

Monthly Newsletter

August 2023

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.





Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life? I do!

live with them... join us for August Cruise Night and look for opportunities to build relationships and connect this fall.

word of God and the holy supper... Middle School Confirmation students will be studying the New Testament and the Small Catechism this year.

Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments... a new Confession and Forgiveness milestone is coming to SoJ!

holy scriptures... new Bible studies and small groups are on their way.

faith and prayer... we just finished the book "Prayer" by Timothy Keller and will introduce our kids to its practice in Milestones.

trust God... our summer Family Fun Nights (God Provides is Wednesday August 9th)

word and deed... August 6 is Feeding the 5000 and a special one-time food collection for our ministry partner Food to You

care for others and the world... join us at Church on the Street Worship (August 12) or serve Laundry with Love (August 22)

work for justice and peace...Deacon Hannah is launching a new series on social justice issues and the church's response.

Our entire mission and ministry can be boiled down to our effort to keep the promises we make to each other in Holy Baptism. As I read this newsletter, that is again what I see. A community, investing in each other, so that together we might continue to grow in relationship with one another and our God. Look carefully. Pray for all. And, join us!

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, August 13 at 9:30am.

Reason: To consider the purchase of a minivan.

Narrative: The expressed need for a van includes a desire to continue to grow our ride capacity for preschool. In addition, Spirit of Joy has an opportunity to provide hospitality for events and community programming including worship, fellowship, and offsite journeys.

A smaller van means shorter routes for young students and easier access for adult drivers who must verify they have properly secured car seats, etc. It is also easier to load adult passengers. Improved fuel economy, capacity, comfort, and increased reliability.

Financing: Spirit of Joy currently has approximately \$25,000 in the Transportation savings account. The proposal would put \$20,000 (a floor of \$5000 is desired for repairs and maintenance) down and limit our monthly payment to \$400. That payment would be made possible by our continued partnership with Hope Coalition.

Financing would be sought through the ELCA Federal Credit Union.

Request for Action: Approve the purchase of a van for mission and ministry.

Books that Matter

Led by Pr. Eric. Donuts and coffee provided.

This month we're reading

"God: A Biography" by Jack Miles

Discussion: Monday, Sept. 11- 9am at SoJ

Next month: "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Discussion: Mon, Oct. 16 @ 9am



Food to You: Feeding 5000 Sunday, August 6th

Bring a one time food donation to benefit Spirit of Joy Partner, Food to You Mobile Food Pantry. As we reach the end of our summer, "Come to the Table" series we hope to bless our neighbors through your generosity. Donations may be placed on the table on the chancel in the sanctuary!

Church on the Street Saturday, August 12 Heritage Park

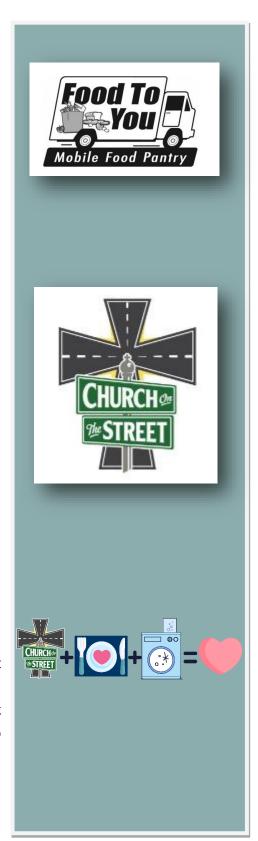
Spirit of Joy is hosting the meal and worshiping together at Church on the Street the 2nd Saturday of August. Church starts at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meal. Check out the sign up page for food donations and ways to volunteer. SoJ Partners are encouraged to attend the service to get to know the people who worship. Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups.

Laundry with Love

Tuesday, August 22

701 N. Cliff Ave.

Spirit of Joy is serving Laundry with Love on Tuesday, August 22nd. Volunteers are needed to prepare a meal, welcome guests, serve the meal, and be available to distribute donations. Check out the sign up page for more information and ways to volunteer. Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups.





Registration for Education at Spirit of Joy

Please fill out one form for each child participating in an education opportunity at Spirit of Joy. This includes Children of Joy PreK-5 Grade, Confirmation 6th-10th Grade, High School Youth Group 9th-12th Grade. Volunteer Opportunities included in the form for adults to participate. Please sign up where you would like to help – We Need You!

