

August—September 2017

# Windswept



Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church



**Pastor Christy  
Hallenbeck Ask**

## Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship  
8:45 am & 10:00am

## Summer Office Hours

Mon.-Thu.: 8:30-4:30  
Friday: 8:30-Noon

## **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)

## August: The Month of “Already and Not Yet”

If there's one strange thing about working in the church (and of course, there's only one), it's the frequent jumping between seasons: the season you're in and the season to come.

If you're staying on track with the cycle of the church year, you may be planning for spring even though it's Christmas; Advent even though it's summer; Pentecost even though it's Lent. The weather and decor outside might not reflect the landscape of the worship service or event you in which you are mentally operating.

It's the logistical “already and not yet” -- a term we often use in a theological context, meaning in one sense that creation has already been redeemed by God our Creator, and yet we know all too well that the creation is still crying out for redemption. (See Romans 8:19-25.) We confess that our future has been secured in God's promises, and yet our present surroundings often look anything but secure. Already and not yet.

August seems to me a whole month of the *practical* “already and not yet.” Our lives in church and school are gearing up for fall. We're making lists for shopping, planning a return to weekly routines, and dreaming of apple pie (at least I am). Around Spirit of Joy we're preparing for the opening of our Pre-school, the launching of new small groups, and kicking off a new year of faith formation programming. We're laying the groundwork to sponsor a refugee family through Lutheran Social Services' Center for New Americans. We're brewing up a festive German dinner to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

And yet, it's only August. (Truth be told, as I write, it's still July.) The prayer gardens bloom in new colors every day. Our partners young and old spend their days jumping and laughing at camps and on trips across the country and world. The community gardens are full and ripening.

While August may be a month of “already and not yet,” it's a pretty great month for “right here, right now.” Smell the flowers. Eat the kale. See the sights. Play in the pool and the wind and the dirt.

And join us for our August worship series on Creation. We'll look at the Creation story, guided by Diana Butler Bass's book *Grounded* and its four chapters: Genesis, Dirt, Water, and Air.

Don't worry. We'll keep planning for fall.

Meanwhile, in a few days I'm joining my colleague Mike and three of our youth in tromping the trails of Christikon Bible Camp in southcentral Montana. We covet your prayers: that we might be present to God in the “right here, right now,” as God is present to us in the here-and-now, in the mountains and in the plains.

May it be so for you too.

*In gratitude, Pastor Christy*

## Financial Statistics Thru June 30th, 2017

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$60,427.77
Building Fund	\$12,013.33
Donor Restricted	\$16,967.58
Sunday School	\$1,358.64
Emergency Fund	\$120,000.00
Petty Cash	\$200.00

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$75,485.23
Donor Restricted	\$79,563.31

**Total Cash Balance** **\$366,047.86**

Year-to-Date Income for Ministry \$430,307.62

Year-to-Date Ministry Expenses \$357,011.29

Net Income/(Deficit) for Ministry \$73,296.33

## Comparing Facts and Figures

	May/June 2015	May/June 2016	May/June 2017
<b>Attendance</b>	1656/915	1563/1105	965/945
<b>General Offering</b>	\$39,002.70/ \$30,873.56	\$35,478.94/ \$32,417.15	\$35,596.49/ \$38,518.11
<b>Building Offering</b>	\$10,673.33/ \$14,615.33	\$10,210.33/ \$10,085.33	\$9,929.00/ \$12,107.54

## Spirit of Joy Library: Justice and Mercy?

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer in the mid-1980's when he began defending prisoners on death row in Alabama. He was horrified to realize the cruel and unjust sentencing practices that had affected so many. *Just Mercy* is his memoir about his struggles with injustices in the court system. He personalizes this theme with the stories of several individuals, focusing especially on one of his first cases with Walter McMillan, a black man sentenced to die for the murder of a white woman which he did not commit. Stevenson also reopened cases for people sentenced to life in prison without parole for crimes committed when they were only 13 or 14 years old.

The author writes eloquently about the brokenness he sees in his clients, the lives they came from, the families of victims, court procedures, and those who seek vengeance, but also in himself. His experiences have helped him appreciate our shared vulnerability and our capacity for compassion. Mercy and justice can be stronger than cruelty and hatred.



## Leadership Team

June 22nd, 2017 Meeting

### I. Unfinished Business

- Personnel Policy Handbook** - Jim presented the handbook to the staff on Wednesday, June 28th.
- Calls to Serve on Ministry Teams** - Ministry team positions are nearly filled.

