



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 34, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2018

Staff

The Rev. John David Bryant - Pastor
Steven K. Weiss – Organist
Brenda Godson – Church Secretary

Worship Times:

Sunday

10:00a.m. Worship Service

8:45a.m. Adult Sunday School

Children's Education Time
(During the Sermon)

Saturday December 29th

5:30p.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(Prayer and Praise)

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Pastor's Email Address:
prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com

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

2018 Church Council

Pastor - Rev. John David Bryant

President - Erik Maenpaa

Vice President - Karen Runk

Secretary - Kelly Arner

Treasurer - Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary - Linda Kratzer

Council Members at Large:

Judy Garrison

Sandra Kenyon

John Manaseri

Wahneeta Ryckman

Ray Shaffer

Connie Thorman

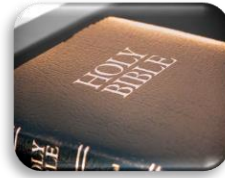
"**Office Hours:** Weds and Thurs 9am-2pm and by appointment. It is strongly suggested to call ahead before dropping by. Pastor is off on Mondays except for last week of month, when Friday is day off. Best means to contact pastor is 321-312-7339 or prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."



6:30pm on December 5, 12, and 19

Pastor Bryant will teach an “instructional Eucharist”-on the three Wednesdays of Advent. These will be one-hour long studies that explain how we worship as we do, and what is behind our worship. even the reasons and meaning of vestments, rote prayers said in one accord, and the signing of the cross at certain times.

Lectionary “C” for December 2018



Gospel Readings

December 2nd Luke 21:25-36
 December 9th Luke 3:1-6
 December 16th Luke 3:7-18
 December 23rd Luke 1:39-45(46-55)
 December 30th John 1:1-18

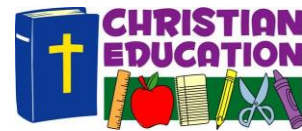


WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study

Tuesday, December 11th at 11:30 a.m.

Note: Eve Circle (Bible Study) will be the 2nd Tuesday, December 11th at 11:30 a.m., this month.

The December Bible Study is an Advent devotion from the *Gather* magazine. “Fear Not” devotion will focus on how this oft-repeated phrase in the Bible provides comfort to those who hear it. The Christmas story is also the story of life in faith. This Advent season, let’s remember that God is at work beyond our ability to imagine.



Sunday School is back in session. We can always use additional teachers. The materials are supplied to you and are very easy to follow. Because we rotate months, you do not have to teach more than 3 times during the year. Please pray about becoming a Sunday School teacher.

NOTE: Children are dismissed for “Children’s Education Time” following the Pastor’s “Kid’s Talk”, and return prior to Communion.

Free Christmas Dinner



The men are sponsoring a “Free Dinner” on December 23rd following Sunday service. **Check with Mort Walton**, for any additional details.



The Pastor's Point

Pr. J. David Bryant

For questions or topic ideas

Email: prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Friends,

Advent is upon us. For many years now, two Advent hymns are Pr. Bryant favorites: *"Each Winter as the Year Grows Older* and *Lost in the Night*". I am always bemused at the lack of Advent hymns and songs on radios, in homes, and in malls---perhaps we prefer Christmas celebration to Advent's uncertain, pregnant promise, eh?

Advent prepares us spiritually for Christmas, which begins Christmas Eve and continues through the Epiphany of the Lord. Advent challenges us to seek the real and lasting amidst commercialism and materialism.

As a consequence, one lady, a very wise lady, Cathy Ulichny, encourages us to enter Advent with a question, "What will we give Jesus on his birthday?" To have her family attend to this Advent question, Cathy created "Stockings for Jesus." On the night of Thanksgiving, her family decorates the house, trims the tree, and hangs stockings. And, since Jesus is, "the head of the home, the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation," Jesus has a stocking hanging on the mantle with the rest.

Whenever in front of the neatly hanging stockings, the Ulichny's ask one another, "What will we give Jesus on his birthday?" The family sets goals to give Jesus the same amount of money and time that they expend shopping, buying, and cooking at Christmas. And, their gift to Jesus takes the form of volunteering as family at food pantries, soup kitchens, etc., and takes the form of donations lumped together and offered by the family to their church or local aid organizations---these decisions they discern and do as a family. Everyone gives to Jesus. And, they give to Jesus at Christmas. After all, doesn't it seem odd to give gifts to everyone but Mary and Joseph's Birthday Boy on his own birthday?

Since Cathy started this tradition some 40+ years ago, it has gained traction, and similar "Stockings for Jesus" are found at church supply companies and [Christian gifts shops and bookstores](#). Isn't it worth pondering, "What will we give Jesus for his birthday?"

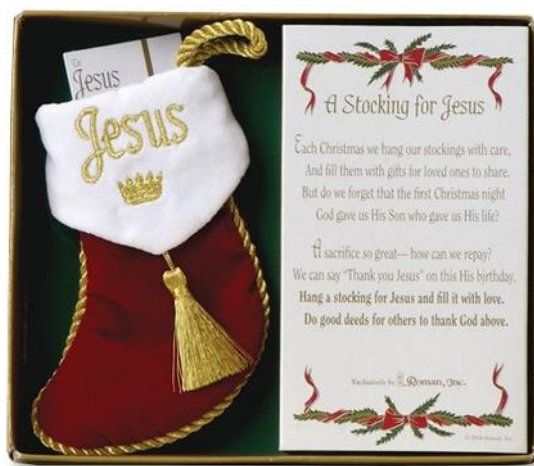
This is one way to bring Advent close. Another way would be to resolve to avoid and to not play any Christmas music until after the Christmas Eve service, to listen only to Advent hymns and songs until that night, but I think we can all agree that managing that feat would be tantamount to giving up breathing for Lent---utterly impossible unless we give up technology and spent the next month alone in a cave!

Another way to bring Advent close, might be to use ear-plugs to avoid Christmas music in Winn Dixie and Belk. Yet, maybe this year, it's more manageable for us to hang a "Stocking for Jesus" and ask one another, "What will we give Jesus for his birthday?" Maybe even give some of those gifts to Jesus on Christmas Eve?

Speaking of which, it is an incredibly powerful and humbling gift for me to serve Jesus with you as your pastor. We walk this journey of faith together. Authentic gift-giving marks this holy season, where ultimately, the gift of Jesus Christ coming into our lives and claiming us as God's own is the greatest gift all!

Still, I will give our congregation another gift---on the three Wednesdays of Advent, at the request of JOY members, I will teach an "instructional Eucharist." These will be hour long studies that explain how we worship as we do, and what is behind our worship, even the reasons and meaning of vestments, rote prayers said in one accord, and the signing of the cross at certain times. These studies are to be at 6:30PM on December 5, 12, and 19.

Expectantly waiting with you in grace,
JDB+



ADVENT NIGHT

December 2nd

A Potluck Supper, starting at 5:00pm.
Those coming, provide a dish or cookies.
The meal will be followed by tree decorating
and (caroling?).



Joy to the World!

CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND



Because it stays green all through the year,
the evergreen tree is symbolic of the eternal
life offered to Christians through faith in
Christ.

The treetop points up to heaven.

A star signifies the star which guided the
Wise men to Bethlehem.

The lights represent Christ, the "Light of the
World."

Gifts beneath the tree are representative of
God's gift of his only begotten son, who
brings Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00pm



Joy to the World



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

Cost will be ~\$8 per plant.

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

GOD'S PANTRY

The mission of God's Pantry is to reduce hunger in Florida through community outreach.

Pat Gorski spoke to us November 11th on God's Pantry.

She would like to thank the members of Joy, for your support of God's Pantry, with your **Thank Offerings of \$688.**

Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **December 20th at noon.** All are welcome, especially those 55 and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Lunch will be potluck, so please bring a dish to share (your choice of meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert). We have a great time getting to know each other. So, please come out and join us. Always check Sunday's bulletin for any changes.

Soap Collection Continues Lutheran World Relief.



Our goal is 301 bars of soap (unopened packages). Thank you for your support of this project.



Stewardship Response
as of November 25, 2018

47 Pledges

General Fund.....	\$90,772
Capital Improvement Fund.....	23,552
Turner Backpack Program.....	300
Total Pledged.....	\$114,624

ANNUAL MEETING

**January 27, 2019
12:00 p.m.
(Following the Service)**

FL-BAHAMAS SYNOD WELCA
Fall Gathering

Six ladies from JOY attended the Florida-Bahamas Synod WELCA Fall Gathering at Lake Yale, Florida (near Leesburg) on Veterans Day weekend. The weekend was filled with Bible Study lead by Sister Michelle Collins, Worship services lead by Pr. Vicki Hamilton from St. John's Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, workshops with more Bible Studies, crafts, health, financial, choir, women and justice issues for discussion and more. The theme for the weekend was **"It's all about Love"**, 1 John 4:7-21. Bishop Pedro Suarez welcomed the ladies on Friday evening. He gave highlights of his first year as the Bishop for the FL-Bahamas Synod. He was informal, personable and friendly and even brought along his guitar to play hymns while we all sang along. He had his two backup singers, his wife Aura, who is a deaconess and Sister Michelle who is also a deaconess on the Bishop's staff in Tampa. "Pedro & the Deacons" were a huge hit with everyone. At the business meeting, a new Vice President and new board members were elected. The new "Love Offering" for the WELCA Synod will be **CALM** Organization Inc. which stands for **C**risis Aid for **L**ittles & **M**oms, located in Niceville, Florida. This organization offers a 9-month program for Moms to learn essential life skills. A home environment is provided. It was a weekend to meet new people, get reacquainted with old friends, and to share encouragement, support and prayers.



Ladies enjoying a meal at the Fall Gathering.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA
JOY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 1, 2018
12:00 p.m.
Olive Garden restaurant on
US192



The "Altar Guild" is looking for a few people that are willing to help. See Jackie Baudek or Mary Ann Jones. They will be happy to explain all that would be required of you.



Adventures in Learning Keeping Minds Active

"Adventures in Learning" is an adult learning program specifically designed to meet the needs of all adults. It is operated on weekdays between 9:00AM and 1:15PM, when classroom space would normally be vacant.

Experienced retired professionals and senior volunteers teach or facilitate the classes. Most have many additional skills that further prepare them for teaching seniors project organization, working with others, and problem solving. Classes are offered in a variety of topics including Health and Wellness, Religion and Philosophy, Handicrafts, History, Current Events, Computers, Literature, Music, Foreign Languages and Cultures, Etc.

Shepherd's Center of South Brevard Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that uses classrooms in buildings of its sponsoring congregations. Additional congregations are invited to become sponsoring congregations. Financially, the Shepherd's Center is dependent on contributions from sponsoring congregations, private individuals and student's tuition. We are always looking for teachers and topics. If you could be of assistance or have suggestions, please contact us.

Our download page (<http://shepctrsobrev.org/>) includes more information about the Shepherd's Center, updates from the Shepherd's Center of America, and the Winter Session schedule with enrollment form.

The Winter Session (January 10 through February 28, 2019).

In January, the Winter session is coming to Wesley Methodist Church, Meadowlane, W. Melbourne on Thursdays January 10 through February 28. Here is a sneak peek at the available courses to choose from: our Florida Gardening ladies, Elfrieda Tuller & Barbara Veneman, return; Aggie Benzig will present a new **Quilting class**; Birgitt Hunt and Nina Boyers will teach fresh and silk **Flower Arranging**; explore **Day Trip possibilities** with Elaine Heine and Linda Jump; dig out your dancing shoes and try **Line Dancing** with Vicki Little, look into the **History of the Supreme Court** with Mary Anne McMillen; fly with Jack and Ann Dawkins over **Aerial America**; take a **Musical History Tour** or brush up on **Criminal Law** with Rick Rakauskas; study **German** with Helga Bromm; start or continue **Writing Your Life** with Linda Jump; Milt Gould will continue The **Gospels series**; and get your daily exercise by **Stretching** with Val.

In early December, brochures will be available in the Narthex and on-line at our new website, www.shepherdcenterofsb.org. Visit us there for all the most recent Shepherd's Center information. Also, Elaine Heine would be happy to answer any questions.

