



Tidings of Joy



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

Volume 40, Issue 4

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

April 2024

Staff

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

Worship Time(s):

Sunday

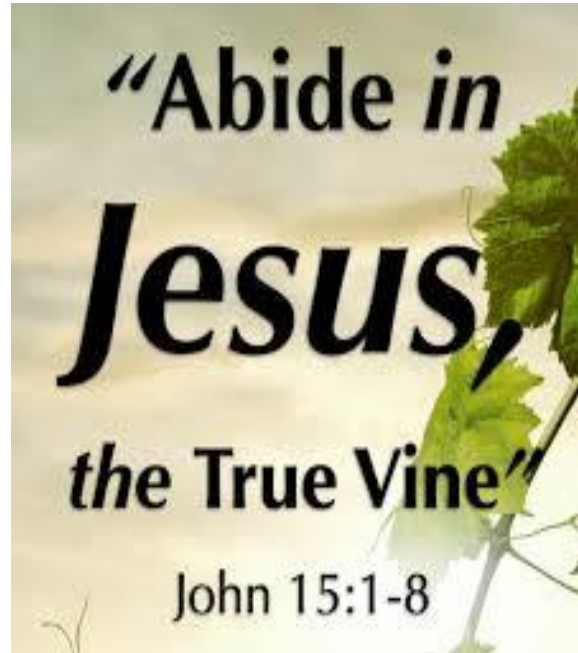
Traditional Worship Service
10:00a.m.

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



CHANGE

When we truly worship God in spirit and in truth, our perspective is changed. When we establish the fact that God is on the throne, and the Lord Jesus is worthy of all our praise; then the other things in our life begin to fall into their proper place.

Remember CHANGE:

Christ Has A New Gift Everyday

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

Office Hours: Tues 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,

As I write this article a few hours ahead of our 4th Lenten Midweek service, what is on my mind is how my installation in mid-March 2018, caused me to completely miss the death of brilliant astrophysicist, Stephen Hawking, and how, on my 48th birthday (3/31/18), I somehow missed that Hawking's funeral was being held the same day. However, what was not lost on me was how, following the cremation on June 15th, a service of thanksgiving was held at Westminster Abbey where his ashes were interred between Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. Hawking was a prominent atheist, yet the final word on Stephen Hawking had nothing to do with him, and everything to do with the faithfulness of Jesus.

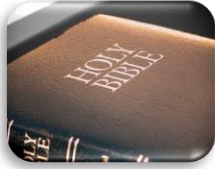
Alleluia! Christ is risen! On those four words, the Easter Proclamation, hang the hope of every one of us, Stephen Hawking included. Each gospel describes the resurrection, and each describes it differently. Mark is the earliest gospel, written around 70 A.D. Then follows Mathew in the 80s, Luke in the 90s, and John around 100 A.D. If you do a close reading of Mark's gospel, the women arrive at the tomb, yet never see the risen Jesus. They see an empty tomb and receive a proclamation of new life. There Mark's gospel ends with disillusionment and fear. (although Mark's gospel has a longer ending, indications are that it is not original to the text). We are left with a mystery! And what is wrong with us being left in awe and wonder? Must we have every answer, or can we sit in this space and marvel?

When we consider resurrection, we likely imagine risen physical bodies or a rather glorified life after death, but what if we consider resurrection as part of this life, this single precious life that we now experience. What if the Easter proclamation is about far more than life after death, maybe even including big implications about how we be live each precious, present moment. We can live a surface-level life that places all its chips on better things in the hereafter or we can live in the deep reality that every precious, present moment of life is dripping with resurrection power, saturated in eternal promise. The Easter proclamation invites us to treat each precious, present moment of our life as enduring, eternal, ardent, so potent and durable that, on account of Jesus our risen Lord, death cannot end it.

