

March 2016

# Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



## What Kept Him There Was Love



Laura Phillips

### The Mission of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church is:

- To **WELCOME** people into a community of followers of Jesus Christ.
- To **GROW** with one another in faith and hope in Him.
- To **SEND** out one another as Jesus' compassionate servants in the world.

We love to hear a story in which the “underdog” somehow manages to make it out on top--it is both heart-warming and exciting! I wonder if Jesus' very first followers could have anticipated how his story would unfold? Jesus had told them that he would suffer—they didn't want to believe it. Jesus told them he would die—they definitely didn't want to believe that. When Jesus did die on the cross, things surely looked grim. What would become of them?

As simple as it sounds, I love to read this story in The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Here is part of it:

*“They nailed Jesus to the cross.*

*“Father, forgive them,” Jesus gasped. “They don't understand what they're doing.”*

*“You say you've come to rescue us!” people shouted. “But you can't even rescue yourself!”*

*But they were wrong. Jesus could have rescued himself. A legion of angels would have flown to his side—if he'd called.*

*“If you were really the Son of God, you could just climb down off that cross!” they said.*

*And of course they were right. Jesus could have just climbed down. Actually, he could have just said a word and made it all stop. Like when he healed that little girl. And stilled the storm. And fed 5,000 people. But Jesus stayed.*

*You see, they didn't understand. It wasn't the nails that kept Jesus there. It was love.”*

In a world in need of hope, peace in the chaos, light in the darkness, and forgiveness of our sin—this truly is the greatest story of the seemingly greatest “underdog” of all! Jesus of Nazareth, who took on *all of our sin* and had suffered on the cross was raised from the dead! Jesus conquers death and sin and in that brings us hope, peace, light and forgiveness! So here we are, once again at the holiest week of the year, where we will remember and rejoice over our Beautiful Savior. The “underdog” is the victor, and the good news is that he won *for you!* LJP

## March Sunday Forums\*

February 28—Reformation Roots resumes with “From Simple to Complex”

March 6 — “Luther’s Legacy”

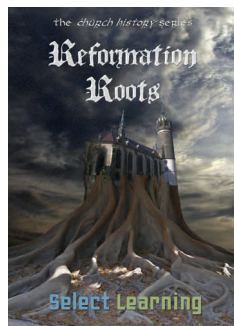
March 13— “The Swiss Reformation”

March 20—”The Radical Reformation”

March 27—Easter Sunday—no forum

We will continue the excellent **Reformation Roots** series to help lead us up to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will resume with Martin Luther and the impact of his life and work, and continue the series through the season of Lent.

This series is a beautiful documentary-quality production. If you are a life-long Lutheran or a new-comer to the Lutheran tradition, you will enjoy learning the roots of ALL our Protestant reformers.



\***Sunday Forums** are for EVERYBODY. They are times of hospitality, a time to ask questions, to challenge conventional wisdom, to grow in faith, and to grow in community with one another.

We meet every Sunday (almost) at **10 am in the Galilee Room**—down the hall & across from the kitchen door.

## Couple Checkup

Beginning Thursday, April 7th  
7 pm

**What couple couldn't use a little tune-up now and then?**

We know that marriage is a great blessing—and also takes a lot of work!



Watch for more information on a **NEW** small group that will incorporate both a private on-line assessment tool for you and your partner, and some follow-up conversations on some of the most common areas of concern or conflict in couple/married life. This tool can be used for those dating, engaged, or married. (And married for 4 months or 40+ years!)

### Why participate?

The Couple Checkup will help couples discover their relationship strengths. Strengths are what enable couples to enjoy and continue developing a healthy relationship. It will also help identify issues that are threatening the vitality of their relationship and may need to be addressed.

We will launch our “Couple Checkup” sessions on **Thursday, April 7th**. We'll meet at 7 pm for one hour. We will plan on 4 to 5 sessions in all.

If you and your spouse, (or if you are engaged, your fiancé, or if you are dating, your dating partner), are interested in strengthening your relationship in this positive, affirming series, please sign up in the gathering space (watch for the display) or you may email [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net)

The book “**The Couple Checkup**” by David H. Olson, Amy Olson-Sigg and Peter J Larson will accompany this series. It contains a personalized on-line code for a reliable, valid, and useful tool for assessing your marriage strengths and weaknesses.

