

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

June 2023



Eric Ohrtman

Pastor

“I’m so sorry, Pastor. We haven’t been able to make it to church much lately, we’re just so busy!” It’s my least favorite of the common phrases I hear from God’s beloved people. And, it’s not because I’m upset about whether or not you’re with us in worship. Of course, I want you to be with us! But, I also never want you to feel guilty for taking rest, celebrating your family, or continuing to navigate the many and varied pressures of our world. So, I want you to hear this... REST!

Our scripture tells the story of God freeing the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. Immediately after their safety had been secured, God set about establishing the basic parameters for their life with each other and in relationship with Him. At its center? Rest. The reason that’s so significant is that, in contrast to Pharaoh, God saw value in Her people that went far beyond their production or value added. The God who brought order out of chaos in six days and rested on the seventh, knits us together in our mother’s womb. In the very fabric of the world we live in and the way we are fearfully and wonderfully made, there is a rhythm that calls for rest. There is a need for deep rest, a pause, and time to cherish at the core of who we are. Sometimes, that means making a decision.

Please, hear this as permission to rest. And, hear it as invitation to engage in other ways. We’ve kept Wednesday worship for the summer, because we know and love that you’re going to the lake and out in the camper, that

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. -Deuteronomy 5:15

there is soccer, baseball, and swim. The quality and experience of our livestream is much improved. Tune in! Pick up one of the books for Books that Matter (we meet July 3 to discuss “The 1619 Project”). Read it on your dock and join us for the evening. Come listen to Jamie Lennon as he brings real talk about the situation in Yemen to Brewed Theology (July 10). If you have kids, just go so far as to make a commitment to be at all three Family Fun Nights (June 21, July 19, August 9).

But, if you can not. Do not feel guilt or shame. You have been set free by God’s grace. And, that is enough.



Faith in the Sun & Fun of Summer

By Marnie Dahle Backer

The snowbirds have returned and now the weekends to the lake, family reunions, vacations and all the summer fun begins! We have been waiting and waiting for this beautiful weather to arrive and now we need to enjoy it - soak it all in. The lazy days of summer might not be exactly the right phrase - we are still busy with all the summer activities, but it is certainly a different pace of life. And in the midst of all this, how do we find time for faith, for our Spirit of Joy community, for prayer and learning?

Well, of course, we have some solutions for you! Summer worship is a great schedule: Sundays at 8:30 and 10 am - get a slightly earlier start to your day. And Wednesday night worship continues each week at 6:30 pm followed by some great gathering time in the garden - a refreshing drink and maybe a cookie! We also have Family Fun Nights and monthly service activities (signing up to help with either of these activities can get you a snazzy new SoJ t-shirt!). Not to mention some great fellowship events (Canaries, dinners, small groups and more.)

While we hope you will attend many if not all of those events - ha! - we also know that just might not happen and then we need to remember that God is with us - wherever we go. Faith happens in your home, at work, in the car, on the soccer field - all the places. Sunday mornings you receive an email with a link to the worship service via YouTube and an attachment with the Faith in Our Home insert - have you looked at those lately? They have some simple and great ideas for sharing faith together.

Or maybe, try this:

- Share: highs and lows from the day
- Read: "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
- Talk: What are the things that scare you? What can you do when you are scared?
- Pray: Say a prayer for the scary moments of life.
- Bless: Give each other a hug, fist bump or high five
- Saying a prayer when you share a meal: at the table, in the backyard, on a picnic, etc.
- And, a personal favorite: blessing one another at nighttime - make a cross on each other's forehead and say "God is with you."

May you all feel God's presence in your life as you take in the sunshine, the quiet and the busyness, the lake or the backyard.

***Please note: be sure to check out spiritofjoy.net/signups for more information and to sign up for all the amazing activities listed above.**

Outreach Opportunities

Necessities for Neighbors Sunday, June 4

Peace Lutheran Church | 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Sign up on our website at spiritofjoy.net/signups, to join in helping at this event. Bring a donation of diapers to church by Sunday morning, June 4. All donations will be delivered to Peace Lutheran to use during the distribution.



Thank you for your Bold Service and Extravagant Generosity

Pizza for Teacher Appreciation week at Horace Mann



Serving at The Banquet on
Wednesday, May 3



Faith Formation



Sunday Forum: There will be no Sunday Forums during the summer months. We will resume in the Fall.

Spirit of Joy Night of Fellowship: Join us at the Birdcage on June 2 (1001N. West Ave)

Have a time of fun, fellowship, all while watching baseball! Purchase tickets (\$13) at spiritofjoy.net/signups or sign up for a ticket at the Welcome center at church.

