



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 38, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2022

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.

Saturday December 24th

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
7:00pm**

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 pjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."

Pastor's Point

Pr. J. David Bryant

Friends,

We enter Advent singing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Shall come to thee, O Israel."

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is an 8th century Latin hymn originally sung by monks in monasteries to express their hope for the coming of a Savior into the world. In 1861, John Mason Neale translated the hymn into the English version we sing to this day.

The hymn expresses hoping, waiting, and longing. For what do you hope, wait, and long this Advent? As we still ache from dreams dashed by the pandemic, from diminished numbers in pews, from challenges brought on by mile-high inflation and rising interest rates, for what do we hope, wait, and long? My hope this Christmas is that we celebrate where we are, what we have, and how God still has purpose, mission, and meaning for us. Sunday after Sunday, service after service, I see our sanctuary occupied by hopeful people, creative people, smart and capable people praising God for Jesus' resurrection as we share communion together.

Sunday, November 27 is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival". Advent begins the church year and is our time of expectant waiting and hopeful preparation. We light candles to prepare for our Savior's arrival. We sing hymns of hope that the God of light will illumine this world's darkness. We prepare our hearts by getting honest with ourselves and coming clean about how we darken our life and the lives of others, which is why we await our light-bearing Savior. Advent is our time of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Bethlehem and it is also a longing, nagging anticipation for Jesus' second coming on the Last Day.

In 1868, the Reverend Father Phillip Brooks returns from the Holy Land. Brooks wants a fresh song for their Sunday School Christmas program. Inspired by walking in tiny Bethlehem, Brooks writes, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." I often wonder about how a hymn that seems more about adoring a town than adoring God has been a chart-topper for 150-ish years. Do you suppose this Anglican hymn's popular appeal endures because in it we find our own deep longing for our heart's manger to be filled beyond capacity with the vulnerable, light-bearing 6lb 8 oz sweet baby Jesus?

"O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!"

May it be so with us.

Peace---
JDB+

ADVENT NIGHT

December 4th

A Potluck Supper (bring your favorite dish) sponsored by the Fellowship Committee, **starting at 5:30pm**. Fellowship will supply cookies. The meal will be followed by tree decorating.

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

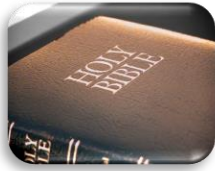
7:00pm



Order forms and envelopes will be provided in the bulletin and/or in the narthex on December 4th.

Cost will not be more than \$10 per plant.

NOTE: Please be sure to take your poinsettias home, following Christmas Eve service on December 24th.



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "A" for December

December 4	Matthew 3:1-12
December 11	Matthew 11:2-11
December 18	Matthew 1:18-25
December 25	
Christmas I	Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
Christmas II	Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Christmas III	John 1:1-14



WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study
will not be meeting in December.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 3, 2022
12:00 p.m.
Olive Garden restaurant on 192
Sign-up sheet in narthex



"Brenda Godsen, our church secretary, will no longer be with us at JOY after 12/31. With rapidly increasing responsibilities, as a caregiver to both her mother and her sister, she is resigning her position at JOY. Brenda will be with us at worship on 12/18, so that we will be able to wish her well in her next life chapter. We are grateful for her listening ear, her kind words, her thoughtful gestures, and more. She will be missed."



Next meeting:
December 21st at 7:00pm

“A Little Bit Different”

There was no snow in Bethlehem
Just shifting desert dunes.
There was no shining Christmas tree,
No sparkling sleigh bell tunes.

The gifts the wise ones gave the babe
Were frankincense and myrrh,
No toy train sets or Lego blocks,
No stuffed animals plush with fur.

When we look back at this first Christmas,
It seems strange, we'll admit.
Christmas today, I am happy to say,
Looks far brighter and quite different.

But still, we remember that long-ago desert
And the baby who was born in a stable
In celebration of our loving God
Who freely gave the best God was able.

God gave us God's only Son
The hope of redemption and of life that goes on
And so, we remember that Christmas far away
For it gave us Christ Jesus to show all the way.

---anonymous

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship committee is hosting a Potluck Dinner (bring your favorite dish) on December 4th for Advent Night. We will have dinner at 5:30pm. Then, after dinner we will decorate the Christmas tree. Once the tree is decorated, Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and cider will be provided by the committee. A sign-up sheet will be available on November 20th for members to sign up for their favorite dish to bring and how many people will be joining us.

The Fellowship Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be December 14, 2022, 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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Coffee, Snack, and Cold Drink after Worship.

