

# WIND SWEEP

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## Monthly Newsletter

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January 2023

It's been busy as Spirit of Joy. And, it's getting even busier!

We are still in the midst of the Christmas season. God IS with us. On our good days and our bad. In our doubts and fears. In our joys. And, in our sorrows.

Despite the lingering aroma of turkey and prime rib, the detritus of packages and guests, we are turning our heads towards Epiphany and towards the future of Spirit of Joy.

**“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:16**

Think back to the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. The disciples have learned who they are. Now, they need to know what difference this makes. I might summarize this section of the Sermon on the Mount this way, “Knowledge without action delays the Kingdom come.”

We have a lot of information about Jesus, about God, about the Holy Spirit to share, but that's as far as it goes. It's one of my greatest struggles in discipleship. I love to learn, but what does it matter? And, I think it's true for others. We tend to amass information for information's sake and not for the sake of the difference it might make for another. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us that knowledge about God cannot exist as simply knowledge. Knowledge about God, theology, if you will, is God's very presence in the world. It is not enough to know about God. As disciples, we must be the activity of God in the world. We are called to live out our identity as salt and light.

This season we will be focusing on how God is revealed among us and our call to “Shine” God's light for all the world to see. The gospel texts from January 8-February 19 each offer a glimpse into how God revealed God's self in Jesus. We'll allow Jesus' baptism to stand alone on January 8<sup>th</sup>, but the next week we'll pick up this theme in our liturgy, music, and preaching. From the confession of Nathaniel on January 15<sup>th</sup>, “We have found the Messiah”, to the revelation from God, “This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased on February 19<sup>th</sup>, we will explore our own callings and how God is revealed among us, as individuals, and as Spirit of Joy.

This work won't be limited to our gatherings for worship. Our conversation at Brewed Theology on January 9<sup>th</sup> will focus on vocation. On January 15<sup>th</sup> we'll celebrate our volunteers and the 250 hours per week that it takes to make Spirit of Joy go. Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign, “Extravagant Generosity: Beyond Dollars and Cents” will launch with weekly “Did You Know?” social media posts, monthly newsletter articles, and more, celebrating all of the ways our partners are living out their calling every day. And, we'll work to reinvigorate the work of “C3: Creating a Culture of Calling” through a deep dive into our discernment for the future direction of Spirit of Joy.

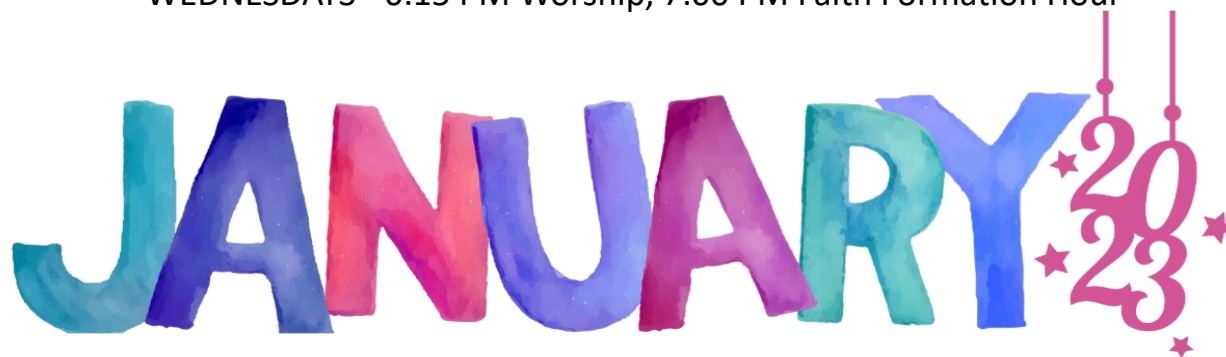
Join us, as we seek to be salt and light, as we put our knowledge into action, as we Shine!



# Join us for Worship

SUNDAYS - 8:45 & 11:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Faith Formation Hour

WEDNESDAYS - 6:15 PM Worship, 7:00 PM Faith Formation Hour



## **January 1: Service of Lessons & Carols – ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. (No Sunday Forum)**

We'll hear the story of God's people from Creation to the birth of Christ and sing together many of our favorite Christmas Carols.

## **January 8 – The Anniversary of Baptism Milestone and Preschool Sunday**

All those baptized in 2022 and their families are invited to attend a special milestone gathering at 10AM followed by a special milestone blessing during the second service.

