

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

Your Leadership Team met in retreat on Saturday, February 10. They got to know each other, how we function as an organization, and took a close look at our greatest challenges and opportunities. Your staff joined them to help us think about who we are and where the Holy Spirit is calling us. That time together led to three concrete goals for 2024.

Leadership Goals for 2024

1. Remain True to Ourselves

As a congregation we have affirmed our commitment to our values and key statements over and over again. With all our staff transition and the continued growth of our congregation, it is crucial that as leaders we hold those values with both strength and purpose. Our first commitment for 2024 is to continue to lift up what we believe it means to live in "The Jesus Way" in accordance with our 5 Core Values.

2. Targeted Marketing, Evangelism, & Programming

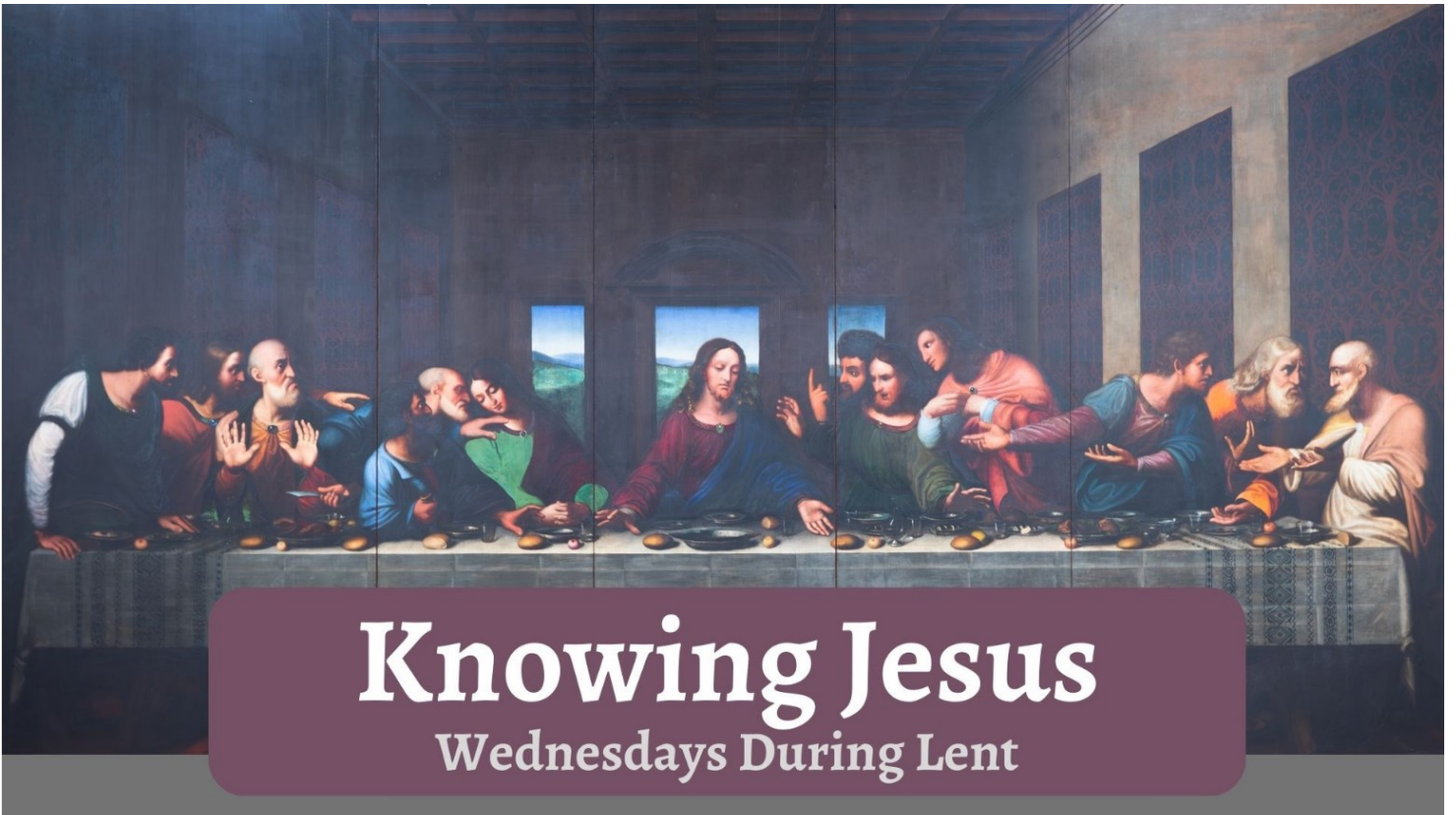
Spirit of Joy has grown nearly 20% since 2020. Coming out of the pandemic the energy for a new way of being church was high and the Holy Spirit blessed us. We've grown in every measure. One of my favorite places of growth is in families with students in Little Lambs. Fall of 2022 we had one family with a student in that demographic. We now have more than a dozen. And still, that is the place where we notice our biggest opportunity... in young families. In 2024 and beyond we are going to take active steps to help our young families grow in their faith and to invite others to join them.

