

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

JULY 2024

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*LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD*



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SCAN FOR ON-LINE GIVING



“For by grace are ye saved through faith. It is a gift from God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (I John 5:13)

**Dear JOYful Family,**

The message is too good to be true. That we are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus; a gift of God, not of ourselves. Then why, for sweet Jesus' sake, do we not live like it? I am so afraid, so reticent, to open myself up to being persecuted in any way, shape, or form. The first Christians lived in that reality; it's essentially the same today. Paul tells Timothy and us: “do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). I have always sought to blend in with society. That's the safe, cop-out way of being Christian. We are called through Holy Baptism to be workers in the kingdom, living the “JOYous burden of life in Christ. At some point, I need to stop accommodating so that people can see a vibrant faith in me. If I don't, how are *holy moments* going to get shown? God's kingdom will come, and His holy Church cannot shirk its role in it!

*Continued on Page 3*

***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



07/01 Edie Stewart  
 07/03 John Voyles  
 07/04 Ken Charles  
 07/05 Janet Voyles  
           Jeffrey Hogan  
 07/07 Judy Spillane  
           Richard Plesser  
 07/10 Ethel Kleiner  
           Jean Kutscher  
 07/12 Michael Parli  
 07/13 Yvonne Conner  
 07/14 Bob Bleau Sr.  
           Sharri Soper  
 07/17 Dorie Bay  
 07/18 Elaine Froeschl  
 07/19 Cecil Carter  
 07/20 Amy Wuertz  
 07/22 Art Salzlein  
 07/25 Kathy Berlin  
 07/26 Dawn Winblad  
 07/30 Tom Ittner  
           Diane Plesser

*May God bless all of our celebrants  
 with health, happiness, peace,  
 and love.*

*Continued from page 1* We will find our focus, inspiration, and energy in Him. Here at Joy, we are continuing a process of focusing our ministry goals so that they may be expressed through our budget for 2025. You all inspire me with your “can-do” attitude and your creativity, and you keep the momentum and energy going as you collaborate. The church offers a positive alternative because it’s all about serving and worshiping the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He shall reign forever and ever! Hallelujah!

Too good and oh so true! I will strive, with the help of God, to be a better Leader. I will pray that fear may be cast off, and my prayer for you all is that you will grow in grace to love and serve the Lord. He waits to bear fruit in us, and His desire is that you will be whole and well in His praise.

I’ll see you in church!

*Love, Pastor Art*



<i>07/09</i>	<i>Paul &amp; Ruth Ann Silliman</i>	<i>47 yrs.</i>
	<i>Lenny &amp; Shirley Matz Sr.</i>	<i>36 yrs.</i>
<i>07/11</i>	<i>Robert &amp; Arlene Simons</i>	<i>65 yrs.</i>
<i>07/14</i>	<i>Dick &amp; Cyndie Charcalla</i>	<i>52 yrs.</i>
<i>07/19</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Diane Plessler</i>	
<i>07/26</i>	<i>Marcia &amp; Jim O'Brien</i>	
<i>07/31</i>	<i>John &amp; Debbie Cobb</i>	<i>42 yrs.</i>

**Dear Members of Joy,**

**We were very honored to represent Joy at the Florida Bahama Synod Assembly in May. This was a new experience for us and we were blessed by it. We learned so much about the various missions supported by the ELCA and our Synod. We are doing good works in so many places! In addition, we learned how wonderfully helpful the Synod can be for a struggling congregation. But the biggest take away was the overall theme about the importance of building community within our congregation and in the world. We can build up our congregation when we work together to make our larger community better, when we support others, and have an investment in good works. When we look beyond ourselves, we grow together.**

**We also attended two workshops at the Assembly. One focused on using social media to assist with building community. We brought home some great information about how we can utilize our existing Facebook page more effectively. This information will be so helpful as we kick off our Publicity and Social Media Team soon! We also attended a workshop related to developing a Culture of Generosity. Joy Lutheran Church truly is a grateful and generous congregation and this workshop encouraged us to celebrate and grow this culture of generosity. You will learn more about this during the fall months.**

**We truly enjoyed meeting Bishop Suárez, hearing his message, and receiving communion from him. What a comfortable and genuine person he is! We are looking forward to his visit to Joy this coming year.**

**Thank you for offering us this wonderful experience!**

**With gratitude,**

**Lynn & Ray Ihlenburg**

## INTERN'S CORNER



**Greetings from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,**

**I hope that the summer thus far has been good for all of you. Yes, it has been hot but we expect that. If you are from the North, we expected extremely cold days with ice and snow. I'll take the heat any day.**

**Well I have reached the three-month mark as an Intern at Joy, and it has been a pleasure to work and worship with all of you. I have requested to be the chair for member care as this is the heart of all congregations. This is what God wants us to do!!! Our Shepherds also are invited to join us for our monthly meeting.**

**Bible study for beginners began on 6/11/24 with about 12 curious learners. It lasts about one hour weekly and if we go over that time it is because our learners requested to stay longer. This is also a time for great questions and discussions. My prayer for Joy, is that this particular bible study never end. The Holy Spirit will always be present as God talks to us through scripture.**

**I am so close to finishing seminary study and I can see at the end of the tunnel my MDiv diploma.**

**With all of this said, May God Bless all of you with His Peace, His Love and His Forgiveness,**

**Intern Robert (Bob)**

## HOW DO YOU GIVE TO JOY?

There are several ways you can make your donations:

Credit/Debit Card, Automatic Bank Bill Payment, QCD, and Checks.

Please consider the following:

1. Credit/Debit Card payments may involve fees that are assessed to you as well as to the church.
2. Auto Bill Pay is a check sent from your bank directly to the church as specified by you. As of this date, there are no fees assessed.
3. QCD – You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution as part of your annual Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA custodian, payable to the church. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be excluded from your taxable income.
4. Checks can be mailed in or placed in the offertory envelopes provided by Joy.

The boxed envelopes provided are specifically designed to be used weekly, on holidays, and special collections.

Please consider whether the weekly offertory envelopes meet your specific donation needs (Donate monthly, semi-annually, or annually.) If they do not you can decide not to use them and use a pew envelope for your donation. (Remember to put your name on the envelope.)

Should you decide not to use the weekly envelopes, please notify the office so we can amend our records. The envelopes are expensive therefore any reduction in how many we must order would be a large cost savings for Joy.

Thank you .

*Terry Owen, Treasurer*

**OUTREACH****Tools 4 Teaching**  
**This Month we are Spotighting**

We are collecting school supplies  
this month for

**Tools 4 Teaching Store.**

All types of classroom supplies are welcome.  
Please bring any donations you have and place them in  
the basket in the Outreach Room. *Thank you.*

**WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS?**

The Old Testament ends with the book of Malachi, written around 430 B.C. The New Testament picks up around 60 A.D, chronicling Jesus birth approximately 5 – 3 B.C.

As Malachi ended, the Israelites were subject to the Persians, who allowed the Israelites religious freedom. Then Alexander the Great took charge. Because of this, Greek became the universal language. The Old Testament was translated into Greek, making it accessible to the people.

After Alexander died, a general named Ptolemy was in charge of Palestine. He and the heirs who followed treated the Israelites well, but not the kings of Syria, known as the Seleucids. One of these leaders, Antiochus IV, tried to force the Israelites to give up their religion, using torture and other means.

Hope arrived with the Maccabean revolt, initially led by a priest named Mattathias and carried on by his son Judas, a military genius. For about one hundred years (roughly 167-63 BC), the Israelites were independent. Then the Roman general Pompey “annexed” Palestine, making it part of the Roman Empire. Eventually Herod the Great, a tyrant, came to power (38 BC). He was in charge at the beginning of the New Testament.

## SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY 2024

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
07-Jul	EZEKIEL	PSALM 123	2 CORINTHIANS	MARK
	2:1-5	ALL	12:2-10	6:1-13
14-Jul	AMOS	PSALM 85	EPHESIANS	MARK
	7:7-15	8-13	1:3-14	6:14-29
21-Jul	JEREMIAH	PSALM 23	EPHESIANS	MARK
	23:1-6	ALL	2:11-22	6:30-34, 53-56
28-Jul	2 KINGS	PSALM 145	EPHESIANS	JOHN
	4:42-44	10-18	3:14-21	6:1-21



In an effort to be good stewards of our resources,

### *TIDINGS OF JOY*

We will no longer send out the TIDINGS in a bulk mailing

## The good news is...

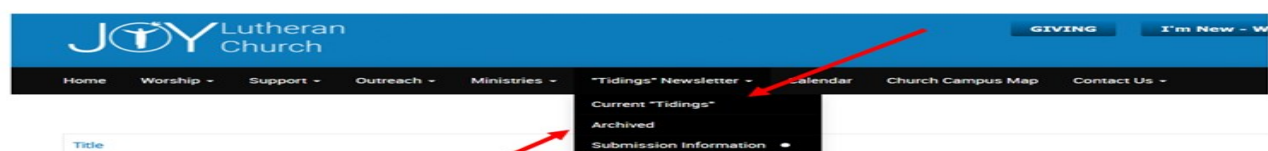
You will receive the TIDINGS in your **email**.

We will have some paper copies available in the **Narthex**

You can always find current and past TIDINGS on **Joy's Website**

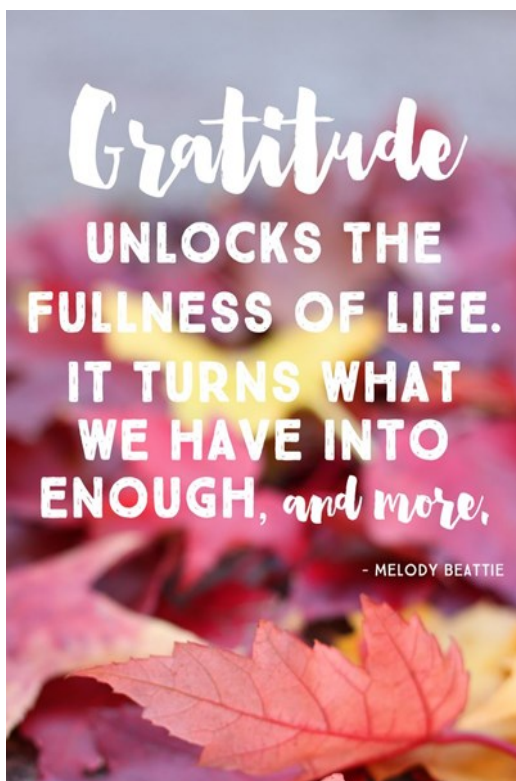
**\*\*We will send the TIDINGS out to those who cannot receive them in these ways.**

**Did you know that the Tidings Newsletter is easily found on our Joy Website?**



***Even older versions are available here! Check it out!***





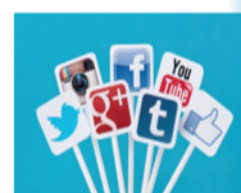
**Gratitude** is an important aspect of a happy and fulfilling life, and the Bible has many verses that emphasize the importance of being thankful. An attitude of thanksgiving to God will fill us with hope and joy.

The apostle Paul often wrote about gratitude. He encouraged giving thanks for all things, in all circumstances (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18), being thankful even in suffering (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:1-4), and doing everything in the name of Jesus out of a spirit of gratefulness (Colossians 3:17). When we give thanks to God in prayer, even when it's hard to, we are promised comfort and provision for our needs.

A prayer from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer:

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all thy mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Step into the modern day world with us!



## Come to Joy's Publicity and Social Media Intro on Thursday, July 11, at 1:00pm

In the NARTHEX

Lynn and Ray Ihlenburg will be sharing what they learned at the Synod Assembly about...

**Developing Community and Sharing the Love of Christ through media**

We will also be talking about ways to share information about Joy

*If you want to learn more about social media, and our Webpage, this is the place to come!  
We will teach you!*



## DON'T FORGET: TIME FOR PRAYER EVERY WEEK

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!

PLEASE NOTE: JULY 8TH, NOT OPEN DUE TO VBS.

## Consider Automatic Bank



## Draft Giving



Arrange an automatic payment directly from your bank.

It is so much easier and efficient.

*Call the church office for assistance setting this up.*

*Of course if you want to keep your weekly envelopes, you sure can!*

**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# JULY

# 2024

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Time 4 Prayer-9AM Worship & Music 6:30 PM	2 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  Beginner's Bible Study 11AM	3 Joyful Hands-9A Happy Hands- 9:30 A Worship Service 5:30P	4 <b>HAPPY 4TH</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>4TH OF JULY</b>	5 TOPS-8-10 AM Bell Choir-10 AM	6
7  Worship services 10:00 AM  USHERS: SPELLMAN	8  VBS 9:00-1:00	9 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  VBS 9:00-1:00	10  VBS 9:00-1:00  Worship Service 5:30P	11  VBS 9:00-1:00  Publicity 1PM (N) Stewardship 3:00 PM (SH)	12  TOPS-7:30 AM  VBS 9:00-1:00	13
14  Worship services 10:00 AM  Concert: Janet 3:00 PM  USHERS: VOYLES	15 <b>TIDINGS DEADLINE</b>  Time 4 Prayer 9 am	16 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  Beginner's Bible Study 11 AM	17 Joyful Hands-9A  Happy Hands- 9:30 A  Worship Service 5:30P	18	19 TOPS-7:30 AM Bell Choir-10 AM	20
21 Worship services 10:00 AM <i>TOWN HALL</i> 9:15 AM Pasta w/Pastor 11:15 AM USHERS: McGRURY	22 Time 4 Prayer 9 am Stephen Ministry— 9:30 A	23 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  Beginner's Bible Study—11:00 AM	24 Joyful Hands-9A  Happy Hands- 9:30 A  Worship Service 5:30P	25	26 TOPS-8-10 AM Bell Choir-10 AM	27
28 Worship services 10:00 AM  USHERS: KLEINER	29 Time 4 Prayer 9 am  Interfaith Dinner	30 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>  Beginner's Bible Study 11:00 AM ?	31 Joyful Hands- 9AM Happy Hands- 9:30 AM Worship Service 5:30PM			

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. *Thank You*



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**JULY 2024**

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

