

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

June 2024

Yesterday, one of you asked me, "Why?" Then, you immediately said, "I know I shouldn't ask that." I understand that you've been taught that questions point to a lack of faith, or the dreaded "d" word... doubt. Your teachers were wrong. Our questions reveal our deepest faith and our doubts acknowledge that the world is not as God intended.

### Psalm 74:18-23

Remember how the enemy has mocked you, LORD, how foolish people have reviled your name.  
Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts; do not forget the lives of your afflicted people forever.  
Have regard for your covenant, because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.  
Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name.  
Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; remember how fools mock you all day long.  
Do not ignore the clamor of your adversaries, the uproar of your enemies, which rises continually.

Psalm 74 isn't my favorite piece of scripture, but it is one that comes to mind over and over again. Lately, as I've spent time at the hospital and along bedsides, this is the text that I can not shake. As I've watched the war in Israel and Palestine, this is the text that I can not shake. As I've watched young and old die and leave God's beloved faithful people waiting for the resurrection that is to come, this is the text that I can not shake.

Psalm 74 is a community lament for the destruction of the Temple. One of King David's chief musicians, Asaph, likely wrote it to teach worshippers their history and how they can stand before God in open pain and suffering while remaining faithful and putting their trust in the One. Its structure is simple, just three parts: verses 1-11 ask "Why, O God?", 12-17 are an Affirmation Hymn, and 18-23 look back at the destruction and remind God of promises once made.

I think that, for us, it is a timely and necessary lesson. We can remain faithful to God and still come with our questions, doubts, pain, and suffering. God's people have a long history of challenging God and God listening and bringing about restoration or mercy (the one we know best is Abraham's negotiating for Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18). The Psalms of Lament, 74 included, give us language and a place to begin.

God desires our fullness, including when we are struggling. Jesus told us to ask and he will answer (Matt. 7:7-11). Paul told us that the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words to express (Rom 8:26). Many of us have been trained to swallow down, suppress, or ignore the hardest moments in life. Don't. Pick up your Bible. Turn to the Psalms and find your words in a psalm of lament (there are too many to list here, try a quick Google search "lament psalms").

To cry out is to believe that God can do something about it. That's faith. May God bless you, dear friend, on your journey.



Pastor Eric Ohrtman

## LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW

Ezekiel 47:8-9

General Fund Income through April 2024

**\$267,294**

that's an 18% increase over the same period from 2023!

**7.5%**

increase in worship attendance year over year

**300**

total average volunteer hours you give to our mission and ministry each week

**800**

the average number of users per week of the SoJ campus

has been given to our ministry partners so far in 2024

**\$44,480**

that does not include in kind or fundraised gifts!



Join us  
July 24 or July 28  
for our Town Hall Meetings!

## **\$10,000 Matching Gift has been matched enthusiastically!**

The \$10,000 Matching Gift Campaign received approximately \$1,000 in gifts before receiving an anonymous \$10,000 donation. Thank you for the proactive response. We are off to a great start but there is more meaningful work to be done. Consider investing in SoJ's future!



The Mission Endowment Fund is a perpetual fund that enables SoJ to extend mission work and ministries beyond annual operational budget/needs.

Consider giving any amount for a brighter future together.

**Balance SoJ Mission Endowment Fund:  
\$39,000**

Contact the Spirit of Joy office or Endowment Team Chair, Joel Christensen for a giving form. Contact Kathy McHenry at Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota to give anonymously.

# SUMMER *Worship*

MAY 26-SEPTEMBER 1

SUNDAYS, 10:00 AM | WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM

NOTE: One Worship Service on Sundays.  
Fellowship to Follow

NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP | MAY 8-29, AUGUST 14-28

## Radical Hospitality

Summer Worship & Potluck

Sunday, June 2 | Worship 10 AM | Potluck 11:15 AM

Summer has arrived! Join us for worship and then head to the front lawn for lunch, fellowship and fun! The church will provide fried chicken and drinks. Last names A-M, please bring a dessert. N-Z, you've got side dishes. Bring your own chair, please. We will have some tables and canopies for shade. And there will be some fun for the kids on the Tropical Obstacle Course (bounce house)!

# Congregational Life

## Grief Support Group

Join the Spirit of Joy's grief support group at 4:30pm every Thursday. This group is facilitated by SOJ's Befriender Marilyn Gannon. It does not matter where you are in your grief process or how many years it has been, you are welcome to join us. Interested or have Questions? Contact Marilyn Gannon at 605-951-1601 Deacon Hannah [hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.spiritofjoy@gmail.com). All are welcome.

