

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2025

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May 2025 be filled with health, peace, joy, and laughter,

God bless you and hold you in the palm of His hands.



LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he had planned for us long ago.” (Eph. 2:10)

### Dear JOYful Family,

My Dad turns 93 next month. As a younger man, he wondered what life would be like in the year 2000, then added, “as if I’ll be alive to see it”. Well, here he is, still alive and kicking, a quarter of the way into the “new” millenium!

**2025.** It sounds so futuristic, doesn’t it? Do you find yourself wondering what this year will bring? It seems like there are more signs than usual around us that something *unusual* may be at hand. It is always a kingdom of God, or *kairos* moment in time. There are always events involving human characters from which ripples become seismic waves. Did the Apostle Paul have any idea that by diverting his second missionary journey from Asia to Europe he’d be creating shock waves in Western civilization? How about mere sermon notes of Martin Luther changing the course of Christianity?

The story of the kingdom of God may or may not reach it’s climax in the return of Jesus in 2025. We live in sure and certain hope and faith nonetheless. We obey, play our part. God is in charge of plot devel- *Continued on Page 3*

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

Seminary Intern—Bob Bonomo

Administrative Assistant—

Zsuzsanna Jobbagy

Director of Music—Silas Daniel

Choir Director—Linda Aker

Handbell Director—

Melissa Daniel

Sexton—Vacant

Treasurer—Terry Owen

### CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President—Ray Ihlenburg

Vice President—

Secretary—Linda Aker

Treasurer—Terry Owen

### OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Karin Campbell

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

Don Fields

Hank Groth

Doug Juhl

Pat Smith

Paul Spellman

John Voyles



*01/? Art Schneider*

*01/01 Susanne Beech*

*Grace Hansen—100 yrs.  
young*

*01/03 Gail DiCorcia*

*01/05 Carolyn Cummings*

*01/08 Jean Opferkuch*

*01/09 Cathy Rosol*

*01/13 Christine Presley*

*Lois Freeburn*

*01/14 Sharon Cawley*

*01/17 Paul Spellman*

*01/21 Bruce Froeschl*

*Marsha Treter*

*01/23 Erika Russo*

*Diane Davies*

*Sharon Johnson*

*01/24 Nancy Christianson*

*01/28 Nancy Grosselfinger*

*01/29 Violet Frey*

*Debbie Cobb*

*01/30 Juanita Geiger*

*Debbie Zander*

*01/31 Shirley Reents*

*Continued from Page 1*

opment. The freedom He gives us to decide is admittedly a curse as much as a blessing, as history continues to bear out. The Good News is that the kingdom of God is always at hand, regardless of whoever “Caesar” is or what regime is holding sway. We are equipped to do the work of ministry. God calls us into His future. There are good and exciting things coming up for this family of JOY! Our Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop Pedro Suarez and his wife Aura will be our guests on January 11-12. He is coming to celebrate with us as we observe our thirty-fifth anniversary as a congregation, and our thirtieth year in the sanctuary building. We look fresh and “re-freshed” as we enter our “middle age”. Our concert series looks super, featuring more musical excellence for us all to enjoy and appreciate. Bob Bonomo will conclude his internship in mid-March. In all our ministry work, let us strive to communicate more effectively and “cross-pollinate” to maximize resources.

It is an exciting, JOYous burden to serve with you in the kingdom of God! I’ll see you in church!

*Pastor Art*



<b>01/02</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Debbie Zander</b>	<b>52 yrs</b>
<b>01/04</b>	<b>Silas &amp; Melissa Daniel</b>	<b>27 yrs</b>
<b>01/08</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Lorraine Erikson</b>	<b>42 yrs</b>
<b>01/27</b>	<b>Doug Juhl &amp; Lynne Shineman</b>	<b>3 yrs</b>
<b>01/28</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Kathleen Parli</b>	<b>58 yrs</b>

**OUTREACH****TIMBER RIDGE ANGELS**

**How do we thank you all for your generosity?**

*Thank you! Gracias! Danke Schon! Köszönöm! Merci!*

In any language, thank you is just not enough. Swenson Hall looked like Santa's Workshop as the presents lined up awaiting transport to Timber Ridge.

