

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

March 2023

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” - *Genesis 3:19*

These famous words from the story of the fall of Adam bring us into Lent, each year. As ashes are smeared across the foreheads of the faithful the celebrant repeatedly intones, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It’s a reminder of our mortality. And, it’s a reminder of God’s grace. Without it, we sinners would know only pain, suffering, and death. By it, we know hope, joy, love, and life. But, what about the rest of the season? What is it? How did it come to be? Why should we lean into it and make it a part of our regular faith practice?

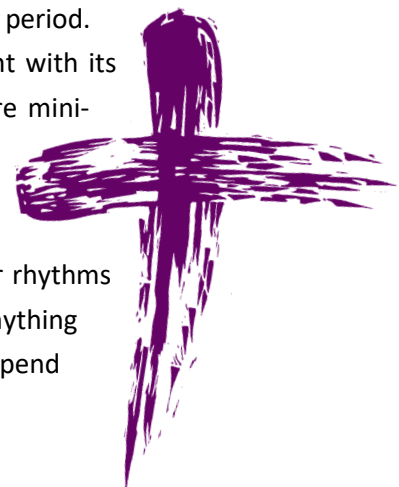
As early as the Third Century, Christians devoted themselves to prepare for the celebration of Easter. Originally, two days prior to Easter were dedicated to fasting. From the end of the worship service on Good Friday to the celebration of Easter—equaling the time Jesus spent in the tomb—Christians would fast. Generations that followed increased the period of fasting to six days which was also the amount of time catechumens spent in humble preparation for the reception of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper that they would receive at the Easter Saturday vigil and Easter morning service.

Over time, the length of preparation for Easter increased from one week to three weeks to six weeks, usually excluding Sundays, which were held by Christians as “mini” Easters. In Jerusalem, as early as the Fourth Century, Christians fasted for forty days in preparation for Easter. The forty days consisted of five days a week for eight weeks. These forty days symbolized the forty days that Moses dwelled on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18), the forty days that Elijah journeyed to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8), and the forty days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2).

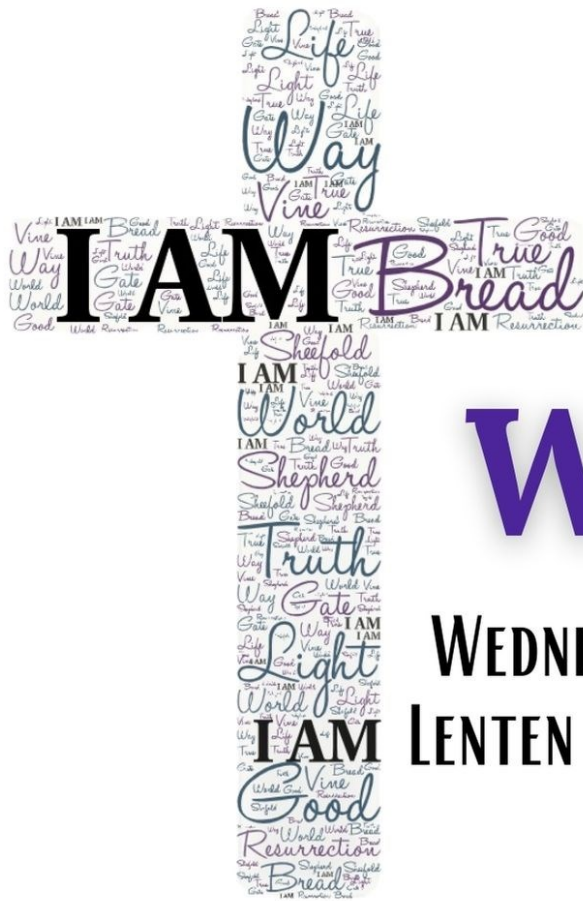
In the Seventh Century, the western church arrived at a forty-day preparation period for Easter. They were fasting for six weeks at six days a week for a total of 36 days. Beginning in that century, they decided to include the four days that preceded the first Sunday of preparation. That first day of Lent, then, was known as Ash Wednesday.