## Women's In-Home Fellowship

In-Home Fellowship: Women of Joy, thanks for a great evening of fellowship at Roam! All WOJ are welcome to our next evening of laughter, fellowship, and caring conversation at 5pm on Monday June 10, 2024. As always, all are welcome! Contact Deb Stapelman for information.

## Presentation: Monday, June 3 at 9:30AM

Rev. Mike Busbey and wife Hellen Rios Carrillo will share their ministry story at SOJ (Shalom Center). Rev. Busbey is the regional representative for Central America and Mexico, and Hellen Rios Carrillo, serves as regional representative for the Caribbean and Gender Justice. They are based in Costa Rica but relate to companion churches and theological institutions throughout the region.

## Moms with a Purpose

We'll be meeting together for coffee and fellowship at different times and at a variety of locations throughout the summer. Are you interested in getting to know some awesome Spirit of Joy moms? Call Jamie Appel (605-360-7930) to be added to the communication list so you know where Moms with a Purpose is meeting. We will resume a set schedule and Bible study in the fall.

**Please Note:** Women's Bible Study will not meet over the summer months. Next Bible Study will be in September.

# Outreach Opportunities



**Necessities for Neighbors | sign up online:**

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

*Sunday, June 2 at Peace Lutheran Church*

We will distribute toilet paper, feminine hygiene supplies, and more! Come help serve our siblings in Christ. There's room for you.



**LSS June Collection**

We are collecting household supplies, new or gently used, for our neighbors at the Lutheran Social Services' Center for New Americans. Pick up the list of items at the Welcome Center or a sticky note in the Gathering Space.



**Candy Packing for All Ages | Thursday, June 6  
beginning at 6PM**

All ages welcome - great family event. We'll also be counting and sorting quarters for Laundry with Love. No sign up needed, just show up!



**Liberia Mission School Supplies**

Thanks for your donations in cash and school supplies for the Liberia mission. Because of your support, Pastor Henrique accomplished the following on 1/3 of the school building during his two-week stay in Liberia: plastering the walls (smooth concrete finishing), windows installed, two bathrooms done, tiling the floors of 4 classrooms and the hallway, distributing school supplies, and filling the yard with 15 loads of red dirt! Because of your generosity, children in the Duazon, Liberia can experience God's love. May God continue to bless our partnership in ministry. Want to go on a mission trip to Liberia next spring for the opening of the school? Talk to Deacon Hannah!



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## 2023-2024 Preschool Year Has Drawn to a Close

Wonderful memories, close friendships, and many learning milestones reached. Twenty-five children were entrusted to our care and became a part of the Spirit of Joy Community. The year was celebrated with preschool friends and families at a yearend program held May 16-17. We shared favorite songs, art, and learning tools/toys.

Looking back, children provided us with a few moments they enjoyed most: playing with blocks & cars, building new friendships, snack time, swings, and my teachers. As a teacher, some of my favorite memories include children singing “Jesus Loves Me”, preschoolers’ invitation to ride along on the van ride home, triumphantly learning new skills- “I did it!” and Chapel times when the children were asked one question and took it away sharing all the wonderful things they know about God such as, “God is always with us, you know.” ; “God loves all people.”; “God protects us and loves us.” The children are listening and learning at all times.

This summer, your preschool continues to reach out to our neighbors. Preparations for Fall 2024 will be a focus. Registrations and tours continue with only four openings currently. Also, watch for a YUMMY fundraiser/marketing project this summer.

Thank you helping this ministry build relationships and nurture faith with these children over the past nine months. Kindly, Amy Cauble



## Van Drivers for Fall 2024

Do you have 30 minutes in the morning or at noon for some extra fun?! Do you enjoy laughing and smiling faces? The preschool ministry is the place for you. We are currently recruiting van drivers for Fall 2024. Sign up for dates and times that work best for you and share the joy. With your help, this service can provide early childhood education to young learners-education that might not be accessible without it. Contact Amy Cauble with questions and for more information.



## Playground & Popsicle Night

New students, returning students and preschool alumni are welcome! Enjoy playground time & popsicles with friends. Come and go as you are able. We would love to see you here.

