

WIND SWEPT

Monthly Newsletter

November 2022

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us”

-Hebrews 12:1

This newsletter is full, and it feels like it doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of all that we are up to as Spirit of Joy. Please take the time to read through it all and make notes of all the ways that we are continuing to strive to work and live out our values together. What's below is meant to spark your curiosity and entice your participation. Also, unbelievably, it is just a very small sample of all that we are up to together. Thank you for making all of this possible. Each moment. Every hour. It makes a difference as we proclaim the good news and work alongside the Holy Spirit in creating the kingdom of God here, in this place.

Lifelong Faith **FORMATION**

We are continuing to develop Little Lambs on the 1st Sunday of each month. Our preschool is near capacity this year and beginning to think about growth in the near future. Children of Joy gave 22 3rd grade students Bibles last month. Middle School Confirmation is leading the way for Trunk or Treat. High School Youth Group went to the Jaycee Feargrounds and continues to grow. 27 women attended this year's retreat at Joy Ranch. There are three new Bible Studies this fall and you'll see that we have new opportunities for retreat this winter and spring.

Passionate **WORSHIP**

Includes a return to our roots for Reformation Sunday, All Saint's, and Christ the King. Meanwhile, we'll celebrate the Walk of Remembrance on Nov. 6th and look forward to the return of Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Advent beginning on November 30th. In that season we'll mark a Blue Christmas and prep for three services on Christmas Eve. Our musicians are planning special music, including cello, trumpet, and violin. Our Visual Arts Team is just getting underway, but they'll soon add physical beauty to our worship experience.

Bold **SERVICE**

We continue to serve our neighbors. This month we're headed to The Banquet and collecting Toilet Paper for Necessities for Neighbors (N-Z is going to win!). Next month, Necessities is on the 1st Sunday and we'll be collecting with the kids for "Warm Hearts, Warm Hands". We're in conversation with LSS about accompanying a refugee family in resettlement. We've added three new partners to our 2023 Proposed Mission Plan. And, we're working to tighten and improve each of our relationships with our partner organizations.

Extravagant **GENEROSITY**

is woven into the fabric of the congregation. In addition to our double tithe, you have responded to our debt reduction campaign “Overflowing” and our 20th Anniversary Challenge beyond our expectations. This year, our campaign, “In the Footsteps of Joy” has three goals. 1. The increase in digital giving. Spirit of Joy has two low spots in its historical giving patterns and its our hope that by creating new digital givers and asking those who are giving digitally to make a change, we can bring the bottom of those troughs up. 2. Fully fund our budget. There has been so much transition and hardship since the fall of 2019. We’re ready to put that in the rearview mirror and push forward our efforts in evangelism, partner engagement, and programming, but we need to know that we have all the tools necessary for our success. 3. Establish and Endowment Fund. A team has been built. They’re meeting with representatives from the Synod. And, together, they are dreaming about Spirit of Joy’s future, 20, 30, and 50 years from today.

Radical **HOSPITALITY**

Lunch on Oct. 16 and 23. Cookies on Nov. 6 and 13. New Partner Class and now designing New Neighbor Postcards. We’re still averaging a half dozen 1st time Guest Gifts and they are constantly thinking about the physical beauty and sensual experience of being at Spirit of Joy. In addition, they are ready to invest in telling Spirit of Joy’s story. Hopefully you’ve seen and shared our Mission Guide, a 30,000ft view of our Mission and Ministry. Soon, renewed, reimagined, and reinvigorated evangelism efforts!

It’s a lot, isn’t it? All made possible by you and the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for being the cloud of witnesses that proclaims the good news in this place. Thank you to all who have come and gone over the last 22 years, building a foundation for today. And, thank you to those of you who will journey with us for the next 20 years. Join in, in the footsteps of Joy!

20th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, November 6th

We’ll celebrate the cloud of witnesses who over the last 20 years have come together to make possible this massive list of mission and ministry. A prayer litany, a sweet video of remembrance, a gift or two, and a cookie reception at 10am.

Stewardship

This fall's stewardship emphasis is titled, "In the Footsteps of Joy". It points to progression and forward movement. And it gives thanks for the work that has been done to bring Spirit of Joy to this place. We are moving forward "in" the footsteps of others. Those are the footsteps of giants. Pastors, yes, but also friends and partners, who have left joyful prints on our hearts and lives.



