



Tidings of Joy

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



Volume 31, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2015

Interim Pastor

The Rev. C. Judd Ludder

Worship Times:

Sunday

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

Last Saturday of Month

5:30p.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(Rock Style Worship)

Last Sunday of Month

10:00a.m. Pilgrim Journey Band
(Rock Style 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

A New Church Year Begins



On the 2nd Sunday in Advent, December 6, 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.

Also remember that the WELCA Advent Night is December 6th. This is the evening we get together to decorate the Chrismon Tree - which, by the way, will be in the choir loft area this year. WELCA will provide refreshments and we'll have a little fun singing a few Christmas carols. It's really a night best suited for the kids to have some fun. So, please bring and encourage them to come.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00pm



Joy to the World

ADVENT NIGHT

On December 6th at 4pm we will decorate our tree.



CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND

That 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.



Young at Heart Luncheon

Please join us at noon on **December 17th** for our next Young at Heart pot-luck. All you need to do is show up, with a dish of your choice to share. Then, enjoy the delicious food and wonderful fellowship with members of the Joy family. Everyone is most welcome. Bring a friend or neighbor.



Sign-up sheet and envelopes are in the narthex.
Cost is \$8 per plant.

**December 5th 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.



Joy's "Progressive Dinner" has been postponed. Watch for updates on a reschedule date, and please be a part of the fun.

Pastor's Message

Advent is a season of the church year that churches, like Joy, can relate to. Just as ancient Israel was looking and waiting for a long time for God to send someone to deliver them, so churches between called pastors are waiting for someone to come. Who will it be that God will send and when will he or she get here? I've personally been involved in this process and time of waiting with four different churches as an interim pastor. In every case, the time of waiting has been much longer than expected or desired. Some of that has to do with the transition process, I guess. The Synod wants to have certain things in order before a new pastor arrives in a new location, and it's during a time of transition that they have the leverage to make sure it's done. That's smart thinking and sure helps out the new pastor. Anyway, just as Advent is a season of preparation to receive One who is to come, so the interim period is a time for Joy Lutheran to prepare for someone who is to come.

Lately, I've been pretty encouraged that Joy is making progress along those lines. Attendance has been hovering around 100 per Sunday - sometimes a bit less and sometimes a bit more, but the church feels full and vibrant to me. We made progress in stewardship in November and we are at this point only 3% behind in the General Fund giving for the year and only 2% behind in giving to the Mortgage Fund. Hopefully we will have a good December and we may have a chance at meeting our budget needs for the year. That would be significant.

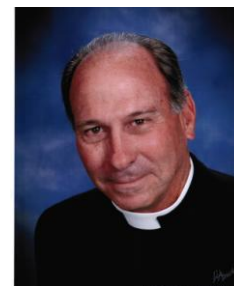
This leads me to hope that we can increase our budget for 2016 to the point where funding a new called pastor is not in doubt. It's really not that much of a stretch from where we are now. Perhaps only another \$10,000. That would be a huge plus for Joy and signal to the Synod that we are ready and able for someone to come.

I am sure that a Call Committee will form early in the new year, but in the meantime there is ONE MAJOR TASK that Joy must accomplish. The Florida Synod requires that we have a mission related event/retreat for the entire congregation prior to the forming of a Call Committee. This event is based on the book "Living Lutheran" by Dave Daubert. Joy has scheduled this event for the Saturday of January 9, 2016 from 9am until 3pm. It is vital that as many members as possible participate in this event for it will determine our **Purpose and Guiding Principles** for the foreseeable future. This is extremely important for us and for the new pastor who will be called.

So, just as we prepare during Advent to receive the One who comes at Christmas, so must we prepare in this time of transition for the one spiritual shepherd who will come to lead Joy Church. Your input to guide him or her and this church in the future is vital. Please make plans to attend this most important event in the life and future of Joy Church. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. Sign up at church any Sunday.

See you in church!
Pastor Ludder

Progressive Dinner Postponed.
(Watch for reschedule date)





George and Miekka Meirs
Inge Manasco and Michael Manasco
&
Soon to be new members
Charlene Leto and daughter Zoey



*"JOY", a church where everybody knows
your name. If they don't, introduce yourself
and wear a name tag.*



JOY Lutheran Church - Women of the ELCA

It has been an active month for the Women of the ELCA here at Joy. In mid-November, six women joined approximately 230 other Lutheran women from all over the state of Florida at Lake Yale and celebrated Ohana (Hawaiian for Family). There were business meetings in order to elect the women who would represent us at Synod and lots of interesting and informative workshops, one of which was led by our very own Pastor Lynn who received rave reviews from all who attended. Oh yeah, did I mention the wonderful food and fellowship? This is an annual retreat and I hope that even more women will be able to join us next year! In support of the selected ministry, Joy women were able to complete and deliver 41 quilts for the abused children that are being treated at the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center.

