

# WIND SWEEP

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## Monthly Newsletter

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April 2025

This month's cover letter is an invitation.

### To Finish Lent well.

Challenges are still abundant for you to focus on your whole wellbeing. Learn about and experience prayer in the labyrinth with us at 9:30 on April 12. Join us at Midco Aquatic Center at 3:00 on April 13. Attend a lecture or workshop at a local library or hardware store (I'm particularly excited about One Book Siouxland).

### To Holy Week.

We begin the journey to the cross with Palm Sunday on April 13. 8:45 and 11:00 Celebration Worship. Maundy Thursday we celebrate with our 1st Communion students as we remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. We'll strip the room and leave to the haunting prayers of Psalm 22. 6:30pm on April 17. Good Friday is a special Tennebrae service with your Spirit of Joy Choir in the lead. We'll extinguish the 14 candles we lit at Christ's birth on Christmas Eve as the hour dawns on his death. 6:30pm on April 18. And, then, Easter morning we'll gather to raise our voices in Crying together, "Alleluia!". 7:00am, 8:45am, and 11:00am on April 20.

### To Our Call Process.

The Congregation Survey process began on March 23rd. Each week a new portion of the survey is released on Sunday morning. Check your email. Visit the SoJ website. Scan the QR code in the bulletin or on any of the tables in Shalom. Then, join us for the Congregation Forums at 10am on April 13 or 7pm on April 23. They're the same conversation, so choose just one. You'll hear the results of the survey and be asked to help us think out loud as we sharpen those findings. Finally, mark your calendar for Sunday, May 18 as Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Associate to the Bishop of the SD Synod joins us for our Ministry Site Study. 10:30am following 9:30 worship.

Join me in my word of the year and "embrace" each of these opportunities. Together, we're better. Together, we're Spirit of Joy.





# Holy Week Worship

## Palm Sunday

April 13 | 8:45 & 11 a.m.

Procession of Palms, Passion Story  
& Holy Communion



## Mundy Thursday

April 17 | 6:30 p.m.

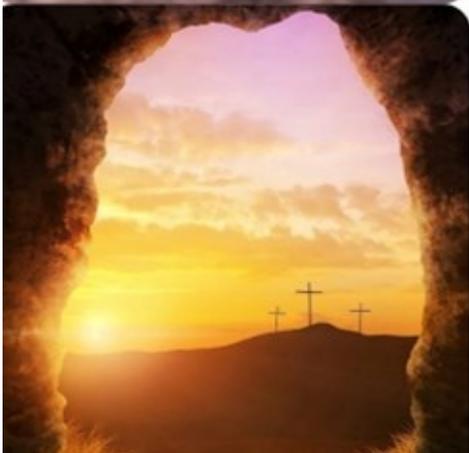
First Communion &  
Stripping of the Altar



## Good Friday

April 18 | 6:30 p.m.

Tenebrae Service



## Easter Sunday

April 20 | 7, 8:45 & 11 a.m.

Festival Worship

# Labyrinth During Holy Week

The labyrinth is a beautiful walking path that provides a safe place and time for us to intentionally walk in prayer.

It is a winding, but sure path, that takes you to the center and back out again. Biblical stories that resonate with this winding path are the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years and the path that Jesus and his disciples took -- entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, moving to the cross on Good Friday, through the emptiness of grief to the joy of resurrection on Sunday.

## LABYRINTH PRAYER WALK

Saturday, April 12 | 9:30-11AM

Join Deacon Jodi Hanson in learning more about the labyrinth in Shalom Center. Participate in an opening ritual and learn cues for walking.

- Labyrinth is open during Holy Week
- Join Pastor Eric each morning at 8AM
- All are welcome to come and walk any time the church is open



*The best way to learn about the labyrinth is to walk one a few times, with an open heart and an open mind.*

For Holy Week, we begin with a class on the Saturday before Palm Sunday with Deacon Jodi Hanson. You will hear a little about the labyrinth and cues for walking, participate in an opening ritual, and walk on this day before we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and all that follows. The labyrinth will be open the rest of the week in the Shalom Center. You are welcome to come and walk any time the church is open. Join Pr. Eric each morning during Holy Week at 8AM. After the Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday service you will be invited to walk the labyrinth if you so desire. And, then our final opportunity to walk together is prior to the sunrise service on Easter morning. The building will open at 5am for any who desire to wander with the Risen One!