During the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games in London on August 29, 2012, Stephen Hawking decreed, "Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." Yes! Let's be curious. Let's marvel in this place of mystery as we peer into the empty tomb, squinting into the darkness to apprehend how the emptiness of the tomb is also the fullness of the womb; the place where incredible dreams take shape. Endings are new beginnings in disguise. The terrible gives rise to the dreamy, this is what resurrection is all about. Somewhere amidst the terrible dreamy and the dreamy terrible, we persist, survive, even thrive! We persist, survive, even thrive, because the final word on us has nothing whatsoever to do with us, and everything to do with the faithfulness of Jesus.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! I'll be gone from April 6th-15th. Look for me after then, and, in the interim, know that you are in the capable care of Chaplain Derly.

Peace---
JDB+



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "B" for April

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| April 7 | John 20:19-31 |
| April 14 | Luke 24:36b-48 |
| April 21 | John 10:11-18 |
| April 28 | John 15:1-8 |



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

Did You Know?

Did You Know...The main thing that defines Lutherans and Romans Catholics has nothing whatsoever to do with vestments, incense, statues of saints, novenas, or a celibate priesthood, and everything to do with how we understand righteousness. Roman Catholics believe in *infused* righteousness. Lutherans believe in *imputed* righteousness.

The Roman Catholic side of the Christian family thinks that God "infuses" (infusio) God's righteousness into us, like an IV drip, so that we attain total righteousness through faith and good works through our life. We do our part (go back to Erasmus and "free will") and God does God's part. More or less, it is faith + works = justification. If this view has a motto, it's, "God helps those who help themselves."

The Lutheran side of the Christian family thinks that God delivers forensic righteousness, (from Latin "forensis" meaning legally declared by the judge.) From the cross, on account of Jesus, God judges us and declares us "not guilty!" Remember John 3:17, God sent his Son... not to condemn the world, but to save the world. God, the judge, imputes Christ's righteousness to us for Christ's sake. We have no part in it. This forensic declaration can only be received by God's gift of faith alone which we receive in our baptism. Remember what St. Paul says in Romans 1:16-17, The just shall live by faith alone. In short, God declares us just for Jesus' sake. We cannot first become just to be declared just---we do have neither the ability nor the authority, those rest in God alone. We have no free will, because "we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." We can't cooperate with God in our salvation because we are weak and God is strong. God does it. God decrees it. God settles it. More or less, it's since God does it, faith in God alone = justification. On the cross, when Jesus says, "It is finished," believe Jesus. The pardon is unconditional. If this view has a motto, it's, "Your sins are forgiven. Believe it!" And when you consider it, to not believe it is to not believe Jesus---so believe it.



Next meeting:
April 17th at 7:00pm

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT



*"The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;" Psalm
24:1*

"Seek joy in what you give not in what you
get." — Anonymous

Each day is God's gift to you. What is your
gift to God?

How can I help?



Host "Coffee Fellowship" on Sunday.

Be an Usher or Greeter.

Run the projector for church services.

Help with counting the offerings.

Lead a Bible Study.

Help with Altar Guild.

Join the work crew on Fridays.

Volunteer in the church office.

Be a lector or worship assistant.

Get involved on a committee.

Volunteer for _____, or _____, or _____, or
wherever your talents can best be used.

Time and Talent

On April 7th you will receive a Time and Talent form. We are always looking for additional assistance on committees, assistance for worship service, and other things that make JOY run. If you would like to know more about any of our committee's or any other opportunities you can assist with, please reach out to Barbara Herndon or Chris Allebaugh.

Looks like Willow might be an organist in training.
She could not have found a better instructor than Steve.



EVE CIRCLE
APRIL BIBLE STUDY:
“Scripture and Nature: Teachers of faith”
by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith
April 16 @ 11:30 a.m. *GATHER* magazine Bible Study

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.

Session 4 Food: Daily bread for the health of the world. Most of us hunt, harvest, and forage in grocery store aisles. We’ve forgotten the ways our food first comes to us—from fields, flocks, forests, and farms. Considering our relationship with creation and our faithful stewardship of the earth means paying attention to the ways we eat. In this final session, we’ll see how stories of food in scripture offer us ways of faithful eating that are responsible, celebratory, and delicious. Locust and wild honey, anyone?

Friends in Christ,

This was part of the daily devotion that was emailed to me from Luther Seminary every day since Ash Wednesday.

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” (ELW 808)

*¹ Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
² Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

A journey – our journey at Joy to purchase and pay for our Church organ. It's a big step but one that is possible. We are many taking this journey. Some of us are excited, some of us are unsure, some of us would rather not be on the journey. Some of us have confidence that we will succeed. Wherever you are in the journey, remember, one step in front of the other.

Allen GX335



The church council would like to keep you informed every step of the way. Our organ fund before we even started collecting money for it had a balance of 760.00. Plus an additional \$3,500.00 was pledged at the congregation meeting, with many more telling me there would be sizable donations coming our way.

How do we plan to pay for this organ? We will most likely finance the organ. And we will plan to aggressively fundraise.

Possibly, with council's permission, one of the first steps would be to form a fund-raising group. If you would like to be part of this group, please let me know. It will not involve going door to door, but might involve planning things like a yard sale, bake sale, community day, plant sale, flower and music festival, letter writing, unique ways to collect extra donations. You might have more ideas.

We invite you to join us in this journey.

Council President,

Mary Sherman

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 April

Apr 02 - The Resurrection: Key to Faith
Apr 09 - Faith of Four Friends
Apr 16 - Faith of a Centurion
Apr 23 - Faith of a Woman Who Loved Jesus
Apr 30 - Faith of a Canaanite Woman

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 April 18, 2024, at 11:00am.

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

You can contact Charlotte Abrahams if you have any questions.

Fellowship Committee

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



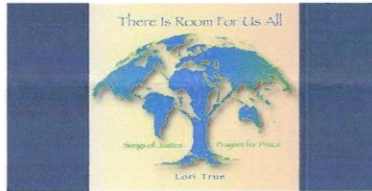
Sunday, February 11, was a special day for us! It was wonderful to worship with my Joy Family once again! My daughters and I appreciated the delicious cake and other treats, but most of all, we enjoyed the time spent with each of you!

Thank you so very much! God's blessings to all of you!

Donna Burdick

SPACE COAST CONFERENCE
Women of the ELCA 
2024 SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, April 13, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



THEME: Peace, Be Not Anxious (Phil. 4:6,7)
Registration fee: \$15.00

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
295 N.W. Prima Vista Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL

*Directions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church:
Route 95 to St. Lucie West Blvd.
Turn East onto St. Lucie West Blvd.
Approx. 4 miles church is on the left
(across street from Catholic Church)*

All women are invited to share in this gathering of Christian women which includes Welcome Refreshments, Bible Study, Worship with Communion, Lunch, Greetings from the Synodical Women's Organization, Guest Speakers, and more.

NOTE: For a lunch count, please RSVP dlsic@juno.com or call Diane at home: 772 871-7077 or cell: 772 342-6432.
RSVP by April 4, 2024

- * There will be a signup sheet in the Joy Narthex.
- * Carpooling from Joy. Leaving at 7:45am.
- * Food drive for Grace Way Village. Bring non-perishable boxed or canned food.

DAY CAMP 2024 COMING SOON

This year, JOY's Day Camp will be held on June 24th- June 28th. The forms are currently on the Joy Website. If you have neighbors or friends that would like to attend, please have them fill out the forms and turn them into the church as soon as they can. We know Camp fills up fast. We do have a few housing needs for our counselors. If this is something you are interested in, please let us know and we will give you more information. We will also need some assistance during the day at camp. Once we get further along more information will be shared. Thanks to JOY for all the support you always give to this program. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Allebaugh or Rene Harper.

Young at Heart ♥

Young at Heart will be meeting on **April 18th 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.



Daily Bread Inc
815 E. Fee Ave, Melbourne, FL
Share smiles and love of Christ to those less fortunate.

DAILY BREAD provides a hot meal every day to 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.

Contact Chris Allebaugh (321-388-2555) if you can help. Thanks for your support of this ministry. DAILY BREAD depends on volunteers.

Volunteers are needed 7 days a week for dining hall, outreach center, and the warehouse.

