
Windswept

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



WISHING YOU A

*Merry
Christmas*

& A HAPPY HOLIDAY!



FROM THE
STAFF AT SPIRIT OF JOY

New Year's Repentance



I'm going to be early in 2019.
It's my New Year's Resolution.

I want to be one of those people who sits peacefully and preparedly, ready for conversations to begin when the clock strikes start time. In reality I am one of those people who arrives right at said start time or shortly

thereafter, panting, trying to pass the sweat on my brow as a nice winter glow.

Last year I read the book *Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less* by Greg McKeown. McKeown devotes a chapter to “the buffer”—the cushion of time one should consider when planning travel time to an appointment. The buffer includes extra time for potential traffic slow-downs, parking time, etc. I eat buffers for lunch. Before appointments I look at my buffer, look away, and catch up on my correspondence. And do the dishes. And run a few errands.

But no more, I say, in 2019! I want to savor time, not pant through it. I want to be present with any and all conversation partners, not rushed and always muttering “sorry I'm late.”

I'm repenting; that is, turning in a new direction. And there's no better occasion for repenting than a new year.

How might God be calling you to turn in this new year? How might you be called to repent? In what direction would God have you face?

In the early months of 2019, as a congregation and as individual partners we'll discern how God might be calling us in several new directions: into a deeper relationship with Bridges at Horace Mann Elementary School, into a capital campaign and possible building expansion, and more deeply into the biblical narrative through “The Greatest Story” education series, to name just a few possible directions.

We'll turn together into this new year, trusting in God's presence wherever the turning may land us. And trusting in God's grace when we fail in the turning. (My new year's repentance track record isn't good: last year's resolution—to dance every day—lasted about 35 days.)

Know that wherever you may face at the start of this year, God faces you with love and grace.

God's peace,
Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask

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

Financial Report
through
November 30, 2018

Checking Account

General Fund	\$54,694.62
Building Fund	\$11,255.44
Donor Restricted	(\$4,762.36)
Sunday School	\$1,598.54
Preschool	(\$7,289.18)
Reserve Fund	\$44,813.06
Petty Cash	\$200

Savings Accounts

Building	\$106,372.73
Donor Restricted	\$69,514.27

Total Cash Balance	\$276,377.12
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Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$534,743.79
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Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$575,547.52
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Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	(\$40,803.73)
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	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2017	Nov. 2018
Attendance	1547	1560	1551
General Offering	\$39,609.93	\$51,164.30	\$38,079.86
Building Offering	\$9,375.33	\$9,723.33	\$11,255.44

Unfinished Business:

I. Proposed Congregation Constitution Revisions

- I. Leadership Team to include all pastors under call
- II. Absentee Voting

Pastor Jeff met with Bill Tesch from the synod office and Pastor Christy visited with a contact with knowledge in parliamentary procedures and constitutions. The answer to the question on absentee voting is that there is no absentee voting allowed in ELCA constitutions. Any changes made to the constitution, including who has the right to vote at leadership meetings, must be made by a congregational vote. Bill Tesch recommended a revision of a few things in our constitution. The way it is currently written, makes change difficult. A motion was made by Pam Walton to form a task force in the first quarter of 2019 to review the current constitution and submit recommendations for changes to the Leadership Team. Darlene Weber-Scott seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

I. Extra principal payment on current MIF building loan

- I. Rick Lundberg made a motion to use the extra \$4,000 in the building fund to make a principal payment to the Mission Investment Fund. Pam Walton seconded. Motion carried.

