

WIND SWEEP

Monthly Newsletter

September 2025

Welcome to the 2025-26 Program Year!

As we launch Bible in a Year, Lifelong Faith Formation from Little Lambs through Adults (join us for Brewed Theology on Monday, Sept. 22), polish our Annual Women's Retreat, get ready to golf, lean into our Fall Stewardship Campaign, and prepare to welcome Pr. Dayna (see her profile further in), I find it important to remind myself that all the "stuff" of our mission and ministry is rooted in who we are and the values we share as Spirit of Joy. So, I want to use this space to revisit those pieces of our identity and to remind you of my word of the year and again invite you to join me in that practice.

Our naming verse:

"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." -John 15:11
The joy of Christ is the gift of grace. By his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we have been set free to be people of God. Filled with love. Abounding in joy. Defined by mercy. Overflowing these gifts for all.

Our Core Values:

Bold Service, Passionate Worship, Lifelong Faith Formation, Radical Hospitality, and Extravagant Generosity.

These work together with our vision statement and key messages to define who we are and what we will be. Much remains the same. In other ways we continue to strive for excellence in giving glory to God and living that vision and our values. **Bold Service:** This year, a harder look at our Ministry Partners. **Passionate Worship:** A fun fall sermon series on the 7 Most Famous Verses in the Bible and a worship them that holds together Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. **Lifelong Faith Formation:** Bible in a Year. Full of Joy Podcast. Renewed travel opportunities for HS Youth. And, all the excellent work with children and families. **Radical Hospitality:** Improved invitations and continued striving for community building with things like a more formal fall golf outing and a night at Augie hockey. **Extravagant Generosity:** A hard look at long term depreciation and amortization. Continued growth of the Endowment Fund. And, our Annual Fall Stewardship Emphasis.

My word of the year:

Embrace— accept, welcome, adopt, embody, cherish, treasure, include

I've been more successful with this year's word than last. Several times I have found myself able to process a tense moment because of the reminder. In other moments, I've been set free to try something new and explore myself and our community. That's what I'm inviting you into for these next four months. Dive in. It's not too late to register for Bible in a Year! Download the podcasts on Mondays! Invite a friend to worship or fellowship! Invest in all that is happening with your time and your talents. For me, it's been life-giving. I trust that God will make it true for you, too!




Pastor Eric Ohrtman

Our New Pastor Rev. Dayna Weltzin



Currently serving her first call at St. Paul's Lutheran in Clear Lake, SD, Pr. Dayna is an excellent leader with a wide variety of experiences across the church and business worlds. Along with experience in development, hospice, and as a legal assistant, she brings with her the formative experience of having lived abroad for six years as a young adult. Fluent in Spanish, she has a particular care for our neighbors from the most vulnerable part of our world.

From Pr. Dayna, "Although my Lutheran theology is strong, I have been influenced by the core values of the UCC: social justice, diversity and inclusion, LGBTQIA+ rights, spirituality, eco-justice, and images for God. These themes have become a piece of who I am as Christ's follower."

Pr. Dayna earned her Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary. She has a Masters in Adult learning from Drake University and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with degrees in Spanish and Communications. You might say she's a life-long learner.

Pr. Dayna enjoys time outdoors, home projects and antiquing. In the spirit of relationship building, Pr. Dayna is active in local groups: Kiwanis, Healthy Hometown committee, New Hope for Cancer, Deuel County Community Foundation, the Ministerial Association and Feeding SD monthly distribution. And, has served on the worship planning committee for the SD Synod Assembly each of the last two years as well as participating in the Companion Synod Committee.

From Pr. Dayna's Rostered Minister Profile

Areas of Expertise: 1. Building a Sense of Community, 2. Pastoral Care and Visitation, 3. Preaching / Worship Leadership, 4. Social Ministry, 5. Teaching

Areas of Strength: 1. Innovation / Creativity, 2. Administration, 3. Music / Worship / Arts, 4. Ministry with Seniors, 5. Stewardship

On Building a Sense of Community: In baptism, we are born into community through the power of the Holy Spirit. We people of faith rely on each other to role-model Christ's loving and forgiving ways. I believe we are our best selves when we work together in joyful service to our Lord!

