



W I N D S W E E P T

O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! --Psalm 71:12

Sometimes the best prayers are the shortest prayers. The prayer above is from a longer prayer in Psalm 71 that asks pointedly for God's protection and hope. There are so many reasons to call upon the Lord these COVID-19 tainted days. Here are some prayers I'm praying for you:

**That you rest in God's grace before you get to "enough"*

No matter how much we do these days, it feels like it is never enough. We cannot get all the work done we need to get done as we work away from the workplace and disconnected from coworkers. We haven't been creative enough or technologically savvy enough to meet the many challenges of our sheltering in place. Parents who have suddenly become full-time teachers never feel like they've invested enough time in teaching or taught their kids enough. We intend to connect more with family members and friends or give more to assist those in need right now, but no matter how much we do there's always one more phone call to make or check to write. Most all of us are doing the best we can in a world we've never experienced before; we'll never get to enough in navigating this strange new world. God's unconditional grace for you in this moment means you have arrived at enough.



**That you know it is legit to lament*

There has been lots of encouragement bouncing around social media during the pandemic to look at the bright side of our lives right now: reminders to look for joy, to remember to be thankful for what you have. It's not bad advice, but only if we're allowed to lament our losses too. We worship leaders hope that you have heard words of hope and encouragement in our worship services and printed devotions. You also need to know that our Living Lord invites your cries of honest lament at a time like this. Yes, my wife and I have stayed healthy these past weeks; but I protest not being able to hold my grandkids, or enjoy a live concert in person, or gather with you in the same room to share the Lord's Supper. So many people have endured so much suffering and death in this pandemic, and, compared to them, I don't have anything to complain about. But all of us have suffered losses large and small, and God invite us to cast those cares on God.

**That we refrain from the blame game*

Several weeks ago I read an editorial by an author who is working on a book about pandemics that he started writing three years ago. One of the things he discovered as he researched past pandemics is that every time this happens, no matter where in the world it happens, a certain percentage of those affected respond by blaming some other, usually a minority, group. People with power and who are in majority groups scapegoat someone else in an attempt to evade responsibility. This time it's the Asians' fault. The immigrants. Those people who didn't do the right thing at the right time. Those who are most vulnerable because of age or health; if it wasn't for them, the economy would be back on track. Take your pick. May you remember that we are all in this together, and the only way through is if we help one another and work together.

O God, make haste to help us! Amen.

Leadership Team Meeting

Thursday, March 31, 2020

I. Unfinished Business

A. Building Expansion

1. Pay Application #1 April 2020: Darlene Weber Scott presented the Application and Certificate for Payment from Journey Group Companies (Invoice #201101-01). Brad Tams moved and Lori Tripp seconded to approve the payment of \$65,461.56. Motion carried.

2. Church Sign Options: Brad Tams presented two options for new signage. The leadership team preferred the sign with the SoJ logo on top and scrolling on the bottom. Discussion followed regarding placement of sign so it will have maximum exposure. No decisions were made at this time.

B. Parking Lot: Discussion followed regarding the location of the parking lot in relationship to the garden spot.

C. MIF Loan Update: Documentation was submitted. Will need to be signed by several members of the leadership team.

D. Preschool Director Search

1. Job Description: The job description was reviewed. Michelle Stanek moved and Jodi Hanson seconded to approve the preschool director job description. Motion carried.

2. Search Directions: The job has been posted in various places. Interviews will be conducted by a team via Zoom.

E. Worship Planning:

F. Summer Sabbatical Change: Pastor Jeff Eisele has decided to postpone his planned summer sabbatical with the uncertainty right now related to the COVID-19 pandemic. There may be need for increased pastoral care until things are better.

II. New Business

A. Adjusted Compensation for Audrey: Audrey has been instrumental in the transition of SoJ programming to the online format. Discussion followed regarding adjusted compensation. Although she is scheduled to work 20 hours per week, she should accurately report the number of hours she works if over 20 hours.

B. SoJ Community Gardens: The leadership team supported opening the gardens this summer. Instructions will be provided to assure social distancing and proper sanitation procedures.