### II. New Business

- Job Descriptions** - Darlene moved to post the two job openings as discussed with the Coordinator of Worship Arts position at 25-30 hours per week and the Coordinator of Communications position at 10-15 hours per week. Both positions would have salary ranges of \$15-\$18 per hour. Marcy second. Motion carries.
- Katherine Sabbatical in 2018**- Pam moved to approve Katherine's request for Sabbatical during the summer of 2018. Marsha second. Motion carries.
- Building Expansion Task Force** - Task force membership remains as stated in the May minutes with the addition of Darin Hage. The first task force meeting was held June 28.
- Next Capital Campaign** - We will continue to raise awareness and request funds for the current building fund through the annual stewardship process. This will allow for the possibility that the building expansion task force make the recommendation to hold a capital campaign without creating an overlap of pledges.
- Benevolence Payments:** Marcy motioned to make the following benevolence payments:
  - \$1,000 Charis/Mobile Food Bank
  - \$1,500 St. Francis House
  - \$1,000 Habitat for Humanity
  - \$1,500 Community Outreach

## NEEDED: Nursery Organizers!



Our nursery is overflowing with toys, and needs some TLC from a few organizationally-gifted individuals!

If you would be willing to help with this project during August, please contact Amy at [info@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:info@spiritofjoy.net) or call at (605)333-2004. Thank you!

## Spirit of Joy Staff

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

## Prayers of the Church

### Healing and Strength for:

**Debbie Gallipo, Trish Swanhorst, Gloria Winterton, Bill Boyda, Beth Hagen, Shirlee Hall, Karen Soli, Marvin Woodrich, Connie Evenson, Jeff Peterson, Celeste Yee, Linda Page, David Larson, Sheila Dovenmueller, and Pete Eisele.**

### Thanksgiving for:

\*the baptism of **Elise Marjorie Thompson**, daughter of **Hans & Laci Dahl Thompson**, on July 16th

\*the baptism of **Bryce Allen Ramse**, son of **Amanda and Gary Ramse**, on July 23rd.

\*all **partners, friends, and the camp counselors from NeSoDak** for their leadership in this year's Vacation Bible School and Day Camp

\***Boy Scout Troop 711** for helping put down the mulch for our new preschool playground

\*for all **partners and friends** who have fed our hungry neighbors these past months through Meals on Wheels, Food on the Fourth, and the Mobile Food Pantry

### Guidance and Encouragement for:

\*our leaders in federal, state and local government

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

\*our mission partner congregations: **Pueblo de Dios and Table of Grace**

\*our global mission partners in **Lutheran Churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon**

## Thank You Jon!!

Spirit of Joy's Coordinator of Worship Arts, Jon Mattheis, has resigned his call from Spirit of Joy to return to full time teaching.

You are invited to join SoJ in a



### Thank You Reception

**Sunday, August 13th between worship services**

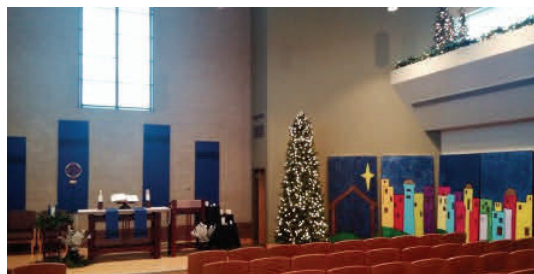
**9:30-10:00 a.m.**

We will also offer prayers of thanksgiving and blessing at both worship services that day. Please join us!

## The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

As my time here at Spirit of Joy wraps up, I am left with many wonderful memories. Below are just a few of the highlights of my two years at Spirit of Joy. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. I would like to leave you with the words to the Central American hymn "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" by Gerhard M. Cartford:

*The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better*



*place to live.*

*The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we*

*were meant to do in Jesus' name;*

*that falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.*

*Jon Mattheis*



# The Preschool Post

## -Four Commonly Heard Words at SOJ Preschool this Summer-

Word #1 Prepare: to make something ready, to make something by putting things together.

The preschool has excitedly continued its preparations for our fall opening, focusing on the outdoor play space. The outdoor play space preparations began with brainstorming conversations. We spent time imagining fun ways to utilize the space with outdoor equipment, natural elements, and fun toys. These conversations turned into action plans. Preparations were laid out and ready for action, until...

Word #2 Interruption: a pause, break, or temporary halt in an ongoing activity or process.

Interruptions are just a part of the process. Things happen that cannot be helped: broken machinery, flat tires, high temperatures, drought conditions, and bustling schedules. Interruptions require adjustments to our plans, leading to...

Word #3 Patience: the ability to endure waiting, delay or to persevere calmly when faced with difficulties.

