



TIDINGS OF JOY



Volume 24 Issue 1

January 2018

When we break bread together at Spirit of Joy, we like to say, 'This is God's table, not ours.' We believe this invitation and theology extend to everything we do inside and outside our church building.

All are welcome!

We welcome the LGBTQ+ community as well as those of any nation, age, ability, ethnicity, belief, economic class, gender and others who have been hurt, estranged, or made to feel outside the family of God.

We remember that what holds us together is not uniformity of thought, doctrine, race, gender, sexual orientation, or politics, but the grace of God



from the
Pastor

Friends, over the summer we began a process to answer some core questions; they were:

1. Why does Spirit of Joy exist?
2. How do we do live into that one sentence answer to the "why" question (these are our values)?
3. What do we do (these are the specific tasks in which we engage)?
4. For whom do we do it?
5. When do we consider ourselves successful?

Over the past 5 months I have been discussing these questions with our leadership in the council, with staff, and we have discussed them as a congregation, including a pot luck conversation, a survey, and individual conversations with many of you. We started with asking why? If we get this one right, and do a good job identifying our values, the rest will usually fall into place as these become the drivers for

answering the remaining questions.

Recently, council voted to adopt the following mission statement as the answer to the question "why does Spirit of Joy exist?"

Spirit of Joy exists to be a community where lives are transformed by the love of Jesus.

**Worship
Inclusion
Community
Service**

This statement was truly a group effort and incorporated a good deal of the feedback received during our congregational conversations. Council also adopted four core values to articulate *how* we live into this mission, they are:

1. Worship
2. Inclusion
3. Community
4. Service

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**Worship
Schedule**

Saturdays:

4:30 p.m.

Sundays:

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Where Lives are Transformed



--Continued from front page.

I think these values identify what the members of SoJ view as important and do a really good job articulating who we are as a congregation. Spirit of Joy places a high value on beautiful Lutheran **worship** and welcomes dynamic, compelling expressions of worship, which combine the essentials of traditional liturgy with contextualized music and instrumentation. A pretty clear statement of **inclusion** as a core value was made in 2017, with the decision to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation and the adoption of our welcome statement. During the pot luck someone also pointed out “inclusion isn’t only about RIC... it is about how we include children and youth in our congregational life, how we make space for people with differing abilities, etc.”

Community emerged as a pretty clear value when I listened to the council share their stories of why they are at SoJ and what they see as the church’s strength. Our commitment to **service** is seen in our involvement with Faith Family Hospitality, the Laurel School adopt a family program for Christmas gifts, and Habitat for Humanity.

In January and February, we will have the opportunity to hear more about how we, as a community can live into these values. As you know, we just came off a stewardship campaign – I never really liked that term because it focuses too narrowly on what stewardship means. We are stewards whenever we care for anything that is not ours, but has been entrusted to our care by someone else. As Christians we believe this to be true about our entire existence – all the resources we have (including money, but also time, energy, specific talents, etc.) are entrusted into our care by God for use in making God’s grace, love, and mercy known.

For several weeks in 2018 we will have a “stewardship of time” campaign – just as we had a “stewardship of money” campaign in the Fall. How much time you give is just as important – perhaps more important – to your spiritual growth as how much money you give (though, these are complimentary and not competing – both reflect your commitment to Jesus generally, but also to the ministries in this branch of his Church specifically).

We will launch a series called Living our Values on January 7th, and we will have speakers (some SoJ members; some guests) tell their stories and share opportunities for you to be stewards of your time in ways that align with our congregational values. For the most part this series will involve short talks during worship and in some cases will tie into an event between services. You will find the schedule posted in the newsletter. I hope you will actively seek ways to be involved.

Also, I want to invite you to another all church pot luck on January 21st. We will discuss the mission and values above, but also focus in on “Community” and I’ll share my vision for a vibrant small group ministry at Spirit of Joy. Just like in October – and thanks to the ~50 of you who were here! – we’ll start in the sanctuary with a brief presentation, then move to the Foyer for dinner (I’ll also ask committees to meet over dinner again, so if you’re on a committee look for a meeting scheduled from your chair).

I hope you share my excitement for the coming year and all the great things that are happening (and will happen) at SoJ in 2018!!

by the Love of Jesus!

—COMMUNITY



**Save the Date for
our quarterly church wide potluck!
January 21, at 4:30pm.**

Come engage in conversation around our core value of
COMMUNITY.

