



Tidings of Joy



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

Volume 41, Issue 1

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

January 2025

Bishop Pedro Suárez
Pastor

Rev. Robert Endruschat STS
Interim Pastor

Steven K. Weiss
Organist

Kim Tolley
Secretary

Worship Time(s):

Sunday

Worship Service 10:00a.m.

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Interim Pastor's Email Address:
interimjoy2024@gmail.com

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com

EPIPHANY
January 6, 2025



Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9am-4pm, and by appointment. It is strongly suggested to call ahead before dropping by. Best means to contact Pastor Endruschat is 561-302-3483 or email at interimjoy2024@gmail.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

The Baptism of Our Lord is celebrated on Sunday, January 12th, 2025. As the liturgical basis of the day is Holy Baptism, starting with the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John, we invite all of our members to make a special effort to be in worship on Sunday the 12th.

We want to ask all those who have been baptized, their parents and family members to be present with us that day at the 10:00 a.m. service. We will recognize those claimed in the waters of God's love as a part of our parish responsibility to support parents and children in fulfillment of their vows. While Holy Baptism is given once in a person's life, we continually remember its power and presence in our lives.

“Although a person is baptized once in a lifetime, the gifts of holy baptism are continually renewed in the lives of God's people. In addition to a daily return to baptism in remembrance and thanksgiving, Affirmation of Baptism is a rite that may be used to mark significant milestones in the journey of the individual believer or the community of faith. Those who have been baptized at one time in their life may affirm their baptism as a sign of their renewed participation in the life of the church, or at the outset of their association with a particular congregation. Those who have been baptized at an early age often come through a period of nurture in the church to an affirmation of their baptism in young adulthood. Affirmation of Baptism may also be used to mark significant life passages, times of growth in faith, and as a public rite of renewal by a congregation at particular times and seasons. Affirmation of baptism includes a public profession of faith, as the baptized echo the words of renunciation of evil and confession of faith that were first spoken at their baptism. Through questions and responses that further unfold the meaning of baptism, those affirming baptism commit themselves to continuing in the covenant of baptism with the help of God.” [*Holy Baptism and Related Rites. Renewing Worship, Volume 3. Affirmation of Baptism. Page 60*]

The act of Holy Baptism starts a life-long process of growth in faith in Jesus Christ. Our focus on this special day in the liturgical year keeps the baptismal focus clear. All present that day will renew their vows as a sign of their continuing strength and growth in faith in Lord Jesus.

Please join us on Sunday, January 12, 2025, as we all remember the God-in-Christ who has named and claimed us through water and the Holy Spirit.

In His Name

Pr. Robert L. Endruschat STS

**HERE ARE JUST A FEW NOTES ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY - THE SIXTH OF JANUARY
(WHICH WE WILL CELEBRATE SUNDAY JANUARY 5TH AT THE 10:00 A.M. LITURGY)**

Our text comes from MATTHEW 2:1-12. In the popular mind, Epiphany means the story of the Three Kings.

In many countries, this is the day on which gifts are exchanged because the Magi presented their gifts of gold (love), frankincense (prayer) and myrrh (suffering). Behind this story of Melchior of Arabia, Balthazar of Ethiopia and Caspar of Tharsis, there is the mystery of the Incarnation.

We celebrate the Epiphany in thanks for the Son of Man come to earth, born in a manger. This is the mystery of love wherein the living God becomes an infant in our midst.

These three Persian scholars are called kings because they left behind their royal courts. They set out on a long, difficult, and dangerous journey to find the glory of God. The true king is the one who goes beyond self and their own surroundings to find the glory of God. The true king is the one who finds God on the journey of life. These magi are contrasted with Herod, the King of Judea. Herod could have written the notes for Machiavelli himself. Herod was not born a king, but he was determined to become a king and establish a great dynasty. He had to have three things: money, the right marriage, and political connections. He amassed a great fortune, married the last of the Hasmonaeans, Mariamme. She was a direct descendant from the Maccabees who fought for Jewish freedom from the Greeks. He also made friends with the greatest Roman of them all, Octavius, who named him, king.

Herod, in his long march to power, never found God. He did find money and power. He also possessed a terrible quality – cruel jealousy. Because of this jealousy, a fear that people wanted to take his empire away, he killed his wife and two sons and his mother-in-law. When Herod died, his next son Archelaus, obtained the title and king. He was so hated that the people asked Rome to depose him. The next son, Herod Antipas, went even further. This is the Herod who executed John the Baptist and married his own niece. He was exiled into Gaul: so much for the dream of the dynasty. For Matthew's Gospel, Herod and his sons were not kings but fools too busy with money, sex, and politics. As a result, they did not find God along their journey of life.

