

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2026

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



Joy is a spiritual community sharing Christ in a challenging world.

Dear JOY!ful Family,

I was asked by one of our prospective new members at JOY! Formation how we keep financially operating. After a lifetime of being Catholic, where the local diocese pumps money into the parish, he was genuinely curious. "GENEROSITY", I replied. It is by the stewardship of members, participants, and friends giving a portion of what God has blessed them with. Granted, it is an ongoing challenge, with the economy dramatically impacting our household finances. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes us uncomfortable by preaching and teaching mostly about money, lovingly challenges us to dig a little deeper into our personal coffers to grow the kingdom of God.

Thankfully at Joy, we aren't "broke". We can all be grateful for the diligent work of our Stewardship and Finance Ministries, along with our Treasurer Caroline and President Karin, for managing our purse strings. The potential is definitely there, my sisters and brothers in Christ. What I want for you is to embrace an abundance mindset. We can be lavish in love and forego a material pleasure or two. We cannot fully appreciate the abundance of life offered by

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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

Intern— Linda Murphy

Administrative Assistant—

Zsuzsanna Jobbagy

Director of Music—Silas Daniel

Choir Director—Linda Aker

Handbell Director—

Melissa Daniel

Sexton—Carson Faris

Treasurer—Caroline Bernard

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President— Karin Campbell

Vice President—John Voyles

Secretary— Linda Aker

Treasurer—Caroline Bernard

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



<i>DATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>
<i>10/07</i>	<i>Marian Spitzack</i>
	<i>Rebecca Spees</i>
<i>10/08</i>	<i>John Cobb</i>
	<i>Gene Dietz</i>
<i>10/11</i>	<i>Phil Shirley</i>
<i>10/12</i>	<i>Mary Martin</i>
<i>10/14</i>	<i>Norm Newman</i>
<i>10/16</i>	<i>Debbie Holmes</i>
<i>10/19</i>	<i>Jackie Assante</i>
<i>10/23</i>	<i>Douglas Hines</i>
<i>10/25</i>	<i>Jude Gonzalez</i>
<i>10/28</i>	<i>Diane Julian</i>
<i>10/29</i>	<i>Judy Gunson</i>

Continued from Page 1

Christ (John 10:10) unless and until we embrace generous living.

We are blessed beyond measure here at Joy! You always convey and embody the Good News. When you think you can't, God knows you can. People will respond to what's valuable. What can be more valuable than the kingdom of heaven, represented here on earth? Our worldly treasures are brief flights of fancy. What is divine and holy endures. (Pretty sure I read that in the Word somewhere...).

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY that you and we will courageously, confidently embrace the ministry we share in the Gospel.

I'll see you in church! Pastor Art

Happy Anniversary

<i>DATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i># YRS</i>
<i>10/01</i>	<i>Diane and Ed Wanat</i>	<i>13 yrs.</i>
<i>10/10</i>	<i>Patti and Tom Ittner</i>	<i>28 yrs.</i>
<i>10/19</i>	<i>Dawn and Kurt Cook</i>	<i>2 yrs.</i>
<i>10/21</i>	<i>Kim & Jim Hessel</i>	<i>22 yrs.</i>
<i>10/22</i>	<i>Karin and John Campbell</i>	<i>32 yrs.</i>
	<i>Peggy and Gene Dietz</i>	<i>21 yrs.</i>
<i>10/28</i>	<i>Janet and John Voyles</i>	<i>31 yrs.</i>
<i>10/31</i>	<i>Lori and Thommy Ilmrud</i>	<i>2 yrs.</i>

Imagine Giving Fearlessly

The Holy Spirit is alive at Joy Lutheran—moving in our welcome, our compassion, and the ministries that touch lives every day.

Your giving keeps this work going. It supports worship, staff, music, technology, and the spaces where we gather. It also fuels outreach, missions, and the care we offer beyond our walls.

As costs rise and our ministry grows, we invite you to consider increasing your giving, not out of obligation, but as a faithful “yes” to what God is doing here. A fearless gift strengthens Joy’s future and the ministry we share.

It is a way of saying, *“Here I am, Lord. Use me. Use what I have. I trust you.”*

Imagine—without fear—because God is already here.

