



# W I N D S W E P T

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.  
-Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Here in Spirit of Joy, we have talked often the past several years about God's calling. I hope you have heard how God has called you to live as a Jesus follower in all your particular circumstances: in your family, among your friends, in your daily work, through your church, in your school, neighborhood and city. As Kathleen Cahalan writes in her book *The Stories We Live*, "We find our callings within the stories of our lives—the story of God at work all around us."



This month during the season of Lent we're going to tell stories about some of the ways God shows up at meaningful moments in our lives.

We're calling this Lent series "Callings at the Crossroads." On each Wednesday night in Lent, starting March 4th, we'll be listening to a story from Scripture and stories from partners that will help us see and hear God's calling at challenging times in our lives.

The Crossroads we will travel on the way to the Cross of Good Friday are Reimagining Family, Caught in the Unexpected, Growing Older, Bridging our Divides, and Facing Dead Ends. On each Wednesday evening we hear these stories we will also consider a simple prayer practice to assist our hearing and answering God's call at the crossroads.

Once we set aside our assumptions that God calls only certain super devout disciples, we can begin to hear God calling us, sometimes in a whisper, sometimes with a holler, always to living a life that is not easy but is always permeated with joy and grace.

Pastor Jeff Eisele



March 4: Reimagining Family  
 March 11: Caught in the Unexpected  
 March 18: Growing Older  
 March 25: Bridging Our Dives  
 April 1: Facing Dead Ends

# Financials Through January 31

## Checking Account:

General Fund	\$114,153.73
Building Fund	\$28,027.37
Donor Restricted	\$516.37
Sunday School	\$1,586.69
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

## Savings Accounts:

Building	\$719,321.72
Donor Restricted	\$69,657.26
Total Cash Balance	\$937,823.24

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$94,586.49
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$52,429.73
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry.	\$42,156.76

	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019
Worship Attendance	1575	1511	1711
General Offering	\$104,318.63	\$44,105.16	\$94,586.49
Building Offering	\$8,012.33	\$5,766.33	\$53,838.21

## Garden season will be here be- fore we know it!

The Spirit of Joy Community Garden has several open plots for the 2020 season. If you are interested in gardening please contact Amy Orr at [info@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:info@spiritofjoy.net) or 333-2004 for more info.



# Leadership Team Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2020

## I. Unfinished Business

A. Tithely - Pastor Christy updated info on the Tithely App (Church communications platform) The app would eventually replace our current Simply Giving automated giving system. Brad Tams motioned to approve moving forward with the app. Jodi Hanson second. Motion carries.

B. Benefit Options for full-time non-rostered employees: Portico, (ELCA Pension Plan), or Thrivent. Lori Tripp and Carole Chell will call other churches to see what is offered with the help of an HR person guiding them with questions to ask.

C. Building Expansion Updates- Bids for our project have come in at \$2.74 million which is \$460,000 less than our contract Guaranteed Maximum Price. With cost savings, building team recommends adding kitchen expansion alternate and current corridors update alternate to current plan. Leadership team approved. Building team will continue to consider options for renovating current parking lot and adding new parking spaces.

## II. New Business

A. Discussed financing options for building expansion.

1. Mission Investment Fund
2. Thrivent. Leadership team agreed to let them put together a proposal.

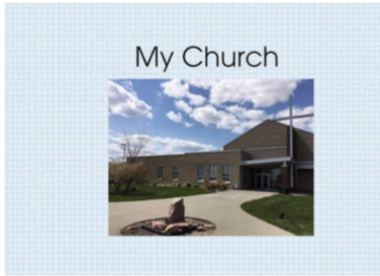
B. Congregational Meeting. A Congregational meeting to vote to approve a financing package will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 10am. Lori Tripp Motioned. Carole Chell second. Motion carries.

C. Benevolence: Ron Risty moved to make benevolence payments to the following. Brad Tams second. Motion carries :

1. Horace Mann Sky Zone Event
2. Kids Against Hunger - \$1,000
3. Missionary support (ILFE) - \$1,000
4. Pueblo de Dios \$2,000

Next Meeting will be held March 19 at 6:30pm.

# Faith Formation This Month



## My Church Milestone

2 year olds and parents – “My Church” Milestone – Saturday, March 21, 9 – 10am. Each child will receive a Shutterfly book that has photos of themselves on each page. My Church teaches children that church is place they are welcomed, loved, and belong.



## Lord’s Prayer Milestone

2nd Graders and parents – Lord’s Prayer Milestone, For ALL 2nd graders. Wednesday, March 25, at 7 pm led by partner Lori Berdahl. We’ll learn more about the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, and why it’s so important to us.



## Holy Communion Instruction

1st Graders and parents – Holy Communion Instruction. Saturday, March 28, 9-11:30am. This is for 1st graders/parents AND any kids who have not yet received instruction. Pastor Jeff will lead this session in preparation for First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 5. Each child will also paint their very own communion chalice.



## “The Jesus I Never Knew”

Six-week Sunday Forum Lenten series will be “The Jesus I Never Knew,” based on the book of the same name by Phillip Yancey. We encourage you to step into the Galilee Room March 1, at 10am to explore the Jesus you may-be never knew. There will be a video component and optional participant guides available.



## Post-Secondary School Scholarship

Last call for 2020-2021 College Scholarships. Deadline March 4. Application and criteria online at [www.spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://www.spiritofjoy.net/signups)



# Ministry Moments

## Pastor Christy's Baby Shower- February 1

The hospitality team held a baby shower for Pastor Christy. There was much laughter and excitement. Many blessings and congratulations to Christy and Jon on their new addition to the family, Anja Rose Hallenbeck-Ask!



