

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

November 2025

**November** is the month in our church tradition that we remember the saints who have gone before us. In our United States tradition, it is the month that we give thanks for the generosity of others and making possible the life we now live. This month I'd like to tell you a little about a few of our saints, giving thanks for the way that they shaped our community and hoping that perhaps they'll inspire you to ways that you might do the same.

**Vince Lange** was a bachelor farmer when this woman named Arlene and her children disrupted his life. It was the preacher who finally spoke up and told him he should maybe get to know her a little better. By the time they retired to Sioux Falls they'd sold the farm and worked in Custer State Park for years. They found SoJ through friends and quickly became a huge part of its community. Arlene was one of the original kitchen mavens and Vince was a faithful grounds volunteer. No longer able to attend at the end of their life they enjoyed the livestream and became significant financial supporters of the mission and ministry. Vince lived to be 99 ½ and was a delight to visit. Stone deaf, I'd shout, he'd say "Well, I don't know." And, I'd shout again. Vince and Arlene were saints who made SoJ possible.

**Maggie Harrington** didn't spend a lot of time at SoJ. She was a California kid and maintained a home there for as long as possible. I first heard of her when one of my colleagues said, "I have a dear young lady friend who rented out Westward Ho for our purposes here today." Married to a doctor who made some good investments, she was the busiest 90 year old I've ever met. Getting into her schedule for communion and another full volume visit always took at least a month as she navigated her own medical appointments and the onslaught of nonprofit development directors. For the brief time she was part of SoJ and because she believed so deeply in our mission, she was one of our largest financial donors, embodying Extravagant Generosity. Maggie was a saint who made SoJ possible.

**Lois Klein** was the strength behind the scenes. A homemaker and seamstress she was one of those early SoJ partners who defined Radical Hospitality and Bold Service. She took new friends bowling (she usually beat them) and she invited others to join her in quilting for our graduates. At the end of her life, Lois became very interested in learning more about the Bible and would ask me to come regularly to discuss that week's sermon (even if she was in her bathrobe!). Her desire for Lifelong Faith Formation forged a relationship with me. She gave her entire fabric collection to the SoJ quilters. Lois is a saint who made SoJ possible.

**Karen Soli** was a pastor, mother, partner, servant, mentor, and leader. One of the early women ordained in America, she was also one of the first to serve as a lead pastor. She actively pursued justice and peace through her service in the political sphere and leadership in the church, but her deepest gifts to SoJ were for Passionate Worship. Karen was there when we decided to use the contemporary Lord's Prayer, and when we decided to bring back the traditional for Advent and Lent. She raised her voice in the choir and gave voice to Deuteronomy Duck. Her input shaped the way we pray for each other. And, for this pastor her presence made me think hard about every decision seeking excellence for her accountability. Karen is a saint who made SoJ possible.

I give thanks for each of these saints and I give thanks for each of you. But, I must ask of each of you dear saints, what will you do to make SoJ possible, who will you be to make SoJ possible, and what might you give to make SoJ possible?

