

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

October 2023

**“For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.” -Romans 3:28**

**October 31, 1517** Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. An invitation for debate and a serious attempt to talk about reforming the church, this pious attempt at faith rooted in scripture became the division place for all of Christendom. With the help of Gutenberg’s printing press and the long oppression of the peasant class, what was meant for reformation became revolution. For the rest of his life, Luther would do the difficult work of rooting this movement in the holy scriptures and the most valuable of the traditions, while continually pressing forwards to a clearer proclamation of the gospel and experience of God’s love for all people.

This pivotal moment in western history has become known as The Protestant Reformation, and we celebrate its inception every year on the last Sunday of October. Wearing red and singing together from Luther’s hymns, we celebrate all of those who have completed a focused track of education we call Confirmation while we worship in a continually reforming style.

This year, I’d like to invite you to pay particularly close attention during this season. Join in wearing red and celebrating our confirmands, yes, but take note beginning today. We’re in the midst of a sermon series on our 5 Core Commitments, commitments rooted in the scripture Luther so revered and the tradition that came down to us from him. We welcome New Partners with our New Partner Class on Oct. 15 and in worship on Oct. 22nd. We ask them to affirm those values and for you to promise to walk alongside them in the persistent practice of all five. These are traditions that have long been a part of who

we are as Spirit of Joy. But, then, notice also how, in the footsteps of Martin Luther and his colleagues, they continue to reform.

As we welcome new partners, we will use the same exact language that has been used throughout the history of Spirit of Joy, but we will introduce new and deeper expectations for congregation mentorship and the practice of Radical Hospitality. As Confirmands stand before you on the 29th, the service will look nearly identical to years past, but this year we’ll celebrate with their families in a beautiful banquet the week before and they’ll be wearing stoles decorated to reflect their sense of being and discipleship. And, the following week, when we remember All Saints Sunday, we’ll bring back an old practice, a memory table onto which to place items of those beloved who’ve joined the chorus of saints, and we’ll continue to seek deeper connection with those whose grief is freshest.

Spirit of Joy, we are alive and vibrant, rooted in the promise of the gospel, continually seeking to become who God has called us to be, together. Join us as we give thanks for those who have gone before us, for the way that they have rooted this community in the scriptures and built for us traditions of excellence. And, celebrate with us our new partners, our new confirmands, our new ways of living into those traditions and values that make this such a special community.



Pastor Eric Ohrtman

# #FallVibes

## New Partner Class

Sunday, October 15, 12PM



Anyone interested in becoming a partner with Spirit of Joy is invited! Lunch. A tour of our campus. Getting to know each other. And, who we are and what we are committed to as Spirit of Joy.

Partners, now is a wonderful time to invite your neighbors and friends! With Fall Kickoff, C3 Launch, a series on the church and Social Justice, book clubs, Bible Studies, and more, there's room for all!

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Wed., Oct. 25 | 6:30-7:30PM | Indoors



Interested in decorating a space:  
Sign up [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



## Dinner with Dr. Jacqueline Bussie

Thursday, November 2, 5pm

*Love. Promises. Vocation.*

Sign up opens Monday, Oct. 9

Deadling: Wednesday, October 25

[spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)



Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is an award-winning author, professor, theologian, public speaker, and student of life in all its messy beauty. Her most recent book *Love Without Limits* (2018) won three major international awards: the 2020 IAN Outstanding Religion Book of the Year Award, the 2020 IAN 3rd Place Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award, and the Reader's Favorite Bronze Medal Award for Christian Living. Her previous book *Outlaw Christian* (2016) won the 2017 Gold Medal Illumination Award for Christian Living. Jacqueline is the new Executive Director of the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minnesota.

# Outreach Opportunities

## FOOD TO YOU

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

MESSIAH NEW HOPE  
5001 E MADISON ST



FOOD OF THE MONTH  
**PEANUT BUTTER**

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



# St. Dysmas

hope beyond bars

Spirit of Joy will worship with  
St. Dysmas Prison Congregation on  
Wednesday, November 22 | 7:00 PM  
(arrive to prison by 6:30 PM)

Pick up a registration packet on the  
Welcome Center or online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups).