### SOJ Preschool Playground

July 15 | 6:30-7:30pm

August 6 | 6:30-7:30pm





High School Youth (9th-12th Grade)  
will meet once a month during the Summer

- ◆ **Sunday, June 30** | 7-9pm | Bonfire at Meyer's home (900 W Whispering Circle)  
Treats and fellowship provided - bring a lawn chair
- ◆ **Thursday, July 25** | 4-7pm | Wild Water West, sign up online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)  
Bring money for your drinks. Entrance fee and Pizza provided. Come ready to have fun!
- ◆ **Wednesday, August 14** | 7-9pm | Back2School Bash @ SOJ  
Evening of games, water balloon, treats, food. It's a great time to reconnect after summer.

**NO MATTER WHAT**  
*God Calls Us*

**Family Fun Night**  
Wed., June 5 | 6:30-8:00 PM

- \* Camp-Style Worship \*
- \* Yard Games \*
- \* S'Mores \* Craft \*

**Hear the Story "God Calls Samuel in the Night"**

**SAVE THE DATE: Family Fun Nights Through the Summer**

*Begins at 6:30 PM with Camp Worship*

**Wednesday, July 10: God Blesses Us | Wednesday, August 7: God Helps Us**



Monday  
June 24  
7pm

# FILM & FAITH

Taking our faith to the screen. An exploration of faith in relationship to popular culture. Themes may be mature.

“Ted Lasso” Episode 9  
“All Apologies”

Sign up today at [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net)

## *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](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

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



# Creation Care Corner



***[T]here is nothing that has been created without some reason,  
even if human nature is incapable of knowing  
precisely the reason for them all.***

--John Chrysostom (354?-407), Homilies on Genesis 7.14

Summer, sunshine, baseball, lake time, sunsets, grilling, farmers markets, and gardening – hopefully, you are enjoying the many gifts of this wonderful time of year. As we have discussed in other newsletters, it is estimated that approximately 30-40% of the food supply in the US is wasted (thrown out, gets forgotten in the fridge, etc.), which leads to an increase in methane (a greenhouse gas contributing to climate chaos) as it breaks down in the landfill. We have also discussed in the past how important (and FUN!) it is to compost, which helps to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, **did you know** that you may be throwing really good food away when you cook? Have you thought about **eating root to stem**? Here are some ideas to try:

- \* Broccoli and cauliflower leaves can be cooked to make something similar to kale chips with comparable nutrition. They can also be used in soups, so don't throw them away!
- \* You can chop broccoli stems to make broccoli slaw and/or you can pickle or roast the peeled and sliced broccoli stems.
- \* Did you know the leaves and stems of radishes, beets, and turnips are all edible and nutritious? These can be used in soups as well. You can also substitute carrot top greens for parsley or finely chop and add to bean salads and soups – or even make a carrot top pesto.
- \* **Important note:** One leaf you absolutely **CANNOT** eat is rhubarb leaves as they are **poisonous**. They **can** be put in your compost pile, however, as the oxalic acid will break down quickly in the pile.
- \* If you frequently throw out your kale stems, they can actually be used to make a pesto or they can be grilled, sliced and sauteed or added to soups and stews.
- \* The leaves of many berry plants like strawberries, blackberries, raspberries can be brewed into teas.
- \* The stems of many herbs can be finely chopped and added to a batch of homemade stock.
- \* It's not just pumpkin seeds that can be roasted but other squash seeds – even watermelon seeds!
- \* Speaking of watermelon, did you know you can actually make watermelon rind pickles?!
- \* You actually can leave the skin on your potatoes (regular and sweet) and apples when making mashed potatoes and applesauce or apple crisp, but if that's too much for you, try making roasted oven chips out of the peels as there are so many good nutrients in these.
- \* Kiwi peels are edible, just a little different and fuzzy.
- \* Citrus peels can be candied or the zest can be used, or they can be used in homemade cleaners.
- \* Also, don't forget that you can grow more produce from your produce such as saving the bottom of lettuce or scallions and placing them in dirt to grow a whole new plant. You can grow potatoes and onions from ones that have sprouted as well.

*Thank you for the world so sweet, Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing, Thank you **God** for everything!*

# Odds & Ends



**S H E T E K**  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

\$50 to SoJ.

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



Lunch and Prizes!

The Slayton Country Club

<https://www.slaytoncountry.club>

Support Shetek and have fun!

Monday, June 17, 2024

Depart from SoJ @ 7:00am

Registration & putting contest @ 8:30am

Tee off @ 9am

4 person scramble

**All are welcome!**



**SOJ @ THE  
BIRDCAGE**

**CANARIES  
VS  
COUGARS**

Friday, June 28 | 7:05 pm | Tickets: \$15

**Get your tickets now!**  
available at Church

