

WINDSWEEP

NOVEMBER 2020



Giving Thanks

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

--Psalm 118:28-29

One of the options we give our confirmation students for their final project is to keep a gratitude journal for thirty days. What we hope happens during this exercise usually does happen. After giving thanks for the more obvious things in the first week they start to notice the more ordinary people, events, and things that also come to them as gifts from God.

In this month we pause to give thanks for many blessings (even in 2020!), I want to let some of our youth share (anonymously) what they discovered as they practiced gratitude for thirty days:

- I am thankful for my family.
- I am thankful for rain.
- I am thankful for my confirmation group.
- I am thankful for my teammates.
- I am thankful for my bed.
- I am thankful for Netflix.
- I am thankful for my teachers.
- I am thankful for coffee.
- I am thankful for when someone pays for me in a drive-through at Starbucks.
- I am thankful for coming home to dinner being ready.
- I am thankful for school.
- I am thankful for sleep.
- I am thankful for my job.
- I am thankful for pumpkin patches and pumpkins.
- I am thankful for my best friend.

When asked what she learned from giving thanks for large and small things for a month, one of our students wrote, "all these things proved that God's generosity can be found in places I never would have expected. Also, this showed me that God's generosity is never ending." Amen!

This morning I was drinking up one last swallow of coffee getting ready to hurry out the door when I saw a flash of red sailing over the white of the first snowfall blanketing our backyard. There is much to do today, but before getting to the long list I stopped long enough to watch the cardinal enjoy breakfast at our bird feeder. A small, unexpected gift in another day full of grace.

The practice of giving thanks for the good gifts from God does not require ignoring all that is causing sickness and suffering these days. It may help us see, however, that God's generosity is never ending. I give thanks to God for you these November days. PJE



spiritofjoy.net

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November Worship Schedule

The task force, made up of several our partners who are doctors along with staff members and unpaid servant leaders, agreed that due to the dramatic increase in COVID cases and hospitalizations in our area in the past week, we should pause the opportunity to gather indoors for morning prayer for a few more weeks. Stay tuned for further updates.



You may worship online via our YouTube channel. Watch your email each Sunday morning for a link to that service or visit our YouTube page. **Children of Joy** will remain virtual until further notice.

We will continue to carefully assess the spread of COVID in our community, and continue to work towards a safe reopening of our building for worship. Please watch your emails, our Facebook page and website for further updates.

Financials through September 30, 2020

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$66,561.58
Building Fund	\$19,073.35
Donor Restricted	\$81,922.28
Sunday School	\$1,075.03
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$403,771.00
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,579.72</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$646,543.06

	September 2018	September 2019	September 2020
Attendance	1531	1666	???
General Offering	\$ 44,719.24	\$ 44,601.64	\$ 40,092.88
Building Offering	\$ 11,449.33	\$ 33,651.41	\$ 19,373.36

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$437,171.84
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$436,259.46</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	\$912.38

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485
Received as of September 30, 2020: \$1,505,871.31

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Unfinished Business

A. Building Expansion

1. **Pay Application #7 October 2020:** Lori Tripp moved and Ron Risty seconded to approve the payment of \$631,452.59 as noted on the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-07). Motion carried.
2. **Additional Landscaping Proposal(s):** Plans for adding a patio to the north of the building was discussed. Bids were obtained for several sizes and shapes of patios. Ron Risty moved and Jodi Hanson seconded to increase the size of the patio to a maximum payment of \$10,000 and have the Garden Committee determine final finishes for the patio. Motion carried.
3. **Kitchen Remodel:** Sarah Manthey moved and Carole Chell seconded to approve \$4300.00 for kitchen furnishings. Motion carried.
4. **Contingency Fund:** There is \$190,000 in the contingency fund. Discussion followed to prioritize a “wish list.” 1) Flooring for fellowship hall – potentially hard surface flooring for easy cleaning. Brad Tams will check on pricing. 2) Flooring for classrooms and offices – also potential hard surface flooring; 3) LED lighting for fellowship hall and remainder of original building. Darlene Weber Scott will obtain a new bid. No other action taken at this time.

B. Reopening Church Building Update: Due to increasing numbers of COVID-19 in the community, opening for large groups for indoor services will continue to be delayed. There are several small groups that are using the building for various reasons. Two confirmation services will be held for up to 50 persons for confirmation students and their families. SoJ will be a polling place on election day.

C. Mission Plan Preparation-Executive Team Staff Reviews: The Leadership Team will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2020 to prepare the mission plan. The Executive Team (Darlene Weber Scott, Carole Chell, Lori Tripp, and Ron Risty) will complete staff evaluations within the next 2 weeks. Budget items need to be to Michelle Stanek before the meeting.

II. New Business

A. Annual Fall Congregational Meeting- Date, Time and Manner of Gathering: The annual fall congregational meeting will be held via Zoom on November 22, 2020 from 9-10 a.m.

B. ELCA Portico Health Care Plan Options for 2021: Carole Chell moved and Ron Risty seconded to continue coverage with the Gold level plan. Motion carried.

C. Letter of Resignation from Audrey Shattuck: Audrey has submitted her resignation effective October 29, 2020. She will be moving to Kansas. Discussion followed regarding hiring a replacement for the position. Carole Chell moved and Sarah Manthey seconded giving Audrey a \$100 gift card. Motion carried.

D. October Benevolence: Jodi Hanson moved and Lori Tripp seconded to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.

Food to You – As per invoice, LSS - \$500, ELCA World Hunger - \$1000, Pueblo de Dios - \$1000, Lutheran Church of Nicaragua - \$1000

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 5 at 6:00 p.m.***

We will finalize a proposed mission plan for 2021 at this meeting.

Faith Formation This Month

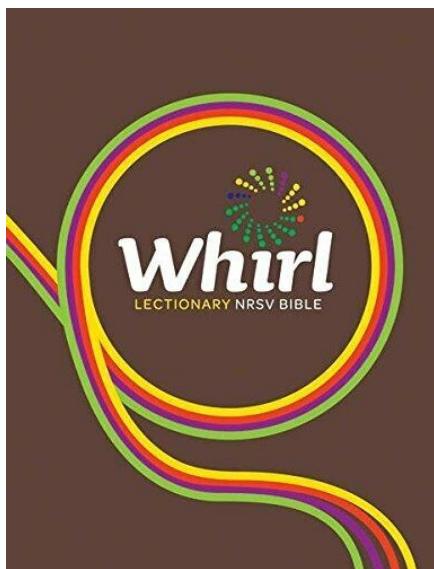
First Communion was celebrated on October 11th. Four Spirit of Joy children received Holy Communion instruction as a make-up from last spring's cancellation. Another class will be held in the spring for 1st graders and other 2nd graders who have chosen to wait.

We pray that God will bless Emersynn, Barrett, Brekken, and Caleb as they continue to receive the gifts of forgiveness, love, and the knowledge that they will never be separated from God's love given in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.



Parents of 3rd Graders!

We will hold your child's 3rd grade two-session **Bible Milestone** via ZOOM on **Sundays, November 15 and 22 at 10:30 a.m.** These will be short 35-minute sessions. Please plan to have one parent attend the ZOOM meeting with your 3rd grader.



Important: **You will need to pick up your child's new Bible and milestone packet the week prior to Sunday, November 15.** You may coordinate your pickup with the next distribution of Children of Joy Children of Joy packets. Pick up times will be **Tuesday, November 10 from 3 to 5 pm OR Wednesday, November 11 from 3 to 5:30 pm or 6:45 to 7:45 pm.**

I will send out the ZOOM invitation on those Sunday mornings to all 3rd grade families. Please look for that ZOOM invitation in your email.

Contact Deacon Katherine with any questions. I hope you will make this milestone time a priority for your 3rd grader and we look forward to sharing this activity of faith formation with you.

Deacon Katherine Eisele | family@spiritofjoy.net | 333-2004

Ministry Moments



Crafting with Craig - and Ronda and Dave!

What fun to gather together to learn some new skills, create something beautiful to take home, and to visit again in real person. Our 2020 fall women's retreat was cancelled, so we are truly appreciative of some special time just for us! Thank you to the Samuelsons for their warm hospitality.



Acts - Catching Up With the Spirit

If you've read the book of Acts in the New Testament, you know it is a rich story of adventure, surprise and new discoveries. Spirit of Joy partners are enjoying this study through both ZOOM gatherings and careful in-person gatherings each week. Thank you, friends, for your engagement in the Scriptures that not only enriches your lives, but nurtures our whole congregation.



