

December 2015

Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



Katherine Eisele, AIM
Director of Adult &
Family Faith Formation

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.

“What Are You Waiting For?”

“My soul waits for the LORD,
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.” Psalm 130:5-6

There has been a lot of waiting this year in our family. The anticipation of our first grandchild was very exciting. Her parents, of course, spent nine months on the front-line of waiting. And then the wonderful day of her birth came and the waiting was over. **Fast-forward two months and we've heard, “She's still not sleeping very well. Sometimes we just wait for the sun to come up. When the light comes everything is better.”**

What are you waiting for? When have you longed for the dawn? Waiting – for all kinds of things – is part of our human condition, isn't it? We wait for longed for events, for births, spring-time, reunions, and promotions. We also wait for test results, an illness to pass, for a loved one's forgiveness, for conflict resolution, for the gentle death of an aged love one. When will the dawn come?

The Bible is rich in stories of waiting: Noah and Mrs. Noah wait for the flood waters to recede. Abraham and Sarah wait for the promised heir. Moses and the people Israel wait for wilderness wanderings to be over. God's people in exile wait to go home. Israel waits for a Messiah.

Not very long before Jesus was born, these words of promise were sung and later recorded in the Gospel of Luke:

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:78-79.

In Jesus' birth, the light has dawned. In his death and resurrection, we have been given an eternal hope – even as we still wait and lean into the future.

As we enter this season of Advent, we invite you to wait together in community. Worship together on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays for Holden Evening Prayer. Pick up a copy of our all-congregation read, **Simply Wait**, and gather Wednesday evenings (December 2, 9, and 16 at 5:30 pm) or Sunday mornings (December 6, 13, and 20 between services) as we reflect on four “waiting” words: **Anticipation, Hope, Patience and Obedience.**

In this breathless race from Thanksgiving to Christmas, may you slow down and simply wait. Wait in quiet to notice God's kingdom already here. Wait in trust that the dawn has broken. God is with us now and forever.



Katherine Eisele, Associate in Ministry

December Sunday Forums*

Simply Wait

December 6 — Anticipation

December 13 — Patience

December 20 — Hope

December 27—No forum.

Sunday Forums will resume January 17.

Coming in February:



Dr. Ann Milliken Pederson, Professor of Religion at Augustana College, will be our special forum guest. Plan to attend Sunday Forums February 21 and 28 for **Dr. Pederson's presentations.**

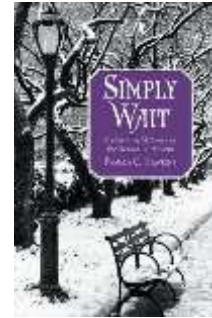
*Sunday Forums are for EVERYBODY. They are times of hospitality, a time to ask questions, to challenge conventional wisdom, to grow in faith, and to grow in community with one another.

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



“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” **Luke 1:78-79**

All-Congregation Advent Read: Simply Wait



During the season of Advent, you are invited to pick up a copy of “Simply Wait” by Pamela C. Hawkins. This little book leads us through four reflections:

Anticipation,
Hope,
Patience,
and Obedience.

Prepared or not, we are signed up for the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas marathon, and will hurtle toward the finish line. But there is an alternate route.

As you read *Simply Wait*, either quietly at home, or in one of the conversations at Spirit of Joy, we pray you will encounter Jesus in the Advent message.

Conversations will be in the **Galilee Room:**

Sundays, 10 am (forum time)

December 6, 13 and 20.

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm (prior to 6:15 pm

Advent worship services)

December 2, 9, and 16. A light meal will be offered at 5:15 pm.

(Bring your copy of Simply Wait with you.)

Books are available in the gathering area. A donation of \$10 is suggested to cover the cost of the book.

Financial Statistics Thru October 31, 2015

Checking Account:	
General Fund	\$112,863.34
Building Fund	\$11,798.33
Donor Restricted	\$34,217.11
Sunday School	\$1,104.93
Petty Cash	\$200.00
Savings Accounts:	
Building	\$60,228.93
Donor Restricted	<u>\$79,514.27</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$299,926.91
Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$416,101.58
Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses	\$409,852.29
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	\$6,266.61

Comparing Facts and Figures

	October 2013	October 2014	October 2015
Attendance	1626	1693	1776
General Offering	\$35,883.55	\$29,511.90	\$37,323.45
Building Offering	\$17,203.50	\$10,880.33	\$11,798.33

