

Windswept

Monthly updates on the mission & ministry of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



Thank you to all the children and families that participated in Operation Christmas Child. Together, we provided 66 gift boxes that will be sent to children in need this Christmastime.

Peace to you

December 2018

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. - Matthew 1:18-19



They all wondered what Joseph was going to do: the guys in the locker room, the other workers in his dad's shop, the Saturday School teachers at the synagogue, and certainly members of his family. "He's a good kid," everyone said.

"Too bad he got mixed up with the likes of her."

They had names for "her"—Mary—now pregnant before she and Joseph were married. The names were probably not much different than the names we used to refer to the girls in my high school who were suddenly, surprisingly "with child." All were cruel. No self-respecting guy would date let alone marry that kind of girl.

Joseph was caught in a dilemma: will he preserve his reputation as a "righteous man" and do what God's Law required (which is to terminate the relationship)? Or will he believe Mary's crazy story that her pregnancy is from God, marry her anyway, and throw away his reputation? He initially opted to keep his reputation intact by choosing a quiet end to the engagement. This was also the most merciful way to spare Mary any more public humiliation.

Then an angel tells Joseph *not to fear* and go ahead with the wedding plans. What did Joseph have to fear? That no one would ever refer to him as "righteous" again.

Scot McKnight writes in *The Jesus Creed* that, "Sometimes the implication of listening to the voice of God is that we ruin our reputation in the public square. Loving God ... involves surrendering ourselves to God in heart, soul, mind, strength—and reputation. The minute we turn exclusively to the Lord to find our true identity is *the day reputation dies.*"

May you hear God's call this Advent as Joseph did—and may you discover that your identity as a servant of the Living God matters most of all.

Peace to you,

Pastor Jeff Eisele

Staff

Lead Pastor
Jeff Eisele

Associate Pastor
Christy Hallenbeck Ask

Office Manager
Amy Orr

Director of Adult/Family Faith Formation
Deacon Katherine Eisele

Director of Children/Youth Faith Formation
Mike Haddican

Preschool Director
Amy Cauble

Communications Coordinator
Audrey Shattuck

Worship Leader
Deacon Susan Wold Rohde

Worship Leader
Carli Bolin

Leadership Team Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Financial Report through October 31, 2018

Checking Account

General Fund	\$72,746.39
Building Fund	\$10,018.53
Donor Restricted	\$700.73
Sunday School	\$1,589.03
Preschool	(\$5,756.12)
Reserve Fund	\$44,813.06
Petty Cash	\$200

Savings Accounts

Building	\$69,514.27
Donor Restricted	\$96,218.30

Total Cash Balance \$290,044.19

Year-to-date Income for Ministry \$496,574.91

Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry \$519,358.13

Net Income/Deficit for Ministry (\$22,706.23)

	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018
Attendance	1803	1736	1797
General Offering	\$46,404.00	\$42,738.59	\$43,133.38
Building Offering	\$13,065.33	\$10,583.33	\$10,018.53

Unfinished Business:

- I. **2019 Budget Process**- a few updates were added to the budget for the congregation's approval at the annual meeting.

New Business:

- I. **Job Description for Part-time Worship Leader**- Pam Walton motioned to approve the job description with a change in the job title to Coordinator of Worship Music Ministries. Darlene Weber-Scott 2nd. Motion carries.
- II. **Proposed Congregation Constitution Changes**
 - I. **Leadership Team to include all pastors under call**
 - II. **Absentee Voting**- We will look into what constitutional changes need to be made to accommodate this item. After review, we will decide whether to amend the constitution for these issues
 - III. **Approve agenda for congregational meeting**- Greg Bertsch motioned to approve the annual fall meeting agenda which includes election of new Leadership Team members for 2019 and 2019 Budgets. Lori Tripp 2nd. Motion carries.
- III. **Benevolence Payments**- Motion by Pam Walton to make the recommended benevolence payments. Second by Sarah Manthey. Motion carries.
 - I. ILFE Missionary Support \$1000
 - II. Community Outreach \$500
 - III. Lutherans Outdoors \$1000
 - IV. Shetek \$500
 - V. Pine Ridge \$500

Spirit of Joy Annual Fall
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2018 10:00 a.m.

