

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2025

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Dear JOYful Family,

Many of you know that this is the beginning of my favorite passage in all of Scripture, Romans 8:31-39. God is most certainly “pro-Us”. St. Paul often employs the Roman society and Jewish cultural discipline of rhetoric. He puts forth many arguments in the pattern “if...then”. God is very able, very determined to show the truth of His love. It is a perfect love that casts out fear (our Lenten theme).

I invite and encourage all of you to seek out opportunities for holy conversation. Reply and respond with hopeful words and actions. There is way too much divisiveness in what we watch, read, and listen to. Change the scorecard! In golf parlance, shake off that bogey and birdie the next hole! The “nones” need to hear our stories.

Our next **Prayer Walk is Saturday, April 12th, Freedom Crossings Preserve at 9:30. We will meet at the**

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Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

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-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



4/02	<i>John Marvin</i>
4/04	<i>Karen Sturtz</i>
4/05	<i>Judi Snow</i>
4/06	<i>Ken Erickson Sr.</i>
4/16	<i>Norma Erickson</i>
4/17	<i>Doug Juhl</i>
4/20	<i>Irene Henderson</i>
	<i>Tamara Thomas</i>
4/21	<i>Wayne Kofink</i>
4/22	<i>Lucille Wieland</i>
4/24	<i>Lyneer Speer</i>
4/25	<i>Lori Ilmrud</i>
4/26	<i>Silas Daniel</i>
4/30	<i>Walter Grosselfinger</i>
	<i>Joan Hendrickson</i>
	<i>Don Fields</i>



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SW 95TH St. entrance, which is just past Freedom Library on the left. 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.

Nothing can stop us; not really. The obstacles we perceive are most often creations of our fearful mindsets. Paul would definitely know! We needn't claim as dramatic a turnaround as his, but share the same common experience of going through life as his siblings in Christ Jesus. Even in a complex, complicated world, we can be cheerful knowing that our God is and will be overcoming it.

Continue to be God's resurrecting people, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I'll see you in church!

Pastor Art



4/01	Bob & Mary Ann Schmitt	29 yrs.
4/04	Paul & Sally Hurley	44 yrs.
4/07	Ray & Lynn Ihlenburg	27 yrs.
4/12	Don & Melanie Chaney Jr.	13 yrs.
4/22	Paul & Patti Spellman	59 yrs.
4/23	Ralph & Mary Wright	37 yrs.
4/24	Don & Judy Fields	26 yrs.



CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE

Ray Ihlenburg, President

COUNCIL

Dear JOY members,

March has gone by so fast. Remember back on March 2nd we held the first Town Hall of 2025. One topic of interest to all JOY's members was the presentation of 'need' for expansion based on attendance, and ability based on 'financial' limitation. Guidance for expansion for more worship space typically recommends to begin planning when attendance at all services reaches 80% and developing construction documents when attendance approaches 90%. According to Pastor Art's most recent membership review, we have 395 members, however, the average attendance, including non-members and visitors for 2024 was 112 with the maximum for one service was 163 on Commitment Sunday. Another interesting attendance number is highest attendance stands at 211. When comparing this to available seats of 250 chairs, the Steering Committee agrees we are well below that 80% rule-of-thumb when planning for expansion becomes necessary.

Our second guiding factor is financial. The Council and Finance Ministry decided to continue to save an amount equal to our retired mortgage payment or \$5,000 each month for future expansion needs. A simple analysis indicates that if we expand and must mortgage the construction, \$5,000 per month supports a project cost of approximately \$700,000.

This all begs the question, "just what is our most pressing need as a congregation?" Fellowship space for all worshipers seems to be the answer for our focus. In the coming months, the Steering Committee will be scheduling a meeting to present their findings and conceptual recommendation.

Most pressing at JOY is the scheduled work day to take care of the land scaping around the Church. On April 5 beginning at 8:30 am please come help spread 150 bales of pine needles. Weeding and spraying takes place continuously but the pine needles really help slow the new weeds. Their acidity also helps to make our azaleas bloom so beautifully.

There will be other small jobs to do but spreading the pine needles is most labor intensive. Please help for an hour or two.

In Service,

Ray



From Bob

God gives us moments in our lives. All these moments make up who we are today. As we live our lives, chapters are being made in our book. Some books have many chapters and others not so much. We have our own inner circle with our family and friends as a support system for our moments.

As church community at Joy, we get our strength from the Triune God. Think about it! We have an inner circle with each other at church as well. We need each other and as a church community we lived it during my time as an Intern. Thank you for sharing your lives with me as we worked together, prayed together and got on each other's nerves together.

Think also about this! No matter what chapter we are in our lives the one person, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, has stood right next to us, held us when we were weak, cried with us, and yes laughed with us. Keep Our Lord first and let Him be the pilot and we can be the co-pilot in this life because our promise has been made by Him dying on the cross for us. I will remember all of you and will take this one-year internship journey with me wherever I go. The moments I shared with all of you were fulfilling and joyful. I thank all of you for your financial support and for permitting me to grow my learning experience as an intern. I pray that Joy will reach out to another seminarian as that person will be very lucky to be in your hands.

May the Peace of the Lord be with every single one of you.

Love,

Bob Bonomo



ELCA Domestic Hunger Program

The ELCA addresses hunger in the United States through its Domestic Hunger Grant Program. Local not-for-profit organizations, including churches, apply for funds to identify and address local issues such as: food security, clean water, housing, and jobs.

Together, these ministries are part of a comprehensive approach to breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger – for good. ELCA World Hunger gives thanks for the 147 domestic ministries that put \$1,533,936 to work through ELCA World Hunger grants domestically in 2024.



There are currently four programs at work in Florida. Lee Interfaith for Empowerment, Fort Myers, Jacksonville Campus Ministry, Jacksonville, St. John Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Pembroke Pines.

Your generous gifts are making a difference in the name of Christ.

Thank you!

OUR WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY IS APRIL 27TH!





JOY BLESSING BAG MISSION

We are ready to kick off our Blessing Bag Mission for 2025. We have 150 beautiful hand made bags, that will be kept by the recipients, to pack the requested items.

It seems like alot but I am confident together we can do this! The bags will go to the SoZo kids in the forest. We have been in contact with Pastor Dave , who with his wife started this wonderful program. SoZo is Greek for "to save, rescue".

If you would like to help, but can't shop or would like us to shop for you there will be a box in the Narthex on Sundays for monetary donations.

COLLECTION TIME FOR THE ITEMS IS: APRIL 6TH—MAY 4TH!

Please place NEW, UNEXPIRED items (NO GLASS CONTAINERS) in the Outreach Room. **WE NEED 150 OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

Needed quantities will be updated each week.

Questions can be directed to: Susan Zumbahlen, at 708-408-7730 or Sharon Johnson 352-843-1321

SHAMPOO	BARS OF SOAP (wrapped)
TOOTHPASTE	TOOTHBRUSHES
HAND TOWELS	WASH CLOTHS
WHITE CREW SOCKS	BOTTLES OF WATER
HAND SANITIZER	BANDANAS –Generic prints (Can be used as scarfs, head-bands, or handkerchiefs)
DEODORANT	HEALTHY SNACK (LIKE GRANOLA BARS)

Joy's Daily Devotional Blog

What is this blog? Your fellow members of Joy share their faith in inspiring messages that are published each morning.

Do you receive it by email every day? We have a mailing list of 240 people who do!

If you're not yet one of them, we'd like to include you.

It's all free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

If you think your friend or family member would be interested, we can include them too. How??? Very simple.

Just send the email address to Judy Spillane, editor, however is convenient for you.

spocala@gmail.com

352-286-8899 texting

352-854-9437 to phone

Thank you so much for helping us to expand this ministry.

Judy Spillane

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
06-Apr	ISAIAH	PSALM	PHILIPPIANS	JOHN
	43:16-21	126	3:4b-14	12:1-8
13-Apr	ISAIAH	PSALM	PHILIPPIANS	LUKE
	50:4-9a	31:9-16	2:5-11	22:14--23:56
17-Apr	EXODUS	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	JOHN
	12:1-14	116:1-2, 12-19	11:23-26	13:1-17, 31b-35
18-Apr	ISAIAH	PSALM	HEBREWS	JOHN
	52:13-53:12	22	0	18:1-19:42
20-Apr	ACTS	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	LUKE
	10:34-43	118:1-2,14-24	15:19-26	24:1-12
27-Apr	ACTS	PSALM	REVELATION	JOHN
	5:27-32	118:14-29	1:4-8	20:19-31



WELCA – What is it?

The WELCA Constitution states that any woman can be a member of WELCA. That means you, all the women of Joy.

Mission: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and the society and the world promote healing and wholeness in the church.

That is a powerful statement for us to strive for. One way we do that is to invite members of our community and various programs to share their mission and needs at our meetings. Our next meeting is April 7th. I'm not sure who our speaker will be. That's a TBD! As always, we will enjoy food and fellowship. Come meet with us in April. It's an opportunity to meet with other women. Maybe you will find a niche to serve in.



Men's Breakfast April 3rd, 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, and Christian Fellowship.

Join Us for Breakfast

**LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION®**





Easter Lilies

The Altar Guild would like to invite you to provide a lovely Lily plant this Easter to decorate the Altar. This year we will be offering:

Easter Lilies \$ 15.00

If you wish to order a plant, please enclose your check or cash in an envelope , with this form, and place it in the Offering Plate by Sunday, April 6th .

Please PRINT all information below. Thank you!

We are ordering only 60 plants. Orders are first come, first serve.

of plants ordered _____ @ \$15 each. ~~ Enclosed _____.

Given By _____.

In Honor of _____.

In Memory of _____.

Your plant may be taken home after the 11:00 A.M. Easter Service. Any plants not taken will be given to the Sick and Homebound of the Congregation.

I will take my plant _____.

I will not take my plant _____.



Suncoast Bronze Ringers Presents...

The Brilliance of Bronze



SATURDAY, APRIL 26 | 4PM

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3714 W Linebaugh Ave
Tampa, FL 33618**

SUNDAY, APRIL 27 | 5PM

**JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 SW 83rd Place
Ocala, FL 34476**

Featuring songs such as "Fly Me to the Moon", "Enhebrado", and "Aquarius"!

Featuring drums by Ben Vyborny and piano by Rod Keiser
suncoastbronzeringers.com



The LifeSouth Bloodmobile is heading to our campus.

On **Sunday, April 27th** you will have the opportunity to save lives.

Blood donations can be made between the hours of **7:30am-1:00 pm**.

Remember, just one pint of blood can save three lives. There is a critical need for doners. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are always welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD.....



1. YARD DAY: SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH, 8:30– Lend a hand. We will top off the pine needles on our landscape beds.

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.**

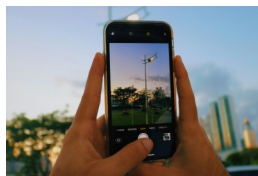
3. PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 13TH

4. MAUNDY THURSDAY – 5:30pm service

5. GOOD FRIDAY – 3:00pm service “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

A fun way to serve at Joy!



Wanted: Persons with cameras or cellphones

to take pictures of church events/groups occasionally.


Training available.

Publicity and Social Media Team is establishing a photography group at Joy.

Curious? Contact: Lynn Ihlenburg 502-523-5920

Lynn.ihlenburg@gmail.com



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 Beg. Bible Study 11 AM</p> <p>Tutoring 3-5PM</p>	<p>2 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SoupSup 4-5P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>3 LMM 8 A @ Mama B's CE 11:00 AM</p> <p>BC Ringers 6:30</p>	<p>4 T.O.P.S. 7:30A Bell Choir 10A</p>	<p>5 Yard Day 8:30 A W & M 1 PM-N Cleaning 2-4P</p>
<p>6 Lent 5 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM</p>	<p>7 Time 4 Prayer- 9AM</p> <p>WELCA 11:30A</p> <p>Member Care 2:30P</p>	<p>8 Property 10A New Member 10A Beg Bible Study- 11 A Finance 1 P Tutoring 3-5P</p>	<p>9 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SoupSup 4-5P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>10 Wear Gloves Lunch – Endowment 1P Outreach 1:30P Stewardship 3P Council Exec 3P BC Ringers 6:30P</p>	<p>11 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>12 Prayer Walk 9:30 A @Freedom Crossing Cleaning2-4P</p>
<p>13 Passion/Palm Sun. Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM</p>	<p>14 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M. 9:30A</p>	<p>15 Tidings Due New Member 10A Beg Bible Study- 11A Council 1 P Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>16 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P Soup Sup 4-5 P</p>	<p>17 Maundy Thu. Worship SVC 5:30P</p>	<p>18 Good Fri. TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10A</p> <p>Worship Svc 3 P</p>	<p>19 Cleaning 2-4P</p>
<p>20 EASTER Sunrise Svc 6:45A Worship Svcs 8:15 A & 11 A</p> 	<p>21 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M-9:30A</p>	<p>22 New Member 10A Beg Bible Study- 11A Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>23 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P</p>	<p>24 BC Ringers 6:30 P</p>	<p>25 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>26 Cleaning 2-4P</p>
<p>27 New Member Worship SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM Blood Drive 7:30- 1P Suncoast Bronze Concert 5:00 PM</p>	<p>28 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M-9:30A</p>	<p>29 Beg BS 11 A</p> <p>Tutoring 3-5 P Interfaith Dinner Delivery</p>	<p>30 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P</p>			
					<p>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for copy ready articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</p> <p>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</p> <p>Thank you. Susan</p>	

Contact Us

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email: joyocalafl@gmail.com
www.joylcoala.org
www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala



APRIL

2025

*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