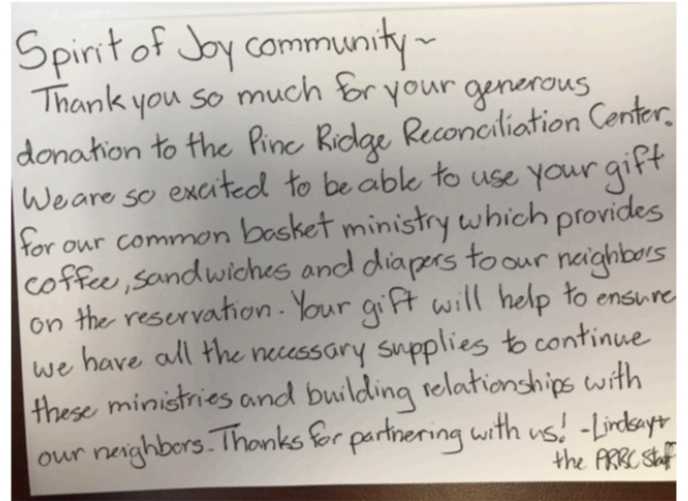
## Family Winter Retreat- February 14-16

Over President's Day weekend 26 partners and friends of Spirit of Joy participated in the 2020 Family Winter Retreat at Joy Ranch. The Bible story for the week was "The Boy in the Temple." We explored the story in Luke 2 about Jesus as a 12 year old – listening and asking questions in the temple. We learned that questions are good and important. And so is listening. AND we had fun with each other, the horses, the snow, the treats, the games, worship, fireplaces, and our families. Thank you, Jesus, for a great weekend together!





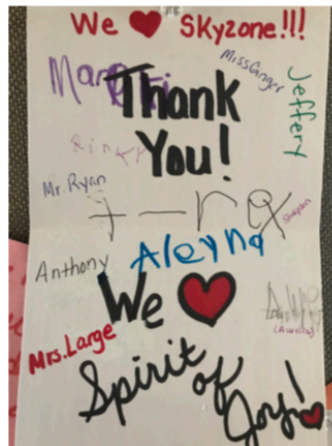
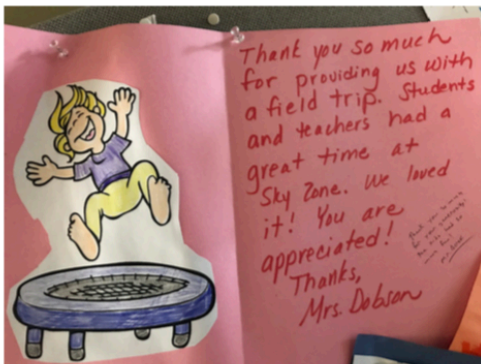
## Thank You from Pine Ridge



A thank you card from the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. Our donation will go towards coffee, sandwiches, and diapers to those on the reservation.

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## Recent Outreach Efforts



On February 7 we co-sponsored a Skyzone event with Westminster Presbyterian Church, for students and staff at Horace Mann.

## Upcoming Outreach Efforts

- Food to You - March 19
  - LSS Taste of Cultures Fundraiser Dinner - April 4
  - Worship at St. Dymas - April 16 (background checks need to be turned in by April 2)
- You can sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups) or in the gathering space.

# BeFriender Ministry

## The Power of Naming – A BeFriender Story

“Why are you so sad?”, my husband asked. I knew I was melancholy, but I really hadn’t named what I was feeling. But naming the emotion was only the beginning. Why was I sad? I began thinking through my life and realized there were several things I regretted that I had never named. But even knowing what the regrets were did not lighten my sadness. I decided I needed to meet with a BeFriender. I knew that what I would tell her would be confidential and I felt safe to name the things that I regretted and feared. As I named them, I realized that some of them had never been named aloud before. I still have moments of sadness, but I feel much lighter. And since I have named them, I find it is becoming easier to let go of the regrets and move on; to forgive myself. All this by naming – first the emotion and then the reasons for that emotion. My BeFriender and I only met once, but I know I can call her for a second meeting.” - Anonymous

If you have an emotion that is gnawing you – sadness, loneliness, fears, regrets - think about contacting a BeFriender (a confidential listener). Often it’s in the naming that helps us move beyond the emotion that is a burden to us. Call the church office to get information on how to contact a BeFriender.



## Women of Spirit Gathering

Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30pm



Understanding Poverty. “All you need is.....” rent, food, utilities, car payment, gas, daycare...and on and on. Come look at the struggles of the people living in poverty. Hear the whys and hows of poverty. Join us for an informative conversation at Women of Spirit. All Spirit of Joy women and friends are welcome to join us.

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.- Matthew 7:12*



# Building Update

## **Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, March 22 at 10am

Spirit of Joy has been working with the ELCA Misson Investment Fund to come up with a financing proposal for our building expansion.

We will consider the proposal at a congregation meeting called by the Leadership Team. One final vote before...



**WE ARE**  
**BreakingGround!**

## **Spirit of Joy Groundbreaking**

for our building expansion

Sunday, March 29th at 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome as we gather around the marked outline of our new building and step into it together with prayers, songs and shovels to dedicate its construction to the glory of God.

*"...for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." - Isaiah 56:7*