

April 2016

Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



Death Still Stings, but Love Will Win

*Death has been swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death is your victory?
Where, O death is your sting?
—1 Corinthians 15:54b-55*



Pastor Jeff Eisele

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.

Spirit of Joy had just finished celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord for the third time on Sunday. It was a joyous morning, filled with Good News and great music in a flower-adorned sanctuary. The ringing declarations by worshipers that, "Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!" still echoed after the last worshiper went home.

Our family enjoyed a delicious Easter brunch at our table, and then it was time for me to get horizontal on the couch for the Easter afternoon nap. I checked my phone for updated weather and news reports—and that's when I saw the story of the bombing in Lahore, Pakistan targeting scores of Christian families celebrating Easter at an outdoor park. These sisters and brothers, many of them children, had just celebrated what we celebrated: the victory of God in Christ over death. Clearly death was still fighting back.

My answer to St. Paul's rhetorical questions asked of the Corinthians is that the sting of death is still felt all over the place: in the previous bombings in Brussels during Holy Week; in the home of the spouse who celebrated this Easter without his beloved for the first time in decades; in hospice care where inevitable death cannot be denied; in the news that a beloved relative or friend has breathed his last; and certainly in that park in Pakistan where joy turned to horrifying sorrow.

Anxiety, fear, and death still have the loudest word in this twenty-first century. But Jesus followers continue to declare that death will not have the last word. We make this declaration, not with naïve optimism that is blind to suffering and death, because the cross is part of our story too. We know what it's like to live separated from any sense of God. We proclaim with Paul that "death has been swallowed up in victory," even as it still stings, because Jesus was raised from the dead. We trust that God's Will and not ours will be done as we pray regularly for it to be so. Easter reminds us that God's Gracious Will is that Love is the victor, death is not the end, and Life will have the last word. Christ our Lord has risen. May His rising heal death's sting in your life this Easter. JE

April Sunday Forums*

April 3—Reformation Roots continues with “The English Reformation—The Political Reformation”

April 10 — “The Catholic Reformation—Reaction and Renewal”

April 17— TBD

April 24— Rev. Dr. Paul Rohde special forum guest— “Reading the Bible to Equip Us for Tough Issues” Part 1

May 1 — Rev. Dr. Paul Rohde “Reading the Bible to Equip Us for Tough Issues” Part 2

We hope you have enjoyed our Reformation Roots series this year. We have been blessed with great conversations as we explored the roots of our Protestant/Lutheran faith and tradition. **This fall** we will continue the journey with “The American Protestant Experience” from Select Learning.



We are pleased to welcome our own Spirit of Joy partner, and Augustana Campus Pastor, **The Rev. Dr. Paul Rohde** to Sunday Forum. Paul will guide us through a two-week conversation on how we may faithfully read our Scriptures; trusting truths revealed in the Word, the witness of our Christian experience, and the model of Jesus for loving our neighbors in complex and sometimes confusing times. Welcome, Paul, to Sunday Forum!

***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.

It's not too late to sign up for:

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!

This **NEW** small group 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.

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

NOTE: We will plan on-site childcare if requested. Indicate this when your sign up.

Please sign up in the gathering space (watch for the display) or you may email family@spiritofjoy.net or call 333-2004.

Regarding the books and on-line assessment tool: We have books ordered for you. Each has your own code for the on-line tool. You **do not** need to do the assessment or have read the book before our first session. Please simply join us April 7th at 7 pm.

We look forward to seeing you. We know that where two or three are gathered, God is there with us and will bless our time together.

Katherine and Jeff Eisele

NEW Friday Morning Study

Hey, who knew the book of “Numbers” could be interesting?

Join us for a short 4-week series on this rather obscure Old Testament Bible book. We meet from 9 am to 10:15 am every Friday morning.

