



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 40, Issue 2

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

February 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

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. John David Bryant

Friends,

It's February, and with this year's Valentine's Day sharing the date with Ash Wednesday, one might say, "love is in the air. We get the kind of love expressed by greeting cards and the Hallmark channel, alongside the great love of Jesus Christ. One might bring us romance, the other promises to bring us to eternal life. One might change our life, the other will show us how to live as changed people.

1 Corinthians 13 says, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

1 Corinthians 13 makes it clear that love is made visible by our attitudes and actions, particularly those directed toward others. In John 13, Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." In Synoptic Gospels, Jesus answers a question with, "...love God with all our heart, mind, and strength and love one another as you love yourselves." In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus ultimately tells us to even take love to the point of loving our enemies. And there Jesus punctuates that level of love by asking us, "What gain is there in loving only those who love you back?"

A godly love creates and establishes possibilities for peace and unity, possibilities no other action can craft with such a degree of hope and skill. Love active in our relationships toward one another, even given to our enemies, is love which will position the world in the direction of God's will and God's preferred future. Godly love enables us to see and experience God's presence in our lives, and godly love opens our eyes to the presence of Christ in the lives of all those with whom we interact from modeled for us by Jesus, the love expressed in his teaching and healing, and the way in which Jesus goes to the cross for us. "No greater love has anyone than this," says Jesus, "to lay down one's life for another."

Too much of what we hear, perhaps especially during an election year, is centered on sorting us and dividing us. And this sorting and dividing business is fueled by suspicion, anger, distrust, and hatred. The love Jesus has for us and the love we can and must express in our relationships with one another (even with our enemies) reveals God's hope for the world. Take the risk, love like Jesus loves.

Peace---

JDB+

Did You Know?

Did You Know...

When Luther preached on the First Sunday after Epiphany, 1523, the gospel text was Luke 2:41-52. Luther made two key points early in the sermon the first is, “BY the cross Jesus sanctifies our suffering,” and the second is, “UNDER the cross Jesus comforts us.”

When Luther explains the first point, Luther points out the degree to which Mary suffers. Luther says,

“Although the holy mother Mary, who was highly blessed and upon whom many favors were bestowed, had undoubtedly the greatest delight in her child, yet the Lord so ruled that her joy was not without sorrow and like all others she did not attain complete blessedness until she entered heaven. For this reason, she had to suffer so much sorrow, pain, and anguish on earth. It was her first great sorrow that she had to give birth to her child in Bethlehem, in a strange town, where she found no room with her babe except in a stable. Then her second sad experience was that soon after the six weeks of her purification she was compelled to flee with her child into Egypt, a strange country, which was indeed a poor consolation. She undoubtedly experienced many more like trials, which have not been recorded.”

Luther points out the ways in which Mary bears her suffering. Luther says,

“When God vouchsafes to us a strong faith and a firm trust in him, so that we are assured he is our gracious God and we can depend upon him, then we are in paradise. But when God permits our hearts to be discouraged and we believe that he takes from us Christ our Lord; when our conscience feels that we have lost him and amidst trembling and despair our confidence is gone, then we are truly in misery and distress. For even if we are not conscious of any special sin, yet in such a condition we tremble and doubt whether God still cares for us; just as Mary here doubts and knows not whether God still deems her worthy to be the mother of his Son. Our heart thinks in the time of trial thus: God has indeed given me a strong faith, but perhaps he will take it from me and will no longer want me as his child. Only strong minds can endure such temptations and there are not many people whom God tests to this degree. Yet we must be prepared, so that we may not despair if such trials should come upon us.... But when we see that the Virgin Mary and other saints have also suffered, we are thereby comforted and need not despair, for their example shows that we should calmly and patiently wait until God comes and strengthens us.”

German text: Erlangen edition, volume 2, page 1; Walch edition, volume 2, Colossians. 589; St. Louis Walch, volume 2, Col. 429.



