

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2025

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



Dear JOYful Family,

Sometimes I must remind myself that even though this newsletter is primarily for our members, it can also be shared with people we might invite to be a part of us. Many Jesus followers are waiting for the personal "ask". They are seeking a spiritual community. This month will be one of 3-4 times a year that we present JOY!Formation for these folks. We wonder along with them: What do they see happening in their spiritual growth as lived out in our congregation?

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: JOY!FORMATION

**Tuesday, September 9 th , 16 th , & 23 rd , 7:00 P.M.
SWENSON HALL**

**Where do your passions meet the world's needs?
That's a far better approach than trying to plug newbies into church slots.**

Our Christ-like ministry is to tend to the emotionally spent and distraught, the spiritually empty, the lost and lonely. We are NOT a culture unto ourselves. I am trying to steer

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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
09/01	<i>Norman Halvorsen</i>
09/02	<i>Shirley Matz</i>
09/08	<i>Hank Groth</i>
09/09	<i>Art Wuertz</i>
	<i>Melissa Daniel</i>
09/10	<i>Paula Stevens</i>
09/13	<i>Earl Winblad</i>
09/15	<i>Robert Miller</i>
09/20	<i>John Brokaw</i>
09/21	<i>Kris Raica</i>
09/22	<i>Carolyn Salzlein</i>
09/23	<i>Grace Noble</i>
	<i>Jeanne Snyder</i>
09/26	<i>Rita Cowan</i>
	<i>Ruth Ann Silliman</i>
	<i>Thomas Randall</i>
09/27	<i>Dick Charcalla</i>
	<i>J.R. Frederiksen</i>
09/30	<i>Paul Silliman</i>



Continued from Page 1

us more toward the concept that we are about spiritual disciplines of study, worship, confession and forgiveness, discernment, fellowship, and mission. Always, we should strive to make our vision statement our compass for all that that we create, imagine, and do.

What is our purpose? What do we value? More to the point, how do others perceive this about us? i.e., what is their purpose? What do they value? If we aren't sure of those answers or like those answers, then we have more work to do. Thanks be to God He isn't done re-forming us!

I pray that each of us will experience and feel the question that the travelers on the road to Emmaus asked themselves on the day of Jesus' resurrection when the light bulb went off over their heads: "Were not our hearts burning within us?" (Luke 24:32).

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



DATE	NAME	No. of
09/06	Dorie & Lee Bay	56
09/09	Terri & Rich Feeley	58
09/14	William & Kathy Berlin	57
09/20	Jill & Al Davis	27
	Dennis & Nancy Christianson	56
09/25	Lynneer & Rebecca Spees	55
09/29	Anne & John Burkett	35



JOY!FORMATION

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

TUESDAY, September 9th, 16th and 23nd 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 28th at whichever service you normally attend.



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.

**SEPTEMBER FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY IS:
SEPTEMBER 28th**

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ MUSIC MINISTRY MEETING ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary

**If you are participating in
(or are interested in participating in):**

- the JOY Choir,
- the JOY Handbell Choir,
- this year's Christmas concert

it is very important for you to attend this meeting.

**If you have any questions, please see
Silas or Melissa Daniel.**

2026 Election of Church Council Members

It is time again to nominate church members to serve for three years on the Church Council. There will be four vacancies to fill for the period 2026-2028. The Nominating Committee has been formed to develop a slate of church members to possibly serve on the Church Council as determined by vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting in November. If you would like to be considered for one of the four vacancies or would like to recommend someone to serve, please advise

Nominating Committee Chairman Jim Kuzmanovich,
kuz@wfu.edu, 352-817-0852 by September 2, 2025.

FAMILY FUN DAY UPDATE:

**We would like to inform you that due to
unforeseen circumstances**

**The FAMILY FUN DAY
scheduled for October 4th**

HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Growing in Christian Faith requires PRACTICE

Gratitude, generosity, sacrifice, and faithfulness are central themes in biblical teachings. These principles shape Christian life, presenting them as essential virtues in a believer's life and guiding believers toward a deeper relationship with God and others.

This year our Stewardship message will center on
GENEROSITY.

Generosity includes:

- * Gratitude
- * Kindness
- * Forgiveness
- * Compassion
- * Serving
- * Giving when it's inconvenient
- * Trusting in God's provision

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." *Malachi 3:10*

Let the floodgates open at JOY!

Take a step to increase your generosity.

Consider increasing your giving in 2026.

Please make your commitment on Sunday, October 12.

Live and give generously. See what God will do.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

COUNCIL

Ray Ihlenburg

Dear JOY Members,

JOY!BLAST Is Here

We've launched JOY!BLAST—a new way to keep everyone informed. Expect occasional texts or calls with important messages. No spam, just the essentials. Stay connected with JOY!

Council Nominations Open

The Nominating Committee is now considering candidates for Church Council. If you'd like to nominate someone—or feel called to serve on the Council—please speak with Jim Kuzmanovich, Shirley Rents, Hank Groth, Jerry Wieland, Lynn Ihlenburg, or me by September 2.

Spiritual Gifts

Pastor Wayne Kofink will be leading a class to help us determine where our Spiritual Gifts truly lie. There is a limited number of seats in each class and the first class of 14 is full, however advance reservations for the next class, possibly in October are being taken after the Sunday morning services.

Keep JOY Beautiful

After years of service, our loyal ground keepers, Ken and Hank must retire. Following the Property Ministry Sunday, we have some wonderful people sign up to form the nucleus of our Adopt-A-Bed program to keep the grounds looking nice. The landscaping beds around the sanctuary have been divided into nine segments. It would be great if volunteers would consider adopting a bed to keep their bed weeded. Most of the time, the weeds and grass in the beds are sprayed because pulling is just not worth the effort. We are considering using a vinegar-based home brew that does a good job and is eco-friendly. Also, soon there will be a call for a work day to trim all the shrubs. Consider helping preserve the beauty of Joy by adopting a bed or participating in the upcoming work day.

