

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2024

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*LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD*



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*“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18)*

**Dear JOYful Family,**

We're settling into a summer rhythm, with the move to one Sunday worship at 10:00 now through September 1<sup>st</sup>. While the pace of activity might seem to be slowing down, God's mission and vision for evangelizing ministry never does! With droves of people moving into Marion County, increasing in a big way this month, opportunities for engagement abound! We never stop growing as kingdom of God people in this spiritual community reaching out to a challenging world around us. Holy moments can be shared that transform and inspire. Evangelism (sharing the Gospel) leads to discipleship. A good way to foster and cultivate that would be to bring an unchurched friend to ***Bible Study for Beginners*** on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00, led and started by our seminary intern Bob. It will continue indefinitely as his internship project, a legacy extending beyond his time with us. *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-Paul Hyatt

Handbell Director-

Melissa Daniel

Sexton-Harold Decker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

### CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President-Ray Ihlenburg

Vice President-JR Frederiksen

Secretary-Linda Aker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

### OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Carson Faris

Hank Groth

Robert Irish

Doug Juhl

Pat Smith

Paul Spellman

John Voyles



06/01	<i>Barbara Johnson</i>
06/02	<i>Anne Burkett</i>
06/03	<i>Penny Davis</i> <i>Lee Bay</i>
06/04	<i>Ron Piper</i>
06/05	<i>Mike Beaver</i>
06/06	<i>Emery Bjerkmann</i>
06/10	<i>Marcia Cox</i>
06/11	<i>Doreen Robinson</i>
06/13	<i>Jean Groth</i> <i>Dan Schellenbach</i>
06/18	<i>Sheila Mixdorf</i> <i>Jerry Wireland</i> <i>Jack Cawley Jr.</i> <i>Dolly Schember</i>
06/19	<i>Linda Ware</i>
06/21	<i>Terry Owen</i>
06/24	<i>Jennie Halvorsen</i> <i>Joe Spillane</i>
06/25	<i>Randulf Hardy</i> <i>Carol Schellenbach</i>
06/28	<i>John Henderson</i>
06/29	<i>Jill Davis</i> <i>Pat Smith</i>

*Continued from page 1* Whatever we do here is for the best interests of those who are not here yet. Guests quickly become friends here! The question is not “What will it cost us if we do this?” but instead, “what will it cost **them** if we don’t?”

Encourage one another in Christ-like love. Start a small group to deepen Christian friendship, always inviting someone to fill the empty chair. Your God-given holiness is to be shared with those outside the church. Together we discover, develop and deploy our spiritual gifts.

If you ever want to meet up with me in a public setting to plant seeds, I’m all in! Name the time and the place, and I’ll show up – trusting that the Holy Spirit is already there waiting to grow our seeds.

*Love, Pastor Art*



06/03	<i>Don &amp; Yvonne Conner</i>	<i>46 years</i>
06/04	<i>Doug &amp; Karen Snorek</i>	<i>41 years</i>
06/08	<i>Norman &amp; Jennie Halvorsen</i>	<i>67 years</i>
	<i>J.R. &amp; Beth Frederiksen</i>	<i>56 years</i>
06/12	<i>Ken &amp; Jean Kutscher</i>	<i>58 years</i>
06/15	<i>Jim &amp; Paulette Kuzmanovich</i>	<i>56 years</i>
06/18	<i>Calvin &amp; Nancy Kraft</i>	<i>58 years</i>
06/22	<i>Rita &amp; John Brokaw</i>	<i>2 years</i>
06/26	<i>Art &amp; Carolyn Salzlein</i>	<i>59 years</i>
06/29	<i>Mike &amp; Grace Noble</i>	<i>61 years</i>

**COUNCIL****Church Council News**

The News at Joy since the last Tidings has been exciting with a number of ‘firsts’ happening. Beginning with the Bell Extravaganza concert. It was an amazing concert with close to 200 in attendance and this was the ‘first’ time the chairs had been rearranged from the normal worship positions. The idea worked beautifully. Another ‘first’ was celebrating our first tutoring class during the late service and presenting back packs and certificates. Not to be outdone, The Family Fun Day added their ‘first’ pony ride for the young and the young at heart. Somewhat in the background, by design, the Safety and Security Task Force completed their ‘first’ AED training session. This amazing month finished up with the ‘first’ appearance at JOY of The Amazing Steel Drum band before a packed house (219) concert. While on the subject of concerts, the Steel Drum concert was the ‘first’ since the Concert Oversight Ministry was launched. Finally, it is great to report that JOY, for the ‘first’ time in our church’s history, we have two-way traffic capability on the sidewalk from the disabled parking spots to the rear entrance.

