

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

November 2023



### Music, Mocha and Masterpieces *a wonderful event by every measure*

- **Desserts and coffee** in abundance!
- **Artistry donations** totaling over 40 items!
- **Thirteen musical performances** ranging from dancing to clarinets to soloists.
- **Attendance** - over 120 people ages preschool to retirement.
- **Funds raised** - over \$6,000 to support preschool learning centers, operating costs and subscription services such as Kindermusik and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association membership.



### A Special Thank You

*Spirit of Joy Hospitality Team, Spirit of Joy High School Youth,  
Spirit of Joy Preschool Team & Staff*

# Upcoming

## All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5 | 8:45 & 11:00 Worship

Bring a token in memory of a loved one or loved ones. During worship there will be an opportunity to place it on a Memory Table and light a candle in their memory. Pictures. Keepsakes. Touchpoints for prayer and memory.



## Sunday Forum

November 12 at 10am

Israel Palestine: Understanding the Conflict with Rev. Sarah Raymond

Learn about the historical influences, contemporary issues, and reality on the ground in the Holy Land. Questions are encouraged!



## Congregation Meeting

Sunday, November 26 | 2024 Budget & Election of Leadership

We will have **one service** at 9:30 a.m.  
followed by Congregation meeting at 10:30.



## Advent/Christmas News

Your Visual Arts and Worship Team are excited to bring to you an Extended Advent. We'll begin with small changes in worship on November 12, 19, and 26. Decorations and pieces of the liturgy will be added each week. Then, on Wednesday, **November 29, we'll begin Holden Evening Prayer.** This beautiful service of light and dark, song and the Word, is a traditional favorite and we're thrilled to have a wide variety of voices leading us through the season. **Sunday, December 3,** we'll come together for a renewed **Advent Festival.** Long an introduction to the season at Spirit of Joy, we're excited to welcome renowned musical guests **Tangled Blue.** We'll share an adult Christmas Pageant and color a life-sized nativity set for use in worship. Pie and hot cocoa will warm our bodies as the Christmas story warms our souls. Then, on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve, we will not have morning worship. Instead, Advent will end at the beginning of our evening worship (3, 5, and 7pm).



**Extended Advent**  
Nov. 12-Dec. 24

**Holden Evening Prayer**  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20

**Advent Festival**  
Sunday, December 3 | 3:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
3pm (Family Worship)  
5pm Candlelight w/Choir  
7pm Candlelight



# 2023 Stewardship Update



2023 has been a tremendous year in Mission and Ministry as Spirit of Joy. We welcomed three new staff members and Deacon Hannah transitioned roles. We went to camp, worshiped on summer evenings, launched new small groups, and gathered for Town Hall Meetings to tell the story. We strengthened and expanded our Milestone Ministry, brought back the Confirmation Banquet, and focused deeply on developing relationships. With all the activity and a growing participation and membership, it seems appropriate to look back at our goals, assess how we have done, and begin to look forward to 2024. This month, a review. In December, a look to 2024.

From our 2023 Stewardship Appeal, **commentary is in red:**

Our goal for 2023 is 20% growth. Prayerfully consider how you can help us achieve that goal.

Consider the chart on the back of this letter for how you can join us in the footsteps of joy!

*We are on track for our largest annual General Fund income. If historic trends hold true, we'll end the year with roughly \$700,000. That represents a roughly 14% increase.*

Our stewardship goals this year:

1. To fully fund our mission plan.
  2. To increase digital giving.
  3. To establish an Endowment Fund.
1. *We will likely spend more than we receive in 2023 and fall short of budgeted income by nearly \$100,000.*
  2. *We have seen a substantial increase in digital giving. In September 2023 we received a record number of electronic gifts.*
  3. *An Endowment Fund remains in progress. When we paused our mission and vision work in early spring, that included the creation of an Endowment Fund. We'll elect leadership for the Fund at our November meeting and begin the work shortly thereafter.*

Our stewardship goals support our ministry goals:

