

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

November 2024

<sup>8</sup> He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. <sup>9</sup> Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish. <sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand along the shore; there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds. <sup>11</sup> But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. <sup>12</sup> Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

-Ezekiel 47:8-12 (edited)

I'm so grateful to our Stewardship Team (Brad Bass, Rachael Flagstad, Rev. Lon Kvanli) for introducing me to these verses and thinking about it with me. Not only is it a description of God's blessing for us as humanity, but I believe it to be an appropriate vision for us as church. How do we, as a community of believers, reflect this vision? How do we share blessing that does not fizzle, but overwhelms? How do we create space, side by side, for all forms of life? How do we embrace our differences and together call it Kingdom of God?

This month we're asking you to join us in doing difficult work. Setting the path for us to move "**Forward Together**". It started with our meeting, conversation, and feedback on Oct. 29th. It continues with Commitment Sunday on Nov. 10 and our Congregation Meeting on Nov. 24 (**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30AM- MEETING TO FOLLOW**). The decisions that we make individually, and as a whole, will lead us into 2025 and beyond.

As you make your decision and we make our decisions, I ask for a few things from you:

1. **Prayer**— our way forward must be rooted in our relationship with God. Please lift up Spirit of Joy, its partners, its staff, and its Ministry Partners every day.
2. **Commitment**— show up. Participate here and now. But, most importantly, commit to being an active part of the work we do in 2025 and 2026 that we will call "Forward Together".
3. **Creativity**— the church as a whole is not what it was... even 10 years ago. We can't discover where the Holy Spirit is leading us by seeking to go backward and reclaim a moment in the past, no matter how beautiful. We can look for God's visible presence in your ideas and by prayer and careful reflection lay the groundwork for blessings that overflow.
4. **Inclusion**— share with your friends and family how important this moment is for us as a community. Invite them in. What we're looking for requires all, the trees and the plants, the fish and the animals, the fresh and the marshy.

Thank you, Spirit of Joy, for being a community willing to do this level of work. You are a blessing to me, as you are a blessing to so many.