**Imagination Celebration
Sunday, October 4 @ 4:00pm
The Lodge at Candler Hills
(OTOW)**

**Commitment Sunday
Sunday, October 11
@ 8:15 am & 11:00am**

**Thank you for giving, serving, and showing up.
Joy is Joy because of you.**

PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR COMMITMENT

Amount Per Week	Amount Per Month	Amount Per Year
\$1	\$4	\$52
\$2	\$9	\$104
\$3	\$13	\$156
\$4	\$17	\$208
\$5	\$22	\$260
\$10	\$43	\$520
\$15	\$65	\$780
\$20	\$87	\$1,040
\$25	\$108	\$1,300

Tickets still available for the

**Imagination Celebration
Sunday, October 4 @ 4:00pm
The Lodge at Candler Hills (OTOW)**

Commitment Cards will be given out at the Imagination Celebration. You may complete them at the event and leave them in the Arc.

Or

**You can bring your commitment card to church on
Commitment Sunday, October 11.**

All cards not picked up at the event will be sent to your home.

A message from Intern Linda...

One of the best feelings in the world is knowing that you are exactly where you are supposed to be and where God meant you to be. Your warm welcome has made me feel that Joy Lutheran Church is exactly that for me! Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and loving hearts. One by one, I am getting to know you individually, here at church, visiting the hospitalized and homebound, and our Joy House family members.



My first month has been busy acquainting myself with the many thriving ministries at Joy. My goodness! Your joy-filled outreach to the community is such a beautiful witness to the love of Christ. Your tender care and concern for one another have formed a tightly knit “faith family” -yet, always on the lookout to generously share that love with guests and visitors.

Our rich worship time together allows me to have a front row seat to see your faces each week, eager to be fed and nourished; hear your voices confessing our faith and praising God with grateful hearts in song. It is clear to me that the sense of community here at Joy is a gift you all treasure. I feel blessed to be welcomed into it.

I have begun working on a couple new projects to be launched during my internship and look forward to your continued support. Stay tuned to learn more.

President's Report

COUNCIL

Each month is getting more and more exciting. This month we are getting organized for our Commitment Sunday plus the coming Joy Imagination Dinner Celebration on Oct 4 at 4pm at the OTOW Lodge facility with great and fun entertainment.

Monthly finances: We have again received more donations in August than we had in expenses. Always a wonderful sign!

Our budget for 2027 is currently being worked on. Our goal for 2027 is to have a balanced realistic budget—that is we continue to not spend more than all of you give to support the day-to-day expenditures, but also to complete many projects to improve our campus. This will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on November 8.

As part of the Outreach Ministry, we want to start adding meals to the “Wear Gloves” program. Anyone wanting to help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Linda Akers.

Another program under Publicity & Social Media will be started: short videos regarding things going on at Joy. I look forward to seeing them all!

The council would also like to invite anyone who would be interested in serving on the Council to step forward and if the Nominating Committee has already approached you please say YES!

We will be gearing up for the Capital Campaign to start in 2027! Many teams have already been working on the organizing phase.

Regards,

Karin

Men's Retreat at Luther Springs: November 6–8

"2x4" - Two challenges, four Bible studies, one weekend

A 2x4 by itself is just a board. Put a few together and you've got something that holds real weight. That's the idea behind this weekend. Two team challenges, four Bible studies, and a whole lot more that happens in the space in between. Kayaks on still water. Arrows at the archery range. Food worth going back for seconds. Conversations around the campfire. You don't have to have your life figured out to come. None of us do. Leave the tie at home, skip the small talk, come as you are. Chances are the guy sitting next to you is carrying a similar load. Bring a friend, round up the guys from your congregation, or come on your own. Retreat in partnership with Lutheran Men in Mission.



- **Motel-Style Rooms:** Tier 1 \$175, Tier 2 \$225, Tier 3 \$275
- **Bunks:** Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3

You choose! Tier I (subsidized), Tier II (direct cost), or Tier III (true cost) — everyone gets the same great experience regardless of tier. Scholarships are available.

Housing in Cabins or Motel-Style Rooms. Spots are limited. Register Now:

www.LutherSprings.org/mens-retreat



Update on our September 13th Blood Drive from our Lifesouth Account Representative:

“So yall had 20 people register to donate with 18 donations, just absolutely rockin it lately and that was in the summer months. I wouldn't be too surprised if we hit the mid 20s in these snowbird months.” William Alexander Account Representative Lifesouth

Thanks to everyone who signed up; you all count. The 18 donations saved 54 lives. That is simply amazing.