The challenge of Epiphany is to be a true king, a seeker of wisdom-of God's wisdom. Indeed, like the Magi, we must travel many long and difficult miles to come to the manger with its babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. We need to make homage. We then must open our coffers and present the Christ child with our gifts. Once this is done, our hearts will sing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill among all people."

Pr. Robert+

LITURGY NOTES

As we come into this Epiphany season you may or may not notice a few subtle changes in our worship service.

For instance, the usage of Creeds will follow the ancient patterns of a seasonal usage rather than the usage of the Apostles' Creed for a non-communion service and the Nicene Creed for a communion service.

The Nicene Creed will be used for all festivals and the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed may be used at all other times.

The Apostles' Creed comes to fore in the services related to Holy Baptism: Confirmation, Reception of New Members and Affirmation of Baptism.

The use of the Hymns of Praise can best be illustrated by the Christmas season: using Glory to God in the Highest for all our services reflects the angel's song at the birth of Christ and is much more appropriate for the Christmas/Epiphany seasons. We will also continue to teach new hymns.

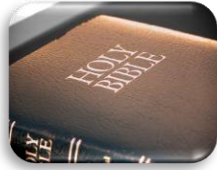
I encourage your questions and concerns about our worship life together: the Greek root of liturgy means "the people's work." May this 'work' we share bring glory and light to this God's kingdom here and now.

A NEW YEAR - - A NEW RESOLUTION AND A COMMITMENT RENEWED

Did you make a New Year's resolution for this new year? Sometimes it is difficult to determine the right combination of challenge and realism for a resolution. Should I do more or do less? Should I share more or share less?

The New Year is a time to remember our renewed commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is another opportunity to start fresh, to help others, to be bold and volunteer, to be thankful and return some of what God has first given us.

As the weeks of the New Year begin, let's give thanks for those little things that will make a difference in our daily life and the lives of those we love. Take moment for prayer. Take a few minutes to read scripture with a family member or friend. Take the time to express appreciation to those who help us. When the opportunity comes along, give a little extra to a ministry that has a special meaning to you. It is by taking these steps that we grow in our individual faith and set an example for others. It is by taking these steps that we become better stewards of God's grace and God's love.



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "C" for January 2025

January 5..... Matthew 2:13-15,19-23
 or
 Luke 2:41-52
 or
 Matthew 2:1-12

January 12..... Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19.... John 2:1-11

January 25..... Luke 4:14-21



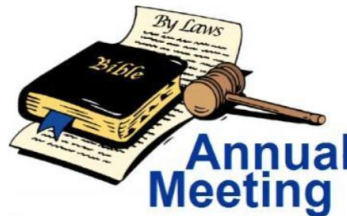
Next meeting:
 January 17th at 7:00pm

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be January 9, 2025, 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.



Annual Meeting

February 9, 2025
~11:30 a.m.
Following the 10:00am Service.

If you are the head of any committee, please have your reports into the church office by January 9th.

We are looking for members who are willing to serve on Church Council. This is a very important role as we look to finding a new minister to lead us. Consider prayerfully if this is a position you might be able to fill.

Our nominating committee of Marg Maenpaa, Barbara Herndon, Chris Allebaugh, and Dot Kirsh. Reach out to one of them if you are interested. We also have the Vice president position available. Do you have leadership skills? You may be what we need.

In The Days After Christmas

In the days after Christmas
All through the Lord's house
Not a creature was stirring
Save perhaps the church mouse

The hymnals were placed
In the back of each chair
In the hope that some congregants
Soon would sing there

While out in the town
All the shopping was done
And Christmas was over
And so was the fun

And bright Christmas trees
That had made such a flash
Now sadly lay
At the street for the trash

Can Christmas be over
So soon, in one day?
Can the joy of this season
In a blink, slip away?

No, Christmas is not
Just a gift or a treat
Or a tree or some lights
On a house down the street

Christmas is love
From our God to us all
In the form of a babe
Born in Bethlehem's stall

A promise was given
A promise was kept
In the church ring the songs
We will never forget

And long after the lights
And the stores have moved
on
Lives the spirit of Christmas
In our hearts and our song

In the days after Christmas
Christians gather again
To sing of the wonder
God's Son come to men

James Collins 2024

Property Team

The Property Crew prepared the grounds for our Christmas season including mowing, trimming, mulching, and picking up the Memorial Garden.

They also cleared the overgrown grass from the front sidewalk and the parking lot margins. Team members also erected the "JOY" sign in front. Many thanks to all our regulars who made this possible.

You may also have noticed that all of our parking lot lights are operating again. Property brought in a contractor to repair and/or replace failed units and convert them all from high intensity discharge lamps to LEDs which should last longer and consume less power.

If you can help with future work sessions on Friday mornings starting at 8:30, contact Jim Collins or just come by to see what we do.

Jim Collins

News from the Church Council

Joyful Music Festival was the last fund raising that was planned for our Organ fund. Since the organ was paid the effort was no longer needed, so the music festival was turned into a benefit for the Hurricane relief.

What a wonderful afternoon of music presented by some incredibly talented groups.

We were blessed by the talents of these people. Over \$600 was raised by the contributions of our guests to be delivered to the Florida Hurricane Relief thru our local Synod program. We want to thank all those groups for their performance in our community program. The Singing Sea Turtles, Bronwell Fair and Noah Fowler, The Barefoot Bay Choir, Steve Weiss, The Hand Chime Harmonies, and 4 EvR Changed, Al and Angela.



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



The ladies enjoying their annual Christmas luncheon at Olive Garden.



God Works Through Your Generosity

Joy Friends and Members,

Faithful giving and faithful stewardship keep JOY fiscally sound. Pledges of approximately \$98,804 for 2025, 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



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.

In 2024, Daily Bread provided: 49,920 meals served, 13,934 showers, clean clothes; on-site healthcare, job searches & placement, assistance in accessing social security & disability benefits, prescription assistance, food stamps, mobile phones, and other essential resources.

A YEAR-END OFFERING REMINDER

The 2024 Church Financial Books will close on Tuesday, December 31st, 2024. All 2024 contributions that are received by the church by that date will be credited as a 2024 contribution. The postmark is the key. Any gifts that are designated for 2024 and are received in the new year of 2025 will be credited on the church books as a 2025 contribution unless postmarked or hand delivered in 2024. Please take care in planning your Christmas season gifts and envelope offerings and special year-end offerings so that these gifts may be properly credited as you wish.



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 4th WELCA meeting at 10:00am: **Election of Officers & Set Agenda for 2025.**

Jan. 16th Young at Heart Luncheon @ 12:00pm – potluck.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – The Third Tuesday of each month – Jan. 21st @ 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) – Last Friday of the month @ 10:00 am. Check with Holly Walsh.

“Daily Bread” Personal Care Kits. Needed for personal care kits: chap stick or lip balm, deodorant, fingernail clippers or nail file, gallon size zip lock bags, hair combs and brushes, women & men razors, hand sanitizer pkgs., shampoo men & women, shaving cream men & women, soap, sunscreen, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wash cloths.



The 3rd Tuesday morning of each month

January 21, 2025 @ 11:30 a.m.

Winter/Spring 2025: “Faithfulness” by Denise Rector



Session One: Ruth and Naomi

Ruth chooses to remain part of Naomi’s family, even after Naomi has lost everything – including her husband and sons. This intergenerational story of faithfulness during emptiness and sorrow helps us learn how to rely on God in bleak times.

Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **January 16th 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.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Coffee, Snack, and Cold Drink after Worship.

If you enjoy the "Coffee Fellowship," consider signing up to host a Sunday. The signup sheets are out for the year and available in the fellowship area.



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.

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 2025 Tidings no later than January 28th**.

email David Steinhorst
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 Endruschat. Or contact Pastor Endruschat at 561-302-3483 or email at interimjoy2024@gmail.com, 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

2024 Church Council

Pastor, Interim: Rev. Robert Endruschat

President: Mary Sherman

Vice President: "open position"

Secretary: Kelly Arner

Treasurer: Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary:

Council Members at Large:

Lori Embry

Sue Getter

Renee Harper

Linda Kratzer



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**” (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

GENERAL FUND	JANUARY - NOVEMBER
Income (pledged)	\$83,799.20
Income (unpledged)	\$22,257.88
Organ Fund (pledged)	\$28,411.55
All Other Income	\$19,076.26
Income - Total	\$153,544.89
Expenses	(\$153,888.03)
Overage/(Shortage)	(\$343.14)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	JANUARY - NOVEMBER
Income (pledged)	\$7,837.40
Income (unpledged)	\$140.00
Income - Total	\$7,977.40
(Expenses)	(\$7,032.59)
Overage/(Shortage)	\$944.81

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 10am Bread of Life Backpacks		8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	10:00am WELCA Annual Meeting 9am Girl Scouts
5	Epiphany 6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Worship 1:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	6:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 10am Bread of Life Backpacks	11:30am Fellowship Meeting 6:30pm Worship & Music	8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Worship 1:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	6:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 10am Bread of Life Backpacks	11:00am Social Ministry Meeting 12pm Young at Heart 7:00pm Council Meeting	8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	9am Girl Scouts
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship 1:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	6:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11:30am Eve Circle Bible Study 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 10am Bread of Life Backpacks		8:30am Property Workday 10:30am-1:00pm Daily Bread Team 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10:00am Worship 1:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	6:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 10am Bread of Life Backpacks		8:30am Property Workday 10:00am Ruth Craft Circle 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						<i>Check website & messages from Pastor Robert for changes.</i>