Starting Friday, April 8th



Financial Statistics Thru February 29, 2016

Checking Account:	
General Fund	\$170,403.31
Building Fund	\$9,725.33
Donor Restricted	\$39,826.39
Sunday School	\$1,132.40
Petty Cash	\$200.00
Savings Accounts:	
Building	\$65,570.95
Donor Restricted	\$79,514.27
Total Cash Balance	\$366,372.65
Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$80,760.68
Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses	\$97,794.26
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	(\$17,029.45)

Comparing Facts and Figures

	February 2014	February 2015	February 2016
Attendance	1518	1504	1667
General Offering	\$ 37,347.17	\$ 32,339.76	\$ 46,461.29
Building Offering	\$ 12,023.33	\$ 11,633.33	\$ 9,725.33

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 8:45am & 11:00am
 Adult Education & Sprouts from 10-10:50
 Wednesday Worship 6:15pm

Nursery available for children accompanied by parent.
 Location: 2208 W. LaQuinta Street
 Website: www.spiritofjoy.net

Leadership Team and Staff Retreat

Minutes from the 3/21/16 Meeting

I. Unfinished Business

A. Preschool

- Gathering applications for director.
- Launch date has been changed to Aug/Sept of 2017, with a potential soft opening prior to that date if possible.

B. Establishment of reserve account and/or management of extra funds- Jim Stavenger motioned that, "Spirit of Joy's goal is to keep a balance to cover two months expenses in the checking account (\$80,000) and to establish a reserve account with a target balance of 4 months expenses (\$160,000). Anything over that amount the Leadership team would recommend to the congregation how those funds should be used." Daryl Sopko second. Motion carried.

C. Partnership with Table of Grace

- They are looking at a space to rent.

D. Next Building Debt Reduction Tithe

- We are in year three of three. We have hit the \$300,000 mark, which means another tithe of \$10,000 will be made soon. Leadership Team members will each bring an idea for the tithe to the next meeting.

E. Congregational Vitality Project follow-up.

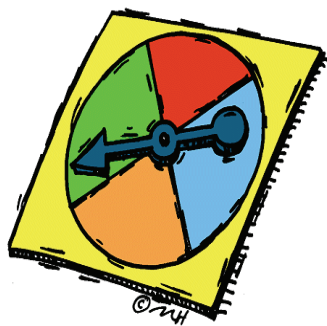
- Leadership team members will take the list to their teams and ask how they can plug into each of the 3 priorities and help
- Deepen people's relationship with God.
- Seek out and use the gifts of people of all ages.
- Build strong, healthy relationships among members/partners.

II. New Business

A. Listen! God is Calling Campaign—Jim Stavenger motioned that we "Set aside a target of \$2,000 for the campaign. We will begin an appeal on Rally Sunday through the end of September with a goal to match or exceed the Leadership pledge. We will reconfirm the donation amount in August." Greg Bertsch second. Motion carried.

B. Benevolence Payments - the following payments will be made

- \$1,000 St. Dysmas
- \$4,500 Lutherans Outdoors
- \$3,500 Shetek



Join us for **SOJ GAME NIGHT** on Friday, April 15th from 6-9:00 pm. Bring any game that you and your family enjoy playing—there will be some here as well! Sign-up in the gathering space for this fun time of fellowship! All ages are welcome—and there are games here for all ages! The ping pong table

will be out as well. Contact Laura with any questions
laura@spiritofjoy.net



A **Special Free Event** on April 14th, 6:30-8:30 pm will be Live-Streamed at SOJ! **Grace-Based Evangelizing: Living and Telling the Story of Jesus Today.** This event is sponsored by the ELCA Region 3 Synods.

Description: “Why are we, who have experienced the grace of God in Christ so unlikely to talk about Jesus? What holds us back? What sets us free? What practical practices might be put into place to offer testimony to others? In this TED-Talk style event we will explore these questions, as well as offer foundations and approaches to practice grace-based evangelizing.”

Further information about this event can be found at www.swmnelca.org. Sign up to come in the gathering space at SOJ or by emailing Laura@spiritofjoy.net.



Save the Date! We will be serving breakfast at the Banquet on May 18th!

Community Offering

For the month of April we will collect peanut butter to be distributed by **Food to You** in May. Please leave your donation in the basket



in the church gathering area, or include in your Food on the 4th bag!

Food on the 4th Sunday will be April 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, Debbie Gallipo, Kerstin Schempp, Catherine Webb, Ordell Winterton, Anna Meyer, Mike Kelley, David Larson, and Ed Nesselhuf,

Thanksgiving for:

*all of our **children receiving their First Communion** last month
*for the baptism of **Evelyn Mae Eisele**, daughter of **Ben and Kristen Eisele**, on March 13th
*the birth of **Benjamin Isaac Rohde Packman**, son of **Sarah Rohde and Andrew Packman** on March 28th



Comfort for:

* **residents of Brussels, Belgium, and Lahore, Pakistan** as they grieve the deaths of those killed and injured in the terrorist attacks there.
***all who grieve** the death of loved ones this Easter.
*sister and brother Christians around the world who live in fear that they will be the next targets of terrorism.

Guidance, Protection, Help and Encouragement for:

*for our brothers who are part of **St. Dysmas Lutheran Church**, and for **Pastor Bob Chell**
*for all who are entrusted with the power to govern our nation and state, especially **Representative Kristi Noem, Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, President Barack Obama, and Governor Dennis Daugaard.**
*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 those who serve with **Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Volunteer Corps** and **ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission** to share the Gospel in word and deed.
*for continued **efforts in Sioux Falls to build bridges** between people of Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith traditions.
*for **all who participate in public discourse**, that they may do with respect and humility

April Words for Worship

April 3rd-Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

April 10th-Third Sunday of Easter

John 21:1-19

Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias

April 17th-Fourth Sunday of Easter

John 10:22-30

Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep

April 24th-Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 13:31-35

Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you

Thank You Easter Sunday Servants!

We know holidays can be an especially busy time for individuals and families. We would like to take a moment to say a special thanks to all those that volunteered to serve communion, usher/greet, host coffee, arrange/care for flowers, and read on Easter Sunday. We so appreciate your willingness to serve the SOJ community! Thank you!



Communion Servers Needed

Spirit of Joy is in need of individuals and families to serve communion on Sunday mornings. We are currently short families both at the 8:45 and 11:00 services. Families only serve one Sunday per quarter. If you are interested in serving please contact Amy Orr in the SoJ office. Thank you to all who serve!



Spirit of Joy Library: Appreciating the Earth

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22. The SOJ Library has several beautiful picture books that could help you and your children appreciate the importance of God's creation of our planet Earth. Colorful artwork and simple text combine to present eloquent messages. Celebrate the Earth is based on Psalm 104 and Let the Whole Earth Sing Praise is based on Psalm 148. God's Quiet Things and Morning Has Broken urge us to take time to see the beauty of the small, everyday wonders around us.

The friendly characters in The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore) and Biscuit's Earth Day give pointers for specific things both adults and children can do to help preserve the environment and prevent pollution. Where Does the Garbage Go? is a factual presentation about the problems of too much trash and ideas for ways to help find a solution.

In I See the Moon and What Does the Sky Say? children--and also adults--can learn to respond to the beauties of creation. As Psalm 19 says "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of God's hands."



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Earth Day 2016 Friday, April 22



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:1, 31)

Does your family celebrate Earth Day? Maybe this is the year to start! From Pinterest to earth-day.org, the internet is full of fun ways to celebrate and care for God's creation. Below is a list of some fun and easy ways for families to do just that:

- Neighborhood cleanup
- Tree planting
- Nature walk
- Build a birdhouse / feeder
- Toy / clothing / book swap or yard sale
- Plant a garden
- Decorate recycle bins to make your recycling more fun
- Go Birdwatching
- Car-free day

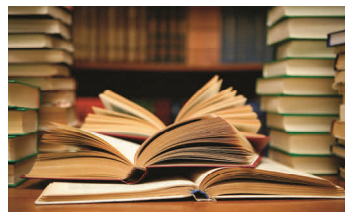
Book Clubs & Studies

Evening Book Club will meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 5** in the church library where they will be discussing Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown.