C. April Benevolence: Carole Chell moved and Brad Tams seconded to make the following benevolence pay-

ments. Motion carried.

1. \$1000 St. Dysmas
2. \$ 500 Church on the Street (Laundry With Love)
3. \$ 500 Feeding South Dakota (Other Benevolence Line)
4. \$ 500 Lutheran Church of Nicaragua
5. \$ 500 Corona Help Sioux Falls
6. \$ 500 Community Outreach
7. \$ 275 Lutheran Social Services

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

Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Financials Through March 31

Checking Account:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$74,764.91 |
| Building Fund | \$16,668.30 |
| Donor Restricted | \$6,837.89 |
| Sunday School | \$1,600.53 |
| Reserve Fund | \$4,360.10 |
| Preschool | \$65.70 |
| Petty Cash | \$200.00 |

Savings Accounts:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Building | \$781,628.52 |
| Donor Restricted | \$69,590.65 |
| Total Cash Balance | \$955,736.60 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Year-to-date Income for Ministry | \$176,037.73 |
| Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry | \$170,209.88 |
| Net Income/Deficit for Ministry. | \$5,849.96 |

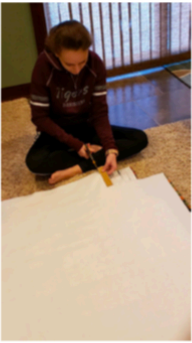
| | Mar. 2017 | Mar. 2018 | Mar. 2019 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Worship Attendance | 1797 | 1836 | N/A |
| General Offering | \$39,576.76 | \$47,971.13 | \$38,734.60 |
| Building Offering | \$7,654.33 | \$7,584.34 | \$16,770.46 |

Faith Formation This Month



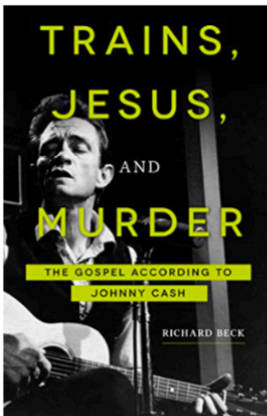
High School Seniors! “Blankets and Blessings- From Spirit of Joy to You”

SoJ seniors and families, we understand how disappointed you are that your last months of high school and your graduation plans have been so disrupted. We want you to know that your church family is praying for you and cares for you.



On the weekends of May 17-18 and May 23-24 we will offer “drive-way-distanced” blessings and deliver the beautiful hand-made blankets to your home. We ask that the high school senior and at least one parent be present. (Note: If you can safely invite grandparents/baptism sponsors to your driveway, we’ll leave that call to you. But please consider safety first.)

Rain or shine, this 10-minute blessing and gift will be a unique and wonderful milestone for you. Watch your email to select your time slot options. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Katherine Eisele at family@spiritofjoy.net



New Book Study!

NEW! Spirit of Joy friends, do you need a fun distraction? How about a new book read? *Trains, Jesus, and Murder – The Gospel According to Johnny Cash* by Richard Beck chronicles the faith and failures of the “Man in Black.”

On Thursdays at 7 pm or Fridays at 9 am (you choose) beginning May 14 or 15 we’ll meet over four weeks (via ZOOM) to explore the life and music of this legend. Please secure your own copy of the book (or e-book) which can be ordered on-line through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Christianbook.com, and Walmart (and maybe others). Prices vary, so do some comparison shopping.

To sign up please go to www.spiritofjoy.net and look for “signups.” Time options will be available. Stay tuned for reading assignments – coming soon. If you do not wish to enter the ZOOM conversations, you are welcome to read it on your own. Questions? Contact Deacon Katherine at family@spiritofjoy.net

Holy Communion Instruction



Did your child miss First Communion instruction this spring? We were unable to hold our March 29 class for kids and parents due Covid-19. We sincerely hope to make this class up this year, but it may depend on our ability to do so safely. If we are not able to make the class up this fall, we will plan to offer it again next spring before Easter. At that time any 1st and 2nd graders (and older children who have not received instruction) will be invited to participate. NOTE: If you and your child are interested in receiving instruction prior to that time, you are invited to contact Deacon Katherine Eisele at family@spiritofjoy.net, or Pastor Jeff Eisele at jeffeisele@spiritofjoy.net to set up a time for conversation. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

We were sure sorry to miss this milestone this year.

