



# W I N D S W E E P T

## Faith: the gap between readiness and reality

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” – Psalm 27:1*

“So are you ready?”

It’s a question Jon and I are asked often these days, while the birth of our first child is imminent.

The answer is no.

We’re reading books, collecting nursery items, and getting paperwork in order. But we’ll never be fully ready. I’ll never be fully prepared for the moment of childbirth (or, perhaps more accurately, the many moments of childbirth). We’ll never be ready for the ways our lives will change after our child’s birth.



These days I’ve often thought about a poignantly similar conversation I once had.

I was sitting with someone whose spouse was dying. Knowing their beloved’s death was imminent, the spouse said, “I will never be ready.” They would never be ready for the moment of death, nor would they be ready for the ways life would change after that moment.

And so it is with major changes in life, whether the changes are welcomed or not, whether the changes bring sadness or joy: birth, death, new homes, new jobs, new relationships. None of us can ever be fully prepared.

And yet, it’s into those spaces—those gaps between readiness and reality—where faith comes in. And at such times, faith can take different shapes and sounds. Faith may sound like claiming the words of Psalm 27:1—“The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?” Faith may taste like bread and wine. Faith may sound like the chime of a text from a caring friend. Faith may look like children and adults praying together for the people and animals of Australia.

In faith communities like ours, one of the greatest gifts we can offer is to step into those gaps for one another and for the world: to offer the words and presence of God, who meets us in the uncertain spaces between readiness and reality.

As Jon and I march through these final weeks of preparation for our child’s birth, I am so grateful for the ways you are surrounding us with care and encouragement. Thank you for the words and gifts and prayers for our child and for us. You are helping to fill our gap between readiness and reality.

May God meet you in the space where you currently reside: whether chugging along in your routine, or facing an uncertain future in any way. May the Holy Spirit give you faith to fill the gap.

God’s peace,  
Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask

spiritofjoy.net

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# Financials Through December 31

## Checking Account:

General Fund	\$67,913.51
Building Fund	\$91,372.21
Donor Restricted	\$635.40
Sunday School	\$1,671.36
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

## Savings Accounts:

Building	\$627,949.51
Donor Restricted	\$69,657.26
Total Cash Balance	\$863,786.50

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$639,477.08
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$642,791.71
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry.	(\$3,314.63)

	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019
Worship Attendance	2090	2087	2233
General Offering	\$104,635.84	\$77,010.81	\$53,985.65
Building Offering	\$33,143.33	\$34,723.57	\$120,436.78

# Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2020

## I. Unfinished Business

- A. Updates to personnel policy – maternity leave (6.3) – Action deferred until more information can be obtained.
- B. Benefit options for full-time non-rostered employees (5.4) – Action deferred until more information can be obtained.

## II. New Business

- A. Annual Winter Congregational Meeting  
Agenda – The meeting will be held between services on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Items on the agenda include: ministry reports, Spirit of Joy revised constitution, Synod Assembly delegates, and nomination committee. Lori Tripp moved to accept the agenda items with second by Jodi Hanson. The motion carried.
- B. Election of Executive Committee – This committee primarily handles personnel issues. Darlene Weber-Scott and Ron Risty are on the committee due to offices held on the Leadership Team. Jodi Hanson and Lori Tripp each volunteered for a one-year term on the committee. Michelle moved to accept with second by Ron Risty. The motion carried.
- C. New Church Management Software: Tithely – Brad Tams led a discussion about the Tithely app that offers many features currently offered by other products in use at Spirit of Joy, including but not limited to: push notifications, sign-up forms, electronic giving. Tithely is recommended by the synod.
- D. Shetek Representative Visit for Building on the Foundation Campaign – A representative would like to schedule 15 minutes to discuss their capital campaign with the Leadership Team. A meeting will be scheduled during March 2020.
- E. January Benevolence: Jodi Hanson moved to make the following benevolence payments with a second by Brad Tams. The motion carried.
  - A. The Banquet – per invoice
  - B. Community Outreach – \$500
  - C. Lutherans Outdoors and Shetek - \$1000 each
  - D. Lutheran Church in Nicaragua - \$1000

# What's happening this month



It's almost Valentine's Day! Parents of college, university, tech school, and military young people will gather Thursday, February 6, at 6:30pm to assemble Valentine cards and packages for our kids. Please plan to attend so the task is light! Any changes in mailing address can be sent to Deacon Katherine at [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net).



Sunday Forums in February will highlight God's Work. Our Hands. On February 9 we will learn about the Young Adults in Global Mission from SoJ partner Samuel Eisele. Samuel was a YAGM in 2010-2011 in Mexico City. Come and hear his story. On February 23 we will learn of ministry among immigrants on our southern border. Participants in February forums will receive a booklet highlighting the work of our ELCA locally, nationally, and globally. Join us at 10am in the Galilee Room. (Note there will be no forum February 2 due to the annual meeting, and no forum on February 16 which is President's Day weekend.)



NEW Bible Study: Starting February 20 and 21 we will begin a six-week study on the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. You may gather either Thursday evenings at 6:30pm or Friday mornings at 9am. Materials will be provided, but plan to bring your Bible. No Bible experience required. Just come! You may also sign up in the gathering space to indicate your preference of day/time. Contact Deacon Katherine Eisele with questions: [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net).



How can we teach our children to pray? We have a special milestone every year for our kindergarten children and their parents. This year we will meet Saturday, February 29, from 9-10:15am. We'll have fun learning about the places and ways we pray. Watch for your invitation in the mail! Each child will receive a special hand-made prayer pillow to bring home.



High School Parents: SoJ college/tech school scholarship applications are now online at [www.spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://www.spiritofjoy.net/signups). Find criteria and more info on the website. Deadline March 4, 2020.

# Ministry Moments

## The Banquet West - January 15



This past month Spirit of Joy partners gathered at the Banquet West at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. The Banquet and Banquet West are feeding organizations in Sioux Falls dedicated not only to the nourishing of bodies with food, but also nourishing persons with the gift of community and conversation.

The group of 25 SoJ partners was welcomed warmly by the staff, and then eagerly joined in the work of serving the meal and sitting with guests for conversation. Of the SoJ group, half were young people who enthusiastically participated. The Banquet West's new location on Marion Road is set to open on March 9, which will serve evening meals Monday through Friday.

## Anniversary of Baptism Milestone - January 12

And we rejoiced! Some of God's little ones remembered their baptisms on Sunday, January 12! "Let your light so shine before others that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." We thank God for these children and their parents and sponsors!



# BeFriender Ministry

Partners of Spirit of Joy,

On Sunday, December 8, four partners of Spirit of Joy were commissioned as BeFrienders. The new BeFrienders, Shirley Bauer, Deb Nelson, Lynn Risty, and Lori VanBalleyoogen join those who were commissioned last year: Sandy Ellingsen, Marilyn Gannon and Elaine Frary. These BeFrienders completed the training on how to be a listener. They know that, "Sometimes you just need to talk about something, not to get sympathy or help, but just to kill its power by allowing the truth of things to hit the air."

There are many times in our lives when we need someone to just to hear a concern and the pain we are feeling. It's those feelings that wake us up at 3:00am and stay with us. You can call a BeFriender to talk this out; to say it aloud. BeFrienders are trained to listen. You will be able to talk it out; look at it, and let the power of that concern lessen.

We all deal with losses in our lives. Moving from your home, death of a loved one or divorce, retiring, loss of a job, dealing with an illness, caregiving and more. Every one experiences these losses differently. Often when we are permitted to share the pain, the loneliness, the load we carry; then that pain, that loneliness, that load becomes lighter. A BeFriender visit is a confidential visit.

BeFrienders are ready to listen, to allow you to tell your story and help you lighten your load. Ask for a BeFriender to meet with you and share a cup of coffee.

