



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 36, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2020

Staff

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

Worship Times:

Sunday

10:00a.m. Worship Service

Thursday December 24th

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICES
4:30pm & 7:00pm**

Saturday December 26th

2:00p.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(Prayer and Praise)

Church Office Phone:

321-951-0166

Pastor's Email Address:

prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

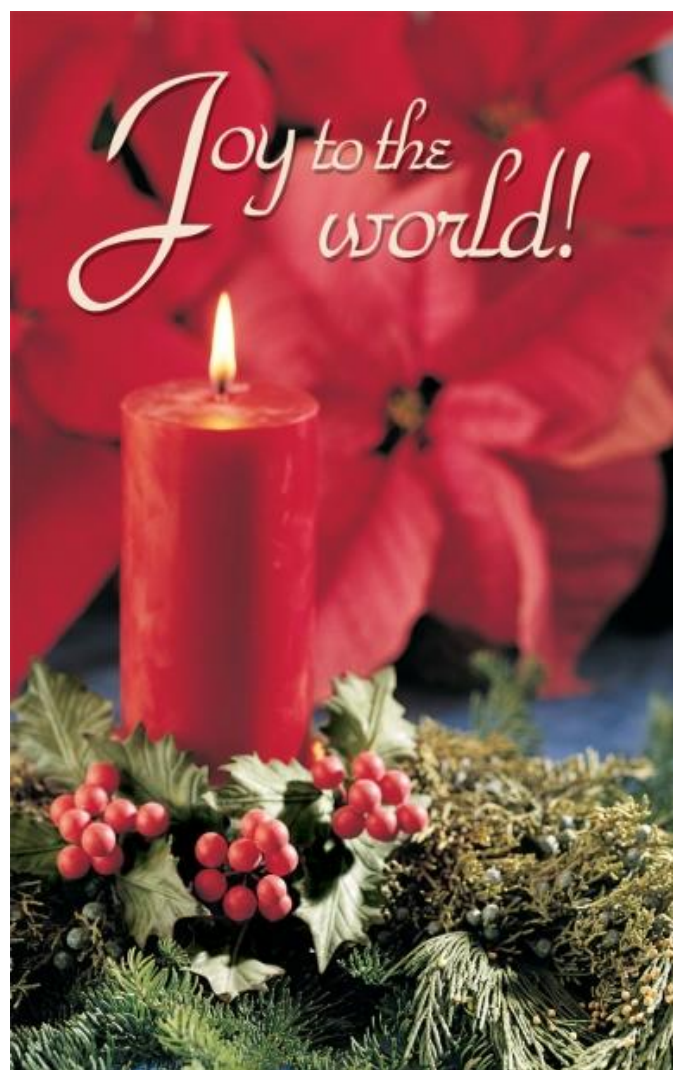
Church Email Address:

joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:

www.joylutheranelca.com

NOTE: In-Person worship, with call ahead seating. In-person church meetings, events, & activities may be resumed in limited fashion, subject to social distancing guidelines and after obtaining church council approval. Watch for updates from Pr. Bryant.



"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 3rd Monday of the month, when Friday is day off. Best means to contact pastor is 321-312-7339 or prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."

Advent Banner

The four candles herald the four Sundays of Advent. The red berries, and the thorns of the holly leaves bring to mind the suffering of Jesus when He shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins. The gold star has only four points showing the Star of Bethlehem has not quite arrived yet.

Long ago people awaited His promised Salvation and now anticipate His second coming.



ADVENT NIGHT

Advent Night – just like the Thanksgiving evening event, due to the CDC guidelines we will not be able to have our Annual Advent Night. The tree will be put up for all to enjoy. It will just be a small group. We will just have 2 people at a time putting up decorations.

Blessings to All,
Chris Allebaugh

Christmas Eve Services

This year there will be two services for Christmas Eve. They will be held at 4:30pm and 7:00pm.

We will be limiting the attendance for each service, due to Covid-19 restrictions. It is important that you make a reservation for your family. Please let me know which service you want to attend and how many in your party.

I would like to have all the reservations by December 18th.

Contact me by phone or text at:
321-388-2555
or

email: chrisallebaugh@gmail.com

Thanks!

Chris Allebaugh

CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND



Because it stays green all through the year, the evergreen tree is symbolic of the eternal life offered to Christians through faith in Christ.

The treetop points up to heaven.

A star signifies the star which guided the Wise men to Bethlehem.

The lights represent Christ, the "Light of the World."

Gifts beneath the tree are representative of God's gift of his only begotten son, who brings Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy.



WELCA and Social Ministry will once again be sponsoring the Christmas Present Campaign for the Needy Students at Turner Elementary School, Our Angel Tree.

