



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 42, Issue 2

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

February 2026

Bishop Pedro Suárez
Pastor

Rev. Mary Marotte
Interim Pastor

Steven K. Weiss
Organist

Lois Manaseri
Secretary

Worship Time(s):

Sunday

Worship Service 10:00a.m.

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Interim Pastor's Email Address:
Send email to church email address
attn. Pastor Mary Marotte

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com

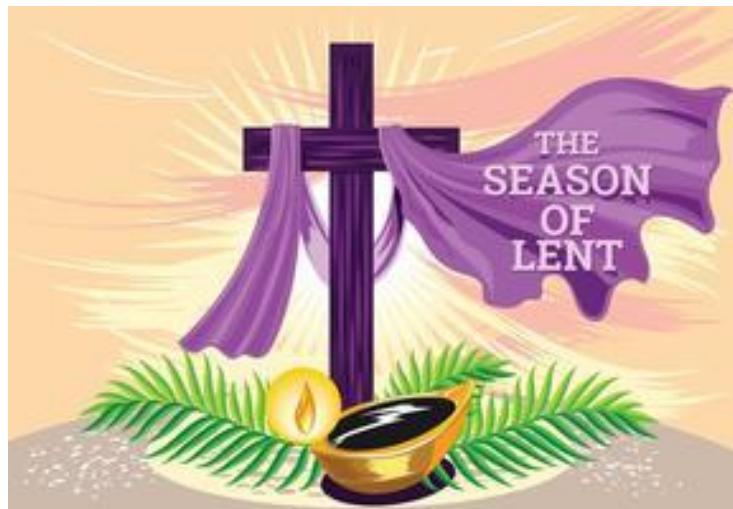
Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent.



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Lent, a 40-day period of prayer and fasting in Christian religions, begins on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, and ends on Thursday, April 2, 2026, also known as Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday.



February 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 Mary Marotte is to email church office.

Message from Pastor Mary Marcotte

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, grace and peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen

We have been talking a lot about outreach, membership, and evangelism lately. Some time ago I came across a devotion that got my attention. It is a story of a little boy in his childlike innocence reaching out to a neighbor in a very ordinary way. The child talks to the neighbor about his faith. Each of us has neighbors who may very well need us to reach out to and share our faith just as this little boy did. Who knows what might happen if we do!

Here is the devotion shared by the Pastor of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Mounds View, Minn.

When my son Andrew was a little boy he asked a neighbor, "How come you don't go to church?" She shrugged her shoulders; then he closed the door part way and put his hand over his mouth so I wouldn't hear, "I think you are really lucky that you don't go. All you do is get dressed up, just to sit there!" And with that wonderful invitation to church our neighbor was standing by our van to go with us to church the next Sunday morning. Many weeks later on the way home from church Andrew said to our neighbor, "Can you see Jesus?" She shrugged her shoulders again. He said to her, "I can see him. I can hear him. I can feel him in my heart." Then he called her by name, and went on, "Even if you can't see him, Jesus sees you and he loves you."

Thank you Lord Jesus that you use our most ordinary words to tell the story of your love. Amen.

In the Peace & Love of Jesus,

WELCOME PASTOR MARY MAROTTE
Pastor Mary will be serving Joy as interim pastor,
as we continue in our call process.



Message from Church Council President

Joy Lutheran Church Annual meeting is on February 8. Shortly after services, grab your Fellowship coffee, or tea and cookies and head for the meeting. New Council members will be elected, Budget for 2026 will be presented. At this annual meeting members are allowed to speak on any subject they would like to discuss. All reports from the committees will be presented in the annual report. Please plan to stay and cast your vote. Your vote is important. Show you care about Joy Church. Visitors and friends to our church are welcome to stay, even though they will not be able to vote.

The nominating committee reported to the Church Council that the nominations for council at this time are:

Kelly Arner 2 yr term Secretary

Mike Pettigrew 2-year term Vice President

Members at large:

Lois Manaseri 2-year term....Debbie Evans 2-year term....Gary Sherman 2-year term

Continuing to serve:

Bob Leonard, President....Kim Tolley, Treasurer

Members at large:

Lori Embry....Rene Harper

Florida State tells me that there were over 600 applications for the security grant for which we applied. They anticipate the earliest we will hear any information is March or April. They will let us know if we are chosen or denied.

Pastor Mary was contracted to preach 3 Sundays per month. In her absence, Pastor Derly Foerste will serve as our supply pastor.