Next? Watch for upcoming announcements on this year's **Advent All-Congregation Read**. Last year we explored "The Gift of the Nutcracker" finding connections to faith and culture in that popular ballet. Stay tuned for this year's read!

BeFriender Ministry

During the coronavirus, a BeFriender is as close as your phone.



A Listening Presence

How are you doing with the Coronavirus? How is it with you and social distancing, washing hands, wearing masks? Sometimes I want to call someone and say, “I’m sad; I’m scared; I’m tired of this; I’m tired of wondering if it’s safe to visit parents, grandparents, and friends or go shopping. I am tired of virtual learning and virtual working. I am lonely.” Sometimes these feelings are overwhelming and I want to call someone and say, “This is how I’m feeling, please hear me out. I know you can’t fix it, but I just need to tell someone how I feel.”

A BeFriender is a partner of Spirit of Joy who is trained to listen, not to give advice, but to give an ear to you. They are dedicated to confidentiality. A BeFriender is as close as your phone. Give one a call and just say, “I need someone to listen for awhile.” This phone call could take away some of those feelings that are bottled up in you. “A joy shared is a joy multiplied; a grief shared is a grief divided”. We are all grieving in different ways right now. We are here for you.

BeFrienders:

Elaine Frary, 605-743-5234

Marilyn Gannon, 605-271-2275

Sandy Ellingsen, 605-408-6454

Deb Nelson, 605-271-3689

Lynn Risty, 605-366-8375

Lori VanBallegooyen, 605-351-2927

Linda Beckman, 605-759-4663

Shirley Bauer

~ Linda Beckman, BeFriender coordinator



Laundry with Love

Thank you, Spirit of Joy, for donating over 400 pairs of new underwear (400!) and for donating the beautiful new cart.

Serving Opportunities

The Banquet West

Location: Banquet West (NOT downtown): 710 N Marion Ave (Marion Rd & 5th St)

Date: Wednesday, November 18

Time: 5:15-8:00 p.m.

At this point Banquet patrons are taking food to go and are not dining inside. The colder weather may affect those practices. Masks are required for all volunteers. Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups.

Necessities for Neighbors

Location: Peace Lutheran Church (5509 W 41st St.)

Date: Sunday, December 6

Time: 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Please wear a mask and dress warmly as this will be an outdoor drive up delivery process. Gloves will be provided. We will collect donations November 1-30 for distribution at the December event. Donations of toilet paper, bars of soap, shampoos, large tubes of toothpaste and deodorant may be left at the office at Spirit of Joy during business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups.



Center for New Americans Blog

Heather Glidewell from LSS Center for New Americans wrote a blog to describe how our \$5000 gift to Center for New Americans was used for technology updates to help with distance learning. You can find the blog here: <https://lssdblog.wordpress.com/2020/10/27/in-the-spirit-of-joy/>



Spirit of Joy Mobile App

Download the Spirit of Joy mobile app, through Tithe.ly. This is a great way to know what's happening at Spirit of Joy.



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool News

October is a busy month in preschool. In addition to the weekly schedule of Kindermusik, Chapel, and learning activities, there were check-in conferences, pumpkin parties and exciting fundraisers to enjoy (even a couple surprises like the first snow and guest puppies visiting). There are no two days alike and that is just fine with everyone here!

Some of the themes this month have included- Colors & Shapes, Fire Safety, Construction Work, Pumpkins & the Bible story of Joseph's life. Some of our best/favorite moments:

- Coloring mixing - At the art center, children were offered primary colors in paint. By adding a little of this and a little of that, new colors were discovered. "What will happen if I add blue to this color, Miss Amy?" Of course, we tried it and found the answer right away!
- Special Visitors- With all the projects inside and outside the building, the class began asking questions about construction. We went for walks to see the progress from a distance. Construction Team members from down the hall also came for a visit. The guests answered our questions and told us about their jobs.
- This month's Chapel story is about Joseph from the book of Genesis. The story is memorable for so many reasons- a coat of many colors, a brother thrown into a hole, and a pharaoh's crazy dreams. This year, it is memorable for another reason- this story is capturing the curiosity of preschoolers. Every day, there are questions asked by children and Bible books opened by children to explore this story. Preschool have discovered Joseph's story and connected it to their own lives through art, song, storytelling, and math. They have told the story to others and sung the song from Deacon Katherine while walking through the building. Children have heard that God goes with them everywhere. We loved the story of Joseph!