Ministry Moments

EXCITING NEWS-Spirit of Joy Preschool
is registering children for Fall 2020!

Caring Community, Active Learning, Faithful Hearts
Daily Kindermusik Curriculum, Hands-On activities in science,
math, literacy, arts, & more.

Build a strong academic foundation for future success.
2, 3, & 4 day classes 8am-12pm Snacks included,
Eat Lunch at preschool.

Do you know someone who would like to join us?
All are welcome!

Visit spiritofjoy.net/preschool for a virtual tour & video; email
Amy Cauble with questions; register online.



SPIRIT OF JOY
PRESCHOOL



SoJ High School Pen Pal program

Traditionally, the main way the Christian church connects people together is in-person gatherings like worship, study, etc. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, we're looking to other means of connection. Some are "new school" including Zoom, YouTube, social media, etc. And, others are more "old school."

A group of high schoolers (with some great guidance from the SoJ Be-frienders Ministry) has decided to do a "Pen Pal" program, connecting with other SoJ partners via written letters. People are craving connection, especially in this time of distance and loneliness. This is one small way we as a congregation can do this, while also connecting generations together.

High School Youth Group

also continues to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings @ 7pm
for Youth Group via Zoom; a great way to stay in touch. A
parent connection group is also forming via Zoom.
Contact Jon Splichal Larson with interest or questions:
jon.spiritofjoy@gmail.com



NECESSITIES FOR NEIGHBORS

Provides household items for friends in need on the first Sunday of every month at 3:00pm. A pantry style distribution of household and hygiene items is offered for those struggling to make ends meet. It takes place at Peace Lutheran Church. Currently we are using a curb side drive up method.

We are asking for your help to continue to provide these items each month. We are collecting donations of toothpaste, deodorant, soap and shampoo. Bathroom size are preferred of travel size.

You can drop your products for donation at Peace Lutheran, First Lutheran, Gloria Dei Lutheran or East Side Lutheran Churches.

You can also support by making a donation on line. Go to the web site www.mobilefoodpantry.org and click on the donation icon on the top line. Our food pantry is closed for the time being so we are using that web site.

Spirit of Joy will be helping distribute Necessities for Neighbors on Sunday, June 7 at Peace Lutheran Church via a drive-through distribution. **We will need 10-15**

volunteers from 2:00-5:00 to set up and serve. You may sign up to help on our website, or by emailing the church office at info@spiritofjoy.net.

Spirit of Joy will also be **collecting toilet paper** for this outreach; toilet paper can be dropped off in our building on Saturdays and Sundays in May from 9:00- noon inside the west door (temporary entrance). Toilet paper can be stacked just inside the door under the coat rack. Thank you for serving!



Sponsored by Charis Ministry Partners, a non-profit organization of 14 Sioux Falls area ELCA Lutheran Churches.

Upcoming Outreach Efforts

- Breakfast at The Banquet- May 15
- Necessities for Neighbors- June 6 & 7

From the Bishop's Desk

May 2020

Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the risen one, the Christ! – Thank you for your faithfulness to Christ's call to love God and neighbor. During this time of pandemic your synod staff faithfully journeys alongside your congregation's ministry. The "Hour of Hope Endowment", for example, has provided the synod with a generous gift, which we quickly converted



Photo provided by ELCA SD Synod

into micro grants for congregations. These grants allowed your congregation to either buy or update your recording equipment to better share the Gospel in times of physical distancing. The synod staff continues to host weekly Zoom briefings with rostered and lay leaders, where we share best practices, answer questions and pass along information, all so that ministry in your congregation can go on. These are just two of many examples of how my staff and I live out the promise to journey together in Christ.

