



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 37, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2021

Staff

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

Worship Time(s):

Sunday

Traditional Worship Service
10:00a.m.

Friday December 24th

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE
6:00pm**

Church Office Phone:

321-951-0166

Pastor's Email Address:

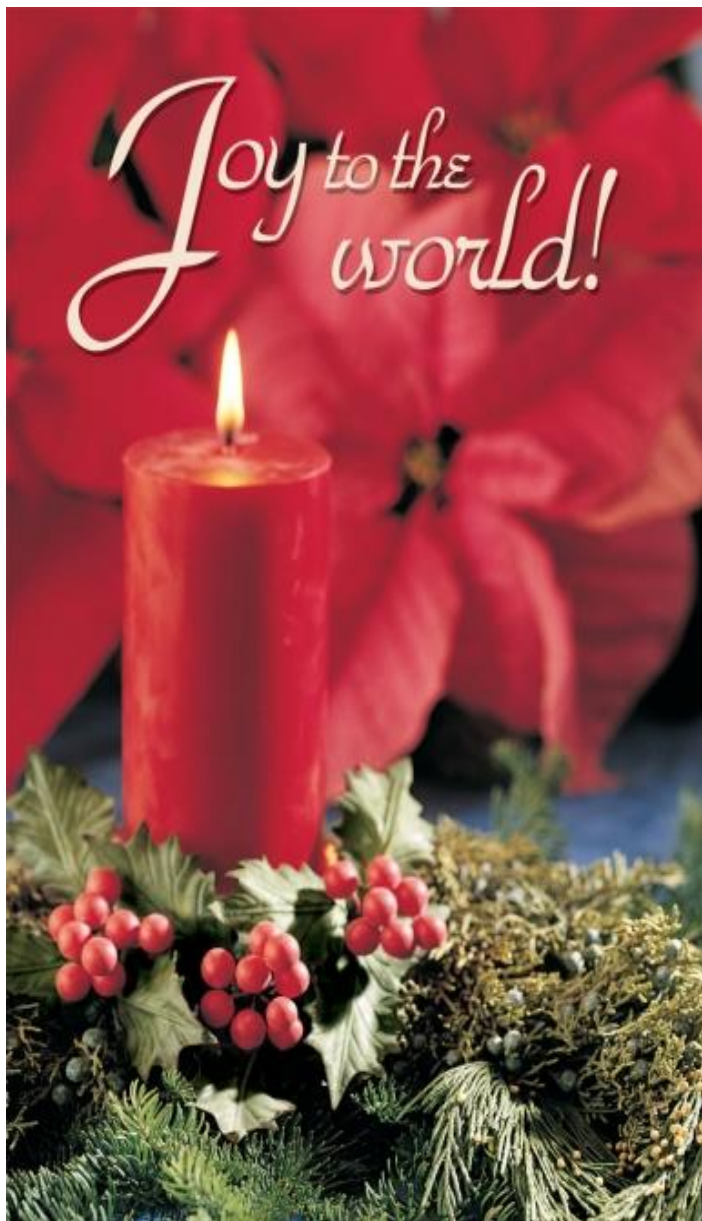
prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Church Email Address:

joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:

www.joylutheranelca.com



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

Pastor's Point

Pr. J. David Bryant

Friends---

We are in a season of waiting. I was reminded rather poignantly of this truth when I went to get a Covid booster on 11/22. The appointment was for 12:20pm. The pre-appointment information email said to arrive 15 minutes early, have vaccine card in hand, and bring a copy of the vaccine waiver completed online to expedite matters. I suspected that the entire affair would last 30-45 minutes.

Although I had arrived 15 minutes early, had brought what was required, that 12:20pm, nothing was expeditious, the appointment held me hostage until 1:45pm. More than once, I pondered making a fast escape. Twice I think I might've napped as I sat there waiting in the pharmacy.

The lady in the chair next to me was anxious, growing more anxious with every waiting moment. The longer we waited, the more she talked. She shared how her mom had flown down from Cadillac, Michigan, and how her mom would now be living with her. She shared how her mom had only been in Palm Bay a couple of days. Once, she asked to use my cell phone to check on her mom, having left hers behind at her home by mistake. I couldn't help her, having intentionally left my phone at home--something I often do on my day off.

We were quite the pair, sleepy me, anxious her, in our chairs, 6 feet apart, wearing tangerine orange shirts, and waiting...just waiting and waiting and waiting. Waiting proved to be very hard work. The longer the wait, the harder the work.

Writer, Laura Jean Truman, says, "During Advent, the waiting *is* the work." The work that happens in stillness is echoed by the seasonal shift from fall to winter. When the earth rests in the winter, it's not non-productive. In death, the earth is waiting for resurrection. In stillness, the earth is replenishing. In waiting, the earth works.

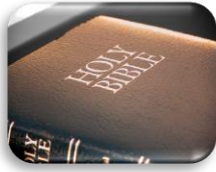
It is an act of humility and trust to stop moving and fixing and tending and meddling. In Advent, we acknowledge that there are forces at work beyond our own heady dreams of fixing the world. We admit that even when we stop, God still works. We put down our tools and put down our pride, and wait for the morning that God always brings in.

As we wrestle with our anxiety and impatience and the difficulties of learning to be still, it's important to be gentle with ourselves. Waiting is hard because our culture has worked tirelessly to disciple us into the myth that life's meaning is tied to our productivity. The world has taught us to be unsatisfied and to always strive for more -- to be more, have more, get more, do more, fix more. Unlearning that is hard work, and it takes practice.

No one has taught us that the work goes on, even when we are still. No one has ever taught us that God can break into the world even when we have stopped working."

Let's stop working and trust that God will grant us an Advent filled by productive waiting.

JDB+



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "C" for December 2021

December 5..... Luke 3:1-6

December 12..... Luke 3:7-18

December 19..... Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

December 26..... John 1:1-18



This year there will be one service for Christmas Eve. It will be held at 6:00pm.

Thanks!

Chris Allebaugh



January 30, 2022
~11:30 a.m.
(Following the Service)



It's time to sign up for a Beautiful Poinsettia Plant. The cost will be approximately \$10.00 each. More information will be available once we lock in a price. Please pick them up after the Christmas Eve service.

There will be a sign-up sheet for poinsettias, 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. Arrangements can be made for 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

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME



WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study on
Tuesday, December 14th @ 11:45 a.m.

Study "Women of Advent", in person at church.

Dorcas Circle Quilters, please stay for Bible Study after quilting



Effective as of now, face masks are **OPTIONAL** for all those gathering for indoor services and events.

Every thirty days, church council will reevaluate our situation.

St. Paul says to the Christians in Rome, *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."* (Romans 12:12-13)

Cell Phones and Worship

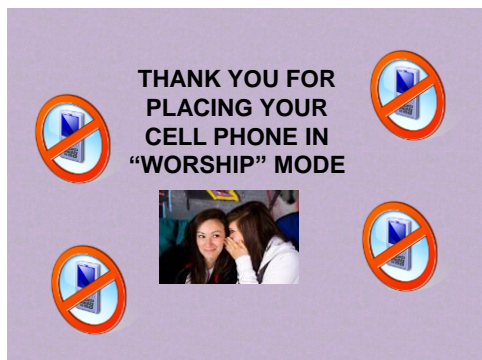
It is possible that on entering church, you may hear the Call of God.

On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone.

Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him.

If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.



Are you tuned in to hear what God has to say?



People are skeptical of things that they cannot physically see or touch. And, we see and hear things differently if we are not tuned in to what God has to say.

A story is told of two old ladies who lived together. One summer evening they were sitting on their porch, enjoying the peaceful scene. One woman was listening to the sound of a church choir a few doors away as they practiced. The other woman was listening to the sound of the crickets chirping. The woman listening to the choir said, "Isn't that a lovely sound?" The woman listening to the crickets replied, "Yes, and I understand that they do it by rubbing their legs together."

Sometimes confusion can be humorous, but at other times it can be disastrous. That's especially true when it comes to spiritual matters.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

Highlights of the November Church Council Meeting

The Church Council met on Wednesday November 17, 2021 at the Church.

The Council approved a recommendation from the Property Committee to replace the hard drive on the laptop in the Sanctuary with a solid-state hard drive.

The Council also approved the Men of Joy's request to open a checking account at TD Bank.

The Council also approved Pastor Bryant's 3-week vacation in December. His vacation will be the week of December 26th, January 2nd and January 16th. Pastor will be on vacation to rest and relax therefore that means please DO NOT call him. There will be coverage and calls may be made to Marjorie Mäenpää.

There were no recommendations from the Worship and Music Committee for any changes to our Worship Service so everything will remain the same. It will be revisited again in 30 days.

Discussions continue about the position of the Financial Secretary.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 30, 2022 following the church service.

Just a reminder, Memorial Bricks are now \$25.00.

Respectfully submitted
Marjorie Mäenpää
Council President

MEMORIAL BRICKS



SAMPLE BRICK

If you are interested in having a memorial brick included in the Memorial Garden located on the east side of our property, order forms are available in the Narthex.

Note: The cost of each brick has increased to \$25.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 4, 2021
12:00 p.m.

Olive Garden restaurant on 192
Sign-up sheet in narthex



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

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 Sunday, December 12th by 11:00am.

Reopening Task Force

The Task Force will continue to meet and monitor the Covid conditions to maintain the safety of our members and visitors as they attend JOY services and events. At the present there has been no need to hold regular meetings and the Committee will continue to meet as needed and at the direction of the Church Council. Chris Allebaugh has graciously accepted to serve as the new chair of the committee as we move forward into 2022.

Erik Mäenpää

Property Committee

The Property Committee provided assistance to the ladies of the WELCA as they prepared for the Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Silent Auction. The men helped setup the tents for the show and borrow tables from the Blessed Redeemer Church on Wednesday prior to the Fair. On Saturday before the Fair opening, the men setup tables under the tents. The men helped the vendors set their tents and stands as the vendors arrived and during the Fair assisted the vendors with their tents and displays. The men also manned the food operation by cooking and serving the refreshments. Following the Fair, the men dismantled the tables and tents storing the tents in the shed and the following week returning the borrowed tables.

Once again, the Cub Scouts, with the direction of Shawn Arner and Kyle Goodwind, assisted the efforts of the Property Group providing additional tables to be used in the show and helped with the setup and dismantling the tents and tables.

Now in the cooler months, we will turn our attention to addressing the patching of the parking lot edges. The men will also resume painting the rest of the interior walls of the church.

Erik Mäenpää

LAKE YALE Fall Gathering

Florida-Bahamas women of the ELCA met November 12-14 at Lake Yale, Leesburg, FL. Four of our ladies attended, and had a wonderful time.

The theme for the Fall Gathering was “Faith can move Mountains”, Bible verse 1 Corinthians 13:2b. The retreat held at Lake Yale, near Leesburg is a beautiful location on the lake with many Cypress trees, very relaxing and tranquil. There were many activities: business meeting electing new officers, meaningful worship services, Bible Study, workshops and time to meet new friends and renew friendships with old friends. This time away was a spiritual, refreshing, renewing of heart, mind, body and spirit.



A perfect setting for a perfect “women’s retreat.”





JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) –3rd Tuesday- Bible Study

NOTE: For December only, we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, @11:30, Dec 14th.

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

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00 – no meeting Dec 22



THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR HELP

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL/CRAFT SALE, SILENT AUCTION and WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Thanks to all of you who helped with the Annual Fundraiser in November. From making baskets for The Silent Auction, making beautiful quilts, serving hot dogs, working the White Elephant Sale, crafting items, businesses contributing gift cards, Emma's Florist floral arrangement, Chick-Fil-A basket, the many vendors, our Men's Group for set up & take down, our Boy Scouts who generously helped where needed and the many helpers available all day doing a multitude of things. Our sale was very successful. These funds help us continue our support of our local charities, our quilting supplies and meeting our obligations to national WELCA.

Silent Auction Breakdown:

Quilts	\$ 330.00
Gift Cards	\$ 190.00
Baskets	\$1,623.00
WELCA Craft Table	\$ 141.00
Food Stand	\$ 215.00
Vendor Fees	\$ 430.00
Grand total of Holiday Festival	\$2,929.00

Yard Sale. \$257.00 (Men of Joy).



DECEMBER 4 – 12:00 WELCA Christmas luncheon

Olive Garden, Melbourne, Florida. All ladies are invited, bring a friend, a neighbor or sister. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can let Olive Garden know how many to expect.

Our Holiday Festival/Craft Sale, Silent Auction and White Elephant Sale turned out to be quite the success. It took a lot of people to help make it a success. So, thank you all very much.



Another successful Christmas Craft Sale.



All snuggled up with his new quilt from his grandparents!

Thanks to all of the Dorcas quilters, Rachel's Knit & Crochet Circle and all of the participants in the Silent Auction and workers at our Joy event! We so rarely see the people who take our quilts and knit items home!

God Bless you all!

LindaK

"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. This program is so very important, especially at this time with families barely making ends meet. The cost is approximately \$190 per week.

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

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

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be December 8, 2021 at 11:00am.

If you would like to learn more about this committee, please join us on Wednesday.

You can contact Barbara Herndon if you have any questions

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 2022 Tidings no later than December 27th.**

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

Through Pastor Bryant's efforts, he was able to obtain a gift of \$650 from Thrivent to be given to Daily Bread.

Below is a note from Claudia Devitt.

Thank you for the incredible \$650 donation to Daily Bread from your church, Joy Lutheran!

Recently, Daily Bread noticed that the cup and tray supply was drastically decreasing and/or needing replacement. With your church's donation we invested in new cups and trays for the dining room!

Attached is the picture for your newsletter!

I cannot express our gratitude enough for the support from your community.

*Best,
Claudia*



Claudia Devitt
Community Communications Coordinator
815 East Fee Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 723-1060 x 121



Daily Bread, Inc.

815 E. Fee Avenue
Melbourne, FL

Love God. Love Others.



Daily Bread ensures that no one in Brevard County faces hunger or homelessness alone. All are welcome at Daily Bread. You can be a part of this ministry.

JOY members volunteer the 4th Friday each month @ 10:45 – 1:00 p.m.

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



Monthly, members of our church put together personal health/hygiene kits which we provide to **DAILY BREAD**.

Daily Bread Health/Hygiene Kits: miscellaneous items needed, i.e., sample/motel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, conditioner, lotions), deodorant, tooth paste & tooth brushes, shaving cream, hair combs and brushes for women & men, razors, sanitary pads, wash cloths, chapstick or lip balm, bug spray and sunscreen. Pr. Norm Holm (Ruth Holm's son) of Calvary Chapel has very generously contributed multiple items for these kits.

Thank you to those who have contributed items & helped make up kits.

Cub Scouts "TRUNK or TREAT" Event



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"

Participate if you feel so led. Don't participate if you are not so led. Give in whatever way works best to suit you.



NOTE: Your information needs to be updated annually. Scheduling for "auto-pay" & "auto-draft" is only good for 12 months.

Did you miss church on Sunday or were unable to attend? Check out our website.



Audios of Sunday sermons or "Live Stream" of the service are available on our Joy website at: www.joylutheranelca.com

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, or a Stephen Minister, or would like to be listed for prayer support.



We especially pray for Friends, Family, and Members of Joy.

WHO ARE:

- Suffering the loss of a loved one.
- Suffering from pain or illness.
- Suffering from depression or loneliness.
- Recovering from illness or surgery.

Lord, look upon those in need with eyes of mercy. May Your healing hand rest upon them, may Your life-giving powers flow into every cell of their body and into the depths of their soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring them to wholeness and strength for service in Your Kingdom. Amen.

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

2021 Church Council

Pastor: Rev. John David Bryant

President: Marjorie Mäenpää

Vice President:

Secretary: Kelly Arner

Treasurer: Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary: Linda Kratzer (temp.)

Council Members at Large:

Sue Getter

Barbara Herndon

Gary Krause

Peggy Marion

Joy Peters



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
12/31	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 - October 2021 Stewardship

General Fund	(Please see Sunday bulletin for current information.)		
Budgeted each Month	\$14,810	Budgeted thru October	\$148,100
Received in October	\$12,461	Received thru October	\$115,395
Capital Improvement Fund			
Budgeted each Month	\$1,418	Budgeted thru October	\$14,180
Received in October	\$1,629	Received thru October	\$13,117

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Day	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 11:00am Fellowship Meeting		8:30am Property Work Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11:45am Eve Circle Bible Study	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 7pm Council Mtg		8:30am Property Work Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting			Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm Daily Bread Team 10:30am-1:00pm	CHRISTMAS DAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Check website & messages from Pastor Bryant for changes in schedule.