

December 2016 / January 2017

Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



Pastor Jeff Eisele

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship
8:45 am & 11:00am
Education @ 10am
Wed. Worship 6:15pm
Education @ 7pm

The Mission of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

- 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

Why I Love Advent

The conversation was nearly identical to many I've joined in past years at this same time of year. A group of church leaders was wondering how to "keep Advent" in a society that moves directly from Halloween to Christmas—with a very brief detour to Thanksgiving.

"No one in my congregation is clamoring to sing Advent songs," admitted one leader. "They wonder why the church is the *only* place they go in the first half of December where they do *not* hear their favorite Christmas carols."

"To add to the confusion," added another leader, "we're reading lessons from the Bible about the apocalypse, and hearing sermons by the fiery John the Baptist, while the cable channels are filled with heart-warming stories about snowmen, reindeer, elves, and happy families gathering around a brightly decorated tree. What would you rather hear?"

As usual, there was no group consensus about the best way to participate in the all-out cultural celebration of Christmas while moving through the church season of Advent. The one thing the group did agree on was that sharing the message of Advent is worth navigating the tension that arises every year.

I readily admit that Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the year. I enjoy Christmas too, but Christmas can become so filled with great expectations to create and experience perfect kinds of celebrations that we miss the messy simplicity of the reason for the season. Advent points us beyond anything we're able to plan, create, or initiate on our own. Advent reminds us every year that whether our Christmases be white, bright, and joyful, or falling short of our expectations again, our hope is in Emmanuel who has come and will come again. Advent teaches us to look beyond the expected to the more that God in Christ came to do in our lives and in the world.



This year I hope you will join Spirit of Joy in savoring the promises of Advent...AND celebrating the joy of Christmas! PJE

Financial Statistics Thru October 31, 2016	
Checking Account:	
General Fund	\$11,421.87
Building Fund	\$13,065.33
Donor Restricted	\$26,911.22
Sunday School	\$1,351.39
Emergency Fund	\$120,000.00
Petty Cash	\$200.00
Savings Accounts:	
Building	\$70,943.96
Donor Restricted	<u>\$79,514.27</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$323,408.04
Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$377,525.69
<u>Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses</u>	<u>\$438,755.80</u>
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	(\$61,213.60)

Comparing Facts and Figures

	Sept./Oct. 2014	Sept./Oct. 2015	Sept./Oct. 2016
Attendance	1389/1693	1463/1776	1487/1803
General Offering	\$41,300.67/ \$29,511.90	\$33,005.20/ \$37,323.45	\$39,486.17/ \$46,404.00
Building Offering	\$10,955.33/ \$10,880.33	\$11,495.33/ \$11,798.33	\$11,450.33/ \$13,065.33

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:	Christy Hallenbeck Ask
Worship Arts Coordinator:	Jon Mattheis
Preschool Director:	Amy Cauble
Worship Arts:	Susan Wold Rohde, AiM

Year End Gifts

Please remember that all 2016 gifts must be into Amy at the church office by no later than Wednesday, December 28th in order to be applied to your 2016 contributions. Contact Amy with any questions at info@spiritofjoy.net or (605)333-2004.

Thank your for your continued partnership in the Mission & Ministry of Spirit of Joy.

Leadership Team November 7, 2016 Meeting

I. Unfinished Business

- A. 2017 Mission Plan - Budget Process
The Leadership Team worked on budgeting for general ministry, building fund and the preschool for the 2017 Mission Plan of Spirit of Joy.
- B. Jim Stavenger moved that the SOJ Leadership Team establish a formal HR policy handbook to include job descriptions, performance reviews, and salary administrations for the staff of SOJ for the next calendar year. Greg Bertsch second. Motion carries.
- C. Jim Stavenger moved to approve a merit pay increase of 3% of the salary budget to be administered by Pastor Jeff with the exception of Pastor Jeff and Katherine who would be administered by the executive team. Chris Bergst second. Motion carries.

II. New Business

- A. Annual Fall Congregation Meeting - will be held Sunday, November 27, 2016. Agenda will include election of Leadership Team members and approval of 2017 Mission Plan.
- B. Benevolence Payments—No payments made at this time.

SOJ Library: Celebrate the Reformation!

2017 marks 500 years since Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses and thus set in motion the historical and religious changes that have become known as the Reformation. Thanks to the generosity of the Augsburg Fortress publishing house, the SOJ library now has a good collection of books by and about Martin Luther.

If you are interested in his life, there are several biographies. Papa Luther by Daniel Maurer is geared for young people. Presented in the graphic style, it focuses on Luther's children and family. When Lightning Struck by Danika Cooley depicts Luther's struggles with himself and religious and political authorities. Kitty My Rib by Jane Mall is about Luther's wife Katie and her influence on his life and work. Martin Luther, A Life by James Nestingen is illustrated with photos from the film "Luther" starring Joseph Fiennes.

