

WINDSWEEP

June 2021

Summertime

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven....

Ecclesiastes 3:1

About the time you are reading this newsletter, Katherine and I will be driving to Colorado for the beginning of my summer sabbatical. I am so very grateful to Spirit of Joy for another opportunity to step away from the daily and weekly rhythm of ministry for an extended period of time for rest, travel, reading, prayer and time with family. We will do some traveling through deserts, mountains, and forests to experience what one theologian calls “the solace of fierce landscapes.” I’m also scheduling some alone time in retreats to catch my physical and spiritual breath after the last few thrilling and challenging years in our congregation; years that have included some exciting visioning, planning our building expansion, a major capital campaign, multiple staff changes, building construction, and, of course, navigating congregational life in whatever ways possible through the pandemic.

A sabbatical is a great gift “built in” to Spirit of Joy’s personnel policy. I look forward to returning to ministry with you in mid-August, ready to restart or fine tune multiple ministries that were curtailed in multiple ways these past fifteen months.

I am also looking forward to sharing ministry with our new pastor! Pastor Eric Ohrtman will begin ministry with us on July 1st. Eric has served as a pastor for more than fourteen years with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Colville, Washington, and most recently with Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. He describes his calling to ministry this way: “I am called to lead people to a life of deeper faith, to challenge and instruct, to equip and enliven. I feel called to celebrate and enhance the larger connectedness of the church to the world around us while simultaneously developing disciples.” Please find a time to meet and welcome Pastor Eric to Spirit of Joy soon after he begins serving with us. He brings great gifts for sharing our mission and ministry!

Summertime is a great time for many of us to travel, play in and attend tournaments, rest in sunshine, and enjoy a different rhythm to our lives. This summer, especially, many of us will take advantage of opportunities to spend more time with family and friends since COVID stole that time from us last summer. I hope you will also continue to nurture your faith this summer. Join us for worship when you are in town, or join us via our livestream worship (starting June 20th) if you can’t join us in person. There will be new people to meet and welcome in our beautiful new spaces! I also commend to you again the Taking Faith Home resource which is emailed to all of our households every week. It’s a great tool for individual or small group devotions. Joy to you in the coming days of summer!

~ Pastor Jeff Eisele



spiritofjoy.net

605-333-2004

2208 W LaQuinta St

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Revised CDC Guidelines for Wearing Face Coverings:** Per CDC guidelines, face coverings are now optional for people who have been fully vaccinated. Use of face coverings is encouraged for people not yet vaccinated or who desire extra protection against COVID-19. There has been mostly positive feedback to these changes.
- B. **Call Process—Letter of Call:**
 - 1. **Compensation and Benefits**
 - 2. **Responsibilities**

The Leadership Team reviewed the Letter of Call for Pastor Eric Ohrtman. Motion by Chad Wolff and Kendra Krueger to accept the Letter of Call with the listed compensation and benefits and responsibilities. Motion carried.
- C. **Mission Investment Fund Building Loan Principal Payment (before mortgage):** No action taken this month.
- D. **Pastor Jeff Sabbatical Update:** Pastor Jeff's sabbatical will be from June 1, 2021 through August 16, 2021. He will be available for a few days in July to assist Pastor Eric Ohrtman, if he accepts our call.

II. New Business

- A. **Request to Serve as Additional Representative to South Dakota Synod Assembly in June:** Pam Cole has volunteered to be an additional representative. Motion by Andrew Hewitt and second by Chad Wolff to approve Pam as the representative. Motion carried with 7 affirmative votes and 1 abstention.
- B. **Building Expansion Concerns—Reducing Sound in Fellowship Space:** Discussed potential solutions to sound issues in the fellowship space. Pastor Jeff will contact JLG Architects for a bid.
- C. **May Benevolence:** Motion by Sarah Manthey and second by Lori Tripp to approve the May benevolence. India COVID-19 Relief (from "other" line item) \$1000; ILFE Missionary Support \$1000; LSS \$500; Banquet-As invoiced; Horace Mann Elementary \$315
- D. **Building Dedication and Installation of Associate Pastor:** Planned for September 12, 2021.

