

# WIND SWEEP

## Monthly Newsletter

September 2024

*You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name.... Isaiah 12:1-4*

I am currently using a devotional from Bible Gateway called "A 40 Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer". When I'm struggling spiritually, I find myself coming back to his writings and using them in devotions. His discipline mingled with a realistic and pain informed worldview are what I need in those moments. A few days ago, he began with the scripture above. Then, he followed with this brief commentary:

*"Thankfulness works in the Christian community as it usually does in the Christian life. Only those who give thanks for the little things receive the great things as well. We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts prepared for us because we do not give thanks for daily gifts. We think that we should not be satisfied with the small measure of spiritual knowledge, experience, and love that has been given to us, and that we must constantly be seeking the great gifts. Then we complain that we lack the deep certainty, the strong faith, and the rich experiences that God has given to other Christians, and we consider these complaints to be pious. We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the small (and yet really not so small!) gifts we receive daily. How can God entrust great things to those who will not gratefully receive the little things from God's hand?"*

I am guilty of missing the small things when I'm in a season of dryness, like this. I forget to give thanks for you, for your generosity, for your constant commitment to our mission and ministry. I miss that the pictures of children and grandchildren returning to school are part of our living out our baptismal call to community and I ought join you in rejoicing. I miss out on celebrating the amazing things that you do for one another and to make the world a better place every day because I am lost in the brokenness and pain, looking for instant transformation, rather than appreciate your constant and persistent goodness.

And so, in this newsletter, I hope that you'll see the small gifts that we share together. While the bank balance isn't great, your generosity is. Thank you. Our enrollment in faith formation is strong and we can't wait for the blessing of Kickoff Sunday. Thank you for taking the time to update information and for planning to show up! We're about to welcome another round of new partners and continue our growth. Thank you for practicing hospitality! We are in a season of milestones and will keep those aforementioned promises to 9th graders, 6th graders, and 3 year olds all just this month. Our worship continues with the choir coming back and a new liturgy that we'll learn together. Thank you for bringing your passion to worship. We'll bless the Liberia Mission and return to our series on social justice. Thank you for being so bold in your service.

I lose track of all the blessings around me, but you don't. Thank you!

A prayer for your month from Bonhoeffer: "Lord, open my eyes that I may see the giftedness of my life and let my life be a hymn of praise and thanksgiving. Amen."

