

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

October 2025

### FORWARD TOGETHER as Spirit of Joy

In the fall of 2024 your Leadership Team joined me in asking you to reimagine 2025 and 2026 as time for pausing and preparing a way Forward Together as Spirit of Joy. Together, we decided to pause our Debt Reduction Campaigns until the fall of 2026, to call a second pastor, and to engage in a visioning process that will lead to a deeper understanding of our community as it is today, with some clear goals for who and how we want to be tomorrow. As we approach the one year mark on that journey it's time for us to check in on our progress and look forward to what is to come.

The largest focus of this year's pause has been on evangelism and the calling of a new pastor. I'm thrilled to share that **we will send invitations to 28 families for our New Partner Class** (it's likely 8-10 will join us). Be with us on October 19 to welcome them in worship. And, you assembled a remarkable Call Committee who brought to Leadership Team, Pastor Dayna Weltzin. Together, **you voted to call Pr. Dayna and we will celebrate her installation at both services on Sunday, October 5th!** Along the way we've kept a healthy balance in our Building Fund (\$210,641 at the end of August 2025). All has gone very well, except the balance of the General Fund. We **had hoped that we would see a trend towards \$8-10,000 dollars per month savings** to accommodate a new pastor, but as you will see inside, we have not. Trusting in your generosity and commitment to moving Forward Together, your Leadership Team has taken the first step towards year two at its September meeting **by approving a Strategic Visioning Process**. Work will begin behind the scenes this fall to launch in January.

*"Let your eyes look directly forward and your gaze be straight before you. <sup>26</sup> Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure. <sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or to the left."*  
-Proverbs 4:25-27a

The timeline for strategic planning will be set by the team called to lead the process, but look for it to be something close to this: Fall 2025 – interviews with stakeholders, Winter 2026 – cottage meetings, Spring 2026 – Vision Retreat and Presentation of Findings, Summer 2026 – implementation planning, Fall 2026 – implementation of findings including sermon and video series, Debt Reduction Campaign. Along the way **we're committed to considering not just our big picture, but specific nuggets** of our ministry – our preschool, a campus use plan, and our staffing so that each piece of who we are and what we do aligns with our mission, our vision, and our values.

Inside you'll see how it is that we're attempting to live out that mission, our vision, and our values together in 2025.