- I. **Call to order and Reading of Mission Statement-** President Marcy Colwell
- II. **Opening Prayer-** Marcy Colwell
- III. **Approval of agenda-** Tracy Dahl Webb moved. Julie Johnston second. Motion carried.
- IV. **Unfinished Business-** No items were presented for discussion.
- V. **New Business**
 - I. **Election of Leadership Team members for 2019-** Candidates include Elizabeth Whealy, Vice President/President; Michelle Stanek, Treasurer; Darlene Weber-Scott, Ministry Resources Team; Carole Chell, Outreach. **Tracy Dahl Webb moved to have Leadership Team members approved by unanimous ballot, Sandy Ellingson second. Motion carries.**
 - II. **2019 Preschool Budget-** Jan Nor moved to pass the 2019 Preschool Budget. Lori Tripp second. Motion carries.
 - III. **2019 Mission Plan/Budget-** Jodi Hanson moved to pass the 2019 Mission Plan/Budget. Joe Vogel second. Motion carries.
 - IV. **2019 Building Budget-** Tracy Dahl Webb moved to pass the 2019 Building Budget. Darlene Weber Scott second. Motion carries.
- VI. **Adjournment and The Lord's Prayer**

Called to Joy Commitment
Cards

If you have yet to do so, please take some time to prayerfully consider and return your 2019 Called to Joy commitment card for giving to the 2019 Mission & Ministry of Spirit of Joy. Blank cards are available on the connection center or in the Spirit of Joy office. Thank you for your continued support.

Year End Commitments

Any gift that you would like to be reflected in your 2018 giving must be into Amy at the Spirit of Joy office by no later than noon on Friday December 28. Thank you for continued support of the mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy.

Prayers of the Church

Healing and strength for:

Gene Engebretson, Jim Watson, Karen Soli, Dan Hagen, Bruce Boyce, Gloria Winterton, Riley Conway, Mary Eckhoff, Mike Ryan, Sheila Dovenmuehler, Trish Swanhorst, Joe Wheeldon, Kay Wold, Marc Wolvington, Jean Schubauer, Jeremy Halstenson, and Janice Kelley

Comfort for those who are grieving the death of loved ones:

- **Geneva Molzen** and her family as they grieve the death of **Gary Molzen**
- **Katherine and Jeff Eisele** and their family as they grieve the death of Katherine's mom **Maxine Long**
- **Julie Eining** and her family as they grieve the death of Julie's father **James Fods**
- friends and family members who have lost loved ones and homes in the California fires

Thanksgiving for:

- the daily blessings of food, shelter, safe drinking water, and access to quality health care

Guidance and encouragement for:

- children and youth struggling in school with learning and/or relationships
- journalists and writers who risk their lives to report on current events
- leaders and members of local mission partners **Pueblo de Dios, Westside, and Table of Grace**
- for partners in ministry in our **companion synods in Nicaragua and Cameroon**
- for our bishops **David Zellmer and Elizabeth Eaton**
- elected leaders of our national, state, and local government: **President Trump, Senators Rounds and Thune, Representative Johnson, Governor Noem, and Mayor Ten Haken**
- the students and staff at **The Bridges at Horace Mann Elementary School**

A Prayer for Advent

Lord, we are waiting for you. We will welcome you with open arms. Please come and live among us. Where you are, there is peace. You enter in and change the hearts of people. How we need you again and right now. Peace seems so far away. Violence is a daily visitor, a constant threat. People hate instead of love each other. Come and change that. Repeat again the promises of your advent into the world. We love to hear them. We cling to them. They change our darkness into light.

--written and prayed by Wendell Frerichs

Harp & Holden Evening Prayer

Join us Wednesday evenings in Advent at 6:15pm for a special Harp and Holden worship experience. A special thank you to Spirit of Joy partner Wendy Donelan for sharing her harp music with us during this season.