On Pastoral Care and Visitation: In my vocation, pastoral care and visitation are the backbone of tending to the flock. Pastoral care can be subtle or grand. What counts is the effort... to take time for a cup of coffee, to send a card or connect in person. The possibilities are endless to bring sunshine into someone's day.

How Pr. Dayna Sees Herself: The three prevailing themes that emerge in how I move in the world include my enthusiasm, communication skills and strong work ethic. Folks often comment on how they admire my positivity and zest for life. I adore engaging with others, whether friends or strangers, through conversation, story-telling and writing.

From the Spirit of Joy Call Committee: We give thanks for the privilege of navigating this call process on behalf of Spirit of Joy. You came to us with clear desires for a complement to Pr. Eric. While you prioritized the public role of a pastor and were clear about your expectations for excellence in leadership, you asked us to especially consider candidates who can help us offer care to our partners as our congregation continues to evolve. With her background in hospice and deep care for spiritual wellness and pastoral visitation, we believe Pr. Dayna will be an excellent complement to Pr. Eric.

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

Fall Fun

Ministry Fair & Fall Kick Off

Sunday
9/7

8:45am Worship
10:00am Faith Formation
11:00am Worship

Wed.
9/10

5:30pm Choir
6:30pm Worship
7:00pm Faith Formation
8:00pm Youth Group



Choir Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 10

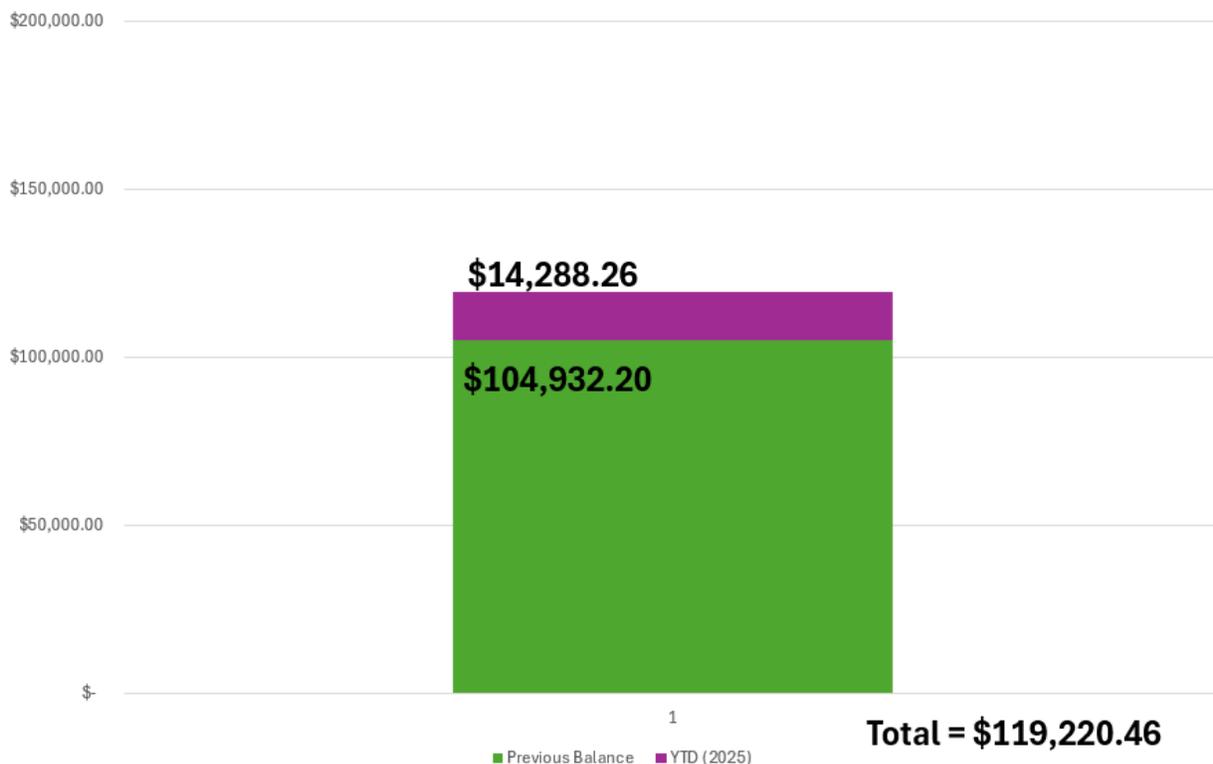
Join us on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30PM. Can't make a full year commitment? Come when you can! Join us for a song or three. We rehearse weekly during the school year and sing once a month during worship. If you'd like to try it out for the fall or closer to Christmas - that's okay! Can't make it right at 5:30 - that's okay! Come when you can and join us. Highschool students are also welcome!





According to our Mission Endowment Policy, the Committee meets annually to review potential disbursements based on an annual distribution amount calculated by the ELCA. That amount is basically 4 percent of the average net fair market value of a trailing number of quarters that also accounts for inflation and maintaining the Fund into perpetuity. This amount is considered a guide. It can be adjusted at the discretion of the Committee. We did not make any disbursements last year. This year the ELCA calculated a cumulative distribution amount of approximately \$2,900. This amount then gets subdivided by the current five Sub-Funds based on their percent of the whole. These amounts range from \$400 to \$800. As a Committee, we have decided not to allow applications for potential disbursements this year so the Fund can benefit from compound growth. Going forward, the Committee has set \$5,000 as a material threshold to make potential disbursements.

The initial response to the Fund has been incredible, but we still have a ways to go to make a meaningful impact. Please consider investing now in SoJ's future!



For more information on Mission Endowment Fund, visit:
spiritofjoy.net/mission-endowment-fund-2



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 7 & Wednesday, September 10.

Little Lambs | Begins Sunday, September 7

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!

Adult Sunday School | Begins Sunday, September 14

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.

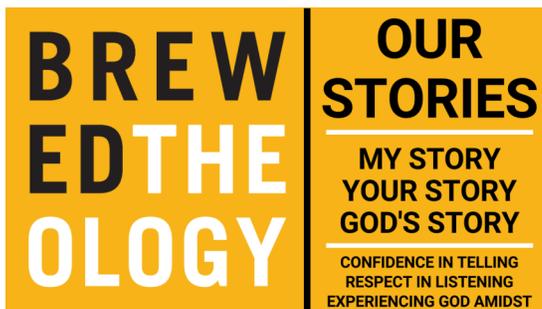
Join on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81840042712>

Sept. 14: Genesis

Sept. 21: Exodus

Sept. 28: Leviticus

Brewed Theology | Monday, September 22 | 7PM @ McNally’s



In a world where 280 characters often become "the story," in this Brewed Theology, we expand our understanding and awareness of stories. People use stories to dispossess, malign, empower, and humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity. And there’s nothing that shapes our identities more than hearing, living, and sharing stories. In this Brewed Theology, we’ll

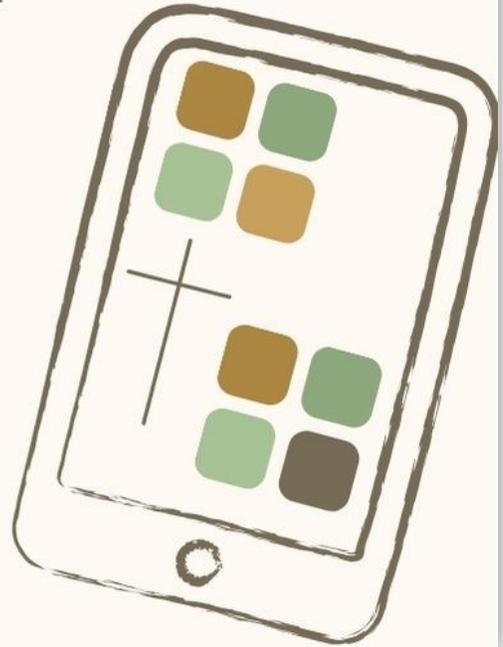
explore the power and place of stories, and how God is present in the mix of our and others' stories. **Find the pre-reading at spiritofjoy.net/signups.**

Women’s Bible Study| Begins Thursday, Sept. 11 @ 9:30am

Love: A Word Study– how can we love God, our partner, and our jeans? It’s a strange word in English. The biblical languages do a better job of providing nuance. Let’s learn about it together!