**FORWARD  
TOGETHER**  *Spirit of Joy*

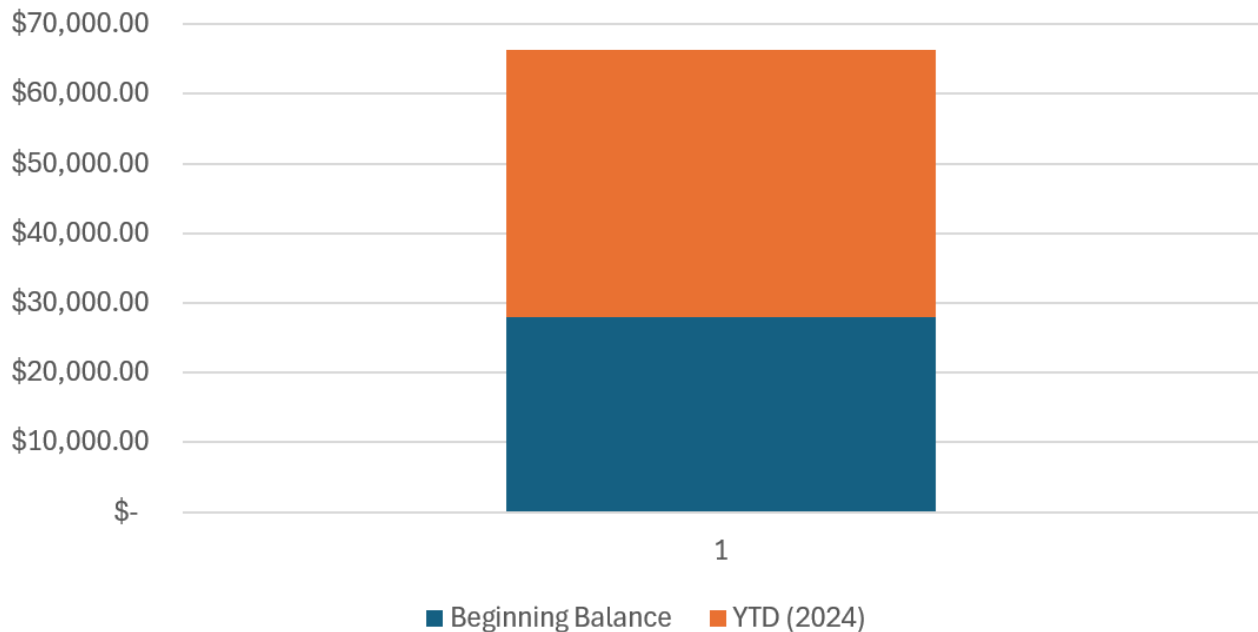


## Please consider investing in SoJ's future!

It is that time of year to begin planning yearend charitable giving. For our seasoned Partners that includes Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) and Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). IRA owners age 70½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity "tax-free" each year through QCDs if paid directly from their IRA. And, for those who are at least 73 years old, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's RMD for the year. You may want to talk with your financial advisor, CPA or attorney about the best way to do these types of charitable giving.

**Don't forget:** 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 \$20,000.

### Mission Endowment Fund Balance



For more information on Mission Endowment Fund, visit:  
[spiritofjoy.net/mission-endowment-fund-2](https://spiritofjoy.net/mission-endowment-fund-2)

# Extravagant **GENEROSITY**

**Thank you** so much for your generous support in our effort to purchase 42 wheelchairs for Sigomere Small Home in Kenya. We are excited to announce that we have met our goal! Hope Haven will be sending a shipment to their warehouse in Kenya in November, and the wheelchairs for these kids will be included in that load. The kids should be using their new chairs in the new year! Thank you, again, for your Extravagant Generosity.

*~ Aidan Paulson & Patrick Vogel*



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## Liberia Mission

We want to thank our partners and friends at Spirit of Joy for your generous contributions to the Liberia Mission! As of October 20, 2024, you have helped raise \$3,385 to sponsor 21 students and buy 5 arm chairs for Liberian Mission students. I am pleased to inform you that we currently have 64 students (preschool to grade 6)! We did not achieve our goal to get sponsorship for 75 students, but we are forever grateful that you support and believe in our mission to make a positive impact in Liberia. I am looking forward to my trip in December!! Thank you!

*~ Deacon Hannah*

# Congregational Life

## Women's Weekly Bible Study | Thursdays @ 9AM in Galilee

We continue to explore how God wants us to grow old and wiser continuously and live a more meaningful life in our community. All are welcome!

## Adult Sunday School | Sundays @ 10AM in Galilee

Bring your coffee and a cookie! Check out the SOJ website for our adult Sunday school discussion topics. No prior knowledge is required.

## Veteran's Day Milestone | Sunday, November 10

Bring a picture (label the back) 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 10 for coffee and cake between services.

## Aging Matters Series | Tuesday, November 19 & Friday, November 22

List of topics below will also emphasize comprehensive services and support available. Helpful, free materials will be provided. We encourage parents and adult children to participate. Lunch will be served on both days. Sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups) to help us plan better.

### **Tuesday, November 19**

10:30AM - *Age is Just a Number* with Dr. Lucas Hamilton

11:30AM - Lunch

12:00PM - Estate Planning with Kathy McHenry (Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD)

### **Friday, November 22**

10:15AM - Funeral Worship Planning with Pastor Eric

11:15AM - Funeral Arrangement with Miller Funeral Home

12:15PM - Lunch

12:45PM - Hospice 101 with Sarah McGowan (St. Croix Hospice)

**Church on the Street:** Pastor Chris Matson will be here on Sunday, November 6 to share with us the stories of our ministry partner Church on the Street! Join us in the Shalom Center at 10am to hear about what God is up to with the ministry of COTS!

# Outreach Opportunities

## Necessities for Neighbors Distribution

Sunday, December 1 | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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

Bring donations of LARGE Toilet Paper Rolls to church for the distribution through November

## TOILET PAPER DRIVE CONTEST

*Which do you prefer?*



**Should the end of the toilet paper hang over the top of the roll or be tucked underneath it?**

This is the question of the month. Decide if you are TEAM UNDER or TEAM OVER! Toilet Paper can be left in Shalom Center – look for your team poster.