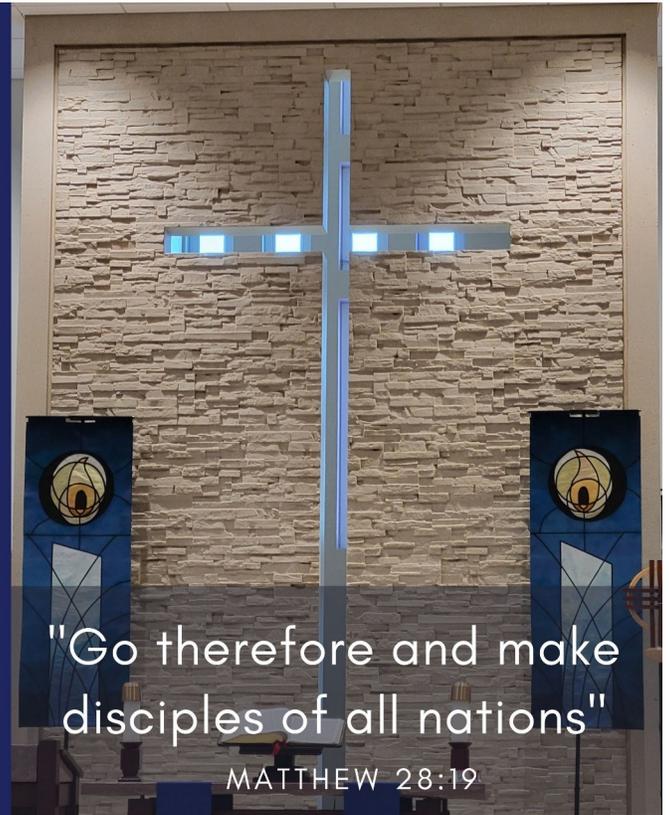


  
Pastor Eric Ohrtman

# INSTALLATION SUNDAY October 5

8:45 & 11:00 Festive Worship  
9:45 Celebration  
10:15 Faith Formation

Rev. Dayna Weltzin installed as Pastor  
Pastor Renee Splichal Larson to preside



Pr. Dayna's First Day with SoJ will be Wednesday, October 1



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



## NEW EPISODES WEEKLY



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

# NEW PARTNER CLASS

Interested in becoming a ministry partner of Spirit of Joy?



**Sunday, October 12 | 12:15 - 2:30 PM**

Come for Lunch, Fellowship, Learning

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

**YOU'RE INVITED...**

*indoor*

**TRUNK**  
or  
**Treat**

**SPIRIT OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 | 6:30-7:30PM**

# Telling the Stories of the Mission We Share

## Stewardship 2025

### *SoJ* **PRESCHOOL**

We welcomed our Lead Teacher, Miranda Stahl in December of 2024. Along with Kendra Namanny and Preschool Director, Amy Cauble, they are a formidable team! In the spring of 2025 we began to create clearer learning plans and goals that led to one kindergarten teacher telling us this fall, “Your students are so ready.” We’re thrilled to be able to do that in an environment that cherishes diversity through partnerships with Hope Coalition and LSS.



### *Bold* **SERVICE**

Engage to Change Camp Middle School Service Camp came back for a second year. HS students coordinated a number of service opportunities with adults providing support for meals and fellowship. Today, we’re working on strengthening partnerships with nine (9) Featured Ministry Partners while evaluating three of them each year to make sure that our partnership is still energizing for SoJ and transformative for our partners.

### *Extravagant* **GENEROSITY**

It was a year of maintenance, repairs, and improving efficiency around our facility. Every fountain on campus required extensive work, the entire faith formation wing was painted by staff and volunteers, volunteers overhauled the south hedge row and removed multiple trees, work has begun on restoration of the prayer labyrinth, and this fall promises another round of pruning and planting.





## Passionate WORSHIP

This year we tried a number of new things. On Good Friday your SoJ Choir led a stunning Tenebrae service. For the 4th of July we canceled morning worship and gathered in the evening. A tremendous blessing. 50 people counted their steps in conjunction with our summer sermon series, "Journey to Jerusalem", and we welcomed six guest preachers for our fall series. The move to one service over the summer seems popular as we had our strongest summer attendance in years.

## Lifelong Faith FORMATION

On the heels of Covid we had just one little one meeting with Little Lambs. Since, we've moved to a bigger space and it's at overflow capacity teaching the little ones God loves them no matter what! This fall we have had our largest high school youth gatherings in two years with an emphasis on phones and faith. And, we began "Full of Joy" the Spirit of Joy podcast aimed at creating a connection point with busy adults who might not have time for a weekly Bible Study or small group, but are actively listening to podcasts in their cars.



## Radical HOSPITALITY

Evangelism is a blessing as we continue to welcome guests nearly every week. A tremendous team is hard at work creating connection points for friends, family, and our community. Fellowship is evolving. This year we bowled at Union Social, spent an evening at Vinyl Taco, watched Augie Hockey, golfed and had dinner out at Charlie's Pizza.

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

It's your investment of time, talent, and finances that make Spirit of Joy's ministry possible. Please consider growing that commitment as we enter this season of giving!