Save the Date:

Children of Joy begins Sunday, September 10
Wednesday programming begins September 13
Wednesday Worship, Children of Joy, Confirmation, Youth Group, Choir Rehearsal

Blessing of Students & Backpacks

Sunday, August 27 | Both Services

Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to worship that day!



Confirmation kicks off at the end of August!

6th Grade Families will meet with Pastor Eric or Marnie on Monday, August 21 or Tuesday, August 22. These individual gatherings will be with parents and the sixth graders. We will spend a half hour getting to know one another and beginning to prepare for confirmation! More information coming to you soon!

Confirmation Large Group Orientation, 6-8 grade, is Wednesday, August 30 from 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary. This is for middle school youth and parents! Let's kick off a great year together.

Register online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



6th Grade Milestone: Entering Confirmation

Wednesday, August 30



We will pray for the sixth graders during worship that night, 6:30 p.m., and celebrate them with their pebble and prayer at the Confirmation Orientation, 7-8 p.m.

9th Grade Milestone: Entering High School

Sunday, August 27 | 11:30 AM



Transitioning to high school is one of the most important experiences in the life of a teenager. As a community of faith, we want to acknowledge and bless our 9th graders! We invite all 9th graders and their parents to join us Sunday, August 27 at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate this milestone with lunch and a blessing. Please RSVP at www.spiritofjoy.net/signups by August 23.

Choir Rehearsals Begin August 30 at 5:30 PM New Time, New Director, Same Great Choir

The building is overflowing with activity on Wednesday nights! To help relieve some of our building space issues, the choir will begin rehearsing at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays this fall. This will allow us to use the

Sanctuary and to be done before it gets too dark! We'll rehearse until 6:25 and then you are invited to worship at 6:30. Children of Joy, Confirmation and Youth Group will follow at 7:00. **Can't make it at 5:30?** Come and join us when you can! Choir is open to high school students and older! "Oh sing to the Lord a new song…"





Deacon Hannah

Life's journey can be a joyous experience but complicated at times. We live in a crazy world that demands so much from us; and makes us to sometimes wonder how can I fully be who God wants me to be in this lifetime? You don't have to walk life's journey alone. God does not want you to do it alone. As our journey through 2023 summer dwindles away, we prepare to greet fall with so many faith formation opportunities that empower you to find answers to some of life's problems while at the same time living out your faith in ways God wants you to. In addition to what we already provide at Spirit of Joy, we are beginning a series of weekly and monthly learning prospects in the fall. We believe there is something for everyone, but if you can't find a good fit and need help, please do not hesitate to contact us. See a list of opportunities below.

The Church's Role in Addressing Social Justice: Social justice is the view that ALL people regardless of race, creed, sex/gender, or ability have the equal right, equal opportunity, and equal treatment. Amos 5:24 reminds us to "...let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream". Our first discussion in this series, Racism/Racial Justice begins at 5:30pm on Thursday, September 7. The Rev. Dr. Frances Tabla, Pastor of the Ebenezer Community Church in Brooklyn Park, MN will facilitate this discussion. Our book of study is "Scrap Racism!!!: The Church's Response to Racism" authored by Rev. Dr. Tabla. Pick up a copy of the book in the office beginning August 10, 2023, for a cost of \$10 per copy. We hope most if not all SOJ partners can participate in this discussion. Sign up online by September 3 (www.spiritofjoy.net/signups) to join us for this amazing Christ centered experience.

Creating a Culture of Calling (C3) is a Vibrant Faith initiative that is geared towards helping churches Create a Culture of Calling for their congregations. We encourage our partners to help each other figure out what and how God is calling you to live a life of meaning and purpose.

Kick-off Event: Thursday, September 14 | 6:00 p.m.

Food, fellowship, and watch an inspirational documentary.

6-Week Session of Small Groups: Sign up will be available beginning August 15

Sign up to engage in a 6-week session of small group learning and growing. Join us for an experience that helps us explore what is God up to in our lives.

Wrap-up Event: Thursday, November 2 | 5:00 p.m.

Guest speaker on vocation: Dr. Jacqueline Bussie

Dr. Bussie is an award-winning author (*Love Without Limits; Outlaw Christian*) professor, theologian, and an amazing public speaker.