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
 Interim Ministry Assistant: 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

Leadership Team

Minutes from the November 10, 2015 Meeting

Unfinished Business

Mission Endowment Fund Proposal—*Daryl Sopko made a motion to approve the proposed Mission Endowment Fund and forward it to the congregation. Bill Webb second. Motion carried.*

SOJ Preschool Proposal—*Bill Webb made a motion to endorse the SOJ Preschool proposal and allocate \$15,000 from Thurman – Undesignated Restricted fund and \$3,000 from Preschool Restricted fund to go towards the start up costs of the preschool at SOJ. Chris Bergst second. Motion carried.*

New Business

2016 Mission Plan (Budget)

General Ministry—*Adam Punt made a motion to approve the proposed general ministry budget for 2016. Bill Webb second. Motion carried.*

Building—*Alison Sundall made a motion to approve the proposed building budget for 2016. Adam Punt second. Motion carried.*

Preschool – move to the February 2016 meeting after approval from the congregation.

Benevolence Payments—*Laurie Gromer made a motion to give:*

\$2000 benevolence to Mission Partners – Pueblo

\$2000 benevolence to Mission Partners – Westside

\$1500 benevolence to Good Shepard

\$1500 benevolence to Food Bank

\$1000 benevolence to Luth. Church of Nicaragua

Alison Sundall second. Motion carried.

Full ministry team reports and meeting minutes can be obtained from Amy in the SOJ Office.

End of the Year Giving

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Please have any end of the year gifts that you wish to be counted towards your 2015 giving to the church office by no later than Wednesday, December, 30th at noon. Gifts received after this date will be counted towards your 2016 giving.

Thank you to all who support the mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy.

Save the Date! On Sunday, Dec. 6th, Spirit of Joy will serve at **Necessities for Neighbors!** 3-5:00. All ages are welcome to serve! Sign-up in the Gathering Space.



Thank you **Hospitality Team** for the work you do at Spirit of Joy! At our last meeting we made small gift bags for 20 South Dakota Couples who serve in the Air National Guard and are just home from being deployed overseas. They will be participating in a retreat called **“Strong Bonds”** which is a program designed to aid our returning military with re-entry into daily life. From left: Laurie Gromer, Joan Watson, Marsha Kadlecik, Diane Wheeler, Ryan Punt and Luke Schwingler. Not pictured: Nicole Sanderson, Dennis Tranberg.

Seeking Volunteer Missionary with Companion Synod in Nicaragua

South Dakota Synod leaders are appealing to all congregations and church-related organizations throughout the Synod to help identify possible candidates to serve as our Volunteer Missionary with our Companion Synod, the Lutheran Church of Faith & Hope of Nicaragua.

This position is critically important to the mission work we share and to the communication logistics which constantly take place. Skills in Spanish are a must as well as an energetic and flexible personality. Please forward any possible interest to Pastor Natanael Lizarazo at companion-synod@sdsynod.org or by calling 605-261-7450.

Fun & Fellowship at our first ever **Craft Night!** Join us again on January 8th!



Spirit of Joy served breakfast at **The Banquet** on Wednesday, November 11th! We were able to provide hot breakfast for 220 of our Sioux Falls neighbors. Thank you volunteers!

SOJ will be wrapping gifts at the Empire Mall on Monday, Dec. 21st, 5-10pm to benefit **Children’s Inn!** A really fun service project that all ages can help with! Sign up in the Gathering Space!



Community Offering

For the month of December we will collect Macaroni & Cheese to be distributed by **Food to You** in January.

Please leave your donation in the basket in the church gathering area, or include in your Food on the 4th bag!



Other items needed currently are: peanut butter, pasta, zip-lock baggies-quart or gallon size, toilet paper and bars of soap.

Thank You!

Food on the 4th Sunday will be December 20th! 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 20th during offering. 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, Dominic Hagebock, Kerstin Schempp, Gary Molzen, Pete Eisele, Jim Welch, Mike Kelley, Julie Vipond, Joan Bjorklund and Debbie Gallipo.

Thanksgiving for:

*the baptisms of **Rowan and Aftyn Turner**, son and daughter of **Jade and Cole Turner**, on November 1st.

*the baptism of **Jaeya Lee Brende**, daughter of **Jamie and Jeff Brende** on November 15th.

*the baptism of **Greta Lee Ann Merrigan**, daughter of **Tricia and John Merrigan**, on November 22nd.