II. December benevolence

- I. Pam Walton made a motion to make the recommended benevolence payments. Rick Lundberg seconded. Motion carried.
 - I. \$1,000 to mission support (ILFE)
 - II. \$1,350 to Charis/Mobile Food Bank
 - III. \$1,500 to Mission Partner- Pueblo de Dios
 - IV. \$1,500 to Ayuda (written to the new name of the organization)
 - V. \$1,000 to Mission Partner- Table of Grace
 - VI. \$1,000 to Woyaton paid from Other Benevolence

Prayers of the Church

Healing and strength for:

Jennifer Bergen Gabor, Gloria Winterton, Donna Boyda, Christopher Hagebock, Ron Frary, Kay Wold, Riley Conway, Mike Ryan, Sheila Dovenmuehler, Trish Swanhorst, Mark Wolvington, Jean Schubauer, Jeremy Halstenson, Bruce Boyce, and Janice Kelley

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

- **Morris Patzlaff** and his family as they grieve the death of Morris's mother, **Elsie Patzlaff**
- family, friends and all in our nation who grieve the death of **President George H. W. Bush**

Thanksgiving for:

- the baptism of **Charlotte Paige Baumberger**, daughter of David and Alyssa Baumberger, on Wednesday, December 12
- the gifts of Christmas, especially the Christ Child born for us
- all artists who use their gifts to help us celebrate Christmas and bring beauty to our lives
- those in service and sales industries who offer patient help and assistance

Guidance and encouragement for:

- **government leaders in Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Washington DC**, as they return to work and begin a new year of governing
- **Spirit of Joy children** and **youth** who are learning what it means to follow Jesus
- **seminary students** preparing to serve as leaders in God's Church
- 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**
- police officers, FBI agents, lawyers and judges working to uphold the law
- soldiers and military personnel required to serve away from homes and families this Christmas and at the beginning of the New Year
- the students and staff at **The Bridges at Horace Mann Elementary School**

A Prayer for the New Year

A new year coming and God is with us.

In loving and in carrying, in hoping and expecting,

God is with us and never lets us go.

God live in us, God live with us, God live through us.

God keep us faithful through the days that lie ahead,

God keep us caring in the pain that fills your world,

God keep us serving as we seek to do your will,

God live in us, God live with us, God live through us.

God keep us loving toward neighbors near and far,

God keep us trusting through the uncertainties of life,

God keep us sharing from your generous abundance.

God live in us, God live with us, God live through us. Amen.

-written by Christine Sine, and posted on **Godspace**. <http://godspace-msa.com/>



Faith 5 Update

Thank you to everybody who filled out the evaluations for Faith 5. Being a new program (and a change from previous years), we appreciate that many of our SoJ families have been willing to try new things. The results of the evaluation are in and here are some of our results:

1. Starting early in 2019, we will offer Faith 5 for Preschoolers & Parents that is separate from the Elementary group which remain the same as it has been. This will give the Preschool age kids more focus on story, hands on learning and more intentional time with parents/caring adults. Volunteers will be needed to make this change possible.
2. Some evaluations made note of parents who didn't see the importance of their involvement with their kids. Although parenting is a non-stop, 24/7 role, we believe that most of Faith Formation takes place in the home with the primary caregiver being the #1 faith provider. By being active participants, parents are fulfilling their baptismal promises and bringing their children to the Word, teaching them and nurturing their faith. Faith 5 provides parents with the tools and opportunities to do so.
3. There were quite a few encouraging remarks such as "We love the whole family involvement." and "Fun for kids to lead and read. Group sharing is great! We like that the lessons connect to daily life." Thank you for this encouragement!
4. Attendance concerns was another theme through the evaluations (especially on Sundays). We hope with offering a less intimidating option for Preschoolers (see point #1 above) that this may help somewhat. Additionally, one question for families to consider is "What are you (the families) doing to help improve attendance?" If you've only had the chance to check out Faith 5 once or twice, you should come back to get a better feel for it. If you've been coming frequently this fall, invite another family you haven't seen in a while. Faith Formation is a lifelong, growing experience that takes time, patience and needs the community's support.