Men of JOY

Are you a member of the Men of JOY? If you're an adult male member or spouse of a member, then you can certainly take part in the Men of JOY. What do we do? One thing is fellowship; presently, our monthly breakfast outings help us get to know each other. We are also into service in that we support each other, other members of JOY, and the congregation's needs. Our support of the congregation includes offering our help to its programs and contributing to its needs. For example, last year, we helped to purchase the new mower and the guest chairs in the pastor's office. We also helped the WELCA ladies by transporting their quilts to the collection site. We are presently discussing ways that we can help this year. It's easy to be a member of the Men of JOY; there are no uniforms or badges, no code words, and no secret handshakes! You just need to want to be more involved in the life and work of your congregation. The Men of JOY helps us do things that we can't really do by ourselves. As you may know, a lot of our support to the congregation goes into supporting our Property Team, but there are things that we can each do even if we can't mow or lift a hammer. We continue to look for a Treasurer and a Vice President, which roles are presently vacant (neither role involves any hammering).

One of our upcoming fundraisers is another Yard Sale scheduled for 18 May at JOY. We invite all JOY members to donate items for the sale, and we'll receive any donations on 16-17 May (more details to come). As usual, we're looking for tools, small furniture, small appliances, sporting goods, housewares and the like. No clothes, please. We can use volunteers to help collect, clean, price and sell the materials; so, here's another chance to take part without a lot of heavy lifting.

Our current officers are Gary Krause, President, Jim Collins, Recording Sec'y, Norm Barman, Chaplain.

We hope to see you at our next breakfast outing on 6 April at 9:00 a.m. at Sunshine Café on Malabar Rd across from Home Depot.

Jim Collins

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 13: Spacecoast Conference Spring Gathering: St. Andrews in Pt. St. Lucie. Bring can goods for food drive for Grace Way. Grace Way Village is a community outreach organization helping families to live in mental, physical, spiritual, emotional, and economic health. Carpooling from church.

APRIL 25: Young at Heart Meets @ 12:00

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – Bible Study 3rd Tuesday, April 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) – will resume meetings – watch for updates.



NEWS DAILY BREAD Personal Care kits. We are now doing **25** personal care kits for Daily Bread 15 for men and 10 for women, per month. Contributions are Welcome. Health kits are made up of deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, hair combs and brushes for women & men, razors for men & women, washcloths, chap stick or lip balm, fingernail clippers or nail file, gallon size zip lock bags. Rachel Circle packs kits on the 3rd Tuesday of each month



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.

Property Committee

The hot water heater has been installed in the pastor's office. We are now working to clean the Palmetto beds around the property. The split air unit is our next major project to be completed and we are looking to have it completed by the end of April.

We are also working to develop a security plan and installing security cameras in the church. This is a part of the recommendations from the recent security survey completed by officer Ryan Austin of the Palm Bay Police Department.

Harold Lengel has added to the flowers in the Memorial Garden making the garden look its best for the Spring and Summer.

The Calvary Baptist Chapel members spent Saturday March 16th. Working around JOY cleaning out the garden around the church building removing all the stones, weeding the area, replacing the ground cover, replacing the stones, and adding fresh stone to the area. They also power washed the parking lot and walkways around the church. Our thanks to Pastor Norm Holm and the members of Calvary.



Erik Mäenpää

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.

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 **May 2024 Tidings no later than April 23rd.**

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

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



April Birthday Blessings

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| 04/07 | Kim Tolley |
| 04/08 | Linda Corbin |
| 04/09 | Peggy Lindner |
| 04/11 | Judy Baltzersen |
| 04/12 | Rene Harper |
| 04/12 | Orpha Lengel |
| 04/14 | Sandra Kenyon |
| 04/23 | Marjorie Maenpaa |

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 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

2024 Church Council

Pastor: Rev. John David Bryant
President: Mary Sherman
Vice President: Erik Mäenpää

Secretary: Kelly Arner
Treasurer: Kim Tolley
Financial Secretary:

Council Members at Large:
Lori Embry
Sue Getter
Renee Harper
Linda Kratzer

April 2024

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