

Winter 2023
Vol. 31 #4



Tidings of Joy

A PUBLICATION OF SPIRIT OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Community where lives are transformed by the love of Jesus!

Winter 2023

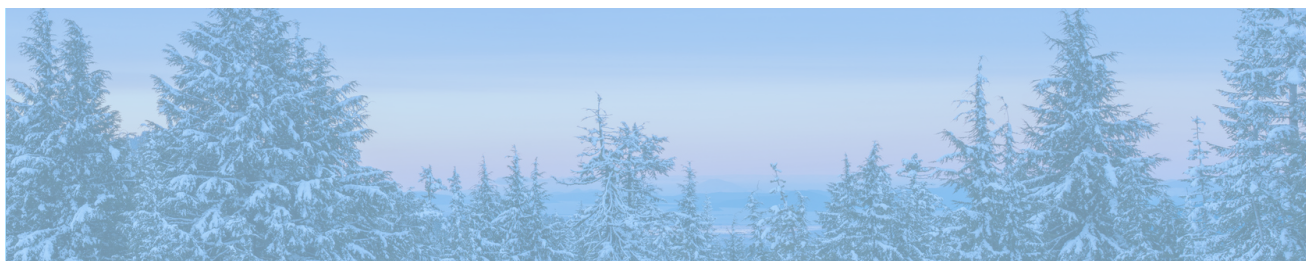
A Word from the Pastor

Pastor David Ryder

Rather than using the winter newsletter to look ahead to the Advent season this year, I'd like to reflect back on Thanksgiving and offer some gratitude. I offer particular thanks to this congregation, which provided extraordinary care to me and my family in our time of need. When Elijah had his accident in late August, we faced a challenging season. Even after the initial wave of shock and fear faded and we knew he (miraculously) did not sustain life-altering injuries, but "only" several broken bones, we had a long and challenging road to hoe. From a wheelchair, to a walker, to a cane... a surgery, stitches, staples, casts... x-rays to monitor healing progress, concerns about a potential need for a second surgery, countless follow-up visits and now... three months later, he's playing hockey again!

Those three months seem short in some sense; certainly if I had taken the fall he took, I would not be skating already... maybe never again. On the other hand, three months is a long time in the life of a 16-year old and it is a long time to have family schedules so thoroughly disrupted by medical concerns and appointments, not to mention missed time in school, makeup assignments, and trying to catch-up in sequential classes like Chemistry (after missing more than half of the first 4 or 5 weeks of the year). It has been a hard journey but we are all so grateful for where we are now - with a full recovery realized.

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The particular gratitude to this congregation stems from a question that was posed to me when my father died by a member of a reading group in which I participate. She asked: “Who cares for the caregiver?”

One of the beautiful things about a vision of a church that is deliberately and unapologetically NOT consumeristic is that this question becomes, in some respects, nonsensical. If I were a service provider and the congregation receivers (consumers) of spiritual services, I would not quite know who would care for the provider of services in such a season. However, in a communal vision of church (or, as Luther would put it, a priesthood of all believers) things are different. In this vision, while respecting particular roles, we are all both caregivers and care receivers.

I am grateful to Spirit of Joy because you are a community where I was told (more than once and in many different ways) that it was ok for me to have needs too. There were congregants making their own trips to hospitals for surgeries or other needs the week my son was hospitalized. When I acknowledged my inability to be there in the way I would liked to have for these folks, they encouraged me to stay focused on my family... that is where I was most needed. I have been distracted, rushed, exhausted and just not at my best as a pastor - but not once did anyone at Spirit of Joy express frustration or impatience with my need to be focused on my son in these months. Instead, we had people bring food, offer rides, even offer to loan us vehicle if it would be more suitable to Elijah’s needs while he was in the wheelchair. Expressions of love and support came to us in countless ways and I know I speak for all three of us when I say **thank you!** In this trying season we have felt loved, cared for, and supported.

While on the topic of gratitude, I would like to add a brief note about Sabbatical support. As many of you know, we did not get the Lilly grant. However, as discussed at our Fall congregational budget meeting, Lynn has started a new job and we are now

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able to get health benefits through her employer. With the support expressed by the congregation at that meeting, Council has appropriated the funds that would have been needed to pay for our family's benefits to create a Sabbatical fund for 2024. I will be doing some - but not all (it will be about half as long) - of the activities that had been planned with the team when we had written the proposal for the Lilly grant. The sabbatical will take place during June and July. Thank you to Spirit of Joy for supporting pastoral Sabbatical and to Council for working with me on a creative way to fund this in a budget-neutral way for the congregation. (If you were unable to attend the Fall meeting at which the plan was presented and have questions about the details of the arrangement, feel free to reach out; we can discuss it over coffee.)