Linda Beckman, Coordinator

BeFrienders being commissioned:

Lori VanBallegooyen

Shirley Bauer

Deb Nelson

Lynn Risty

BeFrienders commissioned previously

Sandy Ellingsen

Elaine Frary

Marilyn Gannon

Char Sorum



# Meet our new partners!

Meet the newest ministry partners of Spirit of Joy! Please make an effort to continue welcoming these persons into our community of faith. We asked them, "Why Spirit of Joy?"



**Rachel Barclay & Tyler Clarkson**  
"We felt welcomed from the start."



**Caitlin, Chris, & Eleanor Hamstra**  
"Spirit of Joy is welcoming and inclusive and is a place we feel the Spirit of God through stability and bold service."



**Jeff, Michelle, Madeline, Ellysia, Claire, Sophia, Owen, & Flynn McElroy**  
"Welcoming to our entire family."



**Mike, Jenny, Jacob, Sam, & Jonah Knuth**  
"SoJ has always felt like home. So welcoming and energetic and loving."



**Shelli Mattes**  
"I enjoy the smaller setting. Traditional & contemporary service. Very welcoming."

# Building Update

January 2020

January 2020: Journey Construction competitively bids project and hires subcontractors

February 4, 2020: SoJ Building Team meets to receive report of bidding outcomes and consider possible alternates if funding is available

February 20, 2020: SoJ Leadership Team meets to consider any final adjustments to building plan and consider possible finance package

March 2020: Congregation votes on financing with ELCA Mission Investment Fund

## Late March 2020: Groundbreaking!

Early April: Temporary fencing and partitions installed

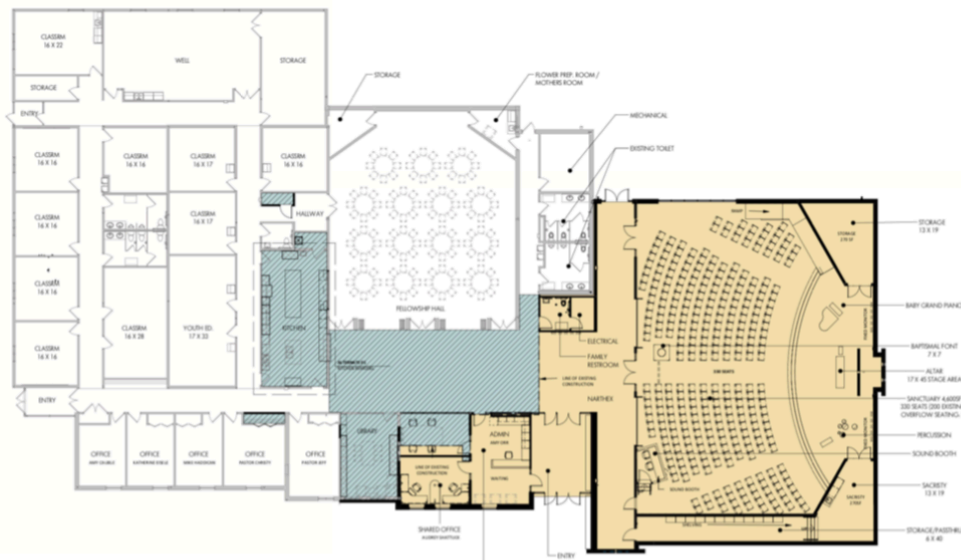
## April 13 (Monday after Easter Sunday): Construction begins!

May-December: Construction of new building and remodeling of current building.  
(This will necessitate the use of the west entrance to our building for much of the spring and summer as our expansion plan includes creation of a new main entrance to the building. Gathering space, sanctuary, kitchen and classrooms will continue to be usable.)

Mid-December 2020: Move in to the new building!\*

## Christmas Eve 2020: Worship in our new worship space!

\*As is the case with any new construction, the timeline will depend somewhat on weather conditions throughout the spring and summer. A really wet spring or summer may mean delays for completion of construction.



# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26

Worship services at 5:30pm & 7:00pm

# WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

March 4 through April 8

5:15pm Soup Supper

6:15pm Lenten Worship Service

# Save the date!



Sunday, June 14-Wednesday, June 17

Preschool-kindergarten 6-7:30pm

1st-5th grade 6-8:30pm