



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 32, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2016

Interim Pastor
The Rev. C. Judd Ludder

Worship Times:

Sunday

10:00a.m. Worship Service
8:45a.m. Adult Sunday School
Children's Education Time
(During the Sermon)

Saturday November 26th

5:30p.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(*Prayer and Praise*)
6:30p.m. Dinner Fellowship
(*Pizza*)

Sunday November 27th

10:00a.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(*Liturgical Modern Worship*)

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Pastor's Cell Phone:
407-340-4740

Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00pm



Joy to the World

A New Church Year Begins



On the 2nd Sunday in Advent, December 4, our service liturgy will change to the St. James Christmas Mass. It is a liturgy set to the tune of Christmas carols. We will be using this liturgy through the season of Christmas.

Pastor's Point

Sunday, November 27, begins the season of Advent, a time of preparation and a time of great expectation and great anticipation. But exactly what is it that we anticipate? What are we getting ready for? What do we expect to happen? Do we anticipate the end of the world, as some religious cults always do at this time of the year? Are we preparing our hearts and spirits to receive again the coming of the Christ child into the world? Or are we preparing for yet another month-long shopping spree that some have called "economic first-degree murder" – willfully and with malice aforethought murdering our bank accounts? Or maybe we're getting ready for the seven to ten pounds the average American will gain during the season (Lord, please let me be an underachiever this year!)? Or are we preparing for the suicidal traffic jams at Melbourne Square and the general atmosphere of surliness – or as Larry the Cable Guy would say: "Get er done?"

Are we getting ready for the depression, the anxiety, and even the anger that sometimes accompanies the secular holiday season? If we allow ourselves to get caught up in the consumer Christmas – and I firmly believe that we in America celebrate two separate events on December 25 – we can easily find that instead of preparing to sing "O Holy Night" we will find ourselves living out one holy nightmare.

For the many who faithfully observe the consumer Christmas, Advent is the inevitable prelude to disappointment. For the majority of these folks, Christmas somehow hardly ever measures up to their fantasies. Even for those who manage to have some of their Christmas wishes fulfilled, the season is over so quickly that they need to make New Year's to make up for the excesses of the season.

But the Advent we celebrate in the church – the one that has nothing at all to do with the number of shopping days left until Xmas – is altogether different. The hanging of the greens, the placement of the poinsettias, the lighting of the first Advent candle – all these invite us to dream dreams of a better world, to allow expectant visions that have nothing to do with sugar-plum fairies to dance in our heads. Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow. 2017 should be an exciting and interesting year at Joy. I look forward with Advent anticipation, to what God is going to do here.

Pastor Ludder

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

2016 Church Council

Interim Pastor - Rev. C. Judd Ludder

President - Barbara Herndon

Vice President - Chris Peters

Secretary - Kelly Arner

Treasurer - Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary - Linda Kratzer

Council Members at Large:

Chris Allebaugh

Pr. Lynn Ash

Norm Barmen

Bob Getter

Rene Harper

Erik Maenpaa

ADVENT NIGHT

December 4th

A Potluck Supper, starting at 5:00pm, will be followed by tree decorating and caroling.



Joy to the World!

CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND



That is 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 Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.



**December 3rd at 11:30am
at
The Mansion in Melbourne**



All women of Joy are invited to come and bring a friend! We can carpool from the church or meet there. See Linda Kratzer for details.

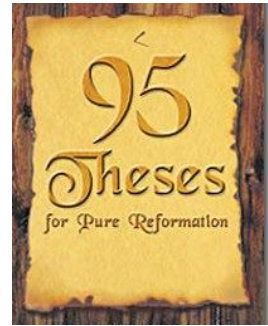


Sign-up sheet & envelopes are in the narthex. Cost is \$6 per plant.

NOTE: Please be sure to take your poinsettias home, following Christmas Day service on December 25th.



**January 29, 2017
12:00 p.m.
(Following the Service)**



Dr. Martin Luther paid Joy Lutheran Church a visit on Reformation Sunday October 30, 2016 in recognition of the 499th anniversary of the nailing of the "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. These theses were a list of statements that expressed Luther's concerns about certain Church practices - largely the sale of indulgences, but they were based on Luther's deeper concerns with Church doctrine.



"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." *Martin Luther*

Martin Luther

Born: November 10, 1483, Eisleben, Germany

Died: February 18, 1546, Eisleben, Germany

Call Committee Corner

The Joy Call Committee has met four times since October 2, 2016. The committee meets on Sunday immediately following the service.

As part of our initial meeting the committee began to read about and understand the basics of Discernment – Discerning God's Will using a series of five devotions from the Book of Acts. Committee members acknowledged that they are seeking to know God's will for the future mission and ministry.

