

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

May 2025

I struggle with finding space (literally and figuratively) to share all of the amazing work that you are doing as Spirit of Joy. We get tucked in our little corners of the congregation and miss out on so much! So, a quick list of just a few things:

- After an extended bid process, our new lawn service is Quiet Lawn, an all electric company. It supported good financial stewardship and good creation care.
- The Program year for children and youth closes April 30 and May 4 (Graduate recognition).
- The Call Committee is continuing its work (see inside) and the Ministry Site Study is May 18.
- May 19 is the end of year program for the preschool. As it grows, we've discerned the need for a new, larger van and will be asking for your support.
- Woodworking relationship with Hope Haven International continues with a new record day of more than 1000 completed pieces in April.
- Bold Service agreed to nine (9) Featured Ministry Partners. They are St. Dysmas Prison Congregation, The Banquet, Lutheran Camps (LOSD and Shetek), Companion Synods, Charis Ministries, Church on the Street, LSS, Liberia Mission and Bridges at Horace Mann. I'll be asking Bold Service to create an annual review process leading into our budget process so that you'll have a chance to participate in the process of determining those relationships.
- The Women's Bible Study on Thursdays at 9am is reading "Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved" while studying "surprising" texts from the Bible in May. Next fall we'll do a word study on "Love" in the Bible.
- May 18 will be Creation Care Sunday with pieces incorporated in worship and a special blessing of the gardens.
- This summer's sermon series is "Journey to Jerusalem". We'll focus on Luke 9:51-19:44. And, we'll ask you to count your steps and submit them as together we cover the 6409 miles from SoJ to Jerusalem.
- In August, we will launch "The Bible in a Year". It's a chance for you to take on something big! Join a small group that meets monthly for support. Participate in "Bible 101", Old Testament in the fall, New in the spring.
- Summer of 2026 we're taking the high school youth houseboating, and we're investigating adult/intergenerational travel opportunities with Sharing the Dream in Guatemala and Lutherans Outdoors in SD.
- This is just scratching the surface. Look inside, on our website, social media, Sunday bulletins, in the app, and in your mailbox for more!



Eric E. O'Connell

Zoom Opportunity Available for all SoJ Partners

Sponsored by BeFriender Ministry: Watch from your living room



What: Connecting with Dementia

When: Tuesday, May 20 – 6:30-8:00 pm

What: Presentation on Zoom by a recognized leader in dementia care

Register: Sunday May 4 & May 11 in person - Deadline is May 15.

Cost: \$20 (Make checks payable to Spirit of Joy – “Befriender” on memo line)

A Listening Presence

Whether you know someone with dementia, have a loved one experiencing dementia or have a desire to learn about the topic, this session is for you! Amy House, a recognized leader in dementia care and education will be our presenter. A zoom connection will be sent to you via email.

- Understand the unique communication needs of individuals with dementia
- Discover the feelings they are conveying when words no longer make sense
- Create meaningful dialogues that promote a sense of belonging and well being

SURVIVING THE LOSS OF A SPOUSE

GriefShare Sessions

Thursday, May 15 - 9:30AM

Thursday, May 22 - 7:00PM

Come to either or both
2-hour sessions.

Facilitated by Marilyn Gannon

All are welcome

sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups



Support SoJ Ministry Partners

LSS Warm Welcomes: The greeter program for LSS would welcome your participation. Training is scheduled to start April 24 and 26, with regular dates available after. Contact Paul Johnston if you'd like to participate in helping our neighbors feel safe at the Center for New Americans and Multicultural Center.

Worship with Pueblo de Dios: Sign up online to join us at 12:30 on Sunday, May 18 as we worship with our friends and neighbors at Pueblo.

Necessities for Neighbors: In the month of May, we will be collecting diapers for our June 1st distribution at Peace Lutheran (sign up begins May 15). It's cat people versus dog people. Choose your pile carefully!

South Dakota Synod Assembly and ELCA Churchwide Assembly



SD Synod Assembly

Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls
Friday & Saturday, May 30 & 31

Assembly Delegates are Jim and Sue McAdaragh and Trentin and Rory Moeller. It is a Bishop election year. Please pray for our delegates and all those pastors discerning call to the office of bishop.

