

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

August 2025

Grace to you and peace.

One of the things that is common across the church is worry about the busy-ness of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Holy Week. At Spirit of Joy, those are a piece of cake. Your Passionate Worship Team plans things well in advance, the Visual Arts Team supports them, and Radical Hospitality often gets on board. By the time those seasons roll around it's just a joy to be with you in them!



The busiest time of year at SoJ is absolutely August and September. With the launch of Lifelong Faith Formation programming (Bible in a Year, Brewed Theology, Books that Matter, Children of Joy, MS and HS Confirmation, Adult Sunday School, Women's Bible Study, Women's Retreat) there is suddenly a lot of movement and energy in and around our community. In Passionate Worship we go from one to three services per week while welcoming back the Adult Choir and the regular celebration of Milestone Ministries. Extravagant Generosity begins their work on our Annual Budget, Mission Endowment Disbursements, and the Fall Stewardship Emphasis. Radical Hospitality focuses in on Kickoff Sunday and the Ministry Fair (Sept. 7). Bold Service picks up as we resume our Featured Ministry Partners with presentations on the 1st Sunday of the month, additional newsletter articles, videos, and monthly collections. And, we welcome the 20 some preschool students who give our building such joyful life from September to May.

In this issue of Wind Swept you'll see a lot more information about many of those programs. Do me a favor. Mark your calendars. Pray for your staff and leadership. And, plan to join us.

**Perhaps the most joyful part of this busyness in 2025 will be the welcome of a second pastor for Spirit of Joy. We don't yet have timelines (let's keep the cart before the horse!), but we expect start dates in October.**



*Eric Eoff*

### **Meet and Greet w/ our Pastoral Candidate**

**Sunday, August 17**

Worship at 9:30, meet and greet to follow

**Congregation Meeting @ Approximately 11:00**

# FORWARD TOGETHER as Spirit of Joy

## SEEKING A SECOND PASTOR

Your Call Committee concluded its interviews on the 30th of June. Working with Pr. Renee Splichal-Larson, Associate to the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, we were blessed with a wide array of excellent candidates. After a week of prayerful discernment, reference checking, and reviewing online resources, we reconvened in the hope of reaching a plan for next steps. We are thrilled to share that after just a matter of minutes, **we reached consensus to forward a pastoral candidate** to the Leadership Team for their consideration and hopeful forwarding to you for meet and consider for call (Leadership Team met and forwarded the candidate to the congregation on Thursday, July 17th. Congregation meeting and meet and greet August 17th 9:30 and 11). Please continue in prayerful consideration and plan to join us as the call process continues. Here are the next steps:

- Meet and greet with the congregation (August 17. 9:30 Worship. 10:30 Meet and Greet. 11:00 Congregation Meeting)
- Candidate to discern the call
- Installation planning and service

As a Team we want to thank you for your continued prayerful support. It has been a privilege to work on your behalf. As a whole we are excited to bring forward a candidate with excellent gifts in pastoral care, visitation, worship and music, public leadership, and teaching. We believe this candidate will be an excellent complement not just to Pr. Eric, but to the entire staff and leadership at Spirit of Joy.

*From Pr. Eric: I want to thank your Call Committee for the excellent work they've done together. They have taken the responsibility seriously and worked diligently to bring you an excellent partner in ministry. While their work isn't done, I am grateful for their careful listening to your desires, their remarkable crafting of the input process, their functioning independently, their deep care for candidates and congregation, and their prayerful consideration of so many factors. Each of them brought their gifts to bear on the process and left room for the others to use those gifts. Mindy is a remarkable leader and I'm grateful for the many additional hours she gave. And, I would be remiss if I did not thank Pr. Charles Berdahl for his participation in the process and wisdom to know that he needed to participate differently. SoJ- I hope you're as excited as I!*



Tim Hazlett



Mindy Dold



Kaelyn Tvinnereim



Bob Chell



Jamie Oyen



Mary Tranberg

# called

Acts 2:42-47

## 2025 South Dakota Synod Assembly

The 2025 South Dakota Synod Assembly was held in May at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Pastors, deacons, lay members, and visitors gathered each day in worship to center ourselves on the necessary work of the church. In addition to worship and learning, here are some of the highlights of the Synod Assembly:

- Rev. Constanze Hagmaier was re-elected as Bishop of the South Dakota Synod on the first ballot of the bishop election process, with 312 votes out of 376 legal votes cast.
- ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton delivered the ELCA report. Together, the congregations in the South Dakota Synod made it possible for the synod to share \$698,143 with the churchwide organization to support our ministry together. Bishop Eaton also highlighted the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA World Hunger, as well as the recently published "God's Love Made Real" Report with strategic recommendations to guide the ELCA's future.
- Bishop Constanze Hagmaier shared highlights of the past year and invited members of the Assembly to see the challenges facing us as invitations to creativity and resourcefulness. Bishop Hagmaier also updated the Assembly on the progress of the implementation of the two grants our Synod has been awarded by Lilly Endowment, Inc., and how they have fortified our capacity to turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities through things like the Pasque Learning Community, the Rural Ambassadors Program, and the Holy Playground Initiative. Finally, she also previewed the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- The agenda also featured two panel discussions. One focused on the programs implemented through the Lilly grants mentioned above, the other on the work of the Associates to the Bishop.
- With the bishop election process ending quickly, two new items were added to the agenda. Dr. Dawn Rundman spoke to the Assembly about the work of Augsburg Fortress. Director for Evangelical Mission Rev. Jonathan Vehar also led the Assembly in small group discussions about some of the joys and challenges of ministry in the context of their communities.
- Actions taken by the Synod Assembly include:
  - Election of new South Dakota Synod Council Members and approval of synod committee members.
  - Approval of new compensation and guidelines for rostered and lay staff.
  - The 2025 Mission Plan for the South Dakota Synod was adopted.

Thank you to all who participated in the Synod Assembly this year!



# Sermon Series & Steps Challenge

Bring your Bible and a pencil to church!



June 22-August 31

Join in at [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net)

Journey  
to Jerusalem

Did you know it is 6,412 miles from Sioux Falls to Jerusalem? Are you up for a challenge to walk or bike or swim to Jerusalem this summer? (Maybe we might make it back, too?!). It will take a mental and physical commitment on your part...we need you!

- 1: Register online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).
- 2: Record your miles (walking, biking, swimming) and send them to: Jan Noer at [janrognoer@gmail.com](mailto:janrognoer@gmail.com) by Friday of each week.
- 3: Check out the map in the gathering space that will show our progress. Pastor Eric will give us weekly updates, too.

What a great way to put a challenge in our summer fitness. Charge up the Fitbits, Apple watches, pedometers, or your device of choice and let's get moving!

**SPIRIT OF JOY**  
**HYMN DRAW**

Submit all summer & sing SoJ's favorite hymns in worship the following Sundays:  
**6/22** ♪ **6/29** ♪ **7/20** ♪ **7/27** ♪ **8/3** ♪ **8/17**

## Summer 2025: SoJ Hymn Draw

This summer we're letting YOU choose the hymns. Beginning Sunday, June 15, you'll be able to write down your favorites and add to the bowl. On the dates listed below, the children's message will include drawing 6 hymns to be sung that morning during worship! Look for the display table in the Gathering Space. You can submit all summer.

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## SOJ'S POP-UP CHOIR

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**

**REHEARSE @ 8AM**

**SING @ 9:30 SERVICE**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# Outreach Opportunities



## Church on the Street Worship

Spirit of Joy is hosting on Saturday, August 9  
11:00 a.m. Heritage Park (330 N Weber Ave)

For food donations and to help serve the meal,  
please sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

Partner Congregations are encouraged to attend  
and meet the people that worship

## Troop 711 News

Scouts helped clean up Great Bear following the Lallycooler Music festival. Multiple bags of trash were removed and over 154 pounds of aluminum cans recycled.

This event was the last fundraiser to cover the cost of the new trailer.

The troop would like to thank all the partners of Spirit of Joy for being so generous during our fundraising events. You've been a blessing to our troop!



# Family Fun Night

Wednesday, August 6 | 6:30-8:00 PM

**GOD GIVES US  
COMMUNITY!**

- \* Camp-Style Worship \*
- \* Bounce House \*
- \* SDSU Ice Cream Truck \*

Service project for Church on the Street Community

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## 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 7 (returning to two services)

Wednesday programming begins September 10

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

**Register Online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)**



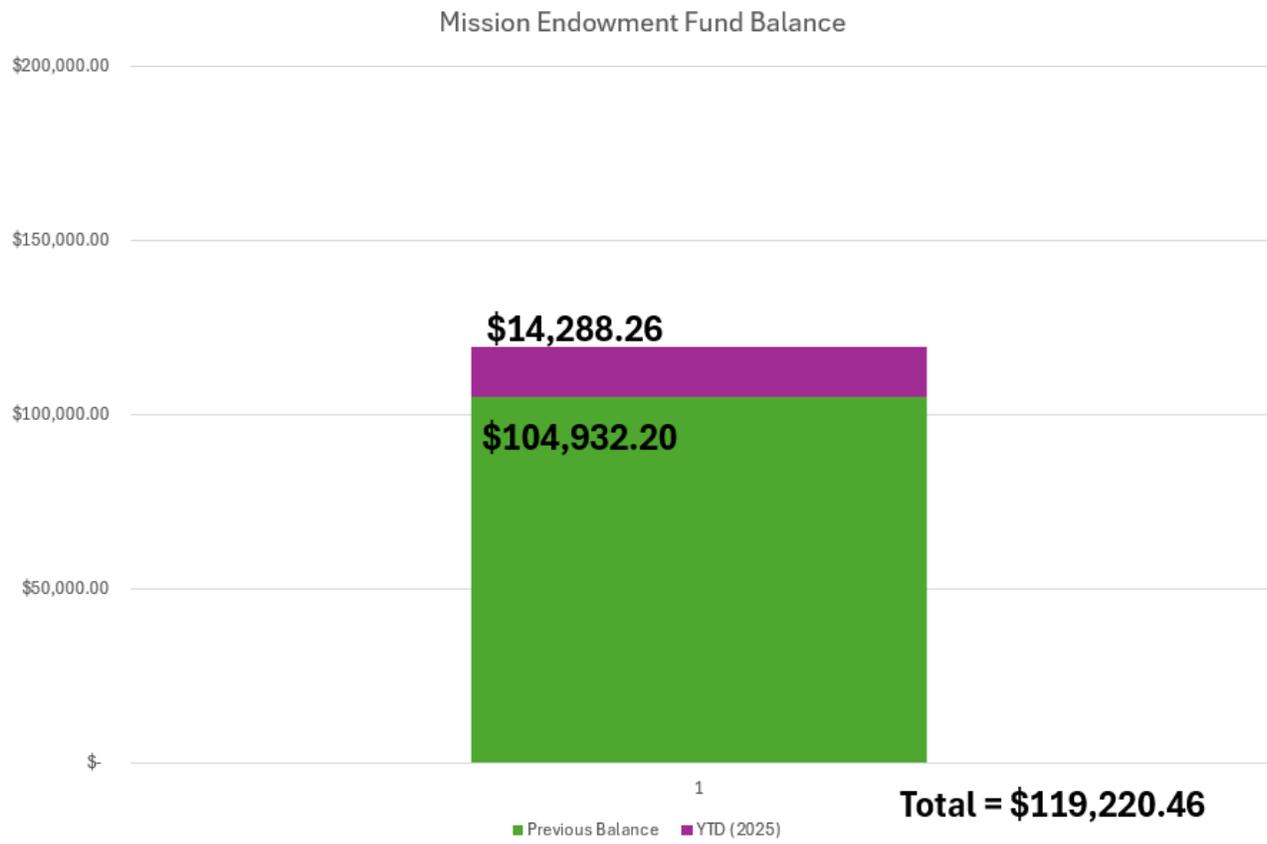
## Blessing of Students & Backpacks

**Sunday, August 24 | 9:30AM Service**

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



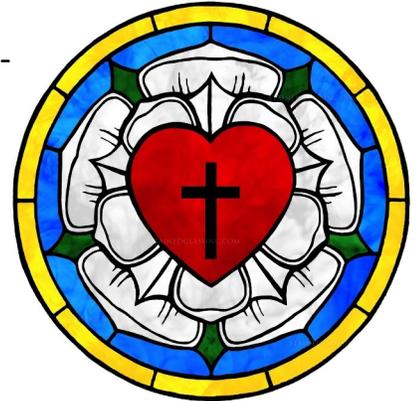
Some partners may use a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation as a vehicle for their planned giving. Please give thought to including the SoJ Mission Endowment Fund as a benefactor. It is easy to do. You can designate a dollar amount or percent of the estate. Please consider investing in SoJ's future!



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

## Confirmation Kicks Off at the End of August!

6th Grade families will meet with Pastor Eric or Marnie on August 11-13. 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

**Wednesday, August 27 | 7-8 PM.**

This is for middle school youth, parents and guides! Let's kick off a great year together.

# BIBLE

in a year



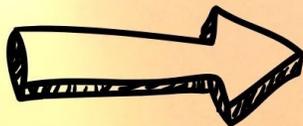
 BibleProject

I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13

Join  
US

- Commit to reading your Bible 15-20 min. a day (beginning 9/1)
- Receive an overview video from BibleProject for each new book
- Small Group & Large Group Opportunities
- Reading Plan & Grace provided!

**Sign up today!**



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



## Kick-Off Event | Wednesday, August 20 | 5PM

Dr. Richard Swanson will give an overview of the Old Testament. There will be small group sign up opportunities and reading plans available.

**Can't join the Bible in a Year?** No problem - come hear about the Old Testament and join the fun! Watch for a reading plan of the Spark Bible during Lent 2026.



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

*Caring Community, Active Learning, Faithful Hearts*

## Van Drivers and Assistants Make a Difference Be a Part of the Team

Your preschool transportation ministry is in high demand. Preschool families consistently request this service. Families tell us regularly how important this service is- safe, reliable and invaluable. Without transportation, preschool would be out of reach for some children.

We are seeking two types of volunteers: drivers and assistants to the driver. Drivers are given route information and trained to safely buckle up children. Assistants will offer children assistance, ensure paperwork is signed and provide communication to families if needed during the route. Times are approximately 7:00-7:50am and 12:00-12:50pm each day. Schedule availability is flexible.

Prayerfully consider if this opportunity is right for you. Contact Amy Cauble with questions or for more information.



## Upcoming Dates to Know

### **Monday, August 11: Playgrounds & Popsicles | 6:30-7:30pm**

Past, Present and Future Preschool Families are invited. Visit with friends old and new, share a cold treat- come & go as you are able.

### **Monday, August 25: Preschool Information Night | 6:30-7:30pm**

Preschool Parents/Guardians get together to learn about the upcoming year and plans, preschool policies, and get to know one another. Your preschool staff is already preparing for you.

### **Wednesday, August 27: Preschoolers' Scavenger Hunt Open House | 4:00pm-6:00pm**

Preschool children explore the preschool classrooms and meet the teachers- a sneak peek into the school year fun!

**Spirit of Joy is too sweet!** Thanks to your participation in the “Scoop Up the Joy” yard sign fundraiser, the preschool was able to raise \$1,165 towards operating costs and sprinkle some joy in our neighborhoods.





# Creation Care Corner

Here we are already in the month of **August**. Have you had a chance to enjoy summer yet? Is your garden producing? Are you enjoying the flowers? Have you been to a farmer's market? What summertime fruits, veggies, and treats have you been sampling (or devouring, i.e., ice cream)?

Last month was Plastic Free month. At Spirit of Joy, we are on a mission to help everyone get in the habit of ditching single-use plastic. Why is this so important? Well, looking at plastic bags alone, it can take anywhere from 10 to 1000 years for them to decompose, so that is a large portion of what is

remaining in landfills and clogging up waterways. Plus, when they begin to break down, they leave behind harmful particles.

As you may have heard, microplastics are a huge problem that has been getting more attention recently. They are becoming linked to a variety of health issues. Plastic food packaging contains plasticizers that are added during the manufacturing process (think bisphenols and phthalates). These are increasingly being shown to interfere with brain development and hormones.

## **Take action:**

- Keep plastic away from sources of heat. You should even avoid “microwave-safe” plastic containers because the heat stresses plastic and the plasticizers then leach into your food. Use glass, stainless steel or ceramic containers instead. By the way, they are starting to make some stainless steel lines that are microwave safe (Genicook, Black+Blum, Bentgo).
- Avoid the worst offenders and stay away from plastic containers labeled 3 for phthalates and 7 for bisphenols. Also avoid styrene, which is found in Styrofoam; it is “reasonably anticipated” to be a human carcinogen.
- An easy hack or swap for plastic when covering foods is to place an inverted plate on top of your container or use beeswax or silicone covers instead.
- It's hard to make all these changes at once so really try to avoid putting fatty foods like meat and cheese in plastic, and avoid storing acidic foods like tomato sauce or orange juice in plastic as these foods especially absorb the phthalates. If you have any plastic containers showing signs of wear, you should really just throw them out for your safety.
- Try to eat more whole and fresh foods whenever you can versus processed foods. Sadly, the convenient and all-time favorites, chicken nuggets and fish sticks, contain significantly more microplastics than minimally processed foods.
- Sign up for emails from Beyond Plastic, PIRG, Break Free from Plastic, or Moms Clean Air Force, and look into EarthJustice, Evergreen, and National Resources Defense Council to help put pressure on companies. We **can** make a difference!

Hopefully, we have given you some food for thought. Let's protect each other and our planet – all gifts from our Creator God.

Lord, help us to tread lightly on Your precious earth and nurture it back to health. May we be agents of healing and transformation, working with diligence and grateful hearts to repair the damage we have inflicted. Amen

# High School Activities IN AUGUST

Wednesday 8/6 @ 6:30pm

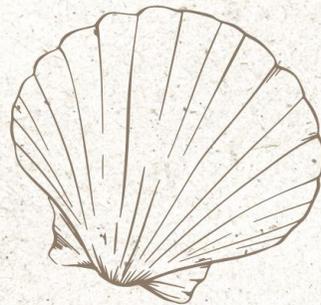
Family Fun Night

Sunday 8/24 After Worship

Travel Opportunity Info Session  
(Guatemala and Boat Trip)

Wednesday 8/27 @ 8pm

Upper Classmen Youth Group Kickoff



## 2026 Travel Opportunities Youth & Parents Informational Meeting Sunday, August 24 | 10:30 AM in Galilee

Come and join us as we discuss the following exciting opportunities:

- Guatemala Trip May 24th- June 2nd 2026
- Houseboat Trip Summer 2026