~ Pastor Eric



# FORWARD TOGETHER as Spirit of Joy

## **2025 By the Numbers**

**10,000 Wheelchair Parts Made**

**8,800 Quarters given to Laundry with Love**

**1080 Partners**

**800 Building Users each week**

**600 SoJ Partners Active each week**

**300 volunteer hours given each week**

**\$123,000 given in 2024 to SD Synod and Mission Partners**

**160 Students enrolled in Faith Formation (Birth-12th Grade)**

**91 Adults Reading the Bible in a Year**

**57 Garden Plots**

**46 Women's Retreat Participants**

**28 Building Work Team Volunteers**

**26 Woodworkers**

**22 Confirmation Mentors**

**20 Mah Jongg Players**

**19 Baptisms**

**18 Confirmands**

**17 Preschool Students**

**17 Milestones**

**15 Middle School Confirmation Guides**

**15 Bulletin Folders**

**14 Preschool Volunteers**

**13 Garden Volunteers**

**12 Staff**

**12 Lutheran World Relief Quilters**

**9 Featured Ministry Partners**

**5 Core Ministry Teams**

**5 Funerals**

**4 Eagle Scouts**

**4 Community Music Groups**

**3 Weekly Bible Studies**

**2 Monthly Study and Conversation Groups**

**2 Book Clubs**

**1 Podcast**



# Commitment Sunday

NOVEMBER 9

**FORWARD  
TOGETHER** as *Spirit of Joy*

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

*Sunday, November 30*



**9:30AM - Worship**

**10:40AM - Congregational Meeting**

# SOJ HOCKEY NIGHT

Saturday, 11/15 | Midco Arena  
6:07 PM | \$15/ticket

Buy your ticket online:  
[spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



Find SoJ Channel on  
Podpoint or where you find  
your favorite podcasts



stories for your drivetime or anytime

## NEW EPISODES WEEKLY



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

## November Youth Group

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group at 8pm @ SoJ- Mindfulness

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group at 8pm @ SoJ- Social Media

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - Service Project Night

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> - No Youth Group, Happy Thanksgiving

Confirmation  
Sunday

October 26, 2025



**Front Row (L-R):** Sarah Johnson, Emersyn Dick, Cate Gohl, Frances Lundberg; **Row 2:** Casey Oyen, Summer Mark, Julia Yee, Alice Geraets; **Row 3:** Brooklyn Mair, Brinley Roskam, Aubrey Ramsey, Mikaela Nolmans, Amelia Punt; **Back Row:** Jackson Von Wald, Max Johnson, Mason Woitzel, Kyle Schempp, Simon Whealy



It is that time of year to begin planning yearend charitable giving. Directly support the SoJ Mission Endowment Fund using your IRA! IRA owners age 70½ or older can transfer up to \$108,000 to charity “tax-free” each year through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) if paid directly from their IRA. And, for those who are at least 73, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. Please consider investing now in SoJ’s future!

Mission Endowment Fund Balance



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



# Faith Formation



**Adult Sunday School** | This year's adult education will follow closely with our Bible in a Year Program. Each week will be an independent overview of an entire book or books of the Bible. Come regularly.

- Nov. 2: St. Dysmas Prison Congregation
- Nov. 9: Judges
- Nov. 16: Ruth
- Nov. 23: 1 & 2 Samuel



## Brewed Theology | Monday, 11/24 7PM @ Charlie's Pizza



There seems to be a lot of hand-wringing about the state of the church today. While your faith community might have a different story, the wide-view, zoomed-out picture of the American church is, to some, alarming. There's no shortage of data pointing to downward trends in terms of church attendance and membership. Such statistics prompt some to ask, "is the church dying?" **Find more information and the pre-reading at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).**

## Guatemala Trip with Sharing the Dream

Experience an immersion trip focused on community building and a faith experience outside of our normal opportunities.

**When:** May 24-June 2, 2026

**Why:** Love our neighbor. Learn about how others worship, live, and connect to Spirit of Joy.

**Cost:** \$2,800 (see breakdown below)

- Deposit to hold spot - \$300
- Program Cost - \$1,800
- Flight Cost - \$600-\$800
- Passport Cost - \$165 new or \$130 renewal

Email Tori  
[tori.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:tori.spiritofjoy@gmail.com)  
to reserve your spot today!

**Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars!**

- **Sunday, November 16 - Informational meeting for congregation @ 10:30AM**
- December 14 - Registration deadline
- January 12 - Passport application deadline
- February 15 - First travel prep meeting
- March 1 - Final program cost deadline



# Spirit of Joy Preschool



## Celebrate the Season

*Handmade Christmas Cards Designed by SoJ Preschoolers*

Purchase one-of-a-kind cards created by your preschool friends! Share the joy with your family and friends. Share warm wishes and beautiful artwork while supporting your preschool.

Cards can be purchased in sets of 10, 20 or 50 count, paid with check or cash. Proceeds from the sale will be allocated to the preschool van fund and scholarship fund.

