



W I N D S W E E P T

STORIES OF SPIRIT OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"I am a Spirit of Joy Partner"

THE MANTHEY FAMILY

In our first edition of "I am a Spirit of Joy Partner," we introduce you to the Manthey family. They are Sarah, Darren, Blake, Nathan, and Morgan. They have been Spirit of Joy partners for 13 years. We asked them a few questions about life and faith:

How do your faith and daily life intersect?

"Church is always important to us in how we raise our children, and what we do at work and what we're involved in." - Sarah

"I think we talk a lot about how lucky we are, how we've been blessed, how we should be thankful for all that we have. [We] try to make the kids aware of how thankful they should be [about] where they are at and how they should help others." - Darren

What is a meaningful SoJ moment?

"I did Bible study this year which was pretty cool, and I got to connect with some people and deepen my pretty superficial knowledge but take that to a new level. I'd like to go back and keep doing more." - Darren

"When I first went to Sprouts and I got to meet new friends." - Morgan

"I really enjoy being involved in the youth programs, whether that's teaching or helping with other events that the kids are involved in. That's always been important to me. Some of my best friends I have met through Spirit of Joy, so having that connection is really important as our kids have grown and gotten to know the other children. Those relationships are really valuable to us." - Sarah

Do you have any favorite faith practices?

"For me, I would say one of the things I like is the prayers before meals, especially in the evening. It's a chance to try and bring our family together and connect whether it's initially through prayer and even through the meal. It sort of brings our family together and keeps our family tight." -Darren

"Recently, the 'Taking Faith Home' sheets have provided us with ways to have caring conversations at home and to make that connection between worship to what we do here in our house." - Sarah



Photo provided by the Manthey Family



Photo by Sawyer VandenHeuvel, South Dakota Synod-ELCA

Bishop Election

By Sawyer VandenHeuvel, South Dakota Synod-ELCA

The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier was elected June 1 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, held May 31 and June 1 in Sioux Falls.

The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier was elected on the fifth ballot, with 250 votes. The Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, received 247 votes.

The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier has most recently served as the Administrative Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, SD.

Bishop-Elect Hagmaier received her Master of Divinity degree in 1999 from Ruprecht Karl's University in Heidelberg, Germany, and affiliated with Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, MN, after emigrating to the United States in 2000. She was ordained on February 10, 2001.

Bishop-Elect Hagmaier will succeed The Rev. David Zellmer and will take office on September 1, 2019, with an Installation service happening on September 7, 2019, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

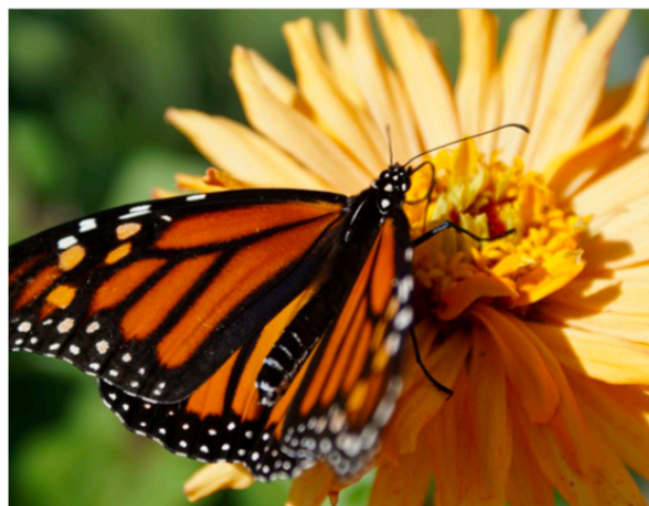
The South Dakota Synod is composed of 205 congregations across the state of South Dakota with over 100,000 members. The bishop serves as the synod's pastor and is called to administer sacraments, preach, provide pastoral care, advise, ordain, advocate, interpret, and serve as the ecumenical officer.

Where Flowers Bloom

By Amy Orr

In 2006 the Spirit of Joy gardens began in the hopes of creating a meditative space for our partners and the surrounding community. Spring ahead 13 years and the garden has grown to include the prayer, memorial, and community gardens. Our gardeners have worked tirelessly to create spaces that allow us to talk with God while surrounded by the beauty of God's creation while strolling the paths, sitting on a bench, or walking the labyrinth. The gardens continue to be a unique and definitive ministry of Spirit of Joy.

The 2019 garden team has worked year-round to care for these spaces, and we can't thank them enough. This year's team includes Donna Ver Wey, Wilma Estes, Judy Hanson, Lori Tripp, Jim Tripp, Diane Buckhouse, Dave Tonsager, Pam Cole, Sheri Poore, Pam Schroeder, and Dennis Tranberg. By the work of God's hand and the gifts of our amazing gardeners, the gardens change each and every day. This summer we challenge you to make time to take a walk through the gardens at least once a month to witness their beautiful evolution.



Photos by Sharon Starks

Spot the Difference!

Between Picture A and Picture B, can you spot 9 differences?



Photos by Mike Haddican

A Message for Dreamers

By Pastor Jeff Eisele

In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. -Acts 2:17

Where I come from, you didn't want to be called a "dreamer." It was not a compliment. It had nothing do with the DREAMers caught in the crossfire of debates on immigration. Rather, a dreamer was someone who "had his or her head in the clouds," someone who was out of touch with the way things were, someone who couldn't be counted on to live pragmatically in the "real world."

The Holy Spirit holds a different opinion about dreamers. Peter announces on the Day of Pentecost that when God pours out the Holy Spirit on all flesh irrespective of gender, age, nationality, or ethnic background, one of the outcomes will be that the Spirit creates a church full of dreamers. These dreamers will dream God's dream of a people shaped by radical hospitality (Acts 11:18), passionate worship (Acts 16:25-26), lifelong faith formation (Acts 17:22-28), extravagant generosity (Acts 4:32-34), and bold service (Acts 9:17-19).

God continues to breathe God's Holy Spirit on fearful, fractured, practical pragmatists who see the world as it is and resign ourselves to getting along the best we can, or, worse, focus on our own little lives. May our restless sleep become repeatedly interrupted by dreams of God's joyous reign coming to us and through us.

Answers: 1) Sarah's book is upside down. 2) Katelyn and Alyssa have switched spots. 3) Braxton is holding the phone in his other hand. 4) Alice and Maren are looking at a different bottle. 5) Caleb is eating fish food. 6) Quinton is eating a pine cone. 7) Pine cones moved from one bookcase to another. 8) The counting chart has been removed. 9) The red sign (at top of picture) has been added.