It is during these times of interruption that patience emerges. Patience can be hard, raising more questions-when? where? how much longer? However, in the waiting moments the opportunity for reflection arises, leading to...

Word #4 Gratefulness: giving pleasure or comfort, having or showing the desire or reason to thank somebody.

Patience provides that time to stop and appreciate the things that are working well. The list is long. SOJ Preschool is grateful for: the shared outdoor space for your children to enjoy, the beautiful flower and vegetable gardens surrounding our view, the donated monetary gifts to help purchase the equipment and fencing, the ideas and guidance for a safe and age appropriate play space, the willing hearts and hands that offered to share the workload, flexibility and understanding when schedules got off track, and the excitement shared for our children (young and old) to have a place to play. THANK YOU for all these things!

The playground checklist is growing shorter but we could still use your help. There will be a **Playground Blessing on Wednesday, August 9th, 6:30pm**. During that time, we will create community art project. **Please join us as we begin the art display for Spirit of Joy Church & Preschool Playground.** (and play a little, too) Sincerely, Amy Cauble



**THE FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL IS COMING SOON!**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 (4 years old class) and

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 (3 years old class)

Welcome Preschoolers! We are so excited to have you here !

## Day Camp & Preschool Vacation Bible School

Thanks to all 41 Elementary kids who attended Day Camp, 12 Preschoolers who attended Vacation Bible School, and a special thank you to the volunteers, parents, grandparents, Spirit of Joy partners and others who made the week a great success. For first timers, seeds of faith were planted. For returners, those seeds are continuing to grow and be shaped by the great community at Spirit of Joy. May God continue to work in and through the lives of our children and youth as they grow in their Christian faith.



## WANTED BOARD

In the upcoming weeks, please feel free to check out the list of needs for Sprouts located in the Gathering Area. Listed donations are always welcome!



## High School Youth Group – Summer Fun

Twice a month during the Summer, our High School youth have been invited to occasional hang out times that



bring us closer to each other and closer to God.



In July, we went to Splat Attack Paintball in Bridgewater, SD. On this night, we took being “warriors for Christ” literally and had a blast. A lot of memories were made and we all walked

away relatively pain free!



Information about the upcoming 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX will soon be available for HS families during our HS Orientation Night in September.

HS students can start signing up for this trip in late August. Be sure to sign up for this mountain top experience before it is too late! Although it'll be warm in Texas during June, it'll be the coolest place to be!

## Grief Support Group

A new group at Spirit of Joy



Beginning Thursday evening, **August 17** at **5:30 pm**, Spirit of Joy will offer a six week grief and loss support group.

Grief and loss come in many forms. We invite you to join us for the opening session to share *your* story and to explore how this group might help you navigate the difficult journey of grief. No matter how long ago your loss occurred, you are welcome.

We expect this small group to be a safe place to share our experiences. We will use the book, "Death and Grief" to frame our conversation. Confidentiality and respect will be an integral part of our gatherings.

St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "We do not mourn as people without hope." As the body of Christ, we acknowledge our grief, but claim the promise of new life and hope.

If you'd like more information, you may contact Pastor Christy, or Deacon Katherine, email [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net), or you may simply come.

Gods' healing peace to you,

Deacon Katherine and Pastor Christy

## All Dreamers to the Gardens!

7:50 am, Sundays, August 13, 20, and 27

We will meet in the Spirit of Joy Prayer Garden for pre-worship Bible and devotion time. Join us for this informal time together to enjoy the beauty of our gardens, and to recall that Jesus rose on Easter morning! We can rise to meet the day with confidence and joy.



This year, we'll be exploring how God spoke to men and women in the Bible through DREAMS. What are those stories? Does God STILL speak today through dreams? See you in the garden!

Deacon Katherine

PS This will be short! We'll get to worship on time!

## Women of Spirit

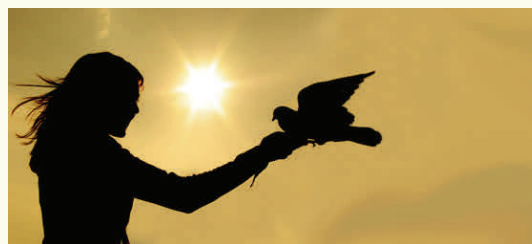
Save the date!

**Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 pm**

All women of Spirit of Joy are invited to come for an evening of **fellowship** and a **message** just for you!

As **Women of Spirit** we hope to gather several times a year to nurture relationships, grow in faith, and enjoy fellowship.

More information will come soon, meanwhile, invite a friend and join us in this new opportunity to gather together as women of Spirit of Joy.



## Upcoming Milestones for YOUR Child:

- September 9—Saturday Bibles and Blessings for **3 year olds**
- September 10—Blessing of **3 year olds** 8:45 and 11:00 worship
- September 24—Walking with Jesus, **4 year olds** 8:45 and 11:00 worship, and Sprouts hour
- October 11 and 18—Wednesdays at 7 pm **3rd Grade** Bible Class, both Wednesdays, parents to attend with child.
- October 22—Presentation of Bibles to **3rd Grade**, 8:45 and 11:00 worship
- October 29—Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation Day) for **10th Graders** 8:45 and 11:00 am worship
- November 8 and 12—Kids and Money, **4th Grade**, Wednesday or Sunday during Sprouts hour. Parents to join kids.

## Men's Fall Retreat

A **NEW** Date and Place for **YOU**  
**September 30, 8:30 to 3:30**  
**Good Earth State Park**

See display, sign up in the gathering area, or email [family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net)



## Women's Retreat October 13-14

**Joy Ranch**  
**near Watertown, SD**

Sign up in the gathering area or email

[family@spiritofjoy.net](mailto:family@spiritofjoy.net)





## Refugee Family Sponsorship through LSS

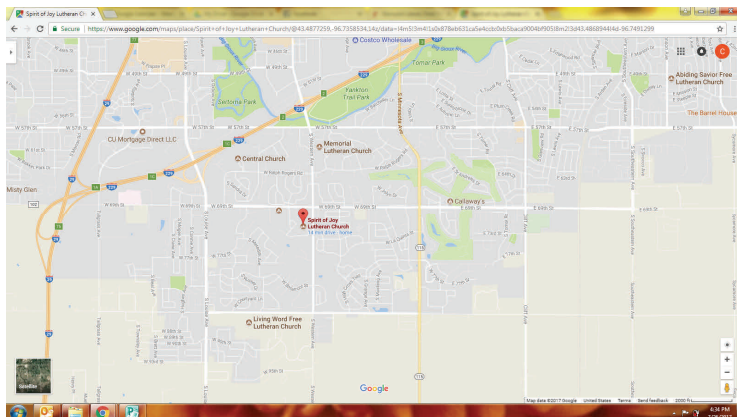
According to the Lutheran Social Services' (LSS) Center for New Americans, there are currently 21.3 million people in the world who have fled their homes due to religious, political, and racial persecution.

In acknowledging the world's ongoing refugee crisis and listening to the passion and energy from our ministry partners, we have discerned a call to sponsor a refugee family as they begin their new life in Sioux Falls. While this will be a shared ministry of our whole congregation, we will need a core team of folks to coordinate furnishings, rides, appointments, etc. Please prayerfully consider how you might participate in this ministry of hospitality and outreach to our newest neighbors. Contact Pastor Christy if you are interested, or stay tuned for information about an upcoming information session with the Volunteer Coordinator from the Center for New Americans.

## Neighbor Invite Blitz: Sunday, August 13

Join us after the 10:00 worship service to share some good ol' fashioned door-to-door hospitality around our neighborhood! We'll fuel you up with pizza before we send you on your way.

You'll receive a map with an assigned route, along with door hanging materials to inform our neighbors about the Spirit of Joy Preschool and our fall worship and faith formation programming schedule.



## Small Groups: Looking ahead to October

Beginning on Sunday, October 15, we'll be launching a four-week small group supper series. Save the dates to share fellowship, food, and faith conversations with both new and longtime SoJ partners! Stay tuned for more information. Contact Pastor Christy or Deacon Katherine if you're interested in hosting or facilitating.

# Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church and Preschool  
2208 W. LaQuinta Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

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U.S. Postage PAID  
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Permit No. 7771

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## Fall Sunday Schedule

*\*begins Sun. Sept. 10th*

8:45am - Worship  
10am - Adult Forum/Education Hour  
10am - Sprouts  
11:00am - Worship

## Fall Wednesday Schedule

6:15pm - Wednesday Worship  
7pm - Sprouts  
7pm - Confirmation  
7:15pm - Adult Choir  
8:00pm - High School Youth Group



**Like to sing?  
Want to get to know SoJ partners  
better?**

**Come sing in the choir!**

All adults, high school age and up, are invited to sing. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7:15 in the WELL beginning September 13. Can't commit to every week? Come anyway! We have a place for you! Choir generally sings one-two times a month and for special occasions and holidays. Choir is a fun way to get acquainted with others, harmonize together, and offer gifts in worship and praise.

**Questions? Contact Susan Wold Rohde  
at 605-838-5750.**