



# Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 41, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2025

Bishop Pedro Suárez  
Pastor

Rev. Robert Endruschat, STS  
Interim Pastor

Steven K. Weiss  
Organist

## Worship Time(s):

### Sunday

Worship Service 10:00a.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Special Festival Music**  
**starts at 5:45pm**

**The Candlelight Liturgy**  
**starts at 6:00pm**

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

**Interim Pastor's Email Address:**  
[interimjoy2024@gmail.com](mailto:interimjoy2024@gmail.com)

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

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



## Christmas Eve Service

**Special Festival Music**  
**starts at 5:45pm.**

**The Candlelight Liturgy**  
**starts at 6:00pm.**

**December 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](mailto:interimjoy2024@gmail.com). Office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25, 2025.

1 December 2025

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This is the last time I write these words to you as your interim pastor. My time with you ends December 31. These days seem quite different for me, and for you, as the parish. We have a wide range of conflicting feelings this December 1 as we try to look forward to the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. There are so many issues and things that draw our attention away from these days of preparation. The parish has the uneasy feeling of once again moving into transition and change again after a different level of change and transition in September 2024. So many changes at so many levels. And yet, whether we like it or not, Christmas is coming.

There is the change based on issues and issues in our society, our choices in the electoral process, decisions of the church in all its levels that manage to incite some sector of our faith communities. Some of us face issues that come as a part of the life cycles in decisions about our health, the health of a loved one, choices (or lack of choices) in vocation. We face fears in challenges in the world in the concentric circles of violence and destructions in actions that ripple across our nation, across the whole world, no matter where they start. And the people suffer and we want to do something. Yet we feel overwhelmed by it all. And yet, whether we like it or not, Christmas is coming.

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
To rebuild nations, to bring peace among the people  
To make music in the heart.

St. Luke tells the story of the birth of this king. The angel said to Mary that the child to be born of her will be named Jesus, Savior, and that to his reign of peace, there will be no end. This celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas, is a beacon of hope. That does not change. In what we celebrate on that day we profess our belief that there is a purpose and a direction and a conclusion to the human story – and to our life story. And that hope, that promise made real in the Christ child, is what enables us to make music in the heart.

We profess our belief that the Son of God came into our world, and because of this, there is always at work the power of God to transform our world into his kingdom of justice, peace, and love. That does not change. This power will ultimately triumph. With that music in our hearts, we can begin the work of Christmas:

To find the lost, to heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
To rebuild nations, to bring peace among the people  
To make music in the heart.

My prayer for you for this Christmas and this new year to come, is that we cling to that which is unchangeable. By the grace of God, we move forward, to make music in the heart.

To all of you and yours, A Blessed Christmas  
and a Healthy New Year 2026!

In His Name,

The Rev'd Robert L. Endruschat STS ✕  
Interim Pastor – Joy Lutheran Church-Palm Bay

## EVANGELISM OUTREACH TIPS FOR INVITING PEOPLE TO CHURCH

**WHAT BETTER DAY OF THE YEAR TO INVITE SOMEONE TO COME TO WORSHIP THAN IN THE ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SEASON! INVITE SOMEONE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!**

**ON ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL DAYS OF THE YEAR THAT WE PROCLAIM THE ESSENTIAL TRUTH OF GOD'S CLAIM ON OUR LIVES, PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION BY MAKING THE INVITATION. JUST TELL THEM, "COME AND SEE."**

1. **Pray about your inviting** – The Holy Spirit wants to work through you, to help others come to church, to hear the good news. Ask the Spirit's help through prayer as you reach out to someone else.
2. **Invite someone you know** – A number of surveys show that a majority of people first come to church because a friend invited them. When you invite someone, it is not only personal; it is also the most effective invitation.
3. **Invite people to worship with you** – Non-churched visitors will attend our services more readily if you are there to worship with them. More than once, people have said that they would like to visit services, but do not know anyone. Arrange to bring them or meet them at church and sit with them. Being with visitors for the first time also gives you an opportunity to help them with worship practices we may take for granted.
4. **Invite persons to special services** – Special worship occasions are also times when people may be open to an invitation. Natural opportunities to invite visitors are Christmas, Easter and when Sunday School or Preschool students participate.
5. **Invite people who do not have a church home** – While our congregation is happy to have visitors from other churches, our reaching out is aimed at non-churched persons. Our parish family is not seeking to steal members from other congregations. Instead, our congregation treasures opportunities to serve relatives, friends, and associates of our members, who do not have a church to call their own.

