

Spring 2024
Vol. 32 #1



Tidings of Joy

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

Spring 2024

A Word from the Pastor

Pastor David Ryder

In a recent sermon, we talked about how worship and service were best seen as a response to what God is doing in our lives rather than an obligation that somehow earns favor. We also talked about how this might be a fitting way to view financial giving, as we launched our financial stewardship campaign that same day. This shift in mindset - giving as a response of gratitude rather than giving from a mistaken notion that we can buy favor - has a powerful impact on our spiritual growth. That effect is true whether we're giving time (through service/volunteerism), energy (in worship), or money (financial stewardship). It reminds me that, often, people can engage in external acts that look very similar, but the hearts behind these acts can be quite different.

This same idea holds true during the season of Lent, which begins on February 14th. Many branches of Christ's Church encourage some kind of fasting during this season of Lent. (This traditionally was a literal fast - from food; in our context, people observe a "fast" by giving up a wide variety of things... both are cut from the same cloth.) As with service, worship, and financial giving - mentioned above - people could engage in the same practice of fasting but have very different motivations.

I'll pause here to say explicitly, I do encourage a Lenten fast of some sort. However,

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just as with service, worship, and giving, I want to encourage you to avoid any sense that foregoing a particular enjoyment is done to earn anything. In the case of a Lenten fast, it is not necessarily a response of gratitude either. Here, the hope is to instill a sense of longing for the feast. For this reason, I do not encourage people to give up something they think is inherently “bad” during Lent. Unlike a New Year’s Resolution, where the hope may be to resolve to stop something for a year in hopes it will “stick” and you’ll actually stop it permanently, a Lenten Fast should be something you enjoy - and have every intention of enjoying again.

If this posture is taken, then “giving something up” for Lent is done to instill a longing for the time we will again be able to enjoy it. This mentality helps convey why feasting on Sundays (i.e. indulging in the thing which you’d given up for Lent) is not “cheating” but rather acknowledging that one ought not fast on a feast day. You see... if one understands a Lenten Fast as a means of earning favor, feasting on Sunday is hard to justify; but if we are instilling a longing for the feast, we can bring into the fore a rhythm of eagerly waiting for Sunday, when we participate in the feast God sets before us.

In some ways, Christians have always seen Sundays in this light. Some of you may have heard people say something like, “Every Sunday is Easter.” There is some truth to that; the resurrection having occurred on Sunday morning is why Christians worship on Sunday morning (moving away from our Jewish roots, where Sabbath goes from sundown Friday to sundown on Saturday). Perhaps a better way to say it is: “the celebration of Easter cannot be contained in one day and spills out into every Sunday of the year.” In any case, the point of the Lenten fast is to refrain during the week from something you can excitedly enjoy on Sunday. Ideally, this orients our lives so that we teach ourselves to long for the communion feast - also offered every Sunday. Even more so, as we eagerly long for Easter, the permanent end of the Lenten Fast, just as

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we also eagerly await the fulfillment of the victory won on Easter... the time when all things will be put right and we will feast for all of eternity. I hope you'll join me in engaging in the rhythm of fasting and feasting this Lenten Season; and I look forward to enjoying the Easter celebration, which assures us of the perpetual celebration we have in store.

Pastor David Ryder

Summer newsletter submissions due
MONDAY, APRIL 29

Please email submissions to office@sojoyfc.org

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 11

Please bring your pledge card for the '24-'25 fiscal year or pledge online through our Spirit of Joy app!



Worship



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30AM



Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

*Ash Wednesday
Service*

7:00PM

February 14, 2024



Worship

**SET YOUR
CLOCKS
FORWARD
ON
SATURDAY
MARCH 9.**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10**



Palm Sunday

MARCH 24

9:30AM



Worship



MAUNDY
THURSDAY
(TENEBRAE)

March 28
7:00PM

Descending into Darkness

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29
7:00PM

A black silhouette of a church roof with a cross on top, set against a background of a cloudy sky.

Reflections on the Cross

EASTER
SUNDAY

MARCH 31
8:30AM & 10:00AM



Spirit of Joy



Worship



Confirmation Sunday

April 21

CAMP SUNDAY

March 17 – 9:30am

Sky Ranch will be
joining us in worship!