Monthly/Weekly Learning/Fellowship Opportunities

Joyful Morning Yoga- 10:30am on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays in the Galilee Room in September.

Women's Rotational In-Home Fellowship- For the month of August, our 5:30pm group will meet at Deacon Hannah's home for a time of devotion and fellowship on Monday, August 14. The 9am group will NOT meet on Tuesday, August 15. Please contact Suzanne DeBoom and/or Deb Stapelman with questions about the morning or evening group. Bring a friend. All are welcome!

Women's Weekly Bible Study (Note: Different Day, Same Time) - We will resume our weekly Women's Bible study on Wednesday, September 13 at 9am & 5pm in the Galilee Room. We will kick-off with coffee fellowship at 9am and begin our study at 9:30am. Join us as we explore Viktor Frankl's horrifying experience and how he survived in Nazi concentration camp. As Frankl puts it, "...after all he has suffered, there is nothing to fear any more-except his God." Have you ever wondered where God is when we suffer? Come, let's discuss this very real concern. Pick up your copy of Viktor Frankl's book "Man's Search for Meaning" for our study. ALL are welcome. Bring a friend-Lutheran or Non-Lutheran welcome!

Women's Social Gathering-Our monthly Women's Gathering will resume in the fall. The gathering has been rescheduled for Monday, October 2, at 7pm. Save the date! Join us for a time of coffee, fellowship, and a conversation/activity on Prayer. Why do we pray? Do I need to pray? How and when should we pray? Come, let us reason together. Bring a friend.



SPIRIT OF JOY CRUISE NIGHT THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

6:30 Meet & Greet at SOJ7:00 Depart Spirit of Joy7:30 Dinner Together atSquealers in Tea

RSVP: <u>spiritofjoy.net/signups</u> by Aug. 3

CLASSICS, CONVERTIBLES, MOTORCYCLES, UTVS, JEEPS, OR JUST THE CAR YOU DRIVE EVERY DAY!



Camp Time

By Marnie Dahle Backer

Going to Bible Camp has been a lifelong blessing in my life. I grew up in northern North Dakota and spent a week at Camp Metigoshe in the Turtle Mountains every summer. During my Augie years, every summer was spent working at that same camp. To expand my horizons, quite literally, I then spent five summers working at Klein Ranch, a Lutherans Outdoors camp located an hour west of Mobridge,

SD. And for the last twenty or so years, taking youth to many of our ELCA Bible Camps. As a camper, counselor, program director and church worker, it has been such a joy to see the power of the Holy Spirit at work in these ministries. Many of you have been a part of camp in many ways and have beautiful camp stories to share too!

Camp is many things - it is a safe place for your children to be themselves, their authentic selves. In a world where everyone is wanting them to be this, that or the other thing, camp allots for you to be you! It's an adventure with Christ as the focus, sometimes the God stuff shows up in obvious places like worship, Bible study and creation - God is also mysterious and sneaky and shows up at camp in all the other places as well and for children and youth this can be easier to spot than in our everyday world. And hopefully, when they return to their "daily lives", they are able to see God in some of those same ways!

Camp has a way of making lifelong leaders in the church, not just as pastors, deacons and faith formation leaders but as lifelong partners in faith as church members, lay-leaders, leadership team members, confirmation guides, Sunday School teachers and so much more. Camp is a beautiful foundation to so much more in the life of Jesus and the life of the church.

These campers (see pictures) spent a week in July at Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp Please join us in praying for all the Bible camps working hard to share God's love and mission with our children and youth.







Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 1 John 3:18 NRSV



On the website for Lutherans Restoring Creation, one of their public witness/policy statements is "Church exists to serve the world." This would surely be a collective action of neighbors in Christ. To restore God's creation will take much collective and individual effort as we all work to address the climate crisis.

If we have a concern about what is happening with the climate and our planet, we may have a strong desire to **do something**. It can feel overwhelming and daunting to think about and, to be honest, maybe sometimes it feels like it will just take too much energy, effort, and sacrifice. After all, many of us probably feel like we have a good thing going the way we live now, right? If you feel this way, you are most certainly human and not alone. However, at some point, if you haven't already, you will feel the effects of a climate impacted by greenhouse gas emissions.

