

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

April 2023



**Eric Ohrtman**

*Pastor*

### **Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

As always, there's a lot of information in this month's newsletter. Spirit of Joy is an active community and your mission and ministry team leaders and staff are doing excellent work. Please read through it, join in when you are able, pray always. Here's an introduction and invitation to Holy Week as Spirit of Joy.

Holy Week Devotions— each day of Holy Week we'll publish a special devotion for the week. These are meant as an invitation to set this week aside as special and be intentional, taking about 5-10 minutes to acknowledge Christ's journey through the cross and tomb to victory.

Palm Sunday Worship will begin with the procession of the palms. Our One Sunday band will lead us in song as we join the voices of the hopeful throughout the ages shouting "Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!". This morning's worship will end with a reading of the Passion, moving us from joy to sorrow and inviting us into the deep stillness of the week.

Maundy Thursday Worship is at 6:30pm. During this special evening we will welcome eleven first time communion recipients to join us at the table. We'll remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, how he knelt and washed their feet, and finally, how he was abandoned and stripped bare with the stripping of the worship space.

Good Friday Worship is in stations. Please sign up at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups). Worship tours begin at 6pm with the last one starting at 7pm. The worship experience lasts about 30 minutes as we hear, feel, and experience the Passion throughout our facility.

Easter morning worship is at 7, 8:45, and 11.

### **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



Pastor Eric Ohrtman

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.

~ Luke 24:1-3



# Holy Week Worship

## Palm Sunday

April 2 | 8:45 & 11 a.m.

Procession of Palms, Passion Story  
& Holy Communion



## Mundy Thursday

April 6 | 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion &  
Stripping of the Altar



## Good Friday

April 7 | Stations of the Cross

Sign up on [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)  
for tours beginning at 6 p.m.

## Easter Sunday

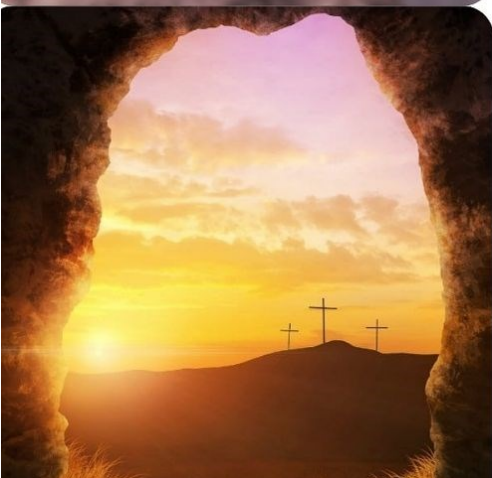
April 9 | 7, 8:45 & 11 a.m.

Festival Worship

10:00 a.m. **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Children of Joy**

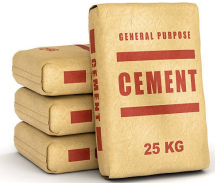
Baskets/bags provided



# Outreach Opportunities

## The Liberia Mission

Thank you to our partners for your generous donation of \$7,886 (657 bags of cement) towards the roof construction of a school in Liberia. The cost of cement is \$12 a bag. We invite you to join us in the campaign to buy an additional 500 bags of cement at \$10 a bag. The Fleming children will contribute \$2 for every \$10 given for cement. Please write checks payable to Spirit of Joy (Liberia Mission in the memo line) and mail to the church office or deposit check or cash in the donation box at the Welcome Center. As God continues to breathe life in us, please pray for Deacon Hannah and Pastor Henrique's mission trip to Liberia in April. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" ... (Isaiah 6:8).



**SOUTH DAKOTA CARES**

**April 10-14, 2023**

**LSS Tours, Giving Matches & Social Events**

Scan the QR code below with your phone's camera to sign up to tour an LSS facility or RSVP to a social event.



Visit [www.SouthDakotaCARES.org](http://www.SouthDakotaCARES.org) today to take advantage of match and challenge opportunities! Your donation can go even further during our day of giving, South Dakota CARES.







# Faith Formation



**Joyful Morning Yoga** (10:30am; April 6 & 20). Lunch is provided. Just show up!

**Rotational In-Home Fellowship:** We meet once a month for devotion and fellowship. To help with planning, please let Hannah know if you are interested in participating.

- Monday, April 10, 5:30pm at Ashley Larsen's.
- Tuesday, April 11, 9:00am location TBD.

**Women's Bible Study–Thursdays 9am & 4pm:**

Topic: The Greatest Story"-Bible Introduction. Bring a friend — all are welcome!

**Women's Social Gathering–Monday, April 24 at 7pm:**

Kendra Krueger will facilitate. In April, the Women of Joy will create May Baskets to deliver to SOJ partners who are unable to leave their homes. Please sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signup](https://spiritofjoy.net/signup) by April 26 if you are available to deliver May baskets on Monday, May 1st (Mid-Day).