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "B" for February

February 4	Mark 1:29-39
February 11	Mark 9:2-9
February 18	Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Mark 8:31-38

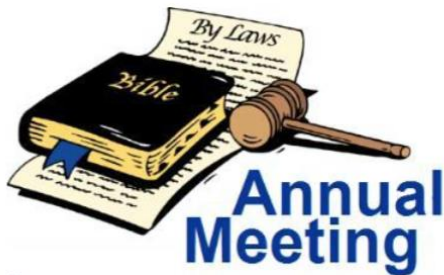


Sunday Reflections

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.



Service Times

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ash Wednesday

(February 14th) Noon* & 6:00pm

Mid-Week Lenten Service.....6:00pm

Palm Sunday (March 24th).....10:00am

Maundy Thursday (March 28th).....6:00pm

Good Friday (March 29th).....6:00pm

Easter Sunday (March 31st).....10:00am

* Ash Wednesday "Noon" will be an abbreviated service.



Next meeting:
February 21st at 7:00pm

"JOY," a church where everybody knows your name. If they don't, introduce yourself and wear a name tag.



Ash Wednesday Service

**February 14th
at noon and 6:00 pm**

Midweek Lenten Services:

Wednesday evening services begin February 21st and continue through March 20th.

Please join us at:
5:30pm Soup and Sandwiches
6:00pm Evening Worship

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13th at 6:00pm



The origin of Shrove Tuesday comes from the idea of - the night before Lent begins - consuming everything in the household from which one planned to abstain during Lent. We serve pancakes to connect us to the customs of a time when flour, eggs, milk, butter, and other food items were all on the Lenten abstinence list. These days we celebrate the evening before Ash Wednesday more as a foretaste of the feast to come at Easter. (ELCA)



LENT SUPPER SCHEDULE

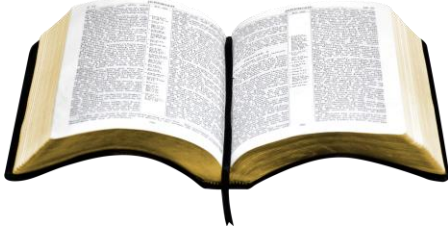
February 21 st	Fellowship Committee
February 28 th	Joy Men's Group & Property
March 6 th	Worship and Music
March 13 th	Church Council
March 20 th	Women of the ELCA

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Remember, 2023 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2024.

Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent Financial should distribute some of its charitable outreach funds. Joy Lutheran Church can be a designated place to distribute your "Choice Dollars."

OPEN BIBLE STUDY



All Are Welcome

Meets on Tuesdays 2-3 pm at church.
We will use the Augsburg Fortress
Adult Bible Studies.

Topics for February

February 6 Faith in the Power of God
February 13 Faith Amid the Fiery Furnace
February 20 Faith in Times of Trouble
February 27 Faith in God's Purpose

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

Questions? Talk with Linda-Carol Poppe.

Social Ministry

The Social Ministry meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be February 15, 2024, at 11:00am.

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

You can contact Charolette Abrahams if you have any questions.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be February 8, 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.

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will be meeting on **February 15th at noon**. All are welcome, especially those fifty-five and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Lunch will be potluck to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

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.

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

EVE CIRCLE
FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDY:
“Scripture and Nature: Teachers of faith”
by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith



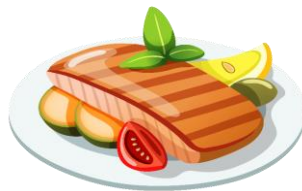
February 20 @ 11:30 a.m.

Jesus regularly invokes nature in his teaching, drawing us into deeper relationship with the created world. But it's 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.

February 2024

Creatures: Our siblings in praise and trust Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we'll get to know biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We'll look at biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God.

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 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.



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2024

President: Marjorie Maenpaa

Vice President: Fran Leonard

Secretary: Connie Steinhorst

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Linda Kratzer

Thank you for stepping up and serving in our Women's group.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 5 | Pack up quilts & bookbags for LWR |
| February 13 | WELCA & Fellowship Committee host Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. |
| February 14 | WELCA host Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper. |
| February 15 | Young at Heart Meets @ 12:00 |
| March 2 | WELCA meeting at 10:00 |
| March 2 | WELCA Pancake Breakfast 8:00-9:30, \$6.00 |

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) - Bible Study 3rd Tuesday, Feb. 20th @ 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) – Will resume meetings, watch for updates.

