

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2024

Inside this issue:

Staff & Council Members,	
Staff & Council Members	2
Council News	4
Intern's Corner	5
Worship & Music	6
Property	7
Upcoming Events	8
Timber Ridge Angels	11
New Member Orientation	12
Stamps of Approval	13
Stewardship	14
Bible Study	15
Blood Drive December Bible Readings	16
JOY Calendar	17



LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. (Isaiah 11:1)

Dear JOYful Family,

Advent begins on the first day of the month. Many of us have begun our routines of decorating, baking, card-writing and shopping. We may call it giving in to the rhythm of the consuming, secular world that we are in but not of. “If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em”. We walk a fine line between rushing and waiting. The first involves preparation, and so does the second. To wait is also to prepare. Ready or not, here He comes.

Foretold long ago, planned for from the very beginning, the flesh becomes Word and dwells among us. Already and not yet. Jesse, father of David, son of Obed. I have a cousin whose name is (I kid you not) David Jesse Obed. Family Genetics 101. Biological fact, truthful birthright. The future ruler who will embody the paired gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will be of the house and lineage of David.

Whether the month of December will bring happiness to all, I cannot say. This I DO know, because it is true: our JOY is rooted in the *magnum mysterium*. God made certain that by the power of the

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-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



12/02 *Lee Stewart*
 Gail Schoenwisner
 Rich Cognetti
12/05 *Robert Irish*
12/07 *Dot Sweeney*
12/09 *Betty DeLong*
 Linda Neblock
12/10 *Richard Arntzen*
 Ray Ihlenburg
12/11 *Ginger Clairmont*
12/17 *William Berlin*
 Diana O'Neill
12/18 *Karl Gunther*
12/20 *Paulette Kuzmanovich*
12/21 *Terry VanEffen*
12/24 *Sally Wheeler*
12/26 *Jack Mixdorf*
12/27 *Joyce Ryan*
 Charlotte Schmidt
12/28 *Melanie Chaney*

Continued from Page 1

Holy Spirit, the Wondrous Gift would be a precious, lowly and Holy infant. Because of this, we have the utmost assurance, the certain hope, that God will also be as close to us as a mother's womb. Yes, your days in the last month of the year may feel more crappy than happy. It is only temporary, my dear Christian friends. We keep coming back to the house of the Lord because nothing else makes a lick of sense. God participates with us in the daily struggles, relentless pain, and cares of this world.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Hope will be born again in the manger. Our calendar month will begin with contemplation and eager anticipation. If it doesn't get done, or we don't have enough money to do it all, the Christ-child will still come into our hearts. So come, be a part of the Advent/Christmas season! It is an ideal time to tell and invite others. Good News and JOY are found here!

Pastor Art



<i>Joe & Judy Spillane</i>	<i>12/17</i>	<i>59 yrs.</i>
<i>John & Barbara Marvin</i>	<i>12/21</i>	<i>46 yrs.</i>
<i>Tamara & Wallace Thomas</i>	<i>12/28</i>	<i>39 yrs.</i>

Celebrate Good Times

CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE**Ray Ihlenburg, President****COUNCIL**

Thank you, JOY members that attended the Annual Meeting. You greatly helped JOY prepare for 2025. Seventy-four members attended and seventy-two participated in the election of four new Council Members. The new Council Members are Linda Aker, Karin Campbell, Rich Cognetti, and Don Fields. Their three-year term begins at the January 2025 Council Meeting on January 21, 2025 at 1:00 PM. This will be the first year that the Council has a full complement of twelve members. Several special notes of 'thank you' have to go out to Susan Jobbagy for assembling the Annual Report and for Terry Owen for generating our budget. Also, thanks to each of the Ministry Leaders for submitting their reports to Susan on time. The minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved by the Council at the November Meeting and will be available for reference in the Narthex Notebook.

In order to enhance communication between the Ministries and the Church Council, it was decided that the monthly Council Minutes would be sent to the leaders of all of the JOY Ministries, promptly following each Council Meeting.

Thanks to a very gracious donor JOY will have three new picnic tables for the Memory Garden. We anticipate having them in the Garden early in 2025.

Word has it that the kick-off promotion and sale for Dignity Roasters coffee is a success. Dignity Roasters is an initiative of Wear Gloves that provides job opportunities for "those in need to earn what they need; breaking the cycle of dependency." Dignity Roasters is located at 98 NE 9th Street in Ocala, 352.234.6354. Their website, dignityroasters.com, makes it easy to order your favorite or, better yet, you can drive by for a cup and pick up that favorite flavor while you are there.

Planning is underway for JOY to celebrate our 35th Anniversary (30th year in the Sanctuary) on January 12. Bishop Pedro Suarez will be here to join our celebration. Watch for more news about the plans for this celebration in the coming days.

JOY has so many wonderful volunteers who keep the Church running, but there is a real need for additional ushers and sound volunteers, especially for the 8:15 Services. When there are ample volunteers, the days of service often occur once or twice per month. Please consider serving in this way. For more information: Speak with Joy Olsen at the 8:15am service, or any sound tech.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Now we focus on the Joys and Grace that is Christmas.

INTERN'S CORNER



Blessings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Advent in the Lutheran Church has a rich history that dates to the early centuries of Christianity. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival." It marks the beginning of the liturgical year and is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The observance of Advent in the Lutheran Church can be traced back to the 4th and 5th centuries when it was established as a period of fasting and penitence in preparation for the feast of the Nativity. Over time, the observance of Advent evolved to include the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, represented by the lighting of the Advent wreath.

As we prepare for His Birth and His Promise, come and join us for Wednesday evening worship.

December 4th, 2024 4:30 to 5:30 Hor d' Oeuvres served in the Narthex.
(5:30- 6:30) Worship in our Sanctuary

December 11 and December 18th: the same as above.

May His Promise and His Peace be with all of you through the Advent season and Christmas Season.

Intern Bob Bonomo

ALTAR FLOWERS

WORSHIP & MUSIC

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Starting in January the church office will not be responsible for the Altar Flowers. Live plants will be placed on the wall stands.

Anyone wishing to bring in floral arrangements (only 2 per week) may do so. Each person is responsible to order, pay for, and ensure the flowers are in church for Sunday. You may purchase the flowers wherever you wish. If you order flowers through our current florist, and cannot pick them up yourself, Diane Julian has offered to work with you to get them. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for two arrangements per week. If you designate that the flowers are for a specific occasion, we will attempt to make sure it gets into the bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ps. Our current florist is:

BUILD-A-BOUQUET352-355-3568

6158 SW State Rd. 200 Suite 103 Ocala, FL 34476

www.buildabouquetocala.com

Owner: **Jassmine**

Hours: **Mon-Fri-9 am—5 pm, Sat 9am-1pm**



PROPERTY MINISTRY MESSAGE

Ray Ihlenburg

PROPERTY

Do you keep things because you think you might need them in the future. I call these things 'select material', definitely not junk. Well at JOY, it seems as if our JOY garage can become an unorganized depository for any select material someone doesn't wish to have in their garage or just can't bear to take to the Sheriff's Store or Goodwill. Once things are there it becomes JOY's problem to store, try to sell or re-home, or dispose of. At that point, it becomes junk.

As an alternative to bringing things to JOY, please consider donating, instead, to Pay It Forward Outreach Corp. They provide, free of charge, home furnishings for vets and homeless that are transitioning to an apartment or home. Pay It Forward Outreach will screen your goods or donations by phone and schedule a pickup. Their website states: "Pay It Forward Outreach will accept any kind of furniture, housewares, kitchen items, small and large appliances, TVs, linens, decorative items, bikes, and any other home good you would like to donate." Remember, they pick up. Call them at 352.620.8545.

Recently, some brave Joy Guys tackled a garage clean up. Many Thanks to *Jerry Weiland, Doug Juhl, JR Frederiksen, Charlie Meier, John Wiley, Rich Cognetti, Ken Erhart, Ray Ihlenburg and Ken Charles* who worked hard over three hours considering, sorting, calling people for directions, sorting tools, re-arranging items to be stored, culling the 'select material' and loading Charlie Meier's trailer with junk. Charlie reported that 1,240 pounds of junk was moved from the garage to the Levy City Landfill.