For the season you will see a pledge card and request letter, we'll use a social media campaign to tell the stories of where we've been (see the box elsewhere in this newsletter for more info about how you can participate), and on Sunday, November 13 and Wednesday, Nov. 16 we'll gather those pledge cards in anticipation of our Congregation Meeting at 10am on Nov. 20.

Our stewardship goals this year:

- To increase digital giving.
- To fully fund our mission plan.
- To establish an Endowment Future

Our stewardship goals support our ministry goals

- Reengagement of Partners
- Welcoming New Partners
- Rebuilding and Growing our Programming

A joyful past. A fruitful present. An abundant future.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, November 20, 2022 | 10:00 AM

Agenda to include:

2023 Mission Plan & Leadership Team Elections

Faith Formation

Upcoming Milestones & Events

2-year-old My Church Milestone - Saturday, November 5, 9-10AM

2-year-olds and their parents are invited to a Saturday morning activity. Students will learn that the church is a safe place and explore what happens in different places in the church.

Little Lambs - Sunday, November 6, 10AM. Parents and kids ages 0-3 are welcome!

Veteran's Day Celebration - Sunday, November 13, 10AM

Join us for coffee and cake in honor of our veterans and current military service members.

4th Grade Kid's & Money Milestone - Wednesday, November 16, 7PM

4th graders and parents are given opportunity to explore the ways we give back to God - our treasures and talent. Specifically, at this milestone, money will be discussed.

Women's Social Gathering - Monday, November 14, 7PM

Fun & Fellowship - Monday, November 28, 10AM

All are welcome! We hope to have light but meaningful conversations and build healthy relationships in the Shalom Center.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat - April 28-30

Led by Dr. Lon and Heidi Kvanli. \$250/couple. Registration opens November 20. Form and \$125 deposit will secure your spot. Be sure to register early - there are only 15 spots open.

Sunday Forum | 10 AM | Galilee Room

"By What Authority? Rethinking Early Church History"

October 30 - Worship in the Early Church

November 6 - Social Teaching & Action

November 13 - Teaching & Preaching

November 20 - Congregational Meeting - NO SUNDAY FORUM

Series will continue through the Fall. Stay tuned for future topics!



Third Grade Milestone Blessing during Worship

Thank you to Spirit of Joy for:

- Participating in the 3rd Bible Milestone Activities-caring conversation and blessings.
- A great weekend retreat with the Women of SOJ at Joy Ranch.
- Bringing your little ones to Little Lambs as our volunteers promote the fulfilling of baptismal promises and reminding us that faith is a community mission at SOJ!
- Participating in our weekly Thursday Women's Bible Study. Women of Joy, you make our time studying God's word worthwhile. Blessings!
- Congratulations to our 10th Graders on their Confirmation! May you continue to grow in faith, love, and service.
- Amazing evening at the Women's Social Gathering at the church. Thanks, Michele Stanek, for hosting this relaxed evening. Thanks, Women of Joy for the fun and treats!
- Being a part of our Monday morning fun and fellowship!

Children of Joy

Children of Joy Collection

Help us bless our neighbors by donating items that can be distributed through our mission partner Church on the Street. Items include: Granola bars, Mini meat sticks, Hot cocoa packets, Stretch gloves, Men's gloves, Hand warmers, Small fleece blankets. Collection boxes will be located in the education wing and by Spirit of Joy's front entrance from Sunday, November 20 - Wednesday, December 14 . Thank you!



Save the date!

Children of Joy Christmas Program, December 11.
Join us during the 11:00 worship service

Outreach Opportunities

Partnership with LSS Center for New Americans

LSS Center for New Americans received notice this week that a refugee family (Mother/Father and 6 year old son) from Eritrea will be arriving Thursday, November 3rd. Spirit of Joy has been invited to partner with LSS to help welcome the family to our community! This has been part of the Outreach Team budget for a number of years but arrivals were fewer related to the presidential determination of how many refugees would be allowed into the US and the COVID crisis.

There are a number of ways you can help!

- Pray for safe travel as the family makes their way to Sioux Falls and is reunited with other family members.
- Donate items needed to set up an apartment. Please let us know if you have furniture items you would be willing to donate (An apartment sized couch, chair, twin size bed/mattress, kitchen table and chairs). Please return items by Friday morning, November 4. The board of supply requests at Spirit of Joy has had a great response - thank you for your generosity.
- Join us in greeting the family at the Sioux Falls Airport on Thursday, November 3! (Time TBA)

If you are interested in being part of the SOJ refugee family support team or have questions, contact Carole Chell (605-690-4012; carolechell@yahoo.com).

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The Banquet West

710 N MARION, SIOUX FALLS
(5TH & MARION)

sign up at spiritofjoy.net/signups



Outreach Opportunities

Necessities for Neighbors Distribution

Sunday, December 4 | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Bring donations of Toilet Paper to church
for the distribution through November

Meals on Wheels

If you are interested in an opportunity for community service, Meals on Wheels is a worthy program and can always use volunteers. About 550 meals are delivered everyday in the city of Sioux Falls. Sometimes the Meals on Wheels volunteer is the only person a client sees all day.

Volunteers from Spirit of Joy deliver Meals on Wheels in south Sioux Falls on Mondays, once or twice a quarter, from 10:45 am until about 12:15. Please contact Suzanne DeBoom (605-251-5396), for more information.



Listen, Learn, Care Events Scheduled Across Synod



We're excited to announce that after a two-year hiatus, Listen, Learn, and Care events have been taking place in every conference around the Synod this fall. This is your chance to meet with Bishop Constanze and Associates to the Bishop Pr. Renee Splichal Larson and Pr. Jonathan Steiner and share your thoughts about how things are going in your congregation and around the Synod. The last event takes place here in Sioux Falls at Our Savior's Lutheran on November 3 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

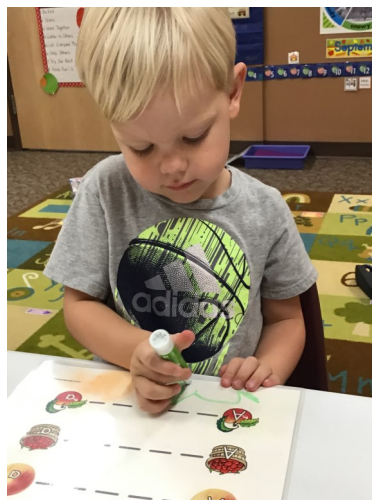
Spirit of Joy Preschool

Happy Fall to All

We are celebrating the season at preschool! During the month of October, we explored themes such as: fall weather, pumpkins, fire safety and crawling spiders. The playground and outdoor spaces on the church lot have been an extended classroom. Not only seeing the change of seasons but walking through crunchy leaves, collecting fall items to examine, smelling the leaves and soil, and feeling the cold wind helps us make these concepts real. When it's outside time, there is adventure.

As we spend time together, our class becomes a community. The preschool classes have been learning about God's commandment to love and care for others from John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Reading stories, playing games, and even craft projects have provided ways to become acquainted and extend kindness to others. A favorite was the painted handprint mural. It was a silly, messy chance to work together and create something new. Each child painted his/her hand one color, then matched it up to another child's hand painted another color. Slippery hands blended colors to create a colorful mural and lots of laughter. Walk the hallway near the preschool to see the rainbow of color!

As the year progresses, we will continue with "Love Your Neighbor Projects" with handmade cards and collections for the Warm Hands, Warm Hearts project with Children of Joy just to get started. Keep watching the preschool Facebook page to see what we are up to each month.



Spirit of Joy Preschool

All Ages Are Welcome to Preschool

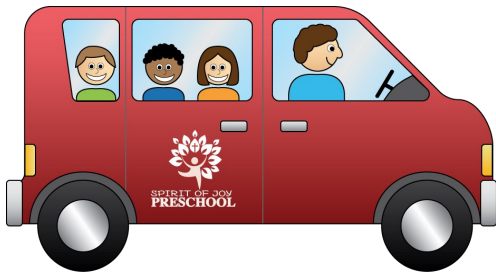
All ages are welcome at preschool - would you like to come and help in the classroom? Share your hobbies, talk about your job, or enjoy some playground time with us. Visitors are always welcome.



Can't make it during the day, but still want to be a part of preschool? Perhaps you can share a baked snack, donate items or create materials for the classroom. If you are interested, contact Amy with your idea. We would love to have you be a part of the fun.

Preschool Van Update

Spirit of Joy Preschool extending its reach!



Have you seen the preschool van driving around Sioux Falls? It has been in use every day since the school year started. From the moment the van was donated, many people have been working to create safety policies, learn car seat procedures, donate transportation materials, and drive the van. This service provides preschool education to children across the city of Sioux Falls and surrounding areas - we are grateful. A special thank you to our volunteer drivers: Bob Jenson, Dani Buehner, and Rod Domke for sharing their time with the preschool ministry.