Come experience what preschool is all about: preschool classroom tours, songs in worship, a video glimpse into daily activities, and an opportunity to join this important ministry.

**Sunday Forum:** Lutheran Plan Generosity of South Dakota with Kathy McHenry

## **January 15 – Volunteer Appreciation Sunday (Beginning of Epiphany Sermon Series: Shine)**

It takes more than 250 hours per week of your time and energy to make Spirit of Joy go. We want to recognize and celebrate you! Join us at either worship service and a special coffee hour.

**Sunday Forum:** Christianity & Judaism

## **January 22 – Camp Sunday**

Join us to learn more about how you can experience camp this coming summer. Camp is a great place to be renewed in the beauty of God's creation, meet new friends, play games, sing, and have a lot of fun! Camp can be an important and impactful experience in the faith journey of kids, teens and adults.

**Sunday Forum:** Martyrs & Confessors

## **January 29 – St. Dysmas Prison Congregation**

Pastor Jeff Backer will bring the good news and extend an invitation to deeper relationship with him and the men of St. Dysmas Prison Congregation.

**Sunday Forum:** St. Dysmas with Pastor Jeff Backer

# January Studies

## Shine Sermon Series

January 15-February 19

During the season of Epiphany, the Gospels reveal God among us. With the help of our Worship and Visual Arts Team, we will explore the places and ways that God is among us and how, together, we are called to Shine!

## Men's Lunch Bible Study,

Thursday, January 5 @ 11:30 a.m. at The 18th Amendment  
Study the Gospel reading, John 1:29-42 and continue our Fellowship!

## Brewed Theology

Monday, January 9 @ 7 p.m. at McNally's (6211 S Old Village Pl)  
We'll discuss "What Is it you are doing with Your Life?: God, Calling, & Vocation". Visit [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups) for access to the pre-reading.

## The Life of Jesus | Dr. Richard Swanson

January 11, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Richard Swanson from Augustana to introduce "The Life of Jesus". 7pm. Middle School Students, Guide, Parents, and Ninth Grade Students, Mentors, and Parents are asked to attend. The event is open to everyone!

## Brene Brown Brown Bag

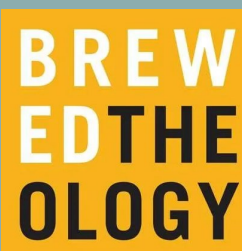
Begins January 15 @ Noon

We're launching a monthly, 5-part series, reading "Atlas of the Heart" by Brene Brown and watching the HBO special. Read the portion prior. Bring a lunch. Watch the special with us. Discuss. More book club than class. Join one session or all 5. No experience necessary. All are welcome! A limited number of books are available for purchase in the office (\$15). First session on January 15 will discuss the Intro, Cultivating Meaningful Connection, Ch. 9. Sign up online to let us know you're coming: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

## New Partner Class | Sign up: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

Sunday, January 22 | 12-2:30 PM

If you are looking for a new church home, we would welcome the opportunity to introduce you to the mission and ministry of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church. We begin with lunch together, then share a concise overview of our key values and practices and ministries.





# Faith Formation



Thank you, Spirit of Joy for participating in:

- Sharing the Dream discussion with Lauren Vaske
- Celebrating Christmas During Difficult Times with Dr. Karen Soli
- Yay Christmas: Christmas Cookies & Other Family Traditions with Dr. Heidi Kvanli
- Our monthly Women Social Gathering & Fun & Fellowship for all.
- Weekly women's Bible Thursday Study



## Resuming in 2023

**Women's Bible Study:** Thursday, January 5, 9am & 4pm

Topic: The Greatest Story"-Bible Introduction

**Women's Gathering:** Monday, February 6, 7pm in Shalom Center

**Fun & Fellowship for All:** Monday, February 27, 10am in Shalom Center

**No sign up needed \*\* Just Show Up!**

## Small Group Fellowship

Join us for rotational in home fellowship beginning January 2023! We begin with two small groups that will meet once a month for devotion and fellowship or any activity of interest.

