

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

happy   
New Year

In this space last year, I introduced you to my focus word for 2024, “Together”. I chose Philippians 2:2 as my theme verse: “Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.”

And? I didn’t do very well. As stress in our world went up, I isolated myself, often distancing when I most needed connection and support. Krista, my therapist Paul, and the SoJ Staff and Leadership, are all helping me to right that wrong. I’m working to give myself grace. In the meantime, I look forward to 2025.

I will be spending the year focusing on my own leadership development. I’ve chosen the word, “Embrace” for my focus along that journey. Embrace my imperfections and my need to grow. Embrace the transitions we will move through together. Embrace my own role at Spirit of Joy and in the world. Embrace others and all the gifts they bring to bear on our world.

To help in that journey of acceptance and welcome, I’ve chosen Proverbs 19:21 as my theme verse for the year: “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

I am again asking you to join me on that journey. **Embrace** with me this season of transitions, including the discernment process and the moves that we will make to go forward in support of our vision and goals. **Embrace** the growth that has occurred at Spirit of Joy and the challenges that it affords us, to make space for new people, to find creative ways to support each other, and to be careful in our thinking about what comes next. **Embrace** each other. Come to the table, open your homes and your hearts to old and new friends, be intentional about reaching out, and do the work of building community that makes this place so special. Together, I believe, I trust, I know, that God will lead us towards God’s will for us as Spirit of Joy.

You’ll see a few opportunities to **Embrace** each other and the ministry we share already in this issue of Wind Swept. **Preschool Open House on Dec. 30. Suicide Awareness on Jan. 8. Congregation Meeting on Feb. 9. Augie Hockey on Feb. 21.**



  
Pastor Eric Ohrtman



# Spirit of Joy

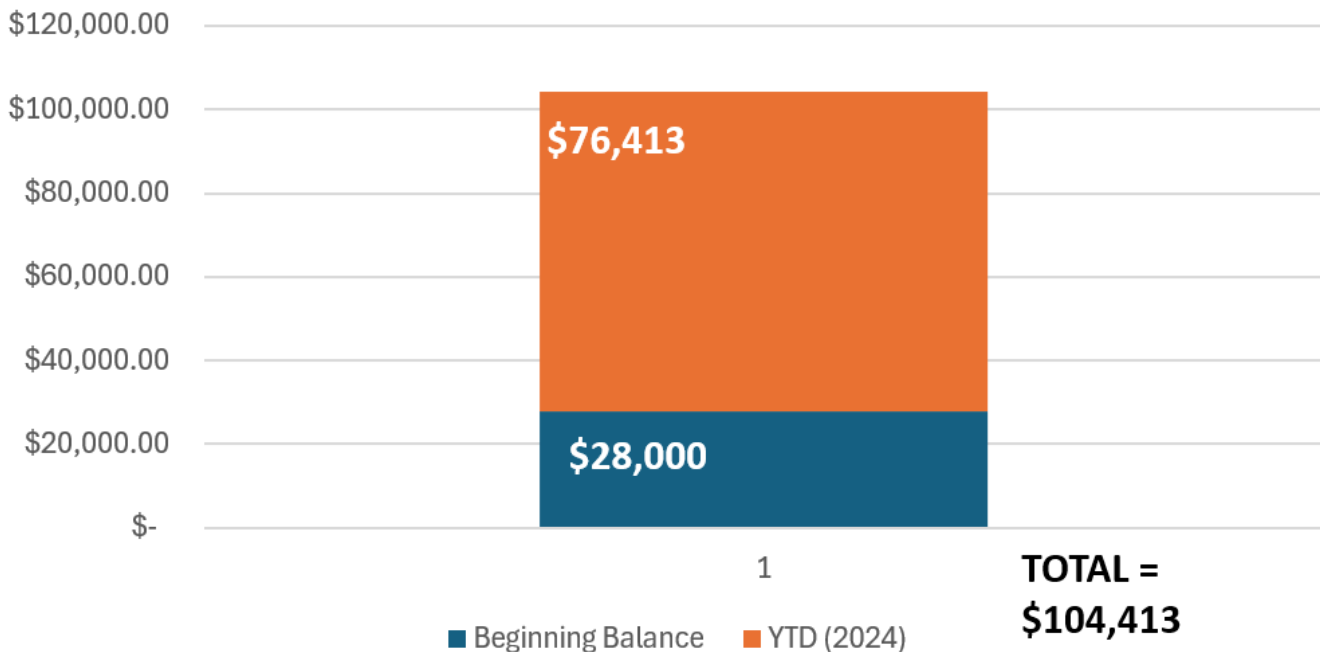
## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

### Please consider investing in SoJ's future!

The Mission Endowment Fund ended the year with a splash receiving \$26,500 in December led by the establishment of the Nathan Berdahl Addiction/Mental Health Awareness Sub-Fund. We received \$76,413 in 2024 pushing the total for our endowment over \$100,000 energized by two matching gift campaigns. An amazing accomplishment in our very first year. We also received a classic car that when sold will get 2025 off to a great start. Thank you for investing in SoJ's future!

