



Tidings of Joy

"Joyfully Reaching Out to Others in Christian Love and Service"
Joy Lutheran Church, ELCA



Volume 36, Issue 5

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

May 2020

Staff

The Rev. John David Bryant - Pastor
Steven K. Weiss – Organist
Brenda Godson – Church Secretary

Worship Times:

Sunday

10:00a.m. Worship Service

8:45a.m. Adult Sunday School

Children's Education Time
(During the Sermon)

Saturday May 30th

5:30p.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(Prayer and Praise)

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Pastor's Email Address:
prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

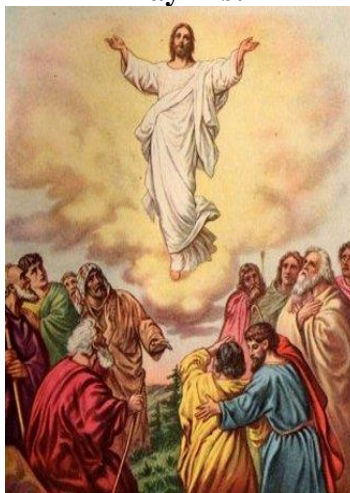
Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com

NOTE: All services, meetings, events, & activities are still suspended as of this newsletter, until further notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Watch for updates from Pr. Bryant.

ASCENSION DAY

May 21st



PENTECOST

May 31st



"**Office Hours:** Weds and Thurs 9am-2pm and by appointment. It is strongly suggested to call ahead before dropping by. Pastor is off Mondays except for last week of month, when Friday is day off. Best means to contact pastor is 321-312-7339 or prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."

Pastor's Corner

Pr. J. David Bryant

Friends,

The Lord be with you.

A faithful question for us to ask these days is, "Where is God in all this?" It truly is a faithful and fair question.

A faithful Lutheran answer might sound something like, "God's there in creation suffering with God's creatures." Indeed, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, In *Letters and Papers from Prison*, says,

"Man's religiosity makes him look in his distress to the power of God in the world; he uses God as a 'deus ex machina.' The Bible, however, directs us to the powerlessness and suffering of God; only a suffering God can help."

For those whose Latin is rusty, the Oxford Dictionary defines 'Deus Ex Machina' as, "an unexpected power or event saving a seemingly hopeless situation, especially as a contrived plot device in a play or novel."

For many, COVID-19 seems like a hopeless situation. Imagine what it looks like for a child to be back in an abusive home instead of a safe school. Imagine what it looks like for a person experiencing elder abuse because they are socially distanced from a more loving care provider. In both cases, the word 'hopeless' comes to mind.

Again, a faithful Lutheran response to seeming hopelessness is that, "God's there in creation suffering with God's creatures."

As we have been social distanced from one another, we have suffered. We miss one another. We miss our routines. We fret about whether we will see Winter Friends before they return home. We worry about who we may (or may not see) when this all ends. In short, we suffer. And, this is faithful. And, we do not suffer alone. God is with us.

As we suffer, God suffers with us to make masks for seminarians, members, non-members and the Holmes Hospital staff.

As we suffer, God suffers with us to give online giving a go, not for ourselves alone but for others.

As we suffer, God suffers with us so that we stay at home so that others (and we ourselves) might be healthy and safe.

As we suffer, God suffers with us to host a blood drive so that others might have a chance at life, abundant life.

As we suffer, God empowers us to suffer with the world God deeply loves by suffering ourselves to step out of comfort zones by providing ways to worship and remain connected.

Suffering is not pleasant, nor is it something we choose. Suffering sometimes seems to choose us. Still, Martin Luther says, "Christian suffering is nobler and precious above all other human suffering because, since Christ himself suffered, he also hallowed the suffering of all his Christians." *

Have you ever considered that your suffering has been made noble, precious, and holy by Jesus? And, it is through your holy suffering that God's grace is revealed to others?

So, where is God amidst our coronavirus suffering? "God's there in creation suffering with God's creatures." God is with us.

Peace—
JDB+

*Luther's Works, Vol. 51: Sermons I, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 51 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 207.

WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?

by Pr. Bryant+

During the final two Sundays in Lent, in Holy Week, and occasionally thereafter, new faces appeared to us in worship videos. Perhaps you wondered, maybe still wonder, “Who are those people?” Please allow me to introduce you the three. Two you’ve likely already met, but please let me reacquaint.