**All forms must be completed and returned to SoJ office by Monday, October 16.**

# Congregational Life

## Women's Social Gathering

Monday, October 2, 7 PM

Join us for a time of coffee, fellowship, and a conversation/activity on Prayer. Why do we pray? Do I need to pray? How and when should we pray? Come, let us reason together. Bring a friend.

## Social Justice Series: Poverty/Food Insecurity

Tuesday, October 10, 9:30 AM

The problem of hunger continues to increase in South Dakota and around the world. Andrew Hewitt, a partner at Spirit of Joy and a member of the team at the Banquet presents the key drivers of food insecurity and the role of the church in making a difference. Sign up: [www.spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://www.spiritofjoy.net/signups).

## Monthly Women's Rotational In-Home Fellowship:

- Monday, October 9, 5:30 PM at Diane Wheeler's home
- Tuesday, October 10, 9 AM at SoJ to join the Food Insecurity presentation in Shalom.
- Contact Deb Stapelman or Suzanne DeBoom for more information

## Dancing in the Rain Women's Retreat November 10 & 11 at Shetek (One Night Only)

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center! Friends are always welcome. The Lakota Retreat Center at Shetek offers bedrooms that are attractive, spacious, and take advantage of the view of the lake. Each room has a private bath, double and/or full-size bed, table, and a cushioned chair. Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 18.



## Sunlight Tours: The Holy Land

February 4-13, 2025

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

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

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





# Faith Formation



## Sunday Forum: Sunday mornings at 10 AM in Galilee

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. Sunday Forum topics: October 1: Lutheran Worship; October 8: Lutheran Sacraments; October 15: Reformation Roots; October 22: Charis Ministry; October 29: Reformation Roots.

## Little Lambs

Newborns to 3 year olds are invited to this precious time of learning, singing, playing and sharing stories together. We meet once a month in the Youth Room from 10-11am. We would love for you to join us!

## LITTLE LAMBS

Sundays, 10 am. | ages 0-3 (with parents)

September 17

October 1

November 5

December 3

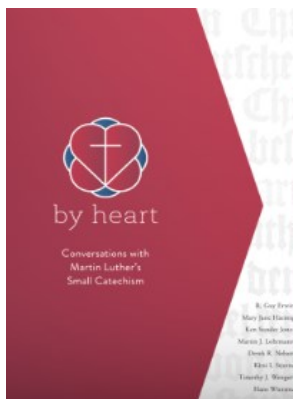
January 14

February 11

March 3

April 7

April 28



## Adult Confirmation

First Session: Sunday, October 29 | 6:30-8 PM

Interested in a deeper dive into Luther's Small Catechism, the Old and New Testaments, and Who we are as Lutherans today? Join us for a 10 month intensive. We'll be using "By Heart: Conversations with Luther's Small Catechism". Sign up today at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).

# Milestone News



## Empty Nest Milestone

Sunday, October 1

This milestone is intended for single adults or couples who no longer have their children living with them. We will bless all empty nesters at both worship services. We will serve cake during fellowship hour to celebrate this milestone. All empty nesters are welcome.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles

This milestone is a biggie! The third graders are receiving the whole Bible - kind of heavy - literally and figuratively! For this milestone we are asking the parents to take a little time to learn about this Bible and have a little refresher course on how to help their children use it. Then, we will have parents and children come together to crack open the pages, get used to actually using this Bible to help them learn more about Jesus. And finally we will fulfill the baptismal promised we all made by having parents give the Bibles to the children.