3. Financial Transparency, Literacy, and Stability

We are in the midst of a tremendous opportunity for stewardship education and community buy-in to our mission and ministry. As you'll see again in this newsletter, we have carried a significant budget deficit for years and its time for us to change that. The good news is that small changes in giving can make that deficit disappear and continue to support goals #1 and #2 for the year. Just a \$12/week increase per giving unit will repay our internal indebtedness and fully fund our all programming and benevolence.

~ Pr. Eric Ohrtman





Knowing Jesus

Wednesdays During Lent

Each week of Lent we will read an interaction of Jesus with a different disciple. The first week we'll explore those first calls for disciples through the lens of Philip and Nathanael. Then, in the second week, we'll give thanks for the unexpected call of Matthew, the tax collector. From there we'll hear again the story of Peter, James, and John, awed by the appearance of Moses and Elijah as Jesus was transfigured before them. The fourth week of Lent we'll wonder what it means to be a friend of Jesus in light of the beloved disciple leaning against him to ask who would betray Jesus. And, finally, at our final gathering we'll ask ourselves for honesty as we consider how we betray Jesus in light of Judas' betrayal.

Grounded by space for deep breaths and comforting silence, each week will feature the scripture reading, a brief reflection, a question for personal reflection, and a number of hands-on faith practices, including Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday (6:30 March 28), it will all come together as the Spirit of Joy Choir joins a company of our partners to embody the story of that last night among friends we call, The Last Supper. We'll celebrate our first communion milestone and remember the command to love one another as Jesus first loved us.

Join Us

Wednesdays, February 21 - March 20
Meal 5:30 | Worship 6:30

LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW

"WHEREVER THE RIVER FLOWS, LIFE WILL FLOURISH. WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS, LIFE ABOUNDS." -EZEKIEL 47:8-9

\$120K DEFICIT & \$37K OPERATIONAL DEBT

*The budget approved for 2024 is at \$120k deficit.
We finished 2023 with \$37k of internal operation debt.
\$12/wk increase per giving unit will balance our budget.
*We have been outspending income since Jan. '21



STAFF

Fully staffed for first time since 2019.
12 people. 13 positions
Planning for growth includes high school faith formation, sound tech, and visitation pastor.

404 FAMILIES

1100 partners. More than 300 active families.
273 families gave of record in 2023.
Average giving to the General Fund is \$2550 per family.
In 2023, 38 families gave more than \$5k, 9 gave more than \$10k



OUTREACH

Spirit of Joy is a leader among SD Lutheran Churches.
A double tithe. 10% to SD Synod. 10% Mission Partners.
In 2023 we did not meet that commitment.
Bold Service on & off-campus expands our generosity.

Goal: Fully Fund Mission. Pay Off Operational Debt.

The need for change is urgent. Leadership Team hopes to see trends reverse before the end of the 2nd quarter of FY2024. Success will mean a \$50k increase in giving across each quarters 2-4 of FY2024. If you can join us in making a change, please visit spiritofjoy.net/give or contact the office at (605) 333-2004.

TRANSPARENCY



LITERACY



STABILITY

Congregational Life

Grief Support Group

Grief is not a disease; it is a natural response to a painful experience and there is no quick fix for what you are feeling. As your church, we want to offer you support, help strengthen, and encourage you on your grief journey. No matter where you are in your grief process or how many years it has been, you are welcome to join us. This will be an open group. Bring a friend/family. Start date **TBD**. Please continue to check your bulletin for the start date. Sign up online to help us plan better for materials.