**Morning Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.**

*First meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 9:30 a.m. at 6308 S Vintage Place, 57108*

**Evening Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at 5:30 p.m.**

*First meeting is Monday, January 9, 5:30 p.m. at 3300 W Miles Pl #203 57108*

**Interested? Contact Deacon Hannah ([hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com))**



# Faith Formation



## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

*Refreshing Perspectives*



*April 28 - 30*

PASTORS LON & HEIDI KVANLI

Facilitated by the Kvanlis, join us for a weekend at Shetek focused on exploring skills to help enrich marital relationships

Pick up a Registration Form at the Welcome Center  
Cost per Couple: \$250  
Room for 15 couples  
Forms and payment will secure your spot

## Anniversary of Baptism: Sunday, January 8



All babies baptized in 2022 will celebrate this Anniversary Milestone (even if it's not been quite a full year!). This is a family affair and a great occasion to invite siblings, grandparents, and sponsors to join us for worship and our Milestone Event between services. We hope you can come to the celebration of **Living Wet!**

**10:00 a.m.** – Anniversary of Baptism celebration in the Galilee Room. Each child will receive a little gift during this *very* low-key activity time. We'll have some fun time for kids and moms and dads. Please come!



# Outreach Opportunities

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

## *The Banquet West*

710 N MARION, SIOUX FALLS  
(5TH & MARION)

sign up at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



### Did You Know...Volunteering Edition

- Most of the 8 Ministry Teams meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- It takes almost 20 volunteers and a half dozen staff members to make Sunday morning possible. During the program year, that number approaches 30!
- This year more than 50 volunteers will work together to make our Confirmation program possible.
- Every time we serve at The Banquet, Food to You, or Necessities for Neighbors, Spirit of Joy makes a \$1,000 donation to offset the costs of operating those ministries.



# Creation Care Corner

***Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it***

Peace to you from the Creation Care Team as we enter 2023. This season of light, Epiphany, we ponder how Jesus was revealed as the Light of the World.

We may also reflect on the word, ***epiphany***. Merriam-Webster's third definition (after the Holy references) is as follows: 1. a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something 2. an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking 3. an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. What might we come to realize this new year?

***Genesis 1:6-8 <sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky.***

The WHO estimates that at least 9 out of 10 people are residing in places with polluted air. In 2020 in the US, 68 million tons of air pollution were emitted into the atmosphere per the EPA.

***Genesis 1:9-10 and 1:20 <sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good...And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."***

How much plastic is dumped into the oceans each year? Up to 12 million metric tons is dumped into the ocean yearly, which is equal to about 100,000 blue whales. In fact, by 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all of the ocean's fish. Indeed, there's so much junk out to sea that it's formed giant garbage patches; there are 5 of them around the world (the largest is called The Great Pacific Garbage Patch).

***Psalm 96:11-13 <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; <sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy <sup>13</sup>before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.***

From Professor Amy Marga's God Pause entry for 12/20/22: "...it is not just people who are rejoicing at the coming of Christ, but nature too. The earth rejoices; the sea roars, including all of its fish and crabs and whales. The trees sing for joy...science is showing us today that trees actually do communicate and have chemical community among one another. Animals have intricate relationships with one another, relationships that the human senses are often too dull to perceive."

***Open our eyes and ears to the ways your creation is aching and crying out, Oh Lord, and guide us to action. Amen.***



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Preschool Christmas Program

In December the preschool children explored the story of Jesus' birth in many ways: we read it from the Bible, sung songs, created from playdough and paper crafts, acted it out with props and even "met" important people from the story at Chapel time.

We also planned a short program of songs and story. Each time program songs were practiced; the children would jump and wiggle in delight while wearing a beaming smile. The excitement and joy were uncontainable! On December 21 & 22, the children were able to perform their program and tell the story, sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with others. May the good news of Jesus' arrival bring you uncontainable joy today!



## Fall 2023 Preschool Registration Open in January

Preschool classes were full in the last year, with only one spot remaining in December. Registration for fall begins now but don't worry, there are many ways you can register: in person by grabbing preschool forms and prices in the Gathering Space, online by visiting [spiritofjoy.net/preschool](http://spiritofjoy.net/preschool) or mail in the blue form to the church office. Your registration form and \$75 registration fee payment is all that is needed!

January 1 Registration opens for current families & SOJ Partners

January 9 Registration open to the community. All are welcome!

Share your preschool with friends and family. Come to explore the preschool anytime, call Amy Cauble to schedule a visit. We love to meet new friends!



# Spirit of Joy High School Youth Group Spring '23 Schedule

## January

1- No Youth Group: NYD  
8- Youth Group  
15- No Youth Group: MLK  
22- Youth Group  
29- Youth Group

## February

5- Youth Group  
12- Youth Group  
19- No Youth Group: Pres.  
26- Youth Group

## March

5- Youth Group  
12- No Youth Group: SB  
19- No Youth Group: SB  
26- Youth Group

## April

2- Youth Group  
9- No Youth Group: Easter  
16- Youth Group  
23- Youth Group  
30- Youth Group

## May

7- Last Youth Group  
10- Senior Blanket Milestone  
14- Senior Blanket Milestone

## June

25-30: ADVENTURE CAMP!

**Outlaw Ranch near Custer, SD**

Only 20 spots are available! \* \$250 total.  
\$100 deposit due January 8. Balance due  
by April 1. Scholarships are available upon  
request.

If you are interested or just need more  
details: [madeline.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:madeline.spiritofjoy@gmail.com)

# 2022 Financial Wrap-Up

Thanks to our starting cash balance for 2022 and judicious use of designated funds, we will end the year with a **positive balance in our general fund**. But, the truth of the matter is that **we have been, since the start of 2021, outspending our income an average of \$4000 per month**. We've survived on the extraordinary gifts of December 2020. And, to put it quite simply, **we can't continue doing that**.

For 2023, we approved a Mission Plan of \$795,000. While that is an increase of just less than 4% (\$30,000) from our 2022 Mission Plan, that is \$175,000 more than our 2022 income.

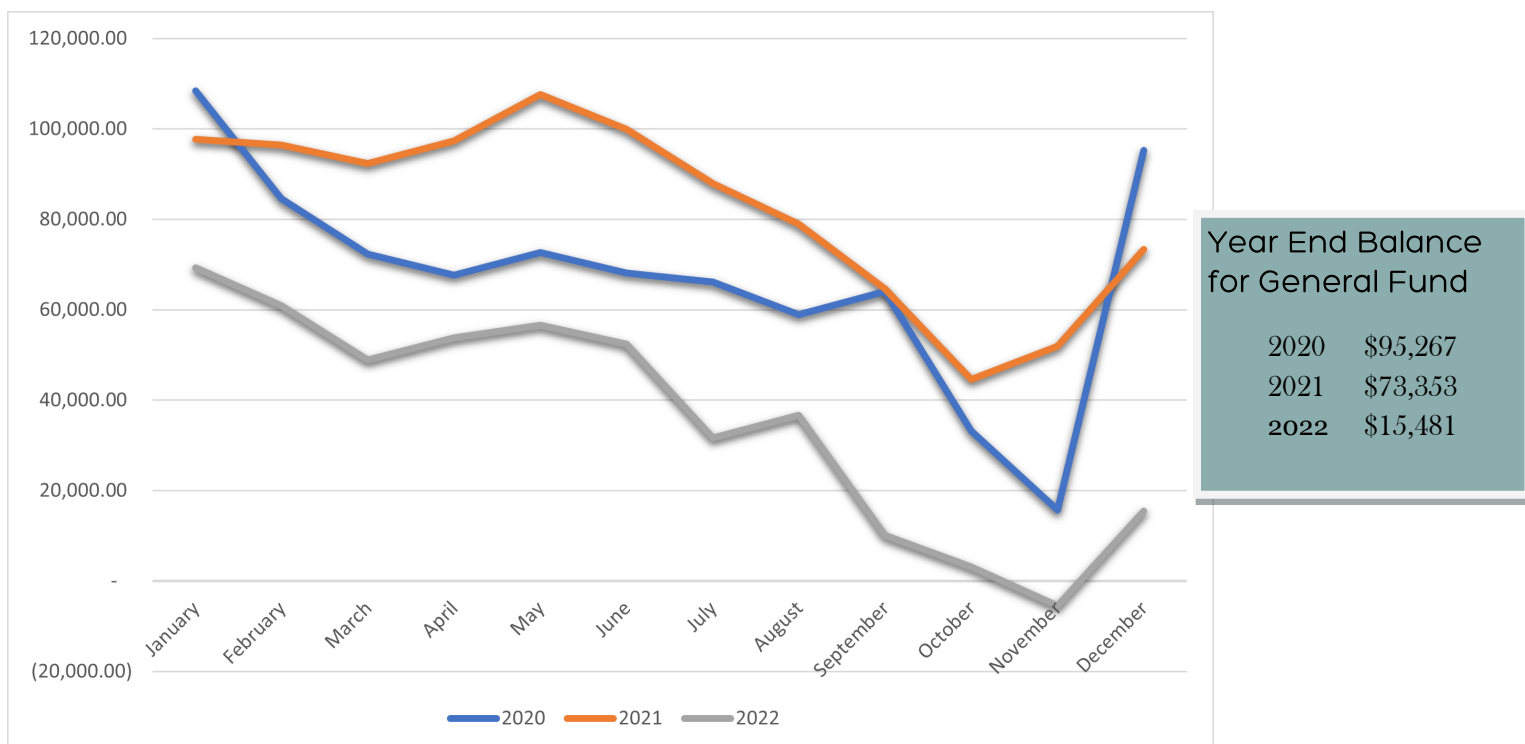
**I like to think of that gap as the difference between who we are, and who we want to be.**