If you enjoy the “Coffee Fellowship,” consider signing up to host a Sunday. The sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **December 15th at noon**. All are welcome, especially those fifty-five and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Lunch will be potluck, so please bring your favorite casserole or dessert to share.

Be sure to stay afterwards for fellowship. We always have a wonderful time getting to know each other. So, please come out and join us. Always check Sunday's bulletin for any changes.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2022



Pastor Bryant

Riley Coles

Chad Arner

Lucas Forste,

Ethan Arner

Linda Collins (Teacher)

Welcome to our newest members.
Bob and Fran Leonard



Pat Gorski presented Luther Radway with a certificate for his volunteer service for the past 10 years with "God's Pantry"
Well done good and faithful servant.



Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to make a positive impact in your community. Simply gather a team of neighbors or friends for a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity. Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money.

Remember our Joy community pancake breakfast in October?

Did you know that project cost Joy church zero dollars?

We purchased a banner, had 500 door hangers printed and 50 brochures printed as well as purchased pancake mix, syrup, orange juice and coffee. All for zero investment.

How do you ask? A Thrivent member applied for \$\$\$ thru the Thrivent Action Team and they gave us a credit card worth \$250.

It took less than 10 minutes to apply. All done on the Thrivent webpage.

Every Thrivent member can apply for two projects per year. That's \$500 to help with service projects.

Not a Thrivent member? You can become a member by applying for membership for \$20. That entitles you to apply for one action team per year and receive up to \$250 for that project.

If you would like more information or help with this, see Pastor Bryant or Mary Sherman.

Our Holiday Festival/Craft Sale

Our Annual Holiday Festival/Craft 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.



Mark Your Calendars

"One Blood" blood drive at JOY
Sunday, Dec. 12th, 8:00am-1:00pm

You can register online at:
<https://www.oneblood.org>





Stewardship Response as of November 25, 2022

38 Pledges

General Fund.....	\$84,860
Capital Improvement Fund.....	4,860
Total Pledged.....	\$89,720

“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 important, especially with families barely making ends meet. The cost is approximately \$190 per week.

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As the grass cutting is slowing down, we are now beginning to get some opportunities to tackle much needed inside jobs.

During the past month, we were able to clear and remove most of the brush and branches from the property with only a small amount remaining.

In preparation for the WELCA Annual Holiday Craft and Silent Auction, Harold Lengel was able to spray for fire ants around the property making it safer for the workers, vendors, and customers. This year we were missing some key members from the Property Team. Ken Laumer was on the injured list (knee surgery) and the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts were unable to assist us as they were working on their Annual Projects at the same time.

Norman Barmen is working to replace the steeple on the miniature Joy Church pump house. He indicated that the work should be completed the week of November 14th – 18th.

We are in the process of negotiating new contracts with safety inspection companies for the back flow testing, fire extinguisher testing, and the fire suppression system. McConkey Fire Sprinkler Inc. completed the back flow test for \$75 this year, as savings of \$85 for what was budgeted. The kitchen fire suppression system is due for its required hydrostatic testing. This will mean the need to have the tank removed from the system and having it tested. Once the tank has been tested, the tank will be replaced in the system and the seals replaced. In the event the tank fails, it will need replacement.

Erik Mäenpää

Council President's Monthly Report

Church Council met Wednesday November 16,2022 at 7:00pm

Kim Tolley, the Church Treasurer, reported that the Pledge Cards are being returned. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. The Pledge Cards help in preparing the church budget for 2023.

One of our Boy Scouts, James Plew, has started working on his Eagle Scout Rank. This is the BSA's highest scouting rank. He's asking if there is a project that he can help Joy as a way to thank Joy for hosting Boy Scout Troop 520. This project will help James meet some of his requirements to reach his goal. Council referred this request to the Property Committee.

WELCA thanked the Council for helping and supporting their Annual Holiday Festival. Their total expenses have not yet been totaled but WELCA reported they had a total of \$2,893.86 income from the festival.

Pastor Bryant reported that our church secretary, Brenda ,will be giving her resignation on December 1st, effective as of December 23, 2022. The Congregation will be able to Thank Brenda for her faithful service as our secretary and to say good-bye to her on Sunday December 18th. The Fellowship will have a cake for Coffee Fellowship on that Sunday.

We are still in need to fill some Council positions. We need: a Vice President/President. This is a two-year position. We also need: 2- 2-year term and 1-1-year term Council Members.

If anyone is interested in serving on the Church Council or have any questions about the Church Council, see or talk to Barbara Herndon. Serving on Church Council is an honor and privilege and must be taken seriously. It takes time and commitment.