Then next delivery of the items that our circles make will be the Veteran's Blankets for the Veteran's Home and the home made stuffed animals for the Ronald McDonald house and Bogy Creek children's home on the second Sunday of December.

Remember to sign up for the Christmas Luncheon on December 5th. If there are questions, please give me a call at the phone number listed below.

December 6th will be Advent night and cookies, music and hot apple cider will be provided while the Christmas tree is decorated. We usually have a good turnout of children at this event so please come and bring along your nieces, nephews, grandkids, and kids.

I am happy to report that we had donations and purchases of about \$300 for the two Christmas Cottages that were held. That will purchase a lot of sheets and quilt batting for the quilters and yarn and other supplies for the knitters. Thank you all for your continued support.

Dates to put on your calendar for the near future are:

- Joy WELCA Christmas Luncheon on December 5, 2015. ALL women of Joy are invited and bring a friend. It will be held at the Mansion and we will order off the menu. There will have a sign-up sheet as we get closer to that date!
- Joy Advent night to decorate our Christmas tree here at Joy will be Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
- The annual meeting for election of officers for Women of the ELCA at Joy will be January 23, 2016. Please plan on attending and help us grow our circles.

Linda Kratzer,
Women of the ELCA JOY President, 2015

Joy Women at Lake Yale (November 2015)

Seven women from Joy enjoyed the Fall Gathering at Lake Yale. The theme was Ohana, the Hawaiian word for the extended family. We are the family of God. The 271 women worshiped, sang, studied the Bible, learned at workshops, shared fellowship, in all they had a wonderful, inspiring weekend. Plan to join them next year. Nov. 11-13, 2016.



Mission Related Event/Retreat for the Entire Congregation

“**Living Lutheran**”: Renewing Your Congregation by Dave Daubert (see Pastor’s Message, pg 3)

Dave Daubert provides a practical how-to guide that will enable church leaders to help individual congregations walk through the process for themselves. Creative and informative, the book provides a straightforward approach that helps congregations reclaim Lutheran tradition for the 21st century. Includes questions for individual or group reflection and an additional resources section.

Musical Notes from Pilgrim Journey



Greetings all!

In the coming months we plan to take the Last Saturday of the Month service to a Praise and Prayer format rather than the liturgy called "The Service for all Seasons" that we do on Sunday. We hope to attract some new faces from the community and even offer an opportunity to other Christian singers and musicians to help us worship our Lord.

Blessings and Peace, to you all from all of us in the Pilgrim Journey band.




Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

The holidays are a difficult time for those isolated at home by themselves or the caregiver for a loved one. Those grieving often feel they have a whole in their heart especially at this time of year when others are celebrating. But loneliness, sadness, and grief won't have the last word. That same God who walks with us day by day also holds out to us the promise of new life. Hold on to that hope and keep walking toward the Light, which is the Christ, the Light that came into the world, the Christ of Christmas. Don't hesitate to speak with a confidential Stephen Minister. Just ask Pastor.

Services are held 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

2016 Offering Envelopes will be available in the Narthex on December 13, 2015, for pick up

73	73
	Joy Lutheran Church Palm Bay, Florida 32909
Current Expense: _____	
Mortgage Fund: _____	
Other (Specify): _____	
Total Enclosed: _____	
<small>Name: _____ "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 486673 4867 Church-Budget, Salem, Ohio</small>	

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund:

Needed YTD through November.....\$119,185

Received YTD through November...\$115,104

Mortgage Fund:

Needed YTD through November.....\$20,867

Received YTD through November.....\$20,437

How is your financial stewardship?

HANDY LITTLE CHART

WOULD NOT HURT TO PRINT IT AND PUT IT SOMEWHERE FOR A FEW DAYS!
LIKE MAYBE THE KITCHEN OR LAUNDRY ROOM DOOR.

God has a positive answer:

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSE(s)
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)



Dear Joy Family

Thank you for being with our family as we celebrated the life of my husband, Rev. Ronald Ryckman. Amy and I were deeply touched by the phone calls, cards, shared memories and of course your care and concern.

It was special to our family to have celebrated his life here at Joy where he shared so much of his heart.

God Bless,

Wahneeta Ryckman and Amy Cappelmann



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all my friends of Joy for your prayers and many cards, during my recent illness. We must never under estimate the power of prayer. I am feeling very well.

