

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

April 2024

Together | “Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.” -Philippians 2:2 The Message

I started the year with this word as my focus and I’ve been watching and giving thanks for all of the ways that we have been together in this first quarter. It seems appropriate to reflect as we begin Q2 2024 together. To do so, I think I’ll use the playful synonyms that continue to intrigue me.

CHEEK TO CHEEK. Confirmation Guides and Mentors, Children of Joy Teachers, and Ministry Team members feel like they are in lock step. The task is often unruly and messy (have you met middle school boys?), but the energy and passion for accompaniment and wellbeing is unwavering.

SIDE BY SIDE. Amy Cauble and the SoJ Preschool walk alongside our mission and ministry. We are the same. And yet, by nature, we are distinct. Amy does an unbelievable job aligning her teaching and the experience of students and family with the mission and values of SoJ.

HAND IN GLOVE. Here, I find myself thinking about Heather Wald and the SoJ Choir. It’s such a good gift. The musical gifts are so strong, but more importantly the joy is so high. It just feels like Heather and the choir were meant for each other. It’s not too late to take part! Wednesday at 5:30pm.

IN COLLUSION. Men’s Breakfast, Hope Haven Woodworkers, Church on the Street Candy Packers, and Laundry with Love quarter collectors fit here. They strengthen our center and help us live our values in and among our community.

CHEEK BY JOWL. Rev. Dennis Tranberg and the Caregiver Support Group fits here. Pr. Dennis took my idea and beginning and has run with it in new and wonderful ways. Professionals from outside the congregation, deep relationships, and constant grace.

IN LEAGUE. This is the feeling I have with the staff. As we continue to get to know each other, it feels increasingly like we’re unified in mission. And, it feels like we’re having fun doing it.

IN CAHOOTS. This is the opportunity for you to join the party. Bingo (it was a blast!) was our first foray into our season of play that extends through the summer. You should join in. Spring Fling. Family Fun Nights. Festival Worship. Graduation Celebrations. Social Justice Forums. Canaries games. Choir. Earthcare Sunday. Golf outings. Endowment Celebrations. Year-end Volunteer Appreciation. Congregation Potlucks. Town Hall Meetings. Brewed Theology. Books that Matter. Faith and Film. Women’s Bible Study. Men’s Breakfast. Each of these and so many more are an opportunity to join in and move along for the sake of our community and the proclamation of the gospel.

SPIRIT OF JOY, we are in this together. United by the waters of baptism and made one by the grace we share each time we come to the table, we have been blessed so that we might bless others.

Together. Every day.

LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW

"WHEREVER THE RIVER FLOWS, LIFE WILL FLOURISH. WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS, LIFE ABOUNDS." -EZEKIEL 47:8-9

THE NUMBERS

- Approved Budget Deficit: \$127,000
- Operational Debt: \$37,000
- \$21,854 Increase Year over Year in General Fund Income in January and February*
- The first three months of the year saw digital giving grow over 2023, including 53 more transactions

*SoJ's typical giving pattern predicts summer being our smallest giving months



PARTNER IMPACT

Each Lent, we collect quarters for Laundry w/ Love. Our quarters sponsor our April evening. Every additional quarter helps congregations who can't afford a full sponsorship. This year, we'll provide enough quarters for three evenings. Each month LWL provides 864 loads of laundry (including detergent and softener), a hot meal, bread to take home, socks, underwear, books, and other items to support families.

BUILDING IMPACT

Your building is a busy place. Right now, we have 9 community groups, including multiple wellness groups, using the building in addition to our programming. Each week nearly 800 people use the building with large events like our Scouts Pinewood Derby and the High Plains Woodwinds concerts bringing 200-300 through our doors.



SOJ LEADS

SoJ is a leader among the community and is shaping the church. 3 Seminary students. 2 Young Adults in Global Mission. Multiple partners serve on committees with the SD Synod. We'll host the SD Synod Candidacy Retreat in April. We're often the first call for Ministry Partners with short term needs (Pine Ridge, CoTS, Charis), Scholarships to attend Lutheran schools and camps. Stipends to work at camp.



Goal: Fully Fund Mission. Pay Off Operational Debt.

The need for change is urgent. Leadership Team hopes to see trends reverse before the end of the 2nd quarter of FY2024. Success will mean a \$50k increase in giving across each quarters 2-4 of FY2024. If you can join us in making a change, please visit spiritofjoy.net/give or contact the office at (605) 333-2004.

TRANSPARENCY



LITERACY



STABILITY



MARCH 24  APRIL 7

HELP US ORGANIZE
OUR RECORDS

- What's your middle name?
- Do you know your baptism date?
- Is your Household information Up to Date?
- Do we have your best contact information?
- Do you have a picture in the Online Directory?



