

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5

MAY 2026

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



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

Dear JOYful Family,

You will notice that in May the readings in worship are NOT Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel. The O.T. lesson gets replaced with readings from the book of Acts. Filled with enthusiasm, JOY!, and forward momentum, they chronicle how the Holy Spirit breathed resurrection life and power into the new Christians as Peter built our Lord's church, along with Paul and all the apostles. Here at JOY!, we have intentionally kept our momentum going. New spiritual growth and vitality springs forth! Groups, Christian enrichment, Blessing Bags, Bible studies have been strategic in making sure we don't let up on serving and growing in the kingdom of God.

## BEARING WITNESS IN ACTS AND TODAY

is the title of a book by ELCA Pastor and seminary professor Troy Troftgruben. Our Florida-Bahamas Synod is encouraging congregations to engage in this great resource for moving the church forward.

By the time you read this, we will be *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

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>05/02</i>	<i>Kathleen Parli</i>
<i>05/03</i>	<i>Jacob Miller</i>
<i>05/04</i>	<i>Vicki Valli</i>
	<i>Tracy Carter</i>
<i>05/07</i>	<i>Denise Armstrong</i>
<i>05/09</i>	<i>Marcia O'Brien</i>
	<i>Terri Feeley</i>
	<i>Jim Hessel</i>
	<i>Diane Wanat</i>
<i>05/11</i>	<i>Bob Vogel</i>
<i>05/12</i>	<i>Phil Lizak</i>
	<i>Lynn Ihlenburg</i>
<i>05/16</i>	<i>Marjorie Wlodarczyk</i>
<i>05/17</i>	<i>Charlie Meier</i>
<i>05/19</i>	<i>Lynne Shineman</i>
<i>05/22</i>	<i>Emily McGrury</i>
	<i>John Nicholson</i>
<i>05/23</i>	<i>Theodore Hiergesell</i>
<i>05/24</i>	<i>Debra Wuertz</i>
<i>05/25</i>	<i>Robin Kaizer</i>
<i>05/30</i>	<i>Patti Spellman</i>
	<i>Joyce Brussman</i>

*Continued from Page 1*

two weeks into the 7-week series studying this in Sunday School class at 9:30. We will conclude right before Synod Assembly, which will be held June 4-6 in Kissimmee.

The first Christian spiritual communities embodied the resurrection and Holy Spirit events. There's no reason we can't too! That way of life within us serves as a living, breathing testimony to what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do. In this Sunday School class (or Christian Enrichment), we will discover possibilities of taking the story to other places.

Fresh expressions open new spaces, new pathways to connect with people. Our adventures in renewal and faithful innovation not only reach those who are younger than us, they just might make us feel young too! Those of you with grandkids know what I'm talking about. I invite you to invite others along this exciting journey with our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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*

## *Happy Anniversary*

<i>DATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i># YRS.</i>
05/10	Mike and Jean Beaver	50 yrs.
05/19	Nancy and Robert Moisuk	53 yrs.
05/20	David and Doreen Robinson	28 yrs.
05/22	Jack and Sheila Mixdorf	50 yrs.
05/26	Theodore and Sharyn Hiergesell	30 yrs.
05/27	Paul and Paula Stevens	39 yrs.
05/30	Hank and Jean Groth	62 yrs.
	Mike and Lisa Schiavi	39 yrs.

## **DINE AND DREAM REPORT**

**In March, 30 members of JOY! gathered for a Dine and Dream event to brainstorm ideas to help the Congregation Council and ministry teams plan for the future. The session generated over 100 suggestions, which have been shared with leadership; some are already being put into action. The group watched the video “How Things Have Changed,”**

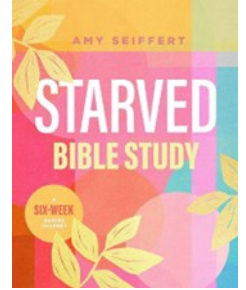
**<https://milwaukee-synod.org/adventures-in-renewal-video-1/>**

**which explores how modern American society has shifted from seeking belonging within organizations to expressing identity independently. This change challenges churches to engage people "out there" in the world rather than focusing on getting people "in here." Participants also discussed the Four Needs essential for a thriving church: spirituality, community, care, and serving.**

**Dine and Dream is a key part of JOY!’s ongoing visioning process, which began three years ago.**

# *This Summer...*

**Women's Spiritual Enrichment Group**  
**Saturdays at 10:00am • Swenson Hall**



**Led by Lynn Ihlenburg**

Join us this summer for two refreshing women's studies designed to nourish your spirit, strengthen your faith, and have some fun. Come as you are...and by all means bring a neighbor or friend – or anyone you meet who might like a little spiritual nourishment.

***No registration needed—no purchases. Just come when you can.***

## ***Two - 6 Session Studies***

**Study 1: *Starved* by Amy Seiffert -**

**Begins June 6, 2026**

In a world overflowing with noise—phones, social media, politics, and endless demands—we often find ourselves spiritually underfed. This study helps us recognize what we're consuming, what's consuming us, and how Jesus offers the nourishment our souls truly need. Together, we'll walk from spiritual starvation toward satisfaction and strength.

**Study 2: *It's All Under Control* by Jennifer Dukes Lee**

**Begins July 25, 2026**

If you've ever wished God would hand you a detailed map—or if you find yourself gripping tightly to plans, outcomes, and expectations—this study offers a gentle reset. We'll explore how to release the illusion of control, trust God's steady hand, and live more freely as the women God created us to be.



***This Summer... Come early for worship on the FIRST Sunday of each month for...***

## ***New Connections***

***June 7, July 5, August 2***

A relaxed gathering for newer members, recent visitors, and anyone wanting to feel more at home at Joy. Whether you've been worshipping with us for a few weeks or a few months, or a few years, this is a chance to meet others who are also finding their way into the life of the congregation.

**If you're looking for a gentle next step, this is it.**

**No agenda, no pressure.**

***It's simply a welcoming doorway into deeper community.***



***Come early for 10am worship***

***Doors open at 9:15am***

***Start with conversation • Stay for worship***



We did it! Our March Blood Drive was a success. We got the minimum of 15 donors to qualify for the grant! We finished with 18 donors registered and a total of 16 units donated.

**SO LET’S DO IT AGAIN!**

Our Blood Drive this month is **May 24th**, and **YES**, if we hit the magic number of 15 donations we qualify for another grant!

We did it once, we can do it again!

Remember each unit of blood saves 3 lives. The blood mobile will be here on **Sunday, May 24th from 7:30 am—1:00 pm.**

**EMERGENCIES DON'T WAIT**



**GIVE BLOOD**

**Sunday, May 24th**

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church



**T-shirt** for all May donors!  
**\$40 e-gift card** and **t-shirt** for platelet and double red cell donors.



colors may vary • white supplies last



**LIFESOUTH**  
 Community Blood Centers

Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



Appointments are appreciated; walk-ins are always welcome. Spread the word.

# ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



**THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 6:30**

**\*\*\*\*\* Please note that this replaces our normal Wednesday worship that week.**

## JOY SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE!!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**MAY 31, 2026**

**WE ARE SWITCHING TO JUST ONE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS!**

**WORSHIP TIME IS:**

**10:00 AM**

**OUTREACH*****Spreading JOY!***

*As May flowers are starting to fully bloom, we are thinking of the joy they bring. We are also thinking of the children of Isaiah 117 House and the joy we were able to share with them!*

*We packed and delivered 50 Blessing Bags containing a teddy bear and a cozy blanket, and other items for the children to enjoy. We also provided 31 pajama sets, 20 T shirts, 12 short sets, and socks and underwear for boys and girls.*

*We also packed 5 Blessing Bags for our girls at the Joy house. This would have not been possible without the love and support of the Joy congregation! We were deeply touched and extremely grateful for the love and support you showed.*

*A special shout out to Diane Wanat for sewing all the bags and to the volunteers who helped pack the bags.*

*Till next year,*

*The BB team*

**OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM**

**When: Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30**

**Where: Swenson Hall Garden Room**

**Our ministry's mission is to JOY!fully feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and lift up the weak.**

**This ministry is very upbeat and positive!**

***We invite you to join us!***

**COMING IN MAY!**

On May 17th, Isabella Wallmow will be at both services for a temple talk. She is the granddaughter of Shirley Reents. In one of her recent newsletters she started it with "God is so Big" For the last 3 years she has served with Mesa Global in Mexico City. In April she coordinated her second trip to Thailand with a group ready to serve as missionaries.

Here is another quote from Isabella, "I'm very grateful to be entering this new year together recognizing the ministries that God has called us to and walking confidently in the path our Creator has lead us on. Halleluah!"

**Shirley Reents**

**WE ARE HAVING A**



**FOR BOB VOGEL**

**JOY's eldest member, Bob, turns 100 on May 11th.**

**Let's shower him with our love and best wishes by filling his mail box with 100 (or more) cards. Please send your cards to:**

**BOB VOGEL  
BRIDGEWATER PARK  
9174 SW 81st CT  
ROOM 264  
OCALA, FL 34481**



320  
WORSHIPED AT JOY  
ON EASTER SUNDAY  
THANKS BE TO GOD!

## **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:**

**MAY 31st**



MAGIC  
OF BRONZE

presents

The  
*Magic*  
of  
*Bronze*

Sunday, May 3, 2026

5:00 pm

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church  
7045 SW 83<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Ocala, FL 34476



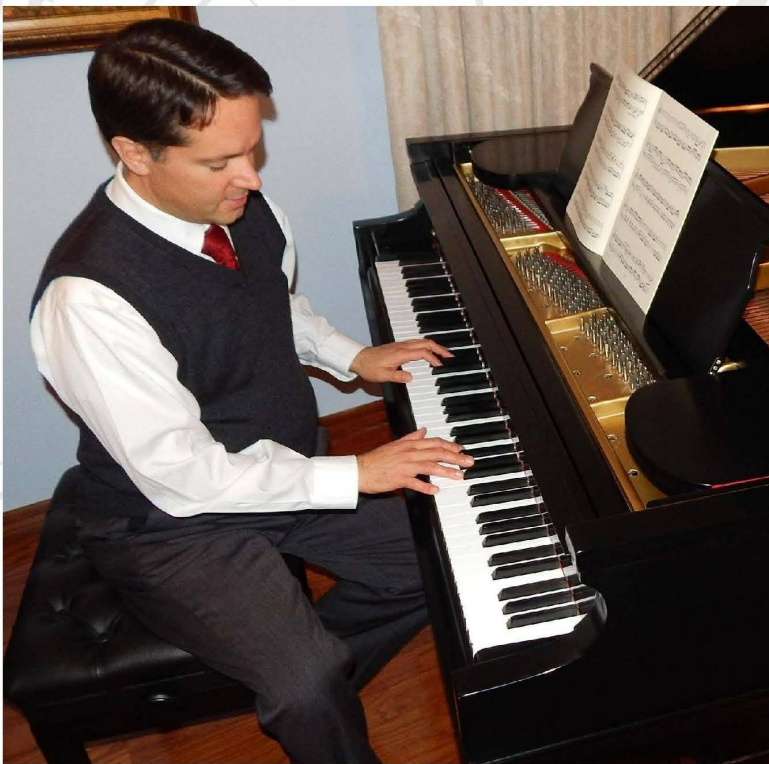
# Seasons of JOY

## Concert Series

### 2025-26 Season

## *A New Musical Adventure*

## John Matthew Wilkinson



Join us when we welcome John Matthew Wilkinson for an afternoon of original piano works, sacred songs, and fresh hymn arrangements for voice and piano. A lyric tenor accompanying himself at the piano, he weaves together music shaped by faith, beauty, and devotion. Expressing both quiet reflection and radiant joy, the program

invites listeners into a peaceful and uplifting hour of hope-filled sound.

**May 31, 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.



# Live in Concert: Off-Key Chorale

Spring Series: "Are We There Yet?!  
Songs of the Open Road"

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO COME,  
LISTEN, AND TRAVEL THE  
ROAD WITH THEM.

IN THE  
SANCTUARY

May 7 | 2:00 pm

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church  
7045 SW 83<sup>rd</sup> Pl, Ocala, FL

The Off-Key Chorale is a choral group comprised of people living with Parkinson's, family members, caregivers, and volunteer singers. Led by Peggy Bumatay with live musical accompaniment.

This program is in partnership with



The Off-Key Chorale have been practicing hard and are excited to perform for the audience. All are welcome!  
We hope to see you there!

I was going through some of Sandy's (my predecessor here in the office) files for articles she had for our newsletter and bulletins. I came across the one below. I love music, can't sing worth a lick, but I love to meditate on the lyrics. I found this to be pretty inciteful. I am not great when it comes to change so this really touched me. I am not sure when this was originally published, but I thought it would be good "food for thought".

*Susan*

## Church member unhappy with new music at service

**Dear Rev. Graham:** Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but from time to time our church's music director introduces new songs into the service, and I don't care for them. I like the old hymns and wish he'd just stick with them. Should I complain to our pastor?

— Mrs. E.W.W.



**Billy  
Graham**

**Answer:** I know this has been a controversial issue in many churches, and I don't pretend to have all the answers, especially since

I'm not particularly musical! But we have a singing faith, and God has given us the gift of music to praise him. The Psalmist declared, "With singing lips my mouth will praise you" (Psalm 63:5).

Instead of complaining to your pastor (or anyone else), I urge you to ask God to help you be grateful for all music that points us to God, new or old. No, you may not like some of it, but others do, and God can use it in their lives to encourage them and

bring them closer to Christ. Remember: The old hymns you like were once new, and someone probably didn't like them, either!

Sometimes, I'm afraid, a hymn can become so familiar to us that we sing it without even thinking about the words. But this is wrong, because then our singing becomes empty and meaningless. Don't let this happen to you, but meditate on the words of the songs you sing, and even turn them into a prayer.

Your music director has probably been wise to introduce new songs slowly; completely changing everything all at once can be disruptive. Pray for him and encourage him, letting him know that you're grateful for his gifts. Yes, let him know you appreciate the old hymns, but support him also as he seeks to reach a new generation through music.

Readers can write to the Rev. Billy Graham at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201, or call 877-2-GRAHAM. The website for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is at [billygraham.org](http://billygraham.org).

Tribune Media Services

## BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
05/03/2026	ACTS	PSALM	1 PETER	JOHN
	7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	2:2-10	14:1-14
05/10/2026	ACTS	PSALM	1 PETER	JOHN
	17:22-31	66:8-20	3:13-22	14:15-21
05/14/2026 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	ACTS 1:1-11	PSALM 47 OR 93	EPHESIANS 1:15-23	LUKE 24:44-53
05/17/2026	ACTS	PSALM	1 PETER	JOHN
	1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	4:12-14; 5:6-11	17:1-11
05/24/2026 PENTECOST	ACTS	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	JOHN
	2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	12:3b-13	20:19-23
05/31/2026 THE HOLY TRINITY	GENESIS	PSALM	2 CORINTHIANS	MATTHEW
	1:1--2:4a	8	13:11-13	28:16-20

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JOY:

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

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



# MAY

# 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 Bell Choir 10 A (S)</p> <p>Cleaning Svc. 1-3 Holy Hiatus 7P (OC)</p>	<p>2 Spiritual Gifts 10-12 (SH) Sam-Lesson 10A (S) (Closed) Pineland Worship 8:30A-HOPE Lutheran-Villages</p>
<p>3 Worship Svc: 8:15 and 11 am Acts Study-9:30A(S) Magic of Bronze Concert 5P (S)</p>	<p>4 Member Care 1 P (SH) Pr. Art – Vacation</p>	<p>5 Beginners’ Bible Study 11A (SH) Tutoring 3:30- 5:30 P (Closed) More About Marty-6P (SH) Pr. Art-Vacation</p>	<p>6 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A Choir 3-4:30P Worship Svc 6:30P</p>	<p>7 Off Key Choir 2P(S) BCR-6:30 P-(S)</p>	<p>8 Bell Choir 10A (S) Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>9 Spiritual Gifts 10-12 (SH) Sam Lesson 10A (S) (Closed)</p>
<p>10 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Acts Study-9:30A(S)</p>	<p>11 Stephen Min.9:30A (SH)</p>	<p>12 Beg Bible Study 11A Finance 1P Tutoring 3:30- 5:30P (Closed) “MARTY” Study 6P(SH) JOYformation 7P (SH)</p>	<p>13 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A CE-2:30 P (SH) Choir Reh. 3- 4:30P</p>	<p>14 Wear Gloves Lunch Share (OC) Outreach 1:30P (SH) Council Exec M 3P Worship Svc 6:30 P Ascension of Our Lord</p>	<p>15 Bell Choir 10A (S) Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>16 Sam Lesson 10A (S) (Closed)</p>
<p>17 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Pr. Wayne Acts Study-9:30A(S) Isabella Temple Talk</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Beg Bible Study 11A Council 1P Tutoring 3:30- 5:30P (Closed) “MARTY” Study 6P JOYformation 7P</p>	<p>20 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A Choir Reh. 3- 4:30P Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>21 BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>22 Bell Choir 10A (S) Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>23 Sam Lesson 10A (S) (Closed)</p>
<p>24 New Memb Sun Svcs 8:15 &amp; 11 A Acts Study 9:30 A Blood Drive 7:30-1P</p>	<p>25 Stephen Minis- try 9:30A</p>	<p>26 Beg Bible Study 11:00A Pineland Minis- ters Mtg. 12 Noon Tutoring 3:30- 5:30P (Closed)</p>	<p>27 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9A Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>28 BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>29 Interfaith Din- ner Share</p>	<p>30 Sam Lesson 10A (S) (Closed)</p>
<p>31 FIGHT HUNGER ONE SERVICE 10:00A Acts Study-9:00 A</p>						

Contact Us

7045 SW 83rd Place  
Ocala, FL 34476

Phone: 352.854.4509

Fax: 352.854.4845

email: [joyocalafl@gmail.com](mailto:joyocalafl@gmail.com)

[www.joylcoala.org](http://www.joylcoala.org)

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

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



*MAY 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