Pictured here at JOY Lutheran with Harriet, is Lindsay Rutledge. Lindsay is a gifted young woman with a sharp mind, a skill at upbuilding people, a heart for generosity, and a deep love of family. She has served as a “House Band” member for two of the three recent “Gatherings,” formerly known as National Youth Gatherings. She resides in St. Petersburg where she works at a real estate management company. Her address is: Ms. Lindsay Rutledge, 7356 54th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709

Pictured together are Spence Robertson and Allie McNeely. Spence is a seminarian at LTSS, is the worship and music director for Zion Ev. Lutheran Church in Hickory, NC, where he also serves as an adjunct professor at Lenoir Rhyne University. Spence is a creative composer, wise friend, and talented leader with a deep-seated love for Welsh Corgis. His address is: Mr. Spence Robertson, 1911 Zion Church Road, Hickory, NC 28602.



Allie McNeely, a product of Lenoir Rhyne University, is a soprano currently finishing graduate school at Eastman in Rochester, NY. She is a gifted soprano and a faithful music arranger. She may win the “Nobel Peace Prize for Kindness” if we ever have such a thing. Perhaps you recognize Allie from when she was with us last year? Her address is: Ms. Alexandria McNeely, 1872 Flag Lane, Vale, NC 28168.

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WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?

by Pr. Bryant+



Sarah Lynch, originally from Middletown, Ohio, is the worship and music director of Bethlehem Lutheran, Hickory, NC. She is the product of Appalachian State University. An avid lover of Golden Retrievers, she is the head of servant staff to, “Omi,” pictured with Sarah. Her address is: Ms. Sarah Lunch, c/o Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1686 6th St SE, Hickory, NC 28602

I include their addresses because, knowing you as I do, I suspect you might feel inclined to send them “Thank You” cards. For, when I asked them to help with worship needs during social distancing, all stepped up to the task, and all declined to be paid. They model for us, what so many of us know and model ourselves: faithful stewardship of God gifts (on loan to us) and finding JOY by ordering life in this way: Jesus first, others second, then you last.

I cannot express or truly show how grateful I am to these young leaders who helped us in our efforts to craft and provide meaningful worship. Along with our fine leaders, Steve Weiss and Pilgrim Journey, they’ve made what I’ve termed the unexpected “COVID-19 Crash Course in Worship Prep” manageable and enjoyable.

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME



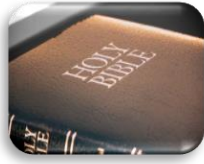
WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study on Tuesday, May 19th at 11:30 a.m.

Study from GATHER magazine

May 2020: Annual intergenerational devotional

Plenty Good Room: We often entertain angels unknowingly.
So how do we offer generous hospitality?

Lectionary "A" for May 2020



Gospel Readings

May 3rd	John 10:1-10
May 10th	John 14:1-14
May 17th	John 14:15-21
May 24th	John 17:1-11
May 31st	John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 31st

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Be sure to read the entire account of the first Pentecost in Acts 2, according to Luke.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 10, 2020



We are the family of God, and Jesus tells us: *"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and **mother**."* Matthew 12:50 (NRSV)

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Proverbs 31:30 (NRSV)

PENDING

Saturday Night Pilgrim Journey Service May 30th @ 5:30pm

The Saturday evening Pilgrim Journey service format is a more informal worship service of prayer and praise. It will also be followed by a PIZZA FELLOWSHIP.

Prayer - Praise - Pizza

When you arrive for the service at 5:30 pm there will be a sign up for pizza. There is no charge, but we ask that you think about a donation of just \$1 a slice. There will be a choice of toppings. Just let us know how many slices you want and what kind, and we will place the order and it will be ready after the service.

Tea and lemonade will be provided, or else bring your own beverage.

Wednesdays Together

"Wednesdays Together", 2020 Lutheran Episcopal Prayer Svcs, 6pm prayer, 6:30pm Meal. A joint evening prayer service with Blessed Redeemer Episcopal (1225 DeGroodt Road SW, Palm Bay, FL) starts at 6pm.

5/21 Feast of the Ascension @JOY. We provide meal.