God Bless you,

Ruth Holm

Thank You!

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like thank everyone for your cards and for keeping me in your prayers during my recent stay in the hospital and during my time in rehab.

Thank you again and God Bless,

Al Dorman

We care about you!

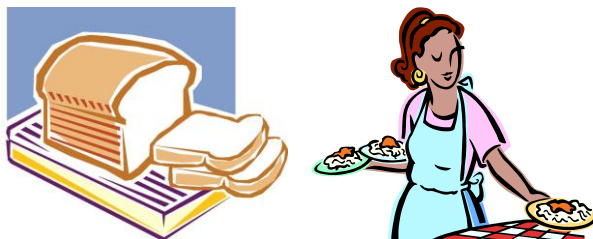


If you so desire, please let us know when you or your family is in the hospital. If you want to have information about your hospitalization and basic condition released to Joy Lutheran Church, you need to inform the hospital. Also, please have someone call the church at 321-951-0166 and let us know that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

Please contact the church office, if you would like to be listed for prayer support.

*Sending our prayers,
God knows their needs!*

Ernie Church, David Cruz, Todd Eagle, Jinny Fisher, Josh Herndon, Gloria Kohl, Juanita Kongsjord, Bob Kretzer, Peggy Lindner, Nancy Pagelsdorf, Vincent Powell, Pearl Reid, Karen Runk, Cindy Simonelli, Rev. Don Dotzel, Rev. Bill Stremel, and Rev. Cindy Werner.



"DAILY BREAD"

If you are interested in serving at "Daily Bread" on the 4th Friday of the month, contact Elaine Heine at 321-215-7928 or Connie Steinhorst at 321-725-6391.

"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day." Isaiah 58:10 NLT



BACKPACK PROGRAM

The "Bread of Life" backpack program for Turner Elementary School continues with the new school year. Please be generous in your monetary donations, as we provide food for five families each weekend. The cost is about \$125 per week.

Thank you to Dan and Charlotte Abrahams for shopping for the food and packing the backpacks.

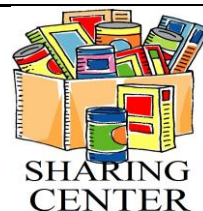
Church Cleaning



Thank you, Jackie Baudek, for all your hard work with the cleaning of the church.

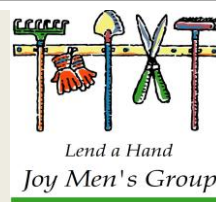
Additional help is desperately needed. Can you offer some of your Time, as part of your Stewardship, to assist with the church cleaning??

Jackie would like to put together a cleaning schedule of when others will be available to come in and help. She will be more than happy to coordinate the volunteers. Please give her a call at (321) 723-4503 or 321-795-7853; with the time and day you are available.



SHARING CENTER

A basket is provided in the Narthex for collection of 'can-in-hand' or some other non-perishable food item each Sunday. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



We have a great group of men at Joy Church! With a never ending list of physical things to get done to keep Joy looking great and operating appropriately, we are blessed with such dedicated and able workers. The men are always looking for other hands to help out so if you are of that mind (this includes you ladies too) join them on Friday mornings at 8:30am.



December Birthday Blessings

12/02	Hannah Herndon
12/06	Linda Kratzer
12/07	Jim Breeden
12/08	Nicole Disano
12/10	Caldoria Gibson
12/10	John Kirsch
12/14	Stuart Lengel
12/19	Bob Getter
12/20	Charles Cox
12/23	Ethan Ertel
12/24	Kristina Deyette
12/25	Antoinette Gillett
12/26	Robyn MacKenzie
12/26	Rochelle Wolf
12/27	Brayden Beam
12/30	Emily Ertel
12/31	Susan Getter

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

Mark these dates on your calendar!

Living Lutheran Congregational Retreat
Saturday, January 9, 2016
9:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 (See Pastor's Message)

ANNUAL MEETING
January 31, 2016
12:00 p.m.
 (Following the Service)

More information to follow on these two events.



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.

Council Roster:

Int. Pastor: Judd Ludder (407) 340-4740
 President: Lee Bockelman 724-8620
 Vice Pres.: Barbara Herndon 725-2238
 Treasurer: Kim Tolley 749-6740
 Rec. Sec.: Linda Kratzer 727-1025

Members at Large:

Chris Allebaugh 725-1538
 Norman Barmen 327-2486
 Ken Wolf 501-4961
 Bob Getter 505-2464
 Chris Peters 728-8517
 Rev. Lynn Ash 220-0393

DECEMBER 2015

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