Here's the schedule:

Wednesday, 10/11 Parents ONLY

Wednesday, 10/18 Parents & 3rd Graders

Sunday, 10/22 Blessing in Worship (11:00 service)



## 2-year-old My Church

Saturday, October 21, 9-10 am

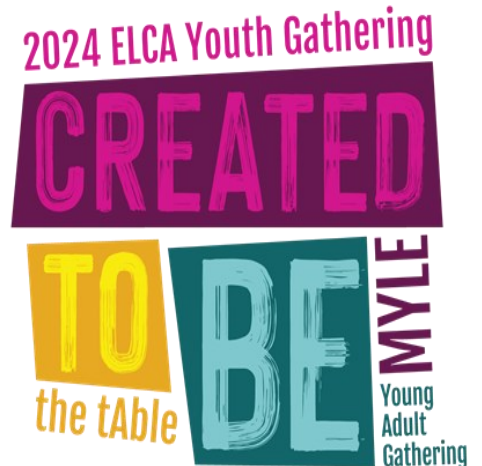
Exploring the church can be exciting and a little scary. We want our little ones to feel at home at Spirit of Joy, so all 2-year-olds are invited to the My Church milestone. Children and parents come to meet pastors, staff and friends while playing, singing, praying and learning about their church.



## Lefse Orders Start October 22

Help support our youth traveling to New Orleans by ordering lefse for this year's Christmas season. Youth and adult volunteers will make lefse December 1 and 2. Orders available for pick-up on Sunday, December 3.

Order your lefse online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)  
orders close on November 29



## Ingredient Donations Needed

*Please label all donations and set them in the kitchen anytime after November 15*

- Russet Potatoes
- Heavy Cream
- Butter
- Flour
- Gallon Ziplock Bags



## Tenth Grade Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday October 29

Join us at 8:45 and 11:00 worship services to celebrate this year's Confirmands.

**Students and families** are invited to join us for our banquet and rehearsal

*Sunday, October 22 at 5:30 PM*







*You are cordially invited to...*

## **MUSIC, MOCHA, & MASTERPIECES AUCTION**

***Fall Fundraiser supporting Spirit of Joy Preschool***

**Sunday, October 15 | 6:30-8:00pm**

*Live Auction & Silent Action\**

*Handmade Art*

*Musical Performances*

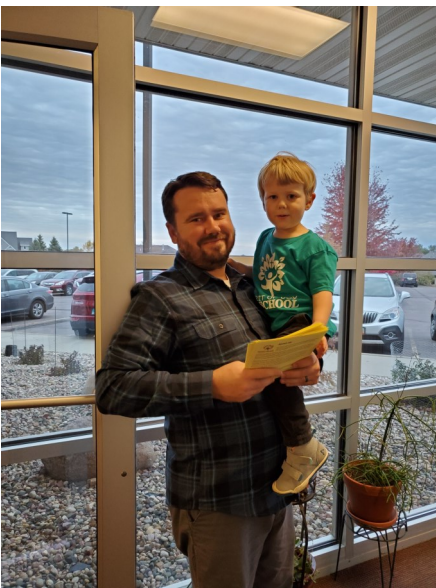
*Delicious Desserts, Warm Drinks*

Purchase exceptional art for your holiday list (or save it for yourself) while listening to our talented musicians. Come & enjoy a cozy fall evening with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you!

\*Cash & checks will be accepted.

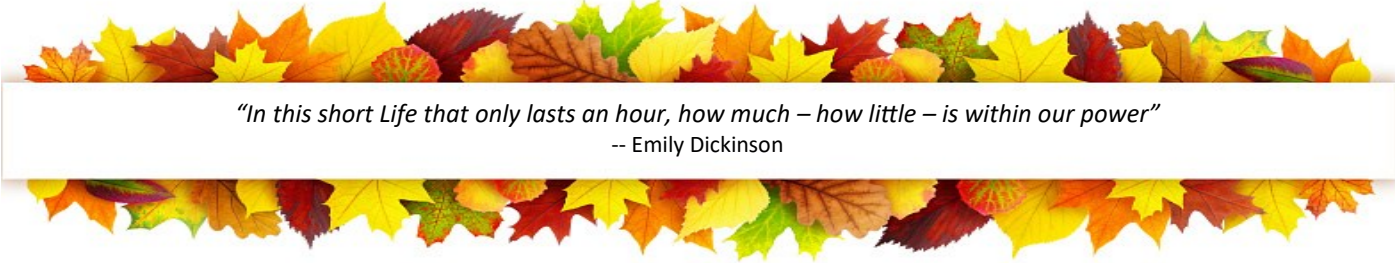


RSVP online: [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://spiritofjoy.net/signups)





