



# WINDSWEEP

June 2022



Dear Spirit of Joy Partners in Ministry:

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve as pastor of Spirit of Joy. First came the South Dakota Synod's call to serve as developing pastor during two years of ringing doorbells, delivering all kinds of invitations, and gathering a first small group together. Then came your call to serve as the first pastor of Spirit of Joy once we officially organized as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on All Saints' Sunday 2002. It's a hard to believe now that there was a time when Spirit of Joy was nothing but a hoped-for dream.

Throughout these past twenty-two years I have been blessed to share ministry with a gradually growing group of ministry partners who shared a vision for what our congregation might become, and then stepped up in so many ways to fulfill that vision. Year after year Spirit of Joy has moved forward in faith, trusting that God would guide us and provide us with people and whatever resources we needed to carry out our mission.

The time has now come for me to complete my call with Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church. I will serve as your lead pastor through the end of August 2022. My last Sunday leading worship will be August 28<sup>th</sup>. Until then, I look forward to continuing ministry with you through the summer months by worshipping, learning, serving, and sharing. I also hope to set aside time for many conversations to express my gratitude for your partnership in this Spirit-driven work.

As I look back, I am so grateful for so many things: for the first pioneers who joined this mission start when Spirit of Joy was still just a dream; for those who took risks to invite strangers to join us; for the many musicians and artists who have enlivened our worship; for the leaders and planners who helped us take many strategic steps, and for many more who did thousands of little noticed things behind the scenes; for faith formation leaders for every age; for extravagant generosity that has funded our ministry for 20+ years, made us leaders in supporting community and global ministries, AND made it possible for us to build and expand our mission center; for staff who have shared leadership with skill and joy; and for your encouragement and support.

What a journey it has been! Thank you for calling me to serve as your pastor and for accompanying me in this fruitful ministry for these many years. I will continue to hold you in my heart and my prayers as we keep following Jesus together over different paths.

Joy and Peace to you,  
Jeffrey Eisele, pastor

# Outreach Opportunities

## Necessities for Neighbors

Sunday, June 5

Peace Lutheran Church | 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Sign up on our website at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups), to join in helping at this event. Bring a donation of toilet paper to church by Wednesday, June 1. All donations will be delivered to Peace Lutheran to use during the distribution.

## Church on the Street

Saturday, September 11

Heritage Park | 9:45 a.m.

Spirit of Joy is hosting the meal and worshipping together at Church on the Street the 2nd Saturday of June. Church starts at 11:00 a.m. in Heritage Park (330 N Weber Ave). There are lots of ways to help with this event, from donations of large hotdogs and buns, to packing 200 candy bags and serving the meal on June 11. SoJ Partners are encouraged to attend the service to get to know the people who worship.

Packing Candy bags will be Wednesday, June 1 at 5:00 p.m. in the Shalom Center. This can take 45-60 minutes with lots of help! Sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).

## Summer Sunday Servants

Sign ups are updated online for the summer months. There are many spots open and lots of ways to help on a Sunday morning. Sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups) if you are interested in helping serve communion, greeting, reading, or running PowerPoint in worship.



# Thank You, Volunteers

Breakfast at The Banquet  
Friday, May 20



Horace Mann Elementary  
End of School Party  
for Faculty & Staff  
May 19



# Welcome New Partners

We welcomed nine new households as ministry partners on Sunday, May 22.

Be sure to give a Joyful Welcome!



Billy & Rose Anderson

Dani Buehner



Jean Lounsbery



Scott & Melissa Gibson  
Evelyn and Mae



Madeline Trosvig



Bill VanDusen



Randee & Mike Van Bruggen  
Sydney

## Not Pictured:

Jennie and Maia Boe

Chad & Mariah Fickbohm

Sidney and Elliot

# Upcoming Summer Fun



**Family Fun Night**  
June 8 from 6:30-8:00 pm  
**"Fruits of the Spirit"**



**Snow Cone Truck**   **Yard Games**   **Fruity Crafts**   **Camp Worship**



**Family Fun Night**  
July 13 from 6:30-8:00  
**"Walking on Water"**

**Water Olympics**   **Dunk Tank**  
**Camp Worship**



**Family Fun Night**  
August 10 From 6:30-8:00  
**"The Good Samaritan"**

**Worship**   **Bounce House**  
**Yard Games**   **Bonfire**

# Faith Formation

## **HIGHSCHOOL EVENTS**

Frontier Climbing (5045 Grant St)  
Wednesday, June 15 | 6:00-8:00 PM  
Cost \$15 | Please pay SoJ before the event

Lock-In @ SOJ  
Friday, June 24-25 | 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Bring your friends!

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS**

Sky Zone Trampoline Park | Cost \$15  
Thursday, June 16 | 6:30-8:00 PM  
Waiver must be signed to participate  
(link found on signup page)

Ultimate Game Night @ SOJ  
Wednesday, June 29 | 6:00-8:00 PM  
Bring your friends!

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

# Upcoming Events

## Promises and Challenges of Growing Older Forum

*How do you feel about aging? Do others feel the same way?*

*Let's talk about the challenges and opportunities of aging.*



**Thursday, June 2nd - 6:30-8:00 pm**

— or —

**Tuesday, June 7th, 10:00-11:30 am**

For folks ages 60+

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

## Zion Lutheran's New Wine Ministry

*presents*

### **Bright Star**

June 20 | 6:30 PM

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



New Wine is a Christian youth musical/drama ministry of Zion Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minnesota. The group's name is inspired by the 5th chapter of Luke where Jesus challenges us to get rid of the old categories in which we thought about religion and relationships with God, and pour our new wine into new wineskins. The group promotes Christian fellowship, friendships and understanding among the students, who come from varied denominational backgrounds and traditions. We are thankful this ministry has continued for 31 years! This year's New Wine tour group consists of 39 students, grades 9-12. Five area school districts are represented as well as 16 different area churches.

# Summer 2022: Adult Faith Formation

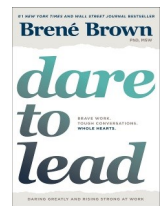
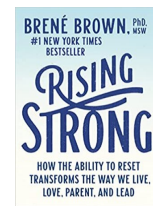
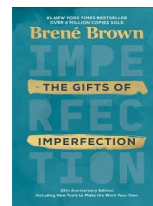
A Summer of Brene Brown w/ Margie Schade  
June 9, July 7, August 11 | 7 PM @ SoJ

Brene Brown's fascination with what she calls wholehearted living eventually led her to explore how we dance with shame and vulnerability. From her top five viewed TED Talks to her continually growing library of books, the University of Houston researcher has become a foremost authority on courage and leadership. This summer, we'll read three selections designed to help us acknowledge and embrace our flaws, learn how to get back up from our failures, and use those experiences to become authentic leaders at home, work, and Spirit of Joy. Each month will be supplemented with videos, articles, and discussion.

Come prepared for each session, having read the book and watched a video selection. After you sign up we'll send a link for each book and a break down of that month's prep work.

**June 9: *Gifts of Imperfection* | July 7: *Rising Strong* | August 11: *Dare to Lead***

Sign up today at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups),  
order your books, and start reading!



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## Bowen Family Systems Theory w/ Rev. Paul Johnston

We are constantly influencing the behaviors of others and being influenced by them. The work of Murray Bowen, Systems Theory explores how we are shaped as individuals by the systems and communities in which we participate. Bowen believed that human beings possess the capacity to differentiate — to become distinct, mature, balanced selves healthily connected to one's families of origin and others. This summer, Rev. Paul will lead a three-part series to introduce the theory, invite participants to reflect on how they participate in systems, and how we relate to one another in the system that is Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church.

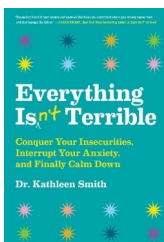
### Systems Theory: A Way of Learning to Live the Resurrection Life

Each gathering will be at 6:30pm and last approximately 2 hours.

**June 15:** "Everything Isn't Terrible" and a 10,000 foot view of Family Systems Theory.

**July 20:** Family of Origin- digging into our personal stories and genogram

**August 17:** Connecting our Story to the Congregation and asking the question, "Can a congregation differentiate from a pastor?"



The pre-reading is "Everything Isn't Terrible" by Kathleen Smith. Available at amazon.com and other retailers. June 15th's discussion will rely on your having read the book.

Sign up today at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups), order your book and start reading!



# Summer 2022: Adult Faith Formation

## Faith & Film with Pastor Jeff *Second Wednesday of the Month*

Some of the best storytellers of our time make movies. The best movies entertain us and connect us to the things that most impact our lives: love, sacrifice, courage, grace, suffering, compassion, and community.

Our first gathering will be on **Wednesday, June 8th at 6:30pm** in Spirit of Joy's Shalom Center. We will discuss the 2021 version of *West Side Story*, directed by Steven Spielberg and currently streaming on Disney+ and HBO Max. Watch the movie ahead of time and come prepared to discuss!



## Theology on Tap with Pastor Eric

Rather than study a particular topic, Pastor Eric is inviting you into a summer of storytelling and dreaming for Spirit of Joy. Each event is at 7pm at Remedy Brewing (401 E. 8th St.)

### **Monday, June 6th**

“The Stories that Shaped Us”

### **Monday, July 11**

“The Stories of Today”

### **Monday, August 8th**

“The Stories We Hope to Tell”



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## Pray the Labyrinth

We are fortunate at Spirit of Joy to have a labyrinth in our prayer gardens. This summer, as part of our Adult Faith Formation, we hope to have two weekly gatherings for fellowship and prayer in the labyrinth. Each week will have a specific scripture verse and focus for our prayer. Every week we will include prayer for Spirit of Joy, its individual partners, and its community partners.