Livestream is available here: <https://sdsynod.org/rostered-ministers/assembly/>

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Phoenix, AZ | July 28-August 2



It is an election year for both Presiding Bishop and Secretary. You can learn more about Churchwide Assembly here: <https://www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly>

SEEKING A SECOND PASTOR

Strengths:

- **Spiritually Rich Worship:** Members consistently affirm that worship experiences nurture their faith and reflect core values.
- **Youth Formation Support:** There's strong affirmation for youth programming, especially from those involved, though leadership engagement still has room to grow.
- **Meaningful Community Identity:** Spirit of Joy is seen as impactful and welcoming, with a strong internal culture of care.

Weaknesses:

- **Limited Neighborhood Insight:** There's a desire to be more informed and strategic about local demographics and outreach.
- **Financial Transparency & Stewardship Clarity:** Some partners are unsure of budget strategy, financial sustainability, or how stewardship is practiced year-round.
- **Conflict Resolution Confidence:** While valued in theory, not all members are confident about handling conflict well in practice.

Opportunities:

- **Engaging Young Adults & Families:** Deepen outreach through updated ministry models and more relevant engagement for younger demographics.
- **Ongoing Stewardship Practices:** Move beyond seasonal giving to foster a culture of year-round generosity and clarity.
- **Build Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborate with community orgs or nearby congregations to enhance diversity, outreach, and support.

Threats:

- **Complacency Risk:** Satisfaction with the current size and model could limit openness to necessary change.
- **Avoidance of Discomfort:** Resistance to tension, conflict, or hard conversations may hinder adaptive growth.
- **Vision Gaps:** Lack of shared clarity around long-term goals—financial, spatial, and strategic—may lead to stagnation or confusion.

Ministry Site Study

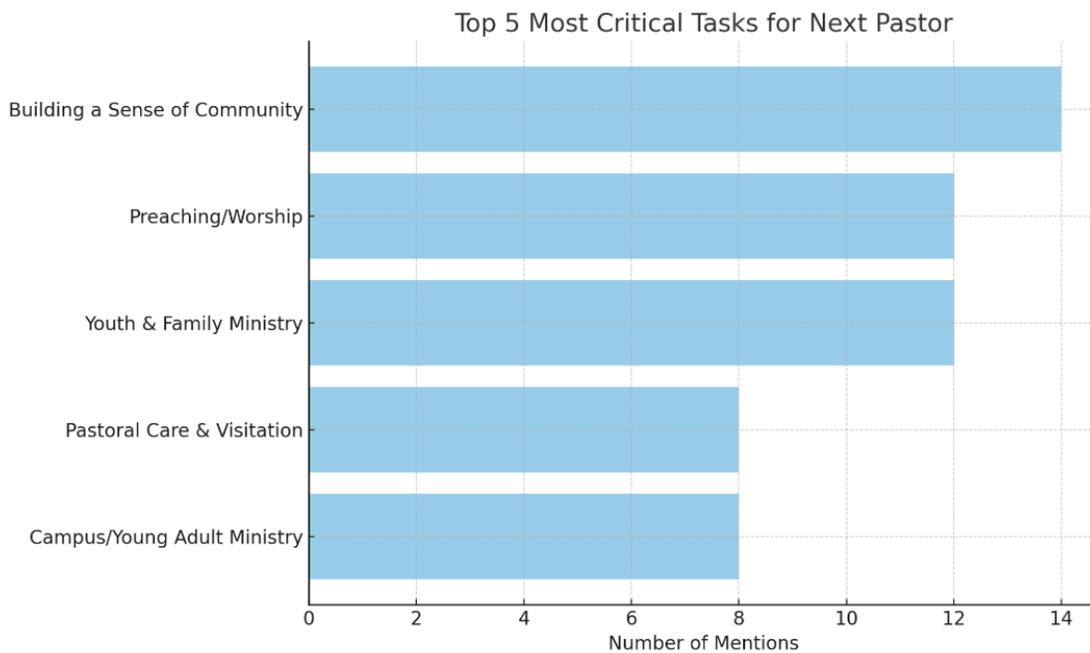
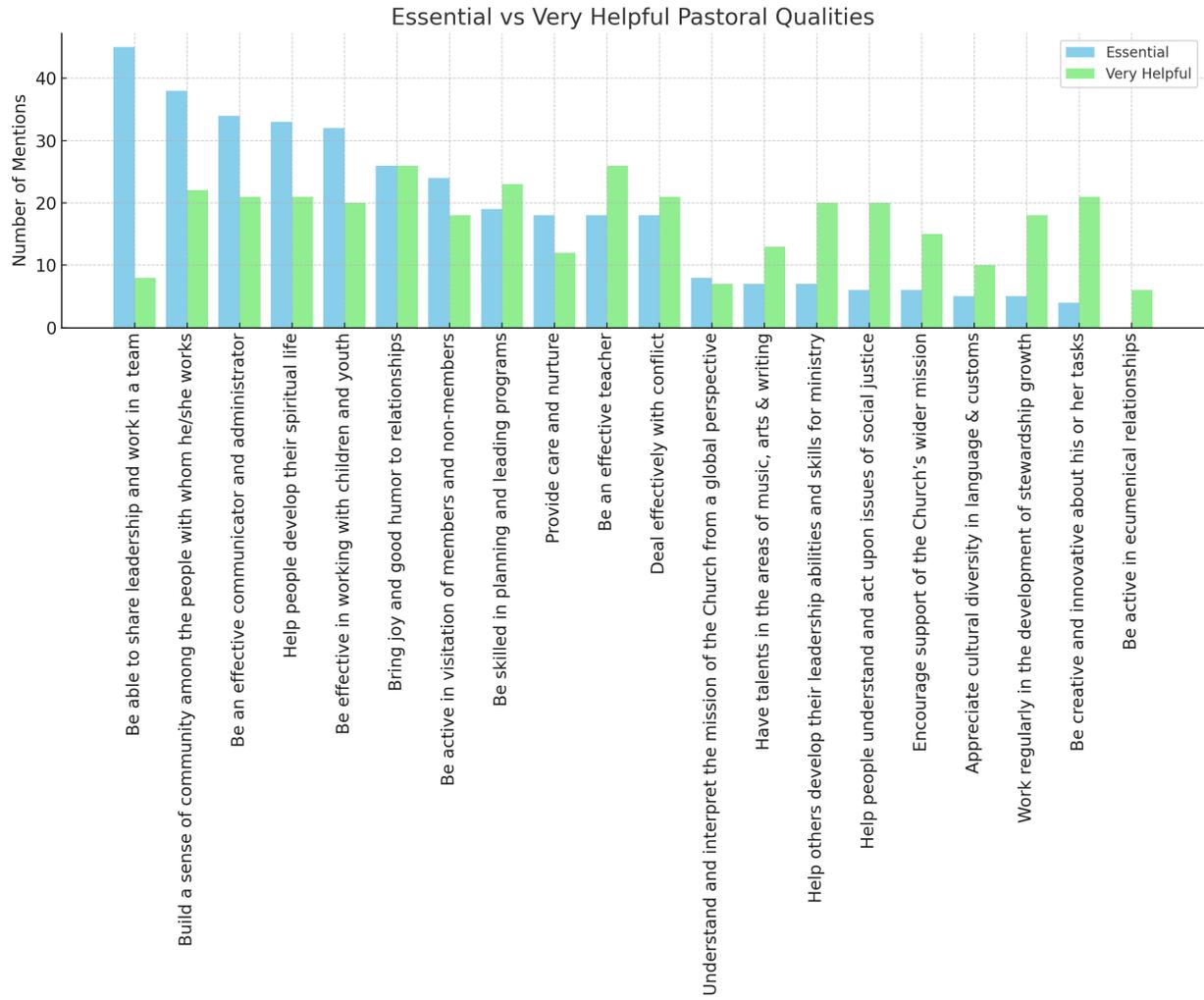
Help Us Find Our Next Pastor!

Sunday, May 18

One Worship Service at 9:30AM

Followed by Ministry Site Study towards calling a second pastor led by Rev. Renee Splichal-Larson

SEEKING A SECOND PASTOR





Check out our new website

The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) has their own webpage thanks to Eric Gohl! It includes general information, FAQ, ability to give online & access to many forms like the MEF Policy/Gift Summary, Gift Worksheet, Legacy Gift Worksheet & Grant Application. There is also list of MEF Donors by year. The highlight is a video clip explaining the purpose of the MEF, ways to give, the subsidiary funds, committee makeup & disbursement process. [Check it out using this link.](#) Please consider giving any amount for a brighter future together!



For more information on Mission Endowment Fund, visit:
spiritofjoy.net/mission-endowment-fund-2

Troop 711 @ SoJ



Congratulations to the newest Eagle Scout, Topher Moore.

Topher is a Senior at Harrisburg Highschool. He has been a member of the troop since 2018 and earned 37 merit badges.