# SEEKING A SECOND PASTOR

Each month, we will publish an update of the work of your Call Committee. Please continue to join us in prayer every Sunday during this process (we recruited 26 devotions in anticipation of a 6+ month process, and these will be published via email and on social media). And, “embrace” the process when it comes time for your input, feedback, and collaboration!

## Timeline for Congregation Input:

**Congregation Assessment** begins on Sunday, March 23 and closes April 23.

A new survey will be released each Sunday for four weeks. Please take the time to participate in all of them! Surveys will be available via: 1. QR Codes placed in the bulletin and around the building, 2. Email sent to everyone in SoJ’s database at 10am each Sunday. 3. On our website: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups). 4. For those who absolutely must, paper copies will be available upon request in the SoJ office. These surveys consider our purpose statement, five core values, and finally priorities for our new pastor.

**Congregation Forums** Sunday, April 13 at 10am, Wednesday, April 23rd at 7pm.

These meetings will be identical in form and content. Choose one. Here we’ll share our initial findings from the congregation surveys and ask for further feedback and sharpening of your input.

**Ministry Site Study** Sunday, May 18 at 10:30am.

This is an opportunity for Pr. Renee Splichal Larson, Associate to the Bishop of the SD Synod, to reflect back to us how she reads our Ministry Site Profile and what that might mean for her consideration of candidates for us, and those same candidates consideration of SoJ. Perhaps summarized like this: Did we say what we mean? Did we mean what we said?



Tim Hazlett

Mindy Dold

Kaelyn Tvinnereim

Charles Berdahl

Jamie Oyen

Mary Tranberg

**Please keep these partners, our future pastor, and all of Spirit of Joy in your prayers!**

# ASSESSMENT SURVEY

## Help Us Find Our Next Pastor!

We want your input and opinions to help describe our congregation, purpose, and ministry needs with our pastor candidates.

A new survey will be available each week:

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

**SCAN  
ME!**



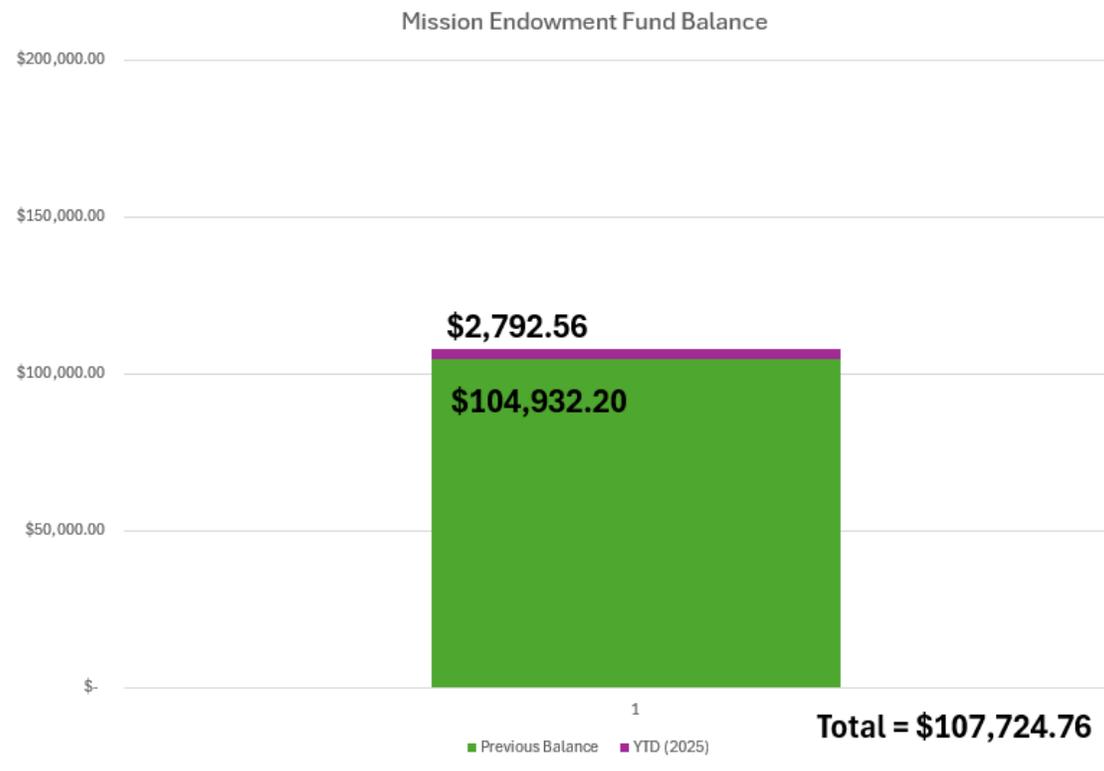
[spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



