



Tidings of Joy

"Joyfully Reaching Out to Others in Christian Love and Service"
Joy Lutheran Church, ELCA



Volume 35, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2019

Staff

The Rev. John David Bryant - Pastor
Steven K. Weiss – Organist
Brenda Godson – Church Secretary

Worship Times:

Sunday

10:00a.m. Worship Service

8:45a.m. Adult Sunday School

Children's Education Time
(During the Sermon)

Tuesday December 24th

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
7:00pm**

Saturday December 28th

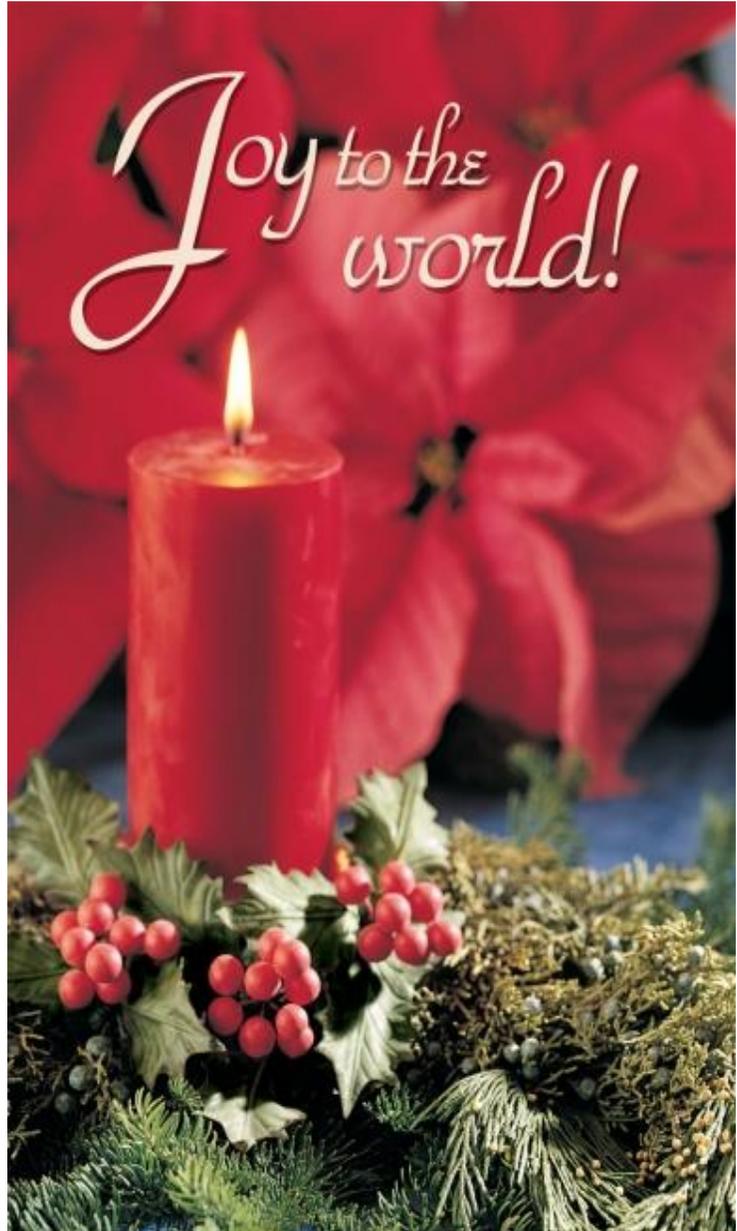
5:30p.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(Prayer and Praise)

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Pastor's Email Address:
prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com



"Office Hours: Weds and Thurs 9am-2pm and by appointment. It is strongly suggested to call ahead before dropping by. Pastor is off on Mondays except for last week of month, when Friday is day off. Best means to contact pastor is 321-312-7339 or pjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."

ADVENT NIGHT

December 8th

A Potluck Supper (bring your favorite dish) sponsored by the Fellowship Committee, starting at 5:30pm. The meal will be followed by tree decorating and (caroling?).



CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND



Because it stays green all through the year, the evergreen tree is symbolic of the eternal life offered to Christians through faith in Christ.

The treetop points up to heaven.

A star signifies the star which guided the Wise men to Bethlehem.

The lights represent Christ, the "Light of the World."

Gifts beneath the tree are representative of God's gift of his only begotten son, who brings Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00pm



DECEMBER 13th-at 2:00pm St. Lucia Day- Service

This is a Swedish Tradition, something new that Joy has not before celebrated.

St. Lucia's Day, festival of lights celebrated in Sweden, Norway, and the Swedish-speaking areas of Finland on December 13th in honor of St. Lucia (St. Lucy). One of the earliest Christian martyrs, St. Lucia was killed by the Romans in 304AD because of her religious beliefs. (*Encyclopedia Britannica*)



The Pastor's Corner

Pr. J. David Bryant

For questions or topic ideas
Email: prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

'Tis the season to be mindful. Holidays are something else. For some, it's like a Publix commercial with a perfectly cooked feast spreading in all directions. For some, it's like a piddling Charlie Brown Christmas tree. Occasionally, some are over-the-moon with joy. Occasionally, some are down-in-the dumps. Sometimes, we might prove to be a combination of all these scenarios and maybe even a few more.

My gift to you this Christmas is a recipe for meaningful holidays. It does not require you to stock a single grocery item. It does, however, require that you take stock of yourself.

Pr. Bryant's recipe for meaningful holidays is this:

1. Stay centered. Jesus is "the reason for the season." It's all about Jesus. You are not the hub around which everything revolves, not organizing, not gift wrapping, not tree trimming. Sure, those things are great, but are they central? Since everything centers on Jesus, make space for conversation, community, and memory-making. These will mean more in future days than the perfect picture of the tree taken before the cats discover it.
2. Set boundaries. It's wise to know when enough is enough. It's wise to know when to take a step back, to unplug, to unwind, to say "No." Studies show that it's even wise to unplug the bright lights 30 minutes before bedtime so that our minds settle.
3. Watch out for expectations. Often expectations, and particularly those around holidays, can prove themselves to be premeditated resentments. Each holiday is unique. No two are exactly alike. If we measure one holiday by another, our expectations can rob us of discovering new joys and encountering new blessings. We can unintentionally sabotage holidays for self and others by having expectations, especially if those expectations are not communicated, or if others are given no voice in their creation. Others are not responsible for our holiday happiness. We are responsible for making the most of our situation.
4. Limit social media consumption. Social Media is a good thing that can have a bad effect. It can inadvertently cause us to we measure our life, our holiday, and our experience against that of others. It can make us focus on others in such a way that can result in us thinking poorly of ourselves. You have a life unique and specific to you. You also have holidays unique and specific to you. Just because Instagram shows some else having a holiday that seems good to them, it doesn't mean that your good holiday is the poorer for it.
5. Gift yourself. You are worth a gift fit for a king or queen. Give yourself the chocolate doughnut, the pedicure, the hockey tickets, the Disney+ channel, or whatever your heart desires that you can reasonably afford. Self-care is important. Celebrate the gift that is you. (my 2019 Christmas gift to self will be "cheese stars" ---holiday favorites of my childhood)

(Pastor's Corner continued)

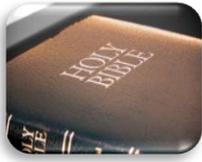
6. Decorate to suit yourself. Not up for a tree. Why not hang an ornament from the ceiling fan pull gussied up with some garland? Up for a tree? Go ahead and indulge yourself. Only want a poinsettia? Go for it. What brings us joy is not always what brings another joy.

7. Know your needs. If cooking is your thing, but you find yourself trapped in the kitchen with "that person," why not have your favorite holiday music playing in the background? Wouldn't it be better to focus on Bing Crosby's voice rather than the voice who keeps reminding you that you don't do like they do it over in Pensacola? And, never underestimate the power of aromas. Step into a room away from the bedlam, perhaps where a lavender candle is lit. Breathe. Rest. Enjoy a glass of sauvignon blanc or hot cuppa. As said to me by a friend, I say to you, "You do you, Boo." Get what you need in healthy ways and you lessen the likelihood of getting what you need in unhealthy ways.

8. And, if all else fails, refer back to number one. The point of Christmas, and holiday hullabaloo, isn't about pumpkin rolls, perfected sauces, or Gevalia Royal Vinter. It's about Jesus, without whom, the rest would prove meaningless.

God bless you---
JDB+

Lectionary "A" for December 2019



Gospel Readings

December 1st Matthew 24:36-44

December 8th Matthew 3:1-12

December 15th Matthew 11:2-11

December 22nd ... Matthew 1:18-25

December 29th ... John 1:1-18

Saturday Night Pilgrim Journey Service December 28th @ 5:30pm

The Saturday evening Pilgrim Journey service format is a more informal worship service of prayer and praise. It will also be followed by a PIZZA FELLOWSHIP.

Prayer - Praise - Pizza

When you arrive for the service at 5:30 pm there will be a sign up for pizza. There is no charge, but we ask that you think about a donation of just \$1 a slice. There will be a choice of toppings. Just let us know how many slices you want and what kind, and we will place the order and it will be ready after the service.

Tea and lemonade will be provided, else bring your own beverage.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA
JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 7, 2019
12:00 p.m.
Olive Garden restaurant on 192
Sign-up sheet in narthex



Order forms and envelopes will be provided in the bulletin and/or in the narthex.

Cost will be ~\$8 per plant.

NOTE: Please be sure to take your poinsettias home, following Christmas Eve service on December 24th.



WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study
will not be meeting in December.



Sunday School

Elementary age children will be dismissed, on Sunday, for class following Kid Talk.

We can always use additional teachers. If you want to be part of this rewarding experience, please let Chris Allebaugh know! We'd love to have you!

Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **December 19th at noon**. All are welcome, especially those 55 and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Lunch will be potluck, so please bring a dish to share (your choice of meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert).

Always check Sunday's bulletin for any changes.



January 26, 2020
12:00 p.m.
(Following the Service)



BACKPACK PROGRAM

"BREAD OF LIFE" BACKPACK PROGRAM

The "2019-2020 School Year" has begun. The "Bread of Life" backpack program for Turner Elementary School is a wonderful outreach to our community. So please be generous in your monetary donations, as we provide food for **seven** families each weekend. The cost is about \$175 per week.

Thank you everyone for your donations and helping with the packing and delivery of the backpacks.

See Charlotte Abrahams for any further details concerning this great program.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION



A Big "Thank You" goes out to Ken Wolf for the free lawn service that he has so faithfully provided for us.



DAILY BREAD, INC.

We thank God for the opportunity we have to serve our neighbor through the Daily Bread ministry at JOY.

The need for what we often take for granted, food and basic necessities, is evident in the ministry of Daily Bread.

† Warm meals at a soup kitchen: Whether people are looking for refuge from the streets or a little extra help to get by, a warm meal and a seat at the table can go a long way.

† Daily Bread serves meals to people in need. They also help connect people to resources they need, addressing long term needs and overcoming hunger and poverty and homelessness.

JOY Lutheran Church Team serves hot meals the 4th Friday (**Dec. 27th**) of each month from 10:45 to 1:30 p.m. Please contact Elaine Heine (215-7928) or Connie Steinhorst (725-6391) if you can help. Thanks to each of you for your support of this ministry. Please remember, **DAILY BREAD** depends on volunteers.

GOD'S PANTRY

The mission of God's Pantry is to reduce hunger in Florida through community outreach.

Pat Gorski spoke to us November 10th on God's Pantry.

She would like to thank the members of Joy, for your support of God's Pantry, with your **Thank Offerings of \$349.**

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

After nearly a year of meetings with audio consultants, purchasing new mixer, amplifier, and speakers, our 1980's sound system has been brought up to date. Its debut on Christ the King Sunday met with good reviews. We will be making some minor tweaks as we learn the new system, so be patient. But we hope that everyone appreciates our updated audio system and the hard work in putting it together. Thank you to everyone that supported this project and provided additional needed funds.





JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



DECEMBER 7th – 12:00 noon WELCA Christmas luncheon: Olive Garden, Melbourne, Florida. All ladies are invited, bring a friend, a neighbor or sister. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can let Olive Garden know how many to expect.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!