## November Schedule

- 11/6 Lesson
- 11/13 Lesson
- 11/15 Lefse Prep 4-7pm with supper
- 11/15 Summer Trip Info Night at 7pm
- 11/16 Lefse Making 9am-3pm
- 11/17 Lefse Sale/order Pick Up
- 11/20 Faith Story Night/Speaker
- 1/27 Thanksgiving Break

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## Summer of 2025 High School Youth Trip

*Houseboating on Lake Vermillion, MN*

- July 20-25, 2025 | \$400/student + Fundraisers
- Jam-packed with incredible activities
- Time of Spiritual Growth



**Information Meeting will cover all details!**

**Friday, November 15 at 7PM**

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## Youth Group Fundraiser: Homemade Lefse



Last year, we had our annual lefse fundraiser for the high school youth and it was amazing; we made close to \$2000! All the money raised will go directly into our high school youth program & summer house boating trip to Lake Vermillion. Lefse making is a two-day intergenerational activity that takes a lot of hands to make it happen. We need all our families and partners to help! All levels of experience are welcome - you will work alongside Women of Joy!

**Ways to help and items to donate can be found online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups).**

**Order lefse in person on Sunday mornings, available for pickup on Sunday, November 17.**



# Creation Care Corner

“Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.” (ELW 396).

Who makes the wind?

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

While it is true that humans and human activity can impact weather and worsen hurricanes by the burning of fossil fuels (which generate a hotter atmosphere and increase the temperature of the oceans, thereby feeding hurricanes more energy to brandish greater fury on humans in their path of destruction), we most certainly cannot control the weather. However, we can and do influence weather patterns and climate by our actions and choices. This appears to be catching up with us. Will we meet this moment?

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.” (Galatians 5:22)

Both Helene and Milton rapidly intensified over record-high water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricanes may seem distant to us but the ramifications are far-reaching. Did you know that there is a critical shortage of IV fluids for hospitals right now because of damage sustained at the Baxter International factory in North Carolina?

How can we help our neighbors affected by these hurricanes? A good place to start is Lutheran Disaster Relief. We can also lift them up in prayer – and then pray some more.

Change is blowing in the wind. Will you be forced to give up things you love because of continued disasters? Will you be forced to move? Will others be forced to move to your area and change your way of life as they become displaced secondary to human-influenced disasters?

So many swirling questions in the air...

“Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.” (Deuteronomy 8:17-19)

Let us open our hearts and minds to the Spirit that blows in, around, behind us, and through us, leading us into community and relationship with God.

## Who Has Seen the Wind?

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you:  
But when the leaves hang trembling,  
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I:  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.

~Christina Rossetti



# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Caring Community, Active Learning and Faithful Hearts

These three phrases sum up the preschool mission and guide our actions each day. Establishing a Caring Community is something Spirit of Joy can do very well.

As the school year progresses, it has been a joy to see the caring community in action- discovering friendships built across all generations. This safe, loving community nurtures learning and growth for our children. Your helping hands and hearts are appreciated.

In this season of gratefulness, we would like to offer a *thank you* to just a few of the volunteers we have enjoyed meeting this fall. It is a joy to work together and get to know one another even better.



For the third year, we welcome back reading buddies Gary & Suzanne DeBoom. Once per week, the children are able to spend time in the library, searching for the perfect book. Once the book is chosen, Gary & Suzanne spend time reading, listening to ideas, and exploring the pictures. Children are learning the value of books as well as caring adults.

*Thank you*, Gary & Suzanne.

*Thank you* for participating in the Bike-a-thon FUNdraiser this fall. It was a beautiful evening of bike and scooter riding ending with smores for all. **The total amount raised was \$827- way to go kids!**

*Thank you* to the many volunteers who assisted with this event including smores supplies, chalk art, fire pits, route decorations and cheerleading: Brook Meyer, Liz Lynch, Paul Johnston, Emerson Dick, Brinley Roskam, Kennedy Tietgen, Pastor Eric, Amy Knutson, and Preschool Team members: Amy Orr, Andrea Larson, Danielle Mourer, Emily Karels, Alyssa Domke, and Andrew Hewitt.