1. Reengagement of Partners
  2. Welcoming New Partners
  3. Rebuilding and Growing our Programming
1. *We began a number of first-time events and launched small groups designed specifically to reconnect partners. Cruise Night, C3 Conclusion, Comedy Night.*
  2. *We have welcomed more than 75 new partners in 2023. New marketing and evangelism expenses and efforts have told the story of our remarkable community and invited others to be a part of it.*
  3. *Confirmation Banquet came back. Advent Festival will be renewed. New Milestones have been introduced.*

Accomplishing those goals would mean:

- We take more kids to camp than we have since 2018. *And more still in 2024!*
- Investing in new modes of evangelism and hospitality. *Personal and broad. Connecting with neighbors.*
- Giving our staff and key leaders resources they need to expand and improve worship and programming. *New staff meant new and one-time expenses. It's also meant high engagement and meaningful relationships.*
- Deeper relationships with our civic and ministry partner organizations. *Spirit of Joy is a leader in the SD Synod practicing generosity and service to its mission. More volunteers than ever served boldly with our partners.*

**Look next month for how we plan to move forward in 2024.**

# Congregational Life

## Creating a Culture of Calling

Thursday, November 2, 5:00 p.m.

We invite you to the closing event, food, laughter, fellowship, and an amazing evening of learning with Dr. Jacqueline Bussie.

## Aging Matters

Begins Monday, November 13

We must all deal with some important issues as we age. Aging Matters series is about planning for the end of life. We encourage grown up children and parents to participate.

## Social Justice Series: Human Trafficking

Tuesday, November 14, 9:30 a.m. | RSVP online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)

Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation are happening at an increased rate across the United States. Factors affecting this growing rate include extreme poverty, geographic isolation, and homelessness, etc. Join us on as Monica Rilling from Call to Freedom facilitates a discussion on human trafficking and how the church can make a difference.

## Dancing in the Rain Women's Retreat

November 10 & 11 at Shetek (One Night Only)

There is still room to register for the Dancing in The Rain Retreat. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center! Our goal is to take 30 or more women. Bring a friend!

## Sunday Forum:

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Galilee Room

Bring your coffee and a cookie! Check out the SOJ website for our Sunday Forum discussion topics.

Come and we will learn together just as we are. No prior knowledge is required.

## Monthly Women's Rotational In-Home Fellowship

- Monday, November 13, 5:30 p.m. at Diane Wheeler's home
- Tuesday, November 14, 9:00 a.m. at SoJ to join the Human Trafficking presentation in Shalom.
- Contact Deb Stapelman Suzanne DeBoom for more information

## Sunlight Tours: The Holy Land

February 4-13, 2025

Find out more about this life changing trip at two informational meetings at Spirit of Joy:

- Sunday, November 12 at Noon & Tuesday, January 23 at 7 PM at Spirit of Joy

Trip Highlights include: Sea of Galilee, Walking Jerusalem's Way of the Cross, Floating in the Dead Sea, Exploring Bethlehem, and so much more. Visit [sunlighttours.org](https://sunlighttours.org) for more trip information.

# Milestone News

## Loss of a Loved One Milestone

Sunday, November 5 (All Saints Sunday)

Death is a part of our lives. The purpose of this milestone is for our congregation to witness, support, and love our partners and families who are grieving. We will bless the grieving families during both worship services and offer the Loss of a Loved One Stone as a reminder that God is always with us.

## 4th Grade Kids & Money

Wednesday, November 8, 7-8 p.m.

Josh Swanstrom, SoJ partner, will lead the children and parents in conversation. God is so good to us. God loves us unconditionally. How can we respond to that love? One of the ways we say “thank you” for God’s goodness is by giving back to God with our time, our talents, and our resources. Learning and teaching about faithful stewardship begins with parents and continues throughout our lives. Children will receive a Save/Share/Spend piggy bank, plus pennies to practice.

## Veteran’s Day Milestone

Sunday, November 12

Honoring our veterans and those serving in the military with a wall display of their pictures! Bring a picture (label the back of the picture) and fill out the cards found in the Gathering Space. Leave the card and picture to be hung on the display. Partners of SOJ can write and place thank you notes around the pictures. Join us November 12 for coffee and cake between services.

## Baby’s First Christmas (and maybe their 2nd)

Saturday, November 18, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

We invite families with a new baby for a new milestone talking about holiday traditions. We will take photos of the little ones with their new plush Baby Jesus dolls and then create an ornament for the tree.



**Milestone Fun: Pictures Left to Right**

4-year-olds “Walking with Jesus”; 2-year-olds “My Church”; 3rd Grade Bibles

# Outreach Opportunities

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

## *The Banquet West*

710 N MARION, SIOUX FALLS  
(5TH & MARION)

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



## Necessities for Neighbors Toilet Paper Drive Month of November



Our goal is to donate the largest amount of toilet paper this year. We encourage all partners to join in this mission challenge by donating **LARGE ROLLS** of toilet paper for your birth month!

Two teams; January-June & July-December. Toilet Paper can be left in Shalom Center, look for your team poster. Serve boldly SOJ!

**Mark your calendars:** Spirit of Joy will serve at Necessities for Neighbors on Sunday, December 3

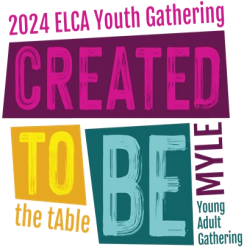
## Meals on Wheels

Are you interested in a worthwhile volunteer activity? Meals on Wheels could use more people to help with deliveries. This would involve one Monday every third month, for two hours leading up to lunch. (10:30 - 12:30). Please contact Suzanne DeBoom (605-521-5396) for more information.



deliver a difference





There is still room to register for the ELCA Youth Gathering! Call the office if interested.

## Lefse Orders

Help support our youth traveling to New Orleans by ordering lefse for this year's Holiday season. Orders are available for pick-up on Sunday, November 19.

Order your lefse online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups). Orders close on November 15.

## Youth Group: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

We would love for you to join us for a night of fellowship and learning in the youth room on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm! Bring a friend. November 1, Faith Story Night; November 8, Fellowship/Service Project; November 15, Creation; November 22, Thanksgiving Eve, No Youth Group; November 29, What Does Justice Look like with Rev. Joseph Holt.

SAVE THE DATE: Bingo Fundraiser on Saturday, January 6



## Summer Camp 2024

- 1st - 3rd Grade & Adult**  
NeSoDak: June 30-July 2
- 4th - 6th Grade**  
Shetek: July 14-19
- Middle School Youth**  
Outlaw Ranch: June 9-14
- High School Youth**  
Youth Gathering: July 14-20
- Family Camp**  
Outlaw Ranch: July 14-19

Signpost options: SPIRIT OF JOY, SUMMER CAMP, OPTIONS

# Creation Care Corner

“Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the holy one...Give thanks” - ELW 292

Are food and gathering on your mind a little bit more this month? With Thanksgiving around the corner, we will be taking time to enjoy time with family and friends gathered around the table, which is something Jesus loved to do as well.

Do we give much thought to our food supply? Do we think about how reliant it is upon climate? Do we think about our habits related to how we buy food, make food, and waste food?

When food is wasted, the labor, investment and resources (water, seeds, feed) put into it are also squandered. And, as we know from past articles, food that is tossed into the trash contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. The good news is we can change some habits to prevent food waste. Here are some easy-to-achieve actions you can take:

- Buy only what you need. Make a list & stick to it. Make a list of meal ideas for the week.
- Buy the ugly fruits & veggies (these are often thrown away!!). They are good in soups, casseroles, smoothies, pies, fruit sauces/jams, and juices.
- Store food wisely. Move older items to the front of the pantry or fridge & use airtight containers as appropriate.
- Understand food labeling. For perishable food like milk or meat, the “Use By” date means it’s no longer safe to eat BUT if it says “Best Before” you DO NOT need to throw it out on that date as many of these items last longer. Either rely on your senses if it is past the date OR save confusion by not buying more than you need.
- Share large portions when you go out to eat.
- Make friends with leftovers!! Reheat, freeze for another time, or use ingredients in a new dish.
- Compost those food scraps!!! See [sodakcompost.org](http://sodakcompost.org), start your own compost project at home, or buy a Lomi.
- Take the time to learn about local food producers and support them. Learn about regenerative farming – we hope to educate you on this soon.
- Buy fish that’s been caught or farmed sustainably as this helps reduce pressure in the wild & allows populations to rebuild.
- Use less water. Food can’t be produced without water but this is not an infinite resource so follow lawn-watering guidelines, fix leaks, turn off water when brushing teeth & shorten showers.
- “There’s an app for that.” Check out this article <https://www.almostzerowaste.com/apps-to-reduce-food-waste/>. Come on, SoJ partners, what can we do to get some of these going here?

We on the Creation Care Team are so thankful for all the ways you help us take care of God’s world. We especially lift up in prayer agricultural workers, food industry workers, and give thanks for food pantries and volunteers.







## From Lutheran Partners in Global Mission

*Spirit of Joy sponsors a student in India, a young man named Elavarasan*

Sep 27, 2023

### Students Find Success After Graduation

The opportunity to attend school is life-changing for women and children around the world. That's why we direct your gifts to support the work of our global partners as they help people on the margins access education.

Many of our students in India--especially girls--are the first generation to stay in school past primary school. When they reach 10th and 12th standards ("grade"), sponsorship support provides tutors to help them prepare for required government tests.

Shortly after students completed their school year and exams in April, LPGM field coordinators visited recent graduates in their home villages to check on their plans for the coming year. What they learned was no surprise:

**More and more of our sponsored students are qualifying for and choosing to pursue higher education following graduation.** Increasing numbers are studying to become nurses, doctors, pastors, and teachers. Most do this with no financial support from their families, and will in fact support their families after entering the workforce.

Sponsoring a student through LPGM at \$40/month (or \$480 per year) makes it possible for children to live in Lutheran church-run boarding homes. There, they are cared for while many of their parents work in other states. The boarding homes provide food, shelter, and education as well as new clothing and medical care.

# Budget Transparency Meeting

Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
5pm in Galilee Room

Ask questions. Provide input. Help prioritize.  
Share in Mission and Ministry.



Detailed Budgets available on the Welcome Kiosk

## Financials through September 2023

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#### Checking Account:

General Fund	- \$12,107.40
Building Fund	\$17746.72
Donor Restricted	- \$13006.13
Sunday School	\$1,520.34
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

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#### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$111,196.13
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,513.96</u>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$179,423.72</b>

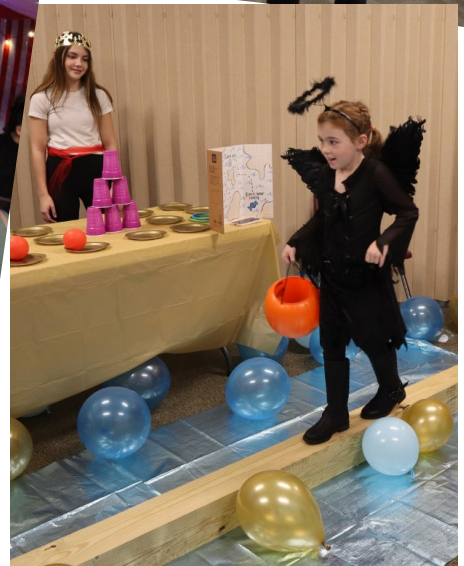
	September 2021	September 2022	September 2023
Attendance	???	885	1021
General Offering	\$ 37,392.57	\$ 35,843.40	\$ 47,094.60
Building Offering	\$ 17,279.44	\$ 8,771.78	\$ 17,746.72

#### Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770  
Received as of September 30, 2023: \$418,906.96

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$502,661.67
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$568,708.19</u>
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>- \$66,046.52</b>





We had a great turnout for our annual indoor trunk-or-treat! Thank you to all the confirmation students and volunteers who helped make it a wonderful night for our children!

## *Books that Matter*

This month we're reading

"Poverty, By America" by Matthew Desmond

Discussion: Monday, Nov. 13 @ 7pm at SoJ

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

\$15 to Spirit of Joy or available at major retailers.

Next month: "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker

Discussion: Mon, Dec 11 @ 7pm