JANUARY 11, 2020 – 10:00 please come, all ladies of JOY are welcome. Election of new officers and setting agenda for 2020

FEBRUARY 18, 2020 – Lutheran World Relief (LWR), quilts, soap, health kits picked up & taken to St. Timothy for LWR truck to Maryland.

APRIL 25, 2020 – Spacecoast Conference Spring Gathering at Our Saviors', Vero Beach, Florida. There will be more information to come.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Ruth Circle (Craft circle) – No meeting in December

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – No meeting in December

Dorcas Circle (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00 – Will not meet Christmas week

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00 – Will not meet Christmas week



Thanks to all of you who helped with the Annual Christmas Craft Festival fundraiser in November. Our sale was very successful due to all of the support by our ladies who contributed and worked faithfully and to our congregation and community. A large percentage of our sales was from the Silent Auction that you were all generous to participate in, this included the lovely Dorcas Circle quilts and the beautiful gift baskets. The hotdogs made by the Men's Group are always a big hit, as well as the Bake Sale and White Elephant Sale. Our WELCA ladies' craft circle, Ruth Circle, contributed many handmade items. The local businesses were very supportive with gift cards for in the baskets and the extras were auctioned off as well. Emma's Florist contributed a floral arrangement, Chick-Fil-A made a basket. The Car Show was amazing – thank you Corvette owners. Our Boy Scouts multi-tasked and generously helped the whole day. Many helped put the church back together for Sunday morning worship. So, a very BIG Thank You for your time and energy.



Angel Tree. WELCA and Social Ministry are sponsoring an Angel Tree for children at Turner Elementary School. The tags for the children will be hung on the tree. Please take a name.

Bahamas Synodical Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering at Lake Yale Baptist Retreat Center

Five ladies from JOY attended the Florida-Bahamas Synod WELCA Fall Gathering at Lake Yale, Florida (near Leesburg) on Veterans Day weekend. The weekend was filled with Bible Study, Worship Services, Workshops with more Bible Studies, crafts, health, financial, choir, women and justice issues for discussion and more. The ladies are already looking forward to next year.



JOY CORE VALUES

Worship: Joyfully experiencing Christ through word, music, sacrament and prayer

Property: Providing the physical means to fulfill the spiritual needs of church and community

Outreach: Extending Christ's compassion and care to others

Fellowship: Enjoying each other's company

Welcoming: There is a place at Joy for everyone

Education: Getting to know the Word

Relationships: Everyone is worthy of care and respect

2019 Church Council

Pastor - Rev. John David Bryant

President – Karen Runk

Vice President – Melody Shaffer

Secretary - Kelly Arner

Treasurer - Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary - Linda Kratzer

Council Members at Large:

Renee Harper

Bob Getter

Wahneeta Ryckman

Ray Shaffer

Barbara Sparks

Connie Thorman

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER UPDATE

I would like to thank the Congregation, the Church Council and Pastor Bryant for supporting our annual Holiday Festival and a very special thank you to Gunner Heim for organizing the fantastic car show (29 cars, WOW!!!!) and to all the men of the church for their hard work of moving all the chairs from the sanctuary, setting up all the vendors tables and then putting everything back in place. A Thank You also to Blessed Redeemer Church and to the Masonic Lodge for loaning us tables. This Festival could not have happened without all the love and support shown to WELCA. We know it caused a few inconveniences and we do apologize and appreciate everyone's understanding.

The Festival was a HUGE success!! The final amount raised is \$3,560.90!!! Of course, we have expenses to come off that total, but with the support given to WELCA we will be able to continue our support to Lutheran World Relief, our local charities and our obligations to the Synodical Women's Organization and of course Joy Lutheran Church.

Here is an itemized list of the proceeds from our Festival:

SILENT AUCTION:

Gift Baskets.	\$1,214.00
Gift Cards.	\$ 200.00
Quilts.	\$ 542.00
Painting & Floral Arrangement	\$ 65.00
Donation.	\$ 25.00
Vendor Fees.	\$ 405.00
Total.	\$ 2,451.00

WELCA

Crafts.	\$ 359.75
Knitting and Crochet. Items.	\$ 44.00
Bake Sale.	\$ 189.75
Total.	\$ 593.50

Hot Dog Sale.	\$ 285.30
160 Hot Dogs	
3 cases of soda	
2 cases of water	

White Elephant Sale. \$232.10

Grand total. \$3,570.90

Plans are already being made for the 2020 Festival. We have 6 returning vendor applications returned and additional plans for the car show.

Respectfully submitted
Marjorie Maenpaa
President, JOY WELCA

We care about you!



If you so desire, please let us know when you or your family is in the hospital. If you want to have information about your hospitalization and basic condition released to Joy Lutheran Church, you need to inform the hospital. Also, please have someone call the church at 321-951-0166 and let us know you have been hospitalized.

Please contact the church office, if you would like to have a visit from Pastor Bryant, a Stephen Minister, or would like to be listed for prayer support.



¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. Psalm 34:18-19(NRSV)

We especially pray for:

Norman Barmen	Tina Breeden
Larry Ciecierski	Emilio Cruz
Gunner Heim	Jason Herndon
Dot Kirsch	Julio Melendez
Judy Marciano	Ron Pagelsdorf
Joyce Powell	Rebecca Reynolds
Joy Sorensen	Millie Spiers
Tina Stella	Thelma Tucker
Mary Ann Valentine	Sherry Weldon

Note: See Sunday Bulletins for additional and most current prayer concerns.



I want to thank all of my friends at Joy for the many cards, visits, and well wishes, following my recent fall and recovery. I would especially like to thank Pastor Bryant for his visit and comforting words.

God's Blessing
Millie Spiers



The Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex. If you would like to have flowers in honor of or in memory of someone please choose the Sunday and sign up. You may put your check for \$20.00 in your offering envelope and indicate that you are paying for flowers. There may be some dates blocked out by Worship and Music, for the Festival Sundays. If someone has already signed up for the date you wanted, please choose a date close to the one you want, or let the church office know you have signed up, so two vases of flowers can be ordered. Flowers are provided by "**Emma's Flowers.**"



Eternal Candle

If you would like to provide the **Eternal Candle** you may also sign up on the Flower Chart for the month you wish. The cost is \$5.00 weekly.



December Birthday Blessings

- 12/02 Hannah Herndon
- 12/04 Charles Woods
- 12/06 Linda Kratzer
- 12/07 Jim Breeden
- 12/14 Bill Kemmerer
- 12/14 Stuart Lengel
- 12/17 Tom Hennessy
- 12/19 Bob Getter
- 12/19 Jeffery George
- 12/21 Holly Walsh
- 12/24 Kristina Deyette
- 12/26 Andrea Christensen
- 12/26 John Manaseri
- 12/26 Karen Runk
- 12/26 Rochelle Wolf
- 12/31 Susan Getter

Notify the church office, if corrections need to be made to the Birthday List.



**Stewardship Response
as of November 25, 2019**

54 Pledges

General Fund.....	\$90,376
Capital Improvement Fund.....	20,300
Total Pledged.....	\$110,676

January thru November 2019 Stewardship

General Fund	(Please see Sunday bulletin for current information.)		
Needed each Month	\$13,822	Needed YTD	\$152,042
Received in November	\$10,747	Received YTD	\$134,759
Capital Improvement Fund			
Budgeted each Month	\$1,962	Budgeted YTD	\$21,582
Received in November	\$1,866	Received YTD	\$20,017

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	10am Ruth Circle Crafts	10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Group	WELCA Annual Christmas Luncheon 12pm Olive Garden
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship 5:30pm Advent Night		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Work Group 2:00pm St. Lucia Day Service	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle Quilting 11am Fellowship Mtg	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	12pm Young at Heart	8:30am Property Work Group	
22	23	24	Christmas 25	26	27	28
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service			8:30am Property Meeting 10am-1:30pm Daily Bread	5:30pm Prayer & Praise Worship Pilgrim Journey
29	30	31				
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	7pm Council Mtg	10am Dorcas Circle Quilting				Check Sunday Bulletins for details or changes in schedule.