During the time of the Reformation, Martin Luther continued to observe this preparation period. Lutheran churches have continued this practice. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with its conclusion being Holy Saturday, the day before Christ’s resurrection. Because Sundays are mini-Easters, each Sunday in Lent is in Lent and not of Lent (notice our bulletins). But why continue the practice today?

I’m of the opinion that engaging Lent as a faith practice is one of the most valuable regular rhythms available to us in the church. In a world of instant gratification, we rarely deny ourselves of anything or spend more than the absolute minimum in preparation. Lent invites us to do just that. To spend time. In God’s Word. In service to our neighbors. Together.



Lent Supper is at 5:30. Lent Worship is at 6:15. Join us.



Lent Worship

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH AT 6:15 PM
LENTEN MEAL BEGINNING AT 5:30 PM

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE...

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...

I AM THE GATE...

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD...

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE...

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE...

Sign Up Today!

2023 Marriage Enrichment Retreat

“Refreshing Perspectives” | April 28-30, 2023, at Shetek

Deadline to sign up: Wednesday, March 29

Marriage is one of the most rewarding lifelong and sometimes challenging experiences. Join us for a relaxing weekend focused on exploring skills to help enrich our marital relationships. Pastors Lon and Heidi Kvanli, partners at Spirit of Joy, will facilitate the weekend retreat. Pastors Lon and Heidi have been trained and certified to lead marriage enrichment retreats and have been doing this for many years. Retreat participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm marital topics/issues you would like covered, share their stories in new ways, and listen with a refreshing perspective. We will climax Saturday night with a romantic dinner. The atmosphere for the weekend is laid-back. Dress comfortably and in layers. Cost per couple: \$250.00. Registration forms are on the Welcome Center at church. There is room for 15 couples, forms and payment will secure your spot.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

Refreshing Perspectives



April 28 - 30

PASTORS LON & HEIDI KVANLI

Facilitated by the Kvanlis, join us for a weekend at Shetek focused on exploring skills to help enrich marital relationships

Pick up a Registration Form at the Welcome Center

Cost per Couple: \$250

Room for 15 couples

Forms and payment will secure your spot

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

A Way Forward: Staffing Spirit of Joy in 2023

“That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith—and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you! And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn’t want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.”

-2 Timothy 1:5-7

Grace to you and peace,

For the last 3+ years, SoJ has been in transition. None of it has been bad, and Pr. Jeff assembled a remarkable team following each of those departures. Now, as your Lead Pastor, it is my responsibility to work with you in addressing our staffing needs to continue that excellence for mission and ministry. What I’m proposing is a shift in our assumptions and a new way of working together.

The changes to our current staffing are Director of Congregational Life, Pastor of Congregational Care, Director of Next Generation Ministries, and a Facilities Manager.

Director of Congregational Life (Full-Time): This would be a reorientation for Deacon Hannah. We have discussed this possibility and she is excited about the opportunity. She will be responsible for moving students out of Middle School Confirmation and into High School Faith Formation. Coordinating the 9th Grade year and final projects of confirmation, while administering high school youth including the associated milestones. She will coordinate College Milestones and Adult Milestones. Then, she will be the lead for all of those things outside of worship and meeting gatherings of the congregation. Bible studies, small groups, hospitality, outreach, and service events, fellowship, etc.

Director of Next Generation Ministries (Full-Time): Marnie Dahle Backer will join Spirit of Joy on Thursday, March 16th. Join us on Sunday, March 19th as we welcome her to the congregation in worship. She will be responsible for all ministries including milestones from birth through middle school confirmation. She’ll work with the preschool director and team towards the goal of continually deeper congregation integration. And, she’ll have a lead role in Evangelism and Marketing that would lead her to working with 1st time guests, new neighbors, and the New Partner Class. As with all team members, Marnie will also be active in leading preschool chapel and in worship on both Wednesdays and Sundays.

