

WINDSWEPT

OCTOBER 2020



A New Season Unlike Any Other

This is my favorite tree in Sioux Falls. It's in the parking lot of St. Mary's School, which is just a few blocks from our house. (For the record, my favorite row of trees in Sioux Falls is on the south edge of Spirit of Joy's community gardens.)

In late July the tree's leaves begin evolving in color. Every week the colors change, postcard-like in their updates to walkersby like me, until finally the leaves start to fall.

We're now in our third fall in our house, and thereby our third fall with this tree. Until now I felt grateful for the tree's welcome of the fall season, which is increasingly (well, usually) my favorite season. This time around, however, the falling leaves carry a twinge of foreboding for me.

It's going to be a long winter. Of that we can be sure. Over the past few months, bursts of good weather have given blissful breaks from the ongoing isolation of the pandemic: opportunities to gather outside with loved ones, frequent walks and friendly neighbor greetings, time to travel and experience some much-needed changes of scenery. But those warm days are ending. Now it will be more difficult to gather safely outside. Days are becoming dramatically shorter. Darkness seems to be descending, literally and perhaps metaphorically too.

The joyful occasions of fall and winter carry so much uncertainty that they, for me, do not yet balance out the darkness: who knows what Halloween, Thanksgiving, and even Christmas will look like this year?

My favorite tree will soon be barren for the winter. And yet even during the winter, while the tree rests, it will still be growing, even if silently. And next spring, its leaves will sprout again. In the same way, we trust that life and growth and faith will continue and will sustain us during this change of season. Even if we are forced to settle into a new phase of separation from loved ones, we will not be alone. God will make sure of it, as God always does. And we'll try our best to make sure of that, too, as the community of Spirit of Joy.

As this season changes, may God's peace and comfort be yours. May God remind you that you are never alone. If you need a reminder of that, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of us on staff. We'll tell you again and again.

God's peace to you,
Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask



spiritofjoy.net

605-333-2004

2208 W LaQuinta St

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

October Worship Schedule



At the recommendation of Spirit of Joy’s Reopening Task Force, our congregation will postpone our first indoor worship service that was planned for Sunday, October 4. 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.

Spirit of Joy will again offer a variety of opportunities to worship with us:

- You may worship online via our YouTube channel. Watch your email tomorrow for a link to that service or visit our YouTube page.
- We will host a Service of Holy Communion on our newly renovated parking lot at **10:30 a.m.** (Note new time). Worshipers may choose to stay in their cars where they can listen via FM radio transmission, or sit outside your vehicles in your own lawn chairs. There will be an area near the front of the lot for physically distanced outside seating. Masks are encouraged. Those who desire to receive Holy Communion will receive bread and wine in a non-contact manner. The church building will not be open.
- **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 later in October. Please watch your emails, our Facebook page and website for further updates.

Financials through August 31, 2020

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$61,476.63
Building Fund	\$73,175.03
Donor Restricted	\$80,972.84
Sunday School	\$1,113.03
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$289,613.29
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,581.89</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$580,492.81

	August 2018	August 2019	August 2020
Attendance	1011	989	???
General Offering	\$ 37,633.11	\$ 50,529.03	\$ 38,503.62
Building Offering	\$ 8,999.33	\$ 199,614.56	\$ 73,436.55

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$397,078.96
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$407,594.88</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry(\$10,515.92)	

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485
 Received as of August 31, 2020: \$1,486,497.95

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Building Expansion:** See proposal documents for more information.
 - 1. **Pay Application #6 September 2020:** Lori Tripp moved, Michelle Stanek seconded to approve the payment of \$315,087.54 as noted on the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-06). Motion carried.
 - 2. **Landscaping Proposal:** Brad Tams moved, Jodi Hanson seconded to approve the payment of \$7811.83 for landscaping around the new sign. Motion carried.
 - 3. **Audio Visual Integrations Payment:** Lori Tripp moved, Sarah Manthey seconded to approve the payment of \$130,000 for the audiovisual system. Motion carried.
 - 4. **JLG Amended Services Agreement and Cost:** Ron Risty moved, Brad Tams seconded to approve the payment of \$5000 for changes to the original parking lot proposal. Motion carried.
 - 5. **Furnishings Proposal:** Jodi Hanson moved, Sarah Manthey seconded to approve a payment of approximately \$100,000 (within the budget) for new furnishings. Additional funding will be approved at a later date for kitchen items. Motion carried.
 - 6. **Global Plasma Solutions ionization System:** Ron Risty moved, Brad Tams seconded to approve the payment of \$29,042.95 for an ionization system to remove bacteria and viruses from the building (unsure of effectiveness of removing coronavirus). Motion carried.
- B. **Mission Investment Fund Loan Update:** The process for making payments has been improved and is working smoothly now.
- C. **Reopening Church Building Update:** See III G written report.