Joyful Morning Yoga: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:30am, followed by lunch

Women's Rotational In-Home Fellowship: Contact Suzanne DeBoom or Deb Stapelman with questions

- Monday, June 12, 5:30pm: Scooters on 85th and Minnesota
- Tuesday, June 13, 9:00am: Judy Christensen's home

Women's Weekly Bible Study: "How does the Jesus of the New Testament compare to the Jesus we think we know so well?" Join us for a six session Bible Study on the "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancy beginning June 1st, at 9am! Pick up a copy of the book at the office on Tuesday, May 30. We will meet in the Garden, weather permitting. ALL are welcome. Bring a friend-Lutheran or Non-Lutheran welcome! There will be no evening study this summer.

Women's Social Gathering PLUS: Monday, June 5 at 6:30pm. All are welcome - men, women, youth, and children. Come & hear about Deacon Hannah's Liberia Mission trip! Treats provided.

Men's Rotational In-Home Fellowship: The purpose of this small group is to get to know each other better through devotion, prayer, and a time of fellowship.

- Tuesday, June 20, 7:00pm: Corey Weeg's home (700 E. 77th Street); Please RSVP to Corey -

Liberia Mission Trip: Thank you to all our partners and friends for the generous support toward the Liberia Mission! Because of your generosity, Henrique and I were able to accomplish so much. We completed 1/3 of the concrete roofing and fenced the school yard (2 acres property). It is our prayer that you continue to partner with the Liberia Mission as we raise funds to complete the school. Join us at 6:30pm on June 5 in the Shalom Center to hear more about the trip and see the progress you helped us make.

Save the Dates: July 16 Retirement Milestone; August 20 Empty Nest Milestone.

~ Deacon Hannah Fleming

Upcoming Events

Books that Matter

"The 1619 Project" by Nikole Hannah Jones

Monday, July 3 • 9am or 7pm at SoJ

Limited copies available: \$20

Or, at all major retailers.

Led by Pr. Eric
Donuts and coffee provided.



SHETEK

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, June 19, 2023

Depart from SoJ @ 6:30am

Registration & putting contest @ 8:30am

Tee off @ 9am

4 person scramble

All are welcome!

Summer Fun

**SOJ @ THE
BIRDCAGE**

CANARIES VS RAILCATS

Friday, June 2 | 6:35 pm | Tickets: \$13 (Promo Code: Joy)


**Fireworks after
the game!**



Promo Code: Joy

JUNE 21 | FAMILY FUN NIGHT | 6:30-8:00

WORSHIP, YARD GAMES, BONFIRE & SMORES

God Speaks



SIGN UP TODAY

spiritofjoy.net/signups

Financial Peace University

Thursdays at 7pm beginning June 8. Find more information online. Taught by Kelsey Kasten and Ben Fortson right here at Spirit of Joy.

Necessities for Neighbors

Friday, June 2 at Peace Lutheran. 1:30-4:30pm. SoJ is also collecting Diapers to bring to the event. Please bring your donations to church by Sunday morning, June 4. Free SOJ T-Shirt to all volunteers, be sure to tell us your size!

Shetek Golfing Event/Fundraiser

Monday, June 19, depart from SoJ at 6:30am. \$50 to Spirit of Joy. All are welcome!

SO MANY WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AS SPIRIT OF JOY

Check out the sign up page online: spiritofjoy.net/signups or in the Church App





Creation Care Corner

June is Dairy Month. “I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!!”



Have you seen any butterflies yet? Have you seen any Monarch butterflies? Did you know Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed? It’s “Dairy Month” all season long for them.

This month is also a great time to talk about biodiversity, which is the variety of living organisms from genes and bacteria to entire ecosystems (think coral reefs & forests). It is the interplay of life forms with the physical environment. Why should we care about this? The air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat depend on biodiversity. Without plants, we would be oxygen deficient, and without pollinators like bees, butterflies, and bats, we would be food deficient. Coral reefs & mangrove swamps provide protection to coastal residents from cyclones and tsunamis. Hardwood trees in forests require certain fruit-eating species to disperse seeds. Several new medicines are harvested from nature. These are just a few examples. The complexity of this is truly mind boggling.

It is imperative that we do all we can to protect and support biodiversity as it is essential to our survival and the survival of the planet. There are currently 5 main threats to biodiversity:

◇ Habitat loss ◇ Invasive species ◇ Overexploitation ◇ Pollution ◇ Climate change



Here are 12 ways YOU can prevent biodiversity loss:

(1) Buy sustainable & fairtrade products (2) Ditch the lawn & garden chemicals (3) Plant a tree with onetreeplanted.org by donating to their biodiversity projects that help reforestation (4) Protect local habitats by cleaning up trash & decreasing usage of single-use plastic (5) Eat local & organic whenever possible (6) Create a biodiversity patch in your yard by sectioning off a portion to plant native grasses, flowers, shrubs, or trees as we have done at Spirit of Joy (7) Educate others on the importance of biodiversity (8) Start composting (9) Keep local wildlife safe by monitoring your pets when they’re outside to prevent them from attacking birds or other wildlife (10) Volunteer your time or donate money to environmental or wildlife organizations (11) Reduce your carbon emissions by walking, biking, or rollerblading when you can; look into purchasing an electric vehicle; try carpooling when possible; plan your errands to minimize driving time (12) Take a stand for the environment by supporting initiatives that work to protect threatened habitats & improve species richness; write companies & businesses; write or call legislators about your concerns

Things are happening currently that we CAN control. Let us be actionable together. Come Holy Spirit, move us to care for God’s creation. “God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are holy, holy. The universe declares your majesty...Lord of Heaven and Earth” - lyrics by Steven Hindalong



“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” – C.S. Lewis

SoDak Compost Coming to Spirit of Joy

Submitted by Arlene and Deirdre

[SoDak Compost](#) is South Dakota's first and only community composting organization. This non-profit launched in June 2022 and so far they have diverted nearly 15,000 pounds of food scraps from ending up in the landfill through their first site at IronFox Farm.

We are thrilled that SoDak Compost will be partnering with Spirit of Joy as they expand and build their second site compost site west of the community gardens. Deirdre Appel and her team will offer participants a weekly drop-off option for their food scraps. They manage all the operation of compost piles but are happy to work with volunteers who may want to learn more about the process.

You may remember that Deirdre had a table at our Sustainability Fair on Sun. April 23. Several SoJ partner families signed up for the service that day, but she has room for many more households. Deirdre plans to make it convenient for her clients, having times for dropping off full buckets and picking up new buckets on Sundays and Wednesdays (times TBD).

If you are interested in signing up and dropping off your food scraps, please email info@sodakcompost.org for more information. Please note this is not a free service and SoDak Compost asks for a \$10/month donation to cover their costs of operation and help them continue to grow in Sioux Falls. Welcome, Deirdre and team!





Spirit of Joy Preschool

Come Join the Preschool Community!

Preschool Registrations and tours offered throughout the summer months. Registration is open but classes are filling quickly. Limited spots available. Contact Amy Cauble, Preschool Director for ways you can enroll online or in person.

Start here for further information:

- Website: spiritofjoy.net (click on “preschool” in the drop down menu)
- Facebook: [vacebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool](https://www.facebook.com/spiritofjoypreschool) (photos from activities & updated events)

Save the Date

Sunday, October 15 | Music, Mocha & Masterpieces

Enjoy an evening of one-of-a-kind art designed especially for this event and created by SOJ Partners with coffee house ambiance and music. An evening you won't want to miss!

STAY TUNED for more details coming soon.



2022–2023 Preschool Year by the Numbers



- 34 Chapel time visits
- 27 Smiling students enrolled
- 11 Special events provided for students, congregation & preschool families
- 9 Chapel leaders
- 6 Preschool Team advocates
- 5 Students riding in the van
- 4 Surrounding SD communities represented
- 3 Caring volunteer van drivers, 3 dedicated staff members
- 2 Sets of Parent/Provider & Teacher conferences
- 1 God who provided, protected, surrounded and loved us all



Youth News

High School Youth Group Fellowship @ Wild Water West

All SOJ High School Youth are invited to summer fellowship at Wild Water West on Thursday, June 22 from 11-8pm for a cost of \$17 per youth. Come and enjoy a time of water sliding, go-karts, floating down the lazy river, mini golf, batting cages, and getting to know each other better. Pizza will be provided! Meet at Wild Water West at 11am. If you need a ride, please call Deacon Hannah at 605-333-2004

RSVP by June 19: spiritofjoy.net/signups, pay by check (made out to Spirit of Joy) or cash.



Top Left: High School Youth Group say goodbye to Madeline with ice cream at B&G

Top Right: Fifth Graders are looking ahead to middle school and confirmation at the Fifth Grade Finale

Bottom Right: Confirmation celebrates their last night with a servant event at St. Francis House & Ronald McDonald House

Bottom Left: Graduating Seniors receive blankets and a blessing during the Graduation Milestone

Financials through April 2023

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$16,276.08
Building Fund	\$13,167.98
Donor Restricted	\$36,328.90
Sunday School	\$1,809.61
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	April 2021	April 2022	April 2023
Attendance	???	1720	2260
General Offering	\$ 48,239.79	\$ 55,692.85	\$ 44,716.07
Building Offering	\$ 59,458.76	\$ 21,395.41	\$ 12,167.98

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$176,953.31
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,497.97</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$318,593.95

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$226,783.19
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$244,975.51</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	- \$18,192.32

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770

Received as of April 30, 2023: \$325,596.10

Carrying a Heavy
Load?

Talk with a
BeFriender



Want to connect?

Church: 605-333-2004

Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663



A Listening Presence