# Creation Care Corner



*"In this short Life that only lasts an hour, how much – how little – is within our power"*  
-- Emily Dickinson

October is.....Good **and** Scary.

There are *good things* like leaves changing color, pumpkins, pumpkin spice everything, football, cozy sweaters, open windows, soup, gathering around a firepit, candy and costumes.

**And**, there are *scary things* like horror movies, pumpkin everything(!), sometimes an uptick in political ads, the early push of Christmas consumerism, and the fast-approaching season of winter. Here's something else that's *really scary*. Are you familiar with PFAs ("peefahs") – "forever chemicals" (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)?

You may have heard about these lately. Here's a quick summary:

- **PFAs are a large class of synthetic chemicals created decades ago that are added to everyday products (some examples include pots & pans, containers, clothing, wrappers, rugs, cosmetics) to repel oil and fat**
- PFAs are used in almost everything and found almost everywhere (water, air, soil, clothing, food packaging, personal care products)
- **Since they are resistant to oil & water, they have one of the strongest chemical bonds so they can take decades to break down in the environment and years to break down in our bodies as well as in animals**
- About 97% of people in the US have some level of PFAs in their blood and even at very low levels, PFAs have been linked to or associated with:
  - \* Cancers (breast and testicular)
  - \* Interference with response to vaccinations in children
  - \* Pregnancy-induced hypertension
  - \* Thyroid disease
  - \* Difficulty losing weight
  - \* Links to diabetes and dementia
  - \* Immune system suppression
- **PFAs are an *environmental justice* issue as communities of color are disproportionately exposed to PFAs pollution in drinking water**

**What can we do?** We can pray and take action. Check out groups like Earthjustice, the Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Environmental Working Group (ewg). Write your representatives. Contact your local water utility to ask about PFAs levels and think about filtering your water with an NSF/ANSI certified filter, but the best way in home is with a reverse osmosis filter, although this is spendy. Check labels and avoid ones with the words "fluoro" and/ or "perfluoro." Avoid "stain-resistant" items and don't apply stain resistant treatments to items like furniture and carpet. Reduce or limit use of nonstick cookware (stainless steel or cast iron are good PFAS-free alternatives and **note**: PFOA-free **doesn't** count). Reduce or limit the amount of fast food, microwave popcorn, or takeout that you eat as many of these containers have PFAs. Visit Green Science Policy Institute for more info.

Now for some *really good news*. **God is with us always**. Things on this earth will wither and fade but we can rejoice in knowing that God is present now and forever. This is most certainly good and this is most certainly true.

**Lord, stir our hearts to action in your holy name. Guide our lips, hands, and feet as we work to preserve and protect your children and your creation. Amen.**

# Young Adults in Global Mission

**Madeline Trosvig** On August 19th, I left my home in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and began the month long journey to Szeged, Hungary! Back in March of 2023, I accepted the opportunity to serve as a missionary in Central Europe with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. By the time you are reading this newsletter, I will have just arrived in Szeged!

What's next? This is a year of ambiguity, a year to trust what God has in store! So with that in mind, I don't have much I can say with what will happen in Szeged. I will be spending time volunteering with the Szegedi Evangélikus Gyülekezet and hopefully I can connect with the campus ministry at the University of Szeged. Usually, I would be in a panic due to the lack of information, but I feel strangely at peace.