Our next Blood Drive will be on November 8th. More information will follow.

HEROES OF THE MONTH: THE JOY!HOUSE “NONNAS”

In recent weeks, they have grown to six – Jude’ Gonzalez, Debbie Zander, Tracy Carter, Patty Willoughby, Penny Davis, and Denise Armstrong. They are the adopted Grandmas to our foster girls. They have had cookie baking play dates, other outings, and weekly Bible study. When the girls attend worship, they immediately seek out their “Nonnas” to sit with.

The love, welcome, and acceptance they give are a reflection of who they are.

Well done, ladies!

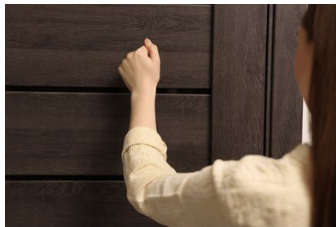




WELCA TIME

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming WELCA meeting on October 19th at 11:30 AM in Swenson Hall.

Our guest speaker is from Marion Senior Services. She will be speaking about the services they offer. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex for the food you would like to bring. Be assured, you do not have to bring anything but yourself. Invite friends and neighbors. All are welcome. We'd love to add your name!



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Join our WELCA sisters from across Florida to refresh and renew our souls. There will be time for Worship, Bible Study, Workshops, Fellowship and Fun. The conference will be November 13-15, 2026, at the Warren Willis Conference Center in Fruitland Park. We have scholarship funds available on a first come, first serve basis. The funds were made available by an anonymous donor to encourage our attendance. I hope some of our WELCA women will attend! If you are interested, text me at 352-216-0255 or email me at chfaris317@cox.net. Registration deadline is October 10th. I am counting on some of the women to attend this event. In love and service,

Carson Faris



BIBLE READINGS FOR--OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
October 4, 2026	ISAIAH	PSALM	PHILIPPIANS	MATTHEW
	5:1-7	80:7-15	3:4b-14	21:33-46
October 11, 2026	ISAIAH	PSALM	PHILIPPIANS	MATTHEW
	25:1-9	23	4:1-9	22:1-14
October 18, 2026	ISAIAH	PSALM	1 THESSALONIANS	MATTHEW
	45:1-7	96:1-9[10-13]	1:1-10	22:15-22
October 25, 2026	JEREMIAH	PSALM	ROMANS	JOHN
	31:31-34	46	3:19-28	8:31-36

FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY

THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IS OUR FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY.
YOU CAN HELP!

- 1) **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**-MONETARY DONATIONS USING YOUR NUMBERED DONATION ENVELOPES OR THE PEW ENVELOPES.
- 2) **INTERFAITH FOOD BANK**-NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS CAN BE PLACED ON THE CARTS PROVIDED

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

OUR NEXT FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY DATE:

October 25th.



22nd Annual Blessing of the Animals



JOY Lutheran
Church
7045 SW 83rd Place
Off Hwy 200—Ocala, FL

**Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:00 am
in our Memorial Garden**

**"All creatures great and small "
are welcome to our Garden.**

***"If you bring them, we will bless
them!"***

**Any questions please call
Terry Owen**

@ 717-571-9752 Animal Blessing Chairperson

Join the Finance Ministry Team at Joy Lutheran Church
– Just one meeting each month! --

Joy Lutheran is seeking caring, detail-oriented volunteers to support our Finance Ministry Team. If you have experience in administration, bookkeeping, or finance, your gifts can make a meaningful difference.

This team helps ensure that Joy's resources are stewarded faithfully and transparently. If you enjoy organized work, numbers, spreadsheets, or behind the scenes ministry that strengthens the whole church, we would love to welcome you. We meet monthly at 1pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Next meeting, Tuesday, October 13 @ 1:00pm in the
Garden Room (Swenson Hall)

You will be welcomed!

LOOKING AHEAD...

