



# Tidings of Joy



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

Volume 40, Issue 1

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

January 2024

## Staff

The Rev. John David Bryant - Pastor  
Steven K. Weiss – Organist

## Worship Time(s):

### Sunday

Traditional Worship Service  
10:00a.m.

**Church Office Phone:**  
321-951-0166

**Pastor's Email Address:**  
[pjdbryant4tide@gmail.com](mailto:pjdbryant4tide@gmail.com)

**Church Email Address:**  
[joylutheranpb@gmail.com](mailto:joylutheranpb@gmail.com)

**Church Web Site:**  
[www.joylutheranelca.com](http://www.joylutheranelca.com)

## EPIPHANY January 6, 2024



**"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](mailto:pjdbryant4tide@gmail.com)."

## Pastor's Point

Pr. John David Bryant

When you receive this newsletter, around the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Christmas, I will be home in Douglas, Georgia. Of course, since we have no Lutheran congregation in Douglas, we'll be worshipping at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. It seems they look for us to pop up each year during Christmas. Perhaps they even expect to see us in the same pews we always occupy. We are creatures of habit, right?

Speaking of being creatures of habit, we entered the new church year, St. Andrew's Day (11/30), and are now moving through a parade of colors, festivals, feast days, and rhythms of rising and falling. Throughout the church year, this panoramic cavalcade calls our attention to Jesus, in very specific ways.

**Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**, called "Gaudete" Sunday (from the Latin for "Rejoice") because the first word in the traditional liturgical song appointed for this Sunday (from Philippians 4, says "rejoice in the Lord always,"). Gaudete Sunday, "Rose" Sunday, is a break from penitential practices of Advent, a breather in the light of the Gospel. Rose Sunday punctuates the joy that is ours because of the coming of Jesus, and the greater joy that will be ours upon his eminent return. (We'll ponder the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent more in this month's "Did You Know.")

Our habit of following the church year is a blessing. When we follow each day's lessons and insights, we give ourselves a chance to develop a deeper appreciation of the life and person of Jesus. Just as Jesus had high days and low days, feast days and solemn days, we experience life in similar ways.

Because of how it moves, the colors and emphases of the church year, help us to perceive deeper realities and deeper aspects of life and faith. It's all a matter of **being encountered by the message of Jesus**. Festivals, feast days, and colors matter. That's why we have [the daily lectionary](#).

In the most general sense, the colors of the church year are purple, white, and green. This creates a three-part rhythm: **Purple for preparation, White for celebration, and Green for application**. Thus, in Advent\* (initially purple, same as Lenten purple), we prepare for Christmas, the eminent second coming of Jesus. In Lent, we prepare for Easter, when risen life becomes fully effected on account of the Risen Jesus. White reminds us to celebrate Christmas and Easter and every other "Festival of Christ" (e.g., Name of Jesus, Baptism of our Lord, Epiphany, Christ the King, etc.). And green is all about growth coming through how we apply the good news of the celebrations to our lives. In Epiphany we apply the good news of Christ's incarnation and in Ordinary Time, during the long green season, the one I teasingly call the "5,000 Sundays after Pentecost," we will apply the good news of Christ's Resurrection.

In 2024, let's make the church year's rhythm our own. Let's make it our habit. It's good to have preparation, good to have celebration, but neither of the two are worth very much to us unless we make them a matter of application.

Peace---  
JDB+

\*Blue became the "Advent color" because it is the color of the sky, the place from which Jesus will come upon his eminent return.

# The Significance of Epiphany

Christians all over the world will celebrate the Day of the Epiphany on Saturday, January 6 (celebrated on the same date each year). For Christians, Epiphany is a day and a season of the church year.

In the Eastern Church, Epiphany Day commemorated Jesus' birth, baptism, and His first miracle. When the Western Church set the celebration of Christmas to December 25, the visit of the wise men took the shining light of Epiphany.

We don't know a lot about these visitors from "the East" except that they were most likely from in and around Persia (modern-day Iran). These wise men would have been very educated with many learning everything from astrology to medicine and religion.

We don't know how many wise men, or magi, made the trek to give gifts to the true King, but we do know what their gifts were and how the Church has traditionally recognized what each gift symbolizes.

## **Gold**

Gold is a gift fit for a king. When you think of ornate palaces of old, gold is most likely part of that vision. We know that part of Jesus' sacrifice for us was to not live as a typical king here on Earth. As we look toward the promise of the resurrection, we look forward to worshipping the True King in all of His glory.

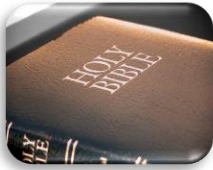
## **Frankincense**

A good way to remember the classic purpose of Frankincense is by looking at its name. Frankly, it's incense. Many point to its use in honoring gods and would say that the magi were recognizing Jesus' deity.

## **Myrrh**

Myrrh has been used in different ways, but each of those ways is usually connected to death. Myrrh could be burned as incense, but also was often used in embalming. This gift reminds us that, even with the joy of the Christmas season and Epiphany, Jesus had a road ahead that led to the cross.

Article from "Worship Anew".



### Gospel Readings

#### Lectionary "B" for January

January 7	Mark 1:4-11
January 14	John 1:43-51
January 21	Mark 1:14-20
January 28	Mark 1:21-28

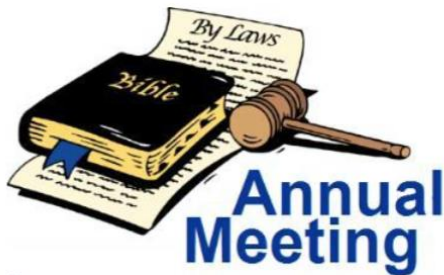


### Sunday Reflections

Every Sunday morning 8:30 AM.

Adult Forum on the Sunday Readings. Don't miss out, we would love to have you join us.

*Linda Carol Poppe*



### Annual Meeting

**February 4, 2024**  
**~11:30 a.m.**

Following the 10:00am Service.



Next meeting:  
January 17th at 7:00pm

### While Pastor is on Vacation

Pastor Pamela McMillan will be supplying on Sundays: 12/31, 1/7, and 1/14. If there is a pastoral care need between 12/25-1/8, reach out to Barbara Herndon first at 321-408-1515, then Barbara will connect you with Pastor Pam. Always remember, if you are at Holmes Hospital, Chaplain Derly or another of the staff chaplains are only a request away. I will be back in the office on January 8th.

## Did You Know?

Did you know....

Advent Sundays lead us towards the eminent second coming of Jesus Christ by pointing to his first coming. Advent is a penitential season where the Prayers of the Day (Collects) implore Christ to, "Stir up Christ's power," and come again to set the whole sordid state of human affairs to rights. Advent candles are typically white, blue, purple, or red. However, one candle is colored rose. In the Western Tradition of the Ancient Church, "Rose Sundays" are considered "Refreshment Sundays," breaks from abstinence, or rigorous self-examination, to pause and relax. The Rose Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) in Advent is focused on JOY---JOY in all caps---abundant JOY.

Between, John the Baptizer's shouts that we, "Repent," and, the Apostle Paul's admonition that we, "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; [and] give thank in all circumstances," The third Sunday's Rose candle calls us to pause and experience the joy that is ours through God's grace and love for us and for all people. Because this candle shepherds us to rest in the goodness of God, to refresh ourselves in God's presence, it is known as the "Shepherd's Candle."

As Pastor Jay Winter of University Lutheran in Tallahassee puts it:

"...we light the only pink candle on the Advent wreath—the Shepherds Candle. The Shepherds Candle emphasizes the joy of finding the Christ Child and sharing this joy with others. The color pink points us to the joy of the Advent season—pink in the midst of purple, joy in the midst of seriousness and repentance. As we've considered before, the joy of Christmas is set against a backdrop of sorrow and longing. Our joy at receiving God's gift grows as we long for Jesus' arrival."

While we are aware that JOY Lutheran has four blue candles and no rose candle on its Advent wreath, still the candle's call to be joyful in the Lord remains the same.

### Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be January 11, 2024, at 11:30am.

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

You can contact Barbara Herndon if you have any questions.

### Men of JOY

If you are one of the men of the congregation, come and join in our social breakfasts and our projects for the congregation. Our breakfast outings are the first Saturday of the month. Contact Jim Collins or Gary Krause where we will be meeting.

Along with our usual socializing, we discuss some group business and other ministry activities for this year.

Gary Krause, President  
Jim Collins, Recording Secretary

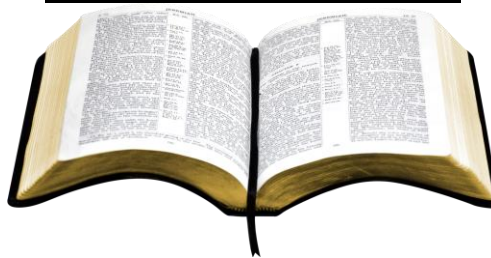
Daily Bread Inc  
815 E. Fee Ave, Melbourne, FL



We can share our smiles and love of Christ by serving those less fortunate.  
DAILY BREAD provides a hot meal every day to our neighbors in need,  
the homeless, disabled, men, women, children, and Veterans.  
**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **OPEN BIBLE STUDY**



**All Are Welcome**

We will be using the Augsburg Fortress Adult Bible Studies.  
Meets on Tuesdays 2-3 pm at church.  
First meeting will be Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Lessons for Dec/Jan/Feb quarter are FAITH THAT GLORIFIES GOD.

December's sessions are Faith of Ruth, Faith of David, Family of Faith, and Faith of Elizabeth and Mary.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are most welcome to come join in.

Questions? Talk with Linda-Carol Poppe.



## JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR! As seasons change and years come and go, may your blessings always continue to grow!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 6 WELCA Pancake Breakfast , \$6.00 - 8:00-9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 6 WELCA meeting, election of officers, set calendar for year
- Jan. 26 Young at Heart Luncheon @ 12:00 – potluck

### CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Eve Circle** (Bible Study) – the third Tuesday of each month – Jan. 16 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Dorcas Circle** (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.
- Rachel Circle** (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m.
- Ruth Circle** (crafts) – check with RuthAnn



**DAILY BREAD** hygiene kits: The ladies of Rachel Circle put kits together and deliver them to Daily Bread where they are in need. If you would like to contribute, items needed are deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, hair combs and brushes for women & men, razors for men & women, wash cloths, chap stick or lip balm, finger nail clippers or nail file, sunscreen, gallon size zip lock bags.



**Angel Tree:** Thank you for the many Christmas gifts that went to students at Turner Elementary. They are very appreciative of what we do for them.



**Winter/Spring 2024: "Scripture and nature:  
Teachers of faith" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith**

Jesus regularly invokes nature in his teaching, drawing us into deeper relationship with the created world. But it is not just Jesus inviting us to see creation as teacher and kin. The scriptures themselves help us see the important role of the created world in God's story and saving work. This four-session Bible study explores how biblical stories of the natural world help us to grow our love for and commitment to God, other people, and our beloved earth.

**January 2024**

Weather: Powerful force for change

We cannot control the weather, but we can learn from it. Storms, rain, drought, and wind shape the lives of human and non-human beings, both in scripture and today. As we face catastrophic storms and the weird weather of climate change, biblical stories of extraordinary weather convict and humble us. They show us how to live faithfully, moving us to act even when we feel powerless.

**God Works Through Your Generosity**

Joy Friends and Members,

Faithful giving and faithful stewardship keep JOY fiscally sound. Pledges of approximately \$112,000 for 2024, and the sharing of your time and talents show your generosity.

Your support allows us to continue to provide meaningful worship experiences, uplift spiritual guidance, and foster a sense of belonging among our members. Through your support, we are able to offer programs that nurture personal growth, strengthen families, and cultivate a deep and abiding faith.

Your belief in our mission is a testament to your own dedication to making the world a better place. We are truly humbled and inspired by your commitment to our church and its endeavors.

It is through the collective efforts of our friends and members that we can make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

May your generosity be multiplied in ways beyond measure.

*David Steinhorst, Stewardship*



Thank you to everyone that participated in the Christmas Eve "Special Music."



## Property Committee

Now that the Summer is over we are starting to tackle inside projects.

The old split air conditioner in the Wollom-Jackson room will be removed and a new unit installed. The cost of the new unit will be \$1,200.00 and will be installed by the Property Group.

We will open the two-closet making the closet one large closet with a clothing rod the length of the closet and with one shelf above the rod. The doors will be replaced with folding or sliding doors. The cost of the project will be minimal as the only material needed will be some lumber, shelf brackets, door track and closure parts.

We have researched the installation of hot water heaters for the restrooms. The cost of installing an on demand 1.5 gl. Unit in a bathroom will cost \$150.00. This includes the unit and the plumbing and electrical connections. Since the units are on demand units, the electricity used will have minimal impact on the FPL electric bill.

Erik U. Mäenpää

## Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **January 17th at noon**. All are welcome, especially those fifty-five and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Lunch will be potluck.

Please check with *Marjorie Mäenpää* if you are not sure what to bring to share.

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.



### 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 ten families each weekend. This program is so very important, especially with families barely making ends meet. The cost is approximately \$250 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.

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



&



Coffee, Snack, and Cold Drink after Worship.

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

## WELCOME to JOY!

Scan the QR code for important links.  
JOY Lutheran Guest wifi:  
password -welcome2joy



- + Visitor Information
- + Digital Giving
- + Prayer Requests
- + JOY website

## 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 2024 Tidings no later than January 29th.**

email David Steinhorst  
[dsteinhorst@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dsteinhorst@cfl.rr.com)  
or provide a printed copy.

## 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

## 2023 Church Council

**Pastor:** Rev. John David Bryant

**President:** Barbara Herndon

**Vice President:** Mary Sherman

**Secretary:** Kelly Arner

**Treasurer:** Kim Tolley

**Financial Secretary:**

### **Council Members at Large:**

Chris Allebaugh

Sue Getter

Renee Harper

Tom Hennessy

Linda Kratzer

Erik Mäenpää



### January Birthday Blessings

- 01/07 Violet Chin
- 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 **\$25.00** 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 **\$30.00 for the month.**

## Joy Financials

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	January - October	November	Year thru November
Income (pledged)	\$82,618.98	\$8,236.44	\$90,855.42
Income (unpledged)	\$43,447.90	\$6,916.32	\$50,364.22
<b>Income - Total</b>	\$126,066.88	\$15,152.76	\$141,219.64
Expenses	\$126,936.23	\$15,222.19	\$142,158.42
Overage/(Shortage)	(\$869.35)	(\$69.43)	(\$938.78)
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	January - October	November	Year thru November
Income (pledged)	\$4,714.41	\$525.21	\$5,239.62
Income (unpledged)	\$897.37	\$260.10	\$1,157.47
<b>Income - Total</b>	\$5,611.78	\$785.31	\$6,397.09
(Expenses)	(\$9,466.08)	(\$1,187.47)	(\$10,653.55) **
Overage/(Shortage)	(\$3,854.30)	(\$402.16)	(\$4,256.46)

\*\* Council Approved a new riding Lawnmower. MOJ & WELCA each contributed \$1,000 towards the purchase.

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>Epiphany 6</b>
		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Workday	8:00-9:30am Pancake Breakfast 10:00am WELCA Annual Meeting
<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	11:30am Fellowship Meeting	8:30am Property Workday	
<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11:30am Eve Circle Bible Study 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 7pm Council Mtg	12pm Young at Heart	8:30am Property Workday	
<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Workday 10:30am-1:00pm Daily Bread Team	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	1	2	3
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						<b>Check website &amp; messages from Pastor Bryant for changes in schedule.</b>