WANT TO TRY A NEW TEAM?

photographer
available 

READING TEAM | COMMUNION TEAM | GREETING TEAM | SOUND BOARD TEAM

You are invited...
**The 1st Annual
SoJ Endowment Celebration**



Sunday, April 28 @ 10am

Give thanks. Learn. Be inspired.

Give for a brighter future together.

Congregational Life

Grief Support Group | sign up: spiritofjoy.net/signups

The Spirit of Joy Grief Support Group begins Thursday, May 2 at 4:30pm. Join us for this 13-week series (May 2-July 25), one hour a week of support and encouragement facilitated by our own Marilyn Gannon. There is no session on July 4th. No matter where you are in your grief process or how many years it has been, you are welcome to join us. Sign up online to help us plan better. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study resumes at 9am on Thursday, April 4 with a discussion on the book *The Stories We Live* authored by Kathleen A. Cahalan. Exploring the stories of real people responding to God's call in their lives creates limitless opportunities for each of us to reflect and discuss how and where God is calling us serve -Our Vocation! Pick up a copy of the book in Heather's office and join us for a morning of learning, fellowship, and some fun.

Women's In-Home Fellowship

- Monday, April 8 at 5:30pm
- Tuesday, April 9 at 9:00am
- Contact Deb Stapelman or Suzanne DeBoom for more information. All are welcome.

Save the Date - More Info to Come

- **Sunday, May 19 at 10:00am** - The Guatemala immersion learners will share their learning experience facilitated by Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. Treats and coffee provided.
- **Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30pm** - Social Justice Series: LGBTQIA2S+ Rescheduled from original April date.

Sunday Forum | Sundays at 10:00 AM

- April 7---Hope Haven with Riche Koele (Shalom Center)
- April 14—Lutheran Doctrine on Salvation with Pastor Eric Ohrtman (Galilee Room)
- April 21—Lutheran Doctrine on Discipleship with Pastor Paul Johnston (Galilee Room)
- April 28—SOJ Endowment Team Presents (Shalom Center)

Outreach Opportunities

LIBERIA MISSION
COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES
MARCH 24-APRIL 14

Drop donations off at SoJ!

THANK YOU



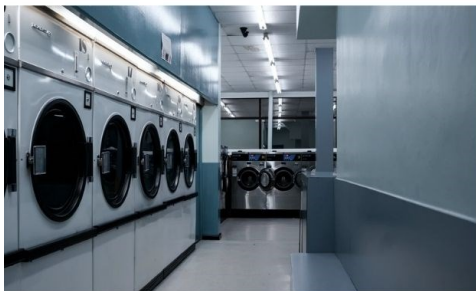
Liberia Mission School Supplies:

We are collecting school supplies for our ministry partner-The Liberia Mission, March 24-April 14! Join us in our mission to support the educational experience of children in the Duazon community as we continue to work on completing the kindergarten-6th grade wing of the school building in Liberia. School supplies needed are pencils, pens, 50 backpacks, crayons, erasers, notebooks, etc.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

LAUNDRY WITH LOVE

THE LAUNDROMAT COMPANY
701 N Cliff



Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Join us for Fellowship & Learning

Wednesdays 7-8pm | Youth Room

**** Bring a Friend ****

April Schedule

April 3 - Miracles

April 10 - Fellowship/Service Project

April 17 - Internet Safety presentation

with Paul Creviston in the Galilee Room - parents are welcome to participate.

April 24 - The Church

May 1 - End of the Year Celebration

& High School Confirmation Orientation (8PM in Shalom)

May 5 - High School Graduation Milestone



All Women of Joy are invited to the

Crossroads Conference (WELCA) Spring Gathering

April 20, 2024 | 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

(Registration opens at 8:30; program begins at 9:15)

RSVP to clundeen@midco.net or (605-201-3102) by April 15, 2024

Cost - \$10 per person (Pay at the door)

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
2208 W LaQuinta St - Sioux Falls SD





Creation Care Corner

“This is my Father’s world, And to my listening ears, All nature sings and round me rings, The music of the spheres.”

- This is My Father’s World, ELW 824

Join us Sunday, April 21 for Creation Care Sunday! We give thanks and praise to God for the world He gave us to live in while we occupy our earthly bodies, and think about what part we play in keeping it sustainable for future generations.

Some members of Spirit of Joy, Our Savior’s Lutheran and Spirit of Peace UCC, toured Millennium Recycling in March. What an informative excursion! We are happy to share highlights with you.

- On average, they work through 125 tons of materials per day.
- The most important thing they want you to know: **keep your recycled materials loose. DO NOT PUT YOUR RECYCLABLES IN A BAG.**

Plastic bags cause the machines to have to shut down and stops work flow.

- The only items that go in a plastic bag are shredded paper and this **MUST** be in a **CLEAR BAG**, *not* a white or black garbage bag but a **see-through bag**, or it will not be recycled.
- They recycle plastic, just remember: **BOTTLES, TUBS and JUGS**. It’s easier to remember these shapes versus the numbers, but here are more tips:

- You can recycle #2 and #5 cups (most fast-food cups)
- You **CANNOT** recycle the containers that fruit comes in (think berry packages). These are called clamshells and are a #1 plastic that often melt and cause ash and contaminate a load of plastics that can’t be recycled.
- You can keep the lids on your plastic bottles and milk jugs
- Sheets of paper can go into the recycling bin as is



(loose). You can recycle magazines, envelopes (you don’t have to tear off the window portion) and you can recycle gift wrapping paper as long as it rips/tears easily and doesn’t have glitter or foil on it. The paper you put in is recycled and then used in new paper goods!!

- **Glass is reused and sent to manufacturers with over 90% of this item staying in the Midwest.**
 - Some of our milk jugs and other plastic bottles go to Worthington, MN, for a new life as plastic chairs and decking.
 - **Cardboard and metal are currently the most valuable items, but the market does vary.**
- Millennium uses natural pest control by having cats around to help with this matter.
- **Do NOT put lithium batteries in recycling as they will start fires. This has happened before and is dangerous and causes damage.**
- They are the first company in the US with robots trained to pull out plastic bags using AI learning. Currently, there is a naming contest for elementary students.
- **Not only do they give materials a second chance, they also give people a second chance at Millennium. It is hard work and some of the people working there come from really hard places. They get meals and counseling while working there and receive help gaining more stability in their lives by partnering with several community groups.**

Learn more about recycling at Millennium Recycling
www.millenniumrecycling.com | 605-336-1744



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Share your preschool with the neighborhood today!

Fall 2024 Preschool Registration continues and is open to all. New families can learn all about the preschool in a variety of ways... provide them a brochure from the Gathering Center, visit the website, call the preschool office, or schedule a tour. Registrations can be taken online, by mail or in person.

Check out the fun preschool video & peek into our day:

spiritofjoy.net/information_registration/

Preschool Stories

March flew by with several fun themes and wonderful weather. Many of this month's themes start with science experiments that lead us into math, writing, critical thinking and literacy skills. Children were able to explore our themes both inside and outside celebrating Dr. Seuss and reading, construction, dinosaur discovery, March weather and the Bible stories included in Holy Week. Enjoy photos from the month!

Dates to Know

- **April 26:** No Preschool
- **May 16 & 17, 10:45am:** Yearend Preschool Celebration
Shalom Center - All are welcome
- **September 4:** First Day of Preschool children attending Monday, Wednesday, Friday class
- **September 5:** First Day of Preschool children attending Tuesday, Thursday class



YAGM News



MADELINE TROSVIG

SoJ Partner and Young Adult in Global Mission

Last week the current Central Europe YAGM cohort had the privilege of gathering for a 5-day retreat in Bükki Nemzeti (National) Park, in the most wonderful guesthouse/refugio nestled in the hills of northeastern Hungary. This retreat marked the half-way point of the YAGM program year and looked toward the season of Lent. (Which begins today!)

We were warmly welcomed and well taken care of at [Feherkolapa Turistahaz](#) with delicious Hungarian cuisine and the generous,

Hungarian hospitality of István and Andrea.

During our time together, we focused on the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mark 9:2-10) and had the opportunity to reflect on the ways we have witnessed God's presence in Central Europe, as well as explore our own cultural stories and patterns. There was time for connection and contemplation, and lots of invitation to embrace the mystery of what is to come.

In addition to our reflections, discussions, and Bible studies, we also took the chance to relax and rejuvenate, exploring the trails, hiking to Lillafüred, visiting a local trout farm, and even taking a trip to Miskolc, where we had the opportunity to experience the Miskolctapolca Cave Bath.

We are grateful to God for this meaningful time spent together as a cohort, and we are thankful to our host communities for warmly welcoming us back after our retreat!



CARL NORQUIST

SoJ Partner and Young Adult in Global Mission

Last week, I traveled with my coworker Khadim Bamba Dieng to visit Linguere. Our employer, Services Luthériens pour le Développement au Sénégal - SLDS operates several sites in Linguere and this trip was an opportunity to learn more about their work in the community. The idea was for us to meet people, take photos, videos, and help develop a strategy to better promote SLDS's mission.

We arrived in Linguere on March 3rd following a five-hour bus ride. SLDS has two major programs in the village: an agricultural program and a healthcare program. The agricultural program includes two farms and a diary. This is the worksite of my YAGM colleague Micah Brandsrud.

SLDS also operates a clinic that provides essential assistance with medications and health screenings. Like in Yeumbeul, SLDS in Linguere offers trade classes and health education programs. This is the worksite for my YAGM colleague Grace Weisser.

Khadim and I had a packed schedule and I'm really thankful for SLDS's help facilitating this trip. I took a lot of photos and shots a few interviews. I hope to produce a video based on what we learned. These photos are just a piece of our tour and I'll add them to the official SLDS pages in the next few days.