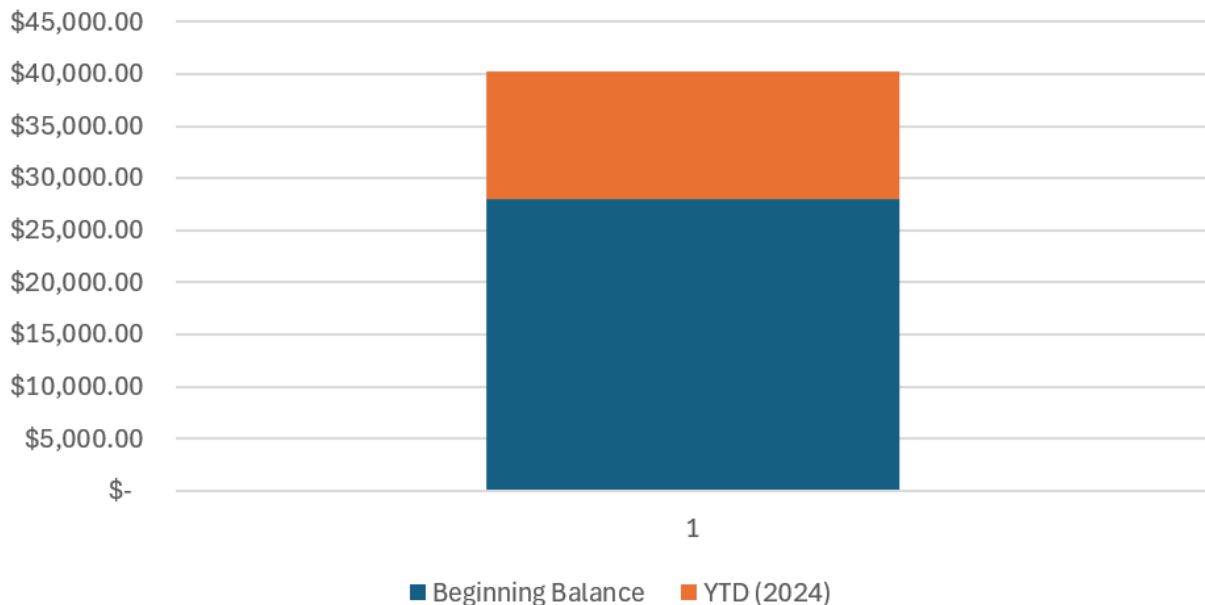


  
Pastor Eric Ohrtman



Direct or immediate gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund can come in many forms. It can be as simple as a memorial gift or cash. You can also gift CDs, stocks, bonds, personal property, real estate, grain and/or livestock. You may want to talk with your financial advisor, CPA or attorney about the best way to do this type of property transfer. We'll talk about legacy or deferred planned gifts next month. 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)

# Fall Fun

**NO MATTER WHAT**  
*God Loves You*



## Ministry Fair & Fall Kick Off

### Sunday, 9/8

8:45am Worship

10:00am Faith Formation

11:00am Worship

### Wednesday, 9/11

5:30pm Choir

6:30pm Worship

7:00pm Faith Formation



Choir Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

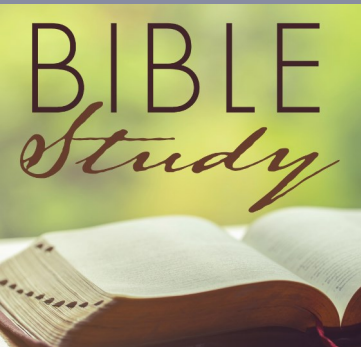
Do you want to join the choir but can't commit to all rehearsals? Come check us out on a trial basis. We are looking for many voices to join us Sunday, October 20 for a BIG, BIG song and fun surprise. We'll be rehearsing this song at 6:00 each Wednesday until October 20. Come to as many rehearsals as you can and see what we're all about. **Did I mention the song is BIG?**



# Congregational Life



**Women's Retreat Registration:** Women of Joy are encouraged to register for our annual women's retreat by September 18! Register online or get a hard copy of the registration form at the Welcome Center. Contact the office for information on scholarships.



**Social Justice Series** begins Thursday, September 5 with Dr. Bendtro facilitating a discussion on racism from the Native American perspective. Supper will be provided. Please sign up online by September 3 to help us plan better for the meal.



**In-Home Fellowship** will resume at 5:30pm on Monday, September 9 at Donna Olson's home. This is a time of caring conversation, laughter, new friends, Bible talk, and more. All are welcome here. Please contact Deb Stapelman for more information.



**Women's Bible Study:** Bible Study resumes at 9am on Thursday, September 12 in the Galilee Room. Join us for a nine-week session on Growing Older and Wiser. Who wants to get older? Usually, teenagers do. What does the Bible have to say about that? Come, let us reason together.

**Grief Support:** The SOJ Befrienders invite you to the grief support group starting September 4 from 9:30am to 11:30am at the church. Grief Share is a Christ-centered 13-week program of discussions, videos, and participant guidebooks to help your grief journey as it has helped many others. All are welcome (SoJ partners or non-partners). For more information go to [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) or contact Befriender Marilyn Gannon. Signup at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](http://spiritofjoy.net/signups).

### **Looking to connect with other moms at Spirit of Joy?**

Our Moms with a Purpose group meets on Thursdays from 10:45 to 12:00 at Spirit Of Joy. Call or text Jamie Appel at 605-360-7930 for more information.

Check out [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net) for more information



# Faith Formation



## Registration for PreK–High School

All new and returning students: sign up online at [spiritofjoy.net/signups](https://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 8 & Wednesday, September 11.

## Little Lambs | Begins Sunday, September 8

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 Galilee Classroom from 10-11am. We would love for you to join us!

# Outreach Opportunities



## The Liberia Mission Has Come a Long Way!

With your support, we have completed one section of the building (4 classrooms, 2 bathrooms) and will open in fall of 2024 (September). Please join us in making this dream a reality.

- \$150 will support a student for the full year (looking for 75 scholarships)
- \$15 for an armchairs (looking for 25)

Make checks payable to Liberia Mission or Spirit of Joy with Liberia Mission in the memo.

Thank you!



## Join us for Sunday Forum | Sunday, September 15 at 10AM

The Bold Service team will share with the congregation who our ministry partners are and how we do ministry together. We have many ministry partners, and we want to let the congregation know how God is at work in each of these ministries.