GRAD SUNDAY

May 5 – 9:30am

Come celebrate our
graduates in worship!

YOUTH SUNDAY

MAY 12

Join us as our
amazing youth lead
worship!





Worship

welcome

JAMES RENK

as our new Music Coordinator

James starts on February 1!

thank you

BEN HAUGESTUEN

for handling admin, logistics, and scheduling challenges
while we were without a Music Coordinator

thank you

GREG F., DAVE G., ROSANN, & BEN

who all continued to lead and plan worship in the
absence of a Music Coordinator

thank you

to all our talented

MUSICIANS & VOCALISTS



Inclusion

Rejoicing Spirits



Sunday, March 3
Sunday, April 7
Sunday, May 5
3:00 PM

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

thank you

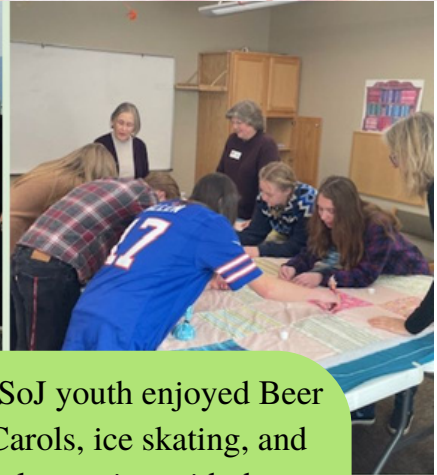
BEN HAUGESTUEN AND STAN TORVIK

FOR SERVING ON SPIRIT OF
JOY'S COUNCIL

WHOSE TERMS END ON MARCH 31 WITH OUR
FISCAL YEAR



Inclusion



The SoJ youth enjoyed Beer & Carols, ice skating, and volunteering with the Quilters this winter!





Inclusion

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION

Right after Sunday
worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT

6:30-8pm at SoJ

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

OASIS HOUSE CLEAN-OUT

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

LAST INTENTIONAL CONVO

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

SERVICE PROJECT

with Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

PAINTING PARTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 17



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

SUNDAY PLAYTIME

Sunday, March 3

Sunday, April 7

Sunday, May 5

3:45pm

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





Inclusion

YOUTH LEADER SPOTLIGHT: SIERRA GOULDEY

by Jen Keim and Sierra Gouldey

Here at Spirit of Joy, we have the absolute **BEST YOUTH!** On any given week, you will see many of our students **servicing 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 Youth Leader - Sierra Gouldey!

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

Sierra: I have been on the Youth Leadership team for the last 3 years. This year I am also the youth liaison on the Faith Formation team. On the Youth Leadership team, I have helped with the younger kids at Spirit of Joy. As the youth liaison on the Faith Formation team, I attend their meetings when I can to share what the youth have been doing and hear about upcoming events that the Faith Formation team is planning.

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

Sierra: I don't have one particular funny memory, but the youth group always has fun together and we laugh together often.

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Inclusion

Q. How does the SoJ community make you feel?

Sierra: I like being a part of the SoJ community because they make me feel welcome.

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

Sierra: What do you call an angry carrot? A steamed veggie!

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

Sierra: I am most looking forward to getting to my driver's license.

Sierra, thanks for your service to the church and thanks for taking the time to answer these questions!

If you see Sierra, make sure to give her a big high five, and watch for her on the road when she gets her license!

Thank you

JILL MANNING

I just want to "shout out" and express my gratitude for Jill Manning, who leads the prayer/intention ministry at SOJ. I am on her list of people who pray for those in need. It is apparent to me that Jill takes her time writing the emails explaining the situations of those who are in need of prayers. She also follows-up with the people we pray for to see how they are. I want to express my gratitude for her ministry and just mention that I believe she is doing a terrific job!

FROM OLIVIA KAIL



Inclusion



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

3...2...1...Happy New Year! How is it possible that we are already a month into 2024? Time flies when you're having fun! Here is what's happening with youth and family ministry!