After discussing the Campaign with Pastor Bryant, at his suggestion, we will post the names of the children's information on the **bulletin board in the Sanctuary**. Doing it this way we will avoid congestion in the Narthex and will be able to have more social distancing.

The gifts should be gift wrapped and the tag secured on the package. The gifts should be returned to the church no later than Friday, December 11th by 11:00am.

Pastor's Corner

Pr. J. David Bryant

A bishop visited a church in his synod. Only three people turned up to hear him preach. Concerned and surprised, maybe even a little hurt, the bishop asked the pastor "Did you give notice of my visit?" "No," replied the pastor, "but word seems to have got round anyway."

This joke is my playful way of letting you know that I am taking vacation 12/26 - 1/9. Emergency on-call coverage is provided by the Reverend's Turner of Blessed Redeemer Episcopal. Pastor Jennifer Shimota will be providing sermons for you that will be played on Sundays. Everything will be fine. As you suspect, I am heading home to Georgia to see Mom. It's been seven months since we've seen each other face-to-face, so now's the time to remedy that situation.

As you know, nights are longer and a crushing, pervasive loneliness inhabits our space. It is the result of our long season of social distancing and sheltering in place. One friend recently shared how once we have a Covid-19 vaccine in place, and once he has taken it, he may just wake up one morning and drive West from North Carolina until he hits the Pacific Ocean. Can't we relate to how he feels?

The loneliness that pervades cannot be fixed, only managed. We manage it much like one manages a sailboat: one cannot control winds, but one can certainly trim sails. Soon holidays will be upon us, holidays never experienced under a pandemic. The pandemic conditions are our winds, making our question a matter of how we trim our sails to keep moving forward.

One effective way to trim our sails is to be socially close to others while being physically distanced for them: phone calls, video calls, watch parties, etc.

Another effective way to trim our sails is to be intentional about where we let our minds focus. Dwelling on the negative can cause us to dwell negatively. Dwelling on the positive can cause us to dwell positively. When we dwell on the negative and cannot get our minds to focus on anything positive, this is a faithful warning sign that our mental health is in jeopardy. It's a faithful warning sign that it's time to reach out to a Stephen Minister, to Lutheran Counseling Services, or to a local mental health provider. Let these resources help us to discover ways to trim our sails.

A final way to trim our sails is to be intentional about reserving judgment. How others manage holidays is up to them. How you manage holidays is up to you. Your good thing may not look like another's good thing, and this is totally fine. Remember, you are to be your own source of happiness, not any other. There is something to be said for being the faithful author of our own program of self-care. Care for yourselves well, for you are precious. Make your space a judgment-free zone.

After Christmas Eve worship, I'll not likely see you until January 10th when I am again with you on Sunday. Take care of yourselves. Keep avoiding crowds. Keep using lots of soap. And, don't let loneliness and isolation cause you to forget how Jesus is with you night and day. Together, "you and Jesus are an overwhelming majority." We will make it through these pandemic days because Jesus is with us every step of the way.

Peace---
JDB+

Poinsettia Plants



It's time to sign up for a Beautiful Poinsettia Plant. We have ordered 40 for purchase at \$10.00 each. We are having 2 services this year so depending on how many members order plants that attend the 4:30pm service, we may ask you leave them and pick up after the 7:00 service. More information will be available on the as reservations come in.

There will be a sign-up sheet, at church, for those that are attending In Person Services. If you want to order a plant and will not be at the service, please email me and let me know you would like one. Please let me know if you would like to order it in Honor or Memory of someone. I will make arrangements to meet you to pick your plant up after Christmas.

My email is Chrisallebaugh@gmail.com or call me at 321-388-2555.

Please contact me with any questions.

Chris Allebaugh



February 7, 2021
12:00 p.m.
(Following the Service)

Message from Council President

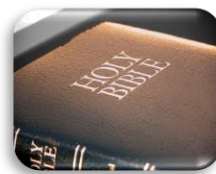
Good day JOY members and friends,

I hope you are all staying safe especially with the uptick of new COVID cases. As the Holidays are upon us, I would like to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and a Happy Holiday Season. If you or someone you know is in the need of anything, please reach out to anyone on Council or to Pastor with your needs.

The congregation has been so giving during this pandemic that we were able to pay off the loan for the Air Conditioners 8 ½ years EARLY. This payoff still left the Capitol Improvement account with over \$5500.00.

Council has set a date for the Annual Congregational Meeting; it will be held on Sunday Feb. 7th. We have decided that it will be held outside, more details to come as we figure out the logistics.

Be safe and God Bless,
Melody Shaffer, JOY Council President



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "B" for December 2020

December 6th	Mark 1:1-8
December 13th	John 1:6-8,19-28
December 20th	Luke 1:26-38
December 27th	John 1:1-18

Property Committee

The past seven months have seen the Property Committee work on cleaning the West End of the property of brush and some dead pine and palm trees. The dedicated crew who made all this work possible are to be commended and recognized for their outstanding work and effort. The work resulted in trailer loads of yard waste to be removed and hauled away. Considerable amount of the work involved heavy lifting, raking and cutting trees and tree branches with chain saws.

Now that the work is finished, the area can be kept under control and the lawn can be maintained and the mowers will be able take care of the grass cutting. This excellent work was completed by a dedicated crew of the Property Committee consisting of Ken Laumer, Harold Lengel, Gary Sherman and Gary Krause.

The next major undertaking by the property Committee will involve the repair of the numerous broken areas in the parking lot. Starting by repairing the broken areas around the edges of the parking lot and continuing to tackle the larger broken areas in the center of the parking lot. This will make the parking area safer for our members to navigate and walk and prevent members and visitors from falling and injuring themselves.

The New Year starting in 2021 will bring additional projects to the property committee plate;

- The committee is exploring the feasibility of replacing the current wooden front doors with an aluminum and glass doors.
- The current key entry system to be replaced with a keyless card system. This will allow us to reduce the cost of controlling keys as members and the church needs for permitted access evolves over time.
- Repainting of the Sanctuary is also on the schedule for the coming year.

Property team opening the western frontier - next comes the log cabins.



Erik Maenpaa
Property Committee Chair

Audit Committee

The Charter of the Audit Committee as stated in Constitutional Provisions of the Constitution; C13.03. An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. The Bylaws 13.03.01 further state duties of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall audit the books of the treasurer of this congregation and its organizations maintaining financial accounts, the financial records of the Financial Secretary and submit reports for inclusion in the annual report.

2019 Audit Committee report,

In our opinion, the financial statements and reports provided by the Church Council and all appropriate Committees present fairly and, in all material, respects the financial position of JOY Lutheran Church of Palm Bay Florida at December 31, 2019.

There were no errors or issues in any of the accounts as presented to the Audit Committee for review and audit by the committee.

The 2019 Audit Committee made the following recommendations to the Church Council:

- The WELCA, Memorial Fund and Men of JOY check registers to be completed on a computer as opposed to hand written format.
- The memorial Fund and Men of JOY accounts transferred to TD Bank for consistency.
- Committee having completed the 2019 Audit presents.
- Copy of the Men of JOY Group, Memorial Fund and WELCA check registers sent to the JOY treasurer monthly.
- The JOY Lutheran Church Treasurer to be a signer on all bank accounts operating under the JOY EIN Number.
- Require each account to have two authorized signature on each check to protect JOY and each of the individual officers. (Council recommended to have only checks in excess of \$5,000.00 require two signatures)
- All unbudgeted expenditures of money require a formal motion with a second and vote approving the action, properly recorded in the minutes by the Recording Secretary or respective secretary of the committee/group secretary.
- All personnel files including tax related files, performance reviews of both current and former employees to be filed in a secure location.
- All minutes of committees and groups to be filed in the office in separate committee meeting files, or with the council minutes.
- Council to develop, review and approve annually all financial policies and procedures.
- Council to develop requirements and instructions for marking, recording and inventorying JOY physical property.

The council has approved the Audit Committee recommendations and has proceeded to implement these items.

The fiscal year 2020 audit is currently underway and will be part of the 2020 Annual Report to the Congregation.

Erik Maenpaa
Audit Committee Chair

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JOY'S CENTENARIAN



Mom and I want to thank the members of Joy for the many cards and the lovely floral arrangement she received on her birthday. The flowers were stunning. They were too heavy for her to hold herself, so I had to be in these pictures too.

Our sincere thanks for helping to make her 100th birthday extra special.

God bless you!
Susan Parker and Helga Courtney

Stewardship in Action

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! God has seen fit to work through our faithful stewardship to pay-off the a/c units. The 10-year note, obtained to purchase and install the new a/c system, has been paid off in 18 months. Thanks a million for your faithfulness.



BLOOD DRIVE

Yes, Joy Lutheran had another blood drive on **Sunday, November 15th**. All donors received a **FREE Fleece Blanket**. **Thanks a million**, to all who made the effort to donate. Ten units were received, meaning that 30 people get another chance for life. A blood donation is liquid grace.



Thank you for the blood donations and your prayers! The blood drives have been doing better overall!

Wendy Przedwiecki

Wendy Przedwiecki

Account Representative

789 S. Babcock Street, Suite 127

Melbourne, Florida 32901

Cell: 321.507.7514 Email: wendy.przedwiecki@oneblood.org

Give the Gift of Life...The Need is Constant

Daily Bread, Inc.

Daily Bread is open.



Hunger, homelessness, and poverty know no color, race, gender, or age.

Daily Bread ensures that no one in Brevard County faces hunger or homelessness alone.

Everyone is welcome at Daily Bread... If you need them, they are there and you are welcome.

You can be a part of this ministry. JOY members volunteer the 4th Friday each month @ 10:45 – 1:30 p.m.

Contact Elaine Heine (215-7928) or Connie Steinhorst (725-6391)

Daily Bread
815 E Fee Avenue
Melbourne, Florida 32901

JOY ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

The Ladies of WELCA would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Festival a success. Those who attended our Festival, those who donated items for the Silent Auction, those who bid on the Silent Auction, and those who enjoyed our food stand.

A *special thanks* to Pastor Bryant, the Congregation, the Church Council, the Property Committee, and the Men of Joy for helping in the planning and set-up/tear-down. Without all this help and support, WELCA would not be able to have this annual Festival.

The totals from our event are:

Silent Auction.	\$1,428.00
Food Sales.	239.00
WELCA Craft Sale.	383.55
Vendor Fees.	365.00
Cash Donations.	50.00
Total.	2,465.55
Expenses.	159.12
Our Profit.	\$2,306.43

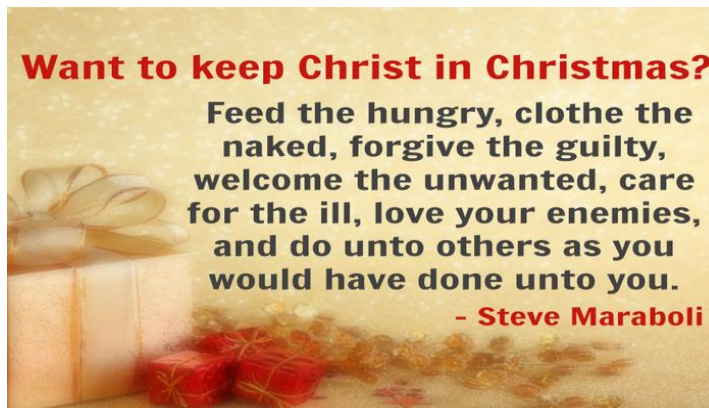
Once again thank you.

Respectfully submitted
Marjorie Maenpaa
JOY WELCA President

Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

**Feed the hungry, clothe the
naked, forgive the guilty,
welcome the unwanted, care
for the ill, love your enemies,
and do unto others as you
would have done unto you.**

- Steve Maraboli





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.

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

Online giving is an option for us, and also for others visiting our website.

A link to our online giving portal is found on the JOY website. The secure link to that portal is:

<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.



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 **January 2021 Tidings no later than December 23rd.**

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



I want to thank all of my friends at Joy for the many cards, visits, and well wishes, following my recent illness and recovery. I would especially like to thank Pastor Bryant for his comforting words.

God's Blessing
Winnie Hall

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.



We especially pray for:

Norm Barmen	Tina Breeden
Donald Christensen	Steve Christensen
Emilio Cruz	Nancy Feightner
Brenda Godsen & Family	Dan Giardiello
Winnie Hall	Gunner Heim
Dean & Jan Jahnke	Family of Bill Kelly
Judy Marciano	Valerie Mariano
Lisa Martin	Julio Melendez
Jackie Mertens	Pat Muth
Carol Nichols	Ron Pagelsdorf
Elizabeth Planding	Barbara Scronce
Joy Sorensen	Jackie Tolley
Thelma Tucker	Mort Walton
Sherry Weldon	Damon Williams

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 – Marjorie 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



December Birthday Blessings

12/02	Hannah Herndon
12/04	Charles Woods
12/06	Linda Kratzer
12/07	Jim Breeden
12/14	Bill Kemmerer
12/14	Stuart Lengel
12/17	Tom Hennessy
12/19	Bob Getter
12/19	Jeffery George
12/21	Holly Walsh
12/24	Kristina Deyette
12/26	Andrea Christensen
12/26	John Manaseri
12/26	Karen Runk
12/31	Susan Getter

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 October 2020 Stewardship

General Fund	(Please see Sunday bulletin for current information.)		
Needed each Month	\$13,863	Needed YTD	\$138,863
Received in October	\$11,112	Received YTD	\$122,527
Capital Improvement Fund			
Budgeted each Month	\$1,662	Budgeted YTD	\$16,620
Received in October	\$2,287	Received YTD	\$15,621

*Remember the church with your regular offerings.
The church needs your support.
Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	4	4	5
		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	9:00am "Men of Joy" Bible Study & Business Mtg
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11am Fellowship Meeting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	Christmas Eve Services 4:30pm & 7:00pm	CHRISTMAS DAY	2:00pm Prayer & Praise Worship Pilgrim Journey
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am Worship	7pm Council Mtg	10am Dorcas Circle Quilting				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
						Check website & messages from Pastor Bryant for changes in schedule.