



# WINDSWEEP

September 2022

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”

-Ecclesiastes 3: 1

And, now is the time for:

**Grief and Appreciation-** Do not feel bad if you miss them or you find yourself yearning for their gifts. They were tremendous and those feelings are completely natural. I have learned to love Pr. Jeff, Deacon Katherine, Deacon Susan, and all the others who have come before me at Spirit of Joy. I will join you in being sad to see them go. Their gifts have made it a privilege to be a part of this community. And, every day, I will give thanks and seek to honor their spirit and build on the gifts they have given Spirit of Joy.

**Discernment and Planning-** you'll see the full page on our transition plan in this newsletter. It's a very high-level overview of what will be countless hours of planning and execution to make sure that we honor our values, in all things seek to glorify God, and ensure that we are careful and intentional in seeking the right teammates to help Spirit of Joy live into God's vision for its future.

**Commitment and Participation-** Bishop Constanze Hagmaier won the day at the 2019 Synod Assembly with the promise that, “I will show up.” Through joy, pain, anger, grief, uncertainty, anxiety and more she has kept that promise. I ask you to join me in making and keeping that same promise. No amount of money, brilliant programming, or charismatic staff will ever replace the faithful prayer, attendance, and participation of the saints. We call ourselves partners because we know that we are each called through the waters of Holy Baptism to the fullness of ourselves for the glory of God.

**Grace and Adventure-** Spirit of Joy has been gifted with incredible servants and remarkable staff. Together, we have the capacity to bring blessings to all who gather in this house of prayer for all people. But, things will be different. New ideas are already bubbling. Energy and excitement are really high. In that? There will be mistakes. Some pieces of what your leaders are doing may not resonate with you. Consider it an adventure. Give them grace to explore and evolve. Offer constructive criticism. And, keep showing up!

**Invitation and Radical Hospitality-** In the midst of all this transition, we are still emerging from the deep pause of the pandemic. This fall our programming is finally back to full capacity. We are ready for growth and welcome of new people. So, invite them, bring them, welcome them, accompany them, and let them know that we mean it when we say, “All are welcome!”. We have Mission Guides available for your own use, and as a tool for this invitation.



Eric Ohrtman  
Associate Pastor

There is a time for everything in heaven and earth. I'm glad that I get to share this time with you, Spirit of Joy!

-Pr. Eric



# Dates to Remember

## **Sunday, September 11: Fall Schedule Begins**

8:45 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Faith Formation Hour

11:00 a.m. Worship

## **Wednesday, September 14: Wednesday Programming Begins**

6:15 p.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Children of Joy

7:00 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

## **Sunday, September 18: Special Congregational Meeting**

Between services beginning at 10:00 a.m. to elect a Call Committee

## **October 14-15: Women's Retreat at Joy Ranch**

Theme - Embracing Change

Join Deacon Hannah at Joy Ranch!

Register by September 28

online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups), forms are available at church

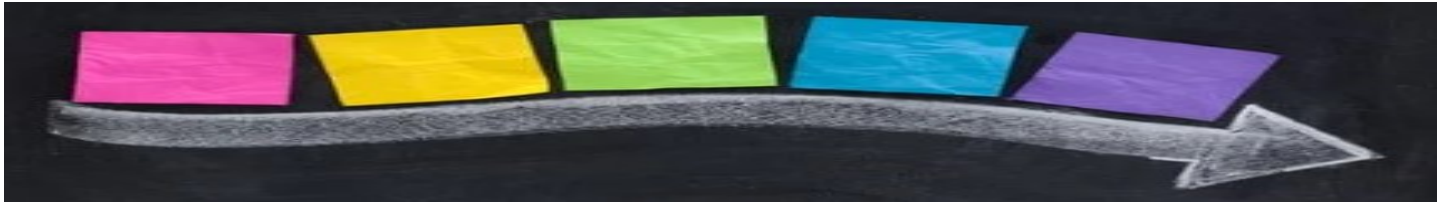


## Join us in 30 Days of Prayer

We'll be using Calling Now from Vibrant Faith. A short video each day with a reading. Available on Facebook and in your inbox each morning for the month of September.

