

WINDSWEEP

September 2021



"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

-Romans 8:26

One of the primary practices of faith development is prayer. I stink at it. I have to force myself into a discipline and hold myself to it. After years of struggling, I think I've learned three things. First, where I struggle is in the being still that I assume prayer must "be". Second, prayer doesn't have to "be" a certain way. And finally, my imperfect prayers are always addressed to a perfect God who promises to hear and answer (Matt 7:7). So, today, when my natural tendencies collide with my exhaustion for all of the messiness and brokenness of the world (visit compassionfatigue.org for more information), I find myself without words, failing in my prayer, and putting my trust in God. In case you are feeling the same way, I'd like to share some words with you. Below is a form of a bidding prayer. It's a starting point meant to help you by providing a place to begin. I've left space for you to write in your prayers. Grab a pencil or pen. And, as you write and pray, know that God hears and answers, even when you don't have words. -Pr. Eric

God of compassion and grace, I come before you today with too few words. The pain and brokenness of the world has ground me to a stop and I need you. Draw near to me as I pray for...

Those who lead your church

...come Holy Spirit.

Those impacted by Covid

...come Holy Spirit.

The start of the School Year

...come Holy Spirit.

Those who govern and impact our economy by their words and deeds

...come Holy Spirit.

Afghanistan, all who suffer violence, and all who serve in harm's way

...come Holy Spirit.

Those impacted by natural disaster, especially wildfires, Haiti, Hurricane Henri, and flooding in Middle Tennessee

...come Holy Spirit.

The Children of Joy Kickoff

...come Holy Spirit.

The Return of Choir and other small groups

...come Holy Spirit.

Confirmation and Wednesday Worship

...come Holy Spirit.

Mighty and merciful One, as I pray today, I trust that you will answer. Relieve my burdens. Give me a heart to see you in my neighbor. And, every day, shape me more into your image. Amen.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

-Max Lucado

Our PURPOSE is to

- *welcome* people into a community of followers of Jesus Christ;
- *grow* with one another in faith and hope in Him;
- *send* out one another as Jesus' compassionate servants in the world.



Our PERSPECTIVES

- Jesus Christ is the way to life.
- All people matter to God and so they matter to us.
- Following Jesus is a life-long, growing experience.
- Every Jesus follower is called to and gifted for ministry.
- God is continually at work in us to transform the world.



Our PRIORITIES

- Passionate Worship
- Radical Hospitality
- Lifelong Faith Formation
- Extravagant Generosity
- Bold Service

5 Priorities Sermon Series

Sunday, Sept. 26- Oct. 24

Discovery Class

(For those interested in becoming Partners at SoJ)

Sunday, Oct. 24 12-3pm

Upcoming Events



Sunday, September 12: Fall Schedule Begins

8:45 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Education Hour (Be sure to register online)

11:00 a.m. Worship



Wednesday, September 15: Wednesday Programming Begins

6:15 p.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Children of Joy

7:00 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Youth Group

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal



Sunday, September 19: Building Dedication

Special Music at both services and a Reception between services

Sunday, October 31: Confirmation Sunday



November 12-13: Women's Retreat at Joy Ranch

Theme - Accompaniment: God's Story, Your Story, My Story

Special Guest Speaker: Renee Splichal-Larson

Register online at spiritofjoy.net/signups, or forms are available at church



Registration for Education at Spirit of Joy



To help with planning, we are asking all partners of Spirit of Joy and guests who wish to participate this coming school year to register. Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups or scan the QR code to access the form. Please fill out one form for each child participating in an education opportunity at Spirit of Joy. **This includes Children of Joy PreK-5 Grade, 6-8 Grade Confirmation, 9 Grade Mentor Program, and 9-12 Grade Youth Group.** Volunteer Opportunities included in the form for adults to participate. Please sign up where you would like to help – We Need You!

Outreach Opportunities



Spirit of Joy and Westminster Presbyterian collected classroom wish list supplies for Horace Mann Elementary.

Thank you for your generous donations!

Thank you to all who helped cut tickets for Horace Mann!

Thank you to the Volunteers from Spirit of Joy who served breakfast at The Banquet on Friday, August 20.



Church on the Street

Saturday, September 11 | 11:00 a.m.



Spirit of Joy will be hosting the meal and worshipping together at Church on the Street the 2nd Saturday of September. Church starts at 11:00 a.m. in Heritage Park (330 N Weber Ave). Pastor Jeff will be preaching!