There are also longer biographies by Derek Wilson, Timothy Lull and James Kittelson which go into more detail about Luther's teachings and convictions, as well as his place in history. In addition to biographies, you will find volumes of Luther's own writings and collections of meditations based on Luther's sermons--all on the shelf labeled "Church History" in the SOJ library.

Prayers of the Church

Healing and Strength for:

Dick Sorum, Kayden Mayer, Debbie Gallipo, Jen Moser, Brian Rehnke, Sheila Dovenmueller, Gloria Winterton, Celeste Yee, Matt Timmer, Jean Selchert, Jett Markman, Bernice Pfeiffer, Kelly Spawns, Jeff Peterson, Anna Meyer, Manley Torstenson, Janet Tranberg, Mike Kelley, and David Larson

Thanksgiving for:

*the baptism of **Jeremiah Keith Manning**, son of **Colette and Justin Manning**, on November 6th

*the baptism of **Everett Ray Nelson**, son of **Jess and Tyler Nelson**, on November 6th

*the baptism of **Legend Isaiah Stockberger**, son of **Amy and Adam Stockberger**, on November 13th

*the baptism of **Leo Renee Hoffman**, daughter of **Stacy and Dustin Hoffman**, on November 13th

*the baptism of **Wesley Donald Booze**, son of **Michelle and Wayne Booze**, on November 20th.

*the ministry of **Pastor Charlie Bunk**, as he begins work as the South Dakota Synod Coordinator of Companion Synod Ministries

Guidance, Protection, Help and Encouragement for:

*for congregations under development in the Sioux Falls area, especially **Table of Grace** in Harrisburg and **Pastor Jess Daum**; and **Pueblo de Dios, TEEM Pastor Maria Cabello-Salomon, and Ayduda Worker Jennifer Lunde**

*for sisters and brothers in our companion synods in **Cameroon and Nicaragua**

*for all refugees forced to live away from homes and families this Advent and Christmas

*for all who were elected this past November to positions of leadership in our government

*for the hungry, poor, uninsured, and homeless

Visual Art in Worship

What if we saw the arts in worship as part of discipleship? What if we saw the arts as essential, rather than optional, to the Spirit's work of forming us in the image of Christ when we gather as a corporate body? What if a carefully crafted work of visual art enabled a congregation to see its mission in a radically new light?

My goal for visual art in worship at Spirit of Joy is not to “decorate” our space (though it does that), but to help us see the gospel in a new way and to inspire us to live out that gospel in our lives as we leave the sanctuary. I hope to challenge everyone to look beyond the shapes and decorations and find the meaning behind the art. Visual art should help fill our affective, physical and imaginative needs which aren't easily met with just normal worship.

We give thanks for the many people we are involved in the visual arts already at Spirit of Joy and ask if you are interested in creating or helping in any way to please talk to Jon with your ideas and thoughts.

You can see pictures of all the visual art at Spirit of Joy in the past year at the following blog link <https://sojworshiparts.wordpress.com>.



Making a List



Lists are important. They insure that the essential work gets done on time and provide a map of how to get there. Spirit of Joy Preschool is preparing to open its doors to partners, families and friends. I am very excited! There are lots of fun things to plan and I don't want to forget a thing; so, I make a list. In all honesty, I have made several lists- lists of what to buy, lists of projects to complete, lists of things to create. I look forward to it all!

However, I have begun to notice a new list forming in the back of my mind.

Here are a few of the items on it...

1. An opportunity to reach out to my neighbor in a time of need.
2. A donation of coloring books or a baby doll found on my desk when I get to work.
3. Seeing friends from long ago in surprising places.
4. Waiting in a shopping line with family providing the chance to chat and catch up.

At the top of this list is not "To Do", but instead "For You". It is a list of gifts found in unexpected places. The list continues to grow, but only when I slow down and take a breath. It provides me with the reminder to rest and prepare for another gift found in an unexpected place. The gift of Jesus born in a stable and given to each of us. As the Advent Season begins, may you also take time to enjoy the gifts found in unexpected places.

Merry Christmas, Amy Cauble



Story Time Fun!

Hope you can come next time!



Mark your calendars for Story Time January 23 at 6:30pm in the Library. We will celebrate God's gift of SNOW!!



REGISTER NOW for Fall 2017!

Spirit of Joy Partners Open House & Registration

Dec. 4 12-1pm Dec. 5 10-12pm, 6-7pm

Partners and Public Open House & Registration

Jan. 8 12-1pm Jan. 9 10-12, 6-7pm
Jan. 14 10-12pm



Amy & Owen

On November 16th and 20th, our Wednesday and Sunday Sprouts spent their InterGen Day packing shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child. God truly blessed our time to pack gifts and write cards. We packed a total of 64 shoe box gifts for children in Mexico and Nigeria!

For those who don't know, the goal of our InterGen Days at Sprouts is to bring children together with their parents or grandparents to build community at Spirit of Joy and serve God' people both locally and globally. We truly made an impact in the lives of 64 children for this Christmas season.

"We enjoyed this activity for many reasons, but especially because it provided an opportunity to remind Owen how blessed our family is and how important it is to share our good fortune with others. We look forward to packing boxes for OCC next year. Thanks!" - Amy K.

Kailyn & Brinley



Lane, Siri & Lila



Sophia

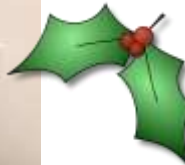


Max & Sid



Makayla, Alyssa & Katelyn

Advent Festival ~ O Little Town of Bethlehem



November 27th. Families gathered ~ babies, moms, dads, kids, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles, and friends in faith from Spirit of Joy. What a wonderful way to begin our Advent season! We painted the Bethlehem scene (check out the new sanctuary art), made (and ate) Norwegian lefse, shared stories and sang songs, and made Bethlehem cards and ornaments to keep and give away. Thank you, to Laurie Dokken and Family, Mary Tranberg, Amy Cauble, and Jon Mattheis for leading our fun Advent stations.

To help us keep Advent Christ-centered, join us in taking home the bulletin inserts for readings, prayers and ideas for serving and sharing. **Let's celebrate the joy of living together in this faith community in Jesus' name, for the sake of the world. Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Winter Family Camp—February 17-19, 2017 Joy Ranch

Spend two nights at one of the premier Bible camps in the country—right in our own **backyard, almost (... near Watertown!)**

Join other Spirit of Joy **families*** for great food, fellowship, sleigh rides, faith-growing, worship, talent show, and Joy Ranch style FUN!

Watch for information and sign up soon in the Gathering Area. This is **YOUR** year!

*Family = Couples with kids, singles with kids, singles, empty-nesters, **grandparents,.... You get the idea.** All are welcome.

Sign up soon. Questions? Ask Katherine: family@spiritofjoy.net



New Partner Spotlights

In October we welcomed these new partners into the Spirit of Joy congregation: Wayne, Michelle, & Wesley Booze; Charlie, Gina, & Mckenzie Cole; Shirlee Hall; Anne Holmquest; Paul, Adam, & Aaron Kusler; Ryan, Brittany, Lucy, & Max Tennant; DJ, Angie, Mason, & Gavin Tolrud; and Jim & Lori Tripp. Let's learn a little bit more about a few of them...

Michelle, Wayne, & Wesley Booze



Why Spirit of Joy?

We felt welcome from the first time we attended and we still feel welcome despite bringing a vocal and wiggly toddler who wants to debate during the sermon. We wanted to feel part

of something bigger than ourselves and we believe that Spirit of Joy fills that need.

What has been a favorite travel destination as a family?

Black Hills—visiting Custer State Park, seeing the animals, fly fishing. We're off the grid, no phones, no TV, just us camping on a mountain and enjoying nature.

What is your favorite movie or TV show?

The West Wing—it's the right balance of politics and faith in humanity to do the right thing.

Anne Holmquest



Why Spirit of Joy?

Because I coach pastors in the rhetoric of the sermon, I had to choose a Lutheran church for my home where I could listen to preaching that is really good. Jeff is one of the best Lutheran speakers I have heard! His messages drew me here. I also came here because every time that I

visited, SOJ was giving something significant to somebody in need. Once it was a kidney.

What do I hope to give at SOJ? I wrote a book called Visual Talk. I would love to be on the Worship Leadership team and show everyone what I have learned about how to use visuals simply and effectively in our worship!

What are your favorite movies? Star Trek, Star Wars, and Lord of the Rings

Outreach News



Family Connection thank you

During "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday in September, Spirit of Joy partners made five fleece tie blankets for visitors to Family Connection. We received this thank you message from Family Connection: "Our Children's Connection kids will be thrilled to be able to pick out their own blanket that will keep them warm on our cold South Dakota winter nights."

Winter clothing collection in January: Center of Hope

During Sundays and Wednesdays in January, we will be collecting winter clothing items for Center of Hope. This Sioux Falls organization offers low cost winter clothing for all people. Items to be accepted are used and new coats, snow pants, overalls, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots in all sizes. Also accepted will be adult sweatshirts, work shirts, vests, long underwear (new only) and jeans/pants (no holes).



Pine Ridge retreat: March 26-29

Save the date! From March 26-29 Spirit of Joy will commission and send a group of 12-15 people to the Pine Ridge Reservation for a learning retreat. The cost for each person will be \$105 (\$35 per person per night). Stay tuned for details on a January Sunday morning forum with SOJ partners who went on the most recent Pine Ridge retreat in 2014. For more information on the Pine Ridge Retreat Center, find them on Facebook or visit pineridgeretreatcenter.org.

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

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Return Service Requested

Christmas Eve Worship

3:00-Family Worship

with a special message and gift for children

5:00-Carols, Candlelight and Communion

7:00-Carols, Candlelight and Communion

Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Lessons & Carols -One Service @ 9:30 am

New Years Day Worship

Prayer Around the Manger -One Service@ 9:30 am