My favorite author, Glennon Doyle, writes in her book, *Untamed*, "What I learned (even though I am afraid to say it) is that God lives in this deepness inside me. When I recognize God's presence and guidance, God celebrates by flooding me with warm liquid gold." When I said yes to YAGM, I felt the warm liquid gold rush throughout my veins and it hasn't left me yet. I know that God is with me and wants me here.



**Carl Norquist** I will be working in Yeumbeul which is part of the 3-million person Dakar metropolitan area. This will be the largest city I've ever lived in. I also know I'll be working in "Communications" but the exact details of my work remain mysterious. I hope that I can draw upon my career experience to make a positive impression. I still don't know anything about my host family but I'm excited to build new relationships and learn more about famous Senegalese hospitality.

I'm savoring time with my family and friends before my departure date. In Chicago I will have an opportunity to connect with my YAGM peers and learn more about what service and accompaniment means in our world today. I expect it will be a challenging week but I'm excited to take the next step.

This journey would not be possible without you. Although my contact in Senegal will be limited, I intend to remain in touch while abroad. Sharing this story and expressing my gratitude remains a priority. Expect details about my newsletter in the weeks ahead.



# The Annual Budget Workshop

Monday, November 6th at 5 pm

Open to all, this is the best place to take a deep dive into the financials of Spirit of Joy, both current and for 2024.

Your voice matters. **Join us!**



## Financials through August 2023

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#### Checking Account:

General Fund	\$8,197.62
Building Fund	\$7,052.10
Donor Restricted	\$8,200.18
Sunday School	\$1,426.11
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

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#### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$114,966.19
<u>Donor Restricted</u>	<u>\$69,516.34</u>
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$213,918.64</b>

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$455,559.61
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$501,160.62</u>
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>- \$45,601.01</b>

	August 2021	August 2022	August 2023
Attendance	???	1046	814
General Offering	\$ 44,287.82	\$ 62,530.44	\$ 61,928.83
Building Offering	\$ 10,326.68	\$ 25,475.27	\$ 7,052.10

#### Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770

Received as of August 31, 2023: \$401,160.24

August 2023, your SoJ Leadership Team voted to make a one-time payment of \$100,000 towards the principal of our building mortgage.

Thank you for your  
Extravagant Generosity!



**Maintenance & Grounds Requests** Come see the new reporting process in place regarding facility, maintenance and grounds issues or concerns. We continue to strive to make your facility a better, safer, and cleaner place for our staff, partners and friends. If there is anything that you would like to bring to our attention regarding any maintenance, custodial, or grounds, please stop in the Church Office and let us know. There is a letterbox on the wall, along with request forms and a fold out writing surface. Just drop the form in the box and our Facilities Manager, Derris, will address it as soon as possible. We look forward to your ideas to make our community a better one.

**Mom's With a Purpose** Begins Thursday, September 27, 10:30AM @ SOJ  
Mothers are called to know God better, love him more, depend on his strength, and understand his faithfulness, paving the road of discipleship for their children. But you don't have to do it alone! We would love for you to join our small group, Mom's with a Purpose. Contact Jamie Appel with any questions at 605-360-7930.

**Faith & Fitness** Join certified health and nutrition coach, Amy Orr Monday evenings starting October 2 at 5:30 for Faith, Family, & Fitness Nights at Spirit of Joy. She'll share a short devo, lead us in a fun, challenging, but doable 30 minute workout, and share manageable tips for helping your family lead healthier lives...think easy recipes and activities for families on the go! All fitness levels welcome!

**Start saving your Halloween candy bags!** The Creation Care Team has received a Thrivent Action Team grant which will be used to purchase a Terracycle Candy and Snack Wrapper Receptacle. Just in time for Halloween, Trunk-or-treat, or packaging candy for Church on the Street! The box will be located in the office hallway, and will accept any brand and size of flexible plastic-based candy and snack packaging and wrappers. So start saving those "crinkly" bags instead of tossing in the garbage. Watch for an announcement in the weekly email when the Terracycle box arrives.

Upcoming:  
November Toilet Drive for Necessities.  
More information to come!



Check out SoJ merch @  
[spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net)