Our **Middle School and High School students** were able to help out the **quilters** in January; a big **thank you to Carol Severson and Marci Honn** for allowing us to help serve in such a fun and special way! Looking forward, **our youth will combine with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church youth to put together bags with necessary items that can be passed out to the local homeless folk in Fort Collins.**

The recent changes made to our Sunday School program, **Kids of Joy**, have been a hit! **Every 2nd and 4th Sunday, from 10:45-11:30am**, we have a smart, energetic, and creative group of **kindergarten - 5th grade students** who gather to **sing, read Bible stories, create**, and, above all else, **enjoy each other's company!** I would like to take a **moment to thank Joy Devens and Laurie Pascoe** for their help with this awesome program; your time and talents are so appreciated! **If you want to join in on the fun and help as an adult volunteer, find me on a Sunday or email me anytime at jen@sojoyfc.org.**

Coming up on **Saturday, February 10th**, we will have an **All-Church Winter Fun Day at Hoedown Hill in Windsor!** This event is open to anyone of any age! Hoedown Hill offers a whole host of wintertime fun. **Skiing, snowboarding, terrain park, tubing, and hot cocoa** are among the available activities; this event is child-friendly! To get in on this fun event, talk to Jen ASAP to get more details!

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Inclusion

If you're already feeling the wintertime blues, not to worry. We have **Family Camp** in July to look forward to! Together as a church, SOJ will gather up at **Sky Ranch from July 12 - 14th** to camp, connect, and grow together in our faith. **Sign-ups will begin Feb. 18th** and Sky Ranch will be putting on a **Camp Sunday on March 17th** to fill us all in on the fun that awaits!

I am so grateful to work with such **amazing families** and such **kind-hearted kids**. I cannot wait to see how 2024 unfolds for our youth and family ministries here at Spirit of Joy.

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

spirit of joy
101

what are we about here?

sunday, march 17
11:00am - 1:30pm
lunch provided



March Birthdays

Cindy Loken - Mar 2
 David Williams - Mar 2
 Brian Larson - Mar 3
 Linda Sillence - Mar 3
 Ron Shimpa - Mar 3
 Keith Bruner - Mar 4
 Sebastian Suarez - Mar 5
 Georgie Dawson - Mar 8
 Anne Foster - Mar 8
 Cheryl Koons - Mar 8
 John Altringer - Mar 9
 Steve Foster - Mar 9
 Mary Beth Fischer - Mar 11
 Marybeth Almquist Williams - Mar 14
 Abby Peters - Mar 15
 Keith Rounsaville - Mar 19
 Art Klinzmann - Mar 19
 Elsa Farmer - Mar 19
 Evan Gouldey - Mar 19
 Eric Andrew Gouldey - Mar 21

Nancy McNair - Mar 22
 Erma Skadburg - Mar 24
 Lauren Gouldey - Mar 28
 Greg Loken - Mar 28
 Emily Winn - Mar 31

April Birthdays

Grace Willis - Apr 4
 Courtney Schleusener - Apr 4
 Lynn Ryder - Apr 5
 Jill Manning - Apr 9
 Asher McDonald - Apr 12
 Cava Rounsaville - Apr 12
 John Drege - Apr 12
 Heather Wohlers - Apr 14
 KarenAnn Weingartner - Apr 15
 Greg Fischer - Apr 17
 Mike Forney - Apr 18
 Carolyn Gage Dahl - Apr 23
 Anneke Ausema - Apr 25
 Linda Bruner - Apr 27

Julie Willis - Apr 27
 Val Hall - Apr 29
 Teresa Kopp - Apr 29
 Ann Willis - Apr 30
 Samuel Raney - Apr 30

May Birthdays

Olivia Kail - Mar 2
 Erin Hunt - Mar 7
 John Behm - Mar 8
 Rick Schleusener - Mar 9
 Greg Behm - Mar 12
 Paula Flagel - Mar 13
 Dot Runyan - Mar 16
 Rebecca Zimmerle - Mar 16
 Pat Parker - Mar 19
 Diane Odberth - Mar 27
 Hailey Nelson - Mar 29
 Jeff Schleusener - Mar 29
 Bruce Lundebly - Mar 30
 Julie Schleusener - Mar 30





Community

SKIING

SNOWBOARDING

TERRAIN PARK

ALL - CHURCH

WINTER
Fun Day

TUBING

HOT COCOA

SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
SIGN UP!



