

WINDSWEEP

March 2021



Again and Again...We Find Ourselves Here

On most Friday evenings at supper time Katherine and I tune into watch the PBS Newshour. It is usually a good summary of the week's news, and we enjoy the banter between the various reporters and special guests. For the past year, every Friday, the hour ends with five short stories of persons who've died from COVID-19.

My reaction every Friday is the same: I want to both step out of the room as the stories are told and lean into hear the many ways these victims of the virus made an impact on their families, friends, and their communities. It's a painful, weekly reminder that every single person who became sick and died in the pandemic was a person with a story. Again and again a neighbor created in the image of God suffered and died. Again and again we are reminded of where our journey through the wilderness of Lent begins: marked with ashes and the brutal reminder "you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Our journey through Lent takes us again this year to Skull Hill and the cross of Christ, where we might also rather step out of the room as that story is told. The claim of our Christian faith can still sound pretty ridiculous: that the one sent by God from heaven to save us ended up lynched by human hands and hung on a cross until dead. Some Savior! Yet, it is precisely there, our Scriptures say, that we discover just how deeply God loves us, and how far God will go in Christ to save us. This is because anything less than a crucified, suffering God could not meet us in the all too real, deep experiences of our own suffering.

The Christian faith doesn't hide from suffering in some kind of toxic positivity. It doesn't claim to remove pain or sorrow from our lives. Again and again, we find ourselves here—and the Savior who suffers with us who refuses to abandon us.

Ultimately, on the first day of the week, the Day of Resurrection, Easter Day, the Savior overcomes suffering and death by walking out of his tomb. Through Christ, God promises that sin, suffering, and death will not get the last word. They will not triumph in the end. Again and again, Easter comes to interrupt and overturn every sorrow-filled story. This year, of all years, we need to hear this promise again and again.



spiritofjoy.net

605-333-2004

2208 W LaQuinta St

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

~ PJE

Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday Worship-March 28

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Procession of Palms, the Passion Story & Holy Communion

Online sign up encouraged so we can keep our seating distanced and safe.

Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups

This service will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel

Maundy Thursday Worship-April 1, 6:30 PM

Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

This service will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel

Good Friday Stations of the Cross/Christ Walk-April 2

Walking Worship with groups at 6:00, 6:15, 6:30 and 6:45

Join us this Good Friday for a “tour” through the Passion Story that will be held outdoors and indoors on our campus. Storytellers, visual artists and musicians will offer a dramatic retelling of Christ’s suffering and death on the Cross.

Online sign up encouraged so we can limit our Good Friday “tours” to 15 persons.

Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups

The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday-April 4

Festival Worship with Holy Communion

7 AM, 9 AM & 11 AM

Online sign up encouraged so we can keep our seating distanced and safe.

Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups

This service will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Unfinished Business

A. Building Expansion

1. **FINAL Pay Application #11 February 2021:** Kendra Krueger moved and Jodi Hanson seconded to approve the payment of \$33,263.57 as noted on the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-11). Motion carried.

B. Call Process

1. **Review of South Dakota Synod Process**
2. **Ministry Site Profile (MSP)**
3. **Ministry Site Visit—Pastor Renee Splichal Larson on Sunday, March 7th:**

An overview of the synod call process was presented to the Leadership Team and the MSP was reviewed following additions from other congregational groups. The Leadership Team will review the MSP in more detail over the next few days, make additions/suggestions, and submit them to Pastor Jeff. The completed MSP will be approved by the Leadership Team by e-mail vote prior to submission to Pastor Renee Splichal Larson in preparation for her ministry site visit on March 7th.

II. New Business

- A. **Summer Ministry Assistance—Madeline Trosvig:** The Leadership Team discussed retention of Madeline Trosvig over the summer to assist with gaps in SoJ ministry due to staff vacancies. She will be notified SoJ wishes to retain her with job details to be determined before the next Leadership Team meeting. No other action taken at this time.

- B. **February Benevolence:** Motion by Sarah Manthey and seconded by Kerri Teitgen to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.

