



# W I N D S W E E P T

STORIES OF SPIRIT OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## "I am a Spirit of Joy Partner"

### **SANDRA ELLINGSEN**

Sandra Ellingsen has been a member of Spirit of Joy for 10 years. We sat down with her and asked her about faith and why she goes to church.



#### **How do your faith and daily life intersect?**

I am always aware that I am a child of God and that impacts the way I treat people and the way I look at the world. Every morning at breakfast, before I read the bad news which is the newspaper, I try to read the good news, which is some Scripture. Not a whole lot, but some and it keeps reminding me of all kinds of things: Old Testament things about justice and peace and fairness and the New Testament things about the wonderful promises of God.

#### **What is a meaningful SoJ moment?**

A meaningful Spirit of Joy moment is when I walk in the door and people know me and love me and I love them; and getting to hear the gospel. Those are some of the important things for me.

#### **Do you have any favorite faith practices?**

Any favorite faith practices involve being a giver, being a receiver, and specifically well as I said before, reading a little bit of the good news every morning and not that I always remember it, but being able to pray whenever I do remember it.

I go to church for a gazillion of reasons mostly to be reminded that I am a child of God because nobody else reminds me, even my husband, and he was a pastor! Didn't remind me! So I get reminded every Sunday morning that I am a child of God and that I'm forgiven and that I get to be around people who love me and people that I can love.



*Photo by Linda Beckman*

# BeFriender Ministry

By Linda Beckman

The BeFriender Ministry program began at Spirit of Joy in 2018.

**What is a BeFriender?** A BeFriender is a ministry partner of Spirit of Joy who has received a 12-hour training on the art of listening, and they are actively serving as BeFrienders to partners in our congregation.

**Have BeFrienders visited Partners?** Since the launching of the BeFriender ministry in September, BeFrienders have made 30 visits and befriended 15 women and men partners of Spirit of Joy.

**Who do BeFrienders visit?** They are available to partners of Spirit of Joy who are dealing with grief, caregiving, those experiencing any new situation such as retirement, an illness, new baby, moving, etc. and anyone who wishes to visit with someone during times of transition; to tell their story; to verbalize their concerns.

**What about confidentiality?** BeFrienders have signed a commitment of confidentiality.

**Who are Spirit of Joy BeFrienders?** We are blessed to have BeFrienders Sandy Ellingsen, Elaine Frary, Jeanne Gacke, Marilyn Gannon, Char Sorum, and Wendi VanBeek. Coordinators are Sue Edwardson and Linda Beckman.

**I would like to visit with someone, but BeFrienders are too busy to be troubled by me.** No concern is too small to contact a BeFriender. Sometimes all one needs is an hour to verbalize a concern. It can be enough to think something through, to lighten the load. Someone may need only one visit or a series of visits. This is a Spirit of Joy ministry.

**How do I contact a BeFriender?** They are accessible to you by contacting one of the pastors or co-coordinators, Sue Edwardson, or Linda Beckman.

Want to become a  
BeFriender?

Looking for men and women  
partners.

A class will begin in Fall.  
Contact Pastor Christy, Linda  
Beckman (759-4663) or Sue  
Edwardson.

# Summertime Fun

By Deacon Katherin Eisele

What a great summer of faith formation including fun times to meet new teachers and friends, lots of outdoor activities, and new stories to tell and share: Vacation Bible School for some of our youngest partners, Day Camp for our elementary kids, once-a-month adult Bible studies on the book of Esther, Bible Camps, Family Camps, vacation visits to other congregations and beautiful place, and more... wow!

Thank you to everyone who planned events, shared food, taught children and adults, loved and cared for God's creation, and loved and cared for one another and our neighbors. God is good!



*Many laughs and smiles throughout Day Camp.*

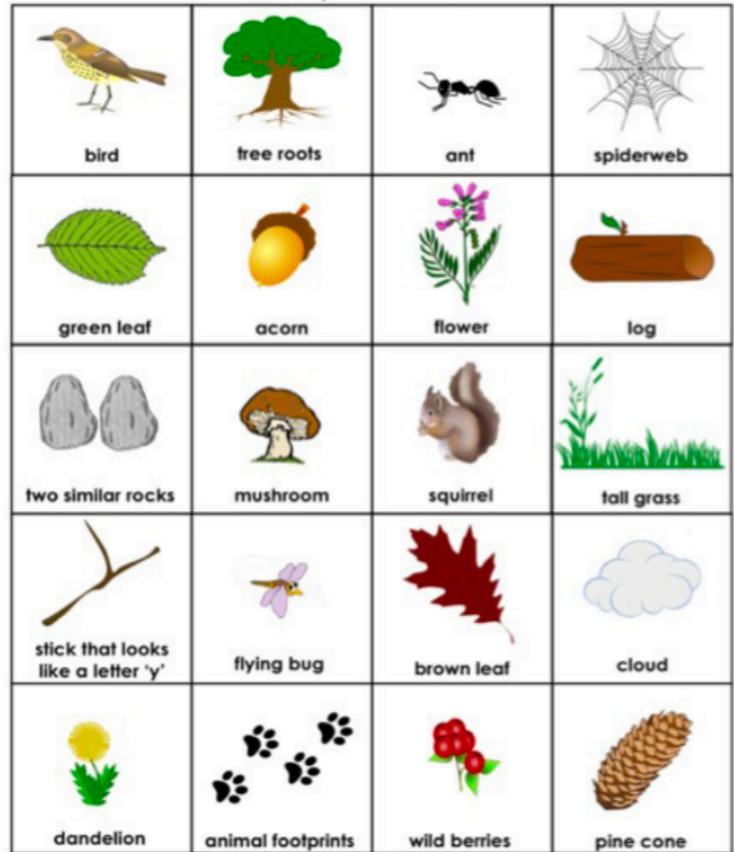


*Preschool VBS was a blast!*



## Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

Summer is coming to a close, but it's not too late to get out and explore God's creation in your own neighborhood. Go for a walk or head out to your backyard! Can you find all 20?



# The Gift of Seasons

By Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Five years ago I spent a year living in Tucson, AZ, for my seminary internship. It didn't take me long as a southwest resident to discover that I am a true northerner, through and through. I love seasons and grieved the apparent lack of them in the southwest.

As the wind changes from summer to fall to winter to spring, I love the variety of colors you see and beverages you drink.

I love the way the pace of life changes depending on the season: and specifically, now, I am reveling in the slower pace of summer. I am grateful for more time to read and travel and bake (that is, on the rare days when it's tolerable to use the oven).

Soon the season will change again. Summer will turn to fall, then eventually fall to winter. With fall will come the turning of leaves and the ramping up of school and programs and communal energy. There are gifts in the fall, and soon we'll share them with one another.

For now: however this season is shaping up for you, know that God meets you in it. In the travels, in the silence, in the hammock. On the trips and in the trials. Whatever this season brings, God is with you. And whatever the next season brings, God will be with you there too.

God's peace,  
Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask