather related changes: facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool



Save the Date

Sunday, October 15, 6:30 PM | Music, Mocha & Masterpieces

Fundraising Event Featuring Art, Music and Fine Desserts

Enjoy great music and performances; Purchase One-of-a-kind art to be auctioned at the event; Taste delicious homemade desserts and coffee-- All created by Spirit of Joy Partners and Friends! The proceeds benefit your preschool ministry.

Calling All Artists & Performers

We would like to showcase your talent!

Be a part of Music, Mocha, & Masterpieces, a preschool ministry fundraiser held Sunday, October 15. Paintings, quilting, knitting, sculpture....solos, duets, piano, instrumental pieces... all are welcome to participate. You make this event special. Interested in joining or have questions, please contact Amy Cauble, Preschool Director.

Finance & Staffing Update

Look for a detailed video as part of our ongoing “Extravagant Generosity: Beyond Dollars and Cents” emphasis on the last Sunday of July. Until then, there are a few things to note in the world of Spirit of Joy’s finances and operations.

1. We are currently 9% behind budgeted income. After strong pledges indicated support for our proposed Mission Plan of \$800,000, we saw very strong giving in January, February, and March. Balances grew and your Leadership Team and Staff looked forward to continuing to grow mission and ministry among our partners and in our community. In April and May, giving took a downturn. We are now carrying a negative balance and could use your help. Consider a one time gift, check in on your digital giving (did you make the change you intended to?), or catching up on your pledge will help us to continue to move forward together as Spirit of Joy.
2. Overflowing Campaign was able to give its first pledge gift to Church on the Street in April. That campaign is ahead of schedule, having received more than 50% of pledges in the first of a three year effort. Our long term goal is to be debt free by our 25th Anniversary (All Saints Sunday 2027).
3. Endowment Fund and Gift Policy is now operational. Through your generosity, we hope to plan for the long term. We are now prepared to receive larger named gifts, estate gifts, and to work in planning. The Endowment Fund Brochure is complete and will be published this month. Thank you to Joel Christensen, Ron Risty, and Darlene Weber-Scott for their leadership into a bold future together!
4. A recap of transitions so far in 2023: Marnie Dahle Backer joined us as the Director of Next Generation Ministries. She works with Michele Vogel and a myriad of volunteers to run Faith Formation and Milestones Ministry from birth through middle school confirmation. Deacon Hannah Fleming became Director of Congregational Life, focusing on Faith Formation and Fellowship for partners from high school and older. Madeline Trosvig departed from High School Faith Formation. Carson Covey resigned as Director of Worship Arts.
5. We are currently seeking musician(s) to replace Carson Covey as Director of Worship Arts. So far, no applications have been received for Director of Worship Arts. If we do not receive an applications, I will ask the Worship Team and Leadership Team to consider rewriting the job description into two parts, one for piano accompaniment, and one for choir directing.
6. One of the proposals in the 2016-17 prospectus undertaking the building of our new worship space was to add a Facilities Manager to our staff. That job description is posted and we are receiving applications. This person would work with program staff to manage building transitions (setting up and taking down tables), manage our relationships with the many contractors and vendors who make our building run, and work with our Garden Team to ensure the continued flourishing of our beautiful outdoor spaces.

Financials through May 2023

Checking Account:

General Fund	- \$3,986.93
Building Fund	\$40,244.10
Donor Restricted	\$35,582.27
Sunday School	\$1,851.03
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	May 2021	May 2022	May 2023
Attendance	???	1291	922
General Offering	\$ 49,863.99	\$ 51,892.39	\$ 36,846.20
Building Offering	\$ 142,491.96	\$ 67,222.84	\$ 40,244.10

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$179,186.86
Donor Restricted	\$69,516.31
Total Cash Balance	\$326,953.74

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$263,651.69
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$302,127.33
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$38,475.64

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770
 Received as of May 31, 2023: \$365,840.20

Share your
 worries, fears,
 pains.

*Talk with a
 Befriender*



Want to connect?

Church: 605-333-2004
 Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663

**BEFRIENDER
 MINISTRY**
A Listening Presence

New Barrels in the Gathering Space

Our Food Ministry Outreach

Spirit of Joy has been a ministry partner with Charis Ministries and their “Food to You” program for several years. Each month we collect certain food items for our “Food on the Fourth” Sunday. These items are delivered to Food to You during the first weeks of the following month. Pasta, soup, cereal, peanut butter, tuna & tuna helper, and macaroni & cheese are the only food items that they request. In addition, hygiene items (shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant & toilet paper) are always needed.

Recently, Church on the Street has begun a food pantry distribution. During the month of May, 110 households were served, a total of

410 individuals. The Outreach Team has asked that SOJ assist Church on the Street with filling their cupboards for their food pantry.

Near the church office, you will notice two new barrels. One barrel will be used to continue collecting the “Food on the Fourth” item for Charis Ministries “Food to You” program. There is a list food collected each month that will be delivered to Food to You monthly. All other non-perishable food items should be placed in the second barrel for the Church on the Street food pantry. The items in this barrel will be delivered weekly so that your donations can be given out right away to individuals and families facing food insecurity.



Youth Trip to Outlaw Ranch



These campers spent the last week of June at Outlaw Ranch and more campers are headed to Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp in late July. Please join us in praying for these campers and all the Bible camps working hard to share God's love and mission with our children and youth.