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1ST –

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH – SERVICE MOVES FROM 6:30 TO 5:30

NOVEMBER 8TH – ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION (9:30)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH – 15TH: WELCA FALL GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 5:30 – THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



The Bible Recap: A One-Year Guide to Reading and Understanding the Entire Bible (365-Day Bible Study Guide for Men, Women, & Teens to Read the Bible in a Year)

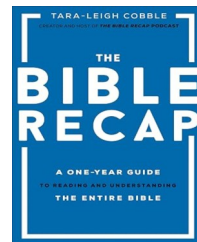
by [Tara-Leigh Cobble](#) (Author) Format: Hardcover

[4.8 out of 5 stars \(8,312\)](#)

4.8 on Goodreads

7,154 ratings

[See all languages and editions](#)



OVER 1 MILLION SOLD • From a Wall Street Journal Bestselling Author

Start Reading, Understanding, and Loving the Bible with this Companion Guide

Have you ever closed your Bible and thought, What did I just read?

Or maybe you have tried to read through the Bible in a year, but quit when it felt confusing or impersonal. The Bible Recap is here to help with:

- 365 daily Scripture readings in chronological order
- Grasp the full story of the Bible--from Genesis to Revelation--like never before
- Daily reflections on God's character and faithfulness perfect for devotional reading
- Insightful but easy-to-understand summaries that will fortify your faith
- Each day's recap is only 2 pages and takes about 5 minutes to read
- Ideal for small-group Bible study, as a faith-forward gift, or for morning or evening devotions
- Use The Bible Recap alongside your regular Bible
- Join millions who've read the Bible for the first time with The Bible Recap

Whether you're brand-new to the Bible or you grew up in the second pew, reading God's Word can feel confusing or boring at times. Understanding it well seems to require reading it thoroughly (and even repeatedly), but who wants to read something they don't understand?

If you've ever wanted to read through the Bible or even just wanted to want to read it, The Bible Recap is here to help. Following a chronological Bible reading plan, these recaps explain and connect the Old Testament and New Testament, section by section. Soon you'll see yourself as a child of God who knows and loves His Word in the ways you've always hoped for.



OCTOBER

2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS <u>NOVEMBER 1, 2026 at 2:00 AM</u> LOCAL TIME. <u>CLOCKS GET SET BACK ONE HOUR.</u>				1 LMM 8A Publicity 1P (N) Stewardship 2P BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	2 Joy Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P “Holy Hiatus” 7P (OC)	3 Charlie & Friends 7:30 A (N) Blessing of the Animals 11 A (MG)
4 Worship Service 8:15 & 11 A Imagine Kick Off 4P (OTOW)	5 Conf. on Min- istry (Pr. & Lin- da) Member Care 1P (SH) Charlie Bible Study 1P (N) Capital Camp Mtg 3:30P	6 Conf. on Ministry (Pr. & Linda)	7 Conf. on Minis- try (Pr. & Linda) Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Christian Enr.1P Off Key Choir 1:30(S) Choir 3-4:30 (S) Worship Svc 6:30P	8 Wear Gloves Lunch Share (OC) Outreach 1:30P (SH) BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	9 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	10 Charlie & Friends 7:30 A (N)
11 Commitment Sun. Worship Service 8:15 & 11 AM	12 Stephen Minis- try 9:30 AM Charlie Bible Study 1P (N)	13 Beginners’ Bible Study 11A (SH) Property 10A Finance 1P	14 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Off Key Choir 1:30(S) Choir 3-4:30 (S) Worship Svc 6:30P	15 Council Exec. Bd.3P BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	16 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	17 Charlie & Friends 7:30 A (N)
18 Worship Service 8:15 & 11 AM Christmas Concert Org. Mtg. 9:30(S) Concert 3P Uniquilele	19 WELCA Lunch 11A Charlie Bible Study 1P (N)	20 Beginners’ Bible Study 11A Council 1P	21 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Off Key Choir 1:30(S) Choir 3-4:30 (S) Worship Svc 6:30P	22 BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	23 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	24 Charlie & Friends 7:30 A (N)
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship Service 8:15 & 11 AM Fight Hunger Sun	26 Charlie Bible Study 1P (N) Internship Re- treat (Pr. & Linda)	27 Pineland Ministers Mtg. 12 Noon Internship Retreat (Pr. & Linda)	28 Joyful Hands 9A Happy Hands 9A Off Key Ch 1:30(S) Choir 3-4:30 (S) Worship Svc 6:30P Internship Re- treat (Pr. & Linda)	29 Interfaith Dinner Share (OC) BCR –Rehearsal 6:30 P (S)	30 Bell Choir 10A Cleaning Service 1-3 P	31 Charlie & Friends 7:30 A (N)

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OCTOBER

Our vision:

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