Enjoy food, fellowship and conversation.

Spirit of Joy will provide tableware.

Bring main dishes, beverages, sides,
desserts—whatever you like!

Standing committees will also meet during this time,
and share group discussion.



Deadline for the February Newsletter:
January 20!



**CORE VALUES Living our values
in 2018:**

As we explore how our stated values of **Worship, Inclusion, Community and Service** affect everything we do at Spirit of Joy, we will be hearing stories and learning how we can be involved.

On Sunday, January 21, between services, there will be an opportunity for training everyone who has a heart for **Worship**: Ushers, Greeters, Communion Distributors, Readers, and Altar Guild.

That evening, as part of the potluck, Pastor Dave will share his vision for **Community**: Small Group Ministry.

On Sunday, February 4, between services, the Lutheran service agency *Mosaic* will host a presentation on what services they provide, and how we can be involved in **Inclusion**.



Annual Reports are due January 9th.

Annual reports from all ministry team leaders are due to Nancy in the church office by January 9th.
email: nancy@sojoyfc.org

SPIRIT OF JOY MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

	November	YTD 2017
Offerings	\$24,967.46	\$307,291.16
Expenses	\$30,414.69	\$357,118.46
over/short	(\$5,447.23)	(\$49,827.30)

Offerings YTD

2017	\$307,291.16
2016	\$328,429.50
Difference:	(\$21,138.34)

**ANNUAL MEETING January 28th
at 9:45!**

The Spirit of Joy Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28th between services in the Sanctuary. Please plan to come, hear reports, elect our next church council, vote on the budget, and participate in the “worshipful work” of our congregation.



The finance committee and church council will be hosting a **budget review on Sunday, January 14** during the Sunday School hour. NOW IS THE TIME to ask questions about how we finished 2017 and what is planned for 2018!

by the Love of Jesus!



—| INCLUSION

JANUARY SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP AT SPIRIT OF JOY ON WEDNESDAYS 7-815PM

JANUARY CONFIRMATION ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 645-8PM AT SPIRIT OF JOY (starting January 10).

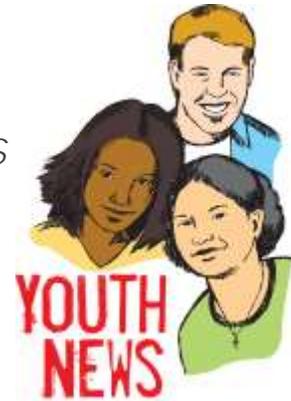
January 10th 6:45-8:00pm- Final FOCOLU Middle School Gathering meeting at OSLC

January 12th-14th - Middle School Gathering at Colorado Springs

January 28th noon – Mission Trip Meeting at SOTH

January 28th – Senior High Service Project

If you have any questions, contact Kevin Dragseth at kevin@focolu.org



In Loving Memory

Christian
Schleusener

entered the company of the saints

December 16, 2017

We'll miss you, Christian!

A new flower chart for 2018 is available in the Foyer.

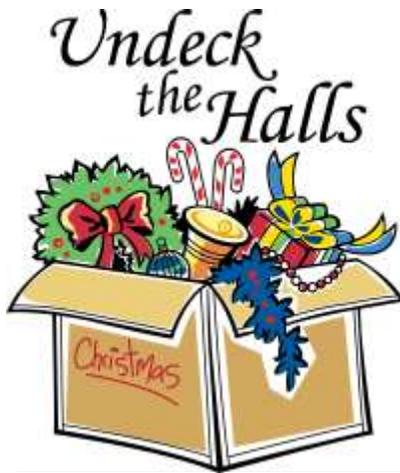
Sign up to provide flowers in memory of someone,
in honor of a person or event,
or simply to the Glory of God..



Where Lives are Transformed



—COMMUNITY



Undeck the Halls

On Sunday, December 31, after the single 10:00 am service, we will gather to “Undeck the Halls,” taking down our Christmas trees and putting away decorations.

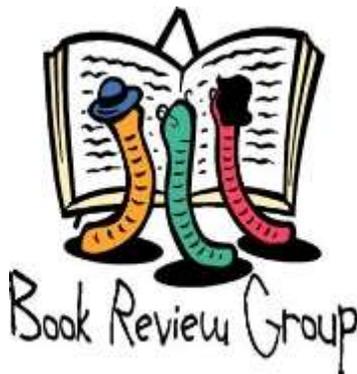
If you have donated a poinsettia, you are encouraged to take it with you at this time.

THE NEXT KIDS OF JOY FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHT IS FRIDAY JANUARY 5TH, 6-7:30 PM.

First Friday Fun Nights are high energy and lots of fun! Kids K-5, and their friends, are welcome!



Mattress Needed! If you are upgrading to a new king sized mattress, would you be interested in donating your old mattress? If so, please contact the church office at 970-223-5303 or nancy@sojoyfc.org.



The January meeting of the Spirit of Joy Book Club will be Wednesday, January 17, 1:00 pm, at Spirit of Joy. The book for January will be *Love Anthony*, by Lisa Genova. Books can be obtained from the Fort Collins Public Library. Newcomers are welcome!



*Ministry Team Mission Statement:
Our mission is to be people of God who, through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, bring care, comfort and assistance to those beyond our walls.*



WE NEED YOU!
Volunteers are still needed for our Faith Family Hospitality rotation January 7-14.

Spirit of Joy will be hosting four homeless families, providing lodging and an evening meal. **There are still many open spots to serve as overnight hosts, share hospitality as evening hosts, help with set up or teardown, do laundry or provide guest transportation.** The Signup Genius link is available on the home page of the Spirit of Joy website (www.sojoyfc.org).

THE GROCERY CART IN THE FOYER IS WAITING FOR YOUR DONATIONS of non-perishable food for the hungry in Fort Collins. Every month we will have a “Food of the Month” in hopes that each family will pick up a little extra as they shop during the month and bring it in to add to the grocery cart. Other items are always welcome too!

Food of the Month for January--Canned soups, stews, chili, saltine crackers.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

NEWS from Lutheran Campus Ministry

In this new year of 2018 we are looking forward to the beginning of a new semester! Please pray for students, faculty and staff this month as classes begin again. You can be a part of our ministry by inviting young adults you know to join us. Then make sure and pass their info on to us so that we can invite them to join our community as well. If you would like to refer a student or bring a meal this semester to feed students please contact us.

For Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado contact Pastor Deb Abbott at lcm.unco@gmail.com. For Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University contact Pastor Paul Judson at pastor@lcmcsu.org.

Where Lives are Transformed



--COMMUNITY

January

Birthday Blessings!

January 1	Lauren Hunt	January 13	Madison Paquette	January 25	Case Leffler
January 3	Courtney Osterfelt	January 14	Caleb Hopler	January 26	Philip Braband
January 4	Elma Stull	January 15	Tom Taylor	January 28	Logan Haugestuen
January 6	Tucker Peterson	January 17	Keith Ovesen	January 28	Corrie Hopler
January 9	Samuel Ovesen	January 18	Natalia Suarez	January 28	Bryan McNair
January 10	John Vail	January 19	Bryan Moncur	January 31	Jon Ovesen
January 11	Alyssa Moncur	January 19	Cheryl Nelson		
		January 19	Damien Powers		
		January 19	Tim Wallick		
		January 21	Barbara Stine		
		January 24	Mariana Gallegos		



Pastor Dave Ryder
 General Office
 Lisa Irvine:
 Nancy McNair
 Amber Mornes
 Elijah Perdomo
 Kevin Dragseth
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Deadline for
 the February
 Newsletter:
 January 20.

Ministry Leadership

Your Spirit of Joy Church Council members plan ministry around our mission and vision statement:
"Spirit of Joy: Worship, Study, Service"

If you have any questions or concerns please contact a Church Council Member.

Courtenay Biser-Suarez		970-377-1743
Debbie DeLong		970-692-9461
Mark Kramer	Secretary	970-226-0634
Helen Raymond		630-730-3814
Rick Schleusener	President	970-988-5817
Ted Willis	Vice President	970-225-1135
Norm Skadburg	Treasurer	970-266-1985
Doug Collins	Financial Secretary	970-225-9124

Please pray for their ministry as they provide leadership to Spirit of Joy.

Council meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are open to congregation members, and items of concern can be submitted to the president's box by the first Monday of the month to be included in that month's agenda.