## The Annual Mission Endowment Celebration

Sunday, April 27 | 10 AM (between services) | Shalom Center

There is a lot to celebrate with the Fund balance now over \$100,000. The featured speaker will be Pastor Jonathan Vehar, Director for Evangelical Mission. He is responsible for coordinating mission development and stewardship within the SD Synod. It will be a fun event with music, updates, educational information and testimonials. Come celebrate the past year’s blessings to SoJ’s future!



For more information on Mission Endowment Fund, visit:  
[spiritofjoy.net/mission-endowment-fund-2](http://spiritofjoy.net/mission-endowment-fund-2)



**Meals on Wheels** provides a hot, nutritious noon meal to homebound seniors aged 60 or older who are unable to prepare meals independently. Our mission is to ensure that our aging participants receive nourishment, which helps with faster healing, shorter hospital stays, and allows them to remain in their own homes for longer periods of time.

The meals are prepared in the Active Generations kitchen and packed by volunteers. On a typical day, teams deliver over 580 meals across the Sioux Empire. Every weekday, more than 125 volunteers are needed to pack and deliver meals to seniors in need.

Local businesses such as Schulte Subaru, The Barrel House, Culver's, and several others are active in supporting Meals on Wheels.

**Spirit of Joy has Route #08, which starts near 57th & Cliff.**

- **Pickup:** Active Generations between 10:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- **Delivery Time:** Approximately 2 hours
- **Return:** After completing the route, return the bags to Active Generations.

Specific instructions and addresses will be provided when you pick up the meals. About 24 SOJ members are currently active in delivering meals.

To sign up to volunteer, please contact **Gary & Suzanne DeBoom**. 605-251-5396 or [gdeboom@sio.midco.net](mailto:gdeboom@sio.midco.net)

If you are interested, you are invited to ride along with one of the present teams.



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

Caring Community, Active Learning and Faithful Hearts

## Preschool Registration

Starting preschool is a big step for young children and their families. We are a caring community with small class sizes to gently introduce young learners to the preschool environment. All are welcome, feel free to share this opportunity with friends and family.

We welcome you to learn more about our interactive learning style and faithful community! Start with an informational brochure, found at the Gathering Space Welcome Center. You are also welcome to tour our beautiful classrooms and visit with the preschool staff - tours can be scheduled to accommodate all schedules, contact Amy Cauble today. Children ages 3-5 years old by September 1 can enroll now.

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

[spiritofjoy.net/information-registration/](http://spiritofjoy.net/information-registration/)

### Dates to Know

- April 18, 20 No Preschool – Easter Break
- May 19 Yearend Program – All are Welcome!
- September 3 First Day Preschool for 25-26
- Watch for Playground & Popsicle Dates coming in July & August!



March was a whirlwind of fun with field trips, class pictures, Read Across America Week with dress up days & favorite books, special-guest Chapel leaders and finally, Spring Conferences. A special thank you to preschool parents, grandparents, volunteers, and special guests who helped create so many memories!

### Calling all Volunteers

If you would like to be a part of the preschool program, sign up online ([spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)) to be contacted about opportunities. Some ways to participate:

- Van assistant
- Classroom volunteer-sharing hobbies
- Donate or prep a snack
- Chapel leader
- Story reader

Join this caring community, you will be blessed. I look forward to working with you!

Amy Cauble





# Creation Care Corner



*"Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green."*

-- LBW #148 Now the Green Blade Rises

This April, we celebrate Easter and all things being made new in this season of renewal. I don't know about you, but the Creation Care Team is ready for sunshine, flowers, and time outdoors! We look forward to another year of witnessing how our native prairie grass and wildflower strip continues to develop.

Itching to get at your lawn and garden duties? Whenever you can and as you are able, remember to work *with* nature and not *against* it. Every few years, your lawn should be aerated to help with soil compaction. You may want to have your soil pH tested this spring so you know what it needs. After the first mowing, you can apply fertilizer, depending on weather conditions. A good thing to keep in mind with fertilizers is to look for meal-based ingredients (sources from bone, blood, feather, soybean alfalfa, eggshells) and compost manures. Anything labeled "quick-release" is like junk food for the lawn (containing urea, ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, and other quick-release forms of nitrogen). These types of fertilizers actually harm the environment and send less fertilizer into your grass, so take the time to get it right. When you mow, remember to set your blades higher and leave your clippings for mulch.

April is also a good time to sharpen your mower blades and to clean and sharpen your other tools. When the ground has thawed and dried, you can check perennials for new growth. If new growth is underway, you can remove the mulch; HOWEVER, if nights are still freezing, leave the mulch in place until nights are consistently above freezing. In other words, you may need to put this off until May.

Don't prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees as the buds have already formed, but you can prune other fruit trees and shrubs. Do not prune elms, oaks, or walnuts in the spring. You can prune your roses and apply a slow-release granular fertilizer.

You can fertilize spring-blooming bulbs. If you have evergreens, as soon as the ground has thawed, you can pound in fertilizer stakes or apply a slow-release granular fertilizer. Dormant oil spray can be applied to fruit trees. April is a good time to plant bare root trees, shrubs, and roses as soon as the soil has thawed and dried.

You can cut back the dead top growth of perennials and perennial grasses; just leave 3-4 inches of stems to deter hungry rabbits from the new growth. You can now prep your garden beds by removing winter mulch and working compost or leaf mold into the top layer of soil. Also, you can now make new garden beds if they are in your plans. Then, you can start your seeds indoors if you have the capacity to do so. Remember to inspect all your hoses for any leaks. This may be a great time to explore a rain barrel or two as well as exploring drip irrigation systems.

Last but not least, April is the host month to **Earth Day**. In Sioux Falls, there are some fun events happening. There is an Earth Day Festival at Great Bear Recreation Park on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm which will include a scavenger hunt and tote-bag decorating for reusable bags. Grow kits for starting a garden will be given to participants. Also happening is an Urban Arbor Day Festival, which will take place on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Pasley Park from 12-3pm. This event will include demonstrations, live music, and hands-on birdhouse building.



*"The earth laughs in flowers."*  
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Engage to Change

This middle school on site camp happens at the end of May. They will participate in a variety of service projects in our community. Two of the projects are: *Girls on the Run* through Embe and The Banquet. Both of these groups could use our help collecting some special items to make their programs successful. We will be collecting after Easter, April 20-30. Items can be brought to the church! Thank you!

## ***Girls on the Run***

- 3x5 Index Cards
- Kleenex packs
- Packages of Pony Beads
- Ribbon
- Ziploc Bags (2.5 gallon, 1 gallon, sandwich)
- Tape (masking and scotch)

## ***The Banquet***

- Soccer balls, basketballs, footballs
- Family games
- Advanced LEGO sets
- Jewelry for girls
- Cologne/Perfume

## Changing Lives International Ministries (Liberia Mission)

The students, parents, and staff of the school (New Dawn Learning Center) in Liberia want to thank the partners and friends of Spirit of Joy for their generous contributions to Liberia's education mission.

The Family Fun night donations included many white board multi-packs, erasers, and markers, rulers, pencils, along with two fully school-ready backpacks! Students in Liberia will appreciate these gifts.

In addition to the school supplies, a \$1500 donation was provided by the SOJ Outreach team, and an additional \$5,008 YTD was received from generous SOJ partners. These gifts will support the ongoing school mission work.

Thank you for your continued support. Please keep the students and staff at the New Dawn Learning Center in your prayers as we come up on the first anniversary of the school opening!