Just a reminder, SoJ does not provide any tax, legal or investment advice. Donors are encouraged to consult with their personal tax advisor, estate attorney &/or financial advisor for specific tax, legal & investment information. Please consider investing 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. Join on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81840042712>

- Oct. 5: New Dawn Liberia Mission  
(in Shalom @ 10:15)
- Oct. 12: Numbers
- Oct. 19: Deuteronomy
- Oct. 26: Joshua



**Brewed Theology | Monday, 10/9 | 7PM @ McNally's**

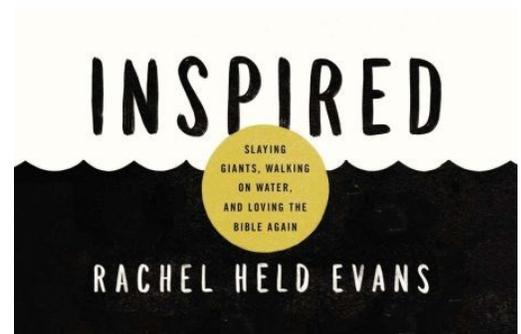
*Find the pre-reading at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).*

Despite our created and creaturely needs for community, we're lacking it. We're experiencing a loneliness epidemic in the U.S., and our physical and mental health is suffering because of it. In this Brewed Theology, we're going to discuss community: our need for it, how we're losing it, and what role faith communities might have in reclaiming the gift of being people together in the world God made.

**Women's Bible Study | Thursday @ 9AM**

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

Study begins October 16 @ 9am. Book order will be placed on Wednesday, October 8. Cost is \$10. If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it can change you, too.





# Spirit of Joy Preschool

## Preschool Off to a Wonderful Start!

Spirit of Joy Preschool is excited to welcome new friends and returning friends back to the classroom with classes beginning on Wednesday, September 3. The classrooms are freshly painted and new carpet squares are laid, a special thank you to Derris and the Ministry Resources Team, and we are learning new routines.

The preschool staff includes returning members, Miss Kendra, Miss Miranda, and Miss Amy. In addition to the staff, there are several new & returning volunteers including van drivers, classroom helpers, reading buddies, and substitute teachers – THANK YOU.

We look forward to building new friendships: developing our faith with weekly Chapel time, prayers, songs, and Bible stories: and together trying new activities to help us learn.

You are invited to explore God's world with us- visit the preschool, your preschool, whenever you are able. Contact Amy for more information.

Your prayers of support are appreciated as well.

Kindly, Amy Cauble, Miranda Stahl & Kendra Namanny

## Van Driver Ministry - Driver's Needed

We have several requests for transportation to and from the preschool. The van is prepped and ready. We are in need of more *drivers*.

Drivers' schedules could be 1-3 times per week or as your schedule allows.

Drivers needed especially at these times:

- Tuesdays 7:00am-7:50am
- Tuesdays 12:00pm-1:00pm
- Thursdays 7:00am-7:50am
- Thursdays 12:00pm-1:00pm



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



# Sharing the Dream

ART EXHIBITION

ART EXHIBITION & FUNDRAISER

DATE  
OCTOBER 16

LOCATION  
ICON EVENT CENTER

TIME  
7 - 9 PM



Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is hosting an Art Exhibition Fundraiser showcasing works of art from local and Guatemalan artists in support of our friends in Guatemala. The event will be held on October 16th from 7pm-9pm at the Icon Lounge in Sioux Falls. Please join us for a night of art, stories from Guatemala, and fun!

# Outreach Opportunities

## FOOD TO YOU

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

MESSIAH NEW HOPE  
5001 E MADISON ST



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

# Scouting America<sup>TM</sup>

## Sioux Council

Kids Against Hunger

Saturday, October 4 | 10-11:30AM

Join Eagle Scout Candidate, Lizzie, at Kids Against Hunger. We'll assemble food packets to be distributed regionally and internationally. Must wear closed toe shoes.

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

Kids  
Against  
Hunger<sup>®</sup>

# New Dawn Learning Center School Update

*Inspire, Develop, Transform*

Monrovia, Liberia

The students, families, and staff at the New Dawn Learning Center are excited to begin the second school year at the facility, which opened in the fall of 2024. This happened only with the generous support from Spirit of Joy and other partners. Thank you very much for helping provide a place for these students to learn and grow in a Christ-centered environment.



