

WIND SWEPT

Monthly Newsletter

July 2024

Hebrew 10:22-25

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

My favorite young adult fiction books are the “Eragon” series by Christopher Paolini (Magnus Chase by Rick Riordan is a close second). A key detail of this dragon riding epic is the search for the protagonist, Eragon’s, “true name”. Discovering his true name requires introspection and understanding of who he is and who he’s called to be. Saying the name, reveals something of his character to himself and those who hear it. In some ways, the same thing is true with Jesus’ name in the book of Hebrews.

Jesus’ name has layers added to it that reveal the author of Hebrews understanding of Jesus and something of God’s character. It starts in chapter one when Jesus’ sonship is emphasized. This one, is God’s and like a human relationship, his character doesn’t fall far from the tree. In chapter 4 we are introduced to the next facet of his name, Jesus is THE high priest. (I don’t love this language, but I think it’s true to the text!) He presents the sacrifice which will bring us renewal and redemption. Then, in chapter 5 he is named, intercessor. Jesus stands before God on behalf of each one, hearing and carrying our needs and wants to the ears of the Almighty.

Your name, does something of the same. It reveals something of your family, your origin, your hopes and dreams, and for those who know your family, something of what they might expect from you. Campbell. Chell. Ahrendt. Brieher. Tonsager. Fleming. Mayer. Wheeler. Anderson. Hanson. Noer. Soli. Meyer. Mark. Kvanli. Lennon. Oyen. Hewitt. Your reputation precedes you.

So, what does our name say about us? Spirit of Joy.

Wind. Breath. Spirit. Life force. Ruach. Pneuma. God’s breath. God breathed. That which gives us life and movement, direction and purpose. It connects us to the divine and roots our being in God’s being. And, it hints at playfulness, wisdom, and continued growth and movement alongside the Holy Spirit.

Contentment. Abiding. Happiness. Glad. Exultant. Ecstasy. Freedom. Knowing that we have been set free from the ravages of sin and death, we place ourselves into the deep and overwhelming contentment of God’s love and the community of saints. With eyes opened to the gift of life we boil over with happiness at the sight of one another and all who gather to hear this good news. We say yes to a way of being that is less about rules and rituals than about building meaningful long-term relationships and sharing in the ecstasy of community.

That’s our direction. That’s our reputation. That’s our true name. The wind is blowing people into our lives who are seeking the good news that sets us free. Let’s share it with them, Spirit of Joy!