6/24 St. John the Baptist @ Blessed Redeemer. We provide desserts

Audit Committee Update



The Audit committee is currently meeting remotely through Microsoft Teams and in the processes of finalizing all account balance verification for accounts, loans and insurance policies. This process is taking longer than anticipated, as some of the financial institutions are working with limited staff and reduced operating hours for back office operations.

In the next two weeks letters will go out to randomly selected members of the congregation to verify donations for specific Sundays of each quarter in calendar year 2019. Please assist us in this process by returning the requested information as soon as possible in order that we may complete the audit process accurately and in a timely manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erik Maenpaa

Property Committee Happenings



March has been a quiet month for the Property Committee. Most of the interior work has come to a standstill, with only a limited number of members working on trimming trees, bushes clearing the brush around the church. One of the refrigerators, in the kitchen, stopped working and is in need of repairs. Ken Laumer has researched the problem and it appears as the problem is with one of the circuit boards in the unit. A replacement board has been secured. However, the board is not the exact match and some modifications may need to be made (Chris Peters to the rescue) and hopefully the unit can be repaired with the board.

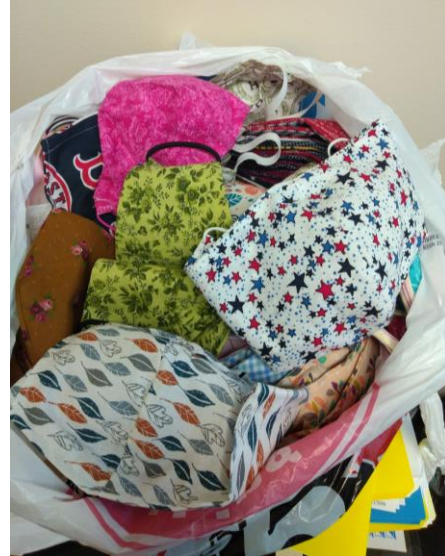
Respectfully Submitted,

Erik Maenpaa

Cloth Masks for Holmes Hospital

I wish to thank Joy Lutheran Church and specially the Women's Ministry Groups for providing Health First **161** cloth masks for our associates. They were well received by our staff.

Chaplain Derly Foerste



Chaplain Derly Foerste asked if JOY could provide masks for staff members at Holmes Hospital. Mary Sherman and members of WELCA responded by sewing nearly 200 masks. (Yay! Way to go!!!) Interested in knowing more about this project or in participating with this effort? Text/call Marjorie Maenpaa or Mary Sherman. We are grateful to Mary for launching this effort in JOY. We appreciate Marjorie's coordination of it, as well.

STEWARDSHIP IN MOTION



Last month, Church Council approved making “online giving” an option for JOY. This is not something one must do; it is something we offer as an option for those who desire to give in this way. Think of online giving like an item on the lunch buffet, if it’s for you, enjoy; if it’s not for you, then don’t partake. We are grateful to Kim Tolley for spearheading this effort.

Online giving is now an option for us. It is also an option for others. As surprising as this may sound, since our services have gone on the youtube channel, people are contacting me from outside of our congregation to see if they might give online. The number of callers has been greater than ten, and the furthest U.S. caller has been in Texas. We’ve even had one person reach out to us about online giving from Christ Church, New Zealand.

A link to our online giving portal is found on the JOY website. Here is the link to that portal: <https://www.joylutheranelca.com> Scroll down to the purple box that says "online giving." Feel free to check it out, even if you do not elect to use it. What can it hurt to learn about something new, right?

Again, this is an option, not just for ourselves but for others beyond JOY. Participate if you feel so led. Don't participate if you are not so led. Give in whatever way works best to suit you.

Thanks for your time and faithful stewardship.

Blessings---
JDB+

Remember the church with your regular offerings. Though we will be worshiping in a different way for now, the work of the church goes on and needs your support. Thank you in advance for your understanding and generosity!