We will be ordering these books as you sign up. Or you may purchase one on your own.

## Financial Statistics Thru December 31, 2015

<b>Checking Account:</b>	
General Fund	\$162,274.82
Building Fund	\$6,826.93
Donor Restricted	\$36,651.41
Sunday School	\$1,046.73
Petty Cash	\$200.00
<b>Savings Accounts:</b>	
Building	\$68,600.94
Donor Restricted	\$79,514.27
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$355,115.10</b>
Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$34,299.39
Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses	\$59,424.25
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	(\$25,122.82)

## Comparing Facts and Figures

	January 2014	January 2015	January 2016
<b>Attendance</b>	1299	1218	1589
<b>General Offering</b>	\$ 30,369.49	\$ 84,766.59	\$ 34,299.49
<b>Building Offering</b>	\$ 11,488.33	\$ 18,938.33	\$ 8,674.33

## Spirit of Joy Information

Pastor: Jeff Eisele  
 Office Manager: Amy Orr  
 Adult/Family Faith Formation: Katherine Eisele, AiM  
 Children and Youth Faith Formation: Mike Haddican  
 Outreach & Hospitality: Laura Phillips  
 Worship Arts Coordinator: Jon Mattheis  
 Worship Arts: Susan Wold Rohde, AiM  
 Church Office: (605) 333-2004

### Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 8:45am & 10:15am  
 Coffee & Fellowship in between services.  
 No Wednesday Worship

Nursery available for children accompanied by parent.  
 Location: 2208 W. LaQuinta Street  
 Website: [www.spiritofjoy.net](http://www.spiritofjoy.net)

## Leadership Team and Staff Retreat

Spirit of Joy's leadership team and staff met for a mini-retreat on Saturday, February 20th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. The purpose was to gather for a time of assessing the vitality of our congregational life, and to discuss and plan ways to strengthen our vitality.

The leadership team and staff also took time to evaluate the initial timeline for the opening of the SOJ Preschool. Discussion led to the conclusion that hiring a preschool director, preparing space, curriculum and marketing materials, and recruiting and registering students this spring was neither wise nor possible. The following alternative calendar was agreed upon by leadership team and staff

**March-May 2016** – Interview and hire.

**September 1** – start date of director.

**September – November**

- Develop Vision/Mission statement and goals.
- Develop Policies/Procedures with the Preschool Board of Directors.
- Develop marketing strategy and materials.
- Distribute marketing materials, visit with families, develop relationships with SOJ families.
- Set up preschool learning areas.
- Set up registration procedures.

**December**

- Host open house sessions.
- Receive applications and continue marketing.

**January - May**

- Continue open houses.
- Continue community marketing.
- Review and accept applications.
- Begin work on weekly lesson plans.
- Work with SOJ staff on integrating Christian faith practices into the daily curriculum.
- Secure and assemble needed supplies.
- Interview and hire teacher assistant as necessary.

**June – July**

- Continue to receive applications for enrollment.
- Most of these months will normally be "off."

**August 2017** – Ready classroom.

- Orient and train teacher assistant.
- Finalize any enrollments.
- Classes begin – August 2017.



## St. Dysmas of South Dakota AN ELCA CONGREGATION

Save the Date! Spirit of Joy is scheduled to worship with **St. Dysmas of South Dakota** at the South Dakota State Penitentiary (SDSP), 1600 North Drive, Sioux Falls, SD on Thursday, April 28, 2016, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We have room for only **15 visitors**. Visitors must arrive at the prison a little before 6:00 p.m. to meet the pastor in the lobby and provide a picture ID before being escorted in. There are a couple of easy forms for visitors to fill out and these *must be returned by April 12*. Please sign up and look for forms in the Gathering Space!

After worshipping at St. Dysmas, you are also welcome to join the pastor, along with a former inmate, at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant, 2708 E 10<sup>th</sup>, St. for a chance to talk about the experience. This is optional, but it is an opportunity to learn more about St. Dysmas and prison life.