*Thank you* to Deuteronomy Duck and Pastor Karen for leading Chapel time. It was fun to learn with you, Deuteronomy Duck - come and visit again soon.



*Thank you* to our van drivers as they spend time each week helping students get to and from preschool.



Continued from last month, a little bit about our drivers:



**Rod Domke**

*How long have you been a part of the SOJ community?* About 3 years

*What do you like to do for fun?* Watching sports and traveling

*What is your favorite candy/food?* Pizza!

*What is your favorite Bible story?* Daniel & the Lion's Den - a reminder of God's protection



**Gene Benson**

*How long have you been a part of the SOJ community?* 6 months

*What do you like to do for fun?* Golf, camp, curling, singing in the choir and spending time with grandkids

*What is your favorite candy/food?* Ice Cream

*What is your favorite Bible story?* "The Last Supper"



**Deb Nelson**

*How long have you been a part of the SOJ community?* 17 years

*What do you like to do for fun?* Knit, read, scrapbook and gardening

*What is your favorite candy/food?* Strawberry Twizzlers

*What is your favorite Bible story?* Ruth & Naomi - the way the two women worked together and helped one another

**If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, there is always room for more!**

*Thank you* to the Ministry Resources Team & Volunteers  
for assisting with the preschool fencing project.

Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Bob Jenson, Jim McAdaragh, Sue McAdaragh, Chad Fickbohm,  
Tim Flagstad, Jim Barringer, Vince Zimmer, Trudy Zimmer, Jonah Ohrtman, Pastor Eric.

# Commitment Sunday

NOVEMBER 10

LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW

"Wherever the river flows, life will flourish. Where the river flows, life abounds." -Ezekiel 47:8-9

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Sunday, November 24*



**9:30AM - Worship**

**10:40AM - Congregational Meeting**

**10:40AM Children of Joy meet for Thanksgiving Fun!**

# Indoor Walk of Remembrance

Sunday, November 3 | 4:00-5:00 PM

*Spirit of Joy partners and friends are invited to gather this All Saints' Day evening for an Indoor Walk of Remembrance anytime from 4-5 p.m. Follow a path lit with luminaries and names of saints that will lead to our indoor labyrinth in Shalom Center. Instructions for use of the Labyrinth will be available. Participants are invited to come and go as they please and walk at your own pace.*



## SOJ Spirit Wear Store

Visit the online shop: [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net).

**Sunday, November 17 is Spirit Wear Day:** wear a Spirit of Joy t-shirt, sweatshirt, hat or jacket!

## Volunteers Needed for Meals on Wheels!

Meals on Wheels is a good community service project designed to help people remain in their own homes with improved nutrition. Spirit of Joy has been part of Meals on Wheels for many years – even through the pandemic.

1. We work in teams of two – one to drive and one to run the meals up to the houses. If you sign up alone, you will be assigned a partner. First time help with route is available.
2. Each team works once every three months, always on Mondays and always in the middle of the day. If the schools are cancelled for bad weather, Meals on Wheels is also cancelled.
3. We have Route 8, which starts on 57<sup>th</sup> & Cliff (near the Hy-Vee) and extends southward. This is a nice safe neighborhood and easy and convenient to park.
4. Meals are picked up at the Center for Active Generations on 49<sup>th</sup> Street by 10:45AM. There will be between 15 and 20 names on your list. We usually finish between 12:15 & 12:30, then return the empty containers to the Center.
5. Remember to bring a cell phone. GPS works great to find addresses. The book with the names has some directions.



**Want to join the rotation?**

Contact Suzanne DeBoom (605-251-5396) or church office.



***Congratulations!***  
***Confirmation Class of 2024***

**Back Row (L to R):** Maddux May, Lincoln Balster, Caleb Meyer, Erik Odney, Pastor Eric  
**Middle Row (L to R):** Deacon Hannah, Siri Knutson, Ivy Freeseemann, Madelyn Kummer, Ella Voss,  
Maren Bueltel, Kennedy Tietgen  
**Front Row (L to R):** Savannah Fischer, Jack Lovro, Taylor Syverson, Owen McElroy