Pastor David Ryder





Worship



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30AM

Christmas Eve

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30AM - SUNDAY WORSHIP
4PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
6PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP





Worship

Longest Night

a worship service
with space to acknowledge
mourning, lamenting, sadness, and despair
in a "jingle bells world."

Monday, December 4
6:00pm

pause this holiday season

Wednesday Evening Prayer (Holden)

Wednesdays in December before Christmas

Dec. 6 & 20 - 6:30pm

Dec. 13 - following Deck the Halls at 6:00pm



Worship

Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

4pm & **6pm**

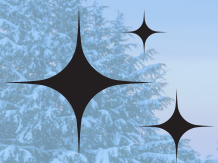


A WORSHIP SERVICE OF

*Lessons and
Carols*

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 31
9:30 AM





Worship

Order a poinsettia for the altar
in honor or memory of your loved one

Cost is \$10

Sign up in the lobby by Wednesday, Dec. 13



Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday Service

7:00PM

February 14, 2024



Inclusion

Rejoicing Spirits



Sunday, December 3
Sunday, January 7
Sunday, February 4
3:00 PM

A "shush-free" monthly worship service to welcome and include people with cognitive disabilities and their families



Join us on Sunday, December 3 to decorate Christmas cookies and sing carols after Rejoicing Spirits!



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.

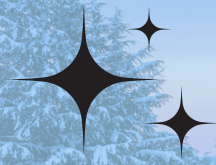


Inclusion



The SoJ youth went to Elitch's, played laser tag, and enjoyed Kids of Joy this fall!





Inclusion



middle school and high school
service project

COOKIE DECORATING

with Rejoicing Spirits
Sunday, December 3 - 3:30pm



Middle school and
High school

Service Project

Sunday, January 7

middle school and high school

Ice Skating & Ice Cream

Sunday, January 21
1:45 PM

AT EPIC IN FORT COLLINS



ALL AGES

Winter Fun Day

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

DETAILS TBD

..... ❖



Inclusion



Kids of Joy

SONGS. BIBLE STORIES. CRAFTS.

Sunday school for
kinder - 5th grade

Every 2nd & 4th
Sunday of the month

10:45-11:30am



A new social group the first Sunday
of every month for parents and
children 0-5 years!

SUNDAY PLAYTIME

Sunday, December 3
Sunday, January 7
Sunday, February 4
3:45pm

Contact Jill Raney at
jill.e.raney@gmail.com for more
information



by Jen Keim and Allen Zwicke

Here at Spirit of Joy, we have the absolute **BEST YOUTH!** On any given week, you will see many of our students **serving our church community**.

They serve as **liaisons on different teams and on church council**; they serve **in the nursery**; they serve **during worship**!

Each of these exceptional kids **display leadership and commitment to our mission** and we would like to **celebrate that by spotlighting each of our youth leaders** with an interview to be printed in each newsletter!

Let's meet our first youth leader - Allen Zwicke!

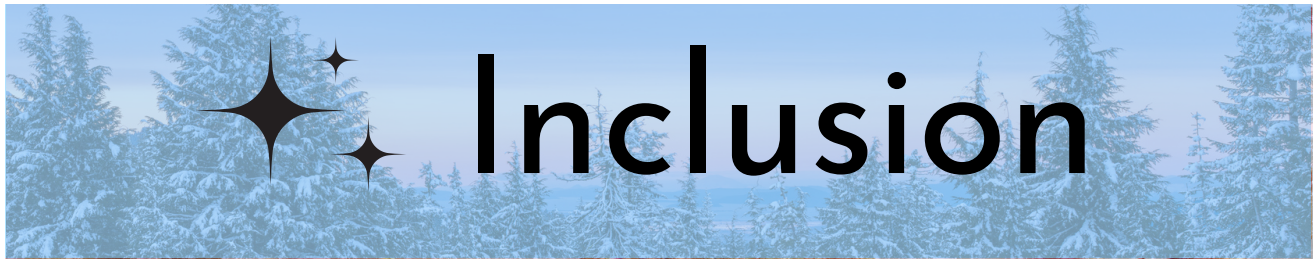
Q. What is/are your leadership role(s) & what does it involve?

Allen: I am the Youth Liaison. I attend church council meetings and give a monthly report on how the youth are doing!

