



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 42, Issue 4

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

April 2026

Bishop Pedro Suárez
Pastor

Steven K. Weiss
Organist

Lois Manaseri
Secretary

Worship Time(s):

Sunday

Worship Service 10:00a.m.

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

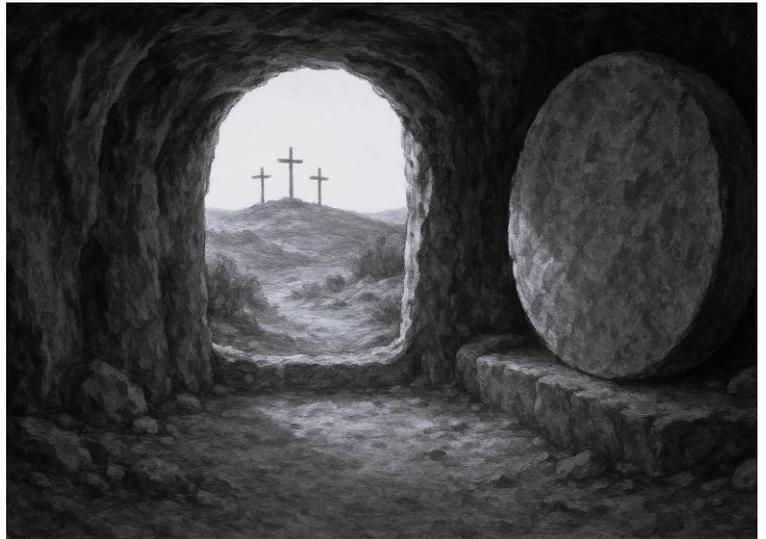
Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com

2026 Church Council

Bob Leonard, President; Mike Pettigrew, Vice-President; Kelly Arner Secretary; Kim Tolley, Treasurer; René Harper; Lois Manaseri; Lori Embrey; Gary Sherman; Debbie Evans.

Easter Sunday

Easter reminds Christians of the heart of their faith — the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a celebration of hope, new life, and God's love triumphing over sin and death. Easter invites believers to remember that even in the darkest moments, renewal and redemption are possible through Christ.



Office Hours: Please call the church office before dropping by. 321-951-0166

Message from Pastor Mary Marcotte

“See, I am making all things new” John 21:5

SPRING IS COMING!!! We are beginning to see signs of Spring and new life. In a short time, we begin to prepare to celebrate Easter and enjoy the season of “Easter” during the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost Sunday. It is a time we celebrate and experience new life with hope and joy! As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ let us rejoice and give thanks to God!! We each have been given the gift of love and faith.

Greg and I want to thank you for our time here at Joy Lutheran. You truly are a wonderful congregation!!!! As you look to the future of Joy Lutheran Church continue to pray for the Call Committee, the Synod and the Pastoral Candidates that are looking to the future. It truly is a time of new beginning here at Joy Lutheran. As you reflect on this time of new beginnings may each one of you enjoy the time God gifts you with. This is a poem given to me by a friend written by her Mother. It gives us a sense of the beauty of days to come. May God Be With you as you journey into the future!!

Nature’s Symphony

The first light of the morning,
Came shining thru the trees.
And it glistened on the shimmering lake,
As it rippled in the breeze.

I awoke to sounds of happiness,
From creatures, large and small.
As they called to one another,
And I marveled at it all.

How thankful Lord I am today,
You’ve given these gifts to me.
As I listened, barely breathing,
To a “Nature Symphony.”

As I prepare to depart, I would like to share this final blessing with the good people of Joy.

I leave you now with this prayer that the Lord Jesus will reveal Himself to each one of you, that He will give you the strength to go out and profess that you are Christian, that he will show you that He alone can fill your hearts. Accept his freedom and embrace His truth, and be messengers of the certainty that you have been truly liberated through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This will be the new experience, the powerful experience, that will generate through you, a more just society and a better world. God Bless you and may the joy of Jesus be always with you.
Amen.

Pastor Mary

Greetings from your Council President,

The Lord is risen! In April, we enter the liturgical Season of Easter. Ascension is 40 days later. Pentecost Sunday is 50 days later on May 24 and is the start of the long season of Pentecost, also known as Common Time. Until then, we have 7 weeks of Easter!

Jesus tells a parable about ten virgins. Some were wise and some were foolish. The wise went to see Jesus and He said, "You have prepared your lamps for they burn brightly; you may enter." The foolish went to see Jesus and He said, "You have not prepared because your lamps are not burning; you may not come in." The future of Joy Lutheran depends on what our vision is and what we are prepared to accomplish. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek first his kingdom." Our preparation begins with delighting and seeking.