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

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

amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net.

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

[Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool](https://www.facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool)



Youth News

Annual High School Lefse Fundraiser - Help Needed

Last year, 30 people gathered over the course of two days and we peeled, boiled, and riced potatoes, we carefully mixed together the rest of the ingredients, then rolled and flipped the balls of dough for hours. In the end, our team made over 700 individual lefse, and raised over \$1,000! Personally, I think the best part of the entire fundraiser was the interactions between the older generation and the youth. There were so many stories of family traditions, debates over the best recipe, and many laughs shared.

We are so excited to have this fundraiser again and hope to double what we did last year. In order to do that, we are calling all lefse makers to help us on **November 18 at 4:00 pm and 19 at 9:00 am** in the Spirit of Joy Kitchen. Please bring any lefse supplies you have, as we have none. If you have never made lefse, but have always wanted to try—this is your chance. We had many first-time lefse makers last year and they all walked away having successfully made lefse!

Want another way to help? We are looking for ingredient donations. Please label all donations and set them in the kitchen anytime between now and our fundraiser. We are in need of:

- Russet Potatoes
- Heavy Cream
- Butter
- Flour
- Gallon Ziplock Bags

Orders for lefse can be made online at spiritofjoy.net/signups (orders close on November, 18), and pick up will be on Sunday, November 20 . Any extras will be sold during pick-up.



Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy

I. Unfinished Business

A. **Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee is finalizing their report. It will be presented to the Leadership Team in November.

II. New Business

- A. **2023 Budget:** The preliminary 2023 budget was reviewed and discussion followed regarding where funding should be focused during the next year. The Leadership Team will finalize the budget and prepare it for congregational review/vote at the next meeting.
- B. **Congregation Meetings:** A congregational meeting will be held on November 20, 2022 to approve the 2023 budget and elect new officers. A congregational meeting will be held on December 4, 2022 to vote on calling a lead pastor.
- C. **Ministry Site Profile:** After review of the MSP, it was decided that Evangelism/Mission should replace Innovation/Creativity as one of the five most critical tasks required for the lead pastor position (MSP, p.9). Chad Wolff moved and Jodi Hanson seconded to approve the MSP as amended. Motion carried.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.***

Financials through September 2022

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$12,052.82
Building Fund	\$8,771.78
Donor Restricted	\$20,138.51
Sunday School	\$905.58
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	September 2020	September 2021	September 2022
Attendance	???	???	885
General Offering	\$ 40,092.88	\$ 37,392.57	\$ 35,843.40
Building Offering	\$ 19,373.36	\$ 17,279.44	\$ 8,771.78

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$179,849.74
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,477.10</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$295,755.63

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485
Received as of September 30, 2022: \$2,297,671.32

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$441,218.02
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$503,539.86</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$62,321.84

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770
Received as of September 30, 2022: \$115,073.42

Did You Know...

- Spirit of Joy officially became a congregation of the ELCA on All Saint's Sunday 2002.
- Every November Spirit of Joy holds a Toilet Paper collection contest to benefit Necessities for Neighbors, a ministry of our partner Charis Ministries that provides those things not covered by SNAP dollars.
- Spirit of Joy sponsors a young man from India named, Elavarasan through Lutheran Partners in Global Mission. Much of the year the blue can in the front of the worship space is dedicated to paying for his education and a meal each day.
- Spirit of Joy gives a double tithe. 10% to the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. 10% to 19 other ministry partners.
- The Leadership Team meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Join us in telling the stories of Spirit of Joy!

Each Sunday for the next four weeks, Pr. Eric will release a video telling the story of a different part of our community and history. Each Thursday, our Communications Director Eric Gohl, will share a throwback Thursday photo of the theme for the week. In between, and around, you are invited to share your pictures, memories, and stories.

Oct. 23-29: Gardens

Oct. 30-Nov. 5: Lifelong Faith Formation

Nov. 6-12: Worship Space

Nov. 13-19: Places We Serve

Use the hashtag:
#inthefootstepsofjoy
Tag: Spirit of Joy Lutheran



Take Note

Call Committee Update

Your Call Committee met for the first time on Sunday, October 2. We walked through the steps needed to call a Lead Pastor to Spirit of Joy. It is important to note that even though we are considering one person for this position, Pastor Eric Ohrtman, we also want to take the proper steps for calling a Lead Pastor. This will be the first time for Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church to have this opportunity since we began as a Mission Start with Pastor Jeff Eisele bringing us together.

