

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



OUR MISSION: Sharing Christ's love through worship, service, and fellowship.

Dear JOYful Family,

The verbs are sharing, loving, worshiping, serving, and fellowshiping. (uh oh – I got the red squiggly line under that last one, meaning it may not actually be a word). So I'll keep those last three words as aspects of who we are and what we do.

Service. Also known as worship! When we serve, we worship. It's how we grow, how we thrive. How is the Spirit calling us out? Wondering and praying that question has led you to initiate such things as tutoring, serving monthly meals at WearGloves and Interfaith, volunteering in other places in your lives. How can we bless people through activities we enjoy and are passionate about? Being honest with myself, I have not always been inclined to reach out. If the opportunity presents itself, then fine. Recognizing the "God-winks" and nudges reminds me

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SCAN FOR ON-LINE
GIVING



Our mission is to share the Good News of grace and love with all through worship, service, and fellowship.



MEET OUR STAFF

CHURCH STAFF & OFFICERS

Pastor-Art Wuertz

Seminary Intern-Bob Bonomo

Administrative Assistant-

Zsuzsanna Jobbagy

Director of Music-Silas Daniel

Choir Director-Linda Aker

Handbell Director-

Melissa Daniel

Sexton-Vacant

Treasurer-Terry Owen

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President-Ray Ihlenburg

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary-Linda Aker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Karin Campbell

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

Don Fields

Hank Groth

Doug Juhl

Pat Smith

Paul Spellman

John Voyles



2/01 Calvin Kraft

2/03 Linda Aker

Liz Young

2/06 Karen Snorek

John Wiley

2/08 Judy Remy

2/12 Bob Kolch

2/14 Diane Knox

2/17 Nancy Moisuk

Merrick Owen

2/19 Thommy Ilmrud

2/22 David Mitchell

2/25 Joy Olsen

Continued from Page 1

of how we are all wired to be loving and caring, except when trust is broken, families malfunction, or there are psychoses involved. Happy are those who have overcome such obstacles.

February, continuing the season of Epiphany, serves as a bridge between New Year resolutions we may have made and the pondering, reflective, repentant season of Lent. It is always the season for service, living out our baptismal vocation, blessing others. Like manners, these never go out of style. Even (especially?) young ones understand it. Unassuming, without false pretense, they show us what the kingdom of God can be. **OUR VISION:** To be a spiritual community sharing Christ's love in a challenging world. Please pray for our congregation's leaders as they help us equip and empower these expressions of that vision by reaching out, meeting people where they are at in their life's journey, and connecting with them spiritually.

See you in church!

Pastor Art



2/02	Robert Miller & Susan Holmes	5 yrs.
2/14	Jim & Erika Russo	50 yrs.
	Lloyd Unfred & Cathy Rosol	38 yrs.
2/17	Bob & Barb Johnson	51 yrs.
2/24	Earl & Dawn Winblad	24 yrs.

CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE

COUNCIL

Ray Ihlenburg, President

Way back in November, a terrific 'band' of volunteers showed up at church to wash the windows and spiff up the sanctuary and narthex. On windows, we had Pastor Art, John Voyles, Ken Erhardt, Doug Juhl, and Ray Ihlenburg. Robin Kiser sprayed for weeds while the inside band members Betty Delong, Diane Wanat, Lynne Juhl, Linda Neblock, Doreen and Dave Robinson, Diane Julian and Lynn Ihlenburg kept tempo cleaning and dusting to prepare and ensure that JOY was ready for our Christmas services.

So many things have already happened in 2025. The reception for Bishop Suarez was just a wonderful evening. His service was so well received, our volunteers, once again, did a great job with the reception and sanctuary preparation. The Property Ministry recommended to Council revisions to the parking situation at Swenson Hall. These will be forthcoming in the near future. The 2-5 year Capital Improvement Plan is well underway; we can eagerly look forward to so many good concerts that have been scheduled; the Outreach Ministry is on fire with initiatives; the beginner Bible Study will surely become a permanent offering. So many other wonderful ministries and initiatives are available for members to become involved as volunteers and supporters with your attendance. Become a bigger part of JOY and enjoy the fellowship all these opportunities provide.

During the January Church Council meeting Ray Ihlenburg was elected President, John Voyles was elected Vice-President, and Linda Aker was elected as the Council Secretary. These are the elected officials according to the Constitution. The next Congregational Directory will include page(s) that will list all of the Council Members with contact information. Each will be happy to bring your ideas and concerns to the Council. So, feel free to reach out to them. These pages will also provide the names and contact information of all of our other JOY leaders for the Ministries, Auxiliaries, and Task Forces. The list includes Outreach, Christian Education, Member Care, Worship & Music, Property, Stewardship, Finance, Safety and Security, Concert Series Oversight, Media and Publicity, WELCA, and LMM. Thank you all for your diligence and support of our church and programs within and outside the church walls.

Everyone has a special gift they can offer to JOY. Would you please find yours and become involved in any of the above-named opportunities.

In His Service,

Ray

IT IS TIME FOR OUR SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Join us on *Sunday, February 9th*
after the 11 o'clock service for:



SOUP-R BOWL SUNDAE



We will have a variety of soups for your dining pleasure, followed by ice cream sundaes.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and in Swenson Hall.

Please sign up, even if you are just considering coming, so that we have enough food on hand.



JOY FOOD PANTRY

THANK YOU JOY FAMILY for your wonderful generosity in 2024 with your steady donations for the **INTER-FAITH FOOD PANTRY**. A special **THANKS** to Debbie Zander and the Stone Creek Bunco Club in December for their food donation in lieu of Christmas gifts. In the 4th Quarter alone, we provided over 400 pounds of food, paper and hygiene products to those in need.

We hope 2025 brings more opportunities to support this important outreach project.

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver". Maya Angelou



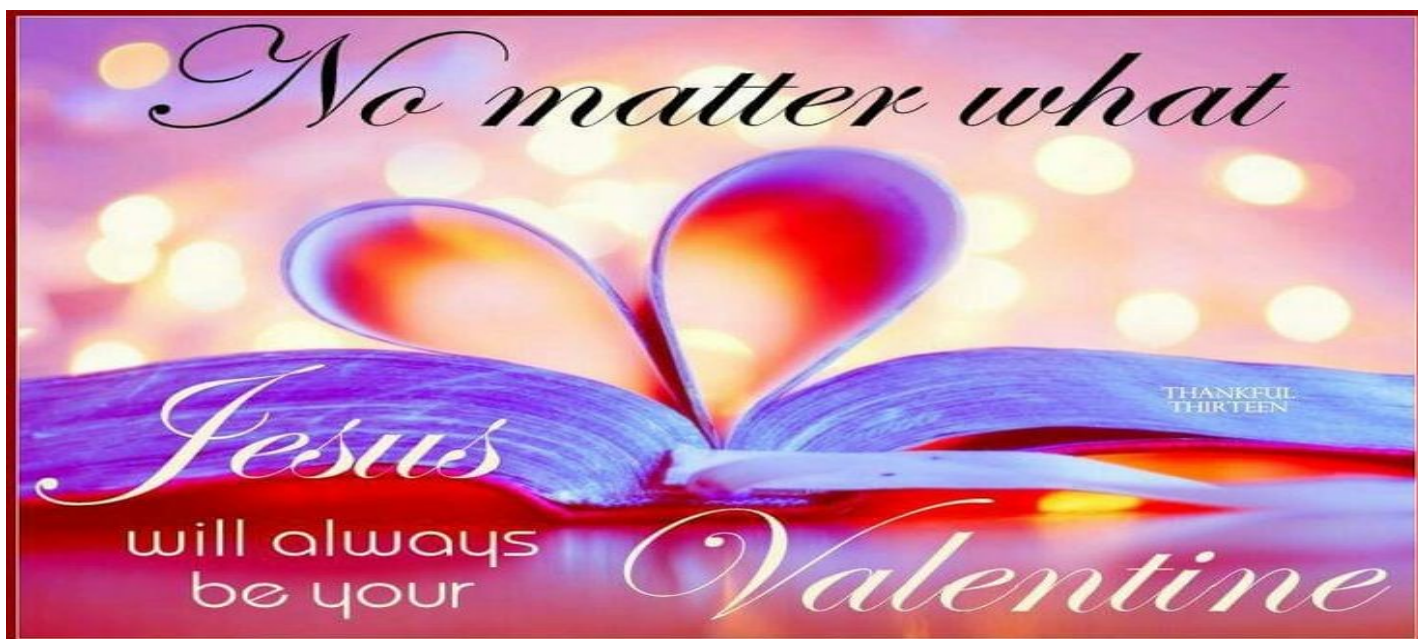


THANKSGIVING POT-LUCK
LUNCHEON
for
INTERN BOB

Sunday, March 9th, 12:15 (after 11:00 worship)

Please join us as we honor Bob Bonomo at the
conclusion of his internship year with us.

Sign-up sheets for food to bring will go up soon.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday:

“Learning Luke: The Apostolic Gospel”

We are now in Year C or Year of Luke in the Revised Common Lectionary.

I hope you will join me at **9:45** on Sundays as we gain a richer understanding of how God’s Messiah is

SAVE THE DATE

SHROVE TUESDAY

POTATO PANCAKE SUPPER

MARCH 4, 2025



More information will be forthcoming in our Sunday Bulletins.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study led by Charlie Meier

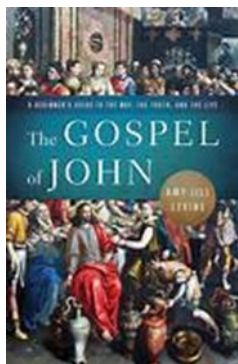
When: January 13,2025

Where: Narthex

Time :1pm **6 WEEK STUDY**

Book: The Gospel of John by Amy-Jill Levine

A beginner's guide to the Way, the Truth and the Life



Unlock the hidden depths of John's Gospel.

John's Gospel offers readers a new language—of being born anew, of living water, of wind and spirit, of the “I am”—that enhances how we understand the divine, how we experience the world, and how we participate in the mystery of faith.



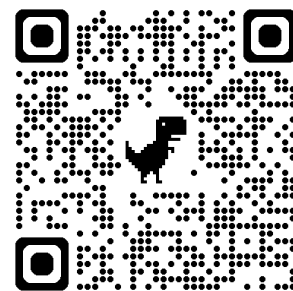
LIFE SOUTH BLOOD MOBILE

Is arriving to our campus on:

Sunday, February 9th, 2025;

7:30 am -1:00 pm.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are appreciated. Scan the QR code or follow the link below to sign up.



https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/859130

Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

April Adams in Concert

Join us for a delightful afternoon concert featuring multi-instrumentalist April Adams. Selections will touch on everything from Baroque, Classical, the movies, and contemporary compositions. Mrs. Adams is a proficient oboist and flautist and is the Director of Bands at Rocky Bayou Christian School in the Florida panhandle.



Admission is free (with a voluntary love offering) and a reception will be held post-concert.

February 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

at JOY Lutheran Church

7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476

Men's Breakfast

February 6th 9:15am

Attendance at Our Lutheran Men In Mission Fellowship Is an opportunity for Fellowship & Service With Brothers in Christ right here at JOY Church. Brothers Please consider joining us for a morning of Worship food & Christian Fellowship.

Free Continental Breakfast

February Guest Speaker

Russ Gemberling

From THE WAY right next door

EVANGELISM

GOALS:

1. To reach seekers and “nones”
2. Engage in conversations with a leading question like, “what pops into your mind when I say the word ‘church’”?
3. Look for places and times to begin small group Bible discussions. “Coffee and Conversation”, “Beer and Bible”, etc. I will show up whenever, wherever!
4. Love our neighbors -
 - a. evangelizing to discipling
 - b. not about growth, but purpose

This ministry (and all of us) strive to share the love of Christ in words and actions, reaching out wherever we are.

Pastor Art

BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
02-Feb	MALACHAI	PSALM	HEBREWS	LUKE
	3:1-4	84	2:14-18	2:22-40
09-Feb	ISAIAH	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	LUKE
	6:1-8[9-13]	138	15:1-11	5:1-11
16-Feb	JEREMIAH	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	LUKE
	17:5-10	1	15:12-20	6:17-26
23-Feb	GENESIS	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	LUKE
	45:3-11, 15	37:1-11, 39-40	15:35-38,42-50	6:27-38



FEBRUARY

2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Please remember the deadline for the Bulletin is 8:00 am Tuesdays, and the TIDINGS is 8:00 am 13 th. Please send "Copy" ready items so they can be inserted into the bulletin/Tidings to office email. <i>Thank You</i></p> </div>						1
<p>2 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM "Luke" SS 9:45 April Adams Concert 3:00 pm</p>	<p>3 Time 4 Prayer-9AM "John" B Study 1</p>	<p>4 Beg Bible Study-11 A Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>5 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands-9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>6 LMM—9:15 A Christian Ed 11 AM Stewardship 3P BC Ringers 6:30 P</p>	<p>7 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>8 W & M 1:00 PM</p>
<p>9 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM "Luke" SS 9:45 Blood Drive 7:45-1 SoupR Bowl Sundae Lunch 12:15</p>	<p>10 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M. 9:30A John BS -1P (N)</p>	<p>11 Property 10A Beg Bible Study-11A Finance 1 P Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>12 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands-9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P Dine & Dream 3-5:30 PM</p>	<p>13 TIDINGS DEADLINE 8 AM Outreach 1:30 PM Council Exec Bd 3P BC Ringers 6:30</p>	<p>14 TOPS-7:30A</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM "Luke" SS 9:45</p>	<p>17 Time 4 Prayer 9 am WELCA 11:30 AM John BS-1P (N)</p>	<p>18 Beg BS-11A Council 1P Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>19 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands-9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>20 BC Ringers 6:30 P</p>	<p>21 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Worship SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM</p>	<p>24 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M-9:30A John BS-1P (N)</p>	<p>25 Beg BS 11 A Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>26 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands-9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>27 BC Ringers 6:30P</p>	<p>28 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	

Contact Us

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FEBRUARY 2025

*Our vision:
"Joy is a spiritual community sharing
the love of Christ in a challenging
world".*