For his Eagle project, Topher guided a group of scouts in the assembly of blankets. These blankets were donated to comfort patients at Ava's House.





Spirit of Joy Preschool

Caring Community, Active Learning and Faithful Hearts

“Scoop Up the Joy at SOJ” Yard Sign Fundraiser June 1-30, 2025

Share a little summer fun with neighbors, friends, and family while supporting your preschool. Sign-ups begin May 18.



Here's how it works:

1. Send the summer fun signs with a visit to the preschool yard sign table in the Gathering Space or sign up online beginning May 18.
2. Complete a request form & share a donation! Suggested donation \$30-35 paid via check, cash or tithe app (label payment “Preschool” in menu).
3. Signs will be set up in the recipients’ front yards by the “Ice Cream Team” of volunteers. The recipient could then send them on to another house by making a donation. (Suggested donation \$30-35).

**The recipient is not required to make a donation. Yard signs will be moved after two days regardless of donation.*

Tips:

- Signs can be delivered to the same address more than once.
- Skip the signs, support your preschool with yard sign insurance. For a donation of \$50, we will skip your yard if it is requested. With insurance, you can still support young learners and send signs to others for fun! Visit the preschool table for insurance forms.

Preschool Yearend Program
Monday, May 19 | 10:45AM

Join us for a celebration of our 2024-2025 year with music, stories, and snacks. We will honor each student with a certificate of completion as well.

All are welcome - we hope to see you here.

Preschool children learned the stories of Holy Week through a variety of activities using all of our senses! Here are a few ways we *experienced* Holy Week : waving palm branches and acting out the story of Palm Sunday along with a Hosanna song , washing one another's feet and hands, creating "JESUS LOVES ME" art projects (see the bulletin board near the kitchen), mixing an Easter story snack, walking a garden scavenger hunt using the symbols of Holy Week events and listening to the words from the Bible.

Ask your favorite preschooler about the Easter story and what they heard, it will be a memorable moment.



The preschool children hit the road in March with field trips to the library and wings gymnastics studio.

It was super fun to share time with friends outside of the building!

A special thank you to all the volunteer helpers and drivers - we could not have done it without you!



Creation Care Corner

Would you like a refill? Nice words to hear when you want another cup of coffee or water, etc. Refills are also a great way to help cut down on and ditch single-use plastic.



“This is the way.”



How does this work? With items you use frequently like cleaners, soaps, lotions, body washes, etc., you can almost always find a way to buy these in refillable form. You can use glass or aluminum bottles for your refills. You can find local shops in your area or you can find others that will deliver to you. Many places use compostable or recyclable plastic-free materials.

Why is this important? Well, most plastic is thrown away and not recycled properly due to inconvenience, confusion, or other factors. If plastic is actually recycled, it can only be “downcycled” 1 or 2 times (meaning it will be used for plastic lumber or as synthetic fibers for fabric or insulation versus being recycled into another plastic bottle) and then it will be discarded where the microplastics hang on for years and years, spreading into the ground and leaching into our food and water supply.

Glass and aluminum, on the other hand, can be recycled an unlimited number of times. We have a winner, folks!! Thus, your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to start looking for ways you can make these changes in as many of your items as possible. The zero-waste market is expected to grow substantially between now and 2028. You can also save money over the long run.

Another way you can help decrease our dependency on plastics is by checking out PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) and helping out with their action calls. Also, check out cabinethealth.com where you can actually shop for commonly used over-the-counter medicines that come in stackable and aesthetic glass containers that you can refill. The movement to cut down on plastic waste and to reuse and refill is gaining momentum.

*For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry
he fills with good things.
Psalm 107:9*



Engage to Change

This middle school on site camp happens at the end of May. They will participate in a variety of service projects in our community. Two of the projects are: *Girls on the Run* through Embe and The Banquet. Both of these groups could use our help collecting some special items to make their programs successful. We will be collecting after Easter, April 20-30. Items can be brought to the church! Thank you!

Girls on the Run

- 3x5 Index Cards
- Kleenex packs
- Packages of Pony Beads
- Ribbon
- Ziploc Bags (2.5 gallon, 1 gallon, sandwich)
- Tape (masking and scotch)

The Banquet

- Soccer balls, basketballs, footballs
- Family games
- Advanced LEGO sets
- Jewelry for girls
- Cologne/Perfume

Save The Date

Family Fun Night @ SoJ

WED 6:30-8PM

June 18 **July 16**

August 6