Many of you have said "yes!" to our desire to grow, to reconnect our partners and build our relationships, and to building our dreams of becoming a house of prayer for all peoples. Of the commitments made for the 2023 Mission Plan, the average planned increase is 31%. **Thank you to those of you who made the decision to grow your commitment to Spirit of Joy**. If you haven't submitted your commitment to our 2023 Mission Plan you still can. It will help us to plan in the very near future as we discern God's call to Spirit of Joy and how we can faithfully respond.

This year's stewardship emphasis is called "**Extravagant Generosity: Beyond Dollars and Cents**". We launch our emphasis on **January 15<sup>th</sup> with Volunteer Appreciation Sunday**. While, of course, we want to be good stewards and transparent in our finances, we also want to celebrate all the other ways you give. Each week volunteers contribute more than 250 hours to the operation of Spirit of Joy. **You are amazing!** When you add the number of service hours to our community and on behalf of Spirit of Joy it is easy to say that you give 300 hours each week to bringing the kingdom of God near.

Thank you for your continued practice of Extravagant Generosity.

## General Fund - Cash Balance Comparison



# Odds & Ends



Thank you Children of Joy for your generous outpouring of donations for the Warm Hearts Warm Hands collection! We were able to create 67 Warm Hands Warm Hearts and 19 Street Ministry kits (plus extra supplies!) to be distributed through Church on the Street.

**SCOOTERS and STUDY**

Scooters and Study—Intergenerational Bible Study Begins January 11 at Scooters Coffee (85th & Minnesota)

The new and improved Intergenerational Bible study has moved offsite! Join Deacon Hannah and Madeline on Wednesday nights from 7-7:45 at Scooters. Rides can be provided from church after Wednesday night worship, or you can meet there. Sign-up online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups) to help us plan.

## SPirit of JOY'S **FIRST** **Nerf** Family Night

ALL ARE WELCOME TO A NIGHT OF **NERF** AND PIZZA

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023**

**6:30-8:30 PM IN SHALOM CENTER | \$5/FAMILY**

**Sign up online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**



Anniversary of Baptism



8

Preschool Sunday

JANUARY 08

*Thank you*

Volunteer Appreciation

Sunday

JANUARY 15

Camp  
Sunday



JANUARY 22

**St. Dymas**  
*hope beyond bars*

Pastor Jeff Backer

Visits

JANUARY 29

# UPCOMING EVENTS | 2023



sign up online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

WED. 1/11

"The Life of Jesus"

Dr. Richard Swanson

7:00 PM



FRI. 1/13

Family Nerf Night

6:30-8:30 PM

\$5/Family

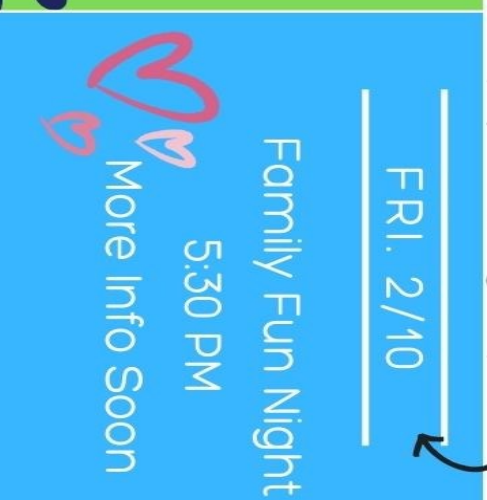


FRI. 2/10

Family Fun Night

5:30 PM

More Info Soon



Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting



FEBRUARY 05

Pastor Eric  
Installation  
Sunday



FEBRUARY 12