

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 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 time we are in is a time of spiritual curiosity. You may be wondering, "aren't we *always* spiritually curious?" Perhaps so. But what I'm reading, hearing, and feeling leads me to wonder if this isn't the great re-formation or re-founding of who we are as God's people that is eight years "past due" from the Protestant Reformation. Whether we view it cynically as escapism from the gloom and doom of the world and national news, or as a legit tipping point in the expression(s) of faith, there is a discernible bubbling up of angst.

Will the church have the answers, or at least a non-judgmental platform for exploring the questions?

I hope we will adopt the posture of Mary, who listened to Jesus while her sister Martha worked herself into a frenzy. Listening to Jesus may involve (probably does) listening to other voices, expressions, ideas, and viewpoints. We can invite curiosity, even criticism without feeling threatened or getting defensive! We are inheritors and transmit- *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-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



<i><b>DATE</b></i>	<i><b>NAME</b></i>
<i><b>08/01</b></i>	<i><b>Sally Hurley</b></i>
<i><b>08/02</b></i>	<i><b>Glenda Lizak</b></i>
	<i><b>Willa Coffman</b></i>
<i><b>08/07</b></i>	<i><b>Marcia Meier</b></i>
<i><b>08/08</b></i>	<i><b>Carson Faris</b></i>
<i><b>08/09</b></i>	<i><b>Ken Kutscher</b></i>
<i><b>08/10</b></i>	<i><b>Lisa Schiavi</b></i>
	<i><b>Mike Schiavi</b></i>
<i><b>08/12</b></i>	<i><b>Patty Willoughby</b></i>
<i><b>08/16</b></i>	<i><b>Joanne Kolch</b></i>
	<i><b>Wallace Thomas, Jr.</b></i>
	<i><b>Nancy Kraft</b></i>
<i><b>08/17</b></i>	<i><b>Beth Frederiksen</b></i>
<i><b>08/19</b></i>	<i><b>Jim Kuzmanovich</b></i>
<i><b>08/21</b></i>	<i><b>Cheryl Burck</b></i>
<i><b>8/23</b></i>	<i><b>Rita Brokaw</b></i>
<i><b>08/25</b></i>	<i><b>Mary Wright</b></i>
<i><b>08/31</b></i>	<i><b>Peggy Dietz</b></i>



*Continued from Page 1*

ters of a tradition, a legacy of inclusion and participation when it comes to worship and church involvement. There is great thrill and JOY! In this. When we look for opportunities in our daily life to engage someone in holy conversation or “God talk”, we stir our spiritual juices.

We have the greatest treasure to offer the world. God never gives up on us, never abandons us. We can be our authentic selves, modeling for those we encounter on the way who it is we follow and try to emulate. It is our baptismal gift, the calling that gives hope to the spiritually starving.

Don't you want to see them in church or at Bible study? Share Christ in word or deed. Know that the Holy Spirit is out in front, extending the hand of welcoming invitation to join in the journey of grace.

I will show up *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>08/04</i>	<i>Rich &amp; Elise Cognetti</i>	<i>63 yrs.</i>
<i>08/07</i>	<i>Charlie &amp; Marcia Meier</i>	<i>54 yrs.</i>
<i>08/08</i>	<i>Bob &amp; Joanne Kolch</i>	<i>45 yrs.</i>
<i>08/10</i>	<i>Edie &amp; Lee Stewart</i>	<i>68 yrs.</i>
	<i>Phil &amp; Glenda Lizak</i>	<i>40 yrs.</i>
<i>08/11</i>	<i>Scott &amp; Mary Farrell</i>	<i>52 yrs.</i>
	<i>Art &amp; Debbie Wuertz</i>	<i>41 yrs.</i>
<i>08/16</i>	<i>Kenneth &amp; Linda Erhardt</i>	<i>56 yrs.</i>
<i>08/17</i>	<i>Susan &amp; Dennis Zumbahlen</i>	<i>56 yrs.</i>
<i>08/27</i>	<i>David &amp; Cheryl Mitchell</i>	<i>42 yrs.</i>



# ***JOY!FORMATION***

## ***NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION***

**TUESDAY, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**Swenson Hall**

**Sessions last one hour.**

**You will find out all there is to know about your new church home!**

**We will receive new members in worship on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at whichever service you normally attend.**



**Join us at MAMA B's on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 8:15 am for breakfast, and fellowship.**

**Let's get together and talk!**



# FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY



ELCA  
World Hunger

## FIGHT HUNGER 2 WAYS IN 1 DAY

JOY! designates a special offering on the last Sunday of every month to alleviate world hunger. **ELCA World Hunger** supports 149 programs in the US (several right here in Florida), and in 63 countries. You may contribute using the envelope in your set of church envelopes or with a pew envelope with checks made out to Joy Lutheran Church.

**Interfaith Food Bank**—You can help fight hunger locally by donating non-perishable food next Sunday. The cart for the food bank will be in the Narthex. All the items are gathered and taken to Interfaith. Our second quarter donations (April-June) totaled 692 lbs. with 5 visits vs first quarter donations (also 5 visits) of 477 lbs. Every can, box or bag that is given helps someone who otherwise may not have a meal to sustain them.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and love.  
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

**AUGUST'S FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY  
IS ON THE 24th. THIS MONTH ONLY  
(The 31st is WELCA Sunday)**

## MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY:

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025** our **PROPERTY MINISTRY** will be having their Ministry highlighted before and after the worship service.

Be sure to stop by and see what they have been doing, and what they hope to do, this year. Perhaps there is an area where you can use your gifts in this ministry.

**Growing in Christian Faith takes  
PRACTICE!**

**Learn how...**

**Watch your bulletins for  
Weekly Tips**

## **EVANGELISM**

**Hospitality is the core of the Gospel.**

**Here at JOY!, greeters, ushers, and fellowship hosts all make this a warm, welcoming environment. Thank you for that!**

**Please continue the “personal ask” of inviting. Again, you folks are wonderful with that! It the most successful and effective way of growing the church. Follow up by giving them opportunities to connect with this spiritual community.**

**Listen for answers among the unchurched. We can change up how we transmit God’s grace in worship, service, and fellowship.**

**Spirit of the living God, lead us out wherever we are, to wherever you want us to be Amen.**

*Pastor Art*



*The Fall Fun Fest will be held Saturday. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Debbie Zander and Linda Aker will be handling the Jewelry Table for WELCA. Please go through your jewelry, early, and donate items for this sale. You can give your donations to either one of us for pricing ASAP. If the pricing is done well before the day of sale, it will make setting up so much easier. Thank you!*

*Linda Aker – [lindaleeaker@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaleeaker@yahoo.com) (352)291-7597 home  
(352)895-2473 cell*

*Debbie Zander – [zander0693@bellsouth.net](mailto:zander0693@bellsouth.net) (305)298-7089*



## COMING OUR WAY: LIFE SOUTH

The bloodmobile will be back on our campus on:

**Sunday, August 17, 2025,  
9:00 am—1:00 pm.**

You can be a lifesaver; actually you can save three lives with a single donation.

Walk-ins are always WELCOME!



# “HERO OF THE MONTH”

CHERYL BURCK

What has she done? “Only” this:

- \* spent 4-5 hours putting together 3-ring binders of the music we typically sing at Wednesday evening worship. It’s an ongoing project of hers.
- \* Is a newly trained member of our “Tech Deck”

Team

- \* serves as a worship assistant and usher
- \* Is a member of the JOY!ful Hands Quilters

Please join me in congratulating

Cheryl!





## BIBLE READINGS FOR AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
03-Aug	Ecclesiastes	PSALM	Colossians	Luke
	1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	49:1-12	3:1-11	12:13-21
10-Aug	Genesis	PSALM	Hebrews	Luke
	15:1-6	33:12-22	11:1-3, 8-16	12:32-40
17-Aug	Jeremiah	PSALM	Hebrews	Luke
	23:23-29	82	11:29--12:2	12:49-56
24-Aug	Isaiah	PSALM	Hebrews	Luke
	58:9b-14	103:1-8	12:18-29	13:10-17
31-Aug	Proverbs	PSALM	Hebrews	Luke
	25:6-7	112	13:1-8, 15-16	14:1, 7-14

**Choir rehearsals** will be starting on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, from 3-4:30PM. If you are interested in joining the choir, please come and join us. The choir will sing at 11:00AM services starting Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Aker, Choir director: email: [lindaleeaker@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaleeaker@yahoo.com)

tel. #: 352-291-7597 (home)

352-895-2473 (cell)



## **To: The True North Vacation Bible School Participants**



**A BIG Thank You for the Food Donations  
collected during your Camp Fire drive!  
Your generous donations of non-perishable  
food items weighed 124 pounds and were delivered to  
Interfaith Food Pantry on July 17 for those in need within  
Marion County.**

**GOOD JOB CAMPERS!  
You should be proud of yourselves!**

**Thank you,  
Doreen & Dave Robinson**





## OUTREACH

It's that time of year when, at least here in Florida, schools are getting ready to welcome students back into the classroom.

JOY has helped this along by collecting School Supplies to give to the Tools4Teaching Store.

During the *month of August*, our Outreach Room will be accepting donations. The list below is from their website.

### Are you interested in donating school supplies to the Tools 4 Teaching Store?

#### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE GLADLY WELCOMED AND ACCEPTED

**School Supplies** • Backpacks • Composition books • Flash drives • Loose leaf paper • Pocket folders • Calculators • Crayons • Highlighters • Markers • Protractors • #2 Pencils • Divider tabs • 3-hole punches • Pens • Rulers • Colored pencils • Dry erase markers • Index cards • Pencil cases • Scissors • Compasses • Erasers • Journals • Pencil sharpeners • Spiral notebooks

**Arts & Crafts** • Clay • Felt squares • Glue sticks • Paint brushes • Chalk • Construction paper • Foam • Oil pastels • Poster boards • Tissue paper • Drawing pencils • Glue bottles • Paint • Scrapbook paper • Water-colors

**Teaching Tools & Incentives** • Binder and paper clips • Copy paper • File folders • Promotional products • Tape and tape dispensers • Binders • Desk organizers

**Accessories** • Headphones • Staplers and staples • Tote bags • Bulletin boards • Ear buds – new • Sticky notes • Stickers • Toys and games (educational only)

**Hygiene Items & Cleaning Supplies** • Body wash • Deodorant • Hand sanitizer • Soap • Tissues • Cleaning wipe • Shampoo and conditioner • Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

## 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) (Current box users, please complete also.)

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☐

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]

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Print your full name/s



# August 2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Worship & Music 1PM –N Cleaning Svc 2-4
3 <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM	4 Member Care 2:30 PM	5 Beginners' Bible Study 11 AM	6 Joyful Hands 9AM  Worship Svc 5:30 PM	7 LMM– 8:00 AM Mama B's  Christian Ed-11A  Stewardship 3:00P	8	9  Cleaning 2-4PM
10 <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM	11	12 Property 10A  Beg BibleStudy 11AM  Finance 1 P	13 joyful Hands 9AM  Worship Svc 5:30 PM	14 Wear Gloves Lunch Share Outreach 1:30 PM Council Exec. 3 PM BC Ringers 6:30 P	15 TIDINGS DEADLINE	16  Cleaning 2-4PM
17 Ministry Awareness: Property <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM BLOOD DRIVE 9AM-1PM	18	19 Beg BibleStudy 11AM  Council 1 PM	20 Joyful Hands 9AM  Choir Practice 3-4:30 PM  Worship SVC 5:30 PM	21  BC Ringers 6:30 P	22	23  Cleaning 2-4PM
24 <b>World Hunger/Food Drive Sunday</b> <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM	25 Stephen M. 9:30AM	26 Beg BibleStudy -11Am	27 Joyful Hands 9AM Choir Practice 3-4:30 PM Worship SVC 5:30 PM	28 BC Ringers 6:30 P	29 Interfaith Dinner Share	30 Cleaning 2-4 PM
31 WELCA SUN. Last week for : <i>ONE SERVICE</i> 10:00 AM	<b>REMINDER:</b>  <b><i>NEXT SUNDAY, <u>SEPT. 7th</u></i></b> <b><i>WE RETURN TO <u>TWO SERVICES:</u></i></b> <b><i><u>8:15 AM AND 11:00 am</u></i></b>			<b><i>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for <u>copy ready articles</u> to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</i></b>  <b><i>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am</i></b> <b><i>Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</i></b>  <b><i>Thank you. Susan</i></b>		

Contact Us

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# AUGUST 2025

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