### **Order cards between services**

Sunday, November 16 & 23

Wednesday, November 19

### **Cards ready for pick up**

Sunday, December 7

Wednesday, December 9

## We Wish you a COZY CHRISTMAS: Mark your calendars

Attend worship in your coziest clothes with a shared donation to the preschool.

**Sunday, December 7 and**

**Wednesday, December 9**

Wear cozy Christmas pajamas, favorite flannels, or Christmas sweaters and enjoy the spirit of the season. We hope to take a group photo just after worship as well!

Prayerfully consider how you might be able to participate in this ministry. Contact Amy Cauble with questions.



## God is in the Small Moments

I was recently asked what I found most rewarding about my work at Spirit of Joy. And while there are *many* items I can name, at the top are the moments I can share and experience God's love in this preschool community.

There are those big moments, the Bible lesson activities and Chapel-time in the Sanctuary. These moments are scheduled and prepared for each week. But there are also small moments. The moments that God quietly, gracefully provides each day beginning with driving van routes in the cool, dark mornings and continue throughout the day... in the conversations with new families in the surrounding neighborhoods & through community partnerships; singing "Jesus Loves Me" with preschoolers as we walk down the hall; hearing a preschooler say "I can help" to a brand new friend; watching a teacher stop and lean in to actively listen to a preschooler's story; observing Spirit of Joy Preschool volunteers hold a hand and offer a smile. All these and more not only bring joy but also affirm God is always present. For these moments I give thanks.



### ALL ARE WELCOME

There are 13 regular classroom volunteers in the preschool this fall. If you would like to participate, sign-up online or connect with Amy Cauble today. Join us in ways you are most comfortable- bake a snack, drive or ride along in the van, share your guitar skills or read a story. We would love to hear your ideas, too.

# Outreach Opportunities

## Necessities for Neighbors Distribution

Sunday, December 7 | 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

## Two Spirit of Joy Partners Featured in “Celebrating Community”

Check out the 2025 Annual Report from Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation



The Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation has an unrestricted funding pool from which area nonprofits can apply for grants. It is a competitive application process, described here: [Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation](#)

One of the recent grant winners was Bread Break. The recent write-up in the annual report featured Pam Cole, Executive Director of Bread Break and Pastor Lil Johnston as a representative of Church on the Street. Bread Break makes use of reclaimed fresh and perishable food from area stores and restaurants and distributes it to Charis Ministry Partners, Church the Street, and other organizations who get it into hungry hands.

If you missed the Annual Report, come check it out at the church office!

# Indoor Walk of Remembrance & Prayer Labyrinth

Sunday, November 2 | 4-5PM

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that our Walk of Remembrance is indoors. The beautiful luminaries, with the names of many being remembered will lead you from the front door to Shalom Center and around its parameter. There will be dimmed lights and quiet music.

In the center of Shalom will be the prayer labyrinth which you are invited to walk if you desire a longer time of reflection and prayer. Labyrinths were used on the floors and walls of churches in the Middle Ages and have been remembered and brought to churches, hospitals, parks, and retreat centers in the last 30 years. The labyrinth is a beautiful pattern to walk while you pray.

- It is a long winding journey, much like our lives. Beautiful but we can't always see or imagine what is around the next turn.
- There are no dead ends or wrong turns. Just stay on the path.
- Trust the path. God is with you the whole way through all the twists and turns.
- When you reach the center, pause, sit if you like, and then return the same way you came in.
- Walking prayer is different for each of us. You may remember those you love, pray for your needs and the needs of the world, remember the words to a favorite song/hymn, become quiet inside. God will be present to all the ways we show up.

**Questions?** Reach out to Deacon Jodi Hanson. She will welcome you at the Prayer Labyrinth entrance on Sunday evening.

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## Eagle Scout News



Lizzie Schmidt, a sophomore at Harrisburg High School, completed her Eagle Project with help from Spirit of Joy members. Together, volunteers packed 5184 meals for the local community with Kids Against Hunger. Lizzie was able to pass meals out to families in need the following week. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped her complete this step towards becoming an Eagle Scout!

## Troop 711 Bake Sale

Scouts will join us on Sunday, November 23 to sell baked goods between services.

Perfect time to pick up a homemade treat for your holiday gatherings!



# Creation Care Corner



## “Give Thanks”

LSB #806

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks, because he’s given  
Jesus Christ, his Son

**AUTUMN** is a wonderful time of year with the leaves changing colors, football games and other fall sports, taking the sweaters, coats and hats out of storage, crisp fall air, and harvest time. At Thanksgiving, we gather with families and/or friends for food and fellowship.

Here are some ideas to make your Thanksgiving celebration a little more sustainable:

1. Try your darndest to not make too much food. Plan your portions and use up your leftovers to keep food waste at a minimum and out of the landfill. Compost what you can.
2. Stay healthier by phasing out plastic in your home. Do not heat foods in plastic containers in the microwave as the heat causes it to break down and leach off the microplastics.
3. Use your China or glassware and eliminate wasteful throw-away plates and plastic utensils. Keep these out of the landfill! Make clean-up time more fun with conversations, music, and games.
4. Buy a locally raised turkey and/or look for poultry without antibiotics. Additionally, you could try an alternative to poultry this year.
5. Decorate your table with items from nature – pinecones, seasonal grasses from your yard, etc., or make an edible centerpiece from fruits and nuts.
6. Buy reusable napkins that you can wash and use year after year.

Leftover ideas:

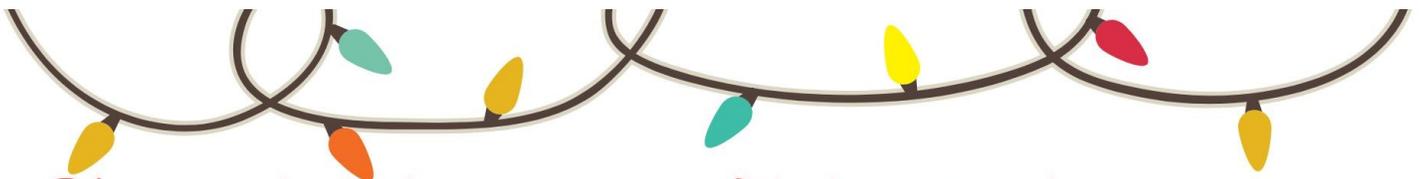
- Toast (or don’t) a leftover bun or any type of bread you have, then add some leftover turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and maybe a drizzle of gravy. Smash it together and you have a delicious sandwich
- Make a soup with your leftover turkey
- Make a casserole out of your leftover turkey, beans, and corn, etc.
- Freeze some of the leftovers for later
- Send leftovers you don’t want with your relatives or friends

Also, keep in mind that this could be a particularly tough Thanksgiving for some of our neighbors, so please remember our friends at Feeding South Dakota, The Banquet, The Salvation Army, and Mobile Food to You, among others, and give or volunteer as you are able.

**“God of compassion, may our service become praise, honoring you, who stooped down to raise the lowly.**

**Let us remember that you, O God, delight not in outward show, but in faithful hearts  
that seek to serve our neighbors with compassion and joyful hearts. Amen”**

- God Pause prayer from Rev. Hope Deutscher on 9/16/25 -



# Christmas Lights

ALONG WESTERN

**Wednesday, November 5 @ 12:30PM**

**OR**

**Saturday, November 8 @ 12:30PM**



**Looking for a crew of 8-10 to help install Christmas lights in the trees along Western Ave.**

**SIGN UP ONLINE: [SPIRITOFJOY.NET/SIGNUPS](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)**

## Financials through September 2025

### Checking Account:

General Fund	(\$18,923)
Building Fund	\$3,516.92
Donor Restricted	\$143,264.55
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$200,034.36
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$41,414.27</u>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$373,887.58</b>

	September 2023	September 2024	September 2025
Attendance	1021	1228	1062
General Offering	\$ 47,094.60	\$ 63,137.42	\$ 60,150.94
Building Offering	\$ 17,746.72	\$ 36,901.13	\$ 3,516.92

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$576,706.86
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$606,134.79</u>
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>(\$29,427.93)</b>