

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



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

**Dear JOYful Family,**

This month starts off with a bang – HOLY WEEK. Commencing with Passion(Palm) Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, we enter the Holy City in JOY!ous celebration, only to quickly realize that it is the last time our Savior and Lord will be there. Five days later, he will be dead. There are many times, many people, many stories of lives that are quickly, suddenly no more. In recent years, just in our congregation, we have had a regular usher do his thing on Sunday, only to collapse dead before the next Sunday. I say this not to frighten (or keep people from volunteering to usher), but as a reminder of our mortality. And yet, on the third day after His crucifixion, Christ rose triumphant from the grave! That brings new, resurrected life to each of us who embrace that central truth of our faith.

It is mind-boggling to consider the uniqueness of every individual's story. At JOY!, we are so diverse respective to the various places we come to Ocala from. It's quite extraordinary! Think of all the unique, individual stories beyond our church campus waiting for us to discover. Your circle of new friends, your neighborhoods. Those disen-

*Continued on Page 3*

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

SCAN FOR ON-LINE GIVING





## 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

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>04/01</i>	<i>Sharon Fairchild</i>
<i>04/02</i>	<i>John Marvin</i>
<i>04/03</i>	<i>Patrick Reese</i>
<i>04/04</i>	<i>Karen Sturtz</i>
<i>04/05</i>	<i>Judi Snow</i>
<i>04/15</i>	<i>Linda Kraigenow</i>
<i>04/16</i>	<i>Norma Erickson</i>
<i>04/17</i>	<i>Doug Juhl</i>
<i>04/20</i>	<i>Irene Henderson</i>
	<i>Tamara Thomas</i>
<i>04/21</i>	<i>Wayne Kofink</i>
<i>04/22</i>	<i>Lucille Wieland</i>
<i>04/24</i>	<i>Lyneer Spees</i>
<i>04/25</i>	<i>Lori Ilmud</i>
<i>04/26</i>	<i>Silas Daniel</i>
<i>04/27</i>	<i>David Hudson</i>
<i>04/29</i>	<i>Spiro Zachos</i>
<i>04/30</i>	<i>Walter Grosselfinger</i>

*Continued from Page 1*

franchised or hurt by the institutional church. Thinking they don't belong with the likes of us because they are different and misunderstood. They are still trying to find spiritual meaning, purpose, and community, even if (especially!) they are by nature shy or introverted. The impulses are still there, even in this evolving post-modern society. The cross and the Easter story remain as valid as ever. Don't despair, my siblings in Christ, about the bygone "good old days". The Spirit is still very much alive, even if the expressions are being "re-traditioned". Even if Ted talks and podcasts have seemingly overtaken organized religion, Christ is still alive, moving, and active within us.

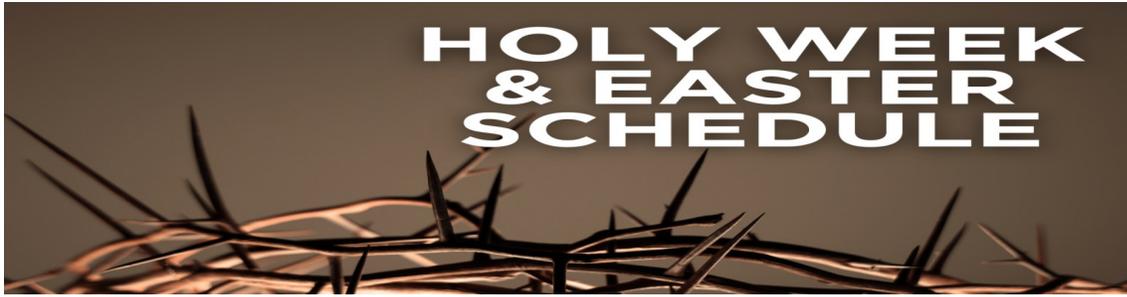
*Faithful innovation.*

Listen to all the unique stories. Grasp opportunities to share Christ risen; risen indeed! Try something new based on God's leading. Share YOUR story that will spark the invitation that will be hard to resist! God's mission is always creating something new, bringing life from death. The cycle of death and life lends itself to fresh expressions of our collective story. We can't be transformed, reformed, "re-traditioned" with the methods of the "good old days". The liturgy, the work of God's people need not be boring. I am happy to show up *any where you want to meet up, hang out, and be led by the Holy Spirit in holy conversation and relationship cultivation!*

*Pastor Art*



<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i># yrs.</i>
<i>04/01</i>	<i>Bob and Mary Ann Schmitt</i>	<i>30 yrs.</i>
<i>04/04</i>	<i>Paul and Sally Hurley</i>	<i>45 yrs.</i>
<i>04/07</i>	<i>Ray and Lynn Ihlenburg</i>	<i>28 yrs.</i>
<i>04/22</i>	<i>Paul and Patti Spellman</i>	<i>60 yrs.</i>



**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**  
**Thursday, April 2nd, 6:30 pm**  
**Join Us at the table for the Last Supper**



**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
**Friday, April 3rd, 6:30 pm**  
**Christ died for a debt**  
**He did not owe!**  
**Reflect with us on His great love**  
**and sacrifice**



**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES**  
**Sunday, April 5th**  
**6:45 am Sunrise Service in our**  
**Memorial Garden**  
**8:15 and 11:00 am Services in our Sanctuary**  
**HE IS RISEN!**  
**THE TOMB IS EMPTY!**  
**COME REJOICE, CELEBRATE!**



## Lenten Soup Suppers

### Thank you

*are just two small words that  
mean so much!*

*This year's Lenten Soup Suppers  
were a wonderful success.*

*The soups were varied and so delicious.*

*The dessert cart was always full  
of delectable desserts.*

*There are just too many generous participants to  
thank to list them all individually, so a heartfelt  
thank you goes out to all of them (and you know  
who you are)! This event could not have been possi-  
ble without the giving of time and talent. Thank  
you from the bottom of my heart.*

*Terry Owen*

*Soup Supper Coordinator*



## HERE ARE SOME NOTABLE SPECIAL DAYS IN THE MONTH OF APRIL:

### Key April Special Days & Holidays

- Apr 1:** April Fool's Day, [National Fun at Work Day](#)
- Apr 2:** World Autism Awareness Day, [National Burrito Day](#)
- April 3:** Maundy Thursday
- Apr 3:** Good Friday (2026)
- Apr 5:** Easter Sunday (2026), [International Day of Conscience](#)
- Apr 7:** World Health Day
- Apr 10:** [National Siblings Day](#)
- Apr 11:** [National Pet Day](#)
- Apr 22:** Earth Day
- Apr 23:** World Book and Copyright Day, National Picnic Day
- Apr 24:** [Arbor Day \(U.S.\)](#) (2026)
- Apr 30:** International Jazz Day

### Daily Niche & Food Holidays

- April 4:** National Vitamin C Day
- April 12:** National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- April 19:** National Garlic Day
- April 26:** National Pretzel Day
- April 28:** National Superhero Day

### What special events occur in April? **United States**

- Arab American Heritage Month.
- Cancer Control Month.
- Confederate History Month (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia)
- Jazz Appreciation Month.
- \*Autism Awareness Month.
- \*Community College Awareness Month.
- \*Financial Literacy Month.
- \*Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

# 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>

## BLESSING BAGS

OUTREACH

*Thanks to your generosity, and Thrivent, the items for our blessing bags have been purchased.*

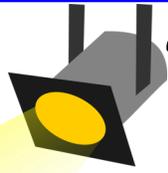
*The “assembly line” will put them together in  
**Swenson Hall on Thursday, April 16th**  
from **10 am—12 noon.***

*If you would like to be a part of this “line” please  
be at the Hall before 10.*

*Each volunteer will receive a  
Thrivent T shirt.*

*Thank you for your continued support.  
Outreach Team*





## **“HERO OF THE MONTH”**

### **LINDA NEBLOCK**

**For several months now, Linda has been giving THREE ladies a ride to church every Sunday. They are ages 92, 93, and 94! She also serves as an Altar Angel. She has done all this even with some recent health issues.**

**We love you, Linda, for being such a caring and committed Christian in our spiritual community!**



## **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.**

**Help is also needed to create the scenery to turn Swenson Hall into the rolling hills of Ireland.**

**Please prayerfully consider how you can be of help!**

# Seasons of JOY

## Concert Series

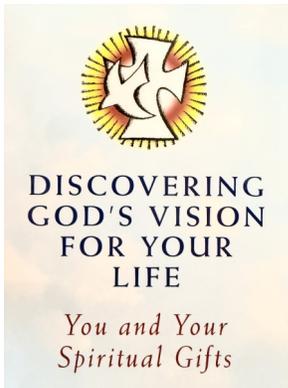
### 2025-26 Season

### *A New Musical Adventure*



RareSong, the First Coast Renaissance Ensemble, will present *Greetings from the First Coast*, a concert that will illustrate why that part of Florida has that nickname. Their program features Spanish and French vocal and instrumental music from the 16th century using recorders, violas da gamba, and harpsichord. They know that these transplanted Europeans brought a variety of musical instruments with them and they indulged in dances and social gatherings. They will evoke their spirit in our performance of lively and lyrical music.

**April 26, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary  
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)  
Free Admission. Reception follows concert.



## ***COMING IN MAY***

**Spiritual Gifts Discovery Class**  
*Come as you are. Leave inspired.*

**Two sessions: Saturday, May 2 & May 9**

*(You must attend both sessions)*

**Time: 10:00am – Noon**

**Swenson Hall**

**Cost: \$10 per person**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 12**

### **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)**



Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

It's almost time again! The next WELCA meeting is **April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.**  
All women of Joy are members of WELCA. If you haven't been to a meeting recently (or ever) this is your chance to join us for a dynamic speaker, food and friendship.

If you are new to Joy, it's a great way to meet and make friends.

Our April Speaker is Pam Driggers, Battalion Chief with MCFD. Her topic will be Community Risk Education. She comes highly recommended by several of our members who have heard her speak. After her presentation we will have food and an opportunity to talk with the Chief. We are requesting that you bring your favorite appetizer or dessert. Or, just come and enjoy our speaker. We always have enough food. Food is NOT a requirement to attend! Looking forward to seeing you on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Carson Faris,

## **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:**

**April 26th**





*“God wants to be praised for nourishing  
and cherishing, for He cherishes  
all creatures.*

*He is not only the Creator,  
but He is also the Sustainer and  
Nourisher.”*



**“More About Marty”**

**The spots are all filled.  
Don’t forget to mark your  
calendars.**



**The 6 week conversation will begin on  
Tuesday, April 14th, at 6:00 pm in  
Swenson Hall.**

**See you all there!!**

## BIBLE READINGS FOR *APRIL 2026*

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
THUR. 4/02	EXODUS	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	JOHN
	12: 1-4[5-10]11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	11:23-26	13:1-17, 31b-35
FRI. 4/03	ISAIAH 52:13--53:12	PSALM 22	HEBREWS 10:16-25	JOHN 18:1--19:42
05-Apr	ACTS 10:34-43	PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24	COLOSSIANS 3:1-4	Mathew 28:1-10
12-Apr	ACTS 2:14a, 22-32	PSALM 16	1 PETER 1:3-9	JOHN 20:19-31
19-Apr	ACTS 2:14a, 36-41	PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19	1 PETER 1:17-23	LUKE 24:13-35
26-Apr	ACTS 2:42-47	PSALM 23	1 PETER 2:19-25	JOHN 10:1-10

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JOY:

**E-mail:**        [joyocalafl@gmail.com](mailto:joyocalafl@gmail.com)

**Web Site:**    [www.joylcocala.org](http://www.joylcocala.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](http://www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)

**Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](http://www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)

**Photos & Videos to:**

[Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com](mailto:Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com)



# APRIL

# 2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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>			<p>1 Happy Hands 9 A Joyful Hands 9 A Choir 3-4:30 P</p>	<p>2 Maundy Thurs. Off Key Chorale 2P  Maundy Thurs Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>3 Good Fri, Bells 10:00A (S) Cleaning Service 1-3 P Good Friday Svc 6:30P</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 EASTER Sunrise Service 6:45  Sanctuary Service 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</p>	<p>6 Charlie Bible Study 1P (N)  Member Care 1P</p>	<p>7 Beginners' Bible Study 11A  Tutoring 3:30- 5:30 P (Closed)  W&amp;M 6:30P (N)</p>	<p>8 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A  Christian Ed 2:30P Choir 3-4:30P  Worship Svc 6:30P</p>	<p>9 Wear Gloves Lunch Publicity 1P (N) Outreach 1:30 P Off Key Choir 2P(S) Stewardship 3P  BCR-6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>10 BELL CHOIR-10A  Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</p>	<p>13 Stephen Min.9:30A  Charlie Bible Study 1P (N)</p>	<p>14 Property 10A Beg Bible Study 11A Finance 1P Tutoring 3:30- 5:30P (Closed) "MARTY" Study 6P</p>	<p>15 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A Choir Reh. 3- 4:30P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>16 Blessing Bags As- sembly 10A  Off Key Choir 2P(S)  BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>17 BELL CHOIR-10 A  Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM  Janet Voyles Stu- dents Concert (Closed)</p>	<p>20 WELCA Lunch 11A  Charlie Bible Study 1P (N)</p>	<p>21 Beg Bible Study 11A  Council 1P  Tutoring 3:30- 5:30P (Closed)  "MARTY" Study 6P</p>	<p>22 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A Choir Reh. 3- 4:30P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>23 Off Key Choir 2P(S)  BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>24 BELL CHOIR-10 A Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM  Raresong Concert 5:00 PM</p>	<p>27 Stephen Minis- try 9:30A  Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p>28 Beg Bible Study 11:00A Pineland Minis- ters 12 Noon Tutoring 3:30- 5:30P (Closed) "MARTY" Study 6P</p>	<p>29 Interfaith Din- ner Share  Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A Choir Reh. 3- 4:30P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>30 Off Key Choir 2P(S)  BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>		

Contact Us

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[www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](https://www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)



*APRIL 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