

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2026

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



*Joy is a spiritual community sharing Christ in a challenging world.*

**Dear JOYful Family,**

To most if not all appearances, our church presents as a social, cultural organization. There's nothing inherently wrong with that. We will continue to attract people like us, as long as they keep retiring and moving to Ocala. Should we count on that completely? Or is God up to something more with us?

"Sharing Christ, making disciples, doing justice". That's the mission of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. We are called, I think, to cultivate spiritual relationships. We are seeing the "first fruits" of our Spiritual Gifts courses getting plucked from God's tree of life. Growth and transition into being formed rather than performing our faith will take us "old dogs" some time. Praying with others, most especially strangers and the un-churched. Sharing faith stories that may have little or nothing to do with institutional church. Such notions may be scary or disorienting to some of you.

Which is why I am excited to see how the Holy Spirit might come alive in us as we have three more forums, this time about the proposed expansion of the sanctuary building. I encourage you to attend one of these, of *Continued on Page 3*

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

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- Karin Campbell

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary- Linda Aker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

### OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

Don Fields

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



DATE	NAME
03/03	Nancy Kett
	Paul Hurley
03/05	Bob Johnson
	Gloria Scicluna
03/07	Jazmine Reese
	Jim Nicholson
	Barbara Marvin
	Carol Jordie
03/08	Becky Blackmon
03/11	Sheryl Mitchell
03/16	Bob Schmitt
	Judy Fields
03/18	Darlene Haines
03/19	Scott Farrell
03/21	Harold Decker
03/23	Karin Campbell
03/25	Susan Zumbahlen
	Edie Heinzen
03/27	Margaret Randall

*Continued from Page 1*

course, but with a mindset toward mission and outreach dreams and goals. There will be a “Dine and Dream” event, at which representatives from our various ministries will gather to look at the changes in society, the effect they may have/are having on Joy, and look at new directions to meet people where they are with the Good News of grace. Truly, ALL of us are part of that conversation.

*Faithful innovation.*

We are called to be a meaningful Christian witness in today’s world. Your Lenten practice can be one of listening, pausing, and reflecting on the new thing God might have in store. With deep humility and acknowledgment of the wrong, hurtful stances we have allowed to define church, we can envision a more dynamic kingdom of God that is ready, willing and able to engage the troubles and issues we are confronted with. Yes, with God’s help - *any where you want to meet up, hang out, and be led by the Holy Spirit in holy conversation and relationship cultivation!* *Pastor Art*



DATE	NAME	# YRS.
03/18	Nancy & Walter Grosselfinger	59 yrs.
03/21	Nicole & Patrick Reese	2 yrs.

*· Congratulations*

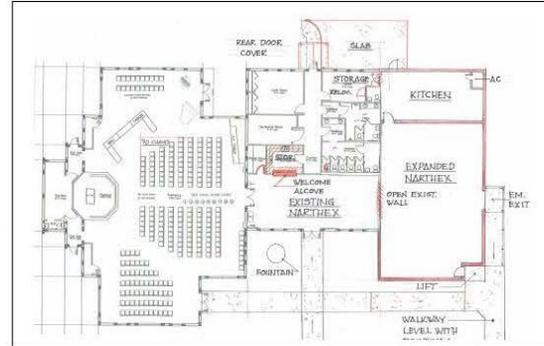
# COUNCIL

## JOY 2–5 Year Plan Informational Forums Narthex/Lobby Expansion

You are invited to attend one of three identical sessions to learn about the proposed expansion of the Joy Sanctuary Narthex/Lobby.

### Meeting Options

- Friday, March 12 – 10:30 am, Swenson Hall
- Saturday, March 13 – 10:30 am, Swenson Hall
- Sunday, March 15 – 9:30 am, Sanctuary  
(between services)



Each session will provide an overview of the Sanctuary Building improvements being considered and offer time for questions and conversation.

## Update on the 2025 Wish List!

**Sound System Enhancements:** The additional microphones have been installed in the Sanctuary and early reports say that the livestream sound is much improved! Check it out on YouTube!

**Handheld Microphone:** A new microphone has been purchased and was used for the congregational meeting on Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Bronze Plaque for Sanctuary Entrance** – The plaque turned out BEAUTIFUL! It will be installed soon, so check it out!

**Congregation Joy Songbooks:** Grab a BLUE song book in the back of the Sanctuary on the bookshelves so you can follow the more contemporary songs we are incorporating into our services.

**Banners for our Sanctuary :** The new Green/multi colored banners are a great addition to our Sanctuary!

# Thank you everyone for your Generosity!

# Seasons of JOY

## Concert Series

2025-26 Season

### *A New Musical Adventure*

### **Paul Hyatt, *bass-baritone***



Join us when we welcome our very own Paul Hyatt back to the stage. He will be sharing a program of songs covering everything from classical, sacred and spiritual, musical theater and more! Come be moved by the man with the golden voice, you will not be disappointed! Paul regularly performs with the OTOW Chorus, the Ocala Symphony Chorus, and this will be his third concert at Joy.

**March 22, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary  
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)

Free Admission. Reception follows concert.



## ***ARE COMING!***

***Soup Suppers will be held starting Wednesday, February 25th.***

***Help is needed to make the soup, set-up, serve, and clean-up. A separate sign-up sheet for each Wednesday's event is posted in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Any additional questions may be directed to:***

***Terry Owen office: 352-854-4509 ext. 4  
cell: 717-571-9752***

***MARK THE DATES: Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026***

***TIME: 5:00 PM—6:00 PM ~~~ PLACE: SWENSON HALL***



**STARTS ON:  
MARCH 8, 2026  
AT 2:00 AM  
CLOCKS ARE  
TURNED  
FORWARD  
1 hour**



# BLOOD DRIVE

## MARCH 29th

### 7:30 am—1:00 pm

Life South is returning with the blood mobile on the 29th of this month. We can once again attempt to receive their community grant if we reach our goal of 15 donors.

Our blood drive last month was only a couple short, with 13 people registering, and 12 donations received. Thank you to everyone who participated. If you donated last month, you are eligible for the donation again on the 29th. Life South makes sure the drives are scheduled at the appropriate intervals.

Remember, if you are a first time donor, you must have state issued identification to sign up.

**LET'S DO IT!! 15 IS THE MAGIC NUMBER!**



# Welcome

*Welcome to Our Church*

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

***On February 8th, 2026, 14 new members joined Joy Evangelical Lutheran to fulfill this mission. Our Lord touches each of us daily in our lives and especially on Sundays when we join to hear His Word! A warm welcome to each person!!***

***In order to learn names please wear name tags.***

## LEGEND

MF: Moved from/Previous Residence	H/I: Hobbies and Interests
O: Occupation	PCI: Previous Church Involvement
F: Family	** Associates

### SHARYN & THEODORE (TED) HIERGESELL

**OTOW-LONGLEAF RIDGE 6 (Full Time)**

**MF: North Carolina**

**O: Sharyn-Retired Healthcare  
Ted-Retired Sales**

**F: Son, daughter-in-law, and Grand Children**

**H/I: Sharyn-Greyhounds, shuffleboard, puzzles, and cooking  
Ted-Pickle Ball**



**JENNIFER A. (JEN) & DAVID HUDSON      STONE CREEK-ARLINGTON (Full Time)****MF:** Fulton, New York**O:** Jen-Office work & substitute teacher  
David-Fire fighter, and work on family farm**F:** 2 sons, Nathan and Brian**H/I:** Jen-Sports, traveling and camping in RV  
David-Sports, basketball, football, golf, traveling and camping in summer**CAROL & JAMES (JIM) JOHN JORDIE****OTOW-PROVIDENCE (Full Time)****MF:** Ephrata, PA**O:** Carol-Happily retired RN in Mental Health  
Jim-Part time work with RR sales/engineering**F:** 1 daughter, 2 sons, and 2 beautiful grand daughters ages 10 & 16**H/I:** Carol-Reading, making Rosaries and other jewelry  
Jim-Carving, painting, railroad engines, making cigar box guitars, and cruising**PCI:** Carol-Formerly attended Catholic churches  
Jim-Knights of Columbus, Arema, Operation Lifesaver**MARY ELLEN MARTIN****STONE CREEK-SANTA FE (Full Time)****MF:** Stephenson, VA**O:** Retired IT manager**F:** 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson**H/I:** Sewing

**MARY ELLEN & ANGELO CARMINE (CARMINE) SALADINO****STONE CREET-SABASTIAN (Full Time)****MF:** New York—20 years in Ocala**O:** Mary Ellen-Retired free lance writer  
Carmine-Retired from a law firm**F:** 2 sons and 4 grandchildren**PCI:** Mary Ellen-Trinity Lutheran in Summerfield  
Carmine-Our Redeemer**ALBERT (AL) E. TEETSEL****OTOW-Friendship (Full Time)****MF:** Kingston, NY**O:** Retired Banker for 40 years, Accountant-Facilities management**F:** 1 daughter-Tricia, 1 son-Patrick, and grandchildren**H/I:** Model trains/reading**PCI:** Board member 5 years**SANDRA (SANDY) I. WILSON****OTOW-FRIENDSHIP COLONY (Full Time)****MF:** Indiana**O:** Retired Educator**F:** Grown stepchildren-3 girls, and 1 boy, grandchildren-2 boys, and 1 girl**H/I:** Socializing with friends, cruises, and dogs**PCI:** Ascension Lutheran-with late husband,.  
They were in an Alpha program which included hospitality.

**COLLEEN WISE****ANTHONY, FL –HORSE FARM (Full Time)****MF:** Colorado, New Jersey, Vermont, New York, and formerly Stone Creek in FL**O:** Still working-RN as hospice Admissions Director, former director of a cath. lab**F:** Husband-Derek Ballin (married 29 yrs.), 1 daughter-Elinor (FL) doing equine vet studies, Parents deceased, and 5 siblings**H/I:** Equine-dressage, yoga, gardening, reading, crochet, swimming, golf, and tennis and 3 dogs/2 horses**PCI:** Leadership, management, fundraising, and tutoring. Choir-Catholic background; has friends here at Joy.**BARBARA G. & SPIRO S. ZACHOS****OTOW-LONGLEAF RIDGE (Full Time)****MF:** Both from Maryland**O:** Barbara-Retired  
Spiro-Retired Counselor**F:** Barbara-2 children, and 3 grandchildren  
Spiro and Barbara were married this past year.**H/I:** Barbara-Cooking and baking.



## **“HERO OF THE MONTH”**

**J.R. FREDERIKSEN**

**For the past two years, since we began our ministry with our JOY!House, J.R. has faithfully served as The Council/**

**Congregational Liaison to the staff and foster children. He has devoted hundreds of hours of volunteer service fixing and maintaining the house and property. It is impossible to calculate how much money he has saved the church and Press Forward Ministries.**

**We love you, J.R., for your faithful service doing God’s work!**



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE KNOW IT!**

**Our theme this year is “Emerald Crossing”  
A journey through Ireland to learn the 23rd Psalm and how Christ is Our Shepherd.**

**An early start is key to our success. Volunteers are needed to help the children learn about the special relationship they have with our Shepherd, Jesus.**

**The dates are 7/13-7/17.**

**Please consider volunteering your time and enthusiasm!  
Please call the office and let us know you are with us.**



**You're invited to a  
Life Line Screening event!**

Where: **Joy Lutheran Church**

When: **March 26, 2026**

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

*Trusted by over 11 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:**  
Anyone **age of 40+**

**Special Pricing for \$129**

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

**4 ways to book your appointment...**

Call **800-324-9458** and use  
promo code **HABC001**

Visit  **LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC**



Text the word **"circle"**  
to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

# BOOST JOY ONLINE!



**FOLLOW** Joy

**LIKE** our posts!

**COMMENT** on our posts

**SHARE** our posts on your own  
Facebook or Instagram account.



<https://www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala>



<https://www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala>

***HELP SPREAD JOY!***



**JOY FAMILY FUN DAY  
IS COMING SOON!  
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!**

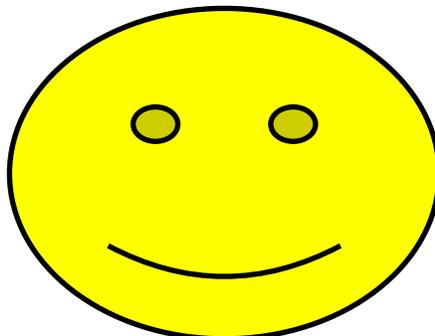
**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>,**

**from 9:30am-1:00pm,  
is Joy's "Family Fun Day"**

**There is a need for help setting up  
on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>,  
parking directors the day  
of the concert, and help taking down.  
There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.  
Help make our event a big success!!**

**Linda Aker is also looking for:**

- 1)FACE PAINTERS - contact her at 352-291-7597 (home)  
or 352-895-2473 (cell)**
- 2)JEWELRY DONATIONS– any unused jewelry you  
would like to donate please contact Linda Aker or  
Debbie Zander.**



## Blessing Bags



Outreach has 50 blessing bags ready to be filled and presented to Isaiah 117 House. The bags are distributed to children waiting for foster placement. The items needed are very specific.

We are hoping to reduce the burden on the congregation by asking for monetary donations, so that consistent and uniform items can be purchased. Donations will be accepted March 1st, 8th, and 15th before and after worship. Look for the specially marked box in the Narthex.

We extend our most sincere thanks for your love and support.

*Outreach Ministry Team*

## FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY

THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IS OUR FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY.

*YOU CAN HELP!*

- 1) **ELCA WORLD HUNGER-MONETARY DONATIONS USING YOUR NUMBERED DONATION ENVELOPES OR THE PEW ENVELOPES.**
- 2) **INTERFAITH FOOD BANK-NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS CAN BE PLACED ON THE CARTS PROVIDED**

**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**OUR NEXT FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY DATE:**

**March 29th**



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY** is working to broaden their horizons. Members are needed to infuse new ideas and ways we can fulfill the needs of our church and beyond.

Please consider how you can be a vibrant participant in this ministry.

We meet the First Thursday of each month at 2:30 pm in Swenson Hall.

Join us and see what we are all about.  
Bob Rowland, Ministry Chair

SMALL GROUPS

BIBLE STUDY

VBS

MEET &amp; GREET

LITURGY

**TEAR HERE —RETURN TO OFFICE—TEAR HERE—RETURN TO**

### **“MORE ABOUT MARTY”**

#### **A Holy Conversation about Martin Luther and the Bible**

Dear Family of JOY!,

Your Christian Education/Spiritual Growth Ministry is taking to heart our mission to provide learning opportunities that will not be “classes” but Holy Conversations”, opportunities to share stories and grow as God's people together.

“More About Marty” is the first, new opportunity to be “faithful innovating through spiritual maturity”. Two options to choose from about day/time and location. Please mark your choice and place in the offering plate:

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, 6:00

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, 9:30

Location: here at church? \_\_\_\_\_

“off-campus”? If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

## BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
01-Mar	GENESIS	PSALM	ROMANS	JOHN
	12:1-4a	121	4:1-5, 13-17	3:1-17
08-Mar	EXODUS	PSALM	ROMANS	JOHN
	17:1-7	95	5:1-11	4:5-42
15-Mar	1 SAMUEL	PSALM	EPHESIANS	JOHN
	16:1-13	23	5:8-14	9:1-41
22-Mar	EZEKIEL	PSALM	ROMANS	JOHN
	37:1-14	130	8:6-11	11:1-45
29-Mar	ISAIAH	PSALM	PHILLIPIANS	MATTHEW
	50:4-9a	31:9-16	2:5-11	26:14--27:66



### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

**SEND PHOTOS AND SHORT VIDEOS  
of JOY happenings for posting!**

*(Please ask anyone featured for permission to post  
online)*

**Something interesting happening at Joy you want to share online?  
Send us the info!**

**Contact us at: [Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com](mailto:Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com)**



# MARCH

# 2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> Worship Svcs: 8:15 and 11:00 A</p>	<p><b>2</b> Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p> <p>Member Care 1:00 P</p>	<p><b>3</b> Beginners' Bible Study 11:00 A</p> <p>W &amp; M 6:00 P (N)</p> <p>Tutoring 3:30-5:30 (closed)</p>	<p><b>4</b> Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9:30A WELCA BD. 12 P Choir Reh. 3-4:30P Soup Supper 5-6P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p><b>5</b> Publicity-1:00P (N) Christian Ed 2:30P Stewardship 3:00 P</p> <p>BCR –6:30P (S)</p>	<p><b>6</b> Bells 10:00A (S)</p> <p>Holy Hiatus 7P (OC)</p> <p>Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<b>7</b>
<p><b>8</b> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME-BEGINS</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>9</b> Stephen Min. 9:30A</p> <p>Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p><b>10</b> Mid State El. 8:00A (S/SH) Property 10:00 A Beginners' Bible Study 11:00 A Finance 1:00 P Tutoring 3:30-5:30 P (Closed)</p>	<p><b>11</b> Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9:30A Choir Reh. 3-4:30P Soup Supper 5-6P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p><b>12</b> Wear Gloves Lunch 2-5 YR Plan 10:30 A Outreach 1:30 P</p> <p>Council Exec. Bd. 3:00 P BCR-6:30 PM-S</p>	<p><b>13</b> BELL CHOIR-10 AM 2-5 YR Plan 10:30 A Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p><b>14</b> Dine &amp; Dream 9:30 A –2:30 P</p>
<p><b>15</b> WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</p> <p>2-5 Plan 9:30 A</p>	<p><b>16</b> Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p><b>17</b> Beg Bible Study 11AM</p> <p>Council 1:00 P</p> <p>Tutoring 3:30-5:30P (Closed)</p>	<p><b>18</b> Mr. Piano 11:30 A Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9:30A Choir Reh. 3-4:30P Soup Supper 5-6P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p><b>19</b> BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p><b>20</b> BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p> <p>Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<b>21</b>
<p><b>22</b> FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</p> <p>Paul Hyatt Concert 3:00 P</p>	<p><b>23</b> Stephen Min. 9:30A</p> <p>Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p><b>24</b> Beg Bible Study 11:00A</p> <p>Tutoring 3:30-5:30P (Closed)</p>	<p><b>25</b> Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9:30A Choir Reh. 3-4:30P Soup Supper 5-6P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p><b>26</b> Life Line Screening 8:30-5:30 P (SH-Entire Bldg.)</p> <p>BCR 6:30 P(S)</p>	<p><b>27</b> BELL CHOIR-10 A Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p><b>28</b> JOY Family Fun Day 9:30A-1:00P</p>
<p><b>29</b> PALM/PASSION SUNDAY FIGHT HUNGER SUN. Life South Blood Drive 7:30 A-1:00 P Worship Svc. 8:15 &amp; 11:00 am Interfaith Dinner</p>	<p><b>30</b> Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p><b>31</b> Beg Bible Study 11:00A</p> <p>Tutoring 3:30-5:30P (Closed)</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for <u>copy ready articles</u> to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</b></p> <p><b>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am</b> <b>Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</b> <b>Thank you. Susan</b></p> </div>			

Contact Us

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Fax: 352.854.4845  
email: joyocalafl@gmail.com  
www.joylcocala.org  
www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala



***MARCH 2026***

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

S. W. 80th Street



JOY Lutheran Church



S. W. 83rd Place

S. R. 200

4.5 Miles to I-75

Paddock Downs Homes

4.5 Miles to County Hwy 484