January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 	2 9:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-9:30p EGA	3 Faith Family Hospitality 6:45p-8:00p Confirmation at SoJ 7:00p-8:15p High School Youth Group at SoJ	4 Faith Family Hospitality	5 6:00p-7:30p Kids of Joy First Friday Fun Night	6 9:00a-11:00a Joyful Hands 4:30p Worship	
7 Faith Family Hospitality 8:30a Worship 9:45a Kids of Joy Sunday School 11:00a Worship	8 Faith Family Hospitality 7:00p Council and All Ministry Team Meetings	9 Faith Family Hospitality 7:45a-11:00a Cholesterol Screening 9:30a Staff Meeting 10:00a-12:00p Foundation on Aging 6:30p-9:30p EGA	10 Faith Family Hospitality 6:45p-8:00p Confirmation at SoJ 7:00p-8:15p High School Youth Group at SoJ	11 Faith Family Hospitality	12 Faith Family Hospitality RMS Youth Gathering	13 Faith Family Hospitality RMS Youth Gathering 11:00a-2:00p VMCCA (Car Club) 4:30p Worship	
14 Faith Family Hospitality RMS Youth Gathering 8:30a Worship 10:00a Budget Review 11:00a Worship	15	16 9:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-9:30p EGA	17 1:00p Book Club 2:30p Miramont Village HOA 6:45p-8:00p Confirmation at SoJ 7:00p-8:15p High School Youth Group at SoJ	18	19	20  4:30p Worship	
21 8:30a Worship 9:45a Kids of Joy Sunday School 10:00a Adult Forum 11:00a Worship 4:30p-6:30p Polluck	22	23 9:30a Staff Meeting 5:30p-9:00p Oakridge 7 Annual HOA Meeting 6:30p-9:30p EGA	24 9:00a Quilters 6:45p-8:00p Confirmation at SoJ 7:00p-8:15p High School Youth Group at SoJ	25 7:00p-9:00p Oakridge 8 Annual HOA Meeting	26	27 9:00a-11:00a Joyful Hands 4:30p Worship	
28 8:30a Worship 9:45a Kids of Joy Sunday Sch 9:45a Annual Meeting 11:00a Worship Noon Mission Trip meeting at SoH	29 5:00p-8:00p Courtyards of Miramont HOA Meeting	30 9:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-9:30p EGA	31 6:45p-8:00p Confirmation at SoJ 7:00p-8:15p High School Youth Group at SoJ	<i>are open to <u>all</u> interested members of Spirit of Joy!</i>			

Tidings of Joy

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
4501 S. Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, Co 80525
www.sojoyfc.org

Return Service Requested

Tidings of Joy is a monthly publication keeping the family and friends of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church connected. The vision of this congregation is: "Called to be a joyful, inviting, growing community in Christ"



Dave Ryder
Elijah Perdomo
Donna Lewis
Kevin Dragseth

Pastor
Worship and Music Director-
Accompanist
Faith Formation Minister
for FoCoLu

Amber Mornes
Nancy McNair
Lisa Irvine

Kids of Joy Superintendent
Office Manager
Office Administrator

Kyra Jensen

Youth Intern

Abby Foster, Natalia Suarez

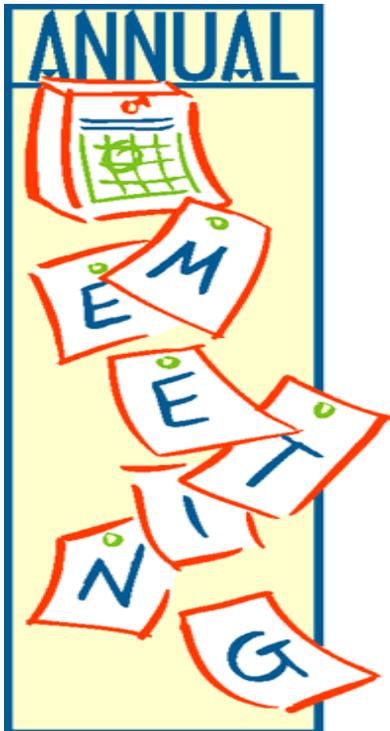
Nursery Attendants

Tammy Lavergne

Custodian

Send all correspondence and address changes to:
Spirit of Joy (return address listed above), or call
970-223-5303, or e-mail to newsletter@sojoyfc.org

If you wish to change the way you receive this newsletter, or if you no longer wish to receive it, please notify the church office.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION January 28 9:45 am

Items on the Agenda include:

- ◆ committee reports
- ◆ approval of our budget for 2018
- ◆ Election of our next church council

Please join us! There will be planned, supervised activities for the kids.