Social Justice: Ageism | Tuesday, March 12 | 9:30 AM

sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Age is just a number. Whether it is the belief that age begets wisdom or that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, many are misinformed about what human aging entails. Our culturally accepted practices often supersede the facts about people aging gracefully. Join us for an interactive, TED-talk session led by Dr. Lucas Hamilton, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Augustana University.

Pineridge Immersion Ministry | June 9-13

Spirit of Joy partners are invited to sign up for the Pineridge Immersion Ministry trip. The cost of the trip is \$200/person, which includes transportation, food, and immersion experience fees. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by April 2. There is room for 15 people. For more information and to sign up, check out the website at spiritofjoy.net/signups.

Joyful Bingo | Sunday, March 17 | 1:30pm-3:30 PM

Joyful Bingo for the Gathering is on St Patrick's Day! Bring the entire family (young and old) friends, children, grandchildren. Treats and beverages will be served. A freewill offering will be taken to support our youth's trip to the 2024 ELCA youth gathering to New Orleans in July. Come ready to have fun, fellowship, donate, prizes, and enjoy each other's company.

Books that Matter | Discussion: Monday 4/22 | 5 PM

This month we're reading "Following Jesus in a Warming World". Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups. \$15/copy available at SoJ or major retailers.

Sunday Forum | Sundays at 10:00 AM in Galilee

First two Sundays in March, we'll discuss the Lenten texts. Join us on March 17 in the Shalom Center for the LSS Refugee Ministry presentation. Bring your treats and coffee and join the study time. All are welcome.

Outreach Opportunities

FOOD TO YOU

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH
235 N PRAIRIE AVE

Sign up: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Laundry with Love Quarter Drive

Children of Joy is collecting quarters for Laundry with Love through Palm Sunday, March 24. Twice a month, Church on the Street provides three free loads of laundry to anyone in need. You can collect quarters in the little plastic containers (available to pick up at the church) or simply put them in the children's offering jar on a Sunday morning. If you don't have a child in PreK-5th grade, we invite you to find a child in the congregation to gift your quarters to for placement in the blue jar.





Join us for Fellowship & Learning

Wednesdays 7-8pm | Youth Room

**** Bring a Friend ****

March Schedule

March 6 - 11th Grade Milestone: Money Matters

March 13 - Fellowship/Service Project

March 20 - Easter Egg Candy Packing

March 27 - God With Us



MARCH 24  **APRIL 7**

**HELP US ORGANIZE
OUR RECORDS**

- What's your middle name?
- Do you know your baptism date?
- Is your Household information Up to Date?
- Do we have your best contact information?
- Do you have a picture in the Online Directory?



WANT TO TRY A NEW TEAM?

photographer
available 

READING TEAM | COMMUNION TEAM | GREETING TEAM | SOUND BOARD TEAM



Creation Care Corner



Grace and peace to you from the Creation Care Team as we travel through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday to go out into the world as Easter people – Amen.

Hope and **newness** are among some of the takeaways of Easter. Could we all take some time to make old things new or to try new things with respect to the world around us?

Did you know it takes around 66 days to start a new habit? There are many factors that play into this and there is a range of 18-254 days as a result. What can we take away from this? Give yourself some grace (God does) when making changes in your life patterns, especially anything tied to motor memory.

Can we start bringing our own bags when we go grocery shopping or even clothing shopping? Keep this easier on yourself by keeping some bags in your car or keep the bags in the garage near your car. You also can roll some up and keep them in your suitcase or other bags when you travel. This will be a good habit to get into as many cities and states are beginning to ban plastic bags already.

Could we work on bringing our own cups to coffee shops? Could we be more consistent making our own coffee and using a travel cup? If we use a Keurig, can we make coffee in a reusable K cup? Can we drink water from reusable cups and stop using throw-away plastic bottles? Could we keep stainless steel straws in our cars or purses or just drink out of the cup and bypass the straw altogether? Can we bring our own containers to a restaurant if we know we will have leftovers and avoid using their plastic-coated (and toxic) packaging?

Can we test drive an electric vehicle? Can we make this the year we carpool more? Could we switch from a gas stove to an electric or induction one? Could we air dry some of our clothes? Maybe we can try a new detergent that doesn't come in a plastic bottle? Could we try the same thing with our dishwasher detergent? Can we try more reusable/refillable products to reduce waste in the first place? Maybe we could start using reusable snack, sandwich or larger-sized food storage bags.

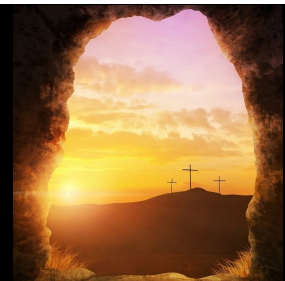
Can we try composting? (Remember, we do have a drop-off site here for SoDak Compost.) Can we make sure we eat our leftovers? Can we search for things to make using ingredients we already have in our fridge or pantries before running to the store/eating out/using Door Dash?

Could we stop contributing to fast fashion and clothing waste by buying fewer new clothes and wearing them longer? This one is really hard as shopping is fun! So, remember to give yourself grace and maybe try buying one thing from a thrift store or an online thrift store. Try hosting a clothes-swapping party if you are in need of a "new" fix. Take a fresh look at your closet and play around with different looks. Have a favorite pair of Birkenstocks that you want refurbished? Check out ibirks.com. Sad about some damaged furniture? Have it recovered. Bored with your job? Learn to become a tailor, cobbler, or a furniture upholsterer – there is a shortage of skilled people in these areas yet they are in high demand.

Could you commit to reading one book about climate change, listen to a podcast, or read an article written by a climate scientist? What new habit will you make first? This is just a short list. Remember, it can be overwhelming and daunting so start small and give yourself time.

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17





Spirit of Joy Preschool

Fall 2024 Preschool Registration Open Hurry - it's filling up quickly!

All are welcome to join Spirit of Joy Preschool. We love to meet new friends...share news of your preschool with friends and neighbors. Tours are available and can be scheduled with Miss Amy anytime. Or take home a brochure from the Kiosk and pass it on.

Children ages 3-5 by September 1st, 2024 are able to register.

Registration Numbers to date:

3 years old class (2 days/week) = 3 openings

4,5 years old class (3-4 days/week) = 4 openings

So Many Reasons to Celebrate

First Step Preschool Milestone with preschool friends & family!



The preschool team partnered with the Growth Team & Miss Marnie to explore new Bibles for all the preschool children- the same Bible used in Preschool Chapel time. Together we read a story, personalized our Bibles with names and handprints, and discovered the features of the Bible. Children created a special bag to carry their Bibles as well. Afterwards we were able to enjoy lunch together!

A fun, intergenerational day of learning and community!



Staff Feature

Each month we will introduce you to a different facet of our mission and ministry. We hope that you'll get to know the people involved, their role at Spirit of Joy, and how you can join them in making our ministry stronger!

Spirit of Joy Preschool

SoJ Preschool is a Christian Preschool and ministry of Spirit of Joy. We serve children ages 3-5 years old by welcoming them into a caring, faith-based community that nurtures their academic, spiritual, and social growth. Currently, the preschool provides three different classes based on age. Children are able to attend two, three or four times per week.

Amy Cauble, Director of Preschool & Teacher

Amy works closely with the Preschool Advisory Team to provide a preschool program that is welcoming, educationally sound, faith-based, safe, and fiscally responsible. She is the point of contact for new student inquiries, tours, and registration recruitment. Amy determines educational scope and writes program curriculum based on SD Early Childhood Guidelines while integrating faith throughout daily activities. Amy also teaches five times per week during the school year while also working on program development, educational curriculum, and community building opportunities within the congregation and with our neighbors.



Kendra Namanny & Jamie Appel Preschool Assistant Teachers

Jamie and Kendra work closely with Amy to assist with learning activities implementation, program safety and relationship building in the preschool community. Jamie assists in the classroom two mornings per week during the school year as well as flexing time as needed. Kendra assists in the classroom three mornings per week during the school year and also offers flex time as needed. Jamie and Kendra bring years of teaching experience and accomplishments. Their gifts of teaching, hospitality and encouragement help provide a rich learning environment for all learners.