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

1:00pm at Hoedown Hill in Windsor

Passes must be bought **PRIOR** to the event

LENTEN
SOUP SUPPERS

&

MOUNTAIN
VESPERS

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN LENT

Soup Suppers at 6:00PM

Mountain Vespers at 7:00PM

February 21, 28, and March 6, 13, 20



Community

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FAMILY CAMP

JULY 12 - 14, 2024
PRECEDING YOUTH
CAMP (JULY 14 - 19)

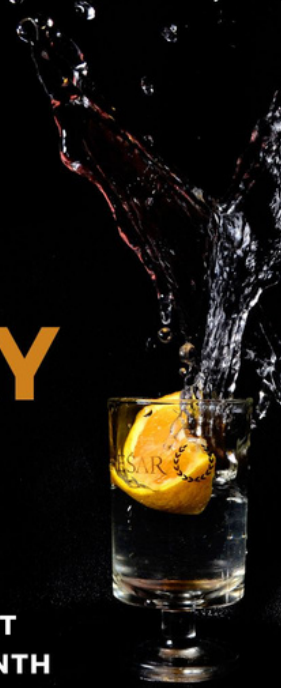
Sign-ups begin February 18!



MEN'S HAPPY HOUR MINISTRY

2ND THURSDAY OF THE
MONTH - 4:00PM

EMAIL CHARLIE AT
CCUYERS@COMCAST.NET
FOR LOCATION EACH MONTH



JOYFUL GENERATIONS

1st and 3rd
Sundays
after worship

"Joyful Gen" is an all-ages activity to
build relationships and learn together.

All are welcome!





Community



Spirit of Joy Community Garden

by Dave Mornes

The Spirit of Joy Community Gardens is entering its 15th gardening season. There are 16 individual gardenplots, each about 10'x20' in size. Gardeners join us from the congregation and from the local community. We are a community of individuals enthusiastic about fresh produce, fellowship and sharing. Garden plots are expected to be available for the 2024 season, so please contact Dave Mornes, SOJ Garden Coordinator, at 970-217-0981 or dmornes@colostate.edu for more information on being assigned a garden plot or volunteering to help maintain the area.



Calling all **GRADUATES**

ANY GRADUATION WELCOME: pre-k, high school, college, grad school, etc.

Celebrate your graduate by bringing in a framed photo on May 5, Grad Sunday and send a bio to office@sojoyfc.org to have your grad featured in our newsletter!



Community

ANNUAL MEETING & END-OF-YEAR POTLUCK

April 28
4:30pm

We will also be celebrating Norm's 15+ years as treasurer!



We are considering a possible
Easter Egg Hunt event in March

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Join us at our exploratory meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00pm at SoJ. Email Jen at jen@sojoyfc.org with any questions!



Service

Thank You

Norm Skadburg

**FOR 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO SPIRIT
OF JOY AS OUR TREASURER**

WE WILL BE HONORING NORM AT OUR END-OF-YEAR
PARTY ON APRIL 28

Welcome

Jan Loomis

**AS OUR NEW SPIRIT OF JOY
TREASURER BEGINNING
APRIL 1, 2024**



Service

Thank
you

Dear Spirit of Joy

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU, Spirit of Joy!
Once again you have blown me away with your generosity. On Sunday, January 7, our team sold baked goods with the goal of trying to raise \$300 to help pay the remaining cost for conducting medical clinics during our March 9-16 mission trip. Instead of \$300, you contributed a mind-boggling \$521!! We will still be seeking contributions for medical supplies (vitamins, antibiotics, etc.), so the extra funds will go toward purchasing those.

Thank you so much!

