

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

September 2023

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Peter 3: 18

I’m the only non-teacher in my birth family. Now, I have a partner who works in an academic setting and two students growing up in my house. Every bit of my life has been impacted by the rhythm and schedule of the academic year. I remember pouring sweat through the long days and late nights of early August as my parent’s joyfully toiled in anticipation of the Labor Day return of students. Even as I write, I need to take my children shopping for new shoes and school supplies. So much to do in anticipation of something new and hopeful. It feels like that at Spirit of Joy, right now.

Deacon Hannah, Marnie, Michele, Miss Amy, and even Heather are busy in a season of planning and preparation to welcome you and your students back into our program year. Deacon Hannah has a new brochure for high school youth and tons of information about the ELCA’s National Gathering ready for students and families. Marnie printed more than 1700 pages to be put into binders for middle school confirmation students and their guides. Michele has ordered curriculum and is recruiting teachers. Miss Amy is setting a new classroom for our growing preschool. And, Heather is sorting, organizing, and planning for a robust choir schedule.

All of this activity is not done just for fun, or without a specific purpose. As your Spirit of Joy staff, we talk often about how we are seeking to help you to continue to grow in relationship with one another and with Christ. We ask ourselves how we’re helping you to keep the baptismal promises that we echo over and over again. And, we wonder how all of this activity and joyful ministry brings glory to God. I believe, I know, that the Holy Spirit takes our effort, our planning and uses it to bear fruit in you as individuals, and in us as a community.

As you look through these pages and wonder about all this activity, considering how you are called and where you might join in, I ask you to join me in praying for these faithful leaders, for the volunteers and support staff who work alongside them, and for those with whom they share the good news. And, I ask you to make a commitment to continue that prayer this fall. In turn, we are and will be praying for you. That you might join us on this journey and help us to build God’s kingdom here, that you might be nourished in grace, and that you might grow in knowledge of Jesus.

Look through these pages. Join us in these days. Pray for us always. And, remember, God is with you until the end of the age.




Pastor Eric Ohrtman

Fall Fun

Ministry Fair - Kick Off Sunday

Sunday, September 10, 10-11 am

Gathering Space & Shalom

Discover all the ways you can be involved in the life and community of SOJ!

Root Beer Floats, Prizes, Balloons and more!



Introducing the SOJ Spirit Wear Store

See the merchandise, win the merchandise or visit the online shop: spiritofjoy.net.

Fall Schedule Begins

Sunday, September 10

8:45 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Faith Formation Hour

11:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, September 13

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Faith Formation Hour

(Children of Joy, Confirmation, Youth Group)

Creating a Culture of Calling

Spirit of Joy was one of 24 congregations in the country chosen to explore how we might live out the baptismal calling we all share. Now, we're ready to begin the living it out! Join us for kickoff on Sept. 14. That night you'll sign up for a small group meeting that fits your schedule. Six weeks of gathering. Then, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, author of bestseller "Love Without Limits" will join us for an evening of dinner and conversation on Nov. 2.

Dinner and Documentary

Thursday, September 14, 6pm

Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Small Group Meetings

September 17 - November 1

Signs ups will be available at the dinner on September 14

Dinner with Dr. Jacqueline Bussie

Thursday, November 2, 5pm

Outreach Opportunities



Breakfast at The Banquet

Thursday, September 14

Banquet Downtown

Prep starts at 5:30am. Meal servants arrive at 6:30. Meal service starts 7:00. Clean up is typically complete around 8:30. Sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups

Spirit of Joy and Westminster Presbyterian partnered together to deliver wish list items to Horace Mann Elementary. Thank you for your Extravagant Generosity!



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!

Congregational Life

Dear Siblings,

Greetings in the name of God our Father. You are invited to join us in small or large group lifelong faith formation opportunities created for you. Our goal is to reengage and connect as we explore our call to serve God and our neighbors. Some opportunities ask for RSVP, others you just show up! ALL are welcome. Bring a friend-Lutheran or Non-Lutheran welcome!

Creating a Culture of Calling: Thursday, September 14, 6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, viewing of a documentary, introducing small group leaders, and commissioning all small groups to explore what and how God is calling us to live a life of meaning and purpose. **RSVP online: spiritofjoy.net/signups**

Women's Weekly Bible Study

Bible study is now on Wednesdays beginning September 13 at 9am or 5pm in the Galilee Room. Pick up your copy of *Man's Search for Meaning* at the office.

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 presents on the key drivers of food insecurity and the role of the church in making a difference.

Women's Social Gathering Will Be Held Quarterly

Join us Monday, October 2 at 7pm. This is 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.

Women's Retreat: November 10 & 11 at Shetek (One Night Only)

Registration begins on September 1st! Registration is due by October 26th. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center!

Sunday Forum Resumes Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 AM

Joining us for the first forum this fall is Pastor Chris from Church on the Streets. Our Fall discussions will focus on Lutheranism. What makes us Spirit of Joy? What are the beliefs, values, and traditions of the Lutheran Church? Why do we worship the way we do? We have a lot to unfold but your Sunday Forum team will do our best to simplify the lessons. Bring your coffee and a cookie! Check out the SOJ website for our Sunday Forum discussion topics. Come just as you are, and we will learn together just as we are. No prior knowledge is required.



Faith Formation



Registration for PreK–High School

All new and returning students: sign up online at spiritofjoy.net/signups. Please fill out one form for each child participating in an education opportunity at Spirit of Joy. This includes Children of Joy PreK-5th Grade, Confirmation 6th-10th Grade, and 9th-12th Grade Youth Group. Faith Formation Kickoff is Sunday, September 10 & Wednesday, September 13.

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! (Add year long schedule)

Milestone News

3-Year Old First Step Milestone

Saturday, September 9, 10-11 AM

Parents and children will gather to meet some new friends, explore the church and best of all receive their Spark Story Bible! We will bless the children on Sunday, September 10 at the 8:45am service.

4-Year Old Walking with Jesus Milestone

Sunday, September 24, 10-11 AM in Galilee

Children and parents will learn how Jesus is with us wherever we go. Families will then take turns taking the Jesus “doll” home with them and taking pictures of them on adventures together.

Empty Nest Milestone

Sunday, October 1, 5 PM

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. Sign up for a fellowship time for those who became empty nesters 3years ago at 5pm on Oct. 1.

Youth News



Thanks to our high school youth ministry team (Amber May, Brooke Meyer, Brad Thiedens, Roxanne Berdahl, Jodi Pixler, and Margaret Vogel) for their help in creating a vibrant plan for the youth ministry! Our goal is to empower young people to live out their faith in a busy world.

All students (grades 9-12) are encouraged to be a part of the youth group! We will meet in the youth room or the Shalom Center on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm to learn, serve, and fellowship. Pick up a copy of the youth ministry brochure at the information desk. First night of youth group is Wednesday, September 13 in Shalom Center.

Envelopes of Joy

We hope to accompany ten or more students (grades 8-12) to the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! Our first fundraiser (Envelopes of Joy) for this trip begins September 1. We encourage all our partners and friends of SOJ to take an envelope and place the selected donation amount in the envelope, and put it in the cash box under the wall of envelopes. Thanks in advance for your generosity toward your youth ministry.

Save The Date: Tenth Grade Affirmation of Baptism - Sunday October 29.

**SOJ CAREGIVER
SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. 10am.

Sept. 19, 10am in the SoJ Library

Topic: "Caregivers Guide to Long Term Health Care"

The flyer has a light pink background with a vertical red bar on the right side. It features a grayscale photograph of an adult's hand gently holding a child's hand. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font.



Creation Care Corner

“Oh, the Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and the apple seed, the Lord is good to me. Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.....Ahhhhmen!”

It’s getting to be that time of year where we can pick apples, watch the leaves change colors, rake leaf piles, and enjoy the beauty of fall. If we really think about it, autumn isn’t quintessentially autumn without trees. Did you know that there are about 73,000 tree species on earth (including 9000 yet to be identified)?

What kind of images come to mind when **you** think of trees? Did you climb a favorite tree as a child? Do you like to have a picnic under a tree and enjoy the shade? Do you marvel at the changing leaves in fall and the quiet beauty of frost? Do you feel joy spotting the first cardinal of spring at the top of a tree? Have you swung on a swing suspended from a mature tree?

Not only are trees gifts from God, but they also provide **us** with gifts. Here are some of the blessings we receive from trees:

Clean the air

Tree roots reduce erosion

Improve water quality reducing runoff into sewers, streams, rivers

Lower temperatures by providing shade & influencing wind speed

Help to conserve energy depending on placement (shade in summer/more sunlight in winter)

Add value to homes & neighborhoods

Add to economy (people tend to shop longer in places with trees, especially on hot days)

Provide shelter & habitat for birds & small animals & species of fungi, insects, etc. (biodiversity)

Improve mental & physical health

Reduce noise pollution

Provide food (fruit, nuts, cacao for chocolate, spices, maple syrup)

Even though we just covered a host of reasons why trees are so important and beneficial to us all, we should pose this question: *Can **just** planting trees save the planet?*

The answer is **No**. Although trees absolutely absorb CO₂ and forests are a vital component for combatting climate change, trees cannot absorb enough CO₂ on their own to fix what’s happening, no matter how many we plant. That isn’t to say that we shouldn’t keep planting trees – we absolutely should – but all the good they do isn’t enough to fix the problem of unchecked burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, desertification, and certain ag/farming practices. In fact, older forests that contain a variety of tree species are actually the best at storing carbon, which is why it’s so important to keep old-growth forests intact.

Now, go out and enjoy the trees in your nearest neighborhood, park, or trails. Come walk the grounds at Spirit of Joy if you are a local partner. Check out the following if you are curious: **Trees, Water & People**_(has a chapter & does work on Tribal Lands here in SD), **National Forest Foundation** (geared toward children, educators, youth groups) **One Tree Planted** (more of a global reach).



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Playground & Popsicle Fun



Preschool Begins September 6

Our 7th year of preschool will begin this month- hurray! There are over 25 students attending from the surrounding neighborhoods. We can't wait to come together as a community to learn and grow together.

