

February—March 2017

# Windswept

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



## Late Winter Liminality



**Christy  
Hallenbeck Ask**

### 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](http://www.spiritofjoy.net)  
605-333-2004

I'm not a fan of late winter. Never have been. Come about January 2 each year, I lead a quiet revolt against my least favorite month and its equally bleak successor, February.

The days are short, the sky is gray, and the Christmas lights are long gone. (Except in my parents' house, where a stubborn, still-standing Christmas tree may explain my genetic disdain for this season.)

Late winter is that time when holiday colors have been erased, not to be repainted for another 11 months--or eight months, depending on where you shop--and signs of spring's hues seem impossibly distant. It's the *liminal* space: the in-between time, still not before, not quite after.

*Liminality* is a term coming from the Latin word *limen*, meaning "threshold." Liminal space, then, is that threshold between two times. When changes are afoot, perhaps, but we're not sure what they will be or when they will come.

My best friend recently reminded me of this term after hearing it in a sermon. Her pastor illustrated liminal space as driving through ruts formed by winter's ice: you're not sure which way your car will go, but you're quite certain you'll get through it even if you don't know how.

Sometimes this time of year can feel like a rut in the church year: the weeks between the energy of Christmas and the rhythm of Lent. Liturgical liminality.

This year I find it particularly fitting, then, that the theme for this liminal season--that is, the season of Epiphany--is *light*. What better image for these in-between days? A light to illuminate a way through the rut, a path through the unplowed roads. The Christ child, the Light of the World, to shine light into the dark places of our lives and our world. The preacher Jesus, whose Sermon on the Mount we're exploring these weeks, who shines the light of justice and reveals the way of faith.

I give thanks for gathering with you, people of Spirit of Joy, during these liminal weeks. Together we sing of God's presence even and especially in the midst of dark days and gray skies. We hear of God's promises and we go forth with God's call to bring light to our world.

May we see glimpses of God's light and share it with our community, today and always. In light, Christy

## Financial Statistics Thru December 31, 2016

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$36,940.77
Building Fund	\$16,305.66
Donor Restricted	\$32,482.26
Sunday School	\$1,290.43
Emergency Fund	\$120,000.00
Petty Cash	\$200.00

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$54,443.21
Donor Restricted	\$79,514.27

**Total Cash Balance** **\$341,176.60**

Year-to-Date Income for Ministry	\$501,720.67
Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses	\$533,835.83
Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry	(\$32,094.02)

## Comparing Facts and Figures

	Nov./Dec. 2014	Nov./Dec. 2015	Nov./Dec. 2016
<b>Attendance</b>	1749/1922	1763/1948	1574/2075
<b>General Offering</b>	\$42,906.16/ \$64,632.58	\$41,208.08/ \$130,525.93	\$39,608.93/ \$84,586.05
<b>Building Offering</b>	\$12,384.33/ \$24,061.78	\$12,845.33/ \$23,298.69	\$9,375.33/ \$26,930.33

## Spirit of Joy Information

Pastor:	Jeff Eisele
Office Manager:	Amy Orr
Adult/Family Faith Formation:	Katherine Eisele, Deacon
Children/Youth Faith Formation:	Mike Haddican
Outreach & Hospitality:	Christy Hallenbeck Ask
Worship Arts Coordinator:	Jon Mattheis
Preschool Director:	Amy Cauble
Worship Arts:	Susan Wold Rohde, Deacon

## Leadership Team

January 16, 2017 Meeting

### I. Unfinished Business

A. **Personnel Policy Handbook** - a team is working to create a document that provides clarity to staff expectations, time off, etc. Plan to have the document reviewed by legal counsel before published and implemented.

### II. New Business

- A. **Annual Winter Congregational Meeting, February 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Agenda includes:** Treasurer's Reports, Ministry and Staff Reports, Preschool Report, Election of vice-president, nominating committee, and synod assembly reps, Election of a call committee. **Adam Punt moved to approve the agenda. Darlene Weber 2nd. Motion carries.**
- B. **Ministry Teams and Leadership Team meeting schedules.** - Decided to move leadership team meetings to Thursday evenings.
- C. **Brianna Hammerstrom's Mission Trip to Haiti - Greg Bertsch motioned to designate \$1,000 of Other Benevolence funds to support Brianna's mission trip. Adam Punt second. Motion carries.**
- D. **Benevolence Payments** - January benevolence payments totalling \$3,000 will be made to: Ayuda - \$1,000, Brianna's Scholarship - \$1,000, Community Food Bank - \$1,000. **Marsha Kadelecik moved to approve the above benevolence payments. Pam Walton second. Motion carries.**

## Spirit of Joy's Annual Winter Congregational Meeting

Join us on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** in our worship space. Agenda items include consideration of year end ministry and financial reports, election of a vice-president and nominating committee, and the election of a call committee for the purpose of taking a first step towards calling an associate pastor. All confirmed partners are urged to attend this important meeting.

Dear Friends at Spirit of Joy!

A very heartfelt thank you to all of you who have reached out to me so kindly as Bob recently claimed the promise of the eternal life that he had preached about so passionately for fifty years. Your upholding prayers, thoughtful cards, caring memorials and kind words of sympathy, as well as the many special memories of Bob that you have shared, have been a great source of comfort and support to me. Ever since Bob served at Spirit of Joy for three months the summer of Pastor Jeff's 2007 sabbatical, you have had a special place in our hearts and you have outdone yourselves now by surrounding me with care, concern and prayer. As I continue to adjust to a different way of life now after 54 years of it being the "two of us," I pray that God will bless each of you as you have so richly blessed me! Judy Dovenmuehler

## Prayers of the Church

### *Healing and Strength for:*

**Dick Sorum, Debbie Gallipo, Susan Hagebock, Jen Moser, Bill Bauer, Sheila Dovenmueller, Gloria Winterton, Matt Timmer, Jett Markman, Bernice Pfeiffer, Jeff Peterson, Anna Meyer, Celeste Yee, Manley Torstenson, Janet Tranberg, Mike Kelley, David Larson, Nicole Seeman, and Curt Vipond**

### *Comfort for:*

\***Judy Dovenmueller** and her family as they grieve the death of **Bob Dovenmueller**

\***Marge Hagen** and her family as they grieve the death of **Phil Hagen**

### *Thanksgiving for:*

\*all of our **musicians and artists** who helped make our Christmas celebrations beautiful and joyful!

\*the ministry of **Jennifer Lunder**, as she serves as the director of the **Ayuda Project**, a relationship building initiative of our South Dakota Synod to connect area churches with our Latino neighbors.

\*newly elected members of Spirit of Joy’s leadership team: **Rick Lundberg, treasurer; Darlene Weber, ministry resources team leader; and Pam Walton, outreach team leader.**

\*SoJ leadership team members who have completed their terms of service: **Sarah Werner, president; Chris Bergst, treasurer; Daryl Sopko, ministry resources team leader; Alison Sundall, outreach team leader.**

### *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**, and **TEEM Pastor Maria Cabello-Salomon.**

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

\*for **leaders in government** in Washington, DC, Pierre and Sioux Falls

\*for **members of our armed forces; for police officers, firefighters**, and all who work to keep us safe

\*for **all who work for justice** for immigrants and refugees

\*for our **bishops Elizabeth Eaton and David Zellmer**

\*for **all who work to protect God’s creation** from abuse, greed and exploitation

## Worship Space

Worship is a “big” word. It is so “big” that we try to cram so many things into worship that sometimes it overflows! Worship is music, scripture, sermon, baptisms, communion, offerings, confessions, and whatever else we can fit in the service. What about the worship space and is it overflowing? Yes, our worship space is overflowing some services



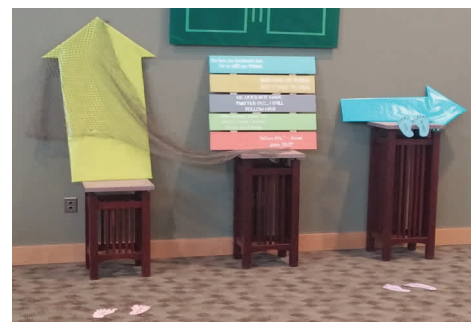
and is also changing with the services. If you haven’t noticed, we are currently in the

process of recovering chairs, so on one Sunday we were missing 15 chairs, but creative art was in its place. All the chairs were arranged differently for our New Year’s

Day service to help enhance a service around the manager. Some weeks we see a lot of visual art in the space to



help bring alive the gospel. Is this all necessary? Yes! We don’t sing the same songs or hear the same scripture every week as it is always changing to keep our attentiveness. Our worship space should also change to keep us watchful and in line with our worship.

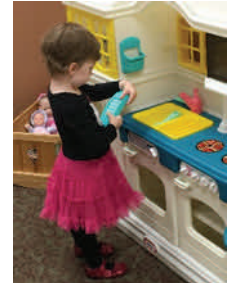


Jon Mattheis

## ***Welcome to Spirit of Joy Preschool!***

Preparations were complete, it is time to send the invitations! In December, bulletins were stuffed, postcards were mailed, signs were posted, and personal invites were made. Neighbors, partners, and new friends were encouraged to attend the upcoming Spirit of Joy Preschool Open House.

January quickly arrives. Open House time has arrived –welcome! The classroom is full of grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and children who have come to visit Spirit of Joy Preschool, your new preschool. The energy and excitement in the room is unmistakable.



Please imagine a classroom. In one corner, there is a family reading books aloud to one another. In another, children are giggling as water splashes like raindrops into a bowl. And finally, turn to see a feast being prepared in the play kitchen- fruits of every color, pasta, hamburgers, and orange juice.



It is a moment worth etching into our minds and keeping in our memory for a long while. A joyful moment of sharing what we have been given with others, reaching out to our neighbor, and taking another step towards lifelong faith formation. Children are registering for preschool. Young children are taking their first steps toward the preschool adventure. Families are grateful for the opportunity. God is at work.

So many hands, hearts, and prayers have joined together in community as we prepare the preschool. Thank you for your support, your extravagant generosity. If you have not been able to visit yet, please do. It will brighten your day! -Amy Cauble

### **Mom & Dad's Day Out: Sharing What We Have Been Given!**

Thank you for the generous donations that continue to stream into the preschool. On Saturday, January 21, over twenty children, youth, and adults were able to enjoy these gifts- playing, crafting, eating & laughing-sharing what has been given to us.

### ***Growing with one another!***



*At Storytime with our friends, we learned that God made the snow.*

*We sang snow songs, read snow books, and we were able to create snowmen treats with our friends. Yum!*



Our High School youth are interviewing adults in the congregation to hear stories of their faith lives.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, they interviewed Phil Hanson.

Here are some highlights:

**What do you wish you knew when you were our age?**

That life will go. It may not go well, but it will go. Trusting in God to help us along the way is a big deal.

**What do you want to be remembered**

**for?** It would be great to be known for having integrity, being kind, honest and caring. It doesn't matter what I've accomplished as long as I make a positive impact.

**What is the biggest decision you've made in your life?**

Going to college and living as an independent young Christian.

### Keep Calm and Camp On—

Camp is a place I never thought I would like... Until I went. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, I attended a Bible camp in North Dakota that promised a fun and faith filled week. When I arrived, I stayed close to my pastor and tried convincing him that I needed to leave. Luckily, he talked me through my anxiety about camp and let me know about a lot of fun things that would be coming up at camp. I stayed the whole week and ended up having a great time that helped me grow in my relationship with God.

Flash forward four years – I'm now in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and returning to the same camp with my sister and three other friends from church. The week was one of the most memorable weeks of my adolescent years.

I met a bunch of great friends and I won the title of "Burp Contest Champion".

I believe that the Holy Spirit was working through these camp experiences.

God was planting a seed of faith in me that I was unaware of. **Camp changes you.**

Have you thought about great camping options for your child(ren) through Shetek Lutheran Ministries or Lutherans Outdoors in SD? Both programs have great offers for ½ week and full week options.



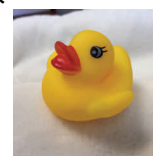
## Of Water and Word... and Ducks?

On January 8, families of those baptized in 2016 gathered together in worship to celebrate the Anniversary of Baptism Milestone. As a community of Jesus followers, we celebrate the new life given to us in baptism: the gifts of forgiveness, identity, and eternal life. But what about the ducks?

In between services families gathered in the Galilee Room to share stories of baptism days, of hopes for the year ahead, and ways to nurture faith in our children and in one another. Toddlers got a chance to “baptize” the baby doll, and moms and dads practiced tracing the sign of the cross on their child’s forehead.



This year, we were inspired to give each family a little rubber duck so that at bath time, they can remind their children that they are baptized and belong to God. Written in permanent ink on each duck was the child’s name and date of their baptism. Parents will remind their children about what happened that day:



*The pastor said, “[child’s name], you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Now THAT is bath time with a purpose! What a great way to make faith formation a part of daily life. Ducks and all.