There will be a Suicide Awareness presentation on Wednesday night, January 8 for the whole congregation to attend during the Confirmation hour. There will be a free-will offering at the event and all proceeds will go to the new Nathan Berdahl Addiction/Mental Health Awareness Sub-Fund.

### Mission Endowment Fund Balance



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



# Suicide Prevention

Wednesday, January 8 at 7PM

*presented by*

Chantelle Friedman, co-founder of Live Inspired 365  
&  
Stefanie Kummer, SoJ Partner

ALL ARE INVITED: Confirmation | High School Youth | Partners of SoJ

*Free will offering will support our newest Fund Endowment Fund:  
Nathan Berdahl Addiction/Mental Health*

The Church's Role in Addressing Social Justice Series

## Mental Health Discussion

Led by Deb Nelson

**Tuesday, January 21 at 9:30AM**



To receive direct information/messages from the youth ministry team please:

Enter this number: 81010

Text this message: @sojyou

# Creation Care Corner

## Ashes to Ashes... Compost to Compost...

You may have noticed a new green bin in the Shalom Center. You are now able to compost your white napkin or paper towel and half-eaten cookie, and it will turn into rich compost instead of going to the landfill.

We also have a new bigger hands-free compost bin in the kitchen for coffee grounds and filters. Thanks to Thrivent for the bins and BioBagUSA for starter rolls of compostable bags. Staff will change the bags as needed, taking them to our onsite SoDak Compost bin system, located west of the community garden plots.

Thank you, SoJ Partners, for helping us practice the last “R” in this list:

**Refuse • Reduce • Reuse • Repair • Recycle • ROT!**





# Spirit of Joy Preschool

Caring Community, Active Learning and Faithful Hearts

Fall 2025 Preschool Registration open now!

Planning for fall 2025 has begun. Enjoy a caring community that emphasizes play-based learning in a faith-based setting and is guided by your child's curiosity. Families with children aged three years to five years by September 1 can enroll now. Visit our website for tuition prices and an introductory video about the program. Tours are available, call or email Amy Cauble to schedule a time. All are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors to attend as well. Come explore and wonder with us!





# SPIRIT OF JOY PRESCHOOL

Caring Community • Active Learning • Faithful Hearts



## Open House & Early Registration | Monday, December 30 | 4-6pm

Visit the classroom, explore learning areas and meet the staff including our new lead teacher Miss Miranda

SOJ Preschool serves children ages three - five years old and their families | Check us out online: [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net)

Tell us a little about your background!

I have a degree in elementary education from the University of Sioux Falls. I have previous experience teaching preschool and being a youth director.

What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

I love hiking! I would love to wake up early (one of the only times I enjoy getting up early) and start hiking up a mountain while the sun is rising and make it to the peak when the sun is high in the sky. Then by the time I make it down the mountain it's time for food and a nap!



**Miranda Stahl**

*Preschool Teacher*

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

Guilty Pleasure Movie/ Television Show: The Office

What is one of your favorite hymns/Christian songs? Silent Night



SPIRIT OF JOY  
**PRESCHOOL**

# Deacon Hannah's Blessing & Sending

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Blessing at Both Services (8:45 & 11)  
Celebration Between Services (10)

*If you would like to contribute to a gift for her, please make a note on the memo line of a check or bring your gift to the office any time prior to 1/24.*

# SOJ HOCKEY NIGHT

Friday, 2/21 | Midco Arena  
7:07 PM | \$20/ticket

SAVE THE DATE!!

Ticket information coming in February





# Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

## I. New Business

A. Annual Meeting Agenda: Reviewed and discussed agenda for the Congregational meeting for Nov 24, 2024.

- a. Constitution and Bylaw Amendments: Leadership team recommended forwarding the proposed amendment to the congregation for consideration.
- b. Elections: Reviewed and finalized the proposed election ballot.
- c. 2025 Budget

B. ERC Returns: Discussed the allocation of the ERC funds. A **motion** was made by Tiffany Mutchler to allocate the funds as follows: \$34,000 to repay the debt to the building fund, \$3,000 to Heather Wald for her additional time and effort in completing the application, and \$11,000 to the general fund. Laurie Gromer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

C. 2025 Budget: Reviewed and discussed various options for the 2025 budget. A **motion** was made by Andrew Hewitt to approve the expense budget of \$932,631.68 for the 2025 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Laurie Gromer and approved unanimously by a voice vote.

II. Meeting Review and Lord's Prayer: Motion by Kendra Krueger and second by Chad Wolff to adjourn meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Sunday, February 9 | 10AM*



**We will review our ministry of the past year and look ahead to opportunities in this new year. All confirmed partners (members) are encouraged to attend.**

**We'll also elect a Call Committee to lead us in finding our next Associate Pastor!**