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

Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Financials through April 30, 2021

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$96,539.06
Building Fund	\$50,695.31
Donor Restricted	\$25,524.07
Sunday School	\$366.86
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021
Attendance	2347	???	???
General Offering	\$ 59,979.26	\$ 41,534.25	\$ 48,239.79
Building Offering	\$ 31,114.44	\$ 20,048.97	\$ 59,458.76

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$564,484.19
Donor Restricted	\$69,514.27
Total Cash Balance	\$811,712.39

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: : \$2,478,485
 Received as of April 30, 2021: \$1,848,998.22

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$186,354.57
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$184,470.67
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	\$(1,883.90)

Faith Formation

Recent Milestones

Wednesday, May 12, kindergartners talked about prayer in all aspects of life. They had fun activities and a visit by Deuteronomy Duck. Sunday May 16 and May 23, high school graduates received a prayer blanket and blessing from the congregation. Congratulations, Class of 2021!



Outreach Opportunities



Laundry with Love Lending Library

Spirit of Joy Outreach Team is excited to announce a new opportunity for partner engagement and collaboration with Church on the Street by being the first congregation to support a new Laundry with Love Lending Library ministry.

Help fill the shelves of their new book cart, donated by Spirit of Joy, by dropping off gently used adult and children books during the month of June. Donations can be dropped off at church.

Not able to donate a book? You can still contribute to this program by praying for the individuals involved and the success of the program.

Contact Kendra Krueger at 701-799-0158 with any questions.



Recent Donations

Food to You

Thank you for the generous donations of Tuna and Tuna Helper for our ministry partners at the Food to You mobile food pantry.



Necessities for Neighbors

Thank you for the generous donations of toilet paper for the Necessities for Neighbors serving event on June 6.



Outreach Opportunities

Breakfast at The Banquet Friday, May 14

Thank you for serving breakfast on May 14. Your group served 189 adults and 8 children. The guests of the Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support.

God Bless,
The Banquet



Outreach Team

Interested in helping coordinate volunteer activities and make decisions on what community, state, and global ministry partners we help financially support?

If you would like more details on how to get involved, please contact Kendra Krueger, Outreach Team Chair, at 701-799-0158.



Summer Sunday Servants

Sign ups available for June and July in the gathering space if you are interested in helping set up outdoor worship, serving communion, greeting, or running PowerPoint in worship. Please contact Heather at info@spiritofjoy.net or 333-2004 if you have any questions.



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Year in Review by Amy Cauble

Another preschool year has wrapped up, year four for our little preschool, and it was memorable!

Preschool is a perfect fit for me, no day is ever the same and I love it. However, there was a time or two this year when I craved a “regular day”. Those days when the activities are familiar and you know what to expect. This year did not offer too many familiar days. New processes and protocols were in place and changing often. Although we were constantly learning, the preschool community worked together to stay healthy and keep our doors open.

The preschool team began preparing for the 2020-2021 school year last May. It was decided the preschool would meet in person with safety measures in place. A special thanks to the team for persevering through CDC guidelines and SD Department of Health recommendations to create a safe place to learn.

Preschool staff jumped on board in September and rose to the challenges of mask wearing, daily cleaning ALL toys and surfaces, and pouring out love on the preschool children. In addition, preschool class hours doubled and included a lunch time. We had never done this before. All adjustments were met with courage, endurance, and flexibility. This preschool has an amazing, tireless pair of teachers- thank you, Brook and Kendra!

There were things that stayed the same, however. Thankfully, the preschool welcomed fourteen children offering new ways to grow academically; nurture faith; and become friends. Chapel time, Kindermusik and active learning projects were shared each week. Children experienced science, math, literacy, art, faith, and active learning. Neighbors became friends and Spirit of Joy families were served.

At the end of the year, I often ask the children -what advice they would offer a new friend or what they enjoy about preschool. Gratefully, the children talked about their comfort here and know we are here to support them. What’s more, seeds of faith were sown, evident when I heard the words: “I like coming here because





God loves all of us and we can be friends,” and “If you feel nervous, you can pray to God and God will help.” Thank you, young friends, for this reminder!

A HUGE thanks to the Preschool Advisory Team, Spirit of Joy Preschool and Church staff, Preschool families, the Leadership Team, and YOU for your support of this ministry. Because of you, we are already preparing for next fall and I can’t wait!!!