The Property Ministry recommended JOY not accept household goods, tools, sporting equipment (other than golf equipment as we support First Tee of Central Florida), decorations, etc. because it is more efficient to take these items directly to a charity that is set up to re-sell or donate directly to the needy. Your generosity to a charity that is setup to get your donations into the hands of the needy faster will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, if you move something from the garage for any reason, please return it to the space from 'whence it came'.

BEFORE

AFTER



Seasons of JOY

Concert Series



A JOYful Celebration

4th Annual Christmas Concert

Please join us for our fourth annual Christmas concert! Featuring a host of talent from within the congregation at Joy, this is the December event you do not want to miss. Songs, handbells, and an assortment of other instruments comprise a special Christmas program to kick off the Advent and Christmas seasons.

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

December 1, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

at JOY Lutheran Church

7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476

REMEMBER THESE DATES



- 1. WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT: “WATCH, WAIT, AND WONDER” -**
beginning with fellowship and light refreshments at 4:30
DECEMBER 4TH, 11TH, and 18TH
- 2, “JOY!Formation” for new folks/prospective members:**
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 10TH, AND 17TH AT 10:00 in SWENSON HALL We will receive new members on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND.**
- 3. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP – 4:00 AND 6:00**
- 4. CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP AT 10:00**
- 5. DECEMBER 29TH – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00**
- 6. SUNDAY, JAN. 12TH – BISHOP PEDRO SUAREZ** will be here to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the dedication of our Sanctuary. There will be a reception for him and his wife Aura Saturday evening. Time TBD.



Joshua L. Mazur, Organist
presents:

The Waiting Dark: An Advent Journey

Joy Lutheran Church

Tuesday, December 10

6:00pm

7045 SW 83rd Place

Ocala

OUTREACH**Timber Ridge Angel Tree:**

Our Angel Tree is up and almost bare. As of this writing there are only a couple of angels seeking a home. We received 45 names from Timber Ridge this year and, as always, you have been most generous.

Please note our new procedure for the angels.

The angels are due back by no later than
Sunday, December the 8th,

Please remember to wrap your gift and affix the angel to the outside of the package. When you return the gift, please note the return date on the sign up sheet next to your name.



Thank you for your support!





JOY!FORMATION
NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

TUESDAY, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th

10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

(the 6:00 requires prior reservation with the Pastor)

Swenson Hall

**We invite all who are interested in joining our
congregation to come.**

**We will receive new members in worship on
Sunday, December 22nd at whichever
service you normally attend.**

STAMPS OF APPROVAL

Launched more than 70 years ago, TUBFRIM has helped thousands of children disabled by TB, by selling cancelled stamps to collectors and dealers, and donating the profits to the Norwegian Health Association. TUBFRIM, founded by Norwegian postmaster Ditlef Frantzen in 1928, raised 1500 Norwegian Kroener in the first year. In 2000 however 4254 pounds of stamps were collected, raising more than half a million Kroener, a ten percent increase over all other years. People that save stamps have been strengthening the TUBRIM program for more than 40 years. As a result TUBRIM has come to the aid of thousands of sick and handicapped children. When clipping stamps please remember to have at least a quarter of an inch of paper around the stamp.

Thank you for saving stamps for us!

Jennie Halvorsen

PS from their website:

TUBFRIM ~ Tuberkulosearbeidets Frimerkeforretning (literally "Tuberculosis work's postage stamp business")

TUBFRIM is a Norwegian charity, whose first mission was to eradicate tuberculosis from Norway, helps children with disabilities and illnesses.



Image courtesy of TUBFRIM.

Anyone who sends or received a stamped letter can potentially do something good with TUBFRIM.

STEWARDSHIP**Message from Stewardship**

Thank you for being a part of Joy Lutheran Church and supporting our impact in the church, the community and beyond. Our vision is to be a spiritual community sharing the love of Christ in a challenging world.

We celebrated Gratitude Sunday in October and the Stewardship Ministry is profoundly grateful for the response to support our mission. Your commitment provides direction for Joy to explore opportunities for our growth in the Lord over the coming year.

The stories and testimonies shared with the congregation energize us as witnesses to God's abundant grace. Your generosity allows Joy's dream and hopes for the future to flourish and become a reality.

Now, as we enter the holy Advent season more opportunities for giving are being presented. Make Christmas special for those in need by taking an angel from the Angel Tree in the narthex. Support Wear Gloves Ministry by purchasing Dignity Roasters coffee to help those embarking on recovery and life changing challenges.