Join us for **SOJ Craft Night** on Friday, March 11th from 6-9:00 pm.

Bring whatever craft you enjoy doing—even just coloring! Sign-up in the gathering space for this fun time of fellowship! All ages are welcome!

Contact Laura with any questions  
laura@spiritofjoy.net



SOJ is serving at **Food To You the Mobile Food Pantry** on Thursday, March 17th at Augustana Lutheran Church! Many helpers are needed! Ages 6th grade and up are invited to help—a great opportunity to families to serve together!



New at Spirit of Joy: Refit Cardio Dance Class! For women of all fitness levels ages 14 and up! Come in comfy clothes, bring your water bottle and be ready for a great time! 5:45 Every Monday evening in The Well.



14 and up! Come in comfy clothes, bring your water bottle and be ready for a great time! 5:45 Every Monday evening in The Well.

### Community Offering

For the month of March we will collect Cereal to be distributed by **Food to You** in April. Please leave your donation in the basket in the church gathering area, or include in your Food on the 4th bag! *Thank You!*



**Food on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** will be March 24th! Join us in this opportunity to love our neighbors. Recyclable grocery bags are available throughout the month to pick up at Spirit of Joy. Grab a bag, fill it up and return it on the 24th. These offerings will be distributed to Food to You and to the Sioux Falls Food Pantry. Also available are bags to make Hygiene Kits for Food to You. Thank you for your continued generosity to these important ministries!

## Prayers of the Church

### *Healing and Strength for:*

**Dennis Ellingsen, Jett Markman, Gloria Winterton, Leola Gabor, Debbie Gallipo, Phil Hagen, Karen Kirkeby, Kerstin Schempp, Catherine Webb, Mike Kelley, David Larson, and Rebecca Houseman**

### *Thanksgiving for:*

\***Spirit of Joy** leaders and staff as they prayerfully seek God’s direction and strength for leading the ministry of our congregation



### *Comfort for:*

\***Andy and Ruth Strandjord and family** as they grieve the death of Andy’s mother  
 \***Ken Starks, Robyn and Jeff, Laurel, Elise and Lily Holcomb** as they mourn the death of **Sharon Starks**  
 \***Val and Jana Nolmans and family** as they grieve the death of Val’s father.  
 \*for **Pastor David Carlson and members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church** in Duluth, following the fire that burned much of their church building.

### *Guidance, Protection, Help and Encouragement for:*

\*for all state legislators, especially Spirit of Joy partner **Karen Soli**, and **Governor Dennis Daugaard**  
 \*for all who govern our nation, especially **Representative Kristi Noem, Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds**, and **President Barack Obama**  
 \*for our **partners in mission** in Sioux Falls, especially **Table of Grace** in Harrisburg, and **Pastor Jess Daum, Westside Lutheran Church** and **Pastor Heidi Binstock; Pueblo de Dios** and **Pastor Jeanette Clark**;  
 \*for our bishops **David Zellmer** and **Elizabeth Eaton**.  
 \*for sisters and brothers in our companion synods in **Cameroon and Nicaragua**  
 \*for **Ben and Kristen Eisele** as they wait assignment to a synod of the ELCA for their first call, and for seminary students **Laura Phillips** and **Mike Busbey**

## Wednesdays in Lent

Come join us Wednesday evenings in Lent for a soup and sandwich supper from 5:15-6:00, followed by worship from 6:15-7:00. *There is a sign up sheet in the gathering space for people to help bring soup, bread and serve on those evenings.*

## March Words for Worship

### March 6th–Fourth Sunday in Lent

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son*

### March 13th-Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 12:1-8

*Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

### March 20th-Palm Sunday

Luke 23:1-49

*The passion of the Lord*

### March 27th-Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter

Luke 24:1-12

*The women proclaim the resurrection*

## Holy Week Worship

### **Maundy Thursday—6:15 p.m.**

We will meet together for “Dinner Church” in our sanctuary-turned-café. We will pray, worship, and eat together at table, much like the disciples on the first Maundy Thursday. our menu will be a green salad, bread and lasagna—and bread and wine. Please sign up in our gathering area.