Pastor of Congregational Care (1/4 Time): This rostered leader would be asked to preach once per month, lead a regular Bible Study (or similar), and coordinate the Congregational Care Unit (BeFrienders, Prayer Team, Homebound Ministry, Funerals, All Saints).

Facilities Manager: 15-20 hours per week would be custodial. In addition, the Facilities Manager would become the primary liaison for all contractors. Facilities turnover and event setup. Basic handyman skills. Lawn mowing (around the edges, in the playground, the labyrinth, etc.). Pest control. Coordinating the community garden. Maintenance of our gardens. Recruiting of volunteers for all of the above.

Each position would overlap and work together, including but not limited to worship leadership, preschool chapel, staff training and development, retreats and congregation travel, and Faith Formation.

Thank you for the long read. I know it’s a lot to process and you’ll have questions and concerns. Please ask them. Please share them. pastoreric.spiritofjoy@gmail.com | (605) 333-2004

Eric Ohrtman

Pastor, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Staff Update at SoJ

Director of Next Generation Ministries

Marnie Dahle Backer will join Spirit of Joy on Thursday, March 16th.

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In her career, Marnie has been a leader in camp ministry with experience at both Metigoshe Ministries and Klein Ranch. She served as the Director of Outreach Ministries and Volunteer Services at Augustana University. And, has spent the last 21 years as Director of Youth and Family Ministry at 1st Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. She has a particular passion for Milestone Ministry and making connections with families. She is married to Pr. Jeff Backer and has two boys, Harrison and Finnegan.



**Join us
Sunday, March 19th
to welcome Marnie to
the congregation**



Faith Formation



Joyful Morning Yoga: (10:30am; March 2, 2023) with Brittany Tennant! Come enjoy a 60-minute yoga flow where we will sync up breathing with strategic movements to renew your mind, body, and spirit. Open to all genders, levels of abilities, and practice. Light lunch provided after yoga. Sign up online. There is a spot for everyone. Wear comfortable clothing, bring your mat, small towel, and water bottle.

Rotational In-Home Fellowship: We meet once a month for devotion ("taking faith home") and fellowship or any activity of interest. We will have a morning and evening group. Contact the office if you are interested-this will help with planning. All are welcome. This month:

- Monday, March 13, 5:30pm (Location to be determined—we'll keep you updated!)
- Tuesday, March 14, 9:30am at McDonald's on Louise.

Women's Bible Study—Thursdays 9am & 4pm:

We are exploring the *Greatest Story Bible Introduction* series that enlightens us about God's saving grace. Bring a friend—Lutheran or Non-Lutheran—All are welcome!

Women's Social Gathering: Monday, March 6 at 7pm. Mary Tranberg will facilitate the guided discussion. **Childcare is provided!**

Joyful Bingo Fellowship: March 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Shalom Center

Spirit of Joy is offering a Joyful Bingo Fellowship on St Patrick's Day for all families young and old. Please bring your family, a friend, your children, grandchildren, and join other partners of the church for an evening filled with Bingo, Fellowship,

Pizza, Service Project, and Prizes! We will be collecting quarters for Laundry with Love. Bring a handful, tube full or any number of quarters you have. Your quarters will help make a difference in the life of a neighbor (Laundry with Love). Sign up online (spiritofjoy.net/signups) to help us plan for pizza!



"Mom's with a Purpose—Fridays at 10:45 AM

"Mom's with a Purpose is a great way to meet other Mom's on a faith journey. No matter where you are at in your faith this group of women has been so welcoming. I look forward to getting out once a week to have some caring conversations and further our love of Christ our Lord. Come and join us! All are welcome!" ~ *Mom with a Purpose*



Faith Formation



Attend the session that works for you:

- Wednesday, March 22, 7PM
- Sunday, March 26, 10AM

Second Grade Milestone

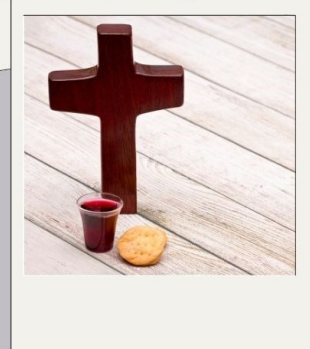
THE LORD'S + Prayer

If your child missed this milestone, contact Deacon Hannah to join us!



1st GRADE MILESTONE

FIRST COMMUNION



Saturday, March 25, 9-11:30 AM

sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signup

If your child missed this milestone, contact Deacon Hannah to join us!

Outreach Opportunities



Food to You Thursday, March 16

Spirit of Joy will be serving at Food to You (Mobile Food Pantry) on Thursday, March 16, at Augustana Lutheran Church (235 N Prairie Ave). Volunteer shifts begin at 4:15 or 5:15. **We are also collecting food to bring to the pantry, especially Food of the Month: Hearty Soup.** You can bring your donation to the church until Tuesday, March 14. Thank you!

Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups.

Outreach Team



Carole Chell, Bob Jenson, Joe Vogel
Lynn Risty, Paul Johnston, Kendra Kruger
Eric Ohrtman, Katie Housiaux

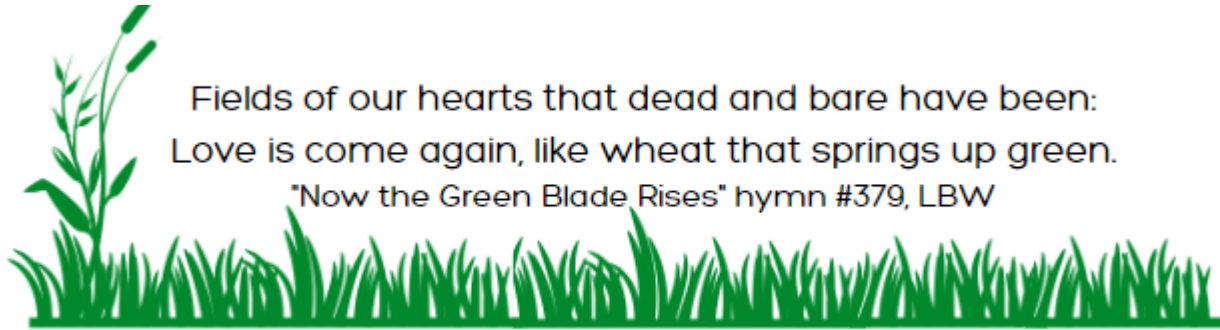
Laundry with Love Quarter Drive

Children of Joy will be collecting quarters for Laundry with Love through Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Twice a month, Church on the Street provides three free loads of laundry to anyone in need. You can collect quarters in the little plastic containers (available to pick up at the church) or simply put them in the children's offering jar on a Sunday morning. If you don't have a child in PreK-5th grade, we invite you to find a child in the congregation to gift your quarters to for placement in the blue jar.





Creation Care Corner



Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

"Now the Green Blade Rises" hymn #379, LBW

The color **green** is prevalent in March, even though it's typically still a very bland and often bleak landscape this time of year. However, we know the winter season is coming to a close and green is on the horizon. **Green** is the theme of this article.

Greenwashing is complex but at its most basic level, it is "dishonest or deceitful marketing about a company or product's environmental impact" (sustainablejungle.com).

Three common types to look for include: (1) **Misleading labels & language** – claims like "eco-friendly", "non-toxic" and "green" aren't regulated so can mean whatever the company wants them to mean. As well, these generic, misleading assertions can lead consumers to unintentionally contribute to higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions; (2) **Use of environmental imagery** – labels often use colors like green, blue, or brown and scenes of plants, farms, & animals but don't actually communicate environmental facts about the brand; (3) **Hidden tradeoffs** – brand advertises sustainable practices such as recyclable packaging, organic materials and zero waste practices when in reality they don't even come close to making up for their environmental impact to include pollution, unethical sourcing, use of chemicals, etc.

Green marketing, on the other hand, is when an environmental marketing declaration *is* upheld. The company is truthful and transparent with the details that back their green claims. Many times the products will have third-party sustainability certifications that could include USDA Organic, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), OEKO-TEX® 100, or Carbon Trust Standard (for verified CO2 emissions). B-Corp certification requires a little more digging on the consumer's end.

How can we keep God's planet **green**? According to Bea Johnson of the Zero Waste Home, here are five things to start doing:

Refuse what you do not need.

Reduce what you do need (reconsider how much stuff you actually need – we tend to live in excess)

Reuse by repurposing stuff or by using reusable objects like metal straws or bamboo cutlery when on the go

Recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse –PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MOST PLASTIC ITEMS ARE SINGLE-USE ITEMS THAT ARE DESIGNED TO BE THROWN OUT, LIKE WATER BOTTLES OR TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS, AND MANY OF THESE ITEMS CAN'T EVEN BE RECYCLED PROPERLY AND THEY DON'T BREAK DOWN AND ARE HEALTH HAZARDS TO HUMANS, ANIMALS, OCEAN LIFE, ETC.

Rot (compost) the rest.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 NRSV

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Fall 2023 Preschool Registration Is Open

Your preschool is full for the 2022-23 school year! Hip, hip hooray!

But REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2023 IS ALREADY OPEN and registrations are beginning to come in. If you or someone you know would be thinking about preschool this fall, call Miss Amy today. Together, we can decide if you are ready and which class is best. There is a spot for your favorite preschooler but do not delay.

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

contact Amy Cauble, teacher & director at 605-333-2004

amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

*** Check out our Facebook page to see what we do throughout the year**

Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool

*** Check out our website for Registration and price information**

spiritofjoy.net/preschool

*** Registrations available online, by mail or in person**

*** Scholarships, partner and sibling discounts are available**

A special thanks to preschool volunteers this past month:

Friendship Party helpers:

Heather Hewitt, Breanne Haller, Liz Hepner, Abbie Taralson, Marcia Sturma, Josh Grode Wolters, Erica Rayman, Kendra Namanny, and Jamie Appel.

Health & Healing Event:

Erica Rayman, Andrea Larson, & Myriah DeSart- Ventura

Van Drivers: Bob Jenson & Rod Domke

Thank you for donations and gifts from the preschool wish list.

Items have been put to use right away.



YOU ARE INVITED! SPIRIT OF JOY PRESCHOOL HOSTS 2nd ANNUAL MINI GOLF "PAR-TEE" Sunday, March 26, 2-4pm

How do I participate? There are two ways!

1) Create and host your own golf hole. A room or location is provided. Decorate the hole as you like using everyday items. Example: Create a golf hole obstacle course in the kitchen using pots, pans, snack food boxes, and cans of food.

Email Amy Cauble with your idea and/or room preference in the church: amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

2) Come and golf with friends! Golf clubs and golf balls provided. Snacks, too.



ALL AGES WELCOME - COME JOIN THE FUN!

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

I. Unfinished Business:

A. **Discernment Process/Structure/Staffing:** Moved to new business.

II. New Business

A. **2023 Goals:** Deferred to March meeting

B. **Staffing:** Pastor Eric Ohrtman presented a proposed alternative model for filling open staff vacancy. Discussion followed. A video will be developed to introduce the model to the congregation.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy.***

Financials through January 2023

Financials through January 2023

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$40,344.00
Building Fund	\$11,184.73
Donor Restricted	\$30,591.29
Sunday School	\$1,171.31
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023
Attendance	???	1202	902
General Offering	\$ 54,548.07	\$ 51,058.83	\$ 69,455.92
Building Offering	\$ 41,682.97	\$ 12,185.16	\$ 11,184.73

- Savings Accounts:

Building	\$161,794.44
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,478.23</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$319,124.10

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485
Received as of May 31, 2022: \$2,297,671.32

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$69,481.30
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$62,277.52</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	\$7,203.78

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770
Received as of January 31: \$266,235.43

As Spirit of Joy