II. New Business

- A. **Mission Partner Covenant Agreement with Church on the Street (COS):** Jodi Hanson moved, Lori Tripp seconded to affirm the covenant agreement with the COS. COS will work with our youth and SoJ will provide monetary support. Motion carried.
- B. **2021 Mission Plan Preparation:** Committees will begin working on budgets in October. The Leadership Team will meet on November 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to review the plan. The Congregational meeting is tentatively planned for Sunday, November 22, 2020.
- C. **Property Improvement Fund for Neighbors in Need:** Pastor Jeff was approached regarding SoJ providing financial assistance for home repairs for a local family. Discussion followed. Pastor Christy will meet with Carole Chell and the Outreach Committee to explore this opportunity and discuss the potential criteria and implementation process.
- D. **September Benevolence:** Sarah Manthey moved, Michelle Stanek seconded to approve the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.
 - Horace Mann Elementary - \$1000, Church on the Street - \$1000, St. Dysmas - \$1000,
 - Lutherans Outdoors - \$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, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Faith Formation This Month



TIE (Three is Enough) groups are underway!

Please keep our 30 SOJ partners in your prayers as they meet in the next six weeks, forming friendships and growing in faith together. If you are still interested in joining a TIE group (we need a few more to complete another group) contact Deacon Katherine at family@spiritofjoy.net.

Women of Spirit of Joy: Crafting with Craig (and Ronda!)

When: Saturday, October 10 (Saturday, October 24 is full!)

9:00 a.m.—Noon (limit 10 women)

What: Mason Jar Wood Vase - your choice of stain

Where: Samuelson home (garage)

7105 S High Cross Trail

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Cost: \$8.00 to cover materials



Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups by Monday, October 6. First come, first serve! If all slots are filled, you will be put on a waiting list. If you find you cannot attend, please notify Katherine Eisele at family@spiritofjoy.net ASAP so we can fill your spot! We will enjoy a brief devotion provided by a mystery guest. Treats provided compliments of Ronda! The garage will be open and airy and masks are required. Please remember to abide by safety precautions. If you are ill, have recently tested positive for COVID, or have been possibly exposed to someone who is ill, please stay home. Thank you for loving your neighbor!

Acts - Catching Up With the Spirit

Rev. Dr. Matt Skinner has written this helpful and short little book which examines select passages and highlights the life of the early church. Video segments will enhance our learning and exploration of this exciting book in the New Testament. This 6-week Bible study has begun, but you are still welcome to join. More participant books are available. We meet Thursdays at 7 pm via ZOOM, and Fridays at 9 am in-person in our new gathering space. Mask-wearing required. Contact Deacon Katherine at family@spiritofjoy.net with questions. Please sign up at spiritofjoy.net/signups.



Ministry Moments

Family Faith Formation

Three Year Old Bibles and Blessings Milestone was September 12-13. Deacon Katherine Eisele and Michele Vogel, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation, delivered 13 Spark Story Bibles to 13 Spirit of Joy 3 year olds - driveway deliveries, masked, and safely distanced! Thanks to parents for keeping the promises made to God at your children's baptisms – to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures. Spirit of Joy is glad to partner with you in the faith formation of these precious little ones.



Entry Into Confirmation Milestone

Sixth grade marks the beginning of Confirmation years. At our Wednesday evening worship on September 23 our sixth graders received a copy of Luther's Small Catechism. They and their families received a blessing on this new adventure. Thank you, parents, for keeping yet another promise made at your child's baptism, to help them grow in faith

by learning about the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer – among other important faith matters! God bless our pastors, small group leaders, and mentors as they walk with these sixth graders.



College/Military October Mailings

Spirit of Joy wants to stay connected with our young adults. If you are a young adult or have a young adult in your family, please fill out the form on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups. We will send a mailing this fall but we need an update on all contact information. Many students are in hybrid or distance learning mode. Please respond by October 15 to ensure your son child receives a late October mailing. Parents, we keep you in our prayers, too. God bless you as your parents from afar. Contact Deacon Katherine Eisele with any questions: family@spiritofjoy.net.





Spirit of Joy Preschool

Preschool News

In the midst of COVID uncertainties, the preschool year has started off rather smoothly. Although some families have chosen to wait for preschool, understandably, there are 14 students attending that are ready to learn and have fun with friends. We are so very glad they are here!

The year started off enjoying friends and learning about fall. A special thank you to the Spirit of Joy gardeners for sharing their talents. We have discovered many unique flowers, leaves, and fall produce as a part of the learning activities and fall walks. Our Bible stories have included "God Creates" and "Adam and Eve". We have been able to learn and retell the Bible stories using rice sensory bottles, Legos, Oreos, and pipe cleaner snakes (among other items) -- memorable ways to experience the story along with reading it from the Bible.

Changes to the program this year include an extended learning day to offer even more learning opportunities for preschoolers. Previously, we found ourselves running out of time during the shorter day. Additionally, we have the addition of lunch eaten at preschool as potential preschool families have asked for extended hours to accommodate work schedules. Students and staff have not had a hard time finding ways to fill our time!



Preschool Bike-a-Thon Fundraiser - October 28-29, 2020



Join us from a distance and support the preschool in its fall fundraiser. In the past we have gathered together to ride bikes and eat s'mores with friends. However, we want everyone to stay healthy so children will be riding bikes during the preschool day instead. We will decorate our bikes and ride laps around the garden.

Although visitors cannot attend this year, there are ways you can help: make a donation online or as a part of your weekly offering, sponsor a child on their ride around the preschool by donating a dollar amount for each lap completed, and share this opportunity with your friends. This year's goal is \$1500, so every dollar counts. Donations will support the annual Kindermusik program costs and resources. This music program benefits brain development using music and movement to developing literacy, math, music, and social skills all while having fun. Thank you in advance for your support of this outreach ministry. Go enjoy a bike ride yourself- you can't help but smile!



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

Visit the SOJ Preschool Facebook page to see more about our daily events. We have photos and videos that will brighten your day!

Spirit of Joy Preschool



Brook Meyer

Assistant Teacher

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Meet the preschool staff

Brook is a partner at Spirit of Joy Church and has been a part of the preschool since it opened its doors. She says the best thing about teaching is: "Seeing a child's reaction when they figure something out after trial and error."

Kendra is a partner of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church and is beginning her first year at the preschool and her twelfth year teaching overall. Kendra says the best thing about teaching is: "kids' curiosities."



Kendra Namanny

Assistant Teacher

Tuesday, Thursday

Thanks to our SOJ Meals on Wheels Team!

A special thank you to our SOJ Meals on Wheels volunteers who have so faithfully delivered meals to community members every Monday all year. Because of COVID, the meals are now placed in bags and hung on the door handles instead of giving them to the clients face-to-face. There are more people who need the meals these days and fewer people able to deliver them, so it is a more difficult job, but we have not missed a week.



If you might be interested in this important community service, it is usually one Monday every three months, from 10:45 until about 12:15. Please contact Suzanne DeBoom 605-271-1774 (home) or 605-251-5396 (cell). We will need more volunteers during the winter months.

Mobile Food Pantry

Please consider volunteering for Food to You, the Mobile Food Pantry, Thursday, October 8, at Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church (5001 E. Madison St.). Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups. Volunteers deliver boxes to patrons' cars; thus there is minimal interaction with patrons. Masks are required for volunteers. We recognize the many complexities of participating in face-to-face events during the ongoing severity of the pandemic. If you are not comfortable participating, we fully respect and honor your decision. However, if you are comfortable participating in this minimal contact event with precautions in place, please share your time in this meaningful way.



Spirit of Joy Mobile App

Download the Spirit of Joy mobile app, through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). This is a great way to know what's happening at Spirit of Joy.

Outreach Opportunities

Church on the Street Partnership

Spirit of Joy has agreed to a partnership with Church on the Street which will include:

Gifts of time or talent

- Sponsor and provide volunteers for Laundry with Love once per year
- Provide items from Church on the Street wish list yearly
(Ex: hand warmer kits, underwear)
- Worship with Church on the Street once per year

Gifts of space or equipment

- Donate a cart for use during Laundry with Love

Financial gifts

- We will include Church on the Street in our Outreach Budget

And most importantly, we pledge to offer the gifts of prayer and encouragement to our partners in ministry.

We sent the partnership agreement and received this response the same day:

This is an answer to prayers today! We had our first staff meeting with our new part-time associate pastor and we prayed that new partners would come forward to share in all of our hopes and dreams, and help us keep up with the moving of the Holy Spirit. I opened your email and goosebumps went all the way through my body. Corny I know, but true.

God's blessings on you all!

Rebel Hurd
Mission Developer/Minister/Coach
Church on the Street | SD Synod, ELCA



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Spirit of Joy Collections

Once again Spirit of Joy partners have been very generous in their donations for Church on the Street. We will be delivering our donations on Tuesday, October 13 during the Laundry with Love event. We have received 330 pairs of underwear for men, women and children, and 86 pairs of socks! You can still bring your donation to church before October 11. Thank you!

During the last Food on the Fourth collection on September 27, Spirit of Joy collected two food barrels of food. You are always welcome to drop off nonperishable food items just inside our back door where we keep our food barrels. You are also invited to bring a bag of food as part of your offering to our worship services every fourth Sunday of the month.