### **Good Friday—7:00 p.m.**

We will gather for “Prayer Around the Cross” in a service of shadows, song, and candles in the round. We will read, hear and pray the Beatitudes and the story of the Passion of Our Lord.

## Keeping Vigil by the Cross

Spirit of Joy will host a prayer vigil throughout the night and day between Maundy Thursday worship and our Good Friday worship service. You are invited to sign up for a half hour time slot as an individual or as a family. There will be resources available to assist your praying, or come and sit in silence.





## Spirit of Joy Library:

### Character Development

The Road to Character by journalist and teacher David Brooks is a serious nonfiction book about personal morality and integrity in today's materialistic world. The author has chosen several people from history who recognized their inner weaknesses and successfully overcame them to serve God, family, country and/or social vocation. He summarizes the life of that individual--for example, Depression-era Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, President Dwight Eisenhower, the Catholic social worker Dorothy Day, and early civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph. He stresses the struggles and problems each had to face to reach their goals and then he applies these qualities and lessons to us in contemporary life.

Brooks often uses contrasting pairs of words or images to emphasize his points--such as "resume virtues" and "eulogy virtues"-- especially the concept of pride versus humility and the selfish "Big Me" attitude versus those who serve a larger good. There are many allusions to history, religion, philosophy, psychology and literature in this book, as well as complex ideas to think about and learn, so it is not quick reading but very worthwhile.



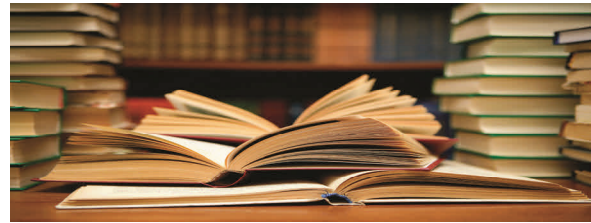
## Book Clubs & Studies

**Evening Book Club** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 1** in the church library where they will be discussing All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr.

**Morning Book Group** will meet March 24th at 9:00am in the church library, where they will be discussing The Giver, by Lois Lowry.

### Men's Breakfast Bible Study

All Spirit of Joy men are invited to come for breakfast and conversation Thursday mornings, 6:30-8:00am at the Fryin' Pan on 41st Street.



*"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else."*

*C.S. Lewis*

## Sunday Servants Needed for Easter Services!

As in years past, Spirit of Joy will be offering three services for Easter Sunday. With an extra service, comes the need for extra hands.

If your family is willing to serve as ushers/greeters or communion servants at any of the 3 services (7:00, 8:45, & 11:00am) please contact Amy at the SOJ office.

We are so grateful to those who are willing to serve the SOJ community on this special day and always/

## Offering Counters Needed

Spirit of Joy is forming new teams to help count the offerings we receive each week in worship. This is another important, behind-the-scenes vital ministry opportunity. Our plan is to form teams of 4-5 persons who will share the counting for a month; those participating will be asked to help 2-3 times in a month, twice/year. Please contact Daryl Sopko at [des4704@gmail.com](mailto:des4704@gmail.com), or Amy at [info@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:info@spiritofjoy.net) if you are interested.



### Winter Family Camp at Joy Ranch—February 12-14, 2016

Faith, fun, food, and frolicking for the Oyens, Webbs, Orrs, Tietgens, Staneks, Duccomuns, Haddicans, Ballews and Katherine. We hope you can join us next year!



### Little Lambs Sunday School—March 6 at 10 am

This month's story—Noah's Ark

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers not old enough for Sprouts—all welcome to come with parent(s), grandparent or caring adult.

Meet in the far SW classroom. Your little one will love it!



### Milestones

**March 2 or March 6—Lord's Prayer for 2nd Grade**—during education hours. A parent should plan to attend with their child. We'll explore together the prayer that Jesus taught. Led by Lori Berdahl.