Katherine Eisele, Adult and Family Faith Formation

## Adult Faith Formation ~ So, Who is Jesus?

Here’s what your friends at Spirit of Joy are saying about **The Greatest Story – Jesus**:

*“I’m hoping to meet new friends and partners in Christ.”*

*“I want to learn more about Jesus’ life and now have this reason [class] to read and study and think about these things.”*

*“I want to understand Jesus’ divinity as well as his humanness.”*

*“I want to get more familiar with the Bible.”*

*“I look forward to seeing the entire Jesus story instead of just bits and pieces.”*



Our approach to Faith Formation at Spirit of Joy starts with the belief that the Holy Spirit continues to call us, enlighten us, and keep us in the one true faith our whole life long. Our journeys of faith are not intended to stall out after our baptisms, or after our Sunday School days, or our Confirmation days, or after any days at all.

That is why we are so excited that many partners have joined in our 16 week journey to explore anew **The Greatest Story – Jesus**. We are gathered to ask good questions in a safe place, to share our joys and frustrations in faith, to encourage one another in our daily walk as Christians. And to have some fun along the way.

It’s not too late to join us. Thursdays at 7 pm or Fridays at 9 am. You are always welcome.



**It’s not too late to sign up for WINTER FAMILY CAMP—February 17-19, 2017**

Spend two nights at Joy Ranch—a premier Lutheran Bible camp near Watertown, SD.

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

Sign up soon! [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net)

## New Partner Spotlights

On January 29 we welcomed several new partners into the Spirit of Joy congregation. Meet four of them below, and check out the bulletin board by the office for more names and pictures!

### Andrea & Joey Larson



**Why Spirit of Joy?**

Spirit of Joy was one of the first churches we visited when we were originally looking for a church home in Sioux Falls. One of the main reasons we continued to come back for worship on Sunday mornings was how welcome we felt, from our very first visit. Two caring partners went out of their way to genuinely greet

us after worship. Those two continued to reach out, introducing us to other partners, Sunday after Sunday. Since that time, we've also appreciated the opportunity and encouragement to be involved.

**What has been a favorite travel destination ?**

This past October, we packed our bags and loaded up our yellow lab, Oliver, for a road trip. We drove out to Montana and Wyoming, spending time hiking, relaxing by the campfire, driving through Yellowstone National Park, exploring Grand Teton National Park, and enjoying time away from reality. Jackson Lake was one of our favorite stops!! A must-see!

### Thom & Lynn Sinnette



**Why Spirit of Joy?**

Basically because our daughter (Staci Schwingler) and son-in-law Luke are partners and they invited us to check y'all out. And the rest is, as they say, history.

**What is your favorite TV show?**

NCIS (the original)

**What is a favorite tradition of yours?**

This is a weird one. In the hills of Eastern Kentucky it is customary to butter the nose of a person on their birthday.

### Library News—No Easy Answers

Best-selling author Jodi Picoult is known for books about moral dilemmas. Her newest novel *Small Great Things* tackles the issue of racism in contemporary America.

The plot revolves around an experienced labor and delivery nurse, who happens to be black, and the newborn child of a white supremacist couple. The story unfolds from the points of view of the nurse, the father of the baby, and a lawyer (a younger white woman from the public defender's office).

Although there are some difficult scenes and a couple of somewhat unbelievable plot twists, the characters are strong and well-developed. The situation brings up many thought-provoking questions about important and complicated topics.

Be sure to read the Author's Note at the end to understand Picoult's motivation for writing this novel. The title refers to a quotation often attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

## Outreach News

### Pine Ridge retreat

Spirit of Joy will commission and send a group to the Pine Ridge Reservation for a learning retreat from March 26-29. For more information on the trip, contact Christy at [christy@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:christy@spiritofjoy.net).



### Ayuda & Pueblo de Dios

Spirit of Joy is now partnering with Ayuda, an ELCA initiative that connects Sioux Falls congregations with the local Latino community. As a starting point we will worship together with the bilingual Spanish/English Pueblo de Dios congregation on Sunday, February 12. Sign up at church!

# 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

## Ash Wednesday Worship

March 1, 2017

5:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Imposition of Ashes  
and Holy Communion



Join us on Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 8th, for a soup and sandwich supper from 5:15 to 6:00 pm

followed by Lenten Worship from 6:15 to 7:00 pm.