**Men's Rotational In-Home Fellowship**

We are starting a rotational in-home fellowship for the men of SOJ in April. The purpose of this small group (5-6 members) is to get to know each other better through devotion, prayer, and a time of fellowship.

- Morning Session: Tuesday, April 18, 10 a.m. at Bill Brieher's home (3511 W 91st Place, Apt. #206)
- Evening Session: Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m. at Joe Vogel's home (2817 W Brandy Wine Circle)

If you are interested in being a part of this great men's group time, please sign up online at [www.spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://www.spiritofjoy.net/signups).

**Brewed Theology: Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Charlie's Pizza.**

Dying Well: We'll all die. And so will everyone we know. And we know that sounds bleak (mortality isn't a light subject), but we're pretty trained – socially and biologically – to avoid discussing death. And God is already there, ahead of us. So, we're going to talk about life at the *end* of life. We're going to talk about how facing death, and preparing to die well, can really help us *live* well. Find the prep homework online at [spiritofjoy.net/signup](https://spiritofjoy.net/signup). In the week that Jesus died, let's talk about our own deaths.

**Sunday Forum Lesson/Topic**

April 2--Down + Out Lesson 5 Galilee Room

April 9--NO Sunday Forum: Easter Egg Hunt

April 16-Liberia Mission with Deacon Hannah Fleming (Shalom Center)

April 23 & 30 -Biblical Stewardship in the Galilee Room



# Faith Formation



## Milestone News



### **1st Grade First Communion Milestone**

All who have participated in our First Communion instruction will be invited to come forward with their families during worship on Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 6:30pm to receive their first Holy Communion.



### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Care Milestone | Sunday, April 23, 10AM (between services)**

Come and learn about bioluminescence -- the way that special creatures glow to communicate! Shetek Lutheran Ministries' Environmental Education Director Katie Chapman will be leading the 5th grade milestone project to connect the glow of creatures with how we shine our light into the world as Christians! Project will include a fun glow-in-the-dark craft! Sign up online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



### **Teens & Traffic Milestone | Sunday, April 16 | Shalom Center**

#### **11AM Worship with Blessing, 12PM Pizza and Program**

Getting a driver's license is another step toward greater independence. But growing up does not need to mean growing away. This session will be an opportunity to strengthen family and faith relationships.

Please RSVP online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups) to help plan for enough pizza!

## Thank You!

- Thanks to Lori Berdahl for facilitating the second grade Lord's Prayer milestone. We are also grateful to Pastor Eric Ohrtman for preparing our First Graders for their First Communion. To our amazing volunteers, we appreciate your hard work and dedication to making ministry at Spirit of Joy more engaging.
- Joyful Bingo Fellowship night was a rewarding experience for our intergenerational partners! Everybody won a prize because we fellowshiped in Christ! Parents, volunteers, and everyone who showed up we are forever grateful for your contribution in making this event meaningful. Thanks for coming and we hope to do this again.

# Youth News

## **HIGH SCHOOL** **ADVENTURE CAMP FUNDRAISER**



**DURING COFFEE HOUR IN APRIL,  
HIGH SCHOOLERS WILL BE  
SELLING FLYBOY DONUTS,  
COFFEE, AND GIFT CARDS.**

**ORDERS WILL BE READY TO PICK  
UP EARLY MAY (JUST IN TIME  
FOR GRAD PARTIES AND GIFTS)**



## High School Milestone: Graduation

Spirit of Joy will celebrate graduating seniors on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:15 p.m. or during both services on Sunday, May 14. Come and help us celebrate these young adults in their next adventure!



## You Are Invited

Our Coordinator of High School Faith Formation, Madeline Trosvig, would like to invite Spirit of Joy partners to her senior sermon at Augustana University on April 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel of Reconciliation on Augie's campus.



# Creation Care Corner

*Psalm 104:24-25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.*

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. *Thank you, Lord, for the beauty of your Creation.* We have been reading **I Am** statements from Jesus throughout Lent, one of which was “I am the good shepherd.” As Benjamin Stewart wrote in the April 22, 2021, issue of Living Lutheran, we are given an “image of God as a shepherd leading us to green pastures, beside still waters. The enduring power of this imagery speaks to our deepest hopes on Earth Day—that our bodies will be protected from harm and find a home on the good earth, near clean waters.”

Now, of course, Earth Day is not a religious holiday, but it does fall within the Easter Season. As Stewart further writes, “Today, the mainstream environmental movement is beginning to come to terms with the Good Friday truth to which those at the margins of power have long testified: that the environmental sins of the world are heaped disproportionately on the bodies of the poor, immigrants and people of color. Easter is an exposure of this perversion of justice and a celebration of the sacred power that rises up and overthrows it, out of love for vulnerable bodies and the good earth.”

According to climate scientist and Christian, Katharine Hayhoe, there is mounting scientific evidence clearly documenting the risks presented by climate change to the poor, the needy, and other vulnerable populations who indeed are the very neighbors we are called to love and serve. She asserts that if we believe that God created this planet that we live on and this universe that it’s placed in, then “*what is science other than studying God’s creation?*”

What can we do this Earth Day to care for God’s creation and love and serve our neighbors?