Church on the Street - \$500 + meal cost, ILFE Missionary Support - \$1,000, Lutheran Church of Nicaragua - \$1,000, Lutheran Distatster Relief (from "other" benevolence line item) - \$500

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.***

Financials through January 31, 2020

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$103,358.67
Building Fund	\$79,207.31
Donor Restricted	\$26,245.55
Sunday School	\$827.53
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	January 2018	January 2019	January 2020
Attendance	1511	1711	???
General Offering	\$ 44,105.16	\$ 94,00.15	\$ 54,527.54
Building Offering	\$ 5,766.33	\$ 54,729.02	\$ 41,682.97

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$528,927.50
Donor Restricted	\$69,635.98
Total Cash Balance	\$812,762.64

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: : \$2,478,485
Received as of January 31, 2020: \$1,758,993.31

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$54,527.54
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$51,205.86
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	\$3,321.68

Faith Formation



First Communion

Holy Communion Instruction for children and their parents on Saturday, March 13. Pastor Jeff will lead this session in preparation for First Communion on Palm Sunday, March 28 or Maundy Thursday, April 1.

Each child will also paint their very own communion chalice.



Walking with Jesus Milestone

Four-year-olds will have a flat Jesus with them for a week of adventures to remind them that Jesus is with them every day, wherever they go. Look for pictures of our four-year-olds on Facebook. We will bless our them on Sunday, March 14.



4th Grade Kids & Money Milestone

YouTube video led by Adam Punt will be sent to families in early April. Together, kids and families can have meaningful conversations about how to spend, share and save God's good gifts.



Teens & Traffic Milestone

Presentation by Sgt. Paul Creviston (partner at SOJ) on April 18, 10:00 a.m.. Teens will hear firsthand stories of the what, why, and how of safe driving.



Earthcare Milestone

April 25, 10:00 a.m. Learn about how God calls us to care for our creation.



Kindergarten Prayer Pillow Milestone & Graduation from High School Milestone

Coming up in May 2021

Serving Opportunities

FOOD TO YOU

MARCH 18
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOOD OF THE MONTH
HEARTY SOUP

Sign up: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Laundry with Love

Spirit of Joy volunteered at Laundry with Love on Tuesday, February 23. Walking Tacos was served with an assortment of home baked cookies and bars. We also donated \$500 and \$302.50 of quarters collected by Children of Joy. Thank you for your time and money in making this event a success!



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool News

Each week, the children spend some time reading a new Bible story. There are crafts, stories or games that also help us retell the story and become familiar with it in a variety of ways. In February, one story was “Jesus Helps Bartimaeus”. This is a story of Jesus healing a blind man from Mark Chapter 10. We read how the man called out to Jesus for help and even practiced calling out just like the man – “Jesus, please help me”. Jesus responded to the man with kindness. He helped Bartimaeus see again. The children were asked if they met Jesus on the side of the road like Bartimaeus, what would they say to him? The children quickly answered. Here are a few of the responses given:

- *“I would give Jesus a hug and a kiss.”*
- *“I would ask for help about how to get away from a monster.”*
- *“I would ask him to help me when I get scared and my mom and dad are busy.”*
- *“I would ask him if he needs any help, then I could help him.”*
- *“I would say, ‘I love you.’”*

I found myself thinking about their answers well into the evening. What would you say to Jesus if you met him on the side of the road?

Wishing you peace, Amy Cauble

Preschool Registration

Preschool Registration is Open for Fall 2021! We would love to meet you and your friends- share the news of your preschool with others. Here are a few fun facts about Spirit of Joy Preschool:

- Spirit of Joy Preschool offers a Christian based curriculum tailored to each child’s learning style, accounting individual interests and abilities.
- Spirit of Joy Preschool offers indoor and outdoor learning opportunities benefitting from beautiful gardens, wild life, and large open outdoor areas.
- Spirit of Joy Preschool offers 2,3, & 4 day classes to accommodate with convenient drop off and pick up times.
- Spirit of Joy Preschool offers scholarships, sibling discounts, and partner discounts. All are welcome!

Visit the Spirit of Joy Church and Preschool website for more information: spiritofjoy.net/preschool.



Dear Spirit of Joy,

Thank you for serving supper on January 27. Your group served 103 adults and 21 children. The guests of The Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support.

God Bless,
The Banquet

On behalf of Feeding South Dakota, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of 223 pounds of food, given in the month of January. Thanks to your continuing partnership, we provided over 12.8 million meals to families in need last year. Thank you again for your gift.

Matt Gassen, CEO
Feeding South Dakota

Thank you for your gifts given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in January 2021. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

The Rev. Robin Borwn
Mission Funding Director, Congregations

In the midst of a crisis, you raised your hand to help. Your community needed you, and you continued to provide hope and healing despite some of the struggles you may have been facing on your own. You are a source of light and hope in these trying times. Thank you for your grace, generosity and good will.

Paige Short
Development Director, LSS of South Dakota

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 around 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. Thank you for your continued partnership during this challenging time.

Marv Nysetvold
Executive Director, SHETEK Lutheran Ministries