The next Church Council meeting will be December 21, 2022, at 7:00pm.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am always glad to answer your questions.

Respectfully submitted
Marjorie E. Maenpaa
Council President



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 15th: Young at Heart meets at noon.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) –NO Bible Study in December

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

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

Ruth Circle (crafts) – will resume meetings in January – watch for updates

DAILY BREAD hygiene kits. Rachel Circle packed up 24 health kit/hygiene kits for Daily Bread the end of Oct. Pr. Norm Holm (Ruth Holm's son) of Calvary Chapel donated items for the health kits – a BIG THANK YOU to him. Contributions are Very Welcome. Health kits are made up of deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, hair combs and brushes for women & men, razors for men & women, wash cloths, chap stick or lip balm, fingernail clippers or nail file, sunscreen, gallon size zip lock bags, small (individual) hand sanitizer.



Thank you for all your help with the NOVEMBER 5th WELCA HOLIDAY FESTIVAL and SILENT AUCTION!



Christmas WELCA Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 3rd @ 12:00 at Olive Garden on 192. All ladies are invited. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, so that we can RSVP to Olive Garden

Men of JOY

We continue to meet for breakfast on the first Saturday of each month. Come and join us. A specific announcement will be made on the prior Sunday morning. We also send out an email about the breakfasts and other meetings. If you have not received it over the past several months, please see Jim Collins to give him your email address. If you don't have email, let Jim know you're interested, and he'll call you.

We are looking for a donation of a 50" LCD TV to replace one in the side rooms, that has failed. This does not need to be new, and it can be a standard HDTV rather than a 4K TV. If you have upgraded your TV and would like to put the old one to a good use, please keep us in mind. The size is important because of space limitations and the existing installed bracket.

Daily Bread Inc
815 E. Fee Ave, Melbourne, FL

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

MISSION: to ensure no one faces hunger or homelessness alone; to have a community that comes together to share a meal and other resources with our neighbors in need, helping each person move forward and find a home.

FREE hot meals are served 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 7 days a week

JOY Lutheran Church Team serves meals the 4th Friday of each month. Please contact Chris Allebaugh (321-388-2555) if you can help. Thanks to each of you for your support of this ministry. Please remember DAILY BREAD depends on volunteers. Volunteers are needed for dining hall, outreach center and warehouse – help needed 7 days a week.



It is taking a long time for me to get my health back. But I am finally on the mend. All your warm wishes, cards, and prayers have definitely helped in my healing process.

Thank you to my Joy family.

Doris Bunker

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 2023 Tidings no later than December 22nd.**

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

Online giving is an option for us, and 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 us but for others beyond JOY. Participate if you feel so led. Do not participate if you are not so led. Give in whatever way works best to suit you.



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 if 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

2022 Church Council

Pastor: Rev. John David Bryant

President: Marjorie Mäenpää

Vice President: Barbara Herndon

Secretary: Kelly Arner

Treasurer: Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary: Church Secretary

Council Members at Large:

Chris Allebaugh

Kristina Deyette

Sue Getter

Linda Kratzer

Gary Krause

Mary Sherman



December Birthday Blessings

12/02	Hannah Herndon
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-Walton
12/26	Andrea Christensen
12/26	John Manaseri
12/27	Harry Cannon
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.

Joy Financials

(See Sunday Bulletin for latest information.)

GENERAL FUND	January - September	October	January thru October
Income	\$109,333.09	\$11,270.05	\$120,603.11
Expenses	\$129,680.47	\$12,487.71	\$156,357.79
Overage/Shortage	(\$32,835.11)	(\$2,919.57)	(\$35,754.68)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	January - September	October	January thru October
Income	\$7,636.76	\$671.00	\$8,307.76
Expenses	\$1,222.69	\$0.00	\$1,222.69
Overage/Shortage	\$6,414.07	\$671.00	\$7,085.07

*May income includes the transfer of \$20k of funds, by CT, from MIF acct. back to the General Fund.

DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					8:30am Property Workday	12pm WELCA Christmas Luncheon at Olive Garden
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Second Sunday in Advent 10:00am Worship 5:30pm Advent Night w/Potluck		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Workday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Third Sunday in Advent 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 11:00am Fellowship Meeting	12pm Young at Heart	8:30am Property Workday	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 7pm Council Mtg		8:30am Property Workday Daily Bread Team 10:30am-1:00pm	Christmas Eve 7:00pm Candlelight Worship Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day 10:00am Worship					8:30am Property Workday	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Check website & messages from Pastor Bryant for changes in schedule.