The first order of business was to review the Guide to the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) which is the document that is designed to stimulate reflection, to be a summary of the characteristics and ministry of our church and to serve as the first impression that we wish to give prospective candidates. From that an initial task list was developed.

The first task was to survey the congregation about the Top Five Ministry Tasks and Gifts for Ministry that the congregation felt we wanted and expected in our next pastor. Survey Monkey – an electronic survey instrument – was used to email the survey to members who had an email address on file with the church office. Paper surveys were mailed to members without an email address on file and additional paper surveys were available in the Narthex following the Sunday services. The survey will close out on Sunday, 11/20 and the results will be tabulated and shared with the congregation early in December.

The Call Committee will meet next on Sunday 12/4/16 to begin to review the narrative sections of the MSP using data collected during Cottage meetings, the Retreat and the demographic and trend reports.

Respectfully Submitted
Karen F. Runk
Call Committee Chairperson

Musical Notes from Pilgrim Journey

Peace, Love and music to all. This is the time of the year when Pilgrim Journey gets to play the song that my departed wife, Juanita, wrote. I hope you enjoy "While We Wait" as much as I do.

Schedule for December does not have Pilgrim Journey at Joy AT ALL. The last Saturday of the month is New Years Eve. We decided that might be a good night to not be on the road. Right Pastor Ludder? Pilgrim Journey WILL start off 2017 with a Sunday worship service. Please join us.

On a serious note, I request your feedback on the volume of the band. I suggest that you TELL ME or email me (Kongsjord@yahoo.com) if some part of what we do is uncomfortable for you. When you do, PLEASE be specific. Helpful comments will sound like this: "The organ part on the Song of Praise was too loud." or "The voices in the communion song drowned out the rest of the band." or "I could not hear the voices because the drums were too loud in the Song of Faith". We want to help you with worship and I need details in order to help the band help you worship. There are 5 of us and we don't have a sound tech (someone who listens and communicates to us on your behalf).

Respectfully,
Al Kongsjord for Pilgrim Journey

JOY Lutheran Church - Women of the ELCA

Mark these date(s) on your calendar:

Saturday, December 3rd.....Christmas Luncheon at "The Mansion" (Sign-up sheet in the Narthex)

Dorcas Circle - (Quilting)....Meets every Tuesday at 10:00am.

Martha Circle – (Bible Study) Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at **11:30am** (after quilting). Come have a great time learning from Pastor Lynn Ash (bring a sack lunch).

Eve Circle - (Bible Study) Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at **11:30am** (after quilting). Eve Circle will meet November 15th at 11:30am. Bible Study on *GATHER* magazine, Session #3: When God Chooses the Unlikely. Paul was successful at preaching the Gospel to Gentiles despite his failures. Might "weaknesses" – our own or our congregation – help to reveal God's strength and power? What can we learn from failure? Acts 22:6-21; 1 Cor. 1:25, 2:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; 2 Cor. 4:5-7.

Rachel Circle - (Knit/Crochet) Meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

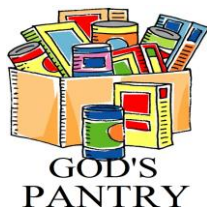
Phoebe Circle - (Card making) Not currently active, but continue to supply cards to Doris Bunker, for mailing to the congregation for birthdays and get-well.

Ruth Circle - (Crafts) Not currently active.

WELCA News

The Christmas Cottage held November 5th was very successful. We came out with \$459 after expenses, so it was a very good event. A special thank you to all who helped make this a great day.

In other news, Hurricane Matthew Relief collected at Lake Yale amounted to \$4,254.37. This includes \$500 from Florida Bahamas WELCA and \$500 from Thrivent. With the Love Offering collection from Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy, the total amount combined to help in rebuilding churches in Haiti and the Bahamas was \$5,161.29.



Over \$400 was received, to support, "God's Pantry". Thank you for your generous donations.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed."
Proverbs 19:17 (NRSV)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Coffee, Snack, and Cold Drink after worship

If you enjoy the "Coffee Fellowship", consider signing up to host a Sunday. The sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization's Fall Gathering