In the 3rd season of the podcast, "A Matter of Degrees," hosts Dr. Leah Stokes and Dr. Katharine Wilkinson addressed the question they hear the most: "What can I do?" Here are some suggestions you may not have heard or thought of yet:

- <u>Electrification</u> à Start thinking about existing machines in your home that are close to end of life and make a plan to switch to electric: gas stove to induction or electric heating and cooling to heat pump gas water heater to heat pump electric clothes dryer solar panels/home battery storage purchase renewable energy electric vehicle Check out rewiringamerica.org if you are curious to make some changes. They have all kinds of info to help as well as a calculator that can estimate if you are eligible for upfront discounts, tax credits, or equipment tax credits via the Inflation Reduction Act.
- <u>Sustainable Banking and Investing</u> à If it's not okay with you that most of your 401K or other investments are going into fossil fuels, think about moving your money. Most of us don't even realize that our money is being invested in fossil fuels. If you want to look into this, check out asksustainable.com, Carbon Collective, or oursphere.org as a starting point. Talk to your financial advisor about this.

If these options interest you, but are too robust just yet, you can start with smaller steps.

- **Pray:** For our neighbors suffering from the effects of severe heat, drought, flooding, deforestation, desertification, environmental social injustice and other severe weather events; for our neighbors whose livelihoods are dependent on the land and weather; for our neighbors displaced from lands who are now without a home; for leaders who are capable of influencing and advancing policy changes needed to tackle this crisis, for collective effort of hearts and minds. If stuck for words, "thanks" and "help" are good to offer up to God.
- Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Rot: Try not to buy more than you need. Re-use/re-wear/repurpose what you can; donate & try out thrift stores, second-hand stores, and/or have rummages and/or swap parties; donate old furniture to the Furniture Mission when you can; join the Buy Nothing group on Facebook. Do your best to recycle what you can; better yet try not to waste or use single-use plastics as much as possible. Try composting!! If you haven't signed up yet, visit sodakcompost.org to get signed up as we now have a drop-off site at Spirit of Joy.
- Influence policy: Yes, you do have a say in this! Check out Citizens' Climate Lobby, Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), SoDak 350 -- or call or write elected officials with your concerns.
- Carpool, Bicycle, Walk: When these are options for you, please take advantage of them. Plan your trips so you are running all your errands in a close area or all at once. If given the opportunity to provide feedback to an airline after flying, leave a comment encouraging them to work to boost the fuel efficiency of their fleet.
- Spend time in nature: Fresh air, a gentle brook, sunshine, wind, a gentle breeze, grass, flowers, hills, valleys, mountains, lakes, trees, buzzing bees, chirping birds, butterfly wings -- Can you taste, see, smell, hear, and feel it? Thanks be to God!!!

"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Go now with God, go now with God, Into the world as a servant, Go now with God, go now with God" --Go Now With God by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson © 2006 Dakota Road Music

Staff Feature

Derris Kunkel

Facilities Manager

Tell us a little about your background!

I was born in Amarillo, Texas. I lived in and around Tulsa, Oklahoma for about 30 years. I have 4 children, ranging in ages from 20 to 28 years old. I am not a summer person, but I love the snow and the cold. I spent the last 15+ years in the multi-family housing industry, with additional experience in

appliance repair, automotive repair, sewing machine repair, etc. I have travelled to and swam in each ocean, as well as the Gulf of Mexico and lived in or travelled through every Southern state below Illinois

What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

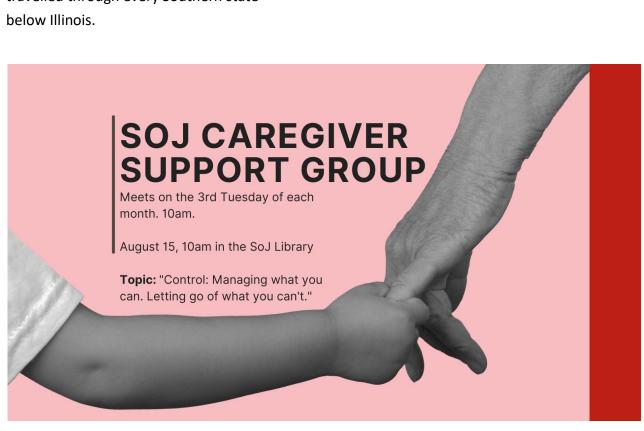
A perfect day for me would be a day at home with no phone calls, spending quality time with loved ones.

If you could win an Olympic medal for any sport, real or fake, what would it be?

I feel as though I could win an Olympic medal for "interesting yet useless knowledge" retention!

Guilty Pleasure Movie/Television
Show

Guilty pleasure movie or TV show would be a toss up between Pulp Fiction and Monty Python's Flying Circus.



Upcoming Events

Informational Meeting 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Thursday, August 10 | 5:30 p.m.

The 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20 in New Orleans! All SoJ youth in 8th to 12th grade (fall 2023) and their families are invited to the 2024 youth gathering information meeting in the Shalom Center. We look forward to meeting you and sharing important information about the youth gathering! Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Information Meeting
Unique Travel Experience
with Lauren Vaske (Sharing the Dream)
Wednesday, August 23 | 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming trips: October 8-17, 2023 and

January 14-23, 2024

Cost: \$1,800 + airfare (Includes lodging, food,

transportation, guide, and translators)

All partners and friends of Spirit of Joy are invited to an informational meeting in Galilee Room. Find out more information about traveling to Guatemala's beautiful Lake Atitlan region for a one-of-a-kind, meaningful experience. Each day you will meet local people who will share their stories and give you hands-on opportunities to learn from them their crafts of weaving, basket making, beading, glass blowing and Guatemalan cooking.

This trip is different from a traditional mission trip in that the focus will be on Listening, Learning, and Building Relationships. We believe we have as much to learn as we have to give. You will come home with an appreciation of Mayan culture and of the talents of our amazing artisans.





Spirit of Joy Preschool









REGISTER NOW ALL ARE WELCOME

spiritofjoy.net/preschool

Schedule a tour time that works for you. We would love to meet you!

Amy Cauble, Director & Teacher amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com | 605-333-2004

SOJ Preschoolers- Playgrounds & Popsicles Monday, August 7 6:30-7:30pm

- Past, present and future preschool families are invited to the preschool playground. Join us for summer fun in the sun with friends! Bring a water bottle to beat the heat. Popsicles provided. Come & go as you are able! We can't wait to see you, Miss Amy
- *watch facebook for any weather related changes: facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool



Save the Date

Sunday, October 15, 6:30 PM | Music, Mocha & Masterpieces Fundraising Event Featuring Art, Music and Fine Desserts

Enjoy great music and performances; Purchase One-of-a-kind art to be auctioned at the event; Taste delicious homemade desserts and coffee-- All created by Spirit of Joy Partners and Friends! The proceeds benefit your preschool ministry.

Calling All Artists & Performers

We would like to showcase your talent!

Be a part of Music, Mocha, & Masterpieces, a preschool ministry fundraiser held Sunday, October 15. Paintings, quilting, knitting, sculpture....solos, duets, piano, instrumental pieces... all are welcome to participate. You make this event special. Interested in joining or have questions, please contact Amy Cauble, Preschool Director.

Town Hall Meeting Recap

Interim Process (Pr. Eric)

- Constitution- updated and approved at February 2023 Congregation meeting
- Policies and Procedures- in process. Many will be voted upon at the August 2023 Leadership Team Meeting. Those still under review are Building Use Policy and Insurance.
- Visioning- on pause. Will resume in spring of 2024.

1st Half of 2023 Recap and Updates (Deacon Hannah and Marnie)

- New role for Deacon Hannah- upcoming opportunities for travel with Sharing the Dream Guatemala,
 Faith Formation to close out Creating a Culture of Calling, a special educational series on the End of
 Life, and a 9-month series on social issues and the church's response
- Welcome Marnie Dahle Backer- working with birth-middle school confirmation as well as Marketing and Evangelism

Staffing Update (Pr. Eric)

- Welcome to Heather Wald- Director of Worship Arts- Heather will continue as Office Manager and add the Director of Worship Arts position. She begins August 1st.
- Welcome to Derris Kunkel- Facilities Manager- Derris will begin Monday, July 24th.