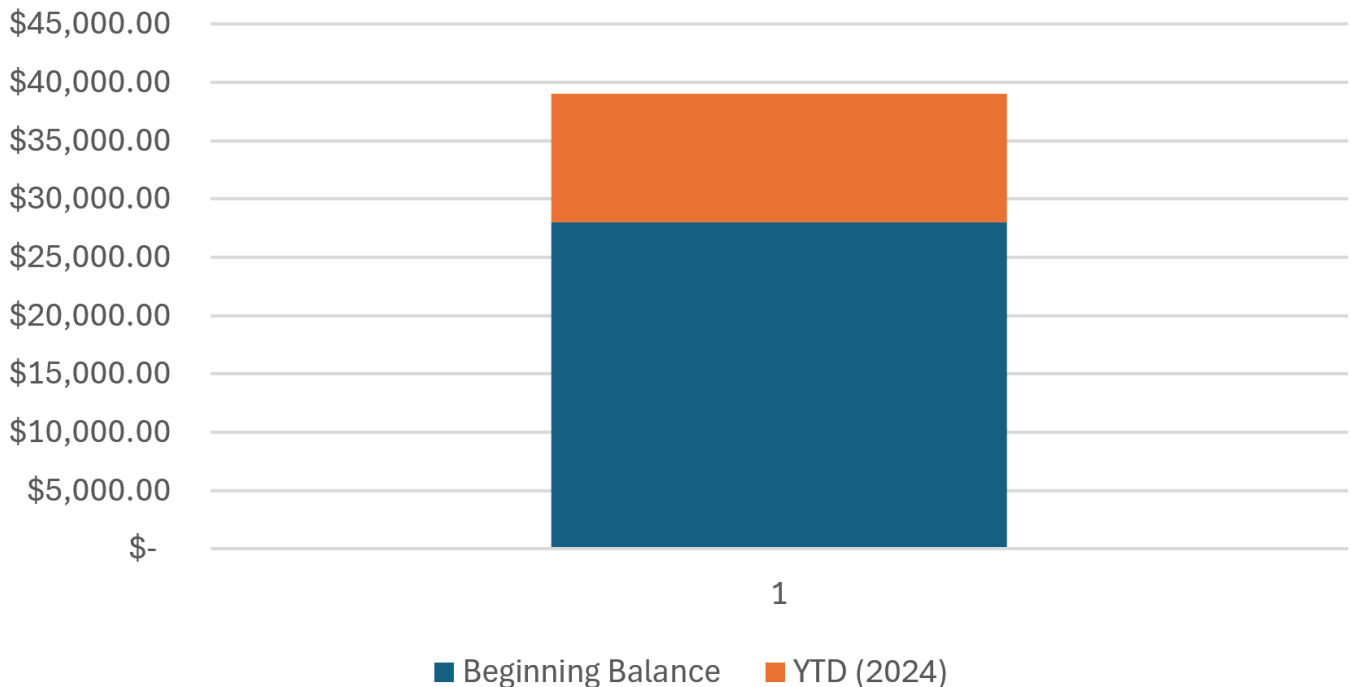


Pastor Eric Ohrtman



- The following Partners are members of the SoJ Mission Endowment Fund: Darlene Weber-Scott, Joel Christensen and Ron Risty are voting members. Pastor Eric and Brian Oyen, VP Leadership Team, are ex-officio or advisor members. Feel free to contact any member with endowment-related questions or Kathy McHenry, LPGSD, for anonymous gift planning services. Consider giving any amount for a brighter future together!
- Why was the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund selected as the professional provider to manage the SoJ Mission Endowment Fund assets? The primary reasons were the ELCA mission and values match those of SoJ, pledge of socially responsible investing, an impartial third party avoids any potential conflict of interest and the LPGSD offer of gift planning services. Consider investing in SoJ's future!

Mission Endowment Fund Balance





Wed., July 24 at 7pm



Sun., July 28 at 11am

Hear from ministry teams and staff

Bring your questions

Share the good news together!

Special Meeting of the Leadership Team

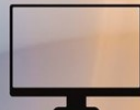
Thursday, July 11 @ 4:30pm

Re: Preschool Restructuring Proposal

3 Ways to Give



IN PERSON
CASH/CHECK



ONLINE
spiritofjoy.net



SoJ App
Enjoy the lake! Spend time
with your family!

Don't forget SoJ this summer!



Find out more: spiritofjoy.net

Congregational Life

Spirit of Joy Annual Women's Retreat

All women, young and young at heart are invited to our annual women's retreat. The retreat dates are September 27-28 at Shetek located in Slayton, Minnesota, about an hour and a half drive. Our goal is for all if not most of our Women of Joy to be a part of this amazing experience. Bring your friend, sister, daughter, or mother. The theme for this year is "When Women Support Each Other, Incredible Things Happen" an inspirational quote by the actress Viola Davies. What a great reminder that we all need somebody to lean on someday!

The cost of the retreat is \$125 per person. But please do not allow money to stop you from fellowshiping with your sisters. We have scholarships available, please contact the office for more information regarding scholarships.

The speakers for this year's retreat are Sandy Ellingsen and Kerri Tietgen. Our musicians are Char Sorum and Rhonda Roesler. It is going to be a weekend of immense blessings!

Registration begins in late July 2024.



Outreach Opportunities

FOOD TO YOU

THURSDAY, JULY 25

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
1912 W 13TH ST

Sign up: spiritofjoy.net/signups

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

The Banquet

BREAKFAST | DOWNTOWN
900 E 8TH ST

sign up at spiritofjoy.net/signups

Sign-Up For Composting With SoDak Compost



[SoDak Compost](#) is taking on new participants! They have collected nearly 15,000 pounds of food scraps to date through their first site at IronFox Farm and their second site west of the Spirit of Joy Community Gardens. If you are interested in signing up and dropping off your food scraps, please email info@sodakcompost.org or fill out the [online application](#). This year they will be on-site Sundays 10AM-12PM by their bins in the garden. You will be able to drop off during that time or at-your-leisure all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until 12PM.