*Grow in your own faith. Pray for Spirit of Joy.*

# Proposed Transition & Call Process



The following is a draft of the timeline that was proposed to the Leadership Team on Thursday, August 18th. While details are subject to change, we believe that this is a faithful representation of the process we will undertake to fill our Lead and Associate Pastor roles. Please continue to watch for communication and be involved in the process. We yearn for your prayers for Spirit of Joy, its leadership, and its partners.

- **September 4 & 11:** Announcement of Congregation Meeting to Discuss Call Process and Elect a Call Committee (September Newsletter and Facebook, too). Leadership Team will work to identify individuals to serve. If you are interested, please see note at bottom of this summary.
- **September 18:** 10:00 a.m. Congregation Meeting to Elect Call Committee for Lead Pastor
- **September-November:** Ministry Site Profile Review and Edit, Ministry Site Study with Rev. Renee Splichal-Larson, Associate to the Bishop SD Synod, Cottage Meetings, Interview, Recommendation
- **October 23:** FaithX Neighborhood Exploration Tool with Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Associate to the Bishop SD Synod (this is a socio-demographic tool that accesses information from census, public government records, and elsewhere, to provide granular detail about our community that will be used to focus our strategic planning and discernment for staffing).
- **November 20:** Annual Meeting of the Congregation- Budget, Elections, and Vote to Call
- **November 20- February 5:** Administrative Review and Discernment Process- teams will work to review, edit, and implement- a regular part of any Interim process in ELCA congregations
  - Policies and Procedures (Weddings, Endowment, Transportation, Safe Space, Counting Offering, Community Benevolence)
  - Congregation Constitution Review
  - Reconciling in Christ
  - Review of 2016 Strategic Plan and Discernment of Staffing for Future
- **February 5:** Annual Meeting of the Congregation - Elect Call Committee for Associate Pastor
- **February 6 until filled:** Ministry Site Profile Review and Edit, Ministry Site Study with Rev. Renee Splichal-Larson, Associate to the Bishop SD Synod, Interview, Recommendation

**If you feel called to participate in this process, we invite you to contact Heather Wald in the Spirit of Joy office. (605) 333-2004. [heather.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:heather.spiritofjoy@gmail.com)**



# Faith Formation

## Registration for PreK–High School

All new and returning students: sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups). Please fill out one form for each child participating in an education opportunity at Spirit of Joy. This includes Children of Joy PreK-5th Grade, Confirmation 6th-8th Grade, 9th Grade Mentor Program, and 9th-12th Grade Youth Group. Faith Formation Kickoff is Sunday, September 11 & Wednesday, September 14.

## Women's Bible Study Begins Thursday, September 8

Join Deacon Hannah for this 12-week series: The Women of the Bible Speak. Choose between two different times: Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Hannah at [hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com)

## Monthly Book Club

The next book club is meeting Tuesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the library or Galilee Room to discuss *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* by Sara Miles. Please join us even if you haven't read the book. Anyone is welcome to attend.

## Multigenerational Bible Study

*Wednesday nights 7:00-7:50 in the Galilee Room*

Deacon Hannah and Madeline are co-leading this Bible study during the Faith Formation hour on Wednesday nights. We will spend the first half of the year studying the difference between the four gospels. No sign up required, just come! We begin Wednesday, September 14.

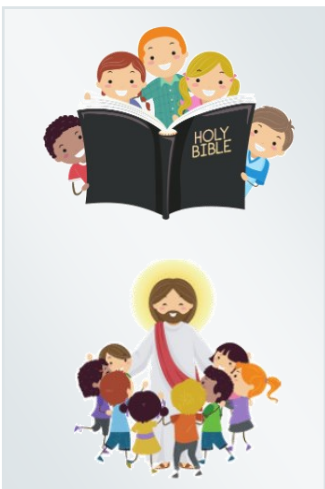
## Sunday Forum:

### "By What Authority? Rethinking Early Church History"

*Join us Sunday mornings beginning September 11:* The "By What Authority?" Series will continue through the Fall. Stay tuned for future topics!

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 9/11 | Why Study Church History & Authority  |
| 9/18 | Christian Identity  |
| 9/25 | Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson will discuss Companion Synods from Nicaragua and Cameroon |

## Milestones



### 3-year-old Bibles and Blessings

All 3 year old's entering Children of Joy will receive their Spark Story Bible and a special blessing on Sunday, September 11.

### 6th Grade Entry into Confirmation

All 6th graders entering Confirmation will receive a special blessing on Wednesday, September 14.

### 4-year-olds Walking with Jesus Milestone

All 4-year-old's will have an opportunity to spend some time with the Jesus Doll to show that Jesus is with them wherever they go and whatever they do. They will receive a special blessing on Sunday, September 25 with Jan Noer. \*\*Date subject to change\*\*



# Keep Note



## Spirit of Joy Staff Emails

*Some of the staff have new and updated emails to be more uniform.*

**Pastor Eric Ohrtman**

eric.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**Office Manager: Heather Wald**

heather.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**Director of Lifelong Faith Formation:**

**Hannah Fleming**

hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**Director of Preschool: Amy Cauble**

amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**Communications: Eric Gohl**

eric.spiritofjoy.net@gmail.com

**Children's Faith Formation: Michele Vogel**

michele.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**High School Faith Formation: Madeline Trosvig**

madeline.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**Worship Leader & Director of Choirs: Carson Covey**

carson.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

**Worship Leader: Carli Kuehn**

carli.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

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## Middle & High School Confirmation: Important Fall Dates

### Middle School

August 31 - Orientation @ 7:00 PM (Students & Parents)

September 7 - Adult Guide Training @ 7:00 PM (Guides Only)

September 14 - 6th Grade Entry into Confirmation Milestone @ 6:15 PM

September 14 - Confirmation Classes Begin @ 7:00 PM

### High School (9th & 10th Graders)

September 21, 28, October 5 - It's Your Calling @ 7:30 PM (Students & Parents)

October 12 - Mentor/Mentee Orientation @ 7:30 PM

October 10-22 - Final Interviews (10th Grade - watch for sign-up details)

October 26 - Confirmation Rehearsal @ 7:00 PM

October 30 - Confirmation Sunday @ 8:45 & 11:00 AM



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## Choir Rehearsals Begin September 14 at 7:00 PM

The choir usually sings at both services twice a month, and practices each Wednesday night at 7pm in the sanctuary. Our first Sunday singing will be on the 25th of September. If you enjoy singing, come join a wonderful group of people praising God through their singing and music!



# Outreach Opportunities



Thank you to the  
Volunteers from Spirit of  
Joy who served breakfast  
at The Banquet and at  
Laundry with Love on in  
August.

Thank you for your Bold  
Service and Extravagant  
Generosity, Spirit of joy!



# Outreach Opportunities

## Introduction from the new Principal at Horace Mann Elementary School

It is with great excitement that I write to you as the principal of Horace Mann Elementary!

Most recently, I have served as Hillcrest Elementary principal with the Brookings School District for the past six school years. Prior to Brookings, I served as Flandreau Elementary principal for nine years. My teaching experience was as a 5th grade teacher in Flandreau for eight years prior to becoming elementary principal. All total, I bring 23 years of experience working in education to Horace Mann.

I grew up in Salem, SD. My wife, Dana, and I have 5 children. Whitley will be a sophomore in college, Reese will be a freshman in college, Bella will be a junior in high school, Ansley will be an 8th grader, and Grayden will be a 3rd grader this year. As a family, we enjoy evening meals together, traveling, outdoor fire pits, and attending kid's activities. Personally, I enjoy watching biographies, running, working out, golfing, reading, and some nice quiet down time.

I am a tremendous believer in building relationships with students, families, and community partners. I look forward to meeting and working with students and families along with the community partners that support the students and staff of Horace Mann! It is a top priority of mine to establish a school setting in which students are eager to come to school and learn in a setting that is filled with dedicated, caring adults that help children reach their full potential!

Once again, I am very excited to be the principal at Horace Mann Elementary and look forward to an outstanding upcoming school year!

Brad Olinger  
Horace Mann Elementary Principal



“Thank you for the wonderful donation of items for Horace Mann teachers & students! Your generosity is truly appreciated & beneficial to our school.

Thanks again!”

~ **Brad Olinger**  
*Horace Mann Principal*



## 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 SoJ.

# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## We Are Turning Six!

We are starting our sixth year of preschool this month - Super Special Six! (We love alliteration at preschool.)

### The year is starting off with many special things:

1. A record number of enrolled preschoolers - 26 as of this printing. Welcome new families when you see them in the hallways.
2. A new transportation feature has begun for families. Just the right option for families who cannot get away from work in the middle of the day. Five students will be able to take a van ride to and from preschool this year. Thank you for driving children and offering donations to keep them safe such as car seats, first aid kits, and window scrapers.
3. There is a new playhouse on the playground built by the woodworkers of Spirit of Joy. A super special thanks to Craig Samuelson for heading up this venture. Smiles, laughter and learning are already filling this playhouse.



### WANTED: Van Drivers

*Do you have a few moments to spare?  
We would love to see you!*

Van drivers wanted and it just takes a couple of days during the month to assist with transportation. Our goal is to create Driver's Pool filled with names that can rotate driving duties as your schedule allow. Drive times are 7:20-8:00am and 12:00-12:30pm Monday-Friday with school holidays and breaks off. Contact Amy Cauble with questions or sign up at the Welcome Center today.



### A special thanks to the builders & painters of the playhouse:

Dave Tonsager  
Rollie Ver Wey  
Ron Ver Wey  
Bob Jenson  
Ron Frary  
Rick Lundberg  
Craig Samuelson  
Jacob Wald  
Ali Lennon  
Brita Spader  
Bill Cauble

**Thanks to the  
Appel Family for  
building the outdoor  
workbench!**



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Fall Bike-a-Thon & Fun Run "DO-NUT miss it!"

Join the fun run or bike-a-thon on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 6:00-7:00pm and support your preschool! Children and adults are invited to participate – all are welcome so feel free to invite your friends.

**What to expect?** There are two ways to participate, either way end with donuts!

1. Children recruit sponsors (friends & family) for biking laps around the garden sidewalk loop near the parking lot. Sponsors offer a donation per lap. Children ride bikes from 6:00-6:30pm or until they would like to stop with child care providers keeping track of laps. Sponsor sign up sheets provided at the Kiosk.

OR

2. Join the Fun Run 5K with a one-time fee of \$15 per runner. Enjoy the beautiful route around Spirit of Joy gardens and neighborhoods. Visit the Gathering space Kiosk for a QR code to sign up.

\*In the event of inclement weather, bicyclers will ride inside during the preschool day.

**Everyone gathers together afterwards for donuts,  
Chocolate milk and bananas. (You earned it after all!)**

**What are the funds used for?**

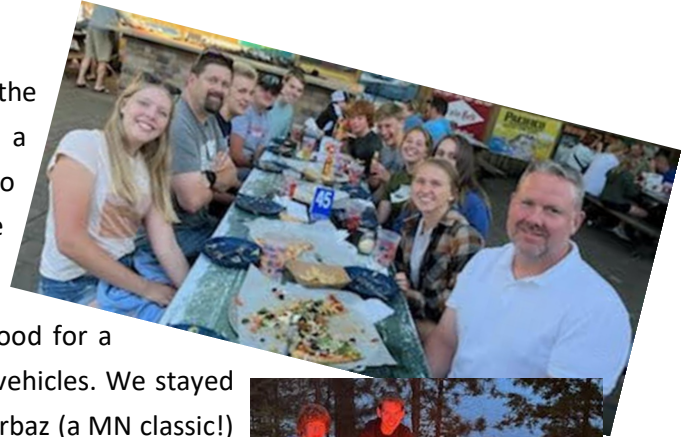
Fundraising dollars will support ongoing features of the preschool community and its curriculum such as Kindermusik education and scholarship resources.



# Youth News

## Houseboat Trip Recap

Way back at the beginning of February, the ELCA canceled the National Youth Gathering. Our group decided to go on a houseboat trip to Lake Vermilion instead. We continued to meet over the months leading up to the trip, having game nights, a worship writing workshop, & pot luck BBQ!



We left Sunday, after packing all of our coolers. enough food for a week, fishing gear, sleeping gear, and suitcases into our 4 vehicles. We stayed one night in Alexandria (Vogel Cabin), where we went to Zorbaz (a MN classic!) and played sand volleyball, had quiet worship, and ended the night playing games.



Monday morning, the houseboats were ready for us to load when we arrived! After a short orientation, we were off, with boat captain Amy Eisenbeisz leading the fleets. After 3 and a half-ish hours, we arrived at our island home and docked the boats. We spent two nights on this island where we were sheltered from the wind, had other islands close enough for the kids to swim to, and had perfect trees for hammock village.

On Wednesday morning, all 8 kids took off with guided fishermen and the adults moved the boats. What the adults thought would be a relaxing morning ended with Amy fully clothed in the Lake, Madeline and Amy pushing with every ounce of their being to get their boat off a rock, and Eric and Corey having to come back and pull them out. After 3 hours of trying to find somewhere to park, we arrived at "Crawdad Island". After dinner, the kids discovered why it was called Crawdad Island and collected about 50 of them to make for a boil!



Thursday, we boated over to the Soudan Underground Mines State Park. We had a fascinating tour with an even more fascinating tour guide, Karel. On our tour, we learned information about the Mines and some suitable life lessons from Karel.

On Friday morning, we woke up early and arrived back at the church around dinner time! It was such an amazing trip, we had moments of laughter, of rest, of wonder, of learning, and so much more.

Youth Group this Fall | Sundays 5:30-7:00 PM

Meal served each week at 5:30,

caring conversation from 5:45-6:30, games from 6:30-7:00

# Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy

## I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Audit Committee Update:** The audit committee will conclude the audit at the end of August and will be reviewed by the Leadership Team at the September meeting.
- B. **Transportation Policy:** No action has been taken on the transportation policy. Previous transportation guidelines are in place until recommendations can be added to the policy.

## II. New Business

- A. **Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Proposal:** Madeline Trosvig and Pam Cole provided an overview of the RIC program and proposed that SoJ move forward with becoming a RIC congregation. Paul Johnston provided support of the proposal. "The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program." (Source: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/becomeric/>). Following discussion, the Leadership Team requested that Pastor Eric obtain additional information from the presenters and other congregations. The Leadership Team will revisit the topic in September.
- B. **Pastoral Transitions:**
  - 1. **Process for Moving Forward:** The Leadership Team discussed the plan and potential timeline for moving forward with a call for a lead pastor and an associate pastor.
  - 2. **Call Committee: C13.05.** *When a vacancy occurs in a position for which this congregation calls a rostered minister a Call Committee of six voting members shall be elected by this congregation. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called rostered minister.*
  - 3. **Congregation Meeting to Outline Process and Elect Call Committee:** Kendra Krueger moved and Andrew Hewitt seconded to call a congregational meeting on September 18, 2022 to elect a call committee. Motion carried.
- C. **Choir Accompanist:** The Leadership Team discussed the addition of a choir accompanist. Action deferred until the September meeting.

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

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.***

## Financials through July 2022

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$32,449.17
Building Fund	\$25,699.65
Donor Restricted	\$30,223.47
Sunday School	\$822.18
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022
Attendance	???	???	549
General Offering	\$ 46,344.59	\$ 36,254.74	\$ 41,702.27
Building Offering	\$ 84,179.08	\$ 17,985.68	\$ 25,699.65

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$151,604.16
Donor Restricted	\$69,472.39
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$314,831.12</b>

### Capital Campaign Totals

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

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$341,834.34
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$383,635.57
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>- \$41,801.23</b>

### Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$674,970  
Received as of July 31, 2022: \$81,826.37





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# Fall Schedule Begins

Sunday, September 11

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Wednesday, September 14