On Thursday, December 19th, Terry Owen and Intern Bob left driving, not a sleigh, but two cars full of gifts. Nancy, our coordinator at Timber Ridge, was just overwhelmed with your generosity and love.

You, our members, were the angels. It is your love and caring, that ensured 45 residents of a joyful Christmas.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you. May each of you experience the same joy, love, and caring, that you have shown.

*God Bless you one and all.*

*Outreach Ministry*

## INTERN'S CORNER



Shalom Joy Family,

First: I was blessed to share Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship with all of you. Thank you for your love, understanding and support during my stay at Joy.

We are also blessed with a new year of having wonderful, exciting ministries revving up their engines to bring God's Word into our communities. Within every ministry, all the volunteers bring to the table their time and talent that represents a community of JOY within itself. All of you are important pawns because God has chosen YOU to do HIS work.

I thought I was going to retire. God called me into service. This question is for the retired members of Joy: Are all of you who have retired, are you retired from God? Are you retired from Church? Please pray so that you too can hear that call to service in any way you are physically able to help out.

May everyone's year ahead be full of Blessings, Joy, and Peace.

May Almighty God Bless all of you,  
Bob



What a JOYful celebration on December 22nd and Christmas time and into 2025 with 11 new members . Welcome to sharing the word of God, fellowship, and service. All are encouraged to wear name tags each Sunday.

*Welcome to Our Church*

#### LEGEND

MF: Moved from/Previous Residence

H/I: Hobbies and Interests

O: Occupation

PCI: Previous Church Involvement

F: Family

\*\* Associates

### JOYCE H. BRUSSMAN

### MARION LANDING

**MF:** Marianna, FL

**O:** Retired from 3M

**H/I** Cross stitch, knitting, crafts

### KURT and DAWN COOK (FT) OTOW-FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE

**MF:** Lady Lake, Fl

**O:** Kurt: Working Operations Consultant with FL Dept. of Revenue  
Dawn: Working for Marion Cty Utilities as a staff assistant

**F:** Kurt: Son Alexander lives in Chillicothe, OH; Son Thomas lives at Tinker AFB , OK (Navy); Son Andrew lives in Tallahassee, FL  
Dawn: 3 Stepsons, Brother, Parents

**H/I** Kurt: Bible study, archery, woodworking, dogs, bowling, and movies  
Dawn: Craft shows, bowling, shopping, movies, dogs, and photography/arts

**PCI:** Kurt is a Technical guy, also does yard work.



**JAMES (JIM) and KIMBERLY (KIM) HESSEL**  
**(PT) OAK RUN # 11**

**MF:** WNY-in Ocala 12 yrs.

**O:** Jim: NYSDOCS-Wareden, retired  
 Kimberly: NYS Correction Officer

**F:** 6 Children, 4 Grand children

**H/I:** Jim– Golf, Hiking, Biking and Buffalo, NY Sports  
 Kim-Golf, biking, hiking, music, spending time with family

**PCI:** Jim-An Elder at Our Redeemer  
 Kim– Experience with employee assistance and volunteer for corrections staff for 20 years.

**SARAH LOGUE** **(FT) OTOW-INDIGO EAST**

**MF:** Moved to Ocala 2006

**O:** Retired RN

**F:** Widow, No children, close to sister's son and family, also to husband's daughter.

**H/I:** Horses, dogs, outside work, drawing, painting, and reading.

**PCI:** Attended Episcopal –Meadowbrook, interested grounds keeping.

**JUDITH (JUDY) REMY** **(FT) OCALA PALMS**

**MF:** Pelham Manor, NY

**O:** Retired Administrative Assistant

**F:** Widow, Douglas Remy-Son-deceased, Christian Remy-son,  
 Katherine Remy-daughter; 2 Grand children in Norway

**H/I:** In the past enjoyed tennis; currently gardening and crafts.

**PCI:** 1. Ascension, Mt. Vernon, NY  
 2, St, Mary's, Mohegan, NY-worked with the Food Pantry and building and grounds committees.  
 3. Grace Episcopal, Ocala, FL