Preschool days include literacy, math, Chapel, outdoor play, music and social activities. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom or prepare supplies, please call Amy Cauble. Some ideas might be reading to children, sharing a hobby like cooking or woodworking, playing instruments for/with us, sharing a Bible story, sew a project, or create a snack to share. Come as often as you are able- a one-time special visit, monthly, or weekly. All are welcome, visitors are considered special guests!



Help Wanted: Van Drivers

Do you have an extra 30-60 minutes in your week? Do you enjoy driving through the city? We are seeking a few van drivers for the preschool year. Routes are within thirty minutes of the preschool, running at 7am and 12pm Monday through Friday from September to May. (holidays off) If interested, contact Amy Cauble for more information.



You are cordially invited to...

Music, Mocha, & Masterpieces Auction

Sunday, October 15, 2023 6:30-8:00pm

Spend a cool October evening enjoying **coffee, desserts, and music** by Spirit of Joy Friends & Family. **Silent Auction & Live Auction** handmade artwork including knitting, oil paintings, photography and pottery. Purchase a unique gift for that special someone or save it for yourself! Proceeds from this event will support preschool ministry expenses such as curriculum resources, parent support tools, and classroom supplies. RSVP online to help us plan for numbers. All are welcome, feel free to invite a friend!

Would you like to share a dessert? (It's okay if you can't).

Seeking Desserts: homemade cake, pie, cookies, bars, etc. *Reminder: Spirit of Joy is nut free.*

Sign up online: spiritofjoy.net/signups

Spirit of Joy Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at Spirit of Joy

I. Unfinished Business

A. Purchase of van / transportation

B. Second Reading of Policies

1. Abuse Prevention

2. Individual Benevolence

3. Offering Counting

4. Wedding

Motion by Jodi Hanson and second by Ali Lennon to accept policies 1-4 as submitted. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Staff Handbook- not approved, will be reviewed at the September meeting.

II. New Business

A. First Reading of Building Use Policy

B. Principal Payment on Mortgage. Motion by Kendra Krueger and second by Ali Lennon to make a one time payment to principle on the Spirit of Joy mortgage of \$100,000. Motion carried by voice vote.

III. Meeting Review and Lord's Prayer: The meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer.

Next Leadership Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Financials through July 2023

Financials through July 2023

Checking Account:

General Fund \$11,007.10
 Building Fund \$19,796.22
 Donor Restricted \$11,815.83
 Sunday School \$1,546.11
 Reserve Fund \$4,360.10
 Petty Cash \$200.00

	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023
Attendance	???	549	943
General Offering	\$ 36,254.74	\$ 40,702.27	\$ 87,835.38
Building Offering	\$ 17,985.68	\$ 26,699.65	\$ 19,796.22

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770

Received as of July 31, 2023: \$394,108.14

Savings Accounts:

Building \$206,076.62

Donor Restricted \$69,516.33

Total Cash Balance \$324,318.31

Year-to-date Income for Ministry \$393,286.50

Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry \$434,713.72

Net Income/Deficit for Ministry - \$41,427.22

Odds & Ends

Dear Spirit of Joy Partners,

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Spirit who sustains us in our Discipleship.

It is with great joy and gratitude to you all that I share I have completed my Master of Arts degree at Wartburg Theological Seminary and participated in the WTS Baccalaureate and Graduation ceremony in Dubuque, IA on May 14 this year. What a joyful celebration it was, and I was so thrilled to gather with beloved classmates, professors, administrators, and colleagues to mark this special day in my theological formation.

And while I celebrated that day, and where the Spirit had led me, I did so reminded of the ways in which you, my Spirit of Joy Partners, had prayed for me, encouraged me, and shaped my faith formation. How blessed I am to have you all as my companions on this journey. You saw in me



gifts that I did not always see in myself. You listed to me as I discerned my path. You offered advice to me as I leaned into this call by the Spirit. You generously supported me financially with a scholarship for my tuition costs. You showed up as a Gospel centered community, and you sent out one of your own to deepen their ministry call in the world God so loves. Thank you seems a small return for what you all have given to me.

So, as a token of my appreciation for your prayers, support, and generosity, I hope you will join me between services on September 17th in the Shalom Center for cake, coffee, and conversation. I look forward to this time of fellowship with you, thanking you in person, and sharing where my seminary education and ministry are taking me in the future.

Yours, in Christ,
Wendi Van Beek

A BeFriender speaks:

BeFriender ministry has allowed me the opportunity to bring or become a loving presence for others through the delicate, yet powerful art of listening. Giving a person time and space to "tell their story" is a bit harder than you might imagine, and learning this skill is fundamental to being an effective BeFriender. I feel privileged to be involved in the BeFriender ministry and have experienced great satisfaction lending my ear, in confidence, to a few of our beloved, valued partners of Spirit of Joy.

This ministry is a good fit for me and I'm thankful to be included.

Lori VanBallegooyen

Want to Connect?

Church: 605-333-2004
Linda Beckman: 605-759-4663





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Fall Schedule Begins

Sunday, September 10

&

Wednesday, September 13