The simplest form of evangelism is to say, "**come and see.**" It was what Phillip said to Nathanael in John 1:46. Later in John's gospel, the words "**come and see**" were on the lips of Jesus himself. We could not have any better example to follow! Inviting your unchurched family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and other acquaintances with the words "**come and see**" might even be considered right up there with three other words packed with meaning, "**I love you.**"

### A NOTE TO TEMPER THE FRANTIC PACE OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:

I often think: "a life is like a day; it goes by so fast. If I am so careless with my days, how can I be careful with my life?" I know that somehow I have not fully come to believe that urgent things can wait while I attend to what is truly important. It finally boils down to a question of deep and strong conviction. Once I am truly convinced that preparing the heart is more important than preparing the Christmas tree, I will be a lot less frustrated at the end of a day.

*Henri J. M. Nouwen in The New Oxford Review  
November 1986)*

**ADVENT – CHRISTMAS  
Liturgies 2025**

**THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT  
10:00 a.m.**

**The Holy Eucharist**

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**FESTIVAL EUCHARIST**

**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE NATIVITY OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
STARTING AT 5:45 P.M.**

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST FOR THE NATIVITY  
STARTING AT 6:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 28  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols  
and the Holy Eucharist**

**Gospel Readings**

**Lectionary “A” for December 2025**

December 7	Matthew 3:1-12
December 14	Matthew 11:2-11
December 21	Matthew 1:18-25
December 25	
Christmas I	Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
Christmas II	Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Christmas III	John 1:1-14
December 28	John 1:1-18

**Worship and Music**

It's hard to believe that 2025 is almost behind us and we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas.

This means it's time to decorate the Christmas Tree. The Young at Heart group has agreed to move their luncheon up a week to December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is when we will decorate the Christmas Tree. All are invited to this event. Be part of the decorating of our beautiful tree. Enjoy good food and fellowship. More info to follow.

In January we will be handing out our TIME AND TALENT sheets. More hands make easy work! Everyone has different talents to share. You may be handy or like working in your yard. The Property Committee would love to have your help. You may have been a Lector, Usher, Communion Assistant or worked on The Altar Guild at another church you attended. We could use your help here at JOY. You may have been involved with WELCA or the Men's Group in the past. Get involved at JOY. They have many things going on that could use a few more hands.

If you like social media or would like to work on our Newsletter like the one you are reading, we need your assistance. Please talk to David Steinhorst. After twelve years as editor of "Tidings of Joy, he is looking for someone to take over this responsibility.

When you receive your TIME AND TALENT Sheet in January, please pray about where you can serve JOY.

Let me know if you have questions about how to get involved and what the time involved would be.

*Chris Allebaugh*

### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS ADVENT**

**Advent I:** The first candle on the Advent wreath is called the Prophecy candle, for it represents the period of waiting that preceded the birth of Christ.

Sunday:	Luke 21: 5-19
Monday:	Matt. 21: 1-11
Tuesday	Matt. 21:12-22
Wednesday	Matt. 21:23-32
Thursday	Matt. 21:33-46
Friday	Matt. 22: 1-14
Saturday	Matt. 22:15-22

**Advent II:** The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle, a symbol of the preparations made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

Sunday:	Luke 1:57-68
Monday:	Matt. 22:22-33
Tuesday	Matt. 22:34-46
Wednesday	Matt. 23: 1-12
Thursday	Matt. 23:13-26
Friday	Matt. 23:27-39
Saturday	Matt. 24: 1-14

**Advent III:** The third candle is called the Shepherd's candle and commemorates the act of sharing the good news of Christ's coming.