Comfort for:

*family and friends of those killed in the terrorist attacks in **Beirut and Paris**

Guidance, Protection, Help and Encouragement for:

*for young people struggling with loneliness, addiction, mental illness, or finding a place to belong
 *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**



December Words for Worship December 6th-Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

Prepare the way of the Lord

December 13th-Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

December 20th-Fourth Sunday of Advent

Choir Cantata

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

Blessed are you among women/

My soul magnifies the lord

December 27th-First Sunday of Christmas

Luke 2:41-52

Clothe yourselves in love; Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts

Blue Christmas-Lost in the Night

Gather with Spirit of Joy for a worship service of *Remembrance, Healing and Hope*

..when the holidays HURT

Sunday, December 6th at 6:00

For anyone experiencing loss...

of family members or friends
 of a relationship
 of hope, joy, meaning in life
 of yours or a loved one's health
 of financial security

For anyone who is alone, isolated, or stressed...

For anyone who is experiencing emotional pain

Christmas can be a painful time for some. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern in the middle of hectic schedules and Christmas cheer.

You're invited to gather for prayer and song for your own healing, and to support those in need this Christmas season.



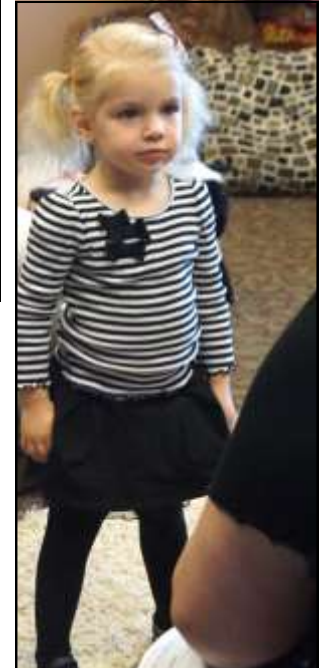
Wednesdays in Advent Supper and Holden Evening Prayer

On Wednesday evenings, December 2, 9, and 16 SOJ will be serving a light meal 5:15-6:00 followed by Holden Evening Prayer 6:15-7:00. Practice your waiting for the Lord with us!

Junior/Senior High Vocal Group

SoJ is putting together a group of middle school and senior high students for singing in worship on December 13th. We will rehearse Sundays Nov. 29 & Dec. 6 at 10:30 in the Well and on Wednesday Dec. 9 at 5:45 in Jon's office. Please talk to Jon or email him (jon@spiritofjoy.net) if your child has an interest in being part of the group.





Spirit of Joy Library: Advent Journey



In the hectic weeks leading up to Christmas, consider taking some time to read and reflect about the meaning of the holiday. The SOJ library has many books to help you.

Jotham's Journey is intended for a family to read aloud together. It is the story of a 10-year old boy in biblical times. He has disobeyed his father and run off into the desert to hide. Of course, he finds himself in serious trouble and has many adventures before he is finally reunited with his family. Some of the people he meets teach him about the Messiah they are anxiously awaiting. Jotham had presumed that the Messiah would come as a conquering king to empower his people so he is now surprised to learn that the Messiah is coming as a baby, who eventually will suffer and die for the sins of the world.

The book is divided into chapters to be read each day of **Advent**. It includes discussion topics to compare Jotham's fears and the dangers he faces to the situations of all of us. This book is better for older children because of the more difficult vocabulary and concepts. Some biblical characters (Simeon, Zechariah, Anna) and scenes (such as the great temple in Jerusalem) are included, as well as information about the origin of the Advent season.

REACH Support

For the past several years members of Spirit of Joy have helped support teachers in India at the REACH Home. The support involves \$120 a year to provide an extra **\$10 per month to add to the teacher's monthly income.** This year we are requesting the same support. Each teacher receives an extra \$10 a month from these gifts added to their monthly \$50 income. Any help you could provide is very much appreciated. This REACH Home is run by Kusuma Paul, a personal friend of Dennis and Sandy Ellingsen. She houses, feeds, educates and cares for 300 orphans in India, and these teachers are a vital part of her ministry and calling. Thank you for your consideration. Checks can be made out to Spirit of Joy. Thank you to all those who have supported this program both this year and in the past!



Book Clubs & Studies

Evening Book Club will meet at **6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1** at Royal Fork to eat dinner and discuss any of the Donna Van Liere books. Several of these books are available in the book club basket in the church library.