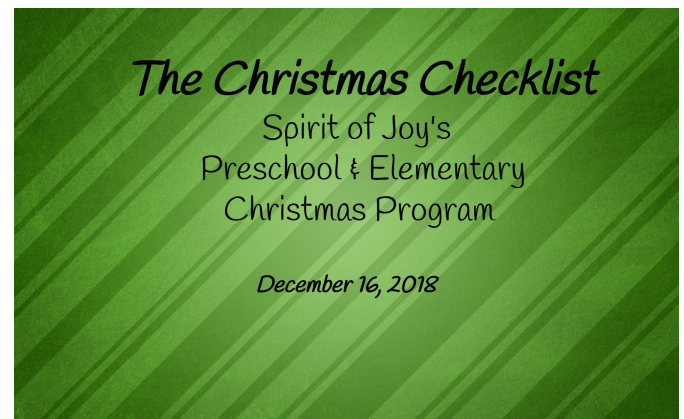
Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all the children and families that participated in Operation Christmas Child. Together, we provided 66 gift boxes that will be sent to children in need this Christmastime.



Spirit of Joy Christmas Program

Our 2018 Christmas Program is called *The Christmas Checklist*. It will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3pm at Spirit of Joy. All preschool-5th graders are invited and encouraged to join us as we sing Christmas hymns, share the story of Jesus' birth, and emphasize the importance of having a worthwhile Christmas checklist.



Faith 5 Evaluation

Thank you to all parents that have taken the time to fill out the Faith 5 Evaluation. Comments and suggestions from you help provide the Growth Team and the Children's Ministry Team with more ideas of how to best implement our Faith 5 curriculum. The one thing that I (Mike) would like to share with families is that your commitment to bring your child(ren) to worship and faith education is a vital piece of the faith formation puzzle. I'm so proud of the people who have embraced this change of curriculum and I hope the energy we've created continues. God is certainly at work in the faith formation we have happening at Spirit of Joy!

Wind River, WY Mission Trip

Our group will serve by painting, cleaning, helping with yard work or doing other simple work projects, weatherizing homes all in partnership with tribal housing authorities, running Kids Club programming for local children (plan and lead children's programming, including Bible lessons, games, crafts and reading activities). We'll also have the chance to spend time with elderly residents. Groups will get to hear stories from community members, visit beautiful Sinks Canyon State Park, and see the Eagle Spirit Dancers perform traditional native dances. We'll also get the opportunity to participate in a community cookout.

Dates & Prices

We'll be going one of the following 2 weeks:

June 30-July 5, 2019 (\$484.00)

July 14-19, 2019 (\$554.00)

There is an application for all teens (and interested adult leaders) that needs to be filled out by **Dec. 7**. This application was emailed to all families in the form of a Google Form link.

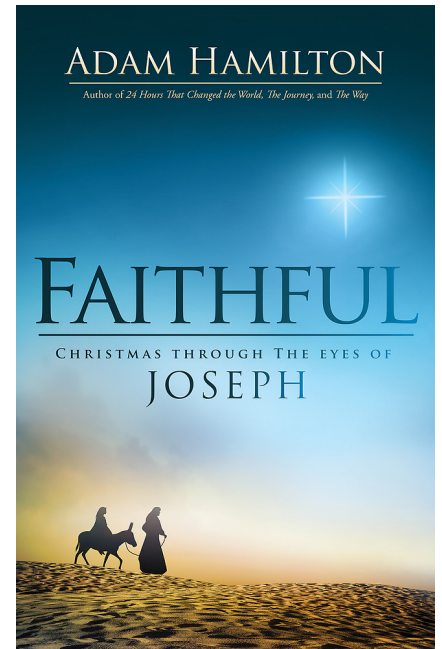
Please prayerfully consider if you'd like to be on this mission trip. Events like these are monumental faith milestones!

Youth Group in December

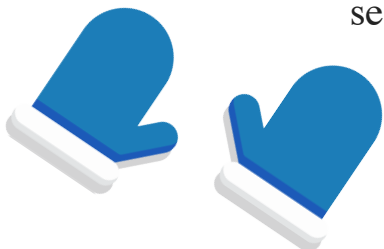
This Advent season, our high school youth are using a devotion called "Seeing Christ in Christmas." This devotional guide offers a chance for our teens to reflect on the major themes of Christ's birth: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

All-Congregation Advent Read

This year we will read: **Faithful: Christmas Through the eyes of Joseph**, by Adam Hamilton. This book will help us explore and imagine the ways in which Joseph impacted Jesus childhood and young life. Copies are available in our gathering space. Suggested donation is \$10/book. Discussion during Adult Forum will begin TODAY at 10am.