Our current preparation consists of all the outreach that we do. These ministries are a wonderful blessing to the external community and to our members who are involved. But these ministries have had little impact on the ability to hire a full-time pastor. The blessing is only for members who are involved in those ministries.

Is there more that you want for our future other than providing this outreach, communion on Sunday, and obtaining a part-time pastor? What is it that you want out of your attendance at Joy Lutheran Church? There is one thing we are good at—Talking. We love to talk and get excited in reacquainting with friends. Yes, Joy Church is good at that! We love each other and isn't that what church is all about?

Well, no. It isn't.

Think Good Friday. Think Easter morning. What are these all about? We celebrate Easter on April 5. Come and see. Come and be expectant. But don't come just because it is Easter. Come because there is more here than you might think. Maybe there is something here that you have never ever found. Sometimes you have to stop talking. You have to watch. And you have to listen. Remember what they say about crossing over to the other side—stop, look, and listen.

Bob Leonard
President, Joy Lutheran Congregation Council
321.727.0408
b.leonard24@cfl.rr.com.

Farewell, Pastor Mary



Sunday, March 15, was Pastor Mary's last Sunday. The congregation offered prayers for her and WELCA presented her with one of their hand-made quilts.

As we say farewell to Pastor Mary, we thank her for her guidance, her prayers, and the kindness she shared.

Her leadership has truly made a difference in our lives.

As we say goodbye, we want her to know how grateful we are for everything she has poured into our church.



Gospel Readings Lectionary "A" for April

April 2 Maundy Thursday-John 13:1
17,31b-35
April 3 Good Friday-John 18:1-19:42
April 4 Easter Vigil-John 20:1-18
April 5 Easter Sunday -Matt 28:1-10
31
April 12-John 20:19-31
April 19-Luke 24:13-35
April 26-John 10:1-10

Social Ministry

Our next meeting will be April 16,
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.

Attention Lutheran Women
YOU ARE INVITED!

**Space Coast Conference
Spring Gathering**



Theme: "Worry No More"

April 18, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cost per person \$10

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
1850 Sixth Avenue
Vero Beach, FL**

**Lunch provided by Our Savior
Lutheran**

**UNIT LEADERS: Please submit
number of women who plan to
attend no later**

**than April 10 to
Gisela.khail@gmail.com,
or call or text to 404 247-
0719, or call 772 999-3925**

WELCA

WELCA'S ladies met on Saturday March 7, 2026 for the meeting.

Prior to their meeting the ladies hosted a Pancake Breakfast for the men of Joy and the work crew from Calvary Chapel Church as a Thank You for all the fantastic yard work that they did for Joy. WELCA ladies served 42 people at the Pancake Breakfast

The ladies donated 25 Baby quilts to the Salvation Army.

The Spring Gathering this year is being held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach on Saturday April 18, 2026.

May 10th is Mother's Day and WELCA will host the Coffee Fellowship after Church.

WELCA will observe National Quilt Day on March 22nd by displaying some of the beautiful quilts made by our ladies.

This year, we will once again sponsor the Baby Bottle Campaign for Essential Pregnancy. The campaign will run from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

Lois Manaseri has resigned as Chairperson for the Craft Circle. This Circle is on hold until we decide what to do about the Circle.

WELCA has decided to buy some Farm Animals for the ELCA Good Gifts. They are purchasing 1 goat, a flock of chickens, 1 piglet, honey bees, a vegetable garden and 1 water filter.

The WELCA Ladies have given a beautiful quilt to Pastor Mary.

Young at Heart ❤️

We will meet on April 16 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.



Service Times

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thurs. (April 2nd) 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.



We confess our need for you today. We need your healing and your grace. We need hope restored. We need to be reminded that you work on behalf of those you love, constantly, powerfully, completely. You know the pain we've carried. The burdens. The cares. You know where we need to be set free. We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place. Every wound. Every heartache. Thank you that you are Able to do far more than we could ever imagine. Thank you for your Mighty Power that acts on behalf of your children. We reach out to you, and know that you are restoring and redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, for your greater glory. Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering. We love you. We need you today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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.



Just a reminder to please wear your name tag each Sunday. This is very helpful to visitors and our guest Pastors.



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



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.

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 personal care kits for Providence Connects in March. 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 – April 21@ 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. Hawkinson.

(April) Session two—Gate and shepherd: Guiding and protecting us (John 10)

Session two builds on the theme of God’s abiding love as we explore another dimension of I AM, God’s holy name and promise: God’s guidance and protection. Guidance and protection are the major themes of the famous “Good Shepherd” discourse in John 10, in which Jesus declares that he is both the good shepherd *and* the gate for the sheep. Our God who abides with us is also a God who moves with us—who knows us, protects us and leads us through the ups and downs of life.