The Morning Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 28th, at 9 AM, in the SOJ library. The topic will be Inside the O'Briens by Lisa Genova. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

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.



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Spirit of Joy Preschool Director/Developer

There's still time to apply for the Spirit of Joy Preschool Director/Developer position. We will begin the applicant review and interview process soon so if you or someone you know is interested, send a resume to:

**Spirit of Joy Lutheran
2208 W. LaQuinta Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108**

A detailed job description can be found on our website. Contact Amy at the SOJ office with any questions by emailing info@spiritofjoy.net or calling 333-2004!



Palm Sunday, March 20th

We celebrated First Communion for Spirit of Joy children.
Thank you to Spirit of Joy Sprouts for their special music! Hosanna!



Little Lambs Sunday School—April 3, 10 am

This month's story—**Jesus is Alive!** 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!

Faith Milestones for 5th Grade and High School

April 24—Earthcare Milestone for 5th Grade—worship at 11 am, then pizza lunch and activities at the Outdoor Campus. Parents (at least one adult) please attend with your child for this special last-year-of-Sprouts milestone! We will enjoy (rain or shine) a special outdoor time together in God's creation. SOJ partners Brian and Jamie Oyen will lead this fun milestone! Please let us know you're coming: family@spiritofjoy.net or 333-2004.



Coming: May 15 or June 5 (8:45 am each) High School Graduation Milestone
High school parents please note that our graduation milestone and presentation of senior quilts is offered at two different times to accommodate the different school district schedules. You may choose EITHER date, but please let Katherine know so we can plan for having your quilt ready for you.
family@spiritofjoy.net or 333-2004.

Upcoming Events for Children and Their Families

- April 3—**Little Lambs**—10 am Jesus is Risen!
- April 7, 14, 21 and 28—**Couple Checkup**—Thursdays, 7 pm Galilee Room.
- April 24—**Earthcare Milestone for 5th graders** and parents. (see above)
- May 1—**Teens and Traffic Milestone**, 11 am worship followed by pizza and milestone activity.

Camping Options for Spirit of Joy Children/Youth

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 and www.shetek.org for summer programming and schedules.

Did you know...

- Spirit of Joy has scholarship money for all campers. \$100 (whole week) \$50 (half week)
- Highlighted Weeks featuring Spirit of Joy staff:

Dates	Camp	Grade	Staff
June 12-17	Klein Ranch	6-12	Mike Haddican
July 10-15	NeSoDak	5-12	Mike Haddican
July 24- 26	Shetek	3 & 4 Mini Week (24-26)	
July 24-29	Shetek	7-9 Full Week	Pastor Jeff Eisele
August 3-5	Shetek	3 & 4 Mini Week	Pastor Jeff and Katherine Eisele
August 7-9	Shetek	3 & 4 Mini Week	Laura Phillips

- Check out the Camp Table in the Gathering Space! Also, email Mike Haddican at mike@spiritofjoy.net to inform him of when your child is going to camp.

A HUGE Thank You to all families who brought their children to our Sprouts Prayer Stations on Palm Sunday. It was wonderful to have so many children and parents join us.

Parents—Please remember to sign up to assist in the Sprouts classrooms by being Shepherds. Low commitment and high rewards!

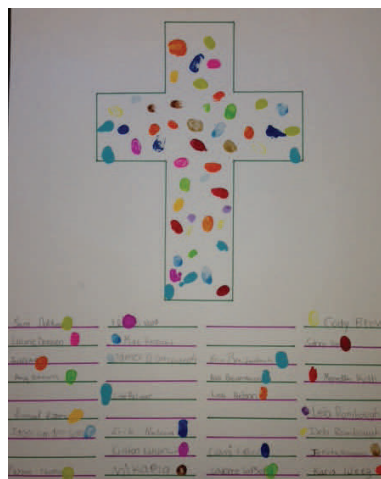
Check out these prayers on display in the Ed. hallway



Above—Prayers of Thanks to God
We used colorful tags to thank God for some wonderful things in our lives.