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

ALL MEETINGS ARE PENDING, AT LEAST UNTIL THE CORONAVIRUS STAY AT HOME RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Ruth Circle (Craft circle) – 1st Monday each month @ 10:00 meeting to work on crafts, Linda Kratzer

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – 3rd Tuesday each month @ 11:30, Bible Study from the *Gather* magazine

Dorcas Circle (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00

MAY: Welcome back celebration

WELCA would like to invite the congregation to be part of the “**Good Gifts/Farm Animals**” **project**. Goats, piglets, chicks, family farm combination (cow, 2 piglets, 2 goats, chicks). The fundraiser is headed up by WELCA. The closing date is June 28th. Fight Hunger. Donations may be designated to Good Gifts/Farm Animals and included with your regular offering.



NEEDED FACE MASKS FOR HOLMES REGIONAL HOSPITAL

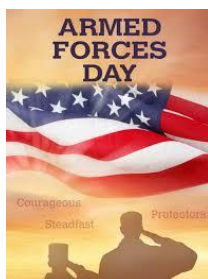
Chaplain Derly Foerste, Chaplain at HRMC and familiar face in our congregation, called Pastor Bryant asking if the women of the church could make face masks for the hospital. He said they are now allowed to wear cloth face masks. He needs lots for all employees. If you can help, please call Marjorie Maenpaa at 321-327-8400.

Shepherd's Center

SHEPHERD CENTER SPRING SESSION CANCELED.

At the Shepherd Center Board meeting we decided to cancel the spring session of Shepherd Center at Joy. With the COVID-19 spreading in Florida and since we serve an older population, we decided to take a cautious approach.

Elaine Heine



Armed Forces Day is a federal holiday observed annually on the third Saturday of May. Armed Forces Day "**May 16, 2020**" is an opportunity for us to recognize all of our veterans who have faithfully served our country.

MAY 25th 2020



Memorial Day is a time to remember America's service men and women who died defending our country. As we prepare for this solemn and revered day of remembrance, take a moment to thank the many men and women who serve at home and abroad, as well as remember those who have given their lives to ensure our nation's safety

Mark Your Calendar "Day Camp 2020"

Day Camp 2020 date has been changed is now **tentatively** set for **June 29-July 3**, 9am-4pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm Friday. The following week, Blessed Redeemer will host a second Day Camp. We are drawing from two different pools of children, so this is collaborative and not competitive.

Stephen Bryant will be JOY's congregational contact person. He is looking for volunteers to handle housing four counselors, the Sunday night welcome for counselors, managing check-in/check-out, registration, daily snacks, and a nightly fun thing for counselors. Feel free to contact him at: stephenbry@gmail.com

Registration forms will be available once they become available to us from Novus Way. Children K-8 are welcome to attend. And, it's perfectly fine if they are not Lutheran. Fee will be less than \$10 per child.

Even though the “at school” year has ended, please remember this important outreach program.



BACKPACK PROGRAM “BREAD OF LIFE” BACKPACK PROGRAM

The “Bread of Life” backpack program for Turner Elementary School is a wonderful outreach to our community. So, please be generous in your monetary donations, as we provide food for as many as seven families each weekend. The cost is approximately \$175 per week.

Thank you everyone for your donations and helping with the packing and delivery of the backpacks.

See Charlotte Abrahams for any further details concerning this great outreach program.

Newsletter

Tidings of Joy is only as good as the input received from Church Council, WELCA, Men’s Group, Various Committees, Circles, etc. Please provide David Steinhorst with your news, thankyou’s, updates, etc. for the **June Tidings no later than May 25th.**

Email David Steinhorst
dsteinhorst@cfl.rr.com or provide a printed CODV.

May 22nd PENDING

Daily Bread

Volunteering at the Daily Bread can be a great opportunity. It allows you to help those less fortunate in our community. Daily Bread is located at 815 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne. Daily Bread serves a hot meal every day to our homeless, and people in need. JOY members are a part of making this happen.

Please consider volunteering with our team on the 4th Friday of the month.

May 22nd @ 10:45 – 1:30 p.m.
Contact Elaine Heine (215-7928) or
Connie Steinhorst (725-6391)

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”

Matthew 25:35 (NRSV)

PENDING

Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **Thursday May 21st at noon**. All are welcome. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. It will be a potluck luncheon. So please bring a dish to share (your choice of meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert). The fellowship is always wonderful.

For additional information contact:
Majorie Mäenpää (321) 327-8400

Always check Sunday’s bulletin for any changes.

We care about you!