Sunday Forum (Adult Sunday School) will follow the Lectionary this year, mainly the Gospels! Let's reason together at 10am on Sunday mornings in the Galilee Room with coffee and treats.



### **High School Youth Orientation Night | Wednesday, September 11 | 7PM**

High schoolers are invited to join us for a night of games, treats, new friends, and sharing expectations at youth group. Bring a friend!

### **High School Confirmation - Mentor/Mentee Orientation | Wed. September 4 | 7PM**

Confirmation is about our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. Journeying as a mentor with a confirmation student might be one of the best things you've ever done! Thank you! At our annual Mentors/Mentee Orientation, we will review the mentor/mentee binder contents, complete your SOJ's background check form, and have time for questions and answers.

### **September Service Project | Monday, September 23 | 5-7PM**

The high school youth group will help with the preschool Bike-a-Thon from 5-7pm on Monday, September 23. Students will help with set up, running the shaved ice machine, and cleaning up.

### **Summer Adventure Trip Information Night | Monday, September 23 | 7PM in Galilee**

The high school youth will go on a houseboating trip (Lake Vermillion, MN) in Summer of 2025! All high schoolers (2025-2026) 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome on this fun adventurous trip.

### **September Schedule: High School Youth (HSY)**

- Wed. 9/4 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentor/Mentee Training
- Wed. 9/11 Orientation/ Welcome Night
- Wed. 9/18 It's your Calling HSY
- Mon. 9/23 5-7pm Assist: Preschool Bike-a-Thon  
7pm Houseboat Trip Info Night
- Wed. 9/25 It's your Calling HSY



# Creation Care Corner

*"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*



It's **Back to School time** once again! Students and teachers are reuniting and there is excitement and energy in the air. Learning is fun; reading opens new worlds; knowledge yields insight and creativity.

Although not everyone is starting classes right now, one can ask the question: "Do we ever stop being students?" Of course not! We are always learning. The world around us is wondrous and - if we are open to it - we can learn something new almost every day (plus, it's good for our brains). We can also come up with creative solutions to problems or improve operations.

For example, did you hear about the middle school students in Oakland who studied, advocated for, and convinced their district to purchase a heat pump to help keep their school cooler? Do you know that a student in New Jersey invented a device that is AI-driven, solar-powered, and self-cleaning that will attract invasive spotted lanternflies and zap them to death? It's called ArTreeficial and it will help protect crops, plants and trees.

Have you heard of the Canadian company, Plaex, who has been repurposing plastic waste to make building bricks for homes, kind of like Legos? They are 3x sturdier than regular bricks.

Do you know who Monika Seyfried is? She's the youth innovator behind Grow Your Own Cloud, which is a new biotech company storing data in the DNA of plants.

Did you know they have solar paint (aka photovoltaic paint)? While it isn't efficient enough now to be functional or cost-effective, this technology is getting closer and closer to reaching that point.

Are you aware that scientists have discovered that playing the sounds of a thriving coral reef via underwater speakers is helping to attract coral larvae and fish back to the dying reefs? This is a study in progress yet still an exciting one.

Let us continue to be filled with amazement and wonder at all the gifts the Almighty has provided. God, we thank you for teachers, for scientists, for those who keep asking questions and finding solutions, and for people who want to preserve your wonderful planet for generations to come.



*"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out." Proverbs 18:15*



# Spirit of Joy Preschool



Welcome to our new preschool staff members, Amy Knutson (Teacher) and Marissa Kadinger (Assistant Teacher- Tues, Thurs, & Fri)! We are grateful they have joined the Spirit of Joy Church & Preschool community and we are excited to learn and

grow with them. Please stop by and say hello at the preschool office anytime. We are excited to have Kendra Namanny back for her 5th year at Spirit of Joy! Amy Cauble gratefully continues her work at the preschool providing program support, teacher support, learning tools, and curriculum.

Preschool security doors have been installed. Doors will be locked during preschool hours and preschool days only. If you would like to connect with the preschool program, there will be a Ring doorbell provided or a church staff member would be happy to assist you. As always, email and phone calls are also great ways to connect: [amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:amy.spiritofjoy@gmail.com). Thank you for helping keep our children safe.

