

June/July 2016

Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



The Problem of Freedom



Pastor Jeff Eisele

[Summer Worship Schedule](#)

Sunday
8:30 am & 10:00am

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.

www.spiritofjoy.net
605-333-2004

Summer is the season we Americans celebrate our freedom. The season begins with our remembering, on Memorial Day, those who died in many wars in order to win and preserve our nation's freedom. We join family and friends for picnics and shoot off fireworks on Independence Day to celebrate "liberty and justice for all." It is truly a blessing to live in a nation that offers most of us so much freedom.

The Bible also talks about freedom, but in some different ways. The captivity and tyranny the Scriptures recognize is our captivity to the power of sin and death. Our own struggle to win independence from this power has inevitably come up short. We cannot free ourselves, no matter how hard we try.

There is One who can and does. "**For freedom Christ has set us free,**" we read in Paul's letter to the Galatians in the New Testament. St. John adds in his Gospel, "**So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed**" (8:36).

Spirit of Joy is adding to this summer's typical celebrations of freedom by considering what it means to be "free indeed" in a series of summer worship services from Memorial Day to Independence Day. We're calling the series "**Life on the FreeWay.**" The Book of Galatians will be our travel guide. The great theme of St. Paul's letter to the Galatians is Christian freedom.



Paul wrote to this group of new Christians to help them embrace, enjoy, and hold on tight to the freedom freely offered them—and us—through the crucified and risen Christ. The problem was that it sounded too good to be true. There were those who insisted—as we also do today—that there must be *something we can add* to what Jesus did to make us truly free? How could there not be *something*--giving or serving or praying or worshiping or at least believing—to gain the freedom won for us in the death and resurrection of Christ. Surely God helps those who ultimately must help themselves.

Not so, Paul emphatically argues. True freedom—the freedom we were created to enjoy—comes through Christ alone. You're invited to meet us on this FreeWay this summer, to discover the joy of living free indeed! PJE

Financial Statistics Thru March 31, 2016

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$161,732.84
Building Fund	\$4,696.50
Donor Restricted	\$31,972.09
Sunday School	\$1,042.24
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$65,788.98
Donor Restricted	<u>\$79,514.27</u>

Total Cash Balance **\$344,946.92**

Year-to-Date Income for Ministry \$153,520.69

Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses \$177,694.61

Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry (\$24,173.92)

Comparing Facts and Figures

	April 2014	April 2015	April 2016
Attendance	2052	2077	1598
General Offering	\$ 44,900.21	\$ 35,411.67	\$ 32,609.58
Building Offering	\$ 9,855.33	\$ 14,577.33	\$ 6,925.33

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

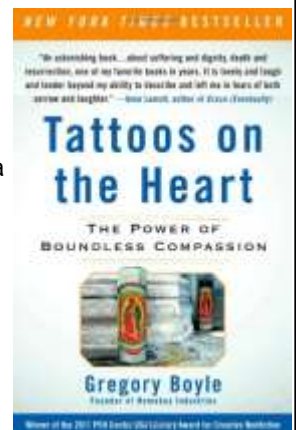
Spirit of Joy Library: Thinking About Tattoos

Tattoos on the Heart by Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle is an amazing book about the power of love and compassion.

Father Boyle began his life work in an extremely rough inner-city parish of Los Angeles in the 1980's. He served countless gang members in housing projects and detention centers, founding a school and successful businesses (Homeboy Industries) so the young people could find worthwhile employment and change their lives.

This book is a collection of brief stories about the people with whom he worked. Some stories are comical, some are sad, many are surprising. All show the sacredness of every life.

Father Boyle describes how he struggled every day to understand and help people whom many have rejected and also those who have given up on themselves. As he says, "We help gang members at this parish because it is what Jesus would do."



Leadership Team

May 16, 2016 Meeting

I. Unfinished Business

1. **Debt Reduction Tithe** - Adam Punt motioned to set a congregational meeting on August 28, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. for a vote on the recipient of our next two debt reduction tithes. One gift will support a global mission and the other a local mission. Daryl Sopko second. Motion carried. Recipient suggestions so far include: Cedro Galan Facilities, Roofs for Congregations, the Hospital in Garoua Boulai, St. Francis House, St. Dymas reentry program and one other to that is yet to be determined.

2. **Partnership with Table of Grace** - held their kick-off service on May 15 in Harrisburg. It was well attended.

3. **Ministry Teams Recruitment and Calls** - Teams need to work on having these positions filled by June.

4. Congregational Vitality Project Priorities:

- A. Deepen people's relationships with God
- B. Seek out and use the gifts of people of all ages
- C. Build strong, healthy relationships among members/partners.