Lori Embrey has been volunteered to serve as Financial Secretary. We thank Linda Kratzer for her many years of service.

Mary Sherman,

Church Council President

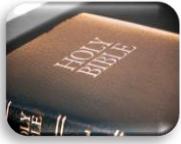


**Annual
Meeting**

February 8, 2026
~11:30 a.m.
Following the 10:00am Service.

Joy Financials for Year 2025

See 2025 Annual Report



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "A" for February

February 1	Matthew 5:1-8
February 8	Matthew 5:13-20
February 15	Matthew 17:1-9
February 22	Matthew 4:1-11



Next meeting:
February 19th at 7:00pm

Social Ministry

Our next meeting will be February 19, 2026, at 11:00am.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

You can contact Marjorie Mäenpää if you have any questions.

Young at Heart

We will meet on **February 19th at noon**. All are welcome, especially those fifty-five and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors.

We always have a wonderful time getting to know each other. Please come out and join us.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS

The last of the Christmas poinsettias has long left the building and it is now time, after seven weeks of the Epiphany season, to move forward into Lent. We invite you to participate in our Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Suppers. The suppers will take place **February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25th at 5:30 p.m. followed by Lenten Worship at 6:00 p.m.** Your support is needed to help feed our parish family as we gather to break bread together and worship together. Please join us.



LENT SUPPER SCHEDULE

DATE	HOST
February 25 th	Fellowship
March 4 th	Property/Men's Group
March 11 th	Worship and Music
March 18 th	Church Council
March 25 th	WELCA

RUTH CIRCLE



WELCA Crafts meeting
February 27, 2026 (Friday)
@10:00a.m.

All ladies of JOY are welcome. If you have questions, contact Lois Manaseri.



Service Times Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ash Wed. (February 17th) Noon & 6:00pm

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

Palm Sunday (March 29th).....10:00am

Maundy Thurs.(April 2nd) Noon & 6:00pm

Good Friday (April 3rd).....6:00pm

Easter Sunday (April 5th).....10:00am

Note: Be sure to check Sunday Bulletin and announcements for any changes in times.

HELP WANTED!!!

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

We have a few members who have given up driving their cars. We are looking for help in getting them to Church Services and back home again. This could be done on a rotating basis if you are unable to do it every week. Please see Mary Sherman or call 717-582-2206 if you can help with this.

Worship and Music

It seems like we just took down the Christmas Tree and decorations. Now it's time to look ahead toward Easter.

We will begin the Lenten Season on February 17th with Shrove Tuesday. As of this writing it should begin at 5:30pm. Watch Sunday bulletin for more details.

February 18th, Ash Wednesday we will again have a service at noon as well as 6:00pm. The following Wednesday the 25th we begin our Wednesday Lenten Services. This year we will be using Holden Evening Prayer which I know is a favorite of many. We will begin at 5:30pm with Soup and Sandwiches, and the service will then be at 6:00pm.

TIME AND TALENT

Thanks to all those who have turned in your Time and Talent sheets. There are still some in the Narthex if you've misplaced yours. We of course need members to serve at JOY so we can hold services, do social ministry projects, and keep our grounds looking beautiful. Another great reason is you get to know the people of JOY better. So, pray about how you want to be involved. Once again, please ask me any questions you may have about opportunities you may be interested in.

Chris Allebaugh



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 17th Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper at 5:30pm, hosted by WELCA & Fellowship.
February 17th Eve Circle Bible Study @ 11:30 a.m.
February 19th Young at Heart meets @ 12:00 am
March 1st BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY
March 7th WELCA Pancake Breakfast; 8:00-9:30, \$6.00
March 7th WELCA Meeting @ 10:00

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – Bible Study 3rd Tuesday, @ 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, check with Lois Manaseri.

Providence Connects Formerly Known as Daily Bread: Hygiene Kits.

Rachel Circle packed up 25 personal care kits for Daily Bread in January. All contributions are Very Welcome. Health kits are made up of: 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.

Note: We continue to make health kits for Providence Connects. The physical facility will be closed but health, food & shower trucks will be available for the homeless. Health kit items are needed.

Special Thank You to our Girl Scout Troop meeting at Joy on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays. The Troop provided abundant items: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, combs, razors, gallon size zip lock bags, etc. for Daily Bread Shower Truck hygiene kits. It makes a difference to our homeless community.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR): Dorcas Circle made 69 quilts for LWR, 25 children's quilts to Salvation Army, and 60 school supplies backpacks. Quilts and school supplies are distributed by LWR all over the world, where most needed. Each quilt or school backpack is a gift of love supporting the health and well-being of our neighbors in need.

