



Tidings of Joy



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

Volume 37, Issue 1

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

January 2021

Staff

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

Worship Times:

Sunday

10:00a.m. Worship Service

Saturday January 30th

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.

EPIPHANY
January 6, 2021



"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 pjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."

Pastor's Corner

Pr. J. David Bryant

Dear Friends---

Here we are in Christmastide, the season when we ask ourselves questions like, "how long does the Christmas tree remain in the sanctuary?" It is a season of questions. Many of which get answered in a word, "Epiphany!"

Epiphany has an explosive start (Bethlehem's Star) and an equally explosive ending (Transfiguration's Star). The last Sunday of Epiphany explodes in starry, shining Transfiguration. Still, as beautiful as these stars seem, stars fade. Bright miracles and bright festivities give way to the unremarkable as everyday life resumes. This resumption of the ordinary creates questions like, "Is God no longer present?" The answer is, "Epiphany!" Epiphany is a vision or experience of God. Epiphany declares what we cannot fully perceive; how we are called to follow Jesus on the mountaintops and in the valleys.

Sometimes we do not perceive starry light, yet God is no less present to us. Genesis 28:16 which has Jacob blurting out "surely God is in this place and I did not know it." Isn't this how it often goes with us?

This is a Truth of Epiphany: God is in our space, yet we do not perceive the Presence. Sometimes we focus on ourselves, our sin, or our inadequacy, and this causes us to completely miss Epiphany. That missed Epiphany is God's presence. Sometimes we miss it because of our wrong focus, other times we miss it because we see Epiphany and do not like what we see. Epiphany is not necessarily a thing that we will like, follow, or even grasp. Jacob's Epiphany desire is to, "... come again to my father's house in peace." Yet this Epiphany doesn't inspire Jacob to reconcile with the brother and father that he's fleeced. Almost two decades later, Jacob finally follows where Epiphany light leads.

Epiphany is great, but following Epiphany is another matter entirely. Magi rejoice and follow Bethlehem's star. Disciples leave the mountain and follow Jesus into the valley. The Christian life is one of Epiphany and of following. God is surely here. Emmanuel is with us in this place. Our challenge is to have a right focus, so that we perceive and experience Epiphany; to become excited, to embrace it, then to follow it. Of course, we do have other options. Herod and his scribes hear the Epiphany report of the Magi, yet none of them opt to follow. People around Judaea and Galilee experience Epiphany miracles again and again, yet refuse to like, follow, or even grasp them. Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5), still, many shake off the Christmas story along with bright Epiphany, clearly preferring other stars. Christmas and Epiphany stars are leading stars. They are challenging stars, because as soon as we spot them, they call us to follow. Then, they give us two questions to ponder, "Am I willing to follow where Epiphany light shines, and, will I still follow after star lights fade?"

Peace---

JDB+

P.S. Thanks so much for your generosity at Christmas. It is its own bright leading star. I am deeply grateful. Happy New Year!



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "B" for January 2021

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 3 | Luke 2:41-52
or
Matthew 2:1-12 |
| January 10 | Mark 1:4-11 |
| January 17 | John 1:43-51 |
| January 24 | Mark 1:14-20 |
| January 31 | Mark 1:21-28 |



ANNUAL MEETING

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



WELCA and Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Present Campaign for the Needy Students at Turner Elementary School, Our Angel Tree. It was a big success. The gifts were delivered and well received by the school administration.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

We welcome our newest members, Marilyn Brindle and Harry Cannon, who were received on December 6th.

Marilyn and her husband moved from Massachusetts to Palm Bay in Sept, 2019. They came to JOY's Fall Fair and had planned on becoming members. Marilyn's husband became ill and passed away in April. At that time, she contacted Pastor Bryant.

From then on, in her words: "I was included in all of JOY's emails and was able to see all the activities JOY would have, once the COVID 19 would allow them. I am so thankful for everything JOY has helped me with. I've met some wonderful people and have become part of JOY's Monthly Daily Bread Group. I am very happy to now be an "official" member of JOY."

Harry is a life-long resident of Brevard County. He grew up in Indian Harbor Beach, and is a Charter Member of Ascension Lutheran Church. Harry was a Vicar Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in the late 70's early 80's, and has been involved with several of the other Lutheran churches in our conference. He found his way to Joy and has since been involved with Daily Bread and visitation as part of Stephen Ministry. It is always a blessing to have a new member join our Joy family.

Worship and Music

On behalf of The Social Ministry Team and the Worship and Music committee, I would like to thank everyone that donated to the Sock Drive. We collected 154 pairs of socks that were given to Daily Bread. I know they are much appreciated. Thank You!!

I also want to thank the Joy Re-opening Committee and the Worship and Music Committee for all the time they put in to making it possible for us to worship in-person. The Re-opening Committee spent many months researching and discussing the best ways to open and keep our members safe. Worship and Music members have put in time to make sure you enjoy the Service. A small group got together to decorate the church for Christmas for all to enjoy. It looks beautiful as always!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! I look forward to the day we can all worship together again!

Blessings,
Chris Allebaugh

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As we prepare to close 2020 it is only fitting that we look back to see the kind of year 2020 has been for JOY Property Committee. The COVID-19 Pandemic caused committee to stop the Friday coffee and pie fellowship break during the Property work day. The in-person meetings were suspended until late fall when the decision was made to allow for groups and committees to meet following all safety protocols, but without coffee and pie). The following projects simply highlight some of the work performed by the committee.

The major effort in the first three quarters of the year was spent on clearing and cleaning the West end of the property of Palmetto Palms, underbrush and some pines.

A FEMA Grant application for purchasing and installing security cameras around the exterior perimeter of the building was filed in late March early April. As of the end of November we have not been informed of having won a grant and since most of the awards have been made at this point, it appears that we were not successful in our effort.

Gary Krause replace the old pole lights around the building with new pole-lights and more efficient LED lightbulbs.

Gary also replaced all the fluorescent tube lights in the church offices, kitchen, meeting and classroom were changed to more energy efficient LED lights saving us money on our electric bill.

Gary Sherman and Ken Laumer have diligently worked around the church power washing the concrete parking lot and walkways.

Jim Collins has been busy repairing all imperfections in the interior walls of the church in preparation for next years projected painting of the interior walls of the Sanctuary

A secure mail box was installed on the secretary's door to allow members to drop off contributions safely and securely.

Warren and Karen have continued to keep the shrubbery around the buildings trimmed and looking professional.

Some of the original door locks started to show their age and were repaired and replaced as needed and the front doors are slated to be replaced with new aluminum and glass doors.

The edges of the parking lot with cracks and broken areas were repaired and plans go forward to contract repair to the larger areas in the center of the parking lot in the New Year.

Erik Maenpaa
Property Committee

Reopening Task Force

On April 27th, 2020 the Church Council established a temporary Reopening task Force for the purpose of developing plans and procedures allowing for JOY to resume in person services. The following persons serve on the committee; Chris Allebaugh, Pastor John Bryant, Bob Getter, Peggy Marion, Marjorie Maenpaa and Erik Maenpaa. Meeting on weekly basis with few exceptions from May 2020 until the opening of the church for in person services in September 2020. The committee poured over countless documents, emails, video meeting, phone calls and excellent recommendations from church members and staff. The committee continues to meet as needed reviewing current plans and any changes to be made based on latest recommendations from CDC, state and local officials as well as the Synod. The committee will continue to monitor our progress in 2021 with the hope that the need for the work of the committee will become to end and the committee can be disbanded.

Erik Maenpaa
Reopening Task Force

Message from JOY's WELCA President

2020 has been a very difficult and scary year. We've had to make so many adjustments. Our world has been turned in all different directions. We lost our sense of normal. Everything changed. We lost our routine but the Ladies of WELCA didn't let this virus stop them. They found a way to make the best out of a terrible situation. What did these women do? They compromised. They knew they still had an obligation to continue God's work. The Ladies decided to meet in one of the ladies' home and continue to knit and crochet their prayer shawls, cell phone cases, lap robes and baby items. The Quilters did the same thing. The Quilters made the beautiful quilts for our Holiday Festival and continue to make quilts to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. The needs of the community and the world continues even in a pandemic!!

The Ladies of WELCA are Dedicated women. Because of these Ladies and the Congregation, WELCA was able to hold their Annual School Supply Campaign, God's Good Gifts Farm Animal Campaign, Holiday Festival and with help from the Social Ministry Committee, the Angel Tree for Turner Elementary.

As we prepare to move into 2021, we have no idea what we will face, but I know the Ladies of WELCA will forge ahead working to support their Charities here at home and through LWR. The Ladies are very dedicated to their work and I am honored to serve as their President and look forward to a busy 2021!

On behalf of WELCA I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Marjorie Maenpaa
JOY WELCA President

Daily Bread, Inc.



Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our Daily Bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



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

Audit Committee

As the 2020 year comes to a close, the Audit Committee continues to work on the fiscal year 2020 accounts and finance of the church. The recommendations from the 2019 audit have been implemented by the council and the various committees and the current audit is proceeding as planned and will be completed for the 2020 annual meeting.

Erik Maenpaa
Audit Committee

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.





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.

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 **February 2021 Tidings no later than January 26th.**

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



Emmanouill and I want to thank everyone for their get-well cards, emails, and phone calls after Emmanouill’s surgery! They really meant a lot to us! It showed us how much everyone cares and just another great reason why choosing Joy Lutheran Church was a good choice for us! Thank you again!

Kathi & Emmanouill Manoussakis

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



January Birthday Blessings

- 01/04 Raymond Shaffer
- 01/07 Violet Chin
- 01/11 Holly Nickos
- 01/15 Winnie Hall
- 01/17 Tina Boichot
- 01/17 Peggy Kemmerer
- 01/19 Ruth Holm
- 01/19 Jackie Mertens
- 01/22 Chad Arner
- 01/30 Haylee Tolley

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 November 2020 Stewardship

General Fund	(Please see Sunday bulletin for current information.)		
Needed each Month	\$13,863	Needed YTD	\$152,493
Received in November	\$8,665	Received YTD	\$131,192
Capital Improvement Fund			
Budgeted each Month	\$1,662	Budgeted YTD	\$18,282
Received in November	\$1,375	Received YTD	\$16,996

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

JANUARY 2021

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