Q. What is your funniest memory you have with SoJ's youth group?

Allen: At Sky Ranch this past year, everyone was headed back to the tents after our last campfire together. I was the first into the boys' tent that night and saw a mouse. The boys then stay up until 2 in the morning "fighting off" this mouse that was "attacking" us.

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Q. How does the SoJ community make you feel?

Allen: The SoJ community has made me feel included with the amazing opportunities we take part in. I feel SoJ has supported me through all of my ups and downs.

Q. What is the best joke you've heard lately?

Allen: "Knock, knock" - "who's there" - "Who" - "Who, who?" - "That's a funny lookin' owl!"

Q. What are you most looking forward to right now?

Allen: I am very excited for the future leadership opportunities with the church as well as building relationships with the community!

Allen, thanks for your service to the church and thanks for taking the time to answer these questions! If you see Allen make sure to give him a big high five!



Inclusion



A Letter from our Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Jen Keim

It's so hard to believe that we are already at the end of 2023! As many of you know this has been a beautiful and exciting year for me personally with the birth of my son, Jack. But you might not know that it's also been a **really exciting time for Spirit of Joy's family ministry.**

Since September, our **Middle and High school students** had their **annual lock-in** right around the time school started and have gotten together for a few **fun social events.** They had a game night in September, went to Elitch Gardens in October, and will be playing laser tag in November!

This group of students is truly remarkable. You have probably seen them around church on Sundays **contributing to our community.** Eli Ryder is our resident slides expert who you'll often see with Luke Haugestuen and Allen Zwicke in the back of sanctuary; Heidi Zwicke, Makena Farmer, Lilly McMorrow, Sierra Gouldey, and Seth Gouldey help out in our Nursery; Allen is our youth liaison for church council and Sierra is our youth liaison for the faith formation team. These are just a few places they are serving in our community. **You can look forward to a spotlight on our youth leaders in each newsletter beginning with this one!**

You may have also noticed that our **youngest members are receiving some fun new opportunities at SoJ.** We recently refreshed our **Kids of Joy Sunday School program.** This is open for kids kindergarten through 5th grade. During this program we

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sing songs, play games, read bible stories, craft fun creations, and spend some fellowship time together. This fun opportunity happens twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. If you'd like to join the fun as a volunteer, see me for more information!

For those a bit younger than kindergarten, there is a new group being led by the Raney family on the first Sunday of every month following Rejoicing Spirits. This is a fun time for **preschool aged kids and younger to play together** and for their parents to have some time to get to know one another and experience some fellowship with others in the same phase of life!

Coming up this winter there is going to be a **fun event for all ages to attend!** We will be getting together in February for some fun in the snow as we tube and sled and have a **Winter Fun Day!** Keep your eyes out for more information about this event soon. You won't want to miss this!

Our family ministries don't end with our kids; every first and third Sunday you can look forward to **Joyful Generations!** This is a time for everyone of **all ages to spend some time together.** I have given this ministry a bit of refresh as well by giving you **three ways to participate:** you can **discuss** using the prompt listed, you can **create** the short project laid out, and you can **pray** the prayer provided! I encourage everyone to participate and maybe speak with someone you haven't gotten to know yet! **This is intended to be a time where we form our faith together as a community!**

If you are an adult interested in helping out with family ministries or if you have a child who is looking to connect with Spirit of Joy, please see me and we will get the ball rolling!

Peace, Joy, and Blessings to you!

Jen Keim



December Birthdays

Ken Severson - Dec 1
 Abby Zachman - Dec 2
 Diane M. Behm - Dec 8
 Carol A. Altringer - Dec 9
 Landon Shimpa - Dec 10
 Charlie J. Cuypers - Dec 11
 Joy Devens - Dec 12
 Judy Fletcher - Dec 12
 Diana G. Collins - Dec 14
 Ann A. Schneider - Dec 15
 Levi McDonald - Dec 16
 Art Kopp - Dec 17
 Luke Haugestuen - Dec 17
 Benjamin Kyle Gratias - Dec 17
 Russell Brown - Dec 20
 Kelsey Schleusener
 Sprowell - Dec 21
 Kim Garrels - Dec 24
 Kellie Julian - Dec 28

January Birthdays

Lauren Clark - Jan 1
 Cassie Clark - Jan 1
 Sadie Lee Griffith - Jan 9
 Josef Schneider - Jan 11
 Cheryl Ashley Nelson - Jan 19
 Barb Stine - Jan 21
 Logan Haugestuen - Jan 28

February Birthdays

Jeannie McCalla - Feb 1
 Richard Willis - Feb 2
 Taylor Alissa Nelson - Feb 3
 Nathan Anne Sanders - Feb 4
 Dave Ryder - Feb 4

February Birthdays cont'd

Jennifer Zwicke - Feb 5
 Elijah Ryder - Feb 5
 Kendal L. Sanders - Feb 6
 Daniel Ausema - Feb 9
 Jenelle L. Mornes - Feb 9
 Clifton (Kip) McCalla - Feb 13
 Clare A Foote - Feb 18
 Jen Keim - Feb 18
 Katie Garrels - Feb 18
 Ben Haugestuen - Feb 19
 Hannah Christian
 Sprowell - Feb 21
 Greg Winn - Feb 21
 Zach Dickerhoff - Feb 23
 Janet Finley - Feb 23
 Sue E. Swinehart - Feb 24
 Noah William Peters - Feb 27
 Sebastian Dickerhoff - Feb 27



➤ Welcome New Members! ➤



Phil & Anna Chapman

Phil and Anna Chapman are long-time Lutherans and Fort Collins residents. Anna was born in North Platte, NE, and moved with her family to Fort Collins in 1972. Other than attending college in Greeley and working for two years in Denver, she has resided in Fort Collins. She is now retired after 35 years as a respiratory therapist at Poudre Valley Hospital. Phil is from Los Angeles. After college in California and service in the U.S. Coast Guard, he attended graduate school in Minnesota. He moved to Fort Collins in 1983 to take a job in the Department of Statistics at CSU. Phil and Anna have been married since 1986 and have two daughters and two grandchildren, who live in Windsor and Tucson.



Joy Devens

My name is Joy Devens. I grew up in Western New York and lived in Maryland, Washington, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. We raised our kids in Minnesota before retiring to Colorado in 2020. I previously taught preschool and elementary school and continue to volunteer with preschoolers in Fort Collins. I have also volunteered with the animal shelter and with older adults in the community. I love Colorado for its wonderful outdoor activities and friendly people. You will often find me on my paddleboard at Horsetooth Reservoir or walking and biking the many paths. I wanted to find a new church home when I moved to Fort Collins and visited Spirit of Joy. I didn't need to look any further! I am so grateful for so many blessings.



Women's Advent Tea

Please join us on Saturday, December 9th at Spirit of Joy from 10:00-11:30am for a simple but joyful Women's Advent Tea. We will have tea, coffee, treats, conversation, and fellowship.

Please bring one or two non-perishable items that we can donate to the Larimer County Foodbank.

RSVP to Peggy Lundeby by Sunday, December 3rd at peggy@lundeby.net.

Thank you,
Marci and Peggy



Community

Deck the Halls

★ Decorating, ornament-making,
Christmas treats

★ Wednesday, December 13

6:00pm

before Wednesday Evening Prayer

BEER & CAROLS

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER

17 TH

**5:30-
7:30PM**

SING & SIP WITH US AT AVOGADRO'S NUMBER

605 S. MASON STREET
FORT COLLINS, CO 80524

Community





Trunk or Treat was AWESOME

by Russell Brown

There were ghosts! Tyrannosaurus Rex's! Several Woodys from Toy Story! A Rastafarian bass player! A witch or two (or three or four), an aging hippie, a steam punk guy, a couple of Marios, a pirate, and mostly just a whole lot of people having a great time.

In keeping with our goal of being an inclusive, community-oriented church, Spirit of Joy put on its first-ever Trunk or Treat event on the afternoon of October 29. Ideally, Trunk or Treat means parking cars in the parking lot with decorated trunks open where costumed kids can be guaranteed a safe space to collect Halloween candy. But when October 29 came around this year, it was cold with snow and ice on the ground. Certainly not ideal conditions for an outdoor event!

Undeterred, Trunk or Treat 2023 moved inside the church building. In addition to the costumed people handing out candy, there was a face painter from LuMin (who generously donated her time), games of skill and chance (set up and supervised by our very own SoJ youth! Thank you so much, youth and Jen!), craft tables, and a family photo booth outside in the sky sail area.

And in case that wasn't enough to get excited about, there were also cupcakes, cider, hot chocolate, and other goodies to gorge on.

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Community

Apparently, word of this unique and fun event got around! There were over 100 people from the community in attendance... the vast majority of whom had never been around Spirit of Joy previously.

The SoJ Outreach team would like to profusely thank all the people who took time to decorate an area, those who brought the snacks, our LuMin facepainter, the awesome SoJ youth who supervised the games, the guy who built photo booth backdrop (You know who you are), the SoJ people who invited their friends and neighbors, and everyone who played a part in making this an event worth repeating next year.