Preschool Bike-a-Thon Fundraiser

It's never too cold to go for a bike ride is it? Just in case, we had an indoor route prepared. Children decorated bikes and trikes from home to ride for their preschool. We have a goal of \$1500 to support Kindermusik Curriculum. Donations can be given by check, sponsoring a preschooler per bike lap, and Tithely app through November 15.

Special thanks to: Preschool friends and families for your support and delivery of bikes, Thrivent for Action Grant dollars, Preschool Advisory Team for set up and take down, the SOJ staff for your assistance and YOU for your support!



Spirit of Joy Preschool



Facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool

Visit the SOJ Preschool Facebook page to see more about our daily events.

Many Thanks...

Spirit of Joy Continues to "Love Thy Neighbor"

Thank you so much for choosing me for the SOJ scholarship, it means a great deal to me that you feel I deserve this award. I look forward to continuing my education and furthering my faith with your help.

Tyffani Hanson
Scholarship Recipient

Thank
you!

Thank you for your generous donation in support of the ministry of Pine Ridge.

Pastor Dan
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Thank
you!

South Dakota is a wonderful place to be on synod staff. I get to see the incredible ways all of our different communities come together to do incredible ministry as a team.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, your congregation has made sure that ministries like the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center and Church on the Street have funding to care for the most vulnerable in our state.

Rev. Jonathan Steiner
Director for Evangelical Mission
Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship and Outreach

Thank you for your congregation gift of \$1,000 to Shetek Lutheran Ministries. You are truly making a difference in the faith building experience for the youth and families coming to SLM. Thanks for your generous support during this time.

Marvin Nysetvold
Executive Director
Shetek Lutheran Ministries

Thank
you!

Thanks for sponsoring a Food to You distribution and your gift of \$350. Your generosity is appreciated by our organization and the clients we serve. God bless you all.

Correen Major
Charis Ministry Partners

Thank
you!

Thank you for your support of Joy Ranch, your gift of \$1,000.00 is greatly appreciated!

Your gift makes a tangible difference in the lives of each and every guest and camper that spends time at Joy Ranch.

Morgan Ward
Joy Ranch Director
Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota

Many Thanks...

Spirit of Joy parishioners,

your prayers and contributions to Horace Mann have had a prodigious impact! The infamous COVID pandemic has definitely had an impact on the Horace Mann family. Several staff members and/or their families have had or are dealing with the adversities precipitated from this virus. However, the love, supplies, food and support provided by Spirit of Joy have lifted the spirits of the Horace Mann family!

The school supply bags so graciously donated made a significant difference, as students expressed great pride and glee in having all brand new materials! Oftentimes the students in our program share "community" classroom necessities; however, because of the generosity of you, our students experienced BRAND new back-to-school supplies: glue, scissors, markers, etc. These necessary possessions fostered a deep sense of belongingness, increasing the connection to school, which is vital in our students' success.

In addition to student supplies, Horace Mann teachers were exuberant with the wish-list items so generously given. The elation observed on teachers' faces when receiving these gifts was pure joy! THANK YOU, as these benefactions allow teachers to enhance student interest and engagement!

While Horace Mann may not have a PTA, the Spirit of Joy benevolence has fostered something much greater than a monetary donation, monthly meeting or anonymous donation. The outpouring of kindness and caring has forged a bond of friendship and mentorship. The Qdoba meal satisfied more than the hunger at conferences, it warmed and consoled the hearts during the long hours staff were required to fulfill. The partnership has garnered blessings that have reached beyond the brick and mortar of this school. Staff and students benefit daily from the generous contributions and well wishes.

Tara Eckstaine, EdS.

Principal, Horace Mann
Sioux Falls School District
Business Phone: 605-367-6190
Cell: 605-728-5478

Thank you so much for all your support for Laundry with Love. The new underwear was distributed and brought joy to everyone who got a pack! The cart will be so useful at every LWL event. Our guests continue to be blessed by the gift of clean clothes. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with those who are struggling to get by.

Harriet & COTS

Thank
you!