As we look into the future, we are ready to come and "visit" your congregation through a virtual visit, or by recording or transcribing a sermon for your congregation to use. We are working closely with the synod and churchwide's general counsel to assure that congregations and leaders in transition have what is needed to issue a call in times when congregations cannot gather to vote on issuing a call. A task force has been established that will look at best practices and the future direction of how we live out our faith in worship and fellowship, giving special consideration to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We are developing an online resource platform to assist you with congregational ministry when how you do ministry has changed overnight.

Thank you for your continued mission support. Your congregation's financial support is essential to providing strong resources to your congregation's ministry. Thank you!

Journeying with you in Christ,
Bishop Constanze

Building Update

Activity has started to happen to our building. Take a look at what's happening. Special thank you to Dale Schempp for the photos.



Connect with us!

Facebook

This is where you can stay up-to-date on everyday happenings.
Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/spiritofjoylutheran/>

Youtube

You can watch all of our online worship services at:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/SpiritofJoyLutheranChurch>

Constant contact

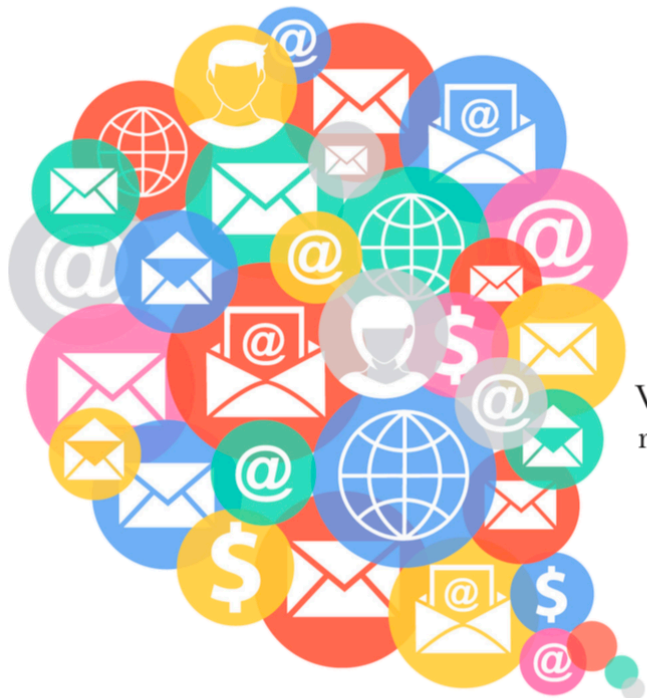
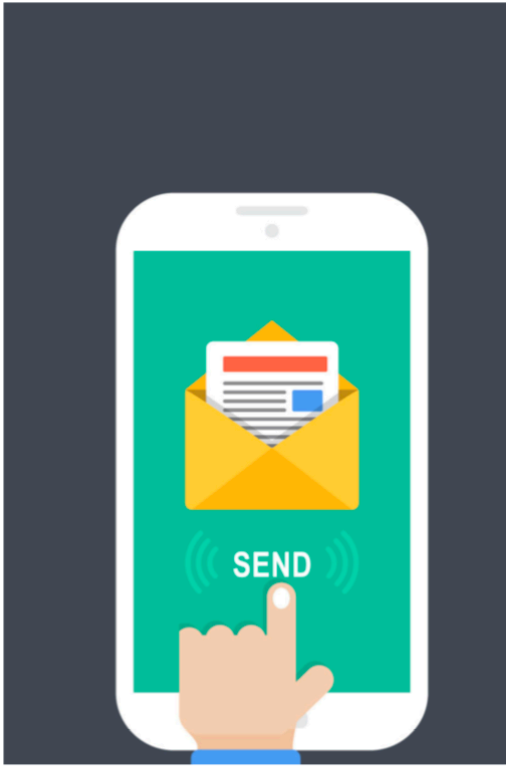
If you, or you know someone, who isn't subscribed to our weekly emails, contact our office manager Amy at info@spiritofjoy.net

Spirit of Joy App

More information coming soon!

Website

Visit www.spiritofjoy.net to see our list of events, sign up for outreach opportunities, listen to the sermons, give online, and much more.



spiritofjoy.net

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