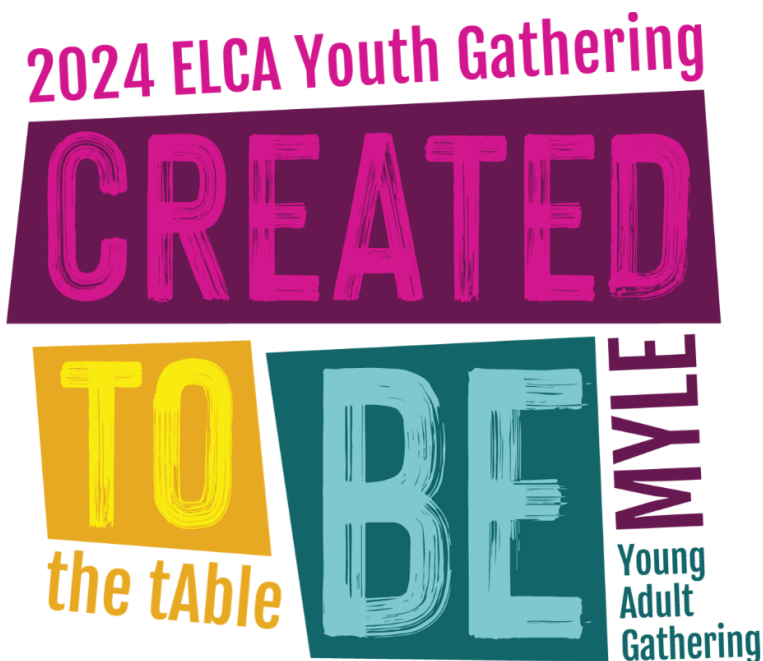
SoDak Compost asks for an \$11/month donation to cover their costs of operation and help them continue to grow in Sioux Falls. Payments can be made in person or [online](#).


2024 Youth Gathering, New Orleans

Thank you for your generous support to our high school youth as they prepare to embark on the trip to New Orleans for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!

We are honored to have eight students and three adults representing the Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church at this life changing event. Our departure date is July 14, and we hope to return home by July 20.

Please keep us in your prayers as we experience God at work in new ways, in new places, and with new people.





2024 SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

CONNECTED

May 31-June 1 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. Assembly participants were invited to celebrate all the ways that we are **connected** as a Synod and remember all the ways we are **connected** with the whole church as the Body of Christ in our mission to share the Gospel of God's love and forgiveness with the world. Here are some of the highlights of the Synod Assembly:

- Rev. Norma Malfetti, Director for Evangelical Mission Support in the Christian Community and Leadership Home Area of the ELCA's churchwide organization, delivered the ELCA report on behalf of our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Together, the congregations in the South Dakota Synod made it possible for the synod to share \$737,497 with the churchwide organization to support our ministry together. Our deep faith and strong relationships across the ELCA provide the foundation for Mission Support sharing each year.
- Bishop Constanze Hagmaier shared highlights of the past year of Synod ministry, including the \$1.1 million grant (titled "Journeying Together in Christ") the Synod was awarded from Lilly Endowment through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. Bishop Hagmaier updated the Assembly on the progress of the two parts of the grant – the Pasque Learning Community and the Rural Immersion Program. Both facets relate to the Synod staff's goal of a ministry of presence and its ongoing efforts to raise lay and rostered leaders in the Synod. Bishop Hagmaier also invited congregations to think about how they could be a part of raising leaders in our Synod, including taking advantage of the Buntrock Scholarship opportunity at Augustana University. Finally, she thanked Pastor Alan Blankenfeld for his service to the Synod as Rural Ministry Liaison and previewed the transition process to call a new Director of Rural Ministry as part of filling the positions created by the Journeying Together in Christ grant award.
- Three separate panel discussions highlighted the ways we are connected as a synod, as congregations, and as individual members of the synod to different ministries in South Dakota and around the world in the areas of theological education, our **Neighbors in Solidarity** ministries, and our partnerships through the ELCA with companion synods and our full communion partners.
- Throughout the assembly, Peter Mayer provided music leadership. A guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter, Peter has been with Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band for over three decades. He also follows his musical path with both national and international tours and has released 20 live and studio albums to date.
- Actions taken by the Synod Assembly Include:
 - Election of new 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!

**YOU ARE
INVITED**



**HS YOUTH GROUP
@ SPIRIT OF JOY**



Summer Schedule

Thursday, July 25 | 4-7PM | Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Wild Water West - bring \$ for drinks, pizza provided

Wednesday, August 14 | 7-9PM

Back2School Bash @ SoJ - Games, H₂O Balloons, Treats

Friends are always welcome.

RSVP to Deacon Hannah (605-630-1034) or Brook Meyer (605-940-7480)

Texting is okay!

NO MATTER WHAT

God Blesses Us



Family Fun Night

Wed., July 10 | 6:30-8:00 PM

- * Camp-Style Worship *
- * Water Games * Dunk Tank
- * Sno Cones *

Hear the Story "David is Chosen"

Books that Matter

This month we're reading

"Tired of Apologizing for a Church That I Don't Belong To" by Rev. Lillian Daniels

Discussion: Wednesday, July 24 @ 5:30pm at SoJ

Sign up at spiritofjoy.net/signups

\$10 to Spirit of Joy or available at major retailers.