Blessings,

Ray

BIBLE READINGS FOR *SEPTEMBER* 2025

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
07-Sep	Deuteronomy	Psalm	Philemon	Luke
	30: 15-20	1	1-21	14:25-33
14-Sep	Exodus	Psalm	1 Timothy	Luke
	32:7-14	51:1-10	1:12-17	15:1-10
21-Sep	Amos	Psalm	1 Timothy	Luke
	8:4-7	113	2:1-7	16:1-13
28-Sep	Amos	Psalm	1 Timothy	Luke
	6:1a, 4-7	146	6:6-19	16:19-31



"Bible Study with...Charlie"

Starting: Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1 PM.

Class will meet in the Narthex.

TITLE: PARABLES by JOSH SCOTT

When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the Kingdom of God. This book explores six parables that give us a window into Jesus's message and movement, and, once they are heard in their own context, ask what they might mean for us today. Parables include: the New Wine and Wineskins, the Mustard Seed, the Leaven, the Wedding Party, the Workers in the Vineyard, and the Wicked Tenants.

You will need to purchase the book: "PARABLES"

The book is available at Amazon, Walmart, Christianbooks, and at Barnes & Noble.



Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

2025-26 Season

A New Musical Adventure

The “Amazing” Steel Drum Ensemble



Join us when we welcome The “Amazing” Steel Drum Ensemble back to the stage! Featuring the tropical sounds of authentic steel drums! Program will include a variety of selections

from a repertoire that spans traditional island songs, jazz, Jimmy Buffet, The Beatles, and patriotic songs. Love offering proceeds will go to support the programs and efforts of the Hernando-based Good Spirit Foundation (parent organization of the Amazing Steel Drum Ensemble) which provides numerous services including counseling, camps, life skills and entrepreneurship training, and digital and musical opportunities.

September 28, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)

Free Admission. Reception follows concert.

ATTENTION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS!

Are you currently assisting worship service in some way? Are you wondering what assisting at worship is all about?

We have the answers for you.

A WORSHIP ASSISTANT WORKSHOP

**Is being held on
Saturday, September 6, 2025
at 10:00 am in Swenson Hall.**

We will cover everything you need to know about making the worship service run smoothly.

Join us for an interactive morning.

DONATIONS:

The time to order the donation envelopes is fast approaching.

If you would like to use the weekly numbered envelopes and have not let us know of your decision, please contact Terry Owen at 352-854-4509 x 4 or by email to joyocalafl@gmail.com

A New Musical Adventure

Seasons of JOY Concert Series

2025-26 Season Schedule

The “Amazzing” Steel Drum Ensemble - Sep. 28, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Hold on to the summer for one more weekend!

The Gainesville Brass Quintet - October 26, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Encore concert by Gainesville’s premiere brass ensemble.

Brick City Ringers - November 16, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Ocala-based community handbell ensemble.

A JOYful Christmas Celebration - December 21, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Joy’s Fifth Annual Christmas Concert!

Dr. John Behnke - January 25, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Organ lovers rejoice!

Gainesville Area Clarinet Choir - February 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Meet almost the entire clarinet family in one afternoon.

Paul Hyatt - March 22, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Joy’s very own bass-baritone extraordinaire returns to the stage!

Raresong - April 26, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Return to the renaissance with period dress and instruments.

Magic of Bronze - May 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Advanced community handbell ensemble from Orlando.

John Wilkinson - May 31, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Talented and passionate singer and pianist from northeast Florida.

The Stompers - June 14, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Dixieland group straight out of The Villages, Florida.

Happy Day in Paris - July 19, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Our hometown duo, accordionist Ray and multi-instrumentalist Janet resume their *tour d’Europe*.

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

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

JOY



2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY <u>OFFICE IS</u> <u>CLOSED</u>	2 Beginners' Bible Study 11 AM	3 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM	4 LMM- 8:15 AM CE MINISTRY 11AM NOM COM-11 AM STEWARDSHIP-3 PM BCR-6:30 PM-S	5	6 Worship Assistants Workshop - 10 AM SH Cleaning Svc 2-4
7 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM Music Ministry Mtg 9:45 AM	8 Stephen M. 9:30AM Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N	9 Property 10 AM Beginners' Bible Study 11 AM Finance 1 PM New Memb Orient. 7PM	10 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM	11 Wear Gloves Lunch Share Outreach 1:30 PM Council Exec. Bd 3 PM BCR-6:30 PM-S	12 BELL CHOIR-10 AM	13 Cleaning 2-4PM
14 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM	15 Tidings Deadline 8A Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N	16 Beg BibleStudy 11AM Council 1 PM New Memb Orient. 7PM	17 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM WELCA Bd 12 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM	18 BCR 6:30 P M-S	19 BELL CHOIR-10 AM	20 Spiritual Gifts 10 AM-SH Cleaning 2-4PM
21 PUBLICITY- Ministry Awareness WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM	22 Stephen M. 9:30AM Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N	23 Beg BibleStudy 11AM New Memb Orient. 7PM	24 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM	25 BCR 6:30 PM-S	26 BELL CHOIR-10 AM	27 Spiritual Gifts 10 AM-SH Cleaning 2-4PM
28 FIGHT HUNGER SUN New Member Sunday WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM CONCERT 3:00PM	29 Interfaith Dinner Share Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N	30 Beg BibleStudy -11Am	<div> <p>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for <u>copy ready</u> articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</p> <p>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am</p> <p>Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</p> <p>Thank you. Susan</p> </div>			

Contact Us

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SEPTEMBER 2025

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

