

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

JULY 2025

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



“There’s an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth.”

(The Message, Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Dear JOYful Family,

The theme of this year’s Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly was “There is a Time for Everything”. Friends, siblings in Christ – that time is NOW. No more “kicking the can down the road”. The ship has sailed on church as we remember it and still try to cling to. We can still catch a ride on a newer vessel! The United States Navy continually “mothballs” old ships that have outlived their usefulness. But “new” doesn’t mean erasing and forgetting. We don’t need better strategies, but clearer eyes. We can always re-focus our vision as a spiritual community sharing Christ in this crazy world, in this uncertain time. “SHARING”. That indicates *with*, not for.

With myself, Carson Faris, our voting member from Joy (not for Joy) and volunteer Debbie Wuertz, the assembly was just slightly larger than our congregation. It is always predominantly lay members by design. The plenary (business) sessions were light. Only a few votes to fill positions on Synod Council and committees, all which only needed one ballot. Those meetings also

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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

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



DATE	NAME
07/01	<i>Edie Stewart</i>
07/03	<i>John Voyles</i>
07/04	<i>Ken Charles</i>
07/05	<i>Janet Voyles</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Hogan</i>
07/07	<i>Judy Spillane</i>
	<i>Richard Plessner</i>
7/10	<i>Ethel Kleiner</i>
	<i>Kim Hessel</i>
	<i>Jean Kutscher</i>
07/12	<i>Michael Parli</i>
07/13	<i>Yvonne Conner</i>
07/14	<i>Bob Bleau, Sr.</i>
	<i>Sharri Soper</i>
	<i>Dana Russo</i>
07/17	<i>Dorie Bay</i>
07/18	<i>Elaine Froeschl</i>
07/19	<i>Cecil Carter</i>
07/20	<i>Amy Wuertz</i>
07/22	<i>Art Salzlein</i>
07/25	<i>Kathy Berlin</i>
07/26	<i>Sarah Logue</i>
	<i>Dawn Winblad</i>
07/30	<i>Diane Plessner</i>
	<i>Tom Ittner</i>



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included seeing ministry moments videos and receiving reports. When we checked in and got our nametag lanyards, we noticed a ribbon underneath that said “Superstar”. That indicated that our congregation went beyond our benevolence pledge!! Thanks be to God for you, family of JOY!

It was good to share dinner with “Intern” Bob, who is temporarily serving as Synod-appointed minister at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Crystal River. He sends his love.

The Holy Spirit was palpable in the testimony of keynote speaker Rev. Emily Harkin, founding Pastor of The Dwelling in Winston-Salem, NC. It is an unconventional congregation that includes everyone from all walks of life in a messy blend of sinners made saints through Christ’s redemption.

“here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom and now is the day” (from ELW #532). NOW.

I’ll see you in church – or any time, 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>07/09</i>	<i>Paul & Ruth Ann Silliman</i>	<i>48 yrs</i>
<i>07/14</i>	<i>Dick & Cyndie Charcalla</i>	<i>53 yrs</i>
<i>07/19</i>	<i>Diane & Richard Plessler</i>	<i>45 yrs</i>
<i>07/26</i>	<i>Marcia & Jim O'Brien</i>	
<i>07/31</i>	<i>John & Debbie Cobb</i>	<i>43 yrs.</i>

CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE

Ray Ihlenburg, President

COUNCIL

Dear JOY Members,

Thank you to everyone that attended the JOY Town Hall on June 8th after the 10:00 AM service. The agenda was the presentation of the conceptual recommendation to expand the existing narthex to the south. This is the thinking at this time and the Steering Committee will consider all the written and oral comments to finalize the approach. The conceptual ideas for Swenson Hall were not presented for two reasons: (1) Swenson Hall will utilize a home improvement contractor whereas the narthex will require a heavy construction contractor. (2) Depending on the financial situation when the narthex addition estimate is firmed, the projects may happen simultaneously. Rest assured there is a solid concept for the use of the garage and Swenson Hall. The time and date for the next Steering Committee meeting will be announced and all are invited to attend.

More information will be shared in the coming months before the final plan is presented at the Annual Meeting in November. At that time the complete plan will be presented and the Congregation asked to vote to proceed.

As the 2-5 Year Plan development continues, several needed improvements will get underway in the meantime. Swenson Hall needs additional handicap parking spaces and reserved spaces for staff. This is especially warranted in the early morning hours when AA meetings have begun and taken the parking close to Swenson Hall. The signage and concrete wheel stops are on hand so there will be a work session on Wednesday morning June 25 beginning at 7 AM to 9 AM. Six or eight abled bodies should be enough to complete the project. Please consider being one.

Another needed improvement seems to be the most well-kept secret at Joy. Maybe that is because the Property Ministry has been mostly men, but there is a toilet in the ladies' room that is a kid's height toilet. This will be changed to a comfort height toilet in the near future.

The Property Ministry and the Church Council will not meet in July, but if anyone has something that needs attention, please contact Charlie Meier or myself.

In Service,

Ray

JUNE 2/FER SUNDAY



FIGHT HUNGER 2 WAYS IN 1 DAY



ELCA
World Hunger

Whenever we gather at JOY, there is food involved. We like to eat and have fellowship. JOY is offering a way to help others eat and be a part of our fellowship. How do we do that? The last Sunday of every month we have our 2/FER Sunday.

First you can donate to: **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**. ELCA World Hunger supports 149 programs in the US (several right here in Florida), and in 63 countries. You may use the envelopes provided in your numbered church set; the pew envelopes provided in the sanctuary, or by scanning the QR code at the bottom. If you are donating a check, please make it out to Joy Lutheran Church . Donations go directly to ELCA World Hunger.

Second you can bring non-perishable food items and place them on the carts set up for Interfaith in the Narthex. The food is then delivered to Interfaith's Food Bank for distribution. Our last two drives have been very successful, thanks to your generosity. You can think of the Food Cart as an extra place setting at your dinner table.

Two ways you can help, and with only one trip!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

America's 249th birthday will be celebrated on July 4, 2025. Just a brief summary:

On July 2, 1776, in a virtually unanimous vote, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence, and on July 4th, it formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Ultimately, the drafting of the Declaration of Independence was a contentious process. After much debate over what to include and what to leave out, Thomas Jefferson, tasked with pulling the document together, envisioned a nation where "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness" crystallized the very meaning of being an American. The document proclaimed the 13 American colonies' liberation from Britain and reaffirmed their rights as free men — declaring that they were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states.

John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

By an extraordinary coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as presidents of the United States, both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another Founding Father who was elected as president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was Calvin Coolidge, who was born on July 4, 1872.

Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

Dr. Shawn Thomas, *organ*

Shawn Thomas returns to the console at Joy and presents a concert highlighting composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. In addition to music by J.S. Bach, Pachelbel, and Mendelssohn,



Shawn will perform works by American composers Jessica French, Aaron David Miller, and Paul Sifler. Additionally, you will hear new music written by Navajo composer Connor Chee Godwin Sadoh of Nigeria.

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

**July 13, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
at JOY Lutheran Church
7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476**

BLESSING BAG ASSEMBLY LINE

OUTREACH



On behalf of the Outreach committee we would like to thank the Joy family for lovingly supporting our Blessing Bags mission. We successfully packed 150 beautifully sewn bags that the forest kids could keep and reuse.



We moved the donations down to Swenson Hall and set up an assembly line for packing. Overall it was a very smooth running process. There were a few glitches but we overcame them and had the bags ready for pickup on time !

Your donations of items, cash and time made this mission successful! A heartfelt thankyou!

PACKED & READY FOR PICK UP



A NOTE FROM CARSON:

Synod Assembly 2025

In a word, WOW! I rode home with Debbie and Amy. Debbie asked me what I liked best. My first response was EVERYTHING! Then I expounded on my response. I know we aren't supposed to be prideful, however, my heart swelled with enthusiasm and pride every time, with one voice, we said, "We are the Lutherans." Then there was the Connection Cafe. It was a roomful of displays about the services the Synod provides. I talked with many (I think all) of the people at the displays. Again, I say, "WE ARE THE LUTHERANS". We may be a smaller religious body, we carry the message of God's love by our actions as well as words. If you are ever asked to go to the Synod Assembly, I encourage you with a hearty YES to go. For me it was an awesome experience.

LOOKING AHEAD.....



JULY 7-JULY 10: TRUE NORTH VBS

8:30-11:30 AM –Swenson Hall

JULY 12th & 19th– SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS

10-12 Swenson (Pre-sign up)

JULY 13th: SHAWN THOMAS ORGAN CONCERT-3 PM

JULY 20TH: MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY: OUTREACH

JULY 21st: WELCA LUNCHEON 11:30 AM

JULY 27th: WORLD HUNGER// FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY

BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY 2025

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
06-Jul	ISAIAH	PSALM	GALATIANS	LUKE
	66:10-14	66:1-9	6:1-16	10:1-11, 16-20
13-Jul	DEUTERONOMY	PSALM	COLOSSIANS	LUKE
	30:9-14	25:1-10	1:1-14	10:25-37
20-Jul	GENESIS	PSALM	COLOSSIANS	LUKE
	18:1-10a	15	1:15-28	10:38-42
27-Jul	GENESIS	PSALM	COLOSSIANS	LUKE
	18:20-32	138	2:6-19	11:1-13

WELCA NEWS



Women of WELCA! Our next meeting will be July 21st at 1130AM. Our speaker will be Tina Villanueva, Development Outreach Manager of Lutheran Services Florida. I met her at Synod Assembly. She is engaging and dynamic. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Menu will be sandwiches and salads, and, of course desserts. I hope many of you will attend! Carson.

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

July may seem a bit early to discuss 2026 offertory envelopes, but the time to order is only a few weeks away.

In order to be good stewards of our finances, we would like to revisit the way we wish to make our contributions. There are many ways that you can contribute: through your bank, via Vanco, Pew envelopes, and our weekly numbered boxed envelopes. You can also use your Required Minimum Deduction.

Last year we were able to reduce, as per your request, the number of boxed envelopes we ordered. There were still many that were never picked up or used.

This year we would like to do a better job. Please consider your option, complete the form below, and deposit it in the box provided in the Narthex. (Please remember you are also committing to picking up your envelopes.) Boxed envelopes will only be provided for those who request it.

(Tear off and return to office)

I would like to use the numbered box envelopes

I will be donating by: Bank
Vanco
Pew Envelopes
RMD

[Please circle the method you wish to use]

Print your full name/s



2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Beginners' Bible Study 11 A	2 Joyful Hands 9AM 5:30 PM	3 VBS/CE 11 AM Stewardship 3P	4 HAPPY 4TH	5 Cleaning Svc 2-4
6 <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM	7 VBS:8:30- 11:30 A	8 VBS:8:30-11:30 A	9 VBS:8:30-11:30 A Worship Svc 5:30 PM	10 VBS:8:30-11:30 A Wear Gloves Lunch Outreach 1:30PM	11	12 Spiritual Gifts Class 10-12 Cleaning 2-4PM
13 <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM <i>SHAWN THOMAS- CONCERT 3P</i>	14 Stephen M. 9:30AM	15 <i>TIDINGS DUE</i> Beg BibleStudy -11Am	16 Joyful Hands 9AM Worship Svc 5:30 PM	17 BC Ringers 6:30 PM	18	19 Spiritual Gifts Class 10-12 Cleaning 2-4PM
20 <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM <i>MINISTRY AWARENESS: OUTREACH</i>	21 WELCA 11:30 A	22 Beg BibleStudy -11Am	23 Joyful Hands 9AM Worship SVC 5:30 PM	24	25	26 Cleaning 2-4PM
27 World Hun- ger/Food Drive Sunday <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM	28 Stephen M. 9:30AM	29 Interfaith Din- ner Share Beg BibleStudy -11Am	30 Joyful Hands 9AM Worship SVC 5:30 PM	31 BC Ringers 6:30 PM		
				<p><i>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for copy ready articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you. Susan</i></p>		

Contact Us

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JULY 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