



Tidings of Joy



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

Volume 36, Issue 1

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

January 2020

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)

Saturday January 25th

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

EPIPHANY

January 6, 2020



"Office Hours: Weds and Thurs 9am-2pm and by appointment. It is strongly suggested to call ahead before dropping by. Pastor is off Mondays except for last week of month, when Friday is day off. Best means to contact pastor is 321-312-7339 or prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."



The Pastor's Corner

Pr. J. David Bryant

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

Dear Friends,

We are halfway through Christmas' way-too-short season. I'm on vacation through Jan 9th. This article is written in Advent. I'm working ahead; a common practice. You might do likewise? This "Pastor's Corner" describes *what-a-pastor-does-on-an-average-day*. I offer this item, because a sweet JOY member reminded me recently, that sometimes we (even the pastor) believe that "we all know" something, when, truthfully, "we all do not know."

Today is December 3rd. My day began around 3:30AM. It's now around 5PM. I've garnered time to type this article by letting Panda Express handle dinner. Apart from daily household responsibilities, apart from diverting charity solicitations, apart from grocery shopping and hunting after-Thanksgiving Turkey sales, it's a typical workday. Pastor is busy. Busy---the state of being discouraged during Advent---is generally what any pastor's Advent looks like.

Today, I've pointed people to volunteer opportunities and discount pharmacy options, while proofing the Christmas Eve liturgy (a 4th time). I've taken time to enjoy coffee with the knitting circle, while my secretary makes changes to this Sunday's slide set. Cards are sent to various members, some text messages, too. A couple of "certificates of membership transfer" are completed, follow-up for former JOY members who've been gone for years. Mail is sorted. And, as phone calls indicate, some have forgotten when Angel Tree gifts are due. To assist, I've sent an email reminder about Angel Tree deadlines and Christmas Poinsettias. It's around 2PM---time for a cup of Gevalia Majestic Roast coffee.

Before arriving around 8:30AM, Pastor's health insurance research is finished to aid 2020 budgeting. Earlier, I've found time for a pre-marital counseling session with a non-member couple; the bride's pastor won't wed them unless both join the bride's congregation. Still earlier, pre-dawn hours are given to revise this week's sermon draft, crafted last Sunday afternoon. Even earlier still, at the day's start, pre-dawn hours are given to pray for JOY's future, JOY's purpose, and JOY's members; we've so many member deaths from All Saints' 2018 to All Saints' 2019, my heart breaks for those dealing with "first withouts:" first Thanksgiving without ****, first tree-trimming without *****, first time buying a gift without *****. After pondering and praying, morning emails are returned; correspondence with two synodical boards on which I serve, and assistance given to a not-for-profit whose chairperson succumbed to the weight of depression. Tonight, after watching reruns of Roger Moore's "The Saint," I'll call it a day. Tomorrow will look much the same as today (a wonderful, faithful, nourishing day).

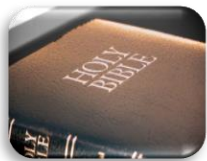
(Pastor's Corner continued)

Perhaps, after reading the preceding paragraphs, you may think, "Geez, that guy needs a vacation." Yes. Yes, I do. In fact, that is now where I am. Harriet and I headed to North Florida and South Georgia to rest with family. Healthwise, it's been a tough year for Harriet's parents. We are taking time for loved ones. Truly, there's always another sermon to write, another case file to manage, but never is there another Dad, Mom, Brother, or Sister. Vacation time and energy is being spent with family, with those whom we loved first and best. As we rest, we'll love you from afar. We'll love you as we worship in Harriet's home congregation of Lake City, and we'll love you as we worship at St. Andrew's Episcopal in my hometown (no Lutheran congregation in Douglas, Georgia).

Enjoy all the goodness of this way-too-short holiday season. Thanks for being such a lovely congregation. This truly is the best call in the ELCA. The people make it so, as their love for the Lord prevails and abounds.

God bless you---
JDB+

Lectionary "A" for January 2020



Gospel Readings

January 5th Matthew 2:1-12
January 12th Matthew 3:13-17
January 19th John 1:29-42
January 26th Matthew 4:12-23

Saturday Night Pilgrim Journey Service January 25th @ 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, or else bring your own beverage.

The light is Jesus

Christmas is a short, twelve-day season, often not even two Sundays in length. Epiphany is much longer, usually starting mid-week, with Magi following Bethlehem's Star to Jesus. Epiphany begins with starlight and ends with Transfiguration light. Between these light events, are eight Sundays, when paraments and vestments go green. After which, stars fade, wonders cease, and life's regular cadence returns. There, in life's regular cadence, God remains in the simple, common, and unadorned. That's the meaning of Epiphany, a revelation of God. Even as starlight fades, God is with us and we are called to follow, not a star, but the Christ.

There's the reality of Epiphany, to follow Christ even when our life is not illumined by starlight or interrupted with wonders. To have an Epiphany is grand, yet it's not the challenge that Epiphany offers. Magi follow a star, then return home. Disciples descend the Mount of Transfiguration, then return to follow Jesus at ground-level.

The Christian life is a repentant life of following God, even when the starlight glow is gone, even when Transfiguration light is gone. In every season of Church and life, God is present, in both light and dark. Christ is present in Word and Sacrament. Christ is present in us since Baptism. The brilliant truth of Christ---present with us---Emmanuel, shines when all other lights are gone out.

Epiphany's challenge is for us to receive and follow even when we do so sight-unseen. How many people catch a glimpse of the light and never follow? Herod sees the light through the Magi's report, yet never follows. The Magi see the Christ-child's light firsthand, yet never follow. Miracles draw people to Jesus throughout Jesus' ministry, yet so many never follow. Still, the light of Christ shines in the darkness and still the darkness has never overcome it. (John 1:5)

The lights of Epiphany are leading lights. Yet, they themselves are not the light. That light is Jesus. And, where Jesus leads us, we are to bound follow. This means that new experiences and adventures await JOY Lutheran in 2020. We can be assured, that Jesus will lead us from one place to another. Once in a while, we might be led by starlight; at other times, Jesus will take us directly through the dark. In either scenario, sight-unseen, we are called to follow. Epiphany challenges us. Epiphany asks us, "Are we willing to follow where Jesus Christ leads?"

JDB+

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NRSV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA
JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Annual Christmas Luncheon
December 7, 2019





WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study on
Tuesday, January 21st, 11:30 a.m.,
Study from GATHER magazine
"We are called!" Winter 2020 Bible study
by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Reformer Martin Luther used the word "vocation" or "calling" to refer to all aspects of human life. [We are called](#) to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. Session 1: Hearing God's Call - This session focuses on men and women in the Old Testament. Some of them heard and recognized God's call clearly. Others struggled to realize that it was God who was calling them or exactly what God was calling them to do. What can we learn from their stories?

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will be meeting on **January 16th 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.



DAILY BREAD, INC.
815 E Fee Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32901

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. Hot showers in the hygiene building. Clean clothes.

JOY Lutheran Church Team serves hot meals the 4th Friday (**Jan. 24th**) 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.



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.



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!



The Men of Joy, at their last meeting, have decided to become known as the "**Men of Joy**" instead of the Men's Group.

The "**Men of Joy**" will meet the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:00am for a short bible study, followed by a business meeting.

For addition information please call Bob Lindner (321-537-6929) or Mort Walton (321-223-2104).

Soap Collection Continues Lutheran World Relief.



A collection basket is located in the Narthex. Thank you for your support of this project.

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



HAPPY NEW YEAR, HAPPY NEW DECADE, WELCOME 2020

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. Remember to bring your soap in.

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

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – 3rd Tuesday each month @11:30, Bible Study from *Gather* magazine

Dorcas Circle (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00

USE IRAS TO MAKE CHARITABLE GIFTS

If you want to increase your charitable giving, there are ways to do so that also can benefit your bottom line.

QCD: If you're 70^{1/2} or older, you can direct up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), and the distribution counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. As long as the money goes directly to a charitable organization without making a pit stop in your bank account, it won't be recognized as taxable income. People in this age group can create a QCD from an inherited IRA, too.

From Thrivent Magazine Winter 2019, by Stacey Freed.

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
Donald Christensen	Larry Ciecierski
Emilio Cruz	Winnie Hall
Gunner Heim	Jason Herndon
Dot Kirsch	Julio Melendez
Judy Marciano	Elizabeth Planding
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.

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



January Birthday Blessings

- 01/04 Raymond Shaffer
- 01/07 Violet Chin
- 01/15 Winnie Hall
- 01/17 Tina Boichot
- 01/17 Peggy Kemmerer
- 01/17 Joyce Powell
- 01/19 Ruth Holm
- 01/19 Jackie Mertens
- 01/22 Chad Arner
- 01/30 Haylee Tolley

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



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.

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

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am "Men of Joy" Work Group	9:00am "Men of Joy" Bible Study & Business Mtg
5	Epiphany 6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	10am Ruth Circle Crafts	10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am "Men of Joy" Work Group	10:00am Joy WELCA Annual Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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 "Men of Joy" Work Group	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle 11:30pm Bible Study	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am "Men of Joy" Work Group 11am-1:30pm Daily Bread	5:30pm Prayer & Praise Worship Pilgrim Journey
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship	7pm Council Mtg	10am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am "Men of Joy" Work Group	Check Sunday Bulletins for details or changes in schedule.