**BOB ROWLAND****(FT) OTOW-CANDLER**

**MF:** Moved to Ocala IN 2015 from Danbury, CT

**O:** Retired Employed as a pilot for 45 years then as a pilot instructor for 5 years.

**F:** Wife-Lois, 3 children, 2 grandchildren

**H/I:** Well versed in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and programming;  
Radio controlled airplanes

**PCI:** Congregational member-volunteered for various church events  
Interested in tutoring

**JAMES (JIM) and ERIKA RUSSO****(FT) OTOW**

**MF:** Haven, Wisconsin

**O:** Both retired.

**F:** 3 Children and 3 Grand Children

**PCI:** Grace Lutheran Church in Haven, Wisconsin

**DANA RUSSO****(FT) OTOW-WAYBOURNE LANDING**

Information not available at this time.



# **REMEMBER THESE DATES**



1. **January 1st: OFFICE CLOSED.**
2. **January 1st: Wednesday Evening Service 5:30 PM**
3. **January 7th: Beginner's Bible Study Resumes at 11:00 am**
4. **January 11th: Reception for Bishop Suarez in Swenson Hall**  
**5:00-8:00 pm**
5. **January 12th: Anniversary Worship Svc.—10:00 AM with Bishop Suarez Presiding**
6. **January 13th: New Bible Study on "JOHN" led by Charlie Meiers starts at 1:00 pm in the Narthex**
7. **January 19th: New Sunday School on "LUKE" led by Pastor Art starts at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary**
8. **January 26th: Thomas Keesecker Concert at 3:00 PM**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning January 19th,

“Learning Luke: The Apostolic Gospel”

We are now in Year C or Year of Luke in the Revised Common Lectionary.

I hope you will join me at **9:45** on Sundays as we gain a richer understanding of how God’s Messiah is alive in us.

### **Lutheran Men in Mission**

**Meets January 2nd @ 9:15 am  
in Swenson Hall.**

**With Christ as Our Leader, this month we meet for fellowship and discussion of ideas for Our Joy Spring Celebration**  
**Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”**

**\*Continental Breakfast served\***

## BIBLE STUDY

**Bible study led by Charlie Meier**

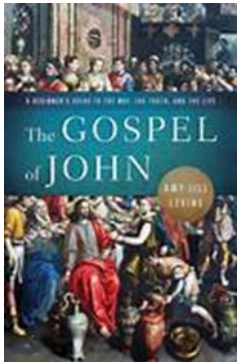
**When: January 13,2025**

**Where: Narthex**

**Time :1pm 6 WEEK STUDY**

**Book: The Gospel of John by Amy-Jill Levine**

**A beginner's guide to the Way, the Truth and the Life**



**Unlock the hidden depths of John's Gospel.**

**John's Gospel offers readers a new language—of being born anew, of living water, of wind and spirit, of the “I am”—that enhances how we understand the divine, how we experience the world, and how we participate in the mystery of faith.**

**With her characteristic wit and charm, Amy-Jill Levine introduces readers to the world of the Gospel of John by unpacking the stories in their original context, along with examining how the text is read today. This book considers the Gospel of John in its entirety, moving through the Gospel and exploring the prologue, the wedding at Cana, the Samaritan woman at the well and the woman caught in adultery, the healing of the man at the pool and the man born blind, foot washing, Mary Magdalene and Doubting Thomas, and the Lamb of God.**

**A copy of the book will be needed for the study. It can be obtained on Amazon, Target, Ebay and Thrift books to name a few.**

# Seasons of JOY

## Concert Series

### Thomas Keesecker in Concert

Thomas Keesecker will share music from his bestselling piano collections in a 75-minute concert. Keesecker, a composer and church musician as well as performer, is known around the country for his sensitive, delightful, and meditative piano arrangements of hymns. At this concert, we'll be able to sing some of them together, as well as listen to his interpretations. The hymns will be interspersed with poetry by Mary Oliver and Wendell Berry, two of the most beloved and profound poets of the 20th and 21st centuries. CDs of his music will be available for purchase after the concert.