Spirit of Joy will be collecting Hotdogs and Buns for the meal. We will grill hotdogs and serve the meal following the service around 11:45. Please sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups to donate Hotdogs, Buns, Coolers and your time at the meal.



SoJ Partners are encouraged to attend the service to get to know the people who worship.

Sabbatical Review

What a blessed privilege it has been for me to step back from ministry with Spirit of Joy this past summer and to live in a different rhythm of rest, reading, reflection, reconnection and recharging. I am so very grateful to Spirit of Joy for the opportunity to do this one more time after several very full years of ministry together. As I reflect on the past eleven weeks, there are a few words that come to mind that summarize my sabbatical time:

***Rest and Reflect**-There was a lot more time for second cups of coffee on the deck, more time for reading, more time for solitude and silence, more time for conversations on long car rides with Katherine. My “church reading” over the summer months included *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life with God* by Dallas Willard; *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God’s Transforming Presence* by Ruth Haley Barton; and *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality* by Belden Lane. Some of that reading took place in a three day mostly silent retreat in little hermitage at the ARC Retreat Center in Minnesota, and other reading happened by northern lakes and mountain streams.



***Reconnect and Remember**-Katherine and I never felt completely cut off from family during the pandemic, but we, like most everyone, did get together less than usual. So, we also enjoyed several sabbatical days and nights at all four of our siblings’ homes or cabins at various places in Minnesota. We also revisited our parents’ and grandparents’ graves at several cemeteries in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Time with our birth families and at family member’s graves stirred lots of memories and much gratitude. We also were able to enjoy extra time together with our kids and grandkids.

***Recharge and Rejoice**

Our most favorite places to get away and play are in the mountain west, especially in national parks, and the north woods of Minnesota. We were fortunate to be able to hike several trails in national parks in Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. Something Belden Lane wrote in his book is certainly true for me: “People seeking new vitality in the spiritual life continually retreat to wild and undeveloped landscapes, seeking new meaning along the outer margins of familiarity.”

Thank you again to Spirit of Joy for the privilege of time to discover and enjoy such vitality!

~ Pastor Jeff Eisele

SOJ Staff Feature

Tell us a little about your background!

Hi folks, I'm Madeline Trosvig, the coordinator of High School Faith Formation here! I joined the ministry team at Spirit of Joy in December 2020 and have greatly appreciated the relationships formed and the lively ministry of this congregation. This fall, I begin my junior year at Augustana University, studying Classics and Religion. I grew up in Lakes Country Minnesota, Fergus Falls, with my mom, dad, and two younger sisters. From the beginning of high school I felt a call to ministry and have pursued it ever since.

What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

The perfect day for me would begin with waking up in a bed and breakfast in the mountains. I walk outside just before the sun peeked over the top of the mountain range and there is a beautiful breakfast platter on my porch, the best part: no mosquitoes. After breakfast me and my closest friends hike the most breathtaking trail and have lunch at the top of the summit. Once the hike is finished, we get washed up and head out to a five star restaurant and indulge in the best food there is! The perfect day would then end with watching the sunset while enjoying a bonfire and smores.

If you could win an Olympic medal for any sport, real or fake, what would it be?

It would definitely be synchronized swimming, now called artistic swimming! Back in Fergus, I

was a part of the synchronized swimming club for five years. It is still one of my passions to this day.

Guilty Pleasure Movie/ Television Show

I would definitely go with "Glee"—I've lost count of how many times I have rewatched it!

What is one of your favorite hymns/Christian songs?

We are marching in the light of God (Siyahamba)



Madeline Trosvig

Coordinator of
High School Faith Formation

madeline.spiritofjoy@gmail.com

Youth Group Meeting & Supper

Wednesday, September 1 | 6:00 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. we will discuss the Youth Gathering.

If you are interested in chaperoning (please, we need you!!) You are more than welcome to join us during this time!



Excerpts from the ELCA Youth Gathering's blog post written by Dr. Jake Sorenson titled: "The Gatherings Role in Lutheran's Formation." Sorenson does a fantastic job of capturing the importance of ministries, like the Gathering, that have proven effective in life-long faith formation. I hope you enjoy the article like I did.

"Like so many church leaders, the Gathering featured prominently in my story. I was part of a small group from a small church that had no regular youth program. We made the trip from western Wisconsin to the 1997 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. I will never forget walking into the Superdome for the opening worship, greeted by the sights and sounds of 37,000 Lutheran youth. For me, it was a confirmation of Lutheran identity.

I went to Sunday school, VBS, confirmation and summer camp. But since my church had no youth program, I attended FCA and a weekly youth group at an Evangelical Free Church. I devoured the Left Behind series and learned such practical information as how Noah fit the dinosaurs on the ark. I wonder sometimes if I would have drifted progressively away from the Lutheran church if it had not been for the Gathering. As it happened, our little group injected a lot of life into the congregation. We became involved in worship leadership and soon started weekly youth group meetings, which were entirely youth-led. The youth program developed around the core of a 3-year cycle of summer trips consisting of the Gathering, a service trip, and an adventure trip with a Lutheran camp. The burgeoning program sent dozens of kids to summer camp, and at least three of us served on summer camp staff. I went on to an ELCA college and then seminary, having never read the last Left Behind book (I think Jesus wins).

My story is far from unique, and some exciting new research helps us go beyond anecdotes. In a survey distributed to the entire ELCA roster in the closing months of 2020, we asked about faith formation influences. More than 3,000 pastors and deacons responded!

Four specialized ministry spaces rose to the top: Sunday school, camp, the Gathering, and campus ministry. These were highlighted as independently impactful using complex statistical analyses. It was also clear that these experiences are mutually influential. If someone was involved with one ministry, they were very likely to be involved with multiple others. Sunday school and VBS involvement correlated with more frequent camp attendance, youth group involvement, attendance at the Gathering, and so on.

Attending the Gathering is one of several significant factors in respondents being ordained at a younger age, indicating a more direct trajectory to ministry. If a respondent did **any one** of the following: 1) attend camp four or more times, 2) serve on camp staff at least once, 3) attend an ELCA college or university, 4) participate in campus ministry monthly or more, or 5) attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, the median age they were rostered was 29. If a respondent did none of these, the median age they were rostered was 41.

It is clear that the Gathering is an integral part of the ecology of faith formation in the ELCA. It works alongside and to the mutual benefit of multiple other ministries, serving as a catalyst for vibrant youth programs and a shaper of Lutheran identity. In a time when regular church attendance is declining and there is a shortage of church leaders, let's look to the ministries that are proven effective in faith formation, developing Lutheran identity, and nurturing call to ministry."

Thanks for reading!

~ Madeline

Spirit of Joy Preschool

SoJ Preschool is 5!

It's fall and the preschool is preparing for its fifth preschool class. The same age as those we serve. There are many ways we are similar to our preschool friends...

1. We both continue to learn each day and live in the moment with grateful hearts. Each day is different and offers adventure. We both make an effort to try new solutions and remembering effective results.
2. We both can be reminded of God's love of us – no matter what. Our preschool is small but makes a big difference, just like the precious children who enter these doors. We learn and grow from one another, in community with one another.
3. We both enjoy a holiday gathering. Preschool classroom parties are full of excitement and laughter. (And fun art/decorations) Take a walk down the hallway in the education wing, you cannot help but smile.
4. Finally, we both know God is at work in this place. God provides all that we need. With many gifts to share and build up this ministry we plan to be here for years to come. All are welcome at preschool and we are ready to launch into the next exciting steps, just like our own graduates.



The class this year is its largest ever at twenty students and almost filling one class time. If you would like to volunteer in the preschool, we would love to have you. Opportunities inside the classroom and from home are available. Contact Amy for more information.

Kindly, Miss Amy

For more information and to see what we are doing each week, visit spiritofjoy.net/preschool or facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool.

Contact Amy Cauble, teacher & director at 333-2004 or amycauble@spiritofjoypreschool.net.

Reaching Out to Our Community

The preschool van fund is on its way! To date your donation total \$2,952.00 – thank you for the support. We will continue to work towards our goal of a mini-van purchase. A donated vehicle is another option. If you or someone you know is ready to change vehicles, please contact Amy Cauble. We are consistently reminded of that transportation is a valuable service for families. Thank you for your continued support as we make this journey together.



What do wet wipes, tents, and toads have in common? Playgrounds & Popsicles of course! Beautiful summer evenings have offered past, present, & future preschool families, to gather and meet on the playground this summer. What fun to be with friends and get to know one another!



From the Bishop's Desk



Friends in Christ,

How does the old saying go? Time flies when you are having fun! I hope you are enjoying your summer. Part of the end of summer is to look forward to starting Fall activities. As congregations, we usually plan for Rally Sunday, Fall dinners and next year's budget. Before you dive deep into budget planning, I would like to extend an invitation to you as a leader in the church.

Please join your synod staff for a zoom evening of all things stewardship, budgets, and mission planning. We had a leadership hour in the winter and over 100 leaders attended, surveys showed that "fun was had by all". So, we are doing it again, showing up in your world via a Zoom leadership hour on **Tuesday, September 7 from 7 PM CT to 8 PM CT**. Sign-up at sdsynod.org. This free event is meant to accompany your congregation on preparing for ministry in 2022. And as a bonus, please check out our revitalization resources on the synod website, which will help you to steward ministry post-pandemic. I hope to see you on Zoom!

Journeying together in Christ,
Bishop Constanze



Do you want to talk? We'll listen.

Life is challenging. Spirit of Joy listeners are ready to listen to your concerns.

Are you concerned about:

- The "empty nest" with children leaving your home
- Divorce or separation
- Family concerns of illness or loss of a loved one
- Isolation from the virus
- Decisions related to the covid virus such as vaccinations, masks, safety
- Economic concerns from covid, the drought, or other situations
- Natural disasters
- World concerns: war, famine
- Other concerns weighing on your heart and mind.



**BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY**

A Listening Presence

Spirit of Joy's BeFrienders are available to listen to you. They're trained to listen and keep your concerns and transitions confidential. They'll talk with you in person or by phone, email or text. Recently the BeFrienders sent Praying for You cards to Spirit of Joy Partners.

Call the church office at 334-2004 or contact BeFriender Coordinator Linda Beckman at 605-759-4663 or email linda.beckman2@gmail.com and a BeFriender will contact you.

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

I. Unfinished Business

- A. **Updated COVID Protocol:** Reviewed COVID recommendations from CDC, Rev. Constanze Hagmaier and the SoJ COVID Task Force following the recent increase in cases in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties. As of August 4, 2021, the following policy is in effect:
1. We will require masks be worn by children kindergarten through 11 years old while they are gathered in classroom spaces.
 2. We will encourage, support, and provide for those who choose to mask, social distance, and use additional hand sanitizer.
- B. **Mission Investment Fund Building Loan Principal Payment (before mortgage):** No update.
- C. **Building Expansion Concerns—Reducing Sound in Fellowship Space:** We have one bid from JGL and waiting for a bid from AVI. Chad will also check on another possible provider. The additional bids will be considered before any action is taken. The Leadership Team may use an e-mail vote if bids come in before next meeting date.

II. New Business

- A. **Lutheran Outdoors (LO) in South Dakota—Keep the Campfires Burning Presentation:** Paul Hanson provided information about the financial needs of LO since there has been a deficit due to the pandemic. He asked the Leadership Team to consider how SoJ may offer support. Discussion followed. Sarah Manthey moved and Lori Tripp seconded to use the remaining camp scholarship funds, \$1300, as the first gift to Lutheran Outdoors. Motion carried.
- B. **Future Staffing Considerations:** The Leadership Team began a conversation regarding how to best fill the position left open by Katherine Eisele's resignation. We will begin with a review of her job description, which Pastor Jeff will send to the Leadership Team this week.
- C. **Annual Stewardship Emphasis/Future Debt Reduction Campaign:** Will plan to have a general mission/pledges campaign in the fall and a capital campaign for debt reduction in the spring.
- D. **August Benevolence:** Banquet—per invoice plus an additional sum to equal a total of \$1,000; Charis Ministries—\$1,000; Lutheran Church of Nicaragua—\$1,000; Horace Mann—\$1,800; Lutheran Outdoors (in addition to \$1,300 from camp scholarship fund) - \$2,500

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 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Financials through July 31, 2021

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$87,107.27
Building Fund	\$18,057.68
Donor Restricted	\$28,501.79
Sunday School	\$311.61
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$740,354.08
Donor Restricted	\$69,501.64
Total Cash Balance	\$948,394.17

	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021
Attendance	1105	???	???
General Offering	\$ 45,102.49	\$ 46,344.59	\$ 36,254.74
Building Offering	\$ 89,732.26	\$ 84,179.08	\$ 17,985.68

Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485

Received as of July 31, 2021: \$2,035,323.39

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$308,204.03
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$316,364.14
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$8160.11



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FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS

Sunday, September 12

&

Wednesday, September 15