## Drivers Needed for Preschool

*The preschool transportation service is “game changing” says one parent.*

We know that early childhood education program provides a firm foundation for future academic success. But without the van service, there are children who simply could not attend preschool. Investing just a couple hours per week provides a return that lasts a lifetime. Gratefully, there are two vans prepared and ready for these young learners. Drivers are all that is needed. Needs are especially high Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 12:10-12:50pm. Driving schedules are flexible - 1,2,3 times per week; specific months of the year - we can work with your schedule. Please contact Amy Cauble for more information.





## SoJ Preschool Bike-A-Thon Fundraiser

Riding your bike can raise funds for the preschool? You bet! Grab your bike to join the fun, meet new friends, and support the preschool ministry.

**Who?** You! All are welcome.

**When?** Monday, September 23, 6:30-7:30pm

**What?** Bike Ride & Smores – bikes of all shapes and sizes welcome.

**Where?** Spirit of Joy Parking Lot

**Why?** Raise funds to purchase new tables for the preschool classrooms.

Our goal is to purchase new tables that help learn and work together more easily. One table costs approximately \$400.



### New Partner Class Sunday, October 13, 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, Social Justice, book clubs, Bible Studies, and more, there's room for all!

# LET THE BLESSINGS FLOW

"WHEREVER THE RIVER FLOWS, LIFE WILL FLOURISH. WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS, LIFE ABOUND." -EZEKIEL 47:8-9

## REMARKABLE GIVING

2023 YTD (through July)

\$393,484

\$56,212 monthly

2024 YTD (through July)

\$466,820

\$66,689 monthly

Year over Year Difference

+\$73,336

+\$10,477 monthly

**Additional increase necessary to fully fund mission in 2024: \$26,735 or \$5347 monthly**



## DATES TO KNOW

- Sept. 22- Fall Stewardship Sermon Series "Let the Blessings Flow" Launches
- Oct. 28- 2025 Budget Transparency Meeting @ 5pm in Galilee Room
- Nov. 10-13 Commitment Worship
- Nov. 17- Congregation Budget & Election Meeting @ 10am

**2024 Financial Goals: Fully Fund Mission. Pay Off Operational Debt.**

If you can join us in making a change, please visit [spiritofjoy.net/give](http://spiritofjoy.net/give) or contact the office at (605) 333-2004.

# THANK YOU, SPIRIT OF JOY!

TRANSPARENCY  LITERACY  STABILITY

## Financials through July 2024

### Checking Account:

General Fund	(\$13,898.41)
Building Fund	\$16,267.78
Donor Restricted	\$8,457.40
Sunday School	\$1,613.06
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024
Attendance	549	943	591
General Offering	\$ 40,702.27	\$ 88,035.38	\$ 50,258.56
Building Offering	\$ 26,699.65	\$ 19,796.22	\$ 16,267.78

### Savings Accounts:

Building	\$147,716.58
Donor Restricted	\$41,464.00
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$206,180.51</b>

### Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770  
Received as of July 31, 2024: \$609,299.61

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$393,286.50
Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry	\$434,713.72
<b>Net Income/Deficit for Ministry</b>	<b>- \$41,427.22</b>

## Communication Reminders

### Website: [spiritofjoy.net](http://spiritofjoy.net)

Go to our website to sign up for serving opportunities and activities. Find links to our YouTube channel, giving through Tithely.ly and so much more.

### Watch Your Email

- *What's Happening at SoJ* - arrives each Friday
- Links to weekly Bulletins and Worship services - arrives each Sunday
- *Windswept* - monthly on-line newsletter (printed 3x/year)

### Social Media

Follow SoJ on Facebook and Instagram. We encourage you to “like” posts and even comment - to help share SoJ with many other people!



[facebook.com/spiritofjoylutheran](https://facebook.com/spiritofjoylutheran)



[spiritofjoy\\_sf](https://instagram.com/spiritofjoy_sf)



[spiritofjoy\\_sf](https://youtube.com/spiritofjoy_sf)

### Spirit of Joy App



- Search “Tithely Church App” in your App Store
- Install Church App - Tithely.ly
- Click “Open” when it’s done installing
- Type “Spirit of Joy” in Church Name & find our logo
- Add the App to your Home Screen

### Directory App



(only after your email is in our system)

- Install “Instant Church Directory” in your App Store
- Click open and create new login
- Add a family photo!



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# Fall Schedule Begins

Sunday, September 8

&

Wednesday, September 11