YAGM News



Me and Rose connect during a September 2nd meeting of the Dakar Hash House Harriers.

Christmas greetings

And a prayer request

----- CARL NORQUIST

It is hard to be away from family during the holidays, so I want to thank everyone who reached out and sent their Christmas greetings. It was a special pleasure to receive a Christmas card from my pastors, David and Lorna Halaas. Sending mail to Senegal is

tedious and unreliable so getting an actual card means a lot. I also got some lovely Christmas messages from my parents, grandmother, aunts, and uncles. Small acknowledgements go a long way toward alleviating any loneliness I might feel.

A few people have asked about mail. If you are feeling motivated, you can attempt to send packages and letters to the following address. Understand it takes over a month for mail to arrive and it is easily lost when it reaches the continent. Attempt at your own risk

Carl Norquist
c/o Rev. Mytch Dorvillier
Église Luthérienne
Hann Mariste 2
Lot S 74/75
Dakar Senegal
West Africa

I also want to recognize a dear friend who recently moved to Canada. I met Rose in September during my first month in Senegal. Our supervisor took us to participate in the Dakar chapter

of the Hash House Harriers (a local running club). Rose and I hit it off quickly and we exchanged numbers at the end of the night. We continued to maintain a close correspondence in the months that followed. She even made a brief visit to Yeumbeul. Rose's friendship served as a valuable source of stability as I adjusted to my new home.

Now our positions are reversed. Rose is the one adapting to a new country. In January she moved to Canada to study for her doctorate in literature at the University of Quebec at Rimouski. Getting her visa was a struggle and she worked hard to get there. Please pray for Rose as she adjusts to her new home. (and the snow)

[Young Adults in Global Mission: Carl Norquist - YAGM \(elca.org\)](#)



Monday
March 18
7pm

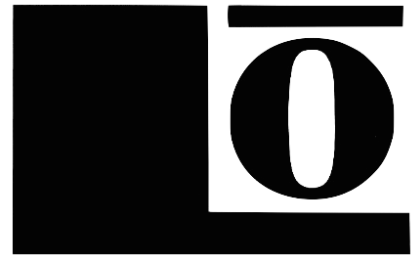
FILM & FAITH

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

“Ted Lasso” Episode 1

Sign up today at spiritofjoy.net

Adult Travel Opportunities with Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota



2024 SPRING BREAK! April 23-25, 2024

Let's go on our own version of a Spring Break to Minneapolis.

Enjoy all of the following fun: SPAM Museum, **The Lion King** at the Orpheum Theatre, a tour of Luther Seminary, a visit to the Minnesota Zoo, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre production of **Beautiful: The Carole King Musical**, Minneapolis Sculpture Gardens, Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago White Sox at Target Field. Coach transportation with Reading Bus Lines. Lodging at the Hyatt Regency in Bloomington, MN. And lots of BUS FUN! \$749.00 / person / double occupancy

I Want to Be a Yooper! (Upper Peninsula of Michigan)

September 9-14, 2024

A six day experience to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan!

We will enjoy a tour of Lambeau Field, a ferry ride across Lake Michigan, an afternoon on Mackinac Island, a visit to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, a visit to the International Dark Sky Park, plus much more still to be announced.

SMOKY MOUNTAINS and DOLLYWOOD! October 14-23, 2024

Join us as we travel to Tennessee to visit the beautiful Smoky Mountains and Dollywood. Also a stop in Nashville for a trip to the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Plus much more.

Christmas in Branson November 18-22, 2024

Enjoy a fantastic week in Branson enjoying the following: Country Evolution Starring Dalena Ditto, Dolly Parton's Stampede, Elvis - Story of a King, Christmas Wonderland, Dutton Family Christmas, Yakov Smirnoff, Where Jesus Walked, Miracle of Christmas, College of the Ozarks, plus much, much more!

Please go to the LO website (www.losd.org) for more information.

Call Gayle to register at 605-274-5326.



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Sioux Falls, SD

Permit No. 7771

Return Service Requested

Holy Week Schedule

March 24 - 31

Palm Sunday 8:45 & 11:00am

Maundy Thursday 6:30pm

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross
Tours begin at 6:00pm - sign up online

Easter Sunday 7:00, 8:45 & 11:00am