Community

Paint & Pour WITH SKY RANCH



WHAT TO BRING

BYOB! (Bring your own beverage - can be alcoholic or non.)
Morning Mimosas and lunch will be provided, as will snacks and all art supplies.

DETAILS

When: Saturday, December 9
Where: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins

Time: 9am-5pm

Cost: \$75

*includes supplies, mimosas, lunch and programming

Sign up on the Sky Ranch website!

REMINDER:

COMMUNITY GROUPS BREAK

FOR TWO WEEKS AFTER
DECEMBER 24TH





Service

Faith Hospitality NETWORK

December
10-17, 2023

We need volunteers for
set-up and tear-down,
dinner preparation,
evening hosting,
overnight hosting, and
childcare at Harmony
Presbyterian



Faith Hospitality Network

Our church is part of the Family Housing Network's Overnight Shelter Program. Although we no longer host at our church, we provide volunteers who care for families who are currently experiencing homelessness. Please volunteer during our host week of Dec. 10 - Dec. 17 by signing up to put up and take down beds, provide a hot dinner to families, spend the evening with families, or stay at the church overnight. Please contact the site coordinator, Kellie Julien, at (907) 723-1323 with any questions. You may sign up at the link by scanning the QR code to the right with your phone, or by visiting our online bulletin board and announcements page.



Service

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VOLUNTEER TO
HELP

VOLUNTEERS PREPARE,
REFRESH, AND CLEAN UP
COFFEE AND TEA



UNDECK THE HALLS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
AFTER WORSHIP



Join our

Directory

Are you a member of Spirit of Joy? Join our confidential, online directory only accessible by other members.

Ensure others can stay connected to you and reach out to you!

Need help?

Visit the SoJ office
**Wednesdays in December
before Christmas**

10am-12pm

for personal and fast help
to join our directory



**Please send photos
from SoJ events to
office@sojoyfc.org**

FOLLOW US ON:





Upcoming Calendar of Events

- **Sunday, December 3** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Rejoicing Spirits and cookie decorating - 3:00pm; Sunday Playtime - 3:45pm
- **Monday, December 4** - Longest Night service - 6:00pm; Advent Choir rehearsal - 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, December 6** - Wednesday Evening Prayer - 6:30pm
- **Saturday, December 9** - Women's Advent Tea - 10:00am; Sky Ranch Paint and Pour
- **Sunday, December 10** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Welcome New Members); Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Monday, December 11** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, December 10 - Sunday, December 17** - Faith Hospitality Network week at Harmony Presbyterian
- **Monday, December 11** - Advent Choir rehearsal - 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, December 13** - Deck the Halls - 6:00pm; Wednesday Evening Prayer after Deck the Halls
- **Sunday, December 17** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Beer and Carols - 5:30-7:30pm
- **Monday, December 18** - Advent Choir rehearsal - 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, December 20** - Wednesday Evening Prayer - 6:30pm
- **Sunday, December 24** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Christmas Eve worship 4pm and 6pm
- **Sunday, December 31** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Lessons and Carols); Undeck the Halls
- **Sunday, January 7** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Rejoicing Spirits - 3:00pm; Sunday Playtime - 3:45pm; MS and HS service project
- **Monday, January 8** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, January 14** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Sunday, January 21** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; MS & HS Ice Skating - 1:45pm
- **Monday, January 22** - Spring newsletter submissions due
- **Sunday, January 28** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Sunday, February 4** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Rejoicing Spirits - 3:00pm; Sunday Playtime - 3:45pm
- **Saturday, February 10** - All-ages Winter Fun Event (Time TBD)
- **Sunday, February 11** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Monday, February 12** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, February 14** - Ash Wednesday - 7:00pm



Ministry Leadership

- Dane Coyer
- Ben Haugestuen
- Marci Honn
- Eric Stevens
- Stan Torvik
- Julie Willis
- Jennifer Zachman
- Allen Zwicke



David Ryder, Pastor



Jen Keim, Director of Youth
and Family Ministries



Katie Williams,
Office Administrator

OFFICE HOURS



SUNDAY	Closed
MONDAY	9am-3pm
TUESDAY	Remote Availability*
WEDNESDAY	9am-3pm
THURSDAY	Remote Availability*
FRIDAY	Closed
SATURDAY	Closed

*Office Administrator will be available from 9am-2pm
via email at office@sojoyfc.org