If you so desire, please let us know when you or your family is in the hospital. If you want to have information about your hospitalization and basic condition released to Joy Lutheran Church, you need to inform the hospital. Also, please have someone call the church at 321-951-0166 and let us know you have been hospitalized.

Please contact the church office, if you would like to have a visit from Pastor Bryant, a Stephen Minister, or would like to be listed for prayer support.



¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. Psalm 34:18-19(NRSV)

We especially pray for:

Tina Breeden	Donald Christensen
Steve Christensen	Emilio Cruz
Winnie Hall	Gunner Heim
Ruth Holm	Bob Lengel
Julio Melendez	Judy Marciano
Elizabeth Planding	Rebecca Reynolds
Joy Sorensen	Thelma Tucker
Sherry Weldon	Damon Williams

Jason son-in-law of Kathleene Hagen (multiple strokes in ICU)

Megan and Craig Lattig (exposed to COVID-19)

Family members and friends of Linda Kratzer (exposed to COVID-19)

Pr. Tom and Anita Unrath (recovering from COVID-19)

First Responders & Caregivers during this COVID-19 crisis

Family of Larry Ciecierski

Family of Barbara Herndon

Family of Gary Sherman

JOY CORE VALUES

Worship: Joyfully experiencing Christ through word, music, sacrament and prayer

Property: Providing the physical means to fulfill the spiritual needs of church and community

Outreach: Extending Christ's compassion and care to others

Fellowship: Enjoying each other's company

Welcoming: There is a place at Joy for everyone

Education: Getting to know the Word

Relationships: Everyone is worthy of care and respect

2020 Church Council

Pastor - Rev. John David Bryant

President – Melody Shaffer

Vice President – Majorie Mäenpää

Secretary - Kelly Arner

Treasurer - Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary - Renee Harper

Council Members at Large:

Dudley Bowling

Bob Getter

Gary Krause

Peggy Marion

Mary Sherman

Barbara Sparks



May Birthday Blessings

05/01	Betty Nielsen
05/03	Harold Lengel
05/03	Michael Carmichael
05/03	Alex Lindner
05/03	Ron Pagelsdorf
05/05	Doris Bunker
05/08	Elaine Christensen
05/09	Christopher Adams
05/16	Shaun Arner
05/19	Lynn Ash
05/22	Philip Kratzer Sr.
05/23	Connie Steinhorst
05/24	Brita Tallau
05/26	Jackie Baudek
05/27	Tina Breeden
05/28	Susan Parker
05/29	Vita Gardella
05/31	Harriet Bryant
05/31	Debbie Johns
05/31	Mary Sherman

Notify the church office, if corrections need to be made to the Birthday List.



The Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex. If you would like to have flowers in honor of or in memory of someone please choose the Sunday and sign up. You may put your check for \$20.00 in your offering envelope and indicate that you are paying for flowers. There may be some dates blocked out by Worship and Music, for the Festival Sundays. If someone has already signed up for the date you wanted, please choose a date close to the one you want, or let the church office know you have signed up, so two vases of flowers can be ordered. Flowers are provided by "**Emma's Flowers.**"



Eternal Candle

If you would like to provide the **Eternal Candle** you may also sign up on the Flower Chart for the month you wish. The cost is \$5.00 weekly.

January thru March 2020 Stewardship

General Fund	(Please see Sunday bulletin for current information.)		
Needed each Month	\$13,863	Needed YTD	\$41,589
Received in March	\$11,392	Received YTD	\$36,997
Capital Improvement Fund			
Budgeted each Month	\$1,662	Budgeted YTD	\$4,986
Received in March	\$1,010	Received YTD	\$4,160

MAY 2020

All Services, Meetings, & Activities Pending

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Check Sunday Bulletins for details or changes in schedule.					8:30am Property Work Day	9:00am "Men of Joy" Bible Study & Business Mtg
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	
Mother's Day 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11am Fellowship Mtg	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	
17	18	19	20	Ascension 21	22	23
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle 11:30pm Eve Circle Bible Study	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	12pm Young at Heart	8:30am Property Work Day 11am-1:30pm Daily Bread	
24	Memorial Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	7pm Council Mtg	10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	5:30pm Prayer & Praise Worship Pilgrim Journey
Pentecost 31						
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship						