



*Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church*

# W I N D S W E P T

I strongly disliked lettuce salad as a child. My mom was a stickler for eating vegetables. She was a gifted special education teacher, trained and experienced in the art of being calm, persuasive, and handling challenges. Through her example and her persuasiveness, I learned the importance of salad, and I try to eat plenty of vegetables. She helped me to adjust my pallet. Today, I am grateful...even if as a kid I was bitter about eating those junky vegetables.

Often our pallets need to be adjusted, for our own good and for the good of our neighbor. Often we limit ourselves to what we're used to, and this can be to our disadvantage and even more so to the disadvantage of others around us.

The Holy Spirit disrupts our lives, not in a way to break us, but instead to expand our pallets to the wonderful, healthy, beautiful things around us, and to use us as instruments of the same, good things.

This pandemic messed up our lives in many ways, especially for those who have lost jobs or had loved ones suffer or die. Our world is not the same as it was 3 months ago, and it will never fully be the same.

At the risk of minimizing the hardships of the pandemic, it has also given us pause to reflect on what is important. And, maybe it has given us enough pause to acquire some new tastes; things that are meaningful and good for ourselves and for others. Because we have become accustomed to things that may not be good or helpful. Things like: over-scheduled calendars, spending money on things we don't really need instead of giving more away to ministries and charities, forgetting about our neighbor who lives alone. We have even become accustomed to genuine brokenness, like racism (I write this in the wake of yet another wrongful death of an African American person, George Floyd).

Our pallets need adjustment, and to realize the gifts of the Holy Spirit. She is disrupting our lives in good, meaningful ways; and she is persistent and persuasive. She directs us forward to love others, expanding our hearts and minds in many, mysterious ways.

I forgot to tell you that my mom was stubborn, too. She didn't give up easily. And, she was faithful in prayer, striving to be open to the Spirit's work in her life. And, the Spirit used her to shape me in many ways (much more than just my salad consumption). She taught me to remember and care for the vulnerable, to be an instrument of God's love.

I'm personally still a work in progress, and always will be. But, I enjoy salads much more than I used to, and I better understand their importance for my health and how I live in the world.

May this season after Pentecost, even in the midst of a global pandemic, be a time for us to realize the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and world. The Spirit is alive, disrupting our lives in meaningful ways, persuasively refining our pallets for the sake of ourselves and for the sake of our neighbors.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor Jon Splichal Larson



# Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

The Ascension of Our Lord, May 21, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.

## I. Unfinished Business

### A. Building Expansion

1. Pay Application #2 May 2020: Darlene Weber-Scott presented the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-020). Brad Tams moved and Lori Tripp seconded to approve the payment of \$375,465.81. Motion carried.
  2. Church Sign Location: Brad Tams will attend the construction meeting to discuss any barriers to sign placement.
  3. Parking Lot: Darlene Weber-Scott presented information on three options to fix the existing parking lot and to add additional parking spaces. Discussion followed. The Leadership Team would like additional options for parking to improve traffic flow and so garden spaces are not lost. Will request additional options before going forward.
- B. Mission Investment Fund Loan Update: Amy Orr has initiated paperwork to have the liability insurance rewritten. Darlene Weber-Scott and Michelle Stanek will be signing the promissory note in the near future.

## II. New Business

### A. Summer Building Use Requests

1. Community summer school: Discussed request for use of the building in June and July for a summer reading camp. Due to the current renovation of the existing building, as well as concerns about procedures related to COVID-19 (sanitizing, etc.), the Leadership Team recommended denying the request for this summer, but welcome community requests in the future.
  2. Family Events/Gatherings: Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will follow recommended COVID-19 procedures in place at that time.
- B. Summer Worship Guidelines and Options: Prior to the meeting, Pastor Jeff e-mailed links to several documents that discussed guidelines for returning to onsite worship. Until it is safe to do that, other more interactive ideas, while still physically distancing, were discussed including having a parade on Pentecost Sunday and parking lot worship services. The Pastors and several members of the leadership team will contact others in the area to learn more about the details in providing this type of worship. Having the parking lot under construction may alter the timeline. The Leadership Team will begin planning for Fall 2020 in June.
- C. May Benevolence: Brad Tams moved and Sarah Manthey seconded the make the following benevolence payments. Motion carried.
- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Community Outreach        | \$ 500                    |
| b. ELCA World Hunger         | \$1000                    |
| c. Pine Ridge Retreat Center | \$1000                    |
| d. The Banquet               | \$1000                    |
| e. Bridges at Horace Mann    | Per receipt (about \$650) |

## IV. Meeting Review and Lord's Prayer: The meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer.

Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 pm.

# Faith Formation This Month



## Coming Soon...

Are you and your family looking for meaningful faith formation activities this summer? If so, watch for more information coming soon about Compassion Camp! Compassion Camp is an at-home VBS program that you can do at your own pace - whether every night for a week of five rainy afternoons this summer. More details are coming soon!

(Spirit of Joy will NOT be holding a traditional in-house VBS this summer.  
We look forward to seeing you again in person this fall!)

# Ministry Moments

## Book Study

Did you know?...

Some Spirit of Joy partners and friends have been meeting (via ZOOM) to explore the book, “Trains, Jesus, and Murder – the Gospel According to Johnny Cash” by Richard Beck. Some of us were more familiar than others about the “Man in Black” and his music, but we’ve all come to appreciate his body of work and the ways he stood with and for the marginalized and oppressed. Here are a few quotes from your friends in the study:

One thing we’d like you to know about Johnny Cash:

*“The ‘Man in Black’ was the king of solidarity.” Dena B.*

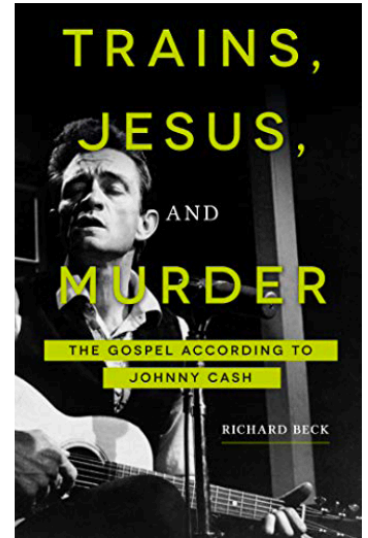
*“He stood in solidarity with the incarcerated. A paradox of saint and sinner.” Judy C.*

*“The Gospel according to Johnny Cash [can be summed up as] God ‘walking the line’ for us.” Deb S.*

*“I did not realize how many of his songs advocated for the underprivileged and underserved. He learned about people, listened to their stories, and provided a voice.” Amy C.*

*“His songs were written about and sung to those people on the margins. Despite his own brokenness, Cash had a deep faith in a God who never lets us go.” Mary T.*

*“The gospel according to Johnny Cash is about grace for the poor and hungry, addicts and inmates, veterans and blacks and native Americans, and all of us who don’t always “walk the line.” A special thanks to Deacon Katherine Eisele for enhancing and enriching this gospel study with songs by Johnny Cash himself.” Dave Kupka*



### Spirit of Joy’s High School Graduation Milestone

was celebrated in a new way this year! Our whole congregation was represented by Pastor Jeff, Pastor Jon, and Deacon Katherine who visited our seniors and their families to present them with a blanket and blessing. We thank the women who helped in the blanket-making: Maris, Shirley, Mary, Melody, Adeline, Katherine, Amy, Brook, Jacey, Alexa, Sarah, and Morgan. Bless you!

We congratulate ALL our grads, both college, grad school, and high school.

This year’s high school graduates were Breanna Arnoldy, Megan Brown, Abbielle Carolan, Nathan Dokken, Dylan Hage, Tyffani Hanson, Hunter Kadlecik, Adam Kusler, Aaron Kusler, Hope Lane, Kimora Miller, Emma Odney, Jordyn Osmond, Julia Sanderson, Shawn Stanek, Kylee Winseman, Carson Wittrock, and Thomas Woitzel. God’s blessings to you as you step forward into the future. God is with you!

Stay tuned for an upcoming YouTube video (on Spirit of Joy’s YouTube channel) that will showcase all the photos of students and families who participated in our traveling blankets and blessings.



# Greetings from your preschool!

It is hard to believe the third year of SoJ Preschool is actually over. There is always something new and exciting happening at preschool, time flies! It was an action-packed year beginning with neighborhood tornadoes and ending with a pandemic and distance learning. But even more exciting was getting to know 15 young preschoolers as they met new friends, learned about the world, and explored their faith.

We are grateful for the opportunity!

Thank you for the many ways you have supported the children as they began this new chapter in their short lives as reading buddies and breakfast servers; sharing hobbies, decorating trees, sharing snacks and toys; musicians and dessert bakers at Music and Mocha... to name just a few! We look forward to sharing time together with you again next year. (And I am grateful to be a part of it again next year as well! Thank you!)

