

# WIND SWEPT

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## Monthly Newsletter

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May 2024

**For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:**

**a time to be born and a time to die;**

**a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

**a time to kill and a time to heal;**

**a time to break down and a time to build up;**

**a time to weep and a time to laugh;**

**a time to mourn and a time to dance;**

**a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;**

**a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;**

**a time to seek and a time to lose;**

**a time to keep and a time to throw away;**

**a time to tear and a time to sew;**

**a time to keep silent and a time to speak;**

**a time to love and a time to hate;**

**a time for war and a time for peace.**

**T**hese well-known words from Ecclesiastes 3 came to mind as I began to look at the calendar for May and June. It's a season of transitions. The weather is changing, and summer is settling in. The school year is ending, students and parents are preparing for a different rhythm. Graduates are marking the end of a journey and with it (at least for me this is true!) parents are looking both forward and backward. Still others are returning home from winter homes and distant schools. It's a lot and it weighs on each of us in different ways. And, like Ecclesiastes, each experience brings with it a mix of emotions.

With the joy of accomplishment comes the nostalgia of time having gone too fast. Amidst the celebration of mothers and the blessings they bring we grieve alongside those who have complicated and challenging relationships with their mothers, have lost their mothers, or who desired to be mothers but could not. As our friends, neighbors, and children

return we rejoice in their presence and wrestle with the changes it brings.

As people of God, Solomon asks us to put our trust in God's constancy in moments such as this. As Lutheran Christians at Spirit of Joy, we seek to acknowledge life's paradoxes and tensions. This month we will hold the fullness of our experiences and emotions as we come to the end of our Program Year (May 1 and 5 are our last days), our Graduation Milestone (Sunday, May 5), Mother's Day (Sunday, May 12), the end of the Preschool Year (Program is May 16 and 17), and turn to our summer worship schedule (10:00 worship on May 26 and June 2).

Whatever season of life you are experiencing, Spirit of Joy is praying for you and has a space where you can bring the fullness of who you are and what you're experiencing. Join us as we walk together through this season of transition, trusting in the promise of God's presence.



# 2024 Proposed Income

General Fund: \$827,000  
Building Fund(Overflowing Campaign): \$220,000  
Preschool Income: \$51,678

## 4 Funds

General Fund  
Building Fund  
Mission Endowment Fund  
Dedicated Savings

## 6 ways to give

In Person  
Digital: Tithely or SimplyGiving  
Asset Transfer  
Billpay  
Charitable Distribution  
Thrivent Choice

### AVERAGE PER UNIT:

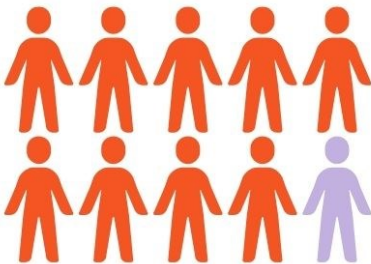
# \$4,074

Inclusive of giving to all four Spirit of Joy Funds.

### GIVING BACK:

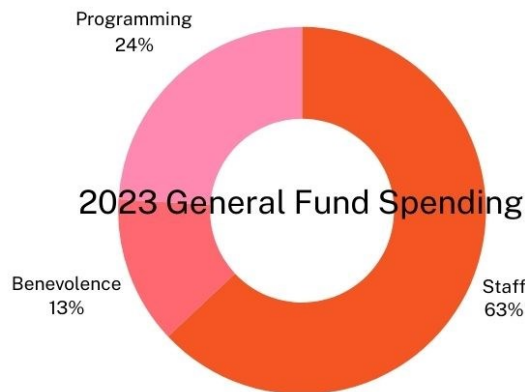
# \$116,000

Was given in Benevolence and Scholarships to Ministry Partners in 2023.



# 9 OUT OF 10

Spirit of Joy Families give regularly to the Spirit of Joy General Fund.



## TRANSPARENCY

Spirit of Joy provides monthly financial overviews in the newsletter, quarterly video updates, a Fall Budget Worksheet and Transparency Meeting, a summer Town Hall update, and a complete Annual Report.

Thank you for all the ways you practice Extravagant Generosity!

# SUMMER *Worship*

**MAY 26-SEPT 1**

**SUNDAYS**

**8:30 & 10:00**

**MAY 26 AND JUNE 2  
10:00 ONLY!**

**Wednesday**

**6:30pm**

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

Join us for a 13-week grief recovery support (May 2-July 25), facilitated by 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. Sign up online to help us plan better. All are welcome. Begins Thursday, May 2, 4:30PM

## Women's Bible Study | Thursday Mornings at 9AM

We are exploring the multiple ways in which God calls us and the limitless opportunities offered for us to reflect on our calling! All are welcome.

## Social Justice Series Meets Twice in May

- **Tuesday, May 7 at 9:30AM: Domestic Violence**

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in every 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner violence. Join us for a discussion with Amy Carter, Program Director of Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety. Sign up at [www.spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://www.spiritofjoy.net/signups).

- **Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30PM: LBGTQIA2S+**

The South Dakota Synod Open Door Team to lead us in our final social justice series for this program year. The focus of the session will be learning about LBGTQIA2S+ siblings in God's family and ways to understand, accompany, and welcome them in our congregation. Pastor Karen Soli, Spirit of Joy partner, chairs this team and will be on hand with other team members for the presentation. Bring your passions. Bring your questions. Bring your doubts. All are welcome - no sign up needed.

## Guatemala Experience | Sunday, May 19 at 10AM

Bob and Arlene Jensen, Dave and Judy Kupka, and Deacon Hannah will share their Guatemala immersion stories in the Shalom Center. All are welcome.

## Women's In-Home Fellowship

Dinner at Roam on Monday, May 13, 5PM. Contact Deb Stapelman for more information. All are welcome!

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

Rev. Mike Busbey and wife Hellen Rios Carrillo - "Rev. Mike Busbey is the regional representative for Central America and Mexico, and his wife, 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.

# BREW ED THE OLOGY

## HOLY LAND

Trying to Understand  
People & Place

Monday, May 20 | 7 PM  
Severance Brewing Company  
701 N Phillips Ave

Find pre-reading materials online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



## HYMN Round 1 MADNESS

16 Hymns from the ELW

**Voting begins 5/25**

Check social media to vote on your  
favorite every day for one week.

The 8 winning hymns will be  
the music on Sunday, June 2

**Stay tuned for ROUND 2**

*Which hymn do you think will be SoJ's favorite for 2024?*





# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Spirit of Joy Preschool Celebrates Seven Years

It is filled with joyful memories, a little sadness to say good-bye and excitement as summer begins. We are filled with gratitude for the many moments we have shared together. A few high points from the year:

- 1. Over thirty weekly Chapel time meetings sharing our faith through Bible stories, songs, prayers and blessings. Thank you to SOJ Staff for guiding us in this time together.**
- 2. Twenty-five students attending preschool in a caring community- building relationships, developing a solid educational foundation, and nurturing faith. Students attend from several surrounding communities in addition to Spirit of Joy partners. At the end of each day children linger, playing just a little longer, sharing hugs and saying sweet goodbyes to friends across the classroom while parents patiently wait at the door.**
- 3. New Van! It is our second year offering transportation to families. The new van has provided support for six preschool families that might not otherwise attend. We have more families requesting rides and need your help. Please contact Amy to learn how you can help.**
- 4. Amazing staff and volunteers- a special thank you to the staff, preschool team and weekly volunteers who have created a wonderful experience and environment- Kendra Namanny, Jamie Appel, Bob Jenson, Rod Domke, Gary DeBoom, Suzanne DeBoom, Pastor Eric, Deacon Hannah, Heather Wald, Marnie Dahle-Backer, Michele Vogel, Eric Gohl, Derris Kunkel, Amy Orr, Liz Lynch, Roxanne Patzlaff, Andrea Larsen, Danielle Mourer, Andrew Hewitt, Emily Karels, Alyssa Domke.**
- 5. Music, Mocha & Masterpieces Fundraiser October 2023**  
**An intergenerational event incorporating the talents of this community all to support your preschool. What a lovely evening filled with music, art, food, joy and kindness- thank you!**
- 6. Partnering with Hope Coalition of Sioux Falls for a second year.**  
**Spirit of Joy Preschool assists with the mission of Hope Coalition to provide Early Childhood Education for all children in the Sioux Falls area. This partnership has provided wonderful relationships as we work and learn together. Gratefully, we will join forces again in the 2024-25 school year.**
- 7. We look forward with excitement...**  
**Registration for Fall 2024 is open- we have just a handful of openings left!**  
**We are already scheduling events, researching materials, providing tours, and building new relationships.**  
**We want to be prepared!**

Thank you for sharing your time and support with the preschool- many people are blessed by your gifts.

# Preschool Referrals

When choosing a preschool for your child, connections help. Please feel free to share SOJ Preschool with your friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Pick up a brochure in the Gathering Space and share it. Encourage them to call for a tour. Or provide the link to the church webpage & watch the joyful video of our preschool days!





**Thank you,** Paul Creviston, parents, and youth, for presenting and participating in the high school youth internet safety awareness night. Thanks to our youth ministry team and youth group for baking delicious cookies for our elderly partners!

## 2024 Graduation Milestone | Sunday, May 5 during 11:00 worship

All our high school seniors and their families are invited to the annual graduation milestone celebration. We want to honor your achievements with blessings and gifts as you transition from high school to a new journey of life.

## High School Confirmation Orientation

All Current 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Orientation on Wednesday, May 1 at 8PM in Shalom.



## New Grief Resource in SOJ Library

Sponsored by BeFrienders

Are you trying to understand your grief journey? Do you wonder why your emotions are still right at the surface after months have passed? This four-part series of booklets written with easy-to-understand straight talk may be a good resource to help you understand where you are in the grief journey and to realize that wherever you are is okay and normal. *“Journeys Through Grief”* by Kenneth Haugk leads you through the grief journey and is now available in the SOJ library. A great resource. Check out one booklet at a time and live with it awhile.