Morning Book Group will meet December 3 to discuss All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. (Please note the change of date because of Thanksgiving.) We meet at 9 AM in the church library.

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.**



Augustana University invites you to celebrate the birth of our Savior with us by attending the 58th Annual Augustana Vespers services held Dec 4 – **6 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.** Tickets go quickly and are now available at www.augietickets.com.

On Dec 10, the Augustana instrumental programs **take the stage at The Washington Pavilion in "All Wrapped Up,"** promising gifts of beautiful holiday music, sacred and secular. Tickets for this event are available through the Pavilion Box Office.

Opportunity for Spirit of Joy Women

You are invited to come to Caribou Coffee at 28th & Minnesota Monday, December 7 at 3:00 for informal fellowship with other SOJ women. Meet new people and reconnect with others. Everyone welcome!



Advent Festival—Around the World!

3 pm Sunday, November 29



We have secured ‘passports’ for everyone to Mexico, South Africa, Russia, Palestine (Bethlehem) and Norway! We will learn about how children in these countries celebrate Advent and Christmas. Through food, games, crafts, drama and beautiful nativities from these countries, we’ll experience a fantastic trip around the world—getting ready for Jesus’ birthday.

Each child will receive a passport, stickers from each country, and a craft to bring home. Families, plan to make this the start of your Advent Season—remembering what its all about, after all: God coming to us as a baby in Bethlehem. Welcome, Jesus!

Partners and friends of Spirit of Joy are welcome to attend. Though this is a fun family time, we want all to share the experience. (After all, it IS a trip around the world!) See you November 29th at 3 pm.

Advent Blessings to You and Yours,
Katherine Eisele, Associate in Ministry



2016 Save the Dates for Families

January 10—Anniversary of Baptism for all baptized in 2015
February 12-14 (President’s Day weekend) **FAMILY CAMP** at Joy Ranch
More info in next month’s newsletter...

Little Lambs Sunday School—December 6 at 10 am

This month’s story—Jesus is Born

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers not old enough for Sprouts—all welcome.
Meet in the far SW classroom for this special **Christmas Little Lambs**.



Upcoming Events for Children and Their Families

- November 29—ADVENT FESTIVAL 3pm Sunday afternoon.
- December 5—Saturday 9 am at Scooters Coffee, Parents of College students meet for card-mailing.
- December 6—**Little Lambs: “Jesus is Born” Bring your wee one!**
- December 13—Christmas Program! Afternoon at Spirit of Joy
- December 21—Gift-wrapping opportunity for families—See page 4.
- December 24—Christmas Eve family service with special message and gift for children. 3 pm.



Sprouts Christmas Program Announcements!

Just a Little Christmas

Sunday, December 13th 3pm

Join our Preschool & Elementary youth as they tell the story of Jesus' birth through storytelling.

Final Rehearsal

- Sunday, December 13th at 10am during Sprouts. All elementary youth participating meet in Sanctuary.
- Preschoolers will meet in their classrooms.

Performance

- All youth are asked to be to the church by 2:15pm before the 3pm performance.
- Join us after the performance for some Christmas goodies in the Well.

Sprouts Christmas Celebration!

Wednesday, Dec. 16th 7pm

Sunday, Dec. 20th 10am

Our Wednesday and Sunday Sprouts will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with some Christmas activities and treats during their final Sprouts hour of 2015!

Christmas Snacks for the Party

Parents & Caring Adults—We'd love to celebrate with some Christmas goodies **(Peanut Free only!)**

If you'd be willing to donate some treats, please sign up on the sheets outside of Mike Haddican's office. Thank you so much!



Sprouts Stories - Jonah and the Big Fish

Our classes have learned not just about how **Jonah was swallowed up by a Big Fish**, but they've learned how he doubted God, doubted himself, and doubted redemption for Ninevah.

5 classes (3 on Wednesdays, 2 on Sundays) got to **create some amazing murals of Jonah's** brief time after being tossed from the ship and before he was swallowed by the fish.

More murals are hanging up in the classrooms, but below are a few of the murals.



Sunday Funday!

Spirit of Joy will be open for High School youth from 5-9pm on Sunday Nights! Teens are invited to come over to study, pray, rest, read a book, watch a movie together, play games and more!

Adult volunteers to help host the teens should contact Tim Krause at skatimmy737@gmail.com. A background check is necessary for all adults who wish to help.

More info about this opportunity can be found at www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com.

December dates are Dec 6, 13, and 20th. We will not meet Dec. 27th . Merry Christmas!