Finance Update (Jason/Ali)

Our 2023 budget is reflective of who we believe Spirit of Joy wants to be. While your Leadership Team
combed through for any unnecessary fat, we built a budget that reflected the desire to grow. Pledges
indicated an appropriate increase to approve the budget and we proceeded. This year's income is the
largest in the first six months of any year of SoJ's history. It is, however, 12% below budgeted income.

Building Campaign

- 2022-2025 Campaign Goal: \$1.25 million
- Total pledged: \$678,770
- Total Received (June 30): \$374,312- more than 50% in 33% of campaign life.
- Total in Building Savings Account: \$208,513.98- \$100,000 payment to be made in August after Leadership Team authorization
- Mortgage Balance \$1,797,333

General Fund

Checking Account

General Fund -\$10,308.37 (one time gifts or pledge changes are appreciated!)

Building Fund \$8,472

Donor Restricted \$30,857

Sunday School \$1,514

Reserve Fund \$4,361

Petty Cash \$200.00

Savings Accounts

Building \$208,514

Donor Restricted \$51,194 (this fund is diminished in correlation to the numbers below and the negative balance in the General Fund)

Cash Balance \$294,801

Year-to-date Income for Ministry \$305,452 (38% YTD)

Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry \$368,155 (42.5% YTD)

General Fund Budget \$800,000 (50% YTD)

Town Hall Questions?

Are we pursuing an Associate Pastor? No. Deacon Hannah Fleming has returned to school to work towards becoming Pastor Hannah Fleming. We will consider her call and role at Spirit of Joy faithfully and prayerfully. Until that time, Spirit of Joy is her contextual education site. She has begun preaching and visitation ministry. She is scheduling herself and our Outreach partners so that Pr. Eric preaches 3x/mo and she or someone else 1x/mo. She will continue to grow into that role. Marnie Dahle Backer is taking Marketing and Evangelism and the administration of Middle School Confirmation off Pr. Eric's plate. Derris Kunkel will also relieve Pr. Eric and the entire SoJ staff of many hours of facilities related work.

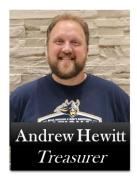
How did Heather as Director of Worship Arts come about and are we worried about Heather's workload? President Jason Ahrendt and Pr. Eric agreed that the job description for Director of Worship Arts was a difficult one to fill. The plan was to break the position into three. Piano accompaniment. Choir directing. And worship planning (assumed by other staff). If no applications had been received by mid-July. In conversation with Heather in anticipation of that step, she expressed interest. She, Pr. Eric, and Jason negotiated for roughly 10 days. Deacon Jodi Hanson, Chair of the Worship Team was notified of the possibility and agreed that she would be a good fit. Yes, we are concerned about workload for all of our staff. Heather, like all our team, is highly valued. Pr. Eric made the commitment to continue to check in with her on a regular basis and is ready to pivot staffing, if necessary.

How big is Spirit of Joy, and how does it stack up against other congregations? Spirit of Joy has just shy of 1100 partners. Our average weekly worship attendance is in the neighborhood of 400 (2x Sunday, Wednesday, and livestream). Our regular participation in mission and ministry is about 600 people per week. So far this year we have welcomed 48 New Partners with another 12-15 having expressed interest in our October New Partner Class (October 15 at 12pm). That puts us in the 10 largest congregations in the SD Synod and top 3-5% nationally. And, our commitment to Extravagant Generosity means that we are among the five largest giving congregations in the South Dakota Synod.

Executive Team









SoJ Team Leaders



Heather Krzmarzick Growth Team



Amy Eisenbeisz Hospitality Team



Chad Wolff
Ministry Resources



Kendra Krueger Outreach Team



Jodi Hanson Worship Team

The Last Page...



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FALL CLASSIC



Special Olympics South Dakota

Softball Tournament

Saturday, August 19th starting at 9 am and finishing up around 4 pm. We are looking for roughly 30 volunteers that could help with running the scoreboard, scorebook, and two umpires per field. These are split into two shifts. The tournament hosts 250+ athletes from Sioux Falls and the surrounding area.

Bocce Tournament

Sunday, August 20th starting at 8:30 and finishing up around 3:30. Again this is split into two shifts as well. This event will be held at McCart Fields 901-999 N Western Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

Fall Classic

Scan QR Code to the left to learn more!