Christmas Program - The Christmas Checklist

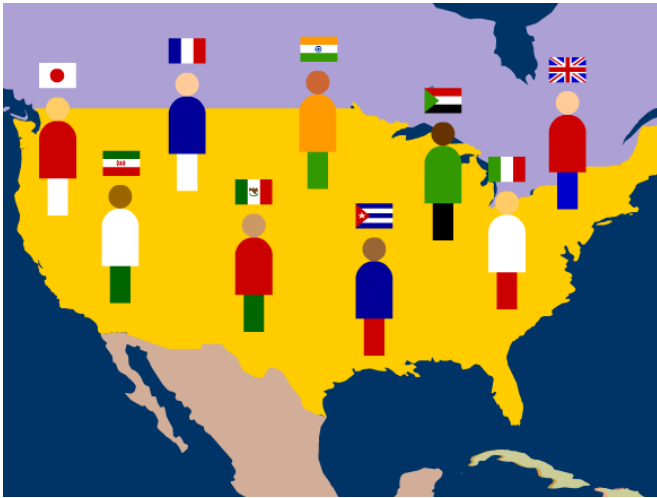
Thank you to all the kids & families who came to *The Christmas Checklist* on Dec.16.

It was a wonderful celebration of the story of the birth of Jesus!

High School Youth Group

In the New Year, we look forward to many things with our teens!

- Wind River, WY Mission Trip
- Taking a closer look at the life of Christ through "Echo the Story"
- Learning to take prayer to a more personal, meaningful and intentional level
- And a lot more random fun that the group



January 20 Forum Guest: Dr. Cari Skogberg Eastman ~ Immigration: Myths and Realities

Immigration has become one of the most contentious and debated topics of our time. Contradictory messages about immigration and its effects have created confusion for those seeking truthful analysis of the issue, leading many to wonder what is really happening and what types of fundamental changes are required to reform a broken system.

In her presentation “Immigration: Myths and Realities” Dr. Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman helps to clarify these questions by addressing many of the common myths and misconceptions about immigration and offering empirical

data to support or deny the veracity of those claims. She also offers communicative strategies that encourage members of faith groups to better listen and hear one another as they move forward together to determine their Christian response to the sojourners among us.

Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman earned her doctorate in communication from the University of Colorado, focusing on immigration issues along the U.S.-Mexico border and how those issues are communicated to a national public. She earned her undergraduate degree from Augustana University and her Master’s Degree from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. Before pursuing her doctorate, Eastman taught Spanish in Spearfish, SD, and in Sioux Falls at Augustana. She has published two books on immigration and is currently researching a third book on censorship and freedom of speech.

Was your baby baptized in 2018?

You are invited to celebrate our 2018 baptized babies, “**Anniversary of Baptism**

Milestone” on **Sunday, January 13**. We will bless your little one in worship (with all the other babies) at either 8:45 or 11:00, then meet between services for a brief time together to meet other families. Watch for your letter of invitation in the mail.



1st Grade Families!

Save the Date for **Holy Communion Instruction** with Pastor Jeff: **Saturday, March 30, 9-11:30 am**. First Communion will be celebrated in worship on Palm Sunday, April 14, but the class will be on March 30. Please plan to attend with your 1st grader!



Sunday Forums resume!

Bible 101, Anyone?

Would you like to explore highlights of the Bible from beginning to end for the first time - or again? Beginning in late January we will launch **The Greatest Story – Bible Introduction**, a 16-week series that offers a great overview of God's story from Genesis to Revelation. No Bible experience is necessary, as we're all learners. Watch for the sign-up in the gathering space. Sessions will be offered **Thursday evenings beginning January 24**, and **Friday mornings beginning January 25**.

Is the Spirit nudging you to try this? We hope so! Sessions will be facilitated by Deacon Katherine, Pastor Christy, and Pastor Jeff. Please contact Deacon Katherine family@spiritofjoy.net with any questions or for more information.



Family Winter Retreat at Joy Ranch!

February 15-17 (Two nights over Presidents' Day weekend) All Spirit of Joy partners are invited to get away to beautiful Joy Ranch for a weekend of hot cocoa, cozy fireplaces, GREAT food, sleigh rides, games, lovely private rooms with private baths, and time together to get to know other Spirit of Joy families. Family is defined as everyone – so singles, empty-nesters, grandparents, ALL, are welcome to come. There's still room for you. Visit the display in the Gathering Space and contact Deacon Katherine with any questions.

family@spiritofjoy.net

DID YOU KNOW IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL ALREADY? YES, REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2019.

Come for a visit after worship!
SoJ Preschool Open House & Registration
Sunday, January 6, 11:00am-12:30pm

We encourage partners and friends of all ages to attend. Explore the classroom, play with the toys, and visit with Amy Cauble, teacher and director. All are welcome: invite preschool friends to come for a tour! We would love to meet them.

Fall 2019 Preschool registration will be open for the community **Monday, January 14.** (Registration for partners and currently enrolled students is available now.) Stop by the preschool table in the gathering space for brochures and registration information or visit the preschool webpage: www.spiritofjoy/preschool. SoJ Preschool also has a referral program. Information and details at the registration table. Scholarships, sibling, and partner discounts available.
Spirit of Joy Preschool: Caring Community, Active Learning, Faithful Hearts



SoJ Preschool's Apple- a- Day Donation Chart! Share a snack.

If you would like to share a snack with preschoolers, watch for the large apple posters located in the gathering space. Simply grab a post-it note labeled with a snack food or paper product, for example "bag of apples" or "5 ounce Dixie cups." Purchase the item and return it to the preschool table located in the gathering space. Thank you for sharing.

Spirit of Joy Preschool Family Movie Night & Open House! All are welcome!

Please join us for our first family movie, pajama night, & Preschool open house on Thursday, January 24, at 6:15pm. Invite your friends to visit our lovely preschool and share in a fun evening of popcorn, pajamas, and a movie in the Well. Families are invited to bring blankets and pillows. See you here! Contact Amy Cauble with questions.



Hospitality/Outreach/Communications

BeFriender Ministry update

BeFriender Ministry is here! Six Spirit of Joy partners completed a 12-hour training on the art of listening and are actively serving as BeFrienders to partners in our congregation. These BeFrienders are available to partners of Spirit of Joy who are facing a variety of losses: dealing with grief, celebrating the holidays after a death of a loved one, getting settled in a new situation such as retirement, an illness, new baby, etc. Each BeFriender has signed a commitment of confidentiality. We are blessed to have these partners who are accessible to you if you want to talk with someone, to tell your story, and/or to verbalize their concern simply by calling the office or contacting one of the pastors or BeFriender leaders:

Linda Beckman

605-759-4663

linda.beckman2@gmail.com

Susan Edwardson

605-310-2737

sfmoedwardson_13@msn.com



Become a mentor at Bridges at Horace Mann

Spirit of Joy has entered in to a partnership with Bridges at Horace Mann Elementary School. Our goal is to support teachers, students, and staff as part of our focus on relational (person-to-person) ministries.



One of the greatest needs for Horace Mann students is a one-on-one relationship with a caring adults. We would like you to consider being one of those caring adults by mentoring students at the school. In our Advent congregational read *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* the author Adam Hamilton notes that “Joseph was chosen to care for, protect and raise a child who was not his own [...] so the Messiah could grow up and save His people.” Hamilton calls us to act in the spirit of Joseph and help care for and build up children who are not our own, and experience the joy that comes in helping them!

For more information on mentoring at Horace Mann, please contact Carole Chell at 605.690.4012 or carolechell@yahoo.com.

Share some SoJ Radical Hospitality

Consider becoming a Sunday morning greeter in the New Year! Help our guests and ministry partners feel noticed and welcomed when they walk in our doors. To sign up, contact Lori Tripp at ltripp83@alliancecom.net or 605.366.7834.



January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05
		Happy New Year! SoJ Closed.	No Evening Worship or activities	Preschool resumes		
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 10:00am-Little Lambs 11:00am-Worship		7:00pm-Preschool Advisory Team Mtg.	10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-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-Den Mtgs.		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 10:00am- Anniversary of Baptism Milestone 11:00am-Worship 2:00pm-Den Mtgs.			10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-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.		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 11:00am-Worship			10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-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.		
27	28	29	30	31		
8:45am- Worship 10:00am-Education 11:00am-Worship Noon-New Partner Discovery Class			10:00am-Staff Mtg. 6:15pm-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.		

*Keep an eye out for the Sunday Servants email!