Russell and the Guatemala team

Service

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Children's Benadryl
- Adult vitamins – NOT gummies
- Children's vitamins – NOT gummies
- Antifungal creams
 - Muscle rubs
- Benadryl cream/anti-itch cream
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Exam gloves (non-sterile) all sizes
 - Aquaphor ointment
 - Eucerin shampoo
- 3cc syringes with 25gauge, 1" needles
 - Albuterol inhalers
 - Artificial tears
 - Paper lunch bags

GUATEMALA DONATIONS NEEDED

Our Guatemala team is collecting medical donations during the month of February for their trip! Donation box will be in the foyer of Spirit of Joy all February.



Are you storing something in the Oasis House?

Contact Jen at
jen@sojoyfc.org

by March 30 so we don't throw away your property during our clean out





Service

WE NEED COOKIE BAKERS AND DELIVERERS

FOR OUR SOJ VISITOR MINISTRY

IF INTERESTED,
CONTACT LAURIE AT LPASCOE002@GMAIL.COM



Volunteer for Lenten Soup Suppers

BRING SOUP, BREAD, OR DESSERT

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY WEDNESDAY
IN LENT (FEB 21 - MAR 20)



Upcoming Calendar of Events

- **Sunday, February 4** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Rejoicing Spirits - 3:00pm; Sunday Playtime - 3:45pm
- **Saturday, February 10** - All-ages Winter Fun Event - 1:00pm at Hoedown Hill in Windsor
- **Sunday, February 11** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am; MS/HS Intentional Conversation - 10:45am
- **Monday, February 12** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Tuesday, February 13** - Exploratory Spring Event (Easter Egg Hunt) meeting - 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, February 14** - Ash Wednesday - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, February 18** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; MS/HS Pizza & Movie Night - 6:30pm; Sign ups begin for Sky Ranch Family Camp and Youth Camp
- **Wednesday, February 21** - Lenten Soup Suppers - 6:00pm; Mountain Vespers - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, February 25** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Commitment Sunday & LuMin Sunday); Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Monday, February 26** - Annual Report submissions due
- **Wednesday, February 28** - Lenten Soup Suppers - 6:00pm; Mountain Vespers - 7:00pm
- **Saturday, March 2** - MS/HS Service Project with OSLC
- **Sunday, March 3** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Rejoicing Spirits - 3:00pm; Sunday Playtime - 3:45pm
- **Wednesday, March 6** - Lenten Soup Suppers - 6:00pm; Mountain Vespers - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, March 10** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Monday, March 11** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, March 13** - Lenten Soup Suppers - 6:00pm; Mountain Vespers - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, March 17** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Camp Sunday); SoJ 101 - 11:00am - 1:30pm
MS/HS Painting Party
- **Wednesday, March 20** - Lenten Soup Suppers - 6:00pm; Mountain Vespers - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, March 24** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Palm Sunday); Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Thursday, March 28** - Maundy Thursday (Tenebrae) service - 7:00pm
- **Friday, March 29** - Good Friday service - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, March 31** - Easter Sunday Worship - 8:30am and 10:00am
- **Sunday, April 7** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Rejoicing Spirits - 3:00pm; Sunday Playtime - 3:45pm; MS/HS Oasis House Clean-Out



Calendar of Events cont'd

- **Monday, April 8** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, April 14** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Sunday, April 21** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Confirmation Sunday); MS/HS Last Intentional Conversation - 6:30pm
- **Sunday, April 25-27** - Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly
- **Sunday, April 28** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am; Kids of Joy - 10:45am; Annual Meeting and End-of-Year Potluck - 4:30pm
- **Monday, April 29** - Summer newsletter submissions due
- **Sunday, May 5** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Grad Sunday); Rejoicing Spirits - 3:00pm
- **Sunday, May 12** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Youth Sunday); Kids of Joy - 10:45am
- **Monday, May 13** - Council meeting - 7:00pm
- **Sunday, May 19** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Pentecost)
- **Sunday, May 26** - Sunday Worship - 9:30am (Youth Sunday); Kids of Joy - 10:45am

2023 Annual Report

Submissions due to
office@sojoyfc.org by
Monday, February 26



- Ministry Leadership**
- Dane Coyer
 - Ben Haugstuen
 - 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