The Joy Church Council and all the supporting ministries are only successful because of the members of our congregation that continually offer their time, talent, and treasure. Perhaps the best way to express this appreciation is to pass on a quote from Pastor Art’s May Council Report: “You (Congregation) combine your skills and wisdom with an obvious love for JOY!”

Council is calling on everyone to consider where you might fit in a ministry or just offer to assist. More volunteers are needed at the Tech Table on Sunday mornings, additional Ushers are needed, same goes for the Safety Ushers. If you have a question about where you might serve or whom to call, dial up Susan at the church office 352.854.4509; or call/text Ray Ihlenburg, Council President at 502.693.07618.

In Service,

Ray Ihlenburg  
Council President

## INTERN'S CORNER



Greetings from Our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Hello to my Joy Church Family. Time definitely flies by when you are busy. This Parish stands out as the leader in community and faith. It has been a Joy to be with all of you at meetings, Wednesday evening worship and Sunday Worship and fellowship.

I am, at this time, preparing for Our Joy Bible Study for Beginners. I need your help so that I can answer any questions that you may have about this weekly event. Please feel free to call my cell number 352-220-4307 with any questions about the context of this study, the time, date. This will be an ongoing practice with me or without me as your lead. I offer confidentiality, all questions asked are valid, in hopes that you have a comfort level with all of us attending.

Here is a quote from Martin Luther about Bible study:

“Firstly, you should know that the Holy Scriptures constitute a book which turns the wisdom of all other books into foolishness, because not one teaches about eternal life except this one alone. Therefore, you should straightway despair of your reason and understanding....But kneel down in your little room and pray to God with real humility and earnestness, that He through His dear Son may give you His Holy Spirit, who will enlighten you, lead you and give you understanding.”

## STEWARDSHIP

Gratitude may be one of the most overlooked tools for increasing happiness. Research shows it is the single most powerful method of increasing happiness. When we use our resources wisely and give generously, we experience a sense of joy and contentment that comes from knowing we are fulfilling God's purposes for our lives. Stewardship is crucial for living a purposeful and fulfilling life.

## FINANCE

### REMINDER FOR ALL MINISTRY CHAIRS

**A few days ago all of the Ministries Chairs received an email and a budgetary form. Each Ministry is asked to have either the chair or their representative be present at the June 11th Finance meeting at 1:00 pm in Swenson Hall. The form and the budget information needed will be discussed.**

**Please plan to attend!**

## BIBLE STUDY



### BIBLE STUDY FOR BEGINNERS

Starting Tuesday, June 11, 2024

11:00 AM –12:00 NOON

Led by: Intern Bob Bonomo

“The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me”  
I am sure this is one song most of us learned  
in Sunday School.

Have you always wanted to study the word of God  
but had no clue how to begin? Then this study is for  
you. Here you can feel free to ask any questions  
without judgement.

This is a safe place to discuss the Word and explore  
how it is still relevant today.

## **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**I wish to thank each and every one of you who  
donated to and/or helped work at Joy's Family  
Fun Day. Without each of you our event would  
not have been so successful and fun for so  
many. All your support was truly appreciated.  
“THANK YOU” to each of you. Linda Aker**

## BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
02-Jun	DEUTERONOMY	PSALM 81	2 CORINTHIANS	MARK
	5:12-15	vs. 1-10	4:5-12	2:23--3:6
09-Jun	GENESIS	PSALM 130	2 CORINTHIANS	MARK
	3:8-15	ALL	4:13--5:1	3:20-35
16-Jun	EZEKIEL	PSALM 92	2 CORINTHIANS	MARK
	17:22-24	vs. 1-4, 12-15	5:6-17	4:26-34
23-Jun	JOB	PSALM 107	2 CORINTHIANS	MARK
	38:1-11	vs. 1-3, 23-32	6:1-13	4:35-41
30-Jun	LAMENTATIONS	PSALM 30	2 CORINTHIANS	MARK
	3:22-33	ALL	8:7-15	5:21-43

### *An ESKIMO PROVERB:*

*Perhaps they are not stars,  
 But rather openings in heaven  
 Where the love of our lost ones  
 Pours through and shines down  
 Upon us to let us know  
 They are happy.*

**THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS**  
**HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD**  
**CRAFTS**

On June 16 2024 and during the service, we will be hearing a ministry moment about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are hand-made by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income . For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars , the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem , the COVID-19 pandemic , and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war , due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land . This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income . The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites ,

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.



# TIME FOR PRAYER

Are you searching for a time to pray? A place where you can go to lift up your concerns? Our Sanctuary doors are open every **MONDAY**, from 9:00 am—9:30 am. You can come at any time, stay for whatever time you need. Pastor Art or Intern Bob will be available to listen to your needs and pray with you if you so desire. You can pray silently, alone, or with someone. This is a quiet time to speak to God about your concerns, needs, and your thankfulness.

**SO COME IN, SIT DOWN, AND PRAY WITH US!**



## ANNOUNCING OPERATION RESTORATION VBS!

Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting a Vacation Bible School called Operation Restoration : Mending God’s World. During this exciting weeklong program, children learn to be members of the community as they explore the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest.

Operation Restoration is scheduled at the location of : **7045 SW 83<sup>rd</sup> Place, Ocala, FL** from **MONDAY, July 8<sup>th</sup>**, through **FRIDAY, July 12<sup>th</sup>**. Each daily session starts at 9:00 am and ends at 1:00 pm. We will have Bible lessons accompanied by guided activities, music, and crafts. A snack and light lunch will be provided.

This VBS is open to all kids who have just finished grades K through 5. The program is **FREE**; pre-registration is recommended.

To learn more call 352-854-4509 or email [joyocalafl@gmail.com](mailto:joyocalafl@gmail.com).





2024

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  SYNOD ASSEMBLY
2  Worship services 10:00 AM  SYNOD ASSEMBLY	3 Member Care-2:30  W & M-6:30P	4 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  Mr. Piano Tech 11 AM	5 Joyful Hands-9A  Happy Hands- 9:30 A  Worship Service 5:30P	6 LMM -7:30- 9:00A Stewardship 3:00 PM (SH)	7 TOPS-8-10 A Bell Choir-10 A "Jonah" Bible Study -10-12 OTOW	8
9  Worship services 10:00 AM	10 Stephen Ministry— 9:30 A	11 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b> Property 10 A Finance-1P  Outreach 3:30 P	12 Joyful Hands-9A  Happy Hands- 9:30 A  Worship Service 5:30P	13 <b>TIDINGS DEADLINE</b>  Council Exec Bd 3:00 PM	14 TOPS-8-10 A Bell Choir-10 A	15
16  Worship services 10:00 AM	17	18 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b> Council 1P	19 Joyful Hands-9A  Happy Hands- 9:30 A  Worship Service 5:30P	20	21 TOPS-8-10 A Bell Choir-10 A	22
23  Worship services 10:00 AM	24 Stephen Ministry— 9:30 A	25 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  Tidings Angels- 9:30 A	26 Joyful Hands-9A  Happy Hands- 9:30 A Worship Service 5:30P	27	28 TOPS-8-10 A Bell Choir-10 A  Synod Assembly	29 Interfaith Dinner
30  Worship services 10:00 AM  BLOOD DRIVE 7:45 AM-1:00 PM	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p>Please remember the deadline for the Bulletin is 8:00 am Tuesdays, and the TIDINGS is 8:00 am 15th. Please send "Copy" ready items so they can be inserted into the bulletin/Tidings to office email. <i>Thank You</i></p> </div>					

Contact Us

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U.S. POSTAGE

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Ocala, FL

Non-Profit

Organization



2024

*Our vision:*

*“Joy is a spiritual community sharing  
the love of Christ in a challenging  
world”.*

S. W. 80th Street



JOY Lutheran Church



S. W. 83rd Place

S. R. 200

4.5 Miles to I-75

Paddock Downs Homes

4.5 Miles to County Hwy 484