Youth Group Fall 2025

JOIN US STARTING
SEPTEMBER 10TH @8 PM
TO KICK OFF OUR
PHONES FOR FAITH SERIES



Scouting America™

Sioux Council

Sneaker Collection

Got Sneakers? Bring your old shoes to SoJ by Sunday, September 14 to donate to our Eagle Scout Candidate, Alexandria's project. Shoes will be sold to "GotSneakers" and proceeds will benefit the Sioux Falls Humane Society. (Any Condition is OK!)



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.

Kids Against Hunger®



Spirit of Joy Preschool

Welcome Back to School: Preschool Staff & Volunteers

Excited giggles, children in the hallways, a refrigerator filled with lunch bags, and Chapel time exploration... we are excited to get back into the preschool routine! Your preschool will begin classes on Wednesday, September 3rd. Children from the neighborhood, referrals, and returning students are on their way.

In addition, the 2025-2026 school year welcomes back its experienced, passionate preschool staff:

- Amy Cauble- Program Director (year 9)
- Miranda Stahl- Preschool Teacher (year 2)
- Kendra Namanny – Assistant Preschool Teacher (year 6)

Thank you to our many returning volunteers:

- Rod Domke
- Bob Jenson
- Joel Christensen
- Gene Benson
- Susan Obermoller
- Pastor Eric
- Crystal Domke
- ...with more to come!!



You are so important to us and the preschool families.

We are grateful to share this ministry with these people. Please stop by and say hello at the preschool office anytime.

Volunteer Openings at Preschool

Share a favorite hobby, read stories, listen to stories, lead Chapel, or pushing a swing – all these (and more) are ways you can join the preschool fun. Please contact Amy Cauble if you have 30 minutes to share with the youngest of learners in our building. You make a difference to the preschool community- thank you.

BIBLES, BIKES, & BINGO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 | 6:30-7:30PM



SPirit OF JOY
PRESCHOOL

Bring your bike, trike, stroller or scooter to church for an intergenerational, community event in the gorgeous fall weather.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME - COME JOIN THE FUN!



Preschool Van Drivers

THANK YOU, SPIRIT OF JOY! We are starting the preschool year with several returning van drivers but we can always use more help. If you are interested in sharing the driving or assistant driver routes, we can use your help. Driving schedules are flexible.

Share time with preschoolers and enjoy the wonder of the world with stories, songs, and conversations that will leave you filled with joy. This volunteer role will give smiles and memories to last. We know that without the van service, there are children who simply could not attend preschool. Investing just a couple of hours per week provides a return that lasts a lifetime.

Drive times are 7am-7:50am and 12:00pm-12:50pm during the school year. Feel free to call Amy Cauble for more information today.



Safety for Our Children

It's Back to School Time! This means preschool security doors will be locked during preschool hours and preschool days. 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. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Coming Soon!



EPISODES BEGIN SEPT 8

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

Financials through July 2025

Checking Account:

General Fund	\$11,037.77
Building Fund	\$3,151.54
Donor Restricted	\$140,005.08
Reserve Fund	\$4,360.10
Petty Cash	\$200.00

Savings Accounts:

Building	\$215,102.59
Donor Restricted	\$41,435.33
Total Cash Balance	\$415,292.41

	July 2023	July 2024	July 2025
Attendance	943	591	433
General Offering	\$ 88,035.38	\$ 50,258.56	\$ 62,159.12
Building Offering	\$ 19,796.22	\$ 16,267.78	\$ 3,202.30

Overflowing! Campaign Totals

Pledged: \$678,770
Received as of July 31, 2025: \$759,457.83

Year-to-date Income for Ministry	\$470,260.37
<u>Year-to-date Expenses for Ministry</u>	<u>\$469,435.32</u>
Net Income/Deficit for Ministry	\$825.05

Communication Reminders

Website: 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



[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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Sioux Falls, SD

Permit No. 7771

Return Service Requested



Fall Schedule Begins

Sunday, September 7

&

Wednesday, September 10