**March 12—Saturday at 9 am. Holy Communion Instruction** with Pastor Jeff. All **1st graders** are invited to come with a parent. Older children who have not yet had communion instruction are welcome to come with a parent, too. **First Communion will be Sunday, March 20th at both services.** NOTE: Parents of older children, please RSVP to Katherine at [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net) so we have a good head count and can secure enough supplies. Thank you.



### Upcoming Events for Children and Their Families



March 2 and 6—Lord's Prayer Milestone for 2nd Grade.

March 12—Saturday, 9 am, Holy Communion Instruction for 1st Grade with Pastor Jeff.

March 27—Easter Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt following the 8:45 service. Bring your basket!



**Spring into Action** - I love Spring and Summer. Seeing everything awaken from its Winter slumber is really fun. I get excited about buds on trees and the sound of snow melting off of roofs. On Friday, Feb 19th, the temp got up to 55\* and after work, I found myself at Hy-Vee picking up some groceries. As I walked around the store, I saw people smiling with a spring in their step. I realized that what I was witnessing was people getting a glimpse of Spring and fully embracing the feeling.

What I wonder is this: With Spring right around the corner, how are we going to Spring into Action at Spirit of Joy? Our Mission Statement (see front page) calls for us to Welcome people, Grow with one another and Send each other out as compassionate servants. This is the mission of all, not just some. I encourage each of you to find an area of interest with your kids and family and Spring into Action. Parents of toddlers can bring them to Little Lambs. Sprouts parents can jump into a classroom any time to assist. Confirmation parents can encourage their tweens to look up from their iWhatever and interact with peers and caring adults. High School parents can check out Youth Group and share their faith with the teens.

So, how can you Spring into Action? How can others at SoJ help you Spring into Action?

#### Start Thinking about Camp

Spirit of Joy is blessed to have 2 camping ministries that serve our congregation: Lutherans Outdoors and Shetek Lutheran Ministries.

Whether you've given your child the gift of time at camp or not, it is never too late! Both Lutherans Outdoors and Shetek offer great opportunities for 1st graders – 12th graders.

I strongly encourage you to consider sending your child to a week of Bible Camp. Please check out [www.losd.org](http://www.losd.org) and [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org) for their summer programming and schedule.

#### Did you know...

- Spirit of Joy has scholarship money available for all campers.
- Spirit of Joy will be highlighting a few weeks of camp at Shetek, NeSoDak and Klein Ranch and it would be great to get a group of kids from SoJ to attend.
- Check out the Camp Table in the Gathering Space and pick up a piece of candy too!

#### Calendar Dates to remember:

##### No Sprouts on:

- Wednesday, March 23 (Holy Week)
- Sunday, March 27 (Easter Sunday)

##### Preschool Sprouts Sing at Worship

- Sunday, April 17 at 11am service

##### Elementary Sprouts Sing at Worship

- Sunday, March 20th – 11am Palm Sunday



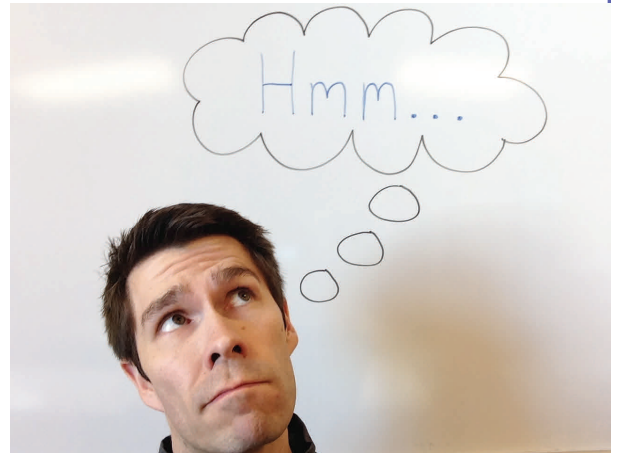
#### Palm Sunday –

Intergenerational  
Prayer Stations for  
Elementary Youth & Parents

For Sprouts on Palm Sunday, March 20th, we're inviting parents and guardians to join their child for the Sprouts Hour. Groups will travel to different rooms in the Education Hallway to experience a series of different Prayer Stations.

### 5 Thoughts Mike Has About: Commitment

- 1) I hope our HS youth and families take time each week to worship together at Spirit of Joy and join together for faith formation and making connections with friends and strangers.
- 2) When I was a kid, I wanted to be a doctor... but I just didn't have the patients. (Get the pun?)
- 3) What advice would the adults of Spirit of Joy share with HS students if they had the chance?
- 4) I wonder, is anybody able to spot a typo in this short article?
- 5) How are our partners being the church and not just going to church?



#### Sunday Funday!

Don't forget that our Fellowship time is open to you each Sunday from 5-9pm. In order to host Sunday Funday, Tim Krause needs adult volunteers from 5-9pm. Sign up by contacting him at [skatimmy737@gmail.com](mailto:skatimmy737@gmail.com)

#### Feed the Need

Community Youth Event to fight hunger!

- Food packing
- Community service
- Great speaker to share their story

Saturday, April 3


More details coming soon!

#### Fleece Needed at Youth Group

Our HS Youth will be making tie-blankets for Project Warmup once we have enough materials. Please bring in any color of fleece so we can have a night where we make a bunch of tie blankets. Thanks!

### Parents & Youth—Stay Connected & Informed

**High School E-News**—Bi-weekly email of upcoming events. Parents, please make sure you're reading and sharing the bi-weekly E-News with your teens.

 **Remind**—In an effort to make texting easier for updates, we're using a texting option called Remind. Text the number **81010** with the message **@sofj**. You'll get a welcome message. Then, type your first and last name and that is it! You'll get (at the most) 2 texts a week pertaining to Sunday Funday, Youth Group or special events.

Also, don't forget that we're on **Twitter @SOJYouthSF** and we have a website at [www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com](http://www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com)

## March Birthdays

Eric Gohl	Emma Wolf	Susan Hagebock	Jace Eckert
Cade Van Wyk	Michael Detert	David Hagebock	Stephanie Nolmans
Shelly Wittrock	Cheryl Larson	Kerrie Tietgen	Jeremy Tietgen
Kelly Harder	Keegan Wiseman	Laurie Clayton	Sharon Sopko
Sara Kills-A-Hundred	Michael Bertsch	Elaine Frary	Michele Vogel
Kenley Namanny	Elise Holcomb	Jamie Vickery	Isabella Creviston
Sydney Voss	Kendra Namanny	Julia Yee	Eleanor Haugland
Alexix Nerison	Inga Rohde	Oliver Punt	Tanner Brown
Kailee Versteeg	Annie Clementson	Brian DeVries	Amanda Creviston
John Sutton	Brynne Clementson	Brooklyn DeVries	Jericka Nolmans
Soren Weeg	Arlene Drew	Josh Krull	
Tylen Ducommun	John McCollister	Caleb Berdahl	
Michael Haddican	Brody Carolan	Terri Bierman	
Susie South	Nathan Dokken	Emily Geraets	
Alex Jensen	Cadence Larsen	Brian Rehnke	
Kevin Nelson	Camryn Larsen	Zach Thedens	
Maren Stadtfeld	Carson Gohl	Zoe Thedens	



## March Anniversaries

Dick & Char Sorum	03/16	
Scott & Shelly Wittrock	03/21	
Bob & Jeanie Mayer	03/25	
Shane & Brandy Olivier	03/26	



# Thank you!

A special “thank you” to Dick Sorum and Daryl Sopko for the new mobile Little Lambs cart! Spirit of Joy is so grateful that you share your gifts with us and our littlest children!

# Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church  
2208 W. Laquinta Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

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## Holy Week <sup>and 11:00 a.m.</sup> Worship

Palm Sunday, March 20th 8:45 and 11:00  
Procession with Palms and First Communion

Maundy Thursday, March 24th 6:15 p.m.  
Worship as You Dine at Table in our Worship Café

All Night Prayer Vigil-Thursday at 8:00 pm until Friday 6:00 pm

Good Friday, March 25th 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer around the Cross in the Round

The Resurrection of Our Lord!

Sunday, March 27th  
Festival Worship at 7:00, 8:45, and 11:00 a.m.