Sign up today to receive all communication regarding praying the labyrinth. On the sign up indicate if you would prefer a morning or evening session. We will work with each group to determine a time and day of the week. Our prayer practice will run June-August.

[spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Preschool Year-in-Review 2021-2022

The third week of May brought an end to the 2021-2022 preschool year- our fifth yearend celebration here. This time of year is sentimental and reflection is automatic- so many memorable moments. I am never ready to let go. The children and teachers really do become a close family. While so much of what happens is not quantifiable, it is possible to provide a snapshot of the year with a few numbers:

2021-2022 School Year included...

- 36 weekly learning themes
- 34 Chapel visits
- 26 letters learned
- 20 numbers practiced
- 20 students registered for year
- 12 preschool graduates
- 10 active play centers
- 9 months of togetherness
- 4 teaching spaces
- 2 snow days
- 1 daily prayer by teachers & students: "Dear God, thank you for this day. Be with us today. Help us to learn and grow. Amen."
- *A safe place for children to learn about themselves and the world around them, nurture faith, and meet new friends... PRICELESS! (as the commercial once said)*



A special thank you to Miss Kendra and Miss Jamie for supporting me and the children over the year. Your compassion, creativity, and expertise has left a lasting impression on all of us. Thank you to our Chapel leaders for sharing your time- Pastor Jeff, Pastor Eric, Miss Michele, Miss Madeline, Pastor Karen, and Deacon Katherine.

Gratefully, Miss Amy

**Spirit of Joy Preschool has officially begun its partnership with Hope Coalition.**



Your preschool will provide early childhood education to up to six children in the 2022-2023 school year. Thank you for helping make this opportunity possible.

# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## A Few "Favorite Things" From Our Preschoolers



"There are lots of fun things to do like play Flower Shop and Kitchen."

"I met a lot of friends."

"Reading books is fun. I like the Bible."

"I was worried to meet the teachers but they are fun and I like them."

"I just love all of it!"



# Odds & Ends



## BeFriender...

"Hear" for You!



Want to connect?  
Church: 605-333-2004  
Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663



## CREATION CARE

### Did You Know...?

- \* Nearly 2 million plastic bags are used every minute?
- \* Plastic bags take up to 1000 years to disintegrate?
- \* Plastic bags kill 100,000 marine animals every year?
- \* The average plastic bag is used for 12 minutes and then never again?

### What YOU CAN Do...

- \* If you haven't done so already, stop putting plastic bags and wrap in your recycling bin! *They must be pulled out of the recycling by hand, and if not pulled out will quickly jam up the machines used for recycling other materials.*
- \* Bring plastic bags or film waste to drop-off locations that still accept them.
- \* Reduce the amount of bags you use by bringing your own cloth bags to stores and by avoiding products with excessive film packaging.



# Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy

## I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Overflowing! Building Debt Reduction Appeal Update:** Pastor Jeff provided a progress report of the debt reduction appeal. To date there has been a commitment from 66 households for \$593,680 over the three-year period.
- B. **Welcome and Orientation for Deacon Candidate Hannah Fleming**
  - a. Moving Expenses: Motion by Kendra Krueger and second by Jason Ahrendt to use Thrivent Choice restricted funds for Hannah Fleming’s moving expenses. Motion carried.
  - b. First Week Welcome: Pastor Jeff and Deacon Katherine will host a potluck picnic for Hannah and her family, the SoJ Leadership Team and SoJ staff on Thursday, July 7th at the Eisele home.
  - c. Ordination and Installation: Hannah will be ordained at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City on Saturday, July 30, 2022. Discussed potential dates for installation at SoJ later in the summer.

## II. New Business

- A. **Audit Committee:** Discussed potential candidates to serve on a committee to audit financial records. No action taken.
- B. **Synod Assembly Alternate Representatives-June 3-4, 2022:** Discussed alternate representatives to attend the Synod Assembly in June. Kendra Krueger may be able to attend.
- C. **Resignation of Call:** Pastor Jeff presented his letter of resignation of call to SoJ effective the end of August 2022. The Leadership Team accepted the letter with regret.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m.*

## Financials through April 2022

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$53,789.40
Building Fund	\$21,395.41
Donor Restricted	\$40,543.13
Sunday School	\$732.72
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00
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	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022
Attendance	???	???	1720
General Offering	\$ 41,534.25	\$ 48,239.79	\$ 55,692.85
Building Offering	\$ 20,048.97	\$ 59,458.76	\$ 21,395.41

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$79,303.24
Donor Restricted	\$69,466.49
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$269,790.49</b>

### Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485  
 Received as of April 30, 2022: \$2,269,915.23

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$197,737.23
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$217,805.17
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>- \$20,067.94</b>

# Take me out to the ball game!

Spirit of Joy Partners & Preschool Families enjoyed a Sunday afternoon at the Canaries Game. It looks cold, but the afternoon warmed up quickly. Thank you for helping make this event a success!