Far left—Prayers for Friends/Family
A paper chain was made by writing the names of loved ones.



Left—Prayers for the Community
Participants signed their names and left 3 fingerprints for being individuals in our community at SoJ

Youth Group Tying Blankets for Project Warm-Up!



Building a Faith Tool Box



Recently with our High School youth, we discussed how we each have a Faith Tool Box where we can store spiritual tools to help us through everyday. In March and April, our youth have been discussing favorite Bible verses and how we can store verses in our Tool Box.

For the teens who have been there, we've been having great discussion and storytelling about why certain verses are important and how we can read them, recite them and memorize them so God's word is in our hearts and in our heads.

One story we learned about was from a Vietnam vet named Howard Rutledge who was in a prison camp for 7 years. He survived his time in the prison camp by reciting a few scripture verses he had memorized in Sunday School. In a way, scripture saved his life by helping him endure horrifying conditions on a daily basis. God was with him in those 7 years and through his release from the prison after the Vietnam War. Howard's Faith Tool Box wasn't filled with a lot of tools, but with the tools he did have, he survived thanks to a tool called scripture.

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.

We're on **Twitter** @SOJYouthSF and we have a website at www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com

April Birthdays

Dawn Krull	Donna Boyda	Connor Watson	Ben Salestrom
Charles Berdahl	Calla Freesemann	Dennis Hagebock	Red Thurman
Landry Coy	Macklin Miller	Sarah Johnson	Grant Palmer
Julie Kelley	Joan Watson	Liam Schneider	Simon Vanderhelm
Owen Koehlmoos	Alexander Bertsch	Corey Ballew	Hudson Colwell
Jane Von Wald	Cole Palmer	Joel Christensen	Jessica Hottman
Jason Bierman	Kera Heier	Kelly Yungbluth	Hope Lane
April Syverson	Monica Huber	Bill Boyda	Joni Miller
Casey Oyen	Diana Ryan	Jim Stavenger	Jack Sutton
Robert Kadlecik	Virgil Eckhoff	Dawson Haeder	Mandi Roskam
Anna Rohde	Marsha Kadlecik	Bob Roth	Mandy Freesemann
Don South	Leah Rath	Luke Schilmoeller	Tom Gannon
Reece Palmer	Shawn Stanek	Liz Dierks	Nikki Punt
Ethan Roth	Ali Dierks	Melvadeen Neely	
Brady Samuelson	Kathy Elgethun	Jean Selchert	
Sabren Bortnem	Chad Lucius	Jocelyn Johnson	
Easton Sundall	Landry Merrigan	Tanner Eisenbeisz	

April Anniversaries

Brad & Erika Thedens	04/16	Vince & Arlene Lange	04/26
Dale & Kerstin Schempp	04/20	Jeremy & Kerri Tietgen	04/29
Jeff Thomson & Evie Brouwer-Thomson	04/21		
Gregg & Kelly Harder	04/25		
Greg & Allison Alvine	04/26		



Spirit of Joy is always looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks both inside our walls and out in the community. If you are interested in serving as a Sunday Servant, cleaning the font, helping in the gardens, counting offering, serving at any of our awesome outreach opportunities, or any other "job" give Amy at the SOJ office a call at 333-2004.

Spirit of Joy publicizes birthdays and anniversaries in our newsletter as a way to encourage our partners to pray for one another throughout the year. If you have a July birthday or anniversary that is not included here, please contact the church office at 333-2004 or email info@spiritofjoy.net

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2208 W. Laquinta Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

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Return Service Requested

Food on the 4th!



Next Collection is
Sunday, April 24th

Join us in this monthly 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. Offerings will be distributed to Food to You and to the Sioux Falls Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued generosity to these important ministries!