- Booklet one – ***A Time to Grieve*** describes the beginnings of the grief journey including: The shock of the loss, the pressure to be strong, and taking care of yourself. A great start to understanding yourself in this journey.
- Booklet Two – ***Experiencing Grief*** – Continues to guide you in your grief by with articles including: You Cannot *Not* Grieve, Let Your feelings flow, A good Cry, and Secondary losses. This is a good follow-up to Booklet One.
- Booklet Three – ***Finding Hope and Healing*** – faces concerns about how long grief lasts; talking is healing, dealing with anger, and more.
- Book Four – ***Rebuilding and Remembering*** – looks at permission to grieve-again, The first and second anniversaries, rebuilding your life, and more.



Remember, wherever you are in your grief journey, a BeFriender is available to help you through the journey. Note Booklet Three which explains that “talking is healing.”




# Outreach Opportunities

## Necessities for Neighbors Collection

For the month of May, we'll collect Feminine Hygiene Products. Help us to have some fun with our staff and leadership!

### When we collect:

-  **250 packages:** staff will sing the "Hippo" song (complete with actions) in worship
- 500 packages:** Deacon Hannah gets a pie to the face at our June 2nd Congregation Potluck
- 1,000 packages:** Pastor Eric gets his head shaved at our June 2nd Congregation Potluck

Donations can be brought anytime prior to worship on June 2nd. SoJ serves Necessities for Neighbors on Sunday, June 2nd. Sign up to make a difference at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups).



*Thank You!*

Thanks for your donations in cash and school supplies for the Liberia mission. Your generosity will make a difference in the Duazon community in Liberia.



Spirit of Joy

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

## \$10,000 MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

From now until the end of the year, any donations made to the Mission Endowment Fund will be matched by an anonymous donor, doubling the impact up to \$10,000.



Help us celebrate

**Pentecost Sunday - May 19**

**Wear Red to Church**

**Fill the space with Red Flowers**

*Sign up online for a plant at \$10/each and take it home with you after 11:00 worship (Order by Monday 5/13).*

*All were filled with the Holy Spirit*  
Acts 2:4



# Creation Care Corner



Grace and peace to you in this month of May, where we turn our attention towards spring and summer. Let us explore **mitigation** and **adaptation** together.

**Mitigation** refers to actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions thereby limiting the amount of warming our planet will undergo. Therefore, *mitigation addresses the causes* of climate change. **Adaptation** involves actions to adjust to current and future effects of climate change. Thus, *adaptation involves tackling the impacts* of climate change.

Large-scale mitigation efforts include:

- Practicing energy efficiency (i.e., city/county using energy efficiency building standards and enacting retrofit programs for existing public buildings)
- Increasing usage of renewable energy
- Electrifying industrial processes
- Promoting electric public transit as well as encouraging biking, ride sharing, and encouraging walkability in shopping areas
- Utilizing carbon taxes and emissions markets

Large-scale adaptation measures include (vary by location):

- Having more secure facility locations and infrastructures in place
- Restoring natural landscapes and implementing reforestation
- Utilizing flexible and diverse crop plantings to be prepared for natural catastrophes
- Researching possible catastrophic scenarios and developing action plans in response

**You can help** by staying “in the know” on public policies related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electrification. You can advocate for others through Earthjustice, the American Lung Association, the World Wildlife Federation, and The Nature Conservancy, among others.

**You can help** by doing some of the following as we move into spring/summer:

- Turn your thermostat up or down 1-2 degrees (try 68 in winter when home, 65 while sleeping, and lower when away and try 74-75 for a/c – use your blinds/curtains and trees for shade to help decrease the heat)
- **Switch to an electric lawnmower and leaf blower**
- Let your grass grow a little longer, anywhere from 2 inches to 3.5 inches, as this will:
- Keep the soil cooler and allow moisture to remain longer so it will not dry out as quickly
- Allow for deeper root development, which will sustain it through hot stretches
- Create more shade making it harder for weed seeds to sprout
- **Follow the city ordinance for watering and realize you do not need to water your lawn everyday**
- Plant nectar- and pollen-rich flowers to attract beneficial insects and pollinators
- **Use organic methods for lawns and gardens (avoid pesticides as much as possible)**
- Shop your local farmers’ markets and/or food coops, grow more of your own food, or get a membership to a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) - check out [localharvest.org/csa](http://localharvest.org/csa)

**Revelation 4:11** “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

# Odds & Ends

## Spirit Volunteerism Awards

Pastor Lil Johnston nominated in 2024. Pastor Chris Madsen (Church on the Street) wrote the following paragraph.

Pastor Lil is a full-time volunteer who gets the things folks need, including everything from shoes to beds and pallets of food. She even stores towers of totes in the storage unit she rents. She is always willing to help in the office, at Laundry with Love, during worship, and at special events; often organizing others to help from her home congregation, Spirit of Joy. No job is too big or small for Pastor Lil.



**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!**