Three of our members have finished writing the Ministry Site Profile describing the ministry in this place and the type of leadership that is needed. That work was completed and voted on by the rest of the Call Committee on Sunday, October 16 and the Leadership Team on Thursday, October 20.

On Sunday, October 23, Pr. Jonathan Steiner (Associate to the Bishop) was at Spirit of Joy to share a brief look at our geographical area and the options we have in growing our ministry in this place. At some point we will schedule a Site Study with Pr. Renee Splichal Larson, Associate to the Bishop, to join the Call Committee, Staff, and Leadership Team. Following that we will interview Pr. Eric Ohrtman for the position of Lead Pastor. This is for him to share with the Call Committee how he will see his role as Lead Pastor here at Spirit of Joy.

On November 17, we will make our recommendation to the Leadership Team at their regular meeting. The congregation will vote on the call for the position of Lead Pastor to Spirit of Joy on December 4 at 10:00 a.m. between services.

~ Pr. Paul Johnston, Call Committee Chair



Befriender...

Transitions in your life?

WE LISTEN



Want to connect?

Church: 605-333-2004

Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663



**BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY**

A Listening Presence

CREATION CARE

It's November already -- that time of year where we begin an even busier chapter in our lives with the holiday celebrations ahead. For many, it is a wonderful time of year to reflect and meditate on gratitude. Like many of you, the Creation Care Team is thankful for Spirit of Joy, for our beautiful grounds, the people who tend to them, and the ways God comes to us and whispers to us through nature, whether that be a visit from a cardinal or hummingbird, the feel of a gentle breeze on our skin, or the burst of color from a flower blossom or a changing leaf. We are thankful for those moments that take us out of the chaos and noise of our daily lives and invite us into relationship, wonder, and awe with our Lord.

We are thankful for people who lead the way in preserving and restoring God's creation. We all have a desire for a healthy planet. As neighbors in the community of faith, we all have a role to play to make sure this gift from God stays healthy for generations to come.

How can we put our faith into action? What might we focus on this month of Thanksgiving? We ask God to help us, guide us, and stir our hearts, minds, and bodies to action and try one or more of the following:

- Stay closer to home on your next family trip and stay home on one holiday when you usually travel
- Follow grandmothers' advice of the past: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without"
- Cut back on the Christmas frenzy
- Pray for people whose forests and habitats have been destroyed by material desires
- Turn your thermostat down 3 degrees this winter
- Turn off the lights, TV, or other electronic devices when you leave the room for more than 60 seconds
- Spend at least 10 minutes with God quietly in nature-take a look at Psalms 23, 24, 104, 147, 148

~ Taken from *Let It Begin with Me: An Earth Care To-Do List*/blessedearth.org

James 1:22-25 (NRSV UE)

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[a] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

Give
Thanks

Happy Thanksgiving to you & your families.
Thanks be to God

Odds & Ends

Lunch Bible Study

Thursday, November 3, 11:30-12:30

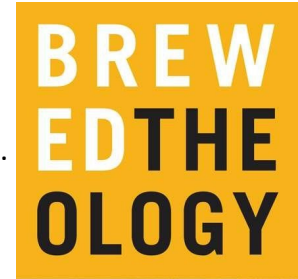
Join Pr. Eric for a monthly conversation about the gospel texts for Sundays. First Thursday of the month at Pizza di Paolo (2300 S. Minnesota).



Brewed Theology

Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.

A quarterly conversation about the intersection of faith and everyday life. Meet at Severance Brewing. All are welcome!



Join Us At Book Club

Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.

We meet the 1st Tuesday each month in the SoJ Library. We read a variety of books and love to socialize too. Didn't read the book? Come anyway! Call Pam Zimmel with any questions 605-553-8262.



Madeline Trosvig, Jodi Haugland
Josh Swanstrom, Deb Stapelman, Michele Vogel
Heather Krzmarzick, Hannah Fleming

Growth Team



Madeline Trosvig Hannah Fleming
Spirit of Joy Staff Michele Vogel

The Last Page



The women met at Joy Ranch for a cozy weekend full of shared stories, scripture, worship, laughter and food.



Thank you for your continued support of Elavarasan, a 9th grader from India. We provide funding for his education through Lutheran Partners in Global Mission.



Over 200 kids and parents came through the building for Trunk or Treat night! Thanks to everyone who made this a great event for the community!