Tom retired in 2019 after serving as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. His sacred music is published by MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress, Choristers Guild, Concordia, and GIA. He studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Catholic University School of Music in Washington, D.C. He mixes classical technique, jazz improvisation, Celtic and folk music influences in his arrangements. His music may be listened to on Amazon Music and YouTube.

Admission is free (with a voluntary love offering) and a reception will be held post-concert.

**January 26, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**

**at JOY Lutheran Church**

**7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476**



*You are cordially invited...*

## Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

### 2024-25 Season

**Uniqulele** - September 8, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
Amazing ukulele ensemble based in OTOW.

**Gainesville Brass Quintet** - October 6, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
Renowned brass quintet based in Gainesville.

**La Vie Ensemble** - November 17, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
David Temple (guitar) & H el ene Nicole Richard (voice)

**A JOYful Christmas Celebration** - December 1, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
The perennial concert that started it all!

**Thomas Keesecker** - January 26, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Talented pianist, composer, and arranger.

**April Adams** - February 2, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Be enchanted by the sounds of the oboe and flute.

**Ray & J** - March 16, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Our hometown clarinet/accordion duo celebrates St. Patrick's Day.

**Suncoast Bronze Ringers** - April 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
Advanced-level community handbell ensemble based in Tampa.

**Amy Wuertz** - May 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Joy's very own talented soprano.

**Blue Muse Jazz Band** - June 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
Jacksonville based jazz ensemble.

**Shawn Thomas** - July 20, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Dr. Thomas returns and shows you what an organ can really do!

*All concerts are free and open to the public.*



### BIBLE READINGS FOR *JANUARY 2025*

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Jan. 5	JEREMIAH	PSALM	EPHESIANS	JOHN
	31:7-14	147:12-20	1:3-14	1:[1-9]10-18
Jan. 6	ISAIAH	PSALM	EPHESIANS	MATTHEW
	60:1-6	72:1-7,10-14	3:1-12	2:1-12
Jan 12	ISAIAH	PSALM	ACTS	LUKE
	43:1-7	29	8:14-17	3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 19	ISAIAH	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	JOHN
	62:1-5	36:5-10	12:1-11	2:1-11
Jan. 26	NEHEMIAH	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	LUKE
	8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	12:12-31a	4:14-21

**\*\*Please Note: We will be celebrating Epiphany (1/6) on Sunday January 5th.**





# JANUARY

# 2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  OFFICE CLOSED  WORSHIP SVC 5:30 pm	2 LMM—9:15 A	3 TOPS-7:30A	4
5 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM	6 Time 4 Prayer- 9AM	7 Beg Bible Study- 11 A	8 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P	9 Outreach 1:30 PM Stewardship 3P BCRingers 6:30 P	10 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A	11 W & M 1:00 PM  Reception for Bishop 5-8 P
12  WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM	13 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M. 9:30A John BS -1P (N) Pub/Soc M-4P	14 Property 10A Beg Bible Study- 11A Finance 1 P Tutoring 3-5 P	15 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P	16 Council Exec Bd 3P BCRingers 6:30 P	17 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A	18
19 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM  Sunday School 9:45 A— LUKE	20 Time 4 Prayer 9 am  John BS-1P (N)	21 Beg BS-11A Council 1P Tutoring 3-5 P	22 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P	23 BCRingers 6:30 P	24 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A	25
26 Worship SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM T.Keesecker Concert 3P	27 Time 4 Prayer 9 A Stephen M-9:30A John BS-1P (N)	28 Beg BS 11 A Tutoring 3-5 P	29 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands- 9A Choir 3 P SVC 5:30 P Interfaith Dinner	30 BCRingers 6:30P	31 TOPS-7:30A Bell Choir 10 A	
<p>Please remember the deadline for the Bulletin is 8:00 am Tuesdays, and the TIDINGS is 8:00 am 16th. Please send "Copy" ready items so they can be inserted into the bulletin/Tidings to office email. <i>Thank You</i></p>						



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# JANUARY 2025

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

