

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

August 2024



Summer Fun @ Spirit of Joy

Family Fun Night: No Matter What

You are invited to join other Spirit of Joy families for our last Family Fun Night for the summer. Dakota Road will lead us in worship, followed by crafts. Then, we'll head out to the front yard for free ice cream, bounce house fun, and a concert by Dakota Road.

Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 PM



July 24 & July 28

In case
you missed
the fun!

Preschool Team

New Structure: Amy Cauble will move to a new position, Program Director. This 10-12 hour per week position will coordinate, advise, and equip the preschool staff, families, volunteers, and Spirit of Joy. The teacher position will move to 30-35 hours per week and we will continue to have two Assistant Teachers.

Visioning: We plan to spend the fall visioning the future of our preschool ministry with the help of the Preschool Team and a consultant.

Relationship to SoJ: Your Leadership Team will be bringing a proposal to modify the SoJ Bylaws and include the Preschool Team at the Leadership Table.

Radical Hospitality

Info Update: We have been making a concerted effort to update household info. Please complete forms mailed to you and return!

Grief and Baby Pathways: New ways of accompanying people through these life transitions have been developed alongside our BeFrienders ministry.

New Volunteers: Lynn Risty is now leading BeFrienders. Mary Victor is now leading the Funeral Team. Thank you to Linda Beckman and Arlene Drew for their faithful service!

Ministry Fair: Sept. 8 and 11

Lifelong Faith Formation

Middle School: Engage to Change Camp had 8 participants and was an unqualified success!

ELCA Gathering: 8 HS Students attended with three chaperones in New Orleans, LA!

Final Family Fun Night: Dakota Road will join us August 7 at 6:30pm. All are encouraged to join!

Education Registration: Opens August 1!

Kickoff: Sept. 8 and 11

Confirmation Sunday: Oct. 27

Bold Service

Giving \$3000 per month to partner ministries in the hope that December we'll be able to complete our desired giving.

This March our Overflowing! Campaign reached the second target and we gifted The Banquet with \$5000.

We had our first mission travel in a while. 5 SoJ partners went with Sharing the Dream Guatemala.

More mission travel is upcoming. Sharing the Dream Guatemala and Liberia Mission. Speak with Deacon Hannah for more information.

Passionate Worship

Maundy Thursday: Living Last Supper was wonderful. Lots of positive response. Thank you to the Choir, young men, Crystal Domke and the Visual Arts Team, and Eric Gohl for making it possible.

Good Friday: Stations worship was again successful. We're considering creating a rotation of experiences for mid-week services so they don't grow stale.

SoJ Choir: Begins end of August. Special music throughout the year, especially Oct. 20!

One Sunday: Will be moving across the chancel to better utilize the piano.

Prayer Labyrinth: Work and thought is underway to make the labyrinth more permanent and visible in our worship and spiritual life.

Extravagant Generosity

January Flood: Claim is closed and repairs completed.

Building Improvements and Maintenance: Security Doors and Carpet underway in Education Wing, concrete work and tree removal in the Prayer Garden.

An amazing group of volunteers made a massive improvement to landscaping.

Financial Update:

Checking Account

General Fund	- \$1,288.32
Building Fund	\$9978
Donor Restricted	\$6883
Sunday School	\$1,551
Reserve Fund	\$4,361
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts

Building	\$149,299
Donor Restricted	\$41,463

Cash Balance **\$210,660.97**

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$425,196.55
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$444,857.05

Endowment Fund: Balance: \$39,868 Matching Gift (before Dec. 31): \$10,000

Congregational Life

SoJ Women's Retreat

Friday, September 27-28

Speakers:
Kerri Tietgen & Sandy Ellingsen

Text:
Ruth 1:16-18

Who:
All Women of Joy Are Invited!



"When women support each other, incredible things happen"
~ Viola Davies



Scan QR Code for Registration Form
Register Online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Information Meeting

Wednesday, 8/21 | 5:30PM

Lauren Vaske from Sharing the Dream in Guatemala will share 2025 Guatemala travel opportunity information. Join us to learn more about travel opportunities for you!



**BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY**

A Listening Presence

Have you lost a loved one?

The SOJ Befrienders invite you to the grief support group starting September 4 from 9:30 to 11:30 at the church. GriefShare is a 13-week program of discussions, videos and participant guidebooks to help your grief journey. GriefShare is a Christ-centered program that has helped many people. All are welcome (SOJ partners or non partners). For more information go to GriefShare.org or contact BeFriender Marilyn Gannon. Signup online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Outreach Opportunities



Horace Mann Elementary Supplies Drive

Help the staff of Horace Mann Elementary start the school year with the supplies needed to serve their students! Horace Mann Elementary is a public school in Sioux Falls dedicated to educating children with behavioral needs. Spirit of Joy has partnered with Horace Mann Elementary since 2018.

A list of items they have requested for their classrooms is available at the Welcome Center. Please drop off your donations in the bin labeled "Horace Mann" in the Shalom Center through August 18th. Most items can be new or gently used. Thank you!!





Faith Formation



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 8 (returning to two services)

Wednesday programming begins September 11

Wednesday Worship, Children of Joy, Confirmation, Youth Group, Choir Rehearsal

Blessing of Students & Backpacks

Sunday, August 25 | 10AM Service

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 August 5 & 6. 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, is 7-8 PM. This is for middle school youth, parents and guides! Let's kick off a great year together.

Register Online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Spirit of Joy

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Mission Endowment Fund was initially established with four subsidiary funds: General (support overall mission work and ministries), Capital (assist with financing capital improvements), Mission Outreach (assist with special mission endeavors in SoJ, community, state, nation and world) and Faith Formation (initiate/expand education-related programs). All sub-funds received monies last yearend. Any amount of gift is now welcome. If a partner/friend wants to establish a separate or designated sub-fund, a minimum \$25,000 gift is required. Please consider investing in SoJ's future!

Choir Rehearsals Begin Wednesday, August 28 at 5:30 PM

Can't commit to all rehearsals? We are looking for many voices to join us Sunday, October 20 for a BIG, BIG song and fun surprise. We'll be rehearsing this song at 6:00 each Wednesday until October 20. Come to as many rehearsals as you can and see what we're all about. Did I say the song is BIG?





Back to School Bash Wednesday, August 14 | 7-9PM

Calling all high schoolers to join us for our High School Youth Back to School Bash at SOJ! As always all are welcome, bring a friend(s). Contact Deacon Hannah (605-630-1034) or Brook Meyer (605-940-7480) to help us plan better.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the tAble Young Adult Gathering

Youth Gathering was a Success

The 2024 ELCA youth gathering was an amazing experience! Mallory Krull, Cooper Tietgen, Maddie Von Wald, Brady Woitzel, Kenny Schempp, Margaret Vogel, Sam Thompson, David Munson, Paul Johnston, Katie Housiaux, and Deacon Hannah all say thank you to our church for making this trip a reality!



Mentor & Mentee Orientation Wednesday, September 4 | 7PM

A big thank you to all our partners who have agreed to serve as confirmation mentors for the 2024-25 education year. All 9th graders and mentors, please save the date for this year's orientation.

NO MATTER WHAT

God Helps Us



Family Fun Night

Wed., August 7 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Hear the Story "David & Goliath"

- * Camp-Style Worship *
- * Bounce House *
- * Ice Cream * Craft *

Featuring Dakota Road



9th Grade Milestone

ENTRY INTO HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, August 25 @ 12:00 PM

Lunch & a Blessing





Creation Care Corner

Did you know that August 10th is National S'mores Day and August 30th is National Toasted Marshmallow Day? Hang onto summer while you can and enjoy one of those days! What could be more fun than gathering around the fire roasting marshmallows while enjoying fellowship with family and friends in the great outdoors?

Did you know that fire has been a symbol of God's presence for ages (i.e., the burning bush, the pillar of fire in the desert, the tabernacle lamps)?

As fun as campfires and firepits are, however, there have been far too many wildfires over the past several years. In fact, many of the most destructive and large-scale ones occurred within the last 7 years. Although they are unplanned events that happen naturally (i.e., lightning strikes) or from human-related activity (i.e., a discarded cigarette, campfires, or downed power lines), research has shown that climate changes have led to hotter and drier conditions, which have "fueled" the fires. Furthermore, the average season for wildfires is 3 months longer than it was just decades ago.

Not all fires are bad; they are a natural phenomenon with ecological purposes of clearing diseased and dead plants and trees from the forests. In this instance, they are a "healthy burn" requiring no intervention to regenerate.

When they burn out of control and wreak havoc on thousands of acres, they result in loss of wildlife habitat, loss of human life (there have been deaths of hundreds of firefighters), and poor air quality producing respiratory ailments. Also, when forests burn, they release carbon emissions and greenhouse gases whereas an intact, older forest typically acts as a carbon sink.

We want to be able to enjoy our national forests, our campfires, and all the other gifts that God placed in the forests. When you go camping and have a campfire, make sure you follow the rules. Another way you can help is to do an Internet search of legitimate reforestation projects and make a contribution if you feel so moved. You could also donate to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation.

You could also read the book, *Reforesting Faith* by Matthew Sleeth, MD, Executive Director of Blessed Earth. He says, "Other than people, trees are mentioned more than any other creation in the Bible. There is a tree on the first page of Genesis and on the last page of Revelation...Trees remind us that life is much bigger than our present moment. Their deep roots and sprawling branches call us to look to heaven and eternity."



"Lord, let me burn for you again, Let me return to you again...."

Lord, I'm longing for your ways, I'm waiting for the day, When I am a soul on fire"

from **Soul on Fire** by Third Day

Odds & Ends



S H E T E K
L U T H E R A N M I N I S T R I E S

\$50 to SoJ.

Sign up at spiritofjoy.net/signups



Lunch and Prizes!

The Slayton Country Club

<https://www.slaytoncountry.club>

Support Shetek and have fun!

Monday, August 5, 2024

Depart from SoJ @ 7:00am

Registration & putting contest @ 8:30am

Tee off @ 9am

4 person scramble

All are welcome!



Have you ever wondered what goes into the Communion Bread we use at Spirit of Joy? Try making it on your own!



Communion Bread

1 1/2 cups white flour
1/2 cup wheat flour
3/4 tsp. baking soda
1 T. Sugar
2 T. oil
3/4 cup water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blend all dry ingredients. Add oil and water. Mix well. Divide into 4 equal parts. Press each into a circle 1/2" thick. Bake 10-12 min.