Kindly, Amy Cauble



Preschool Openings

Classes are filling, and we would love to see you here. Invite your neighbors and colleagues. Visit our Facebook page and webpage to learn more about the program. Tours are available, call Amy Cauble to schedule a time.

 facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool

 spiritofjoy.net/preschool



Spirit of Joy Preschool’s Picnic & Concert Fundraiser

Sunday, August 1 ** 6:00 p.m. ** Spirit of Joy Gardens

Enjoy the music talents of Larry Olson (co-founder of Dakota Road) and his wife and partner in music for over twenty-five years, Karol Baer.

“Together, they bring a playfulness and passion for music that is expressed in rich & diverse songwriting and powerful vocal arrangements. Their songs come alive with stories of rural roots, ponderings of arenthood, stirrings from our glabal family and journeys of faith. Together and with their band, Dakota Road, they have released over 20 recordings with many of their songs being sung all across the US & beyond.”



Bring your blanket and picnic supper. Family fun activites and outdoor fun planned. **All ages are welcome!**

Odds & Ends

Watch Your Mailboxes

BeFrienders are continuing to send *Praying for You* postcards to Partners of Spirit of Joy letting you know that you will be in the prayers of one of the BeFrienders during the week. We plan for every partner of Spirit of Joy to receive this postcard and the prayers of a BeFriender within the next two months. Be sure and let the BeFriender who sent you the card any prayer requests you may have.



Reminder: BeFrienders continue to be available to any Spirit of Joy partner who may need a listening ear. Call the church office at 333-2004 to be referred to a BeFriender.

Family Fun Nights

6:30 PM | SoJ

June 28th- Hearts on Fire
for Jesus Campfire Worship

Learn about the Holy Spirit and the season of Pentecost with us while making kites & making smores!



Prayer Garden

Saturday, June 5

Workday: 8-10 a.m.

Bring your garden gloves!

Plant Sale: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Once-in-a-Lifetime Adventure!

You are invited to join Pastor Jeff and Deacon Katherine and other Spirit of Joy partners to see the Treasures of Italy and the Passion Play of Oberammergau in **Summer 2022**. The trip will include visits to **Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Salzburg, Munich** and the once every decade Passion Play held in the small German village of **Oberammergau**. This trip was cancelled in the summer of 2020 because of the pandemic, and is now rescheduled. We will leave from Minneapolis on Thursday, June 23, 2022, travel by private motorcoach and stay in select hotels for eleven days, and return to Minneapolis on Sunday, July 3, 2022. A brochure with a specific itinerary, cost, and registration information is available at Spirit of Joy's welcome center and the church office. You can direct questions to Pastor Jeff at jeffeisele@msn.com





Many Thanks!



Thank you to the members of Spirit of joy Lutheran from South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. In grateful appreciation for giving \$57,719 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

South Dakota Synod ELCA

Elizabeth Eaton

Presiding Bishop ELCA

Thank you for supporting Lutherans Outdoors recently with a gift in the amount of \$1,500. Your incredible support allows for the nurturing and strengthening of the faith life of thousands who come to camp. Thank you for understanding how critical your gift is this year to our ministry. Your continual support ensures life-giving experiences continue. Thank you for your partnership.

Paul J. Hanson

Executive Director

Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota

Dear Spirit of Joy Sunday School,

Thank you for your recent gift to help Elavarasa Senthil, your sponsored student, continue to receive a quality education and have his needs met during the pandemic. Thank you for keeping your student and his family in your prayers in these times of transition.

The Rev. Dan Ruth

Executive Director

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry

Partner in ministry,

Thank you for your support, particularly your financial gift to the synod over the last few months. As we closed the books on 2020, we look back and see the blessing of generosity across South Dakota. Thanks to your gift, we were able to meet 98% of our budget for the synod, despite the pandemic.

Pastor Jonathan Steiner

Director for Evangelical Mission

South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Thanks so much for your generous \$1,000 donation and the \$580 private donations to Charis Ministry Partners. We care able to support our clients with food because of your generosity.

Correen Major

Charis Ministry Partners

Thanks so much for the DQ gift card! It is greatly appreciated. It was such a fun surprise. I appreciate all you do for our school.

Kim Dobson

Horace Mann Elementary

Thank you for your Congregation gift of \$1,000 to Shetek Lutheran Ministries. Without your generosity, Shetek Lutheran Ministries simply could not continue its mission of providing year round opportunities for Christ centered renewal and learning for all ages. You are truly making a difference in the faith building experience for the youth and families coming to SLM. Thanks for your partnership & support!

Marvin Nysetvold

Executive Director