MEN OF JOY

Men of JOY held a business meeting with elections on 7 March. The following members were elected to the offices:

President: Jim Collins
Vice-President: John Manaseri
Treasurer: Bob Leonard
Recording Secretary: Erik Maenpaa
Chaplain: Open

We also approved a motion to order a Memorial Garden brick in memory of our recently departed brother Luther Radway.

Our next breakfast social will be at Sunshine Café on Malabar Rd. on Saturday, 4 April at 9:00 a.m. as usual. Come and join us for some interaction outside of Sunday fellowship or committee meetings.

At upcoming meetings, we will begin to discuss possible ministries that we can support this year. We approved a motion several years ago to each year support a need inside our congregation, a need in our community and a need in the wider world.

See you all at our next breakfast social and our next business meeting.

Jim Collins, MoJ Pres.



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.

PROPERTY TEAM

The Property Management Team has had two big projects in work over the past several weeks. First, with the very considerable effort by Calvary's "Day of Compassion" Team, the overgrown palmetto stands in the west yard have been cut back. This amounted to well over 130 man hours of effort for them spread over four days and concluding on Saturday, 7 March. Many thanks to Pastor Norm and his team for all their hard work. The JOY Property Management Team has taken over the final stages of the clean-up and should be finished in the next week or two. This will leave the west yard much more open with fewer places for animals or people to hide. A special thanks to our Council who quickly approved the needed dumpster to take most of the cuttings to the landfill and to WELCA who provided a delicious breakfast for the Calvary team along with our own members. The Calvary team's efforts were provided to us free of charge as part of their outreach; we only had to rent the dumpster. Total cost was less than \$700.

The second project is the renovation of our south fence. Our JOY Property Management Team rebuilt and widened the gate through the fence to Blackhorse St., straightened damaged top rails and replaced about twenty-five fence posts that had rusted off at ground level. This work is continuing and will include rusted fence posts in the air conditioning fences as well. Total cost to JOY should be less than \$300.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to our Property Team regulars who work at JOY every week. There are always things to fix, improvements to be made, grass and shrubs to be mowed and trimmed, new and touch-up painting to be done, and so much more.

Jim Collins for the Property Team

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

April Birthday Blessings

04/07	Kim Tolley
04/08	Linda Corbin
04/09	Peggy Lindner
04/11	Judy Baltzersen
04/12	Rene Harper
04/22	Robert Leonard
04/22	Annie Lyons
04/23	Marjorie Maenpaa

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

JOY Day Camp

It's time to plan for JOY Day Camp. This year the camp will be held from June 15th – June 19th.

You may not all know how our Camp works. The Councilors are supplied through Luther Springs. We will have 3-4 councilors depending on how many children sign up.

We are responsible for housing them while they are here. I am reaching out to see who would be able to open up your home to help with this.

If we have 3 councilors, they would all need to be housed together. If we have 4 we may be able to have 2 host families. It will depend on the combination of males and females. Unfortunately, we will not know that until closer to camp time.

The only thing we ask other than a place to sleep, is you send them to church with a small breakfast. Muffins, bagels etc. If this is something you feel you could do or want more information, please let me know.

Thanks!

Chris Allebaugh



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**.

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Passover begins 1	Maundy Thursday 2	Good Friday 3	4
			10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	Maundy Thursday 6 pm	8:30 am Property Workday Good Friday 6 pm 7:30 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	9:00 am Girl Scouts
Easter Sunday 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 am Worship 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	6:00 pm Boy Scouts	10:00 am Dorcas Circle Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts	10 am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	11:30 am Fellowship Meeting 6:30 pm Worship & Music	8:30 am Property Workday 7:30 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ	

APRIL 2026 (continued)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>1:00 pm & 7:00 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ</p>	<p>6:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10:00 am Dorcas Circle Quilting</p> <p>11:30 am Eve Circle Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>10 am Rachel Circle Knitting/Cr ocheting</p>	<p>11:00 am Social Ministry Meeting</p> <p>12:00 pm Young at Heart</p> <p>7:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>8:30 am Property Workday</p> <p>7:30 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ</p>	<p>9am Girl Scouts</p> <p>9 am-2 pm Space Coast Conference Spring Gathering</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>1:00pm & 7:00pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ</p>	<p>6:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10:00 am Dorcas Circle Quilting</p> <p>6:00 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>10 am Rachel Circle Knitting/Croc heting</p>		<p>8:30 am Property Workday</p> <p>10:00 am Ruth Circle Crafts</p> <p>7:30 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ</p>	
26	27	28	29	30		
<p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>1:00 pm & 7:00 pm The Melbourne Assembly of the Body of Christ</p>	<p>6:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10:00 am Dorcas Circle Quilting</p> <p>6:00 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>10 am Rachel Circle Knitting/Croc heting</p>			<p><i>Check website & messages from Joy for changes</i></p>