Sunday:	John 5:30-47
Monday:	Matt. 24:15-31
Tuesday	Matt. 24:32-44
Wednesday	Matt. 24:45-51
Thursday	Matt. 25: 1-13
Friday	Matt. 25:14-30
Saturday	Matt. 25:31-46

**Advent IV:** The fourth candle is the Angel's candle and speaks of the love and the actual coming of Christ.

Sunday:	John 3:16-21
Monday	Matthew 1:18-25
Tuesday:	John 1:1-9
Wednesday	John 1:10-18
<b><u>Christmas Eve</u></b>	Matthew 1:1-1:25

**Christmas Day** Luke 1:1-2:20

### **A Prayer for the Close of the Hurricane Season**

Lutherans in the Virgin Islands came from Denmark and began serving the local population in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This traditional prayer, from a Danish Lutheran missionary manual, and has been used for decades in parts of the Caribbean.

*O Merciful God and heavenly Father, you asked us to call upon you in all need and distress and moreover promised to hear our prayers and to help us, thereby causing us to give thanks. During this past perilous season, we have felt your help and assistance as you have preserved our lives and homes and kept the ruinous gale from afflicting us and the earth from trembling.*

*Therefore, we give thanks to you from humble hearts and we pray that you will graciously grant us by your Holy Spirit, that we are found thankful, not only in word, but also in deed and in truth, that our lives may give glory and praise to you through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, forever. Amen*



Next meeting:  
December 18th at 7:00pm



### WELCA BIBLE STUDY

The Eve Circle Bible Study will not be meeting in December. The next Bible Study will be held January 20th @ 11:30 a.m.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Special Festival Music  
starts at 5:45pm

The Candlelight Liturgy  
starts at 6:00pm



## Worship and Music

Mark your calendars for **December 11<sup>th</sup>**! We will be decorating the Christmas Tree during the Young at Heart luncheon. There will be more information to follow, but you don't want to miss this fun event!



Words cannot express my gratitude to the people of Joy whose prayers and support have helped me through the most difficult time of my life. I am thankful for the way you surrounded me with care and reminded me that I am not alone.

Elizabeth Keavney.



Order forms and envelopes will be provided in the bulletin and/or in the narthex.

Cost will be ~\$10 per plant.

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



## Property Team

Our Re-lettering Team members working on the Memorial Garden pavers have completed their work, and we should have the pavers sealed and re-installed soon. Many thanks for their good work in restoring the fading memorials.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Elizabeth Keavney   Elizabeth Bozorth   Debbie Evans   Bill Evans   Pr. *Endruschat* (Presiding Minister)   Steve Amidei   Karen Amidei



## JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

December 11, 2025, Young at Heart 12:00 Luncheon

NO BIBLE STUDY in December

January 10, 2026, is the next WELCA meeting and pancake breakfast. Election of officers will take place at the January 10, 2026, meeting.

### **CIRCLE MEETINGS**

Dorcas Circle (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.(not the week of Christmas)

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m.(not the week of Christmas)

Ruth Circle (crafts)–last Friday of the month, check with Holly.

### **PROVIDENCE CONNECTS** formerly known as DAILY BREAD:

Rachel Circle packed up twenty-five personal hygiene kits for Providence Connects in November. We continue to make personal hygiene kits for Daily Bread, now known as Providence Connects. The physical facility is closed but health, food & shower trucks are available for the homeless. The following Personal hygiene kit items are needed: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, hair combs and brushes for women & men, razors for men & women, wash cloths, body soap, chap stick or lip balm, fingernail clippers or nail file, gallon size zip lock bags. All contributions are welcome.

Baby packages of onesie, baby blanket, etc. go to Pregnancy Essentials every month.



### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

#### *Annual Christmas Luncheon*

December 6, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Carrabba's restaurant on Palm Bay Road, Palm Bay, FL

Sign up in narthex.

All women of JOY & friends invited.