Creation Care Corner

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

– Isaiah 43:2 NRSV



As the song says, “Our God is an awesome God” and He is with us during the trials and tribulations of this life, as well as the many beautiful moments we experience. Lately, we have had some struggles with rain and flooding. God wants you to be prepared for all kinds of weather situations and emergencies.

Equip your spiritual self by reading the Bible and praying. Equip yourself and your home by doing the following:

- Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings via weather apps or the National Weather Service
- Have an emergency “on the go” bag packed containing items such as water, nonperishable food plus a manual can opener, a battery-powered radio, prescriptions, contact lens solution/glasses, forms of identification. Refer to [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for a more complete list and tips
- Keep your gas tank at least half full at all times, especially in times of extreme weather
- Move to higher ground if there is a flood or flood warning
- “Turn around, don’t drown” when water is over the road and/or barricades are present
- Do not attempt walking through any rushing water
- In severe weather, be on the lookout for downed power lines as well as unstable or downed trees and poles
- Install a water alarm and sump pumps with battery backup
- Keep gutters and drains free of debris
- If you are in an area prone to flooding, consider having a professional install a sewer backflow or backwater check valve
- If your property is at risk for flooding, you may need to look at purchasing separate flood insurance, but know that these typically take 30 days to go into effect

Prepare for extreme heat:

- Identify places in your community where you can go to get cool such as libraries or shopping malls in case your air conditioner fails or if you do not have air conditioning
- Leave your blinds/curtains/drapes closed for the day if you know it will be extremely hot
- Weather strip doors and windows
- Use window reflectors specifically designed to reflect heat back outside
- Use a powered attic ventilator, or attic fan, to regulate the level of a building’s attic by clearing out hot air
- Recognize signs of heat illness such as heavy sweating, dizziness, paleness, or lack of sweating and dry skin (more severe indicator) among others – watch out for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke
- Perform stressful and taxing outdoor activities earlier in the day or later in the evening as able
- Take a cool shower or bath
- Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated
- Wear loose, light-fitting, light-colored, and breathable clothing
- Find shade if outside
- Never leave people or pets in a closed car on a warm/hot day
- Reduce use of the oven to help your home stay cooler in extreme heat
- Check on any elderly neighbors during times of extreme heat
- If you have pets, make sure they have plenty of water and don’t take them for walks when it is extremely hot as concrete and asphalt can burn their paws

YAGM News



MADELINE TROSVIG

SoJ Partner and Young Adult in Global Mission

On a walk the other day I was reflecting on what this year of service has meant and how it has changed me. I have many people asking how this time has shaped me and helped me discern my future. And I never have a good answer. Honestly, I may not have an answer for a while. I expected to come here and have a lightbulb moment of realization for what God is calling me to do. And maybe that was my problem, instead of living in the present I was waiting for the future. This year has forced me to slow down, which is something I struggled with a lot at the beginning of this year...

I really really missed being needed. The thing that drew me to YAGM was their approach at missionary work. YAGM emphasized that the communities we are going to are not in need of us, we aren't fixing anything, we are simply living alongside these people and accompanying them in everyday life. But doing that has turned out to be harder for me than I expected. I've come to realize that I equated being needed to being wanted. This year has forced me to just "be"- to be present, to be in community, to be open to new things, to be wanted and not needed.



CARL NORQUIST

SoJ Partner and Young Adult in Global Mission

Asalaa Malekum! (Hello from Senegal!)

We're in the final stretch of my year with Young Adults in Global Mission. At the time I write this, I have less than one month remaining in my host community of Yeumbeul. It is a time of year when I'm reflecting on the things I've done, the things I have not done, and wondering what I still have the power to do.

I have been scrambling to cross items off my Senegal bucket list.

April and May marked our last opportunities to travel and we worked hard to use that time wisely. At the end of April, I took a vacation to Dionewar and the Saloum Delta with one of my YAGM friends. This vacation was our first attempt planning a trip on our own and was a wonderful adventure. In May, our Kedougou retreat (which had previously been postponed) was rescheduled. Kedougou was hot, but also a marvelous escape from urban life in Yeumbeul.

My last day in Yeumbeul is June 28 and I'll want to use these last few weeks to say goodbye to friends and family. I'll be measuring some of my early expectations with how the year actually went. I will return to America on July 9.

Odds & Ends



S H E T E K
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

\$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!

Food Insecurity in South Dakota

Sunday, July 14 | 11:15 AM

Julia Stanek, Miss Huron, will be hosting a presentation on the effects of hunger in South Dakota. Her campaign, Fueling South Dakota: Eliminating Hunger, outlines what Spirit of Joy can continue doing. If you feel so inclined, all nonperishable food donations will be brought to the Vermillion Food Pantry.

