

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2026

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



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

Dear JOY!ful Family,

Our daughter just came back from "D23", the Disney annual convention in Anaheim, CA. It's when they introduce all the new magical experiences that the "imagineers" have curated. From the attractions to the resorts to the cinema, the attendees got a sneak peak at what's about to be unveiled. As a cast member who books trip packages, it's helpful in a fun way to give guests some insider intel.

There is nothing magical about the kingdom of God. It is all true, divinely appointed and made in His good pleasure for our delight. The miracles that show His love go beyond what we can imagine. But we CAN and SHOULD imagine great things happening in our spiritual community! This is always a place of Good News being conveyed and shared – inspirational music, Holy Scripture, tears of relief and pain released, handshakes and hugs, peace, and the Meal. From those blessed gifts flow our giving. Returning grateful thanks to a God whose mercy and faithfulness endure forever.

Imagine.

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-Caroline Bernard

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President- Karin Campbell

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary- Linda Aker

Treasurer-Caroline Bernard

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



JOY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Birth Date List

Name (First Last)	Birth Date
Norman Halvorsen	09/01
Patti Groth	09/04
Hank Groth	09/08
Art Wuertz	09/09
Melissa Daniel	09/09
Paula Stevens	09/10
Earl Winblad	09/13
Robert Miller	09/15
John Brokaw	09/20
Kris Raica	09/21
Carolyn Salzlein	09/22
Jeanne Snyder	09/23
Grace Noble	09/23
Rita Cowan	09/26
Ruth Ann Silliman	09/26
Thomas Randall	09/26
Mary Ellen Saladino	09/27
J.R. Frederiksen	09/27
Sandy Wilson	09/27
Dick Charcalla	09/27
Paul Silliman	09/30

Continued from Page 1

A place that is not magical but miraculous. Not an echo of culture, because the good Lord knows we get enough of that! A place where prayers are heard and everybody is somebody welcomed with Holy Spirit hospitality. We are endowed with all that is necessary to further kingdom growth, including creativity and imagination. We may not blow the doors off like Disney World or even Meadowbrook Church, but maybe we'll realize the potential of what can be offered in and through our unique selves. I regularly hear stories that confirm God's approving nod and winking eye upon us. I encourage everyone to PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for the vision of our physical spaces open up to our internal and external community. Blessing and touching lives.

Imagine.

That's how a cartoon mouse became a sensation. Walt himself couldn't have known how big Mickey would become. God knows how big our Biblical heroes could become by faith and grace. *I'll see you in church!* **Pastor Art**

Happy Anniversary

Name(s)	Marriage Date	Years Married
Lee & Dorie Bay	09/06	57
Terri & (Rich) Feeley	09/09	59
William & Kathy Berlin	09/14	58
Ed & Linda Lushbaugh	09/18	55
Dennis & Nancy Christianson	09/20	57
Jill & (Al) Davis	09/20	28
Lynneer & Rebecca Spees	09/25	56
Anne & (John) Burkett	09/29	36

Campus Improvement NEWS

The actual “work” work will be starting on September 26. There will be a JOY work session to empty the garage of anything and everything that has collected over the years and no longer needed. The goal is to clean the storage side (as compared to the garden side) so that the floor is cleared before the drywall contractor can install the ceiling and insulation. There are also items in Swenson Hall that will be removed and disposed of to start making preparations for the planned work in Swenson Hall.

Ken Erhardt has identified the JOY garden tools that will be retained. All duplicates or unused garden tools will be given to anyone interested. The same for the hand tools. All will be laid out on the driveway in front of the garage for treasure hunters. The next step will be the dumpster. Anyone that has stuff stored in the garage, for any reason, must be there to guard your stuff or identify what needs to be saved beforehand.

Here are some of the items in jeopardy of losing space in the garage: power tools, garden tools, deep-fryers and kitchen appliances, poster board signs, outdated records, games and equipment, odd electronic paraphernalia, banners, folding chairs & tables,

The Gathering Hall floor plan has been established to the level that a solid preliminary construction estimate can be generated. The site development design is progressing and will, likewise, get to the point where a preliminary construction estimate can be made. These two estimates will include the new Gathering Hall, the sewage collection system, the expansion of the storm water retention pond, and the paving (overlay only) improvements and provide the basis to establish our budget moving forward.

Just Imagine

The Holy Spirit is stirring imagination at Joy Lutheran. Leaders are dreaming, plans are forming, and new possibilities for 2027 are coming into view. It's an exciting season for our church.