Small Groups Meeting Off-Site

Mike is scheduling times for teens to get together in small groups of 3-5 people for some **discussions about life, prayer concerns and faith formation questions**. We'll meet at Scooters, Fly Boy Donuts, Dairy Queen or other yummy hang out spots.

The time and date always depend on who is available and who is interested in chatting.

Amazing Grace Race is coming soon!

Our High School youth will soon be doing Random Acts of Kindness by taking part in the 2nd Annual Amazing Grace Race on **Wednesday, Dec. 16th from 6-9:15pm**.

What Happens: Groups of 3-5 get paired with an adult driver for the night. Then, they receive clues that send them to a locations all over Sioux Falls. From there, they must participate in a series of Random Acts of Kindness.

Who Can Help: Any adult can serve in one of 2 ways:

1) Driver of a car: Take 3-5 kids on a team around Sioux Falls.

2) Be an "Elf": One of the best parts are the "Elves" who wait at certain landmarks in Sioux Falls. When a group arrives, you give them a challenge. Once they've completed their challenge, you give them the clue to their next destination.

This is a terrific event to celebrate the Christmas Season.

I hope a lot of our High School youth and adults of all ages can join us!

Need to contact Mike Haddican? Email: mike@spiritofjoy.net
 Check out the Youth Website: www.sojyouthsf.weebly.com for
 * Youth Calendar * Events * Faith Formation Opportunities

December Birthdays

Kelly Ballew	Geneva Molzen	Wade Hanson	Kristen Eisele
Heather Hewitt	Kaitlin Christensen	Trish Swanhorst	Gary Molzen
Ruth Syverson	Kaylee Timmer	Sam Cheatum	Ronda Samuelson
Megan Bertsch	Melanie Jones	Riley Christensen	Jeff Gromer
Kenneth Karels	Carly Becker	Elijah Detert	Terese Hammerstrom
Aaron Johnson	Megan Brown	Mike Henderson	Maris Hauger
Chris Berdahl	Pat Iwen	Bette Kappedal	Grace Merrigan
Mark Berdahl	Abby Kills-A-Hundred	Lucas Koolstra	Roger Syverson
Eric Breidenbach	Jim Reich	Corey Vickery	Noreen Overby
Sharon Starks	Torrey Sundall	Ryley Heier	Susan Awe
Lexi Coy	Ryan Hill	Kim Johansen	Deb Nelson
Daryl Rossow	Kim Phillips	Judy Kuzepa	Brett Coy
Mariah Dokken	Dylan Rehnke	TJ Von Wald	Gary DeBoom
Jada Becker	Tracy Dahl-Webb	Marge Hagen	Cierra Hanson
Sandi Gruseth	Kurt Peppel	Blake Manthey	

December Anniversaries

Dan & Arlene Drew	12/01	Jeff & Laurie Gromer	12/21
Larry & Sandi Gruseth	12/01	Phil & Marge Hagen	12/23
Don & Michelle Stanek	12/08	Bruce & Beth Hagen	12/27
Bob & Melvadeen Neely	12/14	Eric & Jodi Haugland	12/27
Jason & Mindy Larsen	12/15	John & Mallory McCollister	12/27
Bob & Marsha Kadlecik	12/17	RJ & Jayna Fitzsimmons	12/29
Greg & Heather Krzmarzick	12/20	Gary & Suzanne DeBoom	12/31

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 us at: info@spiritofjoy.net

2016 Newsletter Changes

In order to be good stewards of the gifts and contributions made to Spirit of Joy, we have taken a closer look at the high cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. In response, some changes will be made in the upcoming year. The newsletter will be condensed to fewer pages and will be available online at <http://spiritofjoy.net/newsletters/> rather than mailed to all partners. In an attempt to keep people well informed of upcoming events, our website and social media pages will be updated regularly. We recognize that not all partners use email or the internet regularly, so printed newsletters will be available at the church for those who prefer a paper copy. Feel free to contact Amy at the Spirit of Joy office with any questions.

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



Celebrate Christmas!

Sunday, December 20th-8:45 and 11:00 am

A Noel Celebration

The Sounds and Stories of Christmas

Christmas Eve-December 24th

3:00-Family Worship with a special message and gift for children

5:00-Carols, Candlelight and Communion

7:00-Carols, Candlelight and Communion

First Sunday of Christmas, December 27th

ONE Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols @ 9:30 am