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER 1 – 12:00pm **WELCA Christmas luncheon** at the Olive Garden, Melbourne, Florida. Please bring a gift of a personal care item for Genesis House (a shelter for pregnant women, their children and long-term housing for student mothers). All ladies are welcome to the luncheon, bring a friend, a neighbor or sister. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can let Olive Garden know how many to expect.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!

JANUARY 5, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast with WELCA meeting following – we would like all ladies of JOY to attend, there will be election of new officers and we would like input to set up the agenda for 2019

MARCH 9, 2019 – Spacecoast Conference Spring Gathering at St. Timothy's, Melbourne, Florida. There will be more information to come.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Ruth Circle (Craft circle) – 1st Monday each month @ 10:00

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – for the month of December, Bible Study will be held on the 2nd Tuesday in December 11th at 11:30 a.m. The December Bible Study is an Advent devotion from the *Gather* magazine

Dorcas Circle (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00 – No meeting Christmas week

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00 – No meeting Christmas week.



Thanks to all of you who helped with the Annual Christmas Craft Sale fundraiser on November 3rd. Our sale was very successful due to all of the support by our ladies who contributed and worked faithfully and to our congregation and community. We are excited to share the news of our success. We made over \$2,214.95 on the day of the sale. Breakdowns of sales are: A large percentage was from the Silent Auction that you were all generous to participate in. The lovely Dorcas Circle quilts were auctioned for \$425.00 and the beautiful gift baskets were auctioned for \$940.00. The hotdogs made by the Men's Group are always a big hit, we sold approximately 100 hotdogs! The hot dog sales were \$207.75. We also had the Bake Sale for \$86.00 and the White Elephant sale for \$131.20. Our WELCA ladies' craft circle, Ruth Circle, contributed many handmade items and were sold for \$222.00. There was also the money from the table rentals which was \$85.00 and extra gift cards were auctioned off for \$118.00. The local businesses were very supportive with gift cards for in the baskets and the extras auctioned off as well. Chick-Fil-A made a basket and donated it to our Silent Auction. THANK YOU ALL!



Watch for Angel Tree. WELCA and Social Ministry are sponsoring an Angel Tree for children at Turner Elementary School. The tags for the children will be hung on the tree. Please take a name. There will be more information once the tree is up.



Donations collected for the WELCA Thankoffering (in September) was divided, with half going to FL-Bahamas Synod Women and one-half for Turner Elementary School. The Thankoffering donations for Turner Elementary School helped buy turkeys for 72 families food boxes. WELCA thanks our congregation for being so supportive and generous.



A reminder to turn the lights off when you are the last one to leave the church.



Check thermostats. When individuals are not present, the temperature should be set at 78°F. Thanks for keeping our electric costs reasonable.



Ushers & Greeters



Ushers and Greeters are needed to serve on Sundays. If you are able and willing, please sign up in the narthex. Or, talk to Barbara Herndon and she will see to it that you are scheduled.

"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 seven families each weekend. The cost is approximately \$175 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 program.



Receive your copy of "Tidings of Joy" along with other church news, by email.

Call the church office at (321-951-0166) or email us at joylutheranpb@gmail.com, with your current email address. Your email address will not be distributed.

"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day."
Isaiah 58:10 NLT



A basket is provided in the Narthex for collection of 'can-in-hand' or some other non-perishable food item each Sunday. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Coffee, Snack, and Cold Drink served in the kitchen after worship.

If you enjoy the “Coffee Fellowship”, consider signing up to host a Sunday. The signup sheet is in the narthex.

Church Cleaning



Your help is needed. Can you offer some of your Time, as part of your Stewardship, to assist with the church cleaning??

Please give Jackie Baudek a call at (321) 723-4503 or 321-795-7853; with the time and day you are available. Or, just show up on Friday mornings.



We are in need of helpers to run the Power Points, on the sanctuary screen, for the Sunday service.

DAILY BREAD

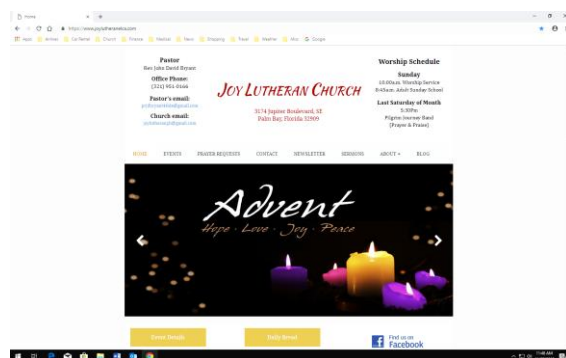


On the 4th Friday of each month, JOY has a team serving hot meals at Daily Bread in Melbourne, between 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to people who are experiencing homelessness or without food.

Please contact Elaine Heine (215-7928) or Connie Steinhorst (725-6391), if you would like to help in this ministry.

www.joylutheranelca.com

Have you visited our website recently?? If not, why not? Past sermons and newsletters are available. There is also a button available to use for prayer requests. Your prayer request will go directly to the Church Office and to Pastor Bryant.





I want to thank all of my "Joy Family" for the many cards and well wishes, following my recent fall and recovery. I would especially like to thank Pastor Bryant for his visits and comforting words.

God's Blessing
Patsy Steger



¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.
Psalm 34:18-19(NRSV)

We especially pray for:

Helga Courtney
Connie Crump
Emilio Cruz
Janie Day
Gunner Heim
Jason Herndon
John Kirsch
Craig Lattig
Joyce Powell
Mark Russell
Patsy Steger
Mary Ann Valentine
Ron Pagelsdorf & Family

Note: See Sunday Bulletins for additional and most current prayer concerns.

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 you have been hospitalized.

Please contact the church office, if you would like to have a visit from Pastor Bryant, a Stephen Minister, or would like to be listed for prayer support.



There are confidential listeners in Stephen Ministry who will listen to your concerns. Ask Pastor Bryant. Remember Senior One Place can offer alternatives and Health First can also.

Do you have an empathetic heart? Are you a good listener? Can you hold some one's hand? Do you pray for others? If so, you might want to train as a Stephen Minister who listens to other's concerns and prays with them. See Elaine Heine as a new class is starting up.

Stephen Ministers also hold Services at nursing homes on the following schedule. Volunteers to help are always welcomed.

Life Care - 2nd Sunday 10am
Sarah Care - 1st & 3rd Wed. at 1pm



December Birthday Blessings

12/02	Hannah Herndon
12/04	Charles Woods
12/06	Linda Kratzer
12/07	Jim Breeden
12/10	John Kirsch
12/14	Bill Kemmerer
12/14	Stuart Lengel
12/17	Tom Hennessy
12/19	Bob Getter
12/20	Charles Cox II
12/24	Kristina Deyette
12/26	Andrea Christensen
12/26	John Manaseri
12/26	Karen Runk
12/26	Rochelle Wolf
12/31	Susan Getter

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 \$20.00 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.**”



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 \$5.00 weekly.

January - November 2018 Stewardship

General Fund	(Please see Sunday bulletin for current information.)		
Needed each Month	\$12,227	Needed YTD	\$134,497
Received in November	\$12,605	Received YTD	\$138,028
Mortgage/Capital Improvement			
Budgeted each Month	\$2,031	Budgeted YTD	\$22,341
Received in November	\$1,571	Received YTD	\$21,066

Note: Monies listed above do not include ~\$56,514 received from insurance, for roof replacement.

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Check Sunday Bulletins for details or changes in schedule.						WELCA Annual Christmas Luncheon 12pm Olive Garden
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	10am Ruth Circle (crafts)	10am Dorcas Circle	10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Work Group	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle 11:00am Fellowship Mtg. 11:30am Eve Circle Bible Study 12:00pm Social Ministry	10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Work Group	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	7pm Council Mtg	10am Dorcas Circle	10am Rachel Circle	12pm Young at Heart Luncheon	8:30am Property Work Group	
23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas 25	26	27	28	29
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship ~1pm Christmas Dinner	7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Meeting 10am-2pm Daily Bread	5:30pm Prayer & Praise Worship Pilgrim Journey
30	31					
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship						