

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2025

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*LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD*



## Dear JOYful Family,

We are invited into a journey. The journey is discipleship, and it involves the four L's above. Because Christ loves us, we love him, and he loves everyone we encounter, we carry in us the baptismal vocation of the Great Commission. I say this not to put pressure on anyone. The Holy Spirit is always ahead of us, waiting for us to catch up. When we have the opportunity to listen, we learn things that help us lead someone into a relationship **with** Jesus, not just *knowing about* him.

The journey in March is also Lent. We walk with humility and repentance, looking inside ourselves and praying for the Holy Spirit's "repair job" to take root in us.

The journey takes us from our present, known situation, beyond "stuck-ness".

The journey will be a ***Prayer Walk on Saturday, March 1st, beginning with guiding instruction in Swenson Hall at 9:30. We will then proceed to West Shire Village, a new rental home development on SR 200.*** As we walk together, praying for the new residents in that neighborhood, we will be paying spiritual attention to how we might connect with them.

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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-Carson Faris

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

J.R. Frederiksen

Hank Groth

Doug Juhl

Paul Spellman



- 3/03 Nancy Kett  
Paul Hurley**
- 3/05 Bob Johnson  
Gloria Scicluna**
- 3/07 Barbara Marvin**
- 3/11 Sheryl Mitchell**
- 3/12 Lorraine Erikson**
- 3/16 Judy Fields  
Bob Schmitt**
- 3/18 Darlene Haines**
- 3/21 Harold Decker**
- 3/23 Karin Campbell**
- 3/25 Susan Zumbahlen  
Edie Heinzen**
- 3/27 Margaret Randall**

*Continued from Page 1*

In all of the above “side trips” that are part of the overall journey of our faith life, we may find ourselves being led to places we don’t want to go. Meeting and welcoming the stranger. The pain and guilt that sometimes comes with introspection. In all of our wanderings and detours, we will never be solitary sojourners. The Holy Spirit sends us out so that we can difference, so that we can matter to someone. The journey through the wilderness always leads to the Promised Land. The journey to the cross also takes us to the empty tomb.

**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 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*



**03/18 Walter & Nancy Grosselfinger**

**58 yrs.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE****Ray Ihlenburg, President****COUNCIL**

Dear JOY members,

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have our first Town Hall of 2025. There are several items of interest on the agenda including a short update on the 2-5 year plan and the security efforts we have employed, mainly the decision to lock our doors during our worship services. This is a topic of angst both for and against. It is a shame that we cannot go back to the days of our childhood and keep our doors open at all times, however, today's society and the propensity for evil, says that we cannot. If we believe we should not lock our doors to provide security for our gatherings, are we presuming we are not at risk?

The formation of the Safety and Security Task Force was based on the following verses: Proverbs 22:3 "A wise man sees danger and prepares for it" and Acts 20:28 "Set a watch over yourselves and the flock". Some questions to ponder before the Town Hall:

If we are not at risk, why do we use video surveillance for our office and church buildings to monitor who enters and leaves our buildings? Why do we not leave our Sanctuary open all the time? Why do we have a security system at all?

If we agree that we are at risk in our modern society, then are we not responsible for keeping those who enter our buildings safe? Every other congregation along the Hwy 200 corridor contacted by the Joy security team has security and lock their doors to protect their congregation.

A welcoming environment does not mean a defenseless one. Therefore, I propose that we focus our energy on the discussion as to how we can provide a welcoming environment in spite of our need to have our doors locked. This Homeland Security link is located on the ELCA website and contains extensive information guidelines for religious institutions about this very thing. [Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship - Security Guide](#) (Right click and click on open hyperlink to view)

Let's talk about how we can be welcoming to those who enter our buildings, but also provide a safe place for them to worship.

In Service,

Ray

<https://www.lss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/Mitigating-Attacks-on-Houses-of-Worship-Security-Guide.pdf>



## INTERN'S CORNER

I would like to start this month's writing the way I did when I first came here. Let me start by saying: "Hello to my Joy Family and how much I am looking forward to my time at Joy as your intern. I am excited to get to know all of you a little at a time; whether at Worship, Fellowship or in private, during a Pastoral conversation."

I will now say after 12 months that being a family member of Joy has been fulfilling, rich in the Holy Spirit and I am amazed at how our ministries function and make it happen. I realized that there are other acceptable ways to complete a project and how we worship. I have found warmth, compassion and love. Even if my time at Joy is not going to continue, I take the opportunity to tell you that I am Blessed as I met wonderful people who love God as much as I do, or even maybe more. I do not deserve this love, but I pray that I have given all of you the love and support you needed during this year of my internship. I do not ever say goodbye, instead I say, "I'll see you later". It takes the emptiness away from me.

May the Peace that only God can give be with every single one of you, and may Almighty God Bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I came to Joy in the name of Christ Jesus and I leave you in the name of Christ Jesus Our Lord,

**Bob**

## Florida-Bahamas Synod and Global Mission



Through the Global Mission Table, the Florida-Bahamas Synod participates in the ELCA's "Synod Companion Program" which connects member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). 149 Lutheran churches in 99 countries come together through LWF "to promote justice, peace, reconciliation and dignity for individuals and communities."

The Florida-Bahamas Synod has five, all located in what's termed "the Caribbean Basin:" Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname. As companions, we are in regular contact—learning about each other's ministries, praying for each other, and finding ways to collaborate and support each other with time, talents and financial resources.

Your contributions to JOY! support Global Missions.

The pictures are from a visit of members of the Florida-Bahamas Synod to the Lutheran Church in Santiago de Cuba in December.



More Information at <https://fbsynod.com/mission-ministry/global-mission-information/>



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES  
WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 PM**

**DRIVE THROUGH  
DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES WILL TAKE  
PLACE UNDER THE ALCOVE  
FROM 12:00—1:00 PM WEDNESDAY.**



*The reception to honor and thank Intern Bob for his time with us is set for*

*Sunday March 9th at 12:30 pm.*

*The venue has been changed to The Lodge in Candler Hills (OTOW).*

*Please make sure to sign up so that we can get everyone on the list for the gate.*

*If you signed up to bring food, please bring it with you to the Lodge.*

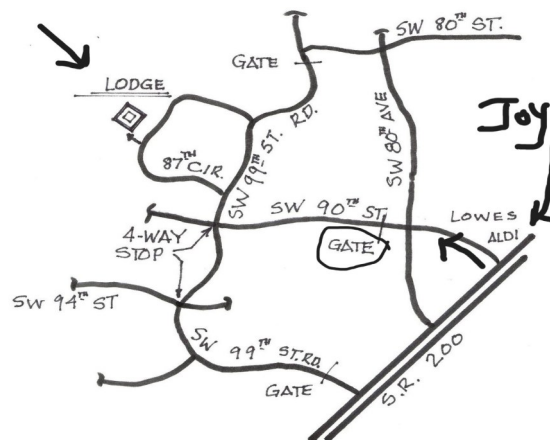
*Please direct your questions to Susan Zumbahlen at 708-408-7730*

## **Intern Bob Bonomo Luncheon**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 12:30pm**

**The Lodge in Candler Hills (OTOW)**

**8575 SW 87<sup>th</sup> Circle, Ocala, Florida 34481**



**Please plan to use the 90<sup>th</sup> St. Gate to enter OTOW.**

We will have someone stationed at the gate from 12:20pm-12:40pm to assist with entry if the security system is active.



# SHROVE TUESDAY POTATO PANCAKE SUPPER

**March 4, 2025**

**4-6 PM—Swenson Hall**  
**German Potato Pancakes**  
**Buttermilk Pancakes**  
**Sausage**  
**Applesauce**  
**Drinks & Desserts**  
**Sign-Up Sheets are in the Narthex**



**Men's Breakfast March 6th 8:00am**

**@Mama B's 7651 Rte 200**

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.

**Join Us for Breakfast**

**February Guest Speaker**

**Our Very Own John Voyles**

**1st Class Petty Officer (Ret)**







# Join us for a CELTIC CÉILÍ

With Ray & J

March 16, 2025 at 3PM.

Janet Voyles is a very accomplished clarinetist who has taught and played in numerous bands. However, during the month of March and for Saint Patrick's Day, she switches to the penny whistle to join Ray to bring a lively addition to the season. She brings humor and joy with such an inexpensive little instrument.

Ray Ihlenburg has been squeezing an accordion since a long time ago. Irish music is one of his favorites to play and he has attended several master classes with traditional Irish musicians. His instrument was designed and tuned especially for Irish/Celtic music.

They will play Sea Shanties, Pub sing-alongs, Jigs, Polkas, Waltzes, and Country Dance tunes.

Admission is free (with a voluntary love offering) and a reception will be held post-concert so you can meet the artists. Sanctuary opens 30 minutes prior to showtime for seating.



# LOOKING AHEAD.....



**1. YARD DAY: SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH, 8:30**

**2. “JOY!Formation” for new folks/prospective members:**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH, 15TH, AND 22ND AT 10:00 in SWENSON HALL**

**We will receive new members on SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH.**

**3. PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 13TH**

**4. MAUNDY THURSDAY – 5:30**

**5. GOOD FRIDAY – 3:00 “THE ROSE OF CALVARY” CANTATA sung by the choir**

**6. EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH –WORSHIP AT 6:45 in Memory Garden, 8:15 & 11:00 IN SANCTUARY**



***THANK YOU*** to the anonymous donor of three new picnic tables for our Memory Garden!

***THANK YOU*** to these men who assembled and placed them:

**J.R. Fredriksen  
Ray Ihlenburg  
Phil Lizak  
Charlie Meier  
Rich Walker  
Jerry Weiland**

## **BIBLE READINGS FOR *MARCH 2025***

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FIRST READING</b>	<b>PSALM</b>	<b>SECOND READING</b>	<b>GOSPEL</b>
<b>02-Mar</b>	<b>EXODUS</b>	<b>PSALM</b>	<b>2 CORINTHIANS</b>	<b>LUKE</b>
	<b>34:29-35</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>3:12--4:2</b>	<b>9:28-36[37-43a]</b>
<b>09-Mar</b>	<b>DEUTERONOMY</b> <b>26:1-11</b>	<b>PSALM</b> <b>91:1-2, 9-16</b>	<b>ROMANS</b> <b>10:8b-13</b>	<b>LUKE</b> <b>4:1-13</b>
<b>16-Mar</b>	<b>GENESIS</b> <b>15:1-12,17-18</b>	<b>PSALM</b> <b>27</b>	<b>PHILIPPIANS</b> <b>3:17--4:1</b>	<b>LUKE</b> <b>13:31-35</b>
<b>23-Mar</b>	<b>ISAIAH</b> <b>55:1-9</b>	<b>PSALM</b> <b>63:1-8</b>	<b>1 CORINTHIANS</b> <b>10:1-13</b>	<b>LUKE</b> <b>13:1-9</b>
<b>30-Mar</b>	<b>JOSHUA</b> <b>5:9-12</b>	<b>PSALM</b> <b>32</b>	<b>2 CORINTHIANS</b> <b>5:16-21</b>	<b>LUKE</b> <b>02:1-3, 1b-32</b>



ELCA

World Hunger

**REMEMBER!**

JOY! designates a special offering on the last Sunday of every month to alleviate world hunger. ELCA World Hunger supports 149 programs in the US (several right here in Florida), and in 63 countries. You may contribute using the envelope in your set of church envelopes or with a pew envelope with checks made out to Joy Lutheran Church.

You may also give online at

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9NX/campaign/C-13KBD>

***This month the last  
Sunday, is March 30, 2025.***



# MARCH

# 2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		 <p><i>Shrove Tuesday</i></p>				<p>1 Prayer Walk 9:30 A W &amp; M 1:00 PM</p>
<p>2 Worship Svcs 8:15 &amp; 11 AM  Town Hall 9:45 A</p>	<p>3 Time 4 Prayer- 9AM Member Care 2:30P</p>	<p>4  Beg Bible Study- 11 A  Shrove Tues. Din- ner 4-6PM</p>	<p>5 <b>ASH WED.</b> Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Drive-thru Ash- es/Comm. 12-1 Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>6 LMM—8:00 A Mama B's Christian Ed 11 AM Stewardship 3P  BC Ringers 6:30 P</p>	<p>7 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 LENT 1 Worship Svcs 8:15 &amp; 11 AM  Luncheon for Bob- The Lodge OTOW</p>	<p>10 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M. 9:30A</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 Soup Supper 4 PM</p>	<p>13 Tidings Due Wear Gloves Lunch Outreach 1:30 P Council Exec Bd 3P BC Ringers 6:30</p>	<p>14 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10A</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 LENT 2 Worship Svcs 8:15 &amp; 11 AM  Concert Ray &amp; J 3P</p>	<p>17 Time 4 Prayer 9 am</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 Soup Supper 4PM</p>	<p>20  BC Ringers 6:30 P</p>	<p>21  TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 LENT 3 Worship SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Concert Oversight Committee 9:30 AM</p>	<p>24 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M-9:30A</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 Soup Supper 4P</p>	<p>27  BC Ringers 6:30P</p>	<p>28  TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>29 Interfaith Din- ner Delivery</p>
<p>30 LENT 4 Worship SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</p>	<p>31 Time 4 Prayer 9 am</p>	 <p>ELCA World Hunger</p>	<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>			

Contact Us

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**MARCH 2025**

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