**Imagine what God can do through us.
Imagine what God can do through you.
Just Imagine.**

Be part of it — join us for the

**Imagination Celebration Dinner!
Sunday, October 4 • 4:00pm • The Lodge at Candler
Hills.**

**Free tickets available at all services beginning
September 2.**

**You'll also be able to complete your 2027 commitment
card at the event.**

**Your giving keeps Joy moving — supporting worship,
staff, music, utilities, technology, study materials,
campus care, outreach, missions, and faith building
programs.**

BIBLE STUDY WITH CHARLIE

Starting: **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH** at 1PM in the Narthex

Exodus Leviticus

Study the Books of Exodus and Leviticus, beginning with Moses's story and ending with the priests and their duties. Some of the major ideas explored are: Passover and exodus, covenant laws, instructions carried out, worship and laws.

Participants will need:

Exodus Leviticus by [Keith Schoville](#) (Author)



The book is available at :
Amazon, Barnes and Noble,
Christian Books, Target, Walmart
Prices start at \$13.98.

Registration is Now Open for the Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

November 13-15, 2026

Join your sisters from across Florida as we welcome the Holy Spirit to refresh and renew our souls with worship, Bible study, workshops, fellowship and fun! Pastor Jen Moore, Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers, and Vicar Dori Dunham, recent seminary graduate and WELCA Scholarship recipient, will lead us in worship and Bible study. Many workshops—including crafts—will be available and new this year—interactive devotional rooms to connect you with the Holy Spirit. As we gather on a Friday the 13th, we will enjoy a fun event on Saturday night with other “spirits” and WELCA spirit everywhere—costumes optional!

For more info and to register, visit

<https://www.flwelca.com/2026-fall-gathering>.

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:
SEPTEMBER 27th.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

JOY Lutheran's donations to Interfaith Food Pantry

Oct - Dec 2025 = 330 Lbs

Jan – Mar 2026 = 435 Lbs

Apr – Jun 2026 = 496 Lbs

Jul – Present = 106 Lbs

Current Totals = 1,367 Lbs

Popular Items needed:

Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Toilet Paper &
Canned Goods



The Interfaith Food Pantry is the recipient of the non-perishable food items that are donated during our Fight Hunger Sundays.

IT'S THAT TIME!



The 2027 donation boxes are being ordered. Do you wish to use the numbered weekly envelopes? If YES you need to RSVP by September 11th to ensure your box. Responses should be to our treasurer, Caroline, by phone to 352-854-4509 x4, or email to joyocalafl@gmail.com. Thank you.

A REMINDER TO ALL MINISTRY CHAIRS

It is that time of the year again when the Annual Reports for each ministry as well as Council need to be turned in. I will need all reports (with financials where applicable included) to me by no later than September 21st.

Annual Report has to be prepared, printed, and available to the congregation for the week of October the 11th.

Thank You. Susan



THANK YOU for helping me save cancelled stamps!! I send them to Nesbyen, Norway where they are cleaned, sorted, and sold to stamp collectors all over the world. The money earned goes to help children with TB (adults too) wherever they live.

We have done this since 1929.

**(I have been collecting cancelled stamps
for over 60 years—cannot stop!)**

There is a collection bin for the stamps in the Outreach Room.

Thank you for helping me!!!

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
06-Sep	EZEKIEL	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	33:7-11	119:33-40	13:8-14	18:15-20
13-Sep	GENESIS	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	50:15-21	103:[1-7] 8-13	14:1-12	18: 21-35
20-Sep	JONAH	PSALM	PHILLIPIANS	MATTHEW
	3:10--4:11	145:1-8	1:21-30	20:1-16
27-Sep	EZEKIEL	PSALM	PHILLIPIANS	MATTHEW
	18:1-4, 25-32	25:1-9	2:1-13	21:23-22



**“The blood mobile is coming!
The blood mobile is coming!”**

The LifeSouth Blood Mobile will be on our campus
on *Sunday, September 13th from 7:30-1:00 pm*

Once again we are hoping to reach the magic number of 15 to
be eligible for the grant that LifeSouth is offering.

Our last blood drive was a success! Let's do it again.

You can save three lives with a single donation.

Walk-ins are always welcome; appointments are encouraged.

If you are a first time donor, remember
to bring your identification with you.



22nd Annual Blessing of the Animals



JOY Lutheran
Church
7045 SW 83rd Place
Off Hwy 200—Ocala, FL

**Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:00 am
in our Memorial Garden**

**"All creatures great and small "
are welcome to our Garden.**

***"If you bring them, we will bless
them!"***

**Any questions please call
Terry Owen
@ 717-571-9752 Animal Blessing Chairperson**

The Next Movement

Seasons of JOY Concert Series

2026-27 Season Schedule

Swing Theory Jazz - Sep. 13, 2026

Gainesville-based ensemble that plays, jazz, swing, and more.

Uniqulele - October 18, 2026

Incredible ukelele ensemble from OTOW that plays anything but the typical ukelele music.

Hoggtowne Bronze - November 29, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Advanced community handbell ensemble from Gainesville.

A JOYful Christmas Celebration - December 20, 2026

Our sixth annual Christmas concert!

Aisling Grove - January 3, 2027

Based in Jacksonville, this group will scratch your Irish/Celtic itch.

The Smith Brothers Band - February 21, 2027

Music for the ages with a local Ocala band.

Jeff Shanks - March 7, 2027

Not only is he a pastor, he is also a gifted singer, guitarist, and songwriter!

Suncoast Bronze Ringers - April 18, 2027, 5:00 p.m.

Advanced community handbell ensemble based in Tampa returns to Joy.

Heart of Florida Barbershop Chorus - May 23, 2027, 4:00 p.m.

Superior men's barbershop chorus based in The Villages.

Joshua L. Mazur - June 6, 2027

A special organ recital to be presented by the director of the Ocala Symphony Chorus.

Elena Daniel - July 18, 2027

Debut concert by one of Joy Lutheran's emerging talents!

All events are free and open to the public. Reception follows each concert.

Unless otherwise noted, concerts begin at 3:00 p.m.

Joy Lutheran Church - 7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476

LOOKING AHEAD...

OCTOBER:

**Saturday, October 3rd, 11:00 am
“22nd Blessing of the Animals”**



**Sunday, October 4th, 4:00 pm:
“IMAGINATION CELEBRATION”
at The Lodge at OTOW**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JOY:

E-mail: joyocalafl@gmail.com

Web Site: www.joylcocala.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

Joy Blog:

<https://joyocala.blog>

Photos & Videos to:

Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com



JOY Lutheran
Church

**Thinking about becoming a member of Joy?
Would you like to learn more about us?**

Join us for ...

JOY!FORMATION

Class Dates

Tuesdays, September 15 & 22

7:00–8:30 pm • Swenson Hall

Please plan to attend both classes



SEPTEMBER

2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH) Tutoring 3:30-5:30 P (SH) W&M 6:30P (N)	2 Joyful Hands 9A CE 1 PM (SH) WELCA EXEC 12 P JOY Choir 3-4:30 P (s) Worship Svc. 6:30P	3 Publicity 1P (N) Stewardship 3P BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	4 "Holy Hiatus" 7P (OC) Cleaning Service 1-3 P	5 Service Susan Holmes 2P
6 Worship Service 10:00 A	7 OFFICE IS CLOSED Member Care 1P (SH)	8 Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH) Property 10 A (SH) Finance 1 PM Tutoring 3:30-5:30 P (SH)	9 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Palms Trimmed 9:30 A (JC) Choir 3-4:30 (S) Worship Svc 6:30P	10 Wear Gloves Lunch Share (OC) Outreach 1:30P (SH) Council Exec Bd 3PM (SH) BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	11 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	12 Worship Assistants Meeting 9A (S)
13 Worship Service 8:15 & 11 AM Life South Blood Drive 7:30-1:00 Concert 3PM	14 Stephen Ministry 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Charlie 1P (N)	15 Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH) Council 1P Tutoring 3:30-5:30 P (SH) JOY!formation 7P	16 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Choir 3-4:30P (S) Worship Svc 6:30P	17 BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	18 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	19
20 Worship Service 8:15 & 11 AM	21 Bible Study w/ Charlie 1P (N)	22 Beginners' Bible Study 11A Tutoring 3:30-5:30 P (SH) JOY!formation 7P	23 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Choir 3-4:30P(S) Worship Svc. 6:30P(S)	24 LifeLine Screening 8:00-5:30 BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	25 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	26
27 Worship Service 8:15 & 11 AM New Member Sun. Fight Hunger	28 Stephen Ministry 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Charlie 1P (N)	29 Interfaith Dinner Share (OC) Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH) Pineland Ministers Mtg. 12 Noon	30 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Off Key Choral- 1:30-2:30 (S) Choir 3-4:30P(S) Worship Svc 6:30 P	<i>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for <u>copy ready</u> articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</i> <i>Bulletin deadline is <u>Monday 8:00 am</u></i> <i>Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</i> <i>Thank you.</i> <i>Susan</i>		

Contact Us

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Ocala, FL 34476

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email: joyocalafl@gmail.com

www.joyncocala.org

www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

<https://joyocala.blog>



SEPTEMBER

Our vision:

***“Joy is a spiritual community sharing
the love of Christ in a challenging
world”.***

