



# Tidings of Joy



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

Volume 42, Issue 3

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

March 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

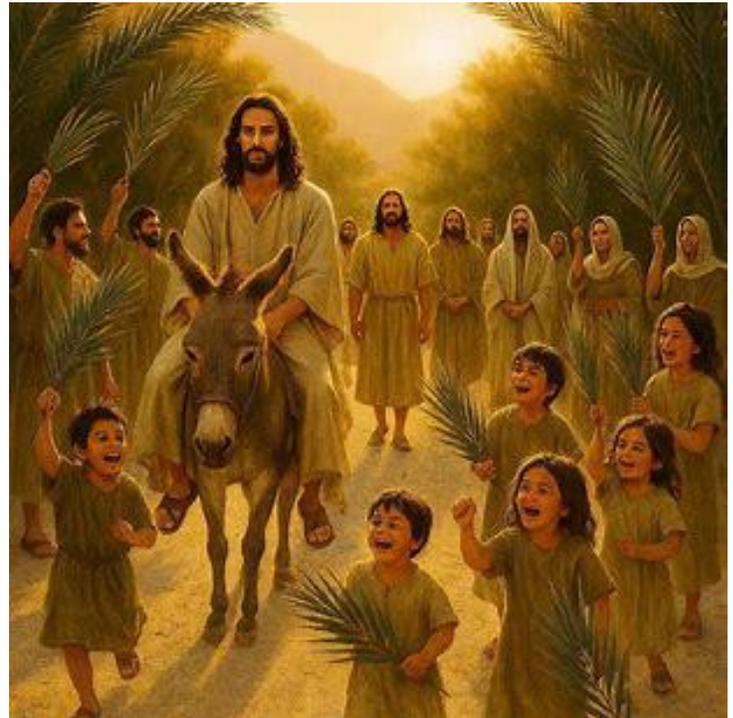
**Interim Pastor’s Email Address:**  
Send email to church email address  
attn. Pastor Mary Marotte

**Church Email Address:**  
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

**Church Web Site:**  
www.joylutheranelca.com

## ***Palm Sunday***

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and marks the start of Holy Week.



**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**

***“We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us.”*** 1 John 3:16

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

As we close out the month of February 2026, we are well into the Lenten season. It has been a busy time as we gathered for Shrove Tuesday with Fr. Brian and the good people of Blessed Redeemer followed by Ash Wednesday services. We continue with Soup supper and Holden Evening Prayer each Wednesday at 5:30. As we look forward to Holy Week beginning on March 29 as we celebrate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday followed by Maundy Thursday Communion service at Noon & 6pm. As our Lenten observance comes to an end we begin to gather with Christians around the world for the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

This year I invite each of you to a Prayer Vigil on Maundy Thursday. This is a custom in the Christian church to keep vigil during Holy Week. Jesus requested the disciples to be near and keep watch while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. You are invited to sign up for a 30-minute slot during this vigil to pray for the church. Your prayer time may be done at the church, in your home, or a place you prefer. Materials will be available at the church for your prayer time. These materials will include reading the Bible, praying for the membership using the church directory and devotional material for time of listening to God.

Good Friday Service will be at 6pm which continues the journey through the Three Days of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John which celebrates Christ’s victory on the cross.

We end with the celebration of Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord. We move from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. As we enter this Holy time together, may these days be a time of reflection, prayer and worship.

God’s Blessings,  
Pr Mary

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



## Message from Church Council President

Greetings from your Council President,

You have accepted me as your President and I am amazed. Either you trust me a lot, or you don't much care what happens in Council, or you absolutely do not want to be President!

I have something to ask of you. I believe God directed me here to, among other things, learn how to not do things on my own. I have spent too much of my life doing things by myself. So, I am learning how to work together with all of you here at Joy. Keep me accountable.

A note about the selection of a new pastor. It was decided that the best annual salary that Joy can provide is a total of 80-90 thousand dollars. Since this is not enough to have a full-time pastor, the other options are to get a part-time pastor or to get a part-time pastor from another church who would be willing to supply both churches, each in a part time capacity. This is our current status. We now wait on Synod.

As your President, I am about to start making changes. But don't worry; I won't require you to change where you sit on Sunday morning. That's how the pastor knows if you are here or not. If you have concerns or questions, I want to hear them from you, not from someone else.

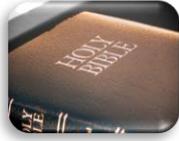
Everyone who has been on Council should have read our Constitution. Have you? My review of our Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order revealed that some of our processes do not match what the Constitution says they should be. At Thursday's council meeting, I suggested that a committee be created to determine what adjustments need to be made to bring our Constitution and processes into conformity. VP Mike Pettigrew will head this committee and he will need help. Please volunteer.

For all council emails to me, please use [b.leonard24@cfl.rr.com](mailto:b.leonard24@cfl.rr.com).

Bob Leonard  
President, Joy Lutheran Congregation Council  
321.727.0408



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8. Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday evening.



### Gospel Readings

#### Lectionary "A" for March

March 1	John 3:1-17
March 8	John 4:5-42
March 15	John 9:1-41
March 22	John 11:1-45
March 29	Matthew 26:14-27

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS

It's that time of the year for the Midweek Lenten Soup and sandwich dinners starting Wednesday February 18th through Wednesday March 25th at 5:30 pm. Following the dinner there will be a short devotional service at 6:00 pm. Come and enjoy some fellowship and good food.

The suppers and worship services will take place **March 4, 11, 18, and 25th at 5:30 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.

### Social Ministry

Our next meeting will be March 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.



#### LENTEN SUPPER SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOST</u>
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Property/Men's Group
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Worship and Music
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Church Council
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA

### Young at Heart

We will meet on **March 19 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.

### RUTH CIRCLE



WELCA Crafts meeting  
March 26, 2026 (Friday) @10:00a.m.

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



LENT &  
HOLY WEEK  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE

### Service Times Lent, Holy Week and Easter

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

**Palm Sunday** (March 29<sup>th</sup>).....10:00am

**Maundy Thurs.** (April 2<sup>nd</sup> ) Noon &  
6:00pm

**Good Friday** (April 3<sup>rd</sup> ).....6:00pm

**Easter Sunday** (April 5<sup>th</sup>).....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

This year for our Easter Service we will be trying something new with our Altar.

Due to some allergies within the congregation and having issues the last few years with commitments on getting Lilies, we have made the decision to decorate with a variety of spring flowers. Therefore, we will not have a sign-up sheet for lilies this year.

Along with Social Ministry we will be once again holding our Maundy Thursday Sock Drive. We will be collecting new or gently used socks for Men and Women. These will then be donated to Providence Connects, formerly known as Daily Bread. These will be used in their Shower/Hygiene outreach program. The basket will be put out on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks, as always for your support. We set a record last year of 235 pairs donated. Let's see what we can do this year.

If you have not joined us in the past for our Wednesday Lenten Services, I invite you to come join us. The Holden Prayer service will be used, which is a favorite of so many. Please come at 5:30pm for some great Soup, Sandwich and Fellowship. Then join us for the service at 6:00pm.

I also wanted to thank those that turned in their Time and Talent Sheets. Our schedules have been completed through March. The committee chairs will be in touch with those that have volunteered your service.

Chris Allebaugh



## JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 7, 2026 Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., \$6.00

March 7, 2026 WELCA Meeting, following pancake breakfast

March 19, 2026 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month Young At Heart 12:00 Luncheon

March 17, 2026 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month Bible Study, Gather magazine, 11:30 a.m. at church

March 21, 2026 – 🎂 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Lois Manaseri

**SAVE THE DATE** - Space Coast Conference Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ Our Savior, 1850 6th Avenue, Vero Beach – ALL ladies are invited

### **CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**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:**

Mobile Hygiene Shower trucks are routinely scheduled at homeless camps & some church parking lots. Rachel Circle packed up 25 personal care kits for Providence Connects in February.

Needed for Personal care kits: 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, finger nail clippers or nail files. All contributions are Very Welcome.



**Bible Study – March 17th @ 11:30 a.m.**

**Spring** (March/April/May 2026): **“I AM: God’s holy name and promise,”** a three-part Bible study by the Rev. Dr. Hannah Hawkinson.

## **MEN OF JOY**

The Men of JOY is the mutual support and service arm of our congregation for members and friends of our congregation. We meet monthly on the first Saturday for a social breakfast at a local diner or at JOY when the WELCA ladies have one of their great breakfasts. We understand that WELCA will have a breakfast at JOY on the first Saturday of March; so, we'll dine at JOY and also have a business meeting. Please join us to discuss plans for this year and to add your suggestions.

Current officers: Gary Krause, Pres., Bob Leonard, Treas., Jim Collins, Rec. Sec'ty. Our Vice-Pres and Chaplain offices are presently open.

Jim Collins, Rec. Sec'ty for Men of JOY

## **PROPERTY TEAM**

The Property Mgmt Team has been working on the south fence for several weeks, and we'll soon be finished with the overhaul. As you may know, the fence and rear gate had become worn and damaged by storms, falling branches and vandals. Our team rebuilt and widened the south gate, dismantled and re-deployed unneeded sections of the east fence to repair south fence damage and trimmed overgrowth around the east fence. The gate rebuilding will allow our large riding mowers to reach the strip of grass along Blackhorse and the area where we place trash cans for pickup.

We also have recently received a hand from Pastor Norm Holm's "Day of Compassion" team from Calvary who are helping us clear out the overgrown palmetto stands in the west yard. Thanks to him and his crew for their hard work. They greatly extended what our Property Mgmt Team began over winter.

If you would like to help with maintenance and improvement of our church home, please let me know. Most of our work sessions are on Friday mornings from 8:30-12:00. You don't have to be a guy with jeans and a tool belt to participate. We have carpentry, plumbing, pruning, planting, weeding, cleaning, painting and many other things to do. We'd especially like to have members who can regularly work on our bushes, flowers and other plantings.

Here are a couple of improvements we'd like to undertake this Spring if time and skills permit:

- . Clean and stain the concrete at the front entrance to the church
- . Re-finish the doors and altar rails of the church
- . Improve the plantings, mulch and boundary of the Memorial Garden
- . Clean the traffic areas of the sanctuary carpet and the narthex tile

By the way, the bushes around the church took a serious hit from the recent frosty mornings. We're not going to cut away the dead branches until we see what recovers.

Jim Collins for the Property Team

## Joy Celebrates A Special Day of Baptism



On February 22, 10-year-old Jaleenna Siders fulfilled her desire when she was baptized at Joy.

Baptism is more than just a ceremony—it's a beautiful step of faith, a sign of love, and a moment that marks the beginning of an exciting spiritual journey.

Jaleena was accompanied by her mother Christina Siders, great grandmother Linda Kvatzer, godmother Amy Bevins, and several other family members and friends.

We, as your church community are here to support you and walk beside you as you continue to grow in faith.



## 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 sign-up 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

## 2026 Church Council

**Pastor, Interim:** Rev. Mary Marotte

**President:** Bob Leonard

**Vice President:** Mike Pettigrew

**Secretary:** Kelly Arner

**Treasurer:** Kim Tolley

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

René Harper  
Lois Manaseri  
Lori Embrey  
Gary Sherman  
Debbie Evans



### March Birthday Blessings

- 3/05 Tamara Embrey
- 3/08 Mark Motluck
- 3/15 Ken Laumer
- 3/20 Zechariah Bush
- 3/21 Lois Manaseri
- 3/22 Alex Tolley-Cole
- 3/27 Sharon Russell
- 3/29 Bonnie Getter
- 3/30 Anita Sherwood-Saul

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 & 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**.

## MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
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  5:30 pm Supper  6:00 PM Lenten service		8:30am Property Workday  7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	8:00 am WELCA Pancake Breakfast followed by meeting  9:00 am Girl Scouts
DST begins						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
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  5:30 pm Supper  6:00 PM Lenten service	11:30am Fellowship Meeting  6:30pm Worship & Music	8:30am Property Workday  7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
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  6:00pm Cub Scouts	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting  5:30 pm Supper  6:00 PM Lenten service	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

MARCH 2026 (continued)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
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  5:30 pm Supper  6:00 PM Lenten service		8:30am Property Workday  10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle Crafts  7:30pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	
<b>Palm Sunday 29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
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				<b><i>Check website &amp; messages from Pastor Mary for changes</i></b>