- ♦ **Praise God** for His boundless gifts throughout Creation.
- ♦ **Pray for neighbors** in need, especially those impacted by flooding, famine, drought, war, over-cultivation, deforestation, desertification, etc.
- ♦ **Policy changes** can happen when we all get involved. Pray for leaders in positions of power but also make sure they hear from us. Try joining a group like Earthjustice, the Sierra Club, or Natural Resources Defense Council or even a local group like SoDak350. Write or call local and state representatives. Write or call companies and urge them to change practices that harm the environment if they want to keep our business.
- ♦ **Peace and prosperity** can be aided by donations to groups like ELCA Good Gifts.
- ♦ **Plant seeds** of love and trees and other greens.

*“God, when you chiseled a raindrop, How did you think of a stem, Bearing a lovely satin leaf to Hold the tiny gem?” – Quote from “God the Artist” by Angela Morgan from [familyfriendpoems.com/poem/42302](http://familyfriendpoems.com/poem/42302)*





# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## We are grateful for you!

A Special Thank you to:

- Amy Orr for taking us on an indoor picnic and teaching us about food groups. Children went home and “cooked” foods in their own kitchens using the words: proteins, carbohydrates, grains and dairy. It was fun to learn new ways to keep our body healthy.
- Judy Hanson & Donna VerWey for caring for the plants in the entryway of the church and preschool. Every day, children stop at these plants to observe, touch, and explore these plants. Sometimes parents even get a little science lesson, too.
- New Horizons Band for sharing your music each week. Children can see and hear many different instruments. We also have time to wonder about how to play the instruments and create music. One student recently asked: “How do they even know what sound to make and when to play?” We love being an audience to your rehearsals.



## Fall 2023 Preschool Registration Open

Share your faith-based preschool with those you meet. We like to see new friends here. Take brochures home to share with a neighbor or colleague. (found on the tables entering the sanctuary).

Our preschool has: curriculum written specifically with our students in mind; faith integrated into all parts of the day; amazing outdoor learning spaces; and play-based, age-appropriate learning activities led by children’s curiosity.

Preschool teachers have over forty-five years of teaching experience combined with a passion for supporting children’s learning styles and discovery. Contact Amy Cauble with questions and to schedule a tour: [amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com)

### Mini Golf “Par-tee”

was a success.

Thanks for supporting  
your preschool!





# Upcoming Events

## New Partner Class

Sunday, April 30 | 12-2:30 PM



If you are looking for a new church home, we would welcome the opportunity to introduce you to the mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church. We begin with lunch together, then share a concise overview of our key values and practices and ministries.

**Sign up online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)**



## Presentation of Tithe Gift to Church on the Street

Sunday, April 23rd, Pr. Chris Matson of Church on the Street will be with us in worship. We're thrilled to be able to present to her, our first gift from "Overflowing" our debt-reduction campaign. Join us!

## Help Shawn Stanek Celebrate 21st Birthday

Shawn's 21st birthday is April 13. Let's shower him with cards and letters through the month of April! Shawn is away on duty and cannot celebrate with friends and family. He can read cursive for the greeting, but the envelope **MUST** be printed or typed. The mail scanners used for sorting do not recognize cursive. Just a regular postage stamp is needed and no customs form is required unless it's a package. Please label all envelopes exactly as shown below.



**OS3 Shawn Stanek  
USS Rafael Peralta  
Unit 100415 Box 1116  
FPO AP 96694**

# Financials through February 2023

## Financials through February 2023

### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$23,823.14
Building Fund	\$27,045.22
Donor Restricted	\$32,479.37
Sunday School	\$1,245.97
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

-

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$162,004.51
Donor Restricted	\$69,474.82

**Total Cash Balance \$320,633.13**

Year-to-date Income for Ministry \$112,126.56

Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry \$121,542.39

**Net Income/Deficit for Ministry - \$9,415.83**

	February 2021	February 2022	February 2023
Attendance	???	973	944
General Offering	\$ 42,681.91	\$ 45,686.79	\$ 42,622.26
Building Offering	\$ 16,443.38	\$ 10,253.24	\$ 32,369.38

### Capital Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$2,478,485

Received as of May 31, 2022: \$2,297,671.32

### Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770

Received as of February 28, 2022: \$298,604.80



## Garden Plots available in 2023

Because the SoJ garden was expanded, there will be a few open spots for new gardeners for \$25/season on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please call the church office at 605-333-2004.



# Joyful Moments







Non Profit Org

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Sioux Falls, SD

Permit No. 7771

Return Service Requested



## Spirit of Joy Mobile App

Stay Connected All Week

- Install "Tithely Church App" from your App Store
- Search "Spirit of Joy" and click on correct SoJ logo
- Add the App to your Home Screen