II. New Business

1. **Benevolence Payments** - the following payments will be made

- A. \$1,000 Pueblo de Dios
- B. \$1,000 ELCA World Hunger
- C. \$1,000 AMONG
- D. \$1,500 Lutheran Church of Nicaragua



Rooted to Grow

Spirit of Joy is in the third year of our Rooted to Grow building debt reduction campaign. We have paid more than \$100,000 on our building debt in addition to monthly payments! This year, for the first time, our giving to debt reduction has not met our monthly needs. Please continue to share generously of your finances for our ongoing ministry *and* building needs.

Prayers of the Church

Healing and Strength for:

Dylan Rehnke, Melvadeen Neely, Dennis Ellingsen, Jett Markman, Arlene Lange, Gloria Winterton, Debbie Gallipo, Ron Risty, Kerstin Schempp, Jen Balster, Gary Molzen, Bernice Pfeiffer, Anna Meyer, Mike Kelley, David Larson, and Ed Nesselhuf.

Thanksgiving for:

- *all of our graduates.
- *providers of summer hospitality.
- *parks and play spaces for enjoying summer days.

Comfort for:

- *all who grieve the loss of homes due to conflict and violence, and live in refugee camps

Guidance, Protection, Help and Encouragement for:

- *for our brothers who are part of **St. Dysmas Lutheran Church**, and for **Pastor Bob Chell**
- *for our **partners in mission** in the Sioux Falls area, especially **Table of Grace** in Harrisburg and **Pastor Jess Daum**, **Westside Lutheran Church** and **Pastor Heidi Binstock**, and **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 prepare to begin serving as pastors in Gayville and Bergen Lutheran Churches in Gayville, SD, and with Lutheran Campus Ministry at USD in Vermillion, SD



Life on the FreeWay: Traveling through Galatians

- June 5-Galatians 2
- June 12-Galatians 3
- June 19-Galatians 4
- June 26-NeSoDak Camp Staff
- July 3-Galatians 5
- July 10-Galatians 6

Why we worship the way we do?

Worship is our primary way of responding to who God is, and what God has done for us. It also is an important way we let God “get God’s hands on us” through the Word, and Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Rather than choose between what is often labeled “traditional” or “contemporary” worship, Spirit of Joy strives to offer PASSIONATE (with our whole life) WORSHIP that is vital, inspirational, and contextual. This allows us the flexibility on any Sunday to incorporate music of both traditions in



the service to satisfy the preference of all worship attendees and not just one group. Passionate Worship includes a classic order of worship (Gathering, Word, Meal and Sending) that includes a variety of music styles and creative arts.

We have also opted to offer the same worship experience to the whole community on any given Sunday, so that community might participate in a shared experience, even if attending different worship services.



You are invited
to the ordinations of
Ben and Kristen Eisele
into the
ministry of Word and Sacrament
in the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Friday, July 29th at 4:00 p.m.

at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Reception will follow the service

Another Year of Faith Milestones

“How can they be graduating? Weren’t they just the little kids running around the church yesterday?” We know how quickly time goes by. We’ve watched the children grow up and away. And we’ve blessed them along the way.

It seems fitting to have High School graduation as the final milestone of the season. We have wrapped our seniors in beautifully hand-sewn quilts and prayed over them and their families.

Earlier this year we’ve gathered kids and their families over faith milestone of Bibles, prayer, confirmation, Holy Communion, driver’s licenses, earth care, walking with Jesus, stewardship and, of course, Holy Baptism.

That’s where our journeys of faith begin – Baptism. Thank you to all parents who have brought their children to the font where God has claimed them as God’s own, given them a new birth into a life of forgiveness and love.

We pray that our baptized daughters and sons will continue their faith journeys as they are scattered near and far. We pray that they recall that God meets them wherever they go. And we will be here, to pray for them and welcome them home again.

Katherine Eisele, Associate in Ministry
Director of Adult and Family Faith Formation



High School graduate, Kyle Hill, shown with his mother, Shannon, and brother, Ryan. Kyle and our other seniors were wrapped in their unique Spirit of Joy quilts on May 15 and June 5.

Encore! Encore!



One of my favorite books of the Bible is really an old, old hymnal – the book of **Psalms**. Psalms capture the entire scope of human experience, lifting up all the pain and joy, questions and praise, as prayers to God. **It’s all there. From the love we have for creation and our beloved ones to the honest hatred or despair we feel in our darkest moments.** The writers of the Psalms have been around the block. And so have we.

Summer time is a splendid time to explore these ancient and relevant writings. Try reading two Psalms a day from **June 1 through mid to late August.** You’ll get through them. And maybe find a few new favorites.

Author and Pastor Eugene Peterson concludes this about the Psalms:

*No matter how much we suffer, no matter our doubts, no matter how angry we get, no matter how many times we have asked in desperation or doubt, “How long?”, prayer develops finally into praise. ... This is not to say that other prayers are inferior to praise, only that all prayer pursued far enough, becomes praise. ... This crafted conclusion for the Psalms tells us that our prayers are going to end in praise, but that it is also going to take a while. ... Don’t rush it. It may take years, decades even, before certain prayers arrive at the hallelujahs. ... Not every prayer is capped off with praise. In fact, most prayers, if the Psalter is a true guide, are not. But prayer, a praying life, finally becomes praise. ... If we persist in prayer, laugh and cry, doubt and believe, struggle and dance and then struggle again, we will surely end up at Psalm 150, on our feet, applauding, “Encore! Encore!”**

Happy Psalm readings. Let me know what you discover. I’ll be reading them, too.

Katherine Eisele, AiM

*Peterson, Eugene H., Answering God – The Psalms as Tools for Prayer, HarperSanFrancisco, 1989, p. 127.

TOP TEN list

Mike Haddican's Top 10 List for Summer:

How to Form Faith in the Summer

10. Everywhere you go, remember that you shine God's light... So shine on!
9. Take time to talk with your family. Then, take time to listen to your family.
8. Get involved in Vacation Bible School and Day Camp.
7. If you go on vacation, think of everybody you meet as Jesus in disguise.
6. Spend the 4th of July week praying that your kids don't sing off an eyebrow.
5. Use the Taking Faith Home sheets to discuss the weekly Gospel lesson and other devotion options.
4. Sit outside and experience God's Creation. Don't forget to thank Him.
3. Pin & create some Pinterest Projects to show that your house is a Christian Outpost of the church.
2. Perform a random act of kindness for somebody. Then giggle and run with your arms flailing behind you.
1. Worship together as a family.

Have a great summer. Faith is formed every day. Make it something special.



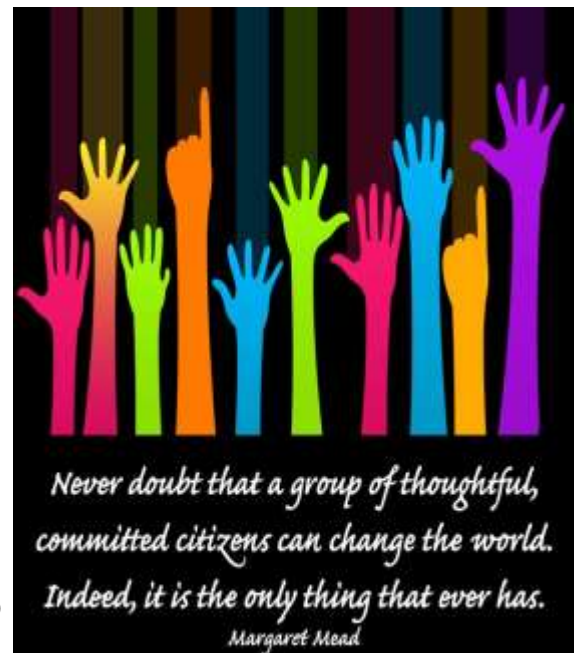
The Power of Small Groups

At the end of May, the High School Youth Group had the opportunity to take part in an overnight at Spirit of Joy. We had 2 adults and 5 teens who spent time together, played games, studied part of the book of 2nd Timothy, and we created some great art projects. A great time was had by all.

Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist, is attributed with the quote to the right. The 7 people who gathered together didn't change the world in a large, drastic way. Instead, we focused on growing spiritually in the Word of God - an act that will always change the world.

Through Spirit of Joy, we need to reach out to people who share our common interests and goals.

What small group claims you as a member? What small group would you like to belong to? Reach out to each other to form bonds, relationship and encounters. We can change the world in little ways by changing our routines.



Living Lutheran: “All Are Welcome”

by Wendy Healy

The church’s catchphrase “all are welcome” is so common it seems like a meme. But what do these three simple words actually mean? Are they sincere or do dwindling congregations just hope to get people in the pews? Is it just what we think we should say?

Welcoming isn’t simple. How churches welcome newcomers can often mean the difference between vibrant congregations and those that struggle. “‘All are welcome’ used to mean those who look like us, act like us, have the same lifestyles and same values,” said Brenda Smith, [ELCA](#) program director for faith practices and missional development.

Smith, who served as a pastor in New York City before joining ELCA churchwide staff in Chicago, said the good news is that it’s 2016 and hospitality ministry is a faith practice. “The new reality is that people are beginning to understand that ‘all are welcome’ means that all are welcome — regardless of race, color, creed, age, ethnicity, knowledge of Christ and sexual orientation.”

It also means that congregations need to be inclusive and understand that not everyone has grown up in the church, knows Jesus or can follow a worship service, she added. “I’ve been in many churches where I visit incognito and would never go back because there was no hospitality,” she said. “Or the church was dirty and not maintained or had no place to change a baby diaper.” Worse yet, Smith said, sometimes congregational tension and drama were palpable.

“I often ask churches to think carefully about what environment they’re bringing people into,” she said. While the words “all are welcome” seem innocent enough, they evoked a wide range of responses when *The Lutheran* asked its friends and followers if their congregations welcomed folks and to share examples of how they felt welcomed or not.

Several respondents praised their church’s welcoming program, like Sarah Accettura of Holy Cross Lutheran, Libertyville, Ill., who said friendly Art Schmieding, 90, a greeter for more than 20 years, was one of the reasons she joined the congregation 10 years ago. “He was an incredibly warm person, and his intention was to make sure everyone felt welcomed and included,” she said. “He would engage in conversation about your life, what you had done this week, how you heard of us and how old your kids were.”



Responses also included criticisms from those who had been hurt by the church, or people who visited a congregation and felt ignored. Diane Pederson, a member of St. Timothy Lutheran, Naperville, Ill., still remembers how badly she felt after visiting a small Lutheran church with her family while vacationing in Florida 10 years ago: “The service was warm and lovely. But afterward, during the fellowship time in the small narthex, the 50 or so congregants happily greeted each other as we stood among them, ignored. We felt invisible. “What their behavior said to us was they were a tight-knit church family, and they didn’t want strangers there.”

“Where are we going?” Smith asked. “If we can’t see with our numbers diminishing that something needs to change, that our mindset needs to change, then I don’t know what will make a difference. Just having a sign that ‘all are welcome’ isn’t enough. You have to live that sign.”

For a full version of this article check it out at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/02/welcome/>

Spotlight on New Partners Darin, Stefanie, Dylan, Sydney & Sawyer Hage



If you could eat dinner with anyone, who would you eat with?

We really enjoy family dinners with our extended families. It is a great opportunity to reconnect and share in one another’s lives.

What is your favorite movie or TV show to watch together and why?

We enjoy family movie nights together a few times a month. We are a Netflix family and follow a few different series. Family movie time is a great time to all be together, relax and enjoy a great show with one another.

Why Spirit of Joy?

We chose Spirit of Joy because we had heard great things about the Church through family and friends. We were looking for weeknight worship opportunities and a strong youth program for our three children.

SOJ Visits St. Dysmas

In April, a group of Spirit of Joy partners ventured outside our walls to worship at St. Dysmas. St. Dysmas is made up of two congregations of the ELCA Church located behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. They also support Sunday evening worship at the Yankton Minimum Unit. Hope Chapel, where we worship in Sioux Falls, is the only place men are called by their Christian names; everywhere else they are known by their surname or number. Because many of the men do not receive visitors it is the only place they can enjoy conversation with someone who is not paid to be there or other inmates. Inmates hear the

gospel from Pastor Bob Chell (Pastor Bob and his wife Carole are partners of Spirit of Joy) but *experience* the gospel through outside visitors. **They believe that the key to St. Dysmas' dynamic and vibrant worship and their congregations success is this link with outside visitors.**

Spirit of Joy partners Ron and Lynn Risty were among the group of visitors in April. It was her first time worshipping there, but Ron had previously. **Lynn said that Ron would tell her "you have to experience it to understand"**, and now she gets that!



SOJ Partners Lynn and Ron Risty

Lynn said, "I had many emotions going on:

* forgiveness—looking at this in a different aspect---the consequence of the action they committed and the impact it had on others and on the men.

*I was shocked by the men that were the ages of our sons, this made such an impression on me, recognizing how grateful I am as a Parent/Mom that I have not had to witness or experience our sons in this situation.

*I was humbled by the men and their openness, their genuine thankfulness toward our attendance and the sharing of their gifts through their participation in the service.

***I hadn't thought about what the service would be like---**the reality and honesty within the church service got my attention.

*Sort of a reality check as we prepared to enter—security, etc.

*It was very evident that Pastor Bob has developed a relationship and respect within the men of St. Dysmas.

The experience has "stuck with me" and impacts my thoughts when I see the news, read the paper, etc. And, yes, we will attend again."

If you would like to learn more about St. Dysmas, please visit their website: www.stdysmas.net or email: info@stdysmas.com

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

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

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Return Service Requested

3rd Annual Spirit of Joy Congregational Picnic

Wednesday, June 15

5:30-8:00 pm

Mckennan Park

Last Names A-P: Bring a side dish

Last Names Q-Z: Bring a dessert