For those following the progress, one physical improvement to the facility is the exterior paint on building 1, which makes for a much more inviting student arrival.

Another plus is replacing bare dirt with a playground area.

The other two building sections remain much as before, with foundation and beam work completed, but no roof or interior work. The grid work is complete, ready for roofing to be funded, purchased, and installed.

The goal is to complete work on building 2 as soon as possible to give the 7<sup>th</sup> graders a designated classroom. \$22,500 is needed to complete the roofing on buildings 2 and 3, with additional funds needed to complete interior work.



In addition to funding the construction, there are many other ways to help; supporting student tuition, monthly teacher salaries, student uniforms, and school supplies. Most importantly, please keep the students and staff at the New Dawn Learning Center in your prayers as they begin the new school year.

Please come to the Shalom Center on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 to hear more.



New Dawn Learning Center School support team: Pastor Henrique Fleming (Grace Lutheran – Parker), Deacon Hannah Fleming, Jane Skaar (Spirit of Joy), Elaine Roberts (Spirit of Joy), Gerry Schnabel (Grace Lutheran – Parker), Deb Van Hove (Grace Lutheran – Parker), Larry Schoeszler (Spirit of Joy)

# Creation Care Corner

**October 1<sup>st</sup> is National Green City Day.** A green city addresses social, environmental, and economic impacts via eco-friendly alternatives that remove harmful chemicals and waste from communities. Green cities have the following goals in common:



- Lower emissions
- Conserve energy
- Reduce waste
- Ensure rich biodiversity
- Increase housing density and improve public health
- Encourage the development of sustainable local businesses

What are some examples of actionable items that green cities have achieved?

- Formed a Clean City Coalition
- Promoted clean energy (i.e., power sources that minimize greenhouse gas emissions)
- Encouraged Green Building Initiatives (i.e., LEED certification and Passive house design principles)
- Invested in urban reforestation
- Implemented efficient waste management systems
- Prioritized water conservation
- Encouraged urban agriculture and community gardens
- Developed green rooftops and vertical gardens
- Adopted smart city technologies
- Banned plastic bags
- Banned or placed restrictions on gas-powered lawn equipment
- Added electric buses to their fleets
- Financial incentives supporting renewables and energy efficiency
- Placed an emphasis on composting in addition to recycling
- Offered 5-cent refunds for recycling cans and bottles
- Promoted carpooling with HOV lanes
- Highlighted and implemented public transportation
- Prioritized dedicated bike lanes and connected networks and emphasize other cycling initiatives
  - \* Designed safe intersections
  - \* Expanded bike parking and storage
  - \* Promoted traffic-calming measures to slow down vehicle traffic and make streets safer for cyclists
  - \* Invested in cycling education and awareness
- Engaged the community through education and awareness

Do we recognize any of these action items in our own community? If not, what can we do to help set these in motion?

**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:11** “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Confirmation Sunday • 10 Grade Milestone

Sunday, October 26 | Both Services



10<sup>th</sup> Graders, their parents, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, family members, friends, and all partners of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church will be a part of this blessed experience as our students move to another level of their faith formation.

Please check your email for our quarterly financial update or visit [spiritofjoy.net/give](https://spiritofjoy.net/give) to watch.

## Financials through August 2025

### Checking Account:

General Fund	(\$13,036.33)
Building Fund	\$2,966.92
Donor Restricted	\$140,898.36
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$207,674.09
Donor Restricted	\$41,435.33
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$384,498.47</b>

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$516,548.54
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$539,818.22
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>(\$23,269.68)</b>

	August 2023	August 2024	August 2025
Attendance	814	876	1132
General Offering	\$ 40,861.29	\$ 48,140.53	\$ 46,279.78
Building Offering	\$ 28,119.64	\$ 18,096.19	\$ 2,966.92

Budget Transparency Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 28 @ 7pm

Shalom Center