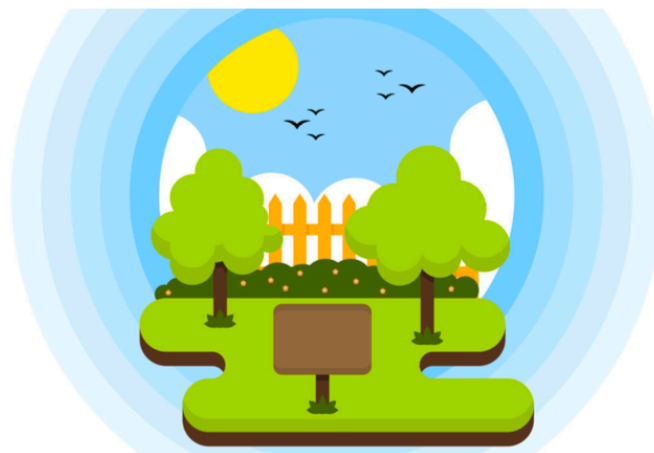


**SPIRIT OF JOY**  
**PRESCHOOL**

There are many students already registered, but we have room for more. All are welcome! Share our webpage, Facebook, and my contact information with those you meet. I would love to tell them about our amazing preschool.

Be well and have a safe summer. -Amy Cauble

Facebook: [spiritofjoypreschool](https://www.facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool) Email: [amycauble@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:amycauble@spiritofjoy.net) [spiritofjoy.net/preschool](http://spiritofjoy.net/preschool)



## SoJ friends and neighbors-

Would you like to add a little more color to your yard and support the preschool at the same time? For just \$6, you can add a "Proud Supporter of SoJ Preschool" sign to your yard. (24" X 18") Help spread the news about our preschool today! Email Amy Cauble to have your sign delivered, [amycauble@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:amycauble@spiritofjoy.net).

Hello, Spirit of Joy partners!

I'm back! I returned from my maternity leave on Tuesday, May 19.

Jon and I adore our beloved Anja Rose, who is now three months old. These days she smiles and screams with equal passion. We prefer the smiles and are learning how to soften the screams. Usually the solution is diaper-related.



Thank you for the support, prayers, and gifts of many forms for us as we prepared for, and now settle into, life as a family of three (four including Beckman, our mostly-well-adjusted dog).

Back in January I started a list of partners who had offered—sometimes with forceful competition—to hold Anja on Sunday mornings. I grieve that it will be quite awhile until I can take them (you) up on those offers.

Needless to say, I returned to a vastly different job—and a vastly different community—than I left back in February. Like you, I grieve many of those differences. I miss singing with you and passing the peace. I miss accidentally blocking the exit on Sunday mornings because I'm caught in conversation. I miss seeing partners and guests of all ages lined up outside the kitchen window for post-worship treats. I miss bantering with Pastor Jeff during the announcements. I miss serving you the Body of Christ. I miss sitting cross-legged with our preschoolers during chapel time. (Thanks to my third trimester belly, I've been missing the cross-legged aspect of that activity for quite a long time.)

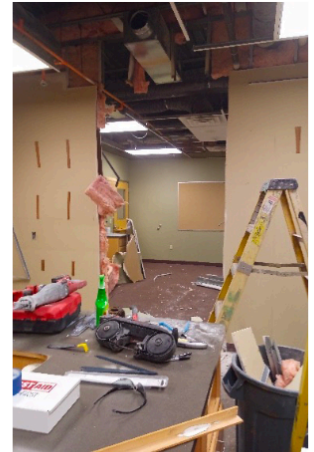
Amidst my grief, I am glad to return to serve alongside you. And I am incredibly proud of our leaders and my colleagues, especially Audrey Shattuck, for the ways they have completely reimaged Spirit of Joy's ministry for this new time. I am honored to join them—and you—in it.

God's peace to you,  
Pastor Christy

# Building Update

We are thankful for the construction workers who are making our building expansion possible.

Special thank you to Dale Schempp for the photos.



## Financials Through April 30

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$70,1554.74
Building Fund	\$28,091.14
Donor Restricted	\$8,475.46
Sunday School	\$1,592.53
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Preschool	\$40.00
Petty Cash	\$200.00

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$717,105.44
Donor Restricted	\$69,658.92
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$899,679.33</b>

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$217,570.97
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$216,132.94
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry.</b>	<b>\$1,616.62</b>

	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2018	Apr. 2019
Worship Attendance	1963	2347	N/A
General Offering	\$55,019.39	\$59,979.26	\$41,534.25
Building Offering	\$12,409.33	\$31,114.44	\$20,048.97

Church App

# Download the TITHE.LY Church App

Then, search for  
(Spirit Of Joy Lutheran Church)



We now have our own app!

Spirit of Joy is always looking for ways to connect with our partners. Through this app you can get all things SoJ right at your fingertips. You can now sign up for events, watch worship services, send in a prayer request, and much more!

Check out the video on our YouTube page showing how to download and install the app.

spiritofjoy.net

605-333-2004

2208 W. LaQuinta St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108