## A Year-end Offering Reminder.

The 2025 Church Financial Books will close on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

All 2025 contributions that are received by the church by that date will be credited as a 2025 contribution. Any gifts that are designated for 2025 and are received in the new year of 2026 will be credited on the church books as a 2026 contribution.

Please take care in planning your Christmas gifts and envelope offerings and special year-end offerings so that these gifts may be properly credited as you wish, and so we may close the church books on time in preparation for the annual financial statement.



Have you made your financial pledge for 2026?

This is also a great time of the year to catch up on your 2025 pledge.

For us, as a congregation, to continue our mission of evangelism and outreach, we need everyone's support.

<i><b>Joy Financials</b></i>				
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>First Qtr</b>	<b>Second Qtr</b>	<b>Third Qtr</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Income (pledged)	\$17,121.07	\$19,325.01	\$32,964.85	\$69,410.93
Income (unpledged)	\$10,238.70	\$10,065.05	\$8,312.40	\$28,616.15
Income (all other)	\$7,399.43	\$6,177.45	\$3,964.64	\$17,541.52
<b>Income - Total</b>	<b>\$34,759.20</b>	<b>\$35,567.51</b>	<b>\$45,241.89</b>	<b>\$115,568.60</b>
Expenses	(\$31,071.13)	(\$36,157.09)	(\$30,996.30)	(\$98,227.55)
Overage/(Shortage)	<b>\$3,713.28</b>	<b>(\$589.58)</b>	<b>\$14,245.59</b>	<b>\$17,341.05</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>First Qtr</b>	<b>Second Qtr</b>	<b>Third Qtr</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Income (pledged)	\$173.11	0.00	\$4,725.29	\$4,896.43
Income (unpledged)	\$1,940.32	\$1,868.63	\$(2,666.06)	\$1,144.86
<b>Income - Total</b>	<b>\$2,113.43</b>	<b>\$1,868.63</b>	<b>\$2,059.23</b>	<b>\$6,041.29</b>
Expenses	(\$1,295.39)	(\$2,076.89)	(\$2,797.56)	(\$6,169.84)
Overage/(Shortage)	<b>\$818.04</b>	<b>(\$208.26)</b>	<b>(\$738.33)</b>	<b>(\$128.55)</b>

## **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](mailto: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

## **2025 Church Council**

**Pastor, Interim:** Rev. Robert Endruschat

**President:** Mary Sherman

**Vice President:** Bob Leonard

**Secretary:** Kelly Arner

**Treasurer:** Kim Tolley

**Financial Secretary:** Linda Kratzer

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

Lori Embrey

René Harper

Lois Manaseri

Mike Pettigrew



### December Birthday Blessings

12/06	Linda Kratzer
12/07	Jim Breeden
12/14	Bill Kemmerer
12/17	Tom Hennessy
12/19	Bob Getter
12/19	Jeffery George
12/21	Holly Walsh
12/24	Kristina Walton
12/26	Andrea Christensen
12/26	John Manaseri
12/31	Susan Getter

Notify the church office if corrections need to be made to the Birthday List.



Ushers & Greeters



Ushers and Greeters are needed to serve on Sundays. If you are able and willing, talk to Chris Allebaugh or Barbara Herndon and they will see to it that you are scheduled.



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**.



### Communion Wine

If you would like to provide the **Communion Wine**, you may also sign up on the Flower Chart for the month you wish. The cost is **\$20.00 for the month**.

## DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting			9am Girl Scouts  12:00pm WELCA Christmas Luncheon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Worship  1:00pm & 7:00pm 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	11:30am Fellowship Meeting  12:00pm Young at Heart & Tree Trimming  6:30pm Worship & Music	8:30am Property Workday  7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00am Worship  1:00pm & 7:00pm 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	7:00pm Council Meeting	8:30am Property Workday  7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	9am Girl Scouts
21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	26	27
10:00am Worship  1:00pm & 7:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ			5:45pm Special Music  6:00pm Candlelight Service		7:30pm Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
28	29	30	31			
10:00am Worship  1:00pm & 7:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting			<i>Check website &amp; messages from Pastor Robert for changes</i>