“Follow the Star - Advent Festival for Families” will be happening Sunday, December 2 from 3-5pm. Join us for a story, crafts, games, and goodies. Fun for all ages as we kick-off the season of Advent.



Preschool

December 2018

November is a month to celebrate the harvest and recognize the ways God cares for us. In preschool we talked about what the harvest is and how grateful we are to have delicious food to eat. We tried making our own snack with the Noah's Ark story. We created an edible ark with animals and a rainbow. They were delicious, and a bit messy- perfect.



The preschool's November "Love Your Neighbor" project included Spirit of Joy's "Food on the Fourth Collection" for Feeding South Dakota. Preschool children shared non-perishable food items during the month. The bin was overflowing and very heavy. Thank you!

We also practiced a block prayer to say thank you for a special blessing that particular day. It was fun to see the blocks stack up as we said thank you to God- a real measure of gratitude.



Special visitors came in November, giving us another reason to be grateful. Thank you to Miss Jennifer Lunder for teaching us about belly breathing and feelings. The bubbles are very fun! Also, thank you to Mr. & Mrs. DeBoom for reading with us on Wednesdays. The library is a fun room to visit. We even get to choose our own books! We are so happy these new friends were able to share their time with us.

We would love to have a visit from you as well! Do you have a hobby or job that you would like to share? Maybe a fun science experiment or craft with a wintry theme? Call or email the preschool office for more information or to share your idea. (333-2004 or amycauble@spiritofjoy.net)

We hope to see you soon! -Miss Amy & SoJ Preschoolers

Spirit of Joy Preschool Christmas Sing is approaching and we would like to invite you!

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with Christmas songs sung by preschoolers followed by cider and cookies in the SoJ Gathering Space. We hope to see you here. Merry Christmas!

Thursday, December 20 10:15-11:00 am

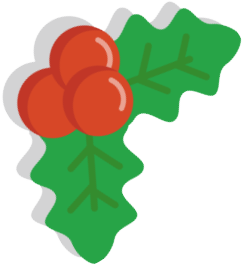
T, Th Class and PreK

Spirit of Joy Gathering Space

Friday, December 21 10:15-11:00 am

M, W, F Class

Spirit of Joy Sanctuary & Gathering Space



Our preschoolers are very smart. One day we were reading a story about a huge pumpkin. There was a contest to grow the biggest pumpkin. Two friends worked together to help it grow, but how could they move it to the contest? Here are a few answers to the dilemma:

1. "Ask a *giant* to carry the *giant* pumpkin."
2. "Wonder Woman could come and pick up the giant pumpkin."
3. "I would bring the contest to the house where the pumpkin grew instead."

Clever solutions. Well done, kids!

Coming in January –
Registration for Fall 2019
preschool! Watch your
newsletter, bulletin, and kiosk
for information. We hope you
can join us!

Preschool classes will be off for the
Christmas and New Year holidays
December 24-January 2.

We wish you a warm, wonderful
Christmas with family and friends. See
you on Thursday January 3 & Friday 4.



Hospitality/Outreach/Communications

Bridges at Horace Mann Thanksgiving Cards

Thanks to the craftiness of SoJ ministry partners, and the generosity from our benevolence budget, we gave a beautiful thank you card and a \$5 Scooters gift card to each staff member of Bridges at Horace Mann. Thanks to Michele Vogel and Carole Chell for leading this effort! Horace Mann's principal, Tara Eckstaine, said the cards arrived at just the right time. It has been a difficult fall for the staff. Please keep them in your prayers over this Advent season.



Breakfast at the Banquet—November 16

We served breakfast to nearly 200 of our downtown neighbors on Friday, November 16. Thanks to all who participated!



December 2018 Sunday Servants

Date	Time	Ushers	Holy Communion	Greeters	Readers
2	8:45	Tom & Peggy Arnoldy	Dennis & Mary Tranberg	Cheryl Zell & Kae Butler	Choir
	11:00	Tim & Erika Hazlett	Jared & Kim Ducommun	Mike & Vicky Dix	Choir
9	8:45	Craig & Ronda Samuelson	Charles & Judy Berdahl	Dorothy Merchant & Arlene Drew	Roger Noew
	11:00	Ken & Rita Karels	Amy Orr & Tracy Dahl-Webb	Marsah Kadlicek & Gina Cole	Michelle Stanek
16	8:45	Gregg & Peggy Van Meter	Jeremy & Theresa Fischer	Marilyn & Tom Gannon	Stacey Buchholz
	11:00	Corey & Kelly Ballew	Mark & Julie Johnston	Sue & Jim McAdaragh	Lawrence Gruseth
23	8:45	Ken & Star Munch	TBD	Lori Tripp & Beth Kastl	TBD
	11:00	Aaron & Heather Johnson	Byron & Terese Hammerstrom	Char Sorum	Tracy Dahl-Webb
30	9:00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Date	Sunday Hosts
2	Emily Learning, Deb Nelson, Nilah Adams
9	Dorothy Merchant, Elaine Frary, Suzanne DeBoom
16	Ruth Syverson, Sharon Peterson, Ann Engebretsen
23	Char Sorum, Alison Sundall, Ann Engebretsen
30	Peggy Van Meter, Deb Nelson, Erika Thedens

Date	Offering Counters
2	Kevin Kittams, Rick Lundberg, Eric Backstrom
9	Gregg Van Meter, Ken Munch, Diane Buckhouse
16	Julie Johnston, Tom Gannon, Shelly Wittrock
23	Jared Ducommun, Tracy Dahl-Webb, Gary Huber
30	TBD

Date	Monday Meals on Wheels
3	Ruth Strandjord & Wilma Estes
10	Daryl & Sharon Sopko
17	Eric Haugland
24	Gary & Suzanne DeBoom
31	Maris & Dick Hauger

December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 10:00am-Little Lambs 11:00am-Worship 2:00pm-Necessities for Neighbors @ Peace Lutheran 3:00pm-Advent Festival		5:30pm-Social Single 6:15pm-Evening Book Club (Royal Fork) 6:30pm-Ministry Resources Mtg. 7:00pm-Preschool Advent Mtg	10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-Harp & Holden Evening Prayer Worship 7:00pm-Education 7:15pm-Choir 8:00pm-HS Youth Group	6:30am-Men's Bible Study @ Fryn' Pan on W. 41 st St. 7:00pm-College/Military Christmas Card Assembly		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 11:00am-Worship 2:00pm-Den Mtgs. 6:30pm-Troop Mtg.		6:00pm-Growth Team Mtg. 6:30pm-Building Team Mtg.	10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-Harp & Holden Evening Prayer Worship 7:00pm-Education 7:15pm-Choir 8:00pm-HS Youth Group	6:30am-Men's Bible Study @ Fryn' Pan on W. 41 st St. 6:30pm-Boy Scouts Pack Mtg. 6:30pm-Leadership Team Mtg.		1:00pm-Scouts Pack Mtg.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 11:00am-Worship 3:00pm-Sprouts & Faith 5 Christmas Program		6:00pm-Hospitality Team Mtg.	10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-Harp & Holden Evening Prayer Worship 7:00pm-Education 7:15pm-Choir 8:00pm-HS Youth Group	6:30am-Men's Bible Study @ Fryn' Pan on W. 41 st St. 10:15am-Preschool Christmas Program	10:15am-Preschool Christmas Program	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 11:00am-Worship 30 9:00am-Worship	3:00pm-Worship w/special gift for children 5:00pm-Candlelight & Carols Worship 7:00pm-Candlelight & Carols Worship 31 Happy New Year Spirit of Joy Closed	Merry Christmas! Spirit of Joy Closed	Spirit of Joy Closed		Year-end gifts due by noon.	



Christmas Eve Worship Times

3:00pm
Worship w/special gift for children

5:00pm
Candlelight & Carols Worship

7:00pm
Candlelight & Carols Worship



This month's Evening Book Club will meet at the Royal Fork for a Christmas party at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 4th. We are reading the short book, "Maggie's Miracle" by Karen Kingsbury. Anyone is welcome to join us, whether you have read the book or not.

Thanks!