Gather Magazine Bible study February 17, 2026.

Now Let us pray: February - Session 2 – Praying with the body of the earth. Let's explore ways we can pray not only for creation but with creation as our sacred neighbors.

MEN OF JOY

Just a reminder: our monthly breakfast social for February will be at Sunshine Café on Saturday, 7 Feb at 9:00 a.m., and our March breakfast social will be at JOY for the WELCA-sponsored breakfast on Saturday, 7 Mar at 8:00 a.m. Plan on a business meeting after the March breakfast. We may discuss some memorial bricks for passed brothers and future activities for 2026.

We received a request for the donated PC that was listed in the last newsletter; so, it has a new home. We still have a nice 3' x 6' mirror available that would be ideal in a large bathroom. We also recently received a donation of a nice-looking polished nickel ceiling fan with four lights and wood toned blades. It's a "Hampton Bay" ceiling hugger. Contact Jim Collins if you would like either of these items. There is no cost, but a donation to MoJ would be appreciated.

Current officers of MoJ are Gary Krause, Pres., Bob Leonard, Treas., Jim Collins, Rec. Sect'y. Our vice Pres and Chaplain positions are open.

Jim Collins, Recording Sect'y for MoJ

PROPERTY TEAM

This time of year, is a blessing for the Property Team; the grass, trees and shrubs are growing slowly; so, there's time to paint, fix and build around the church.

One of our present projects is fixing and updating the fence along the back of the church grounds. There are several bent top rails to be fixed and several rusted off line posts to be replaced. The team is also widening the gate to allow the riding mowers to mow the swale along Blackhorse Dr.

We're also about to clean out and re-organize the garage and shed. We hope to do some painting and staining around the church as well. Once May or June hits, we're off to the races with grass mowing and trimming again. We spend a fair amount of money during the year, but we also save the congregation a lot by performing the work in house. We do painting, plumbing, light bulbs, carpentry, door and window repair, mowing, trimming, and so on.

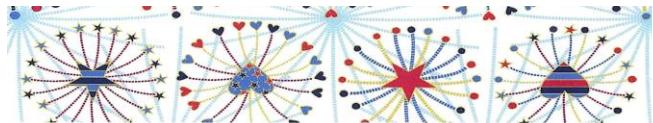
We always ask, "Can we do this ourselves?" first, and we're proud that the answer is usually, "Yes ... we can.." Would you like to help fix and improve JOY? Let me know if you can help regularly or even occasionally. Also let me know if you see something that needs repair.

Jim Collins for the Property Team

Joy's very own Centenarian.
Happy 100th Birthday, Ruth.



THANK YOU



To Pastor Derby & Friends of Joy

Thank you for making my 100
Birthday so special. The delicious
birthday cake, many birthday
cards, hugs and best wishes
I am truly blessed.
Ruth C. Halm



BACKPACK PROGRAM

“BREAD OF LIFE” BACKPACK PROGRAM”

The “Bread of Life” backpack program for Turner Elementary School is a wonderful outreach to our community. We provide food for as many as ten families each weekend during the school year. The cost is approximately \$270 per week. This program is so very important, especially with families barely making ends meet.

Thank you everyone for your donations and helping with the packing and delivery of the backpacks.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



&

Please join us for 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.

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 Mary Marotte 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. Mary Marotte

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



February Birthday Blessings

- 2/01 Kay Small
- 2/03 Brian Getter
- 2/17 Don Heine
- 2/20 Roy Chin
- 2/22 Kaitlin Embrey
- 2/22 Mike Pettigrew

Notify the church office if corrections need to be made to the Birthday List. My apologies if I left someone off the birthday list.



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**.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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		8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	9am Girl Scouts
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00am Worship ~11:30am Annual Meeting 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 6:30pm Worship & Music	8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
15	16	Shrove Tuesday 17	Ash Wednesday 18	19	20	21
10:00am Worship 1:00pm & 7:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	6:00pm Boy Scouts	10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11:30am Eve Circle Bible Study 5:30pm Pancake Supper 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting Ash Wed Services 12 noon & 6pm	11:00am Social Ministry Meeting 12:00pm Young at Heart 7:00pm Council Meeting	8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	9am Girl Scouts
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Lenten Service		8:30am Property Workday 7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	Check website & messages from Pastor Mary for changes