DAILY BREAD Personal Care Kits. Rachel Circle put together twenty Personal Care Kits for Daily Bread in January. Pr. Norm Holm of Calvary Chapel and several members of our congregation contributed items for the kits. Contributions are Very Welcome. Hygiene kits are made up of shampoo, 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.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR): 70 quilts and 60 school bookbags to go to LWR the first week in February.



*Thank you all for surprising
me on Sunday January 14
with cards + best wishes
and a delicious Birthday Cake
Celebrating my 98 Birthday.
I am truly blessed.
Ruth Holm*



Sunday February 18, 2024, 3:00pm Pilgrim Journey and Jehoshaphat, a local Christian band, will be playing and singing praise and giving glory to God in the parking lot of Stack Plaza. Stack Plaza is the location of Marion Music located at Palm Bay Road and Stack Blvd.

Please come out and join us to glorify God in spirit and truth. Pilgrim Journey will be playing many of your favorite Praise and Hymn songs.

Jehoshaphat plays a wide selection of original Christian music.

We look forward to renewing friendships with JOY members and friends.

Till then....

Alvin Kongsjord, Angela Porto, Bob Getter, Bruce Marion, and Rocco Bellotte

Property Committee

The work on the remodeling of the pastor's office closet and restroom water heater was started at the end of December. Both projects should be completed by February.

The water heater for the lady's restroom will be installed in February.

The new air conditioner unit replacement in the Wollom-Jackson room is being considered with various options available for us.

Once again we are looking to have the folks under the direction of Pastor Norm Holm from Calvary Chapel to help us with property maintenance in March. This help is always very welcome help as the group is able to do in few hours what would take weeks for our team to accomplish.

Steve has contacted organ manufacturers to get information on pricing availability of replacement organ. Steve is looking either for an Allen or Rogers organ. Two representatives from the Rogers Organ group stopped in to look at our current organ and are going to make a recommendation to us.

Erik U. Mäenpää

Worship and Music

Seems we were just setting up for Advent and now we are ready for Lent. Since I missed submitting an article in January, I want to thank everyone that came out for Advent Night and helped decorate the tree. As always it was beautiful! It takes a team to set up and take down, so much thanks go to the Property members, Altar Guild and all those others that helped us out.

I just wanted to mention that we along with Social Ministry will have a Sock Drive on Maundy Thursday. These will be donated to Daily Bread. As you're out and about, pick up a pair or two. Also, gently used socks are also appreciated.

We will again be ordering Easter Lily's. More about that as we get closer. We once again are looking to see if anyone would like to purchase palm trees for the Altar on Palm Sunday. We will purchase and can deliver to your home if needed after the service. If you want additional info or are interested let me know.

Chris Allebaugh



Thank you to everyone that came out for Advent Night and helped decorate our tree.

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 **March 2024 Tidings no later than February 26th.**

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



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



Psalm 27:1 (NRSV)

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

When life's upheavals thrust us into darkness, we need the light of God's presence. There are no power outages with the light of God's love. His light will guide us through the darkness.

David Steinhorst

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



February Birthday Blessings

- 2/01 Kay Small
- 2/03 Brian Getter
- 2/05 George Christensen
- 2/17 Don Heine
- 2/20 Roy Chin
- 2/22 Kaitlin Embrey
- 2/22 Pat Moerke
- 2/24 Luther Radway

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**” (321) 768-7776.



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 for 2023

See 2023 Annual Report

**Available at Annual Meeting
2/04/2024**

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<i>Check website & messages from Pastor Bryant for changes in schedule.</i>					8:30am Property Workday	
Annual Mtg. 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10:00am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	11:30am Fellowship Meeting	8:30am Property Workday	
11	12	13	Ash Wed. 14	15	16	17
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies. 6:00pm Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper	10:00am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting Ash Wed Services 12 noon & 6pm	11:00am Social Ministry Meeting 12pm Young at Heart	8:30am Property Workday	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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.	10:00am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 5:30pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Council Mtg		8:30am Property Workday 10:30am-1:00pm Daily Bread Team	
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 2:00-3:00pm Adult Bible Studies.	10:00am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 5:30pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Lenten Service			