Six women from Joy joined about 240 women, for the Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization's Fall Gathering Nov. 11-13. Linda Kratzer's granddaughter was a youth who joined with the 12 other youth for special activities but also together with the rest of us for much of the time. The theme to Love and Serve the Lord was emphasized in our shared ministry with other Lutheran bodies around the world. The Glocal Team of the ELCA, a diverse group of musicians, led us in singing in other languages as well as English throughout the weekend. They provided music for services and presented a workshop. Sunitha Mortha from India led the Bible Study and preached. Pastor Joanie Holden preached twice amazing us with her Spirit-filled delivery without notes. Sister Michele Collins led a Bible reflection. Two Lutheran women from Surinam shared their ministries in one of many workshops. Pastor Lynn led three workshops and Elaine Heine one. Each conference made a display about one of our companion churches in Haiti, Guyana, Surinam, Cuba, and the Bahamas including food. Our Space Coast Conference featured the seminary in Jamaica that trains Anglican, Lutheran, and Methodists pastors in the Caribbean. The collection for churches damaged by Hurricane Matthew was over \$5,000 including matching gifts. Thanks to many a Joy who contributed. What an inspirational, enjoyable weekend. Join us next year, Nov 10-12 2017. *Elaine Heine*



Turner Elementary School has asked for our help in providing clothing items for their school children. Turner Elementary, schools children ages 4-13yr. All sizes (small thru extra large), for both boys and girls, are needed. Clothing items should be new or nearly new and clean.



Over 65 people took part in the celebration of Pastor Lynn Ash's 25th anniversary of her ordination, following church service Sunday November 20th, 2016. Congratulations Pastor Lynn.



Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart WILL NOT meet in December. Please join us in January. 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). We have a great time getting to know each other. So, please come out and join us.

For further information contact: Patsy Steger @ 676-4187 or Doris Bunker @ 723-0710.

Always check Sunday's bulletin for any changes.



The holidays are coming. Being alone is especially difficult around Christmas. Plan ahead; to schedule activities with others. Invite others over or if it is too much to entertain, suggest a few of you singles go out together. Come to activities at church, Advent night, WELCA luncheon, etc. If you can, include a single or two with your family for a meal. Put Christ in your Christmas by loving others. Consider a confidential listening ear with a Stephen Minister. Just ask Pastor Ludder. He'll ask a Stephen Minister to contact you.

Stephen Ministers also hold Services at nursing homes on the following schedule. Volunteers to help are always welcomed.

Life Care - 2nd Sunday 10am
 Palms Rehab - 3rd Friday 10 am
 Sarah Care - 1st & 3rd Wed. at 1pm



¹⁷*When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.*
¹⁸*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.* ¹⁹*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.*

Psalms 34:17-19(NRSV)

We especially pray for:

Elsa Antonsen
 Marion Bauman
 Linda Bechard
 Ernie Church
 Andrea Christensen
 David Cruz
 Janie Day
 Todd Eagle
 Josh Herndon
 Jack Jones
 John Kirsch
 Kay Morris
 Nancy Pagelsdorf
 Vincent Powell
 Elaine Simonelli
 Family of Dorothy Stremel
 Rev. Bill Stremel
 Deloris Williams

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 the Pastor, a Stephen Minister, or would like to be listed for prayer support.



December Birthday Blessings

12/02	Hannah Herndon
12/06	Linda Kratzer
12/07	Jim Breeden
12/10	Caldoria Gibson
12/10	John Kirsch
12/14	Stuart Lengel
12/19	Bob Getter
12/20	Charles Cox
12/24	Kristina Deyette
12/25	Antoinette Gillett
12/26	Robyn MacKenzie
12/26	Rochelle Wolf
12/27	Brayden Beam
12/31	Susan Getter

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-October 2016 Stewardship

General Fund	See Sunday bulletin for current information thru November.		
Needed each Month	\$11,300	Needed YTD	\$113,000
Received in October	\$11,990	Received YTD	\$118,189
Building Fund			
Needed each Month	\$1,897	Needed YTD	\$18,970
Received in October	\$2,341	Received YTD	\$19,847

2016 Offering Envelopes will be available in the Narthex on December 18th, 2016, for pick up.

73		73
Joy Lutheran Church Palm Bay, Florida 32909		
Current Expense: _____ Mortgage Fund: _____ Other (Specify): _____ Total Enclosed: _____		
Name: _____ <small>*Each man must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7</small>		

Member giving statements will not be available until after the first of the year. Look for them around the 15th of January 2016.

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Check Sunday Bulletins for details or changes in schedule.				1	2	3
					8:30am Property Work Group	WELCA Christmas Luncheon
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle	10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Work Group	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle 11:30pm Bible Study 12:30pm Social Ministry 1:30pm Fellowship Mtg.	10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Work Group	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle 6:00pm Worship & Music 7pm Council Mtg.	10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Work Group 10am-2pm Daily Bread	7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Christmas 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship		10am Dorcas Circle 11:30pm Bible Study	10am Rachel Circle		8:30am Property Meeting	