Thank you for being a part of a congregation that isn't resting on its laurels but actively trusting in a God who is so powerfully at work in, with and through us! Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with health, happiness and sharing the love bestowed on us. Enjoy and embrace the wondrous mystery of Emmanuel, God with us.

BIBLE STUDY**COMING IN JANUARY**

Bible study lead by Charlie Meier

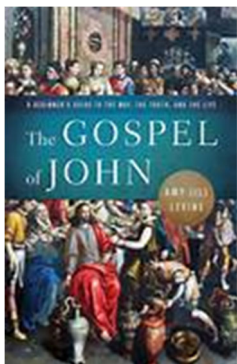
When: January 13, 2025

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.

It is the season of Giving!

What better gift than the gift of Life.

The LifeSouth Blood Mobile will be back on our campus on Sunday, December 15th from 7:45-1:00 pm.

Can you spare a pint? Walk-ins are welcome and appointments are appreciated.

Visit lifesouth.org to set up your appointment!

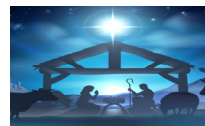


BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Dec. 1	JEREMIAH	PSALM	1 THESSALONIANS	LUKE
	33:14-16	25:1-10	3:9-13	21:25-36
Dec. 8	MALACHI	LUKE	PHILIPPIANS	LUKE
	3:14-20	1:68-79	1:3-11	3:1-6
Dec. 15	ZEPHANIAH	ISAIAH	PHILIPPIANS	LUKE
	3:14-20	12:2-6	4:4-7	3:7-18
Dec. 22	MICAH	LUKE	HEBREWS	LUKE
	5:2-5a	1:46b-55	10:5-10	1:39-55
Dec. 24	ISAIAH	PSALM	TITUS	LUKE
	9:2-7	96	2:11-14	2:1-20
Dec. 25	ISAIAH	PSALM	TITUS	LUKE
	62:6-12	97	3:4-7	2:1-20
Dec. 29	1 SAMUEL	PSALM	COLOSSIANS	LUKE
	2:18-20, 26	148	3:12-17	2:41-52

JOY

December



2024

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 ADVENT 1 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School- 9:45</p> <p>Christmas Con- cert 3 pm</p>	<p>2 Time 4 Prayer- 9AM</p> <p>Member Care 2:30</p>	<p>3 Beginner's Study 11 AM</p> <p>New Members Orientation 10 A</p> <p>Tutoring 3-5 P</p>	<p>4 Joyful Hands 9:00</p> <p>Happy Hands- 9:00</p> <p>Choir 3:00 PM</p> <p>Fellowship 4:30</p> <p>SVC 5:30 PM</p>	<p>5 Publicity 2 PM</p> <p>Stewardship 3P</p> <p>Brick City Ring- ers 6:30 PM</p>	<p>6 TOPS-7:30A</p> <p>Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>7 WELCA Pro- gram & Lunch 11:00 AM</p> <p>W & M 1:00 PM</p>
<p>8 ADVENT 2 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School- 9:45</p> <p>Timber Ridge Angels due Back</p>	<p>9 Time 4 Prayer- 9AM</p> <p>Stephen Ministry 9:30</p>	<p>10 New Mem- bers 10 A</p> <p>Property 10 AM</p> <p>Beginner's Study 11AM</p> <p>Finance 1 PM</p> <p>Tutoring 3-5 p</p> <p>JOSH MAZUR CONCERT 6 P</p>	<p>11 Joyful Hands 9:00</p> <p>Happy Hands- 9:00</p> <p>Choir 3:00 PM</p> <p>Fellowship 4:30</p> <p>SVC 5:30 PM</p>	<p>12 Outreach 1:30 PM</p> <p>Council Exec Bd 3 PM</p> <p>Brick City Ringers 6:30 PM</p>	<p>13 TOPS-7:30A</p> <p>Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 ADVENT 3 Worship Svc 8:15 & 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 am</p> <p>Blood Drive 7:30-1:00 pm</p>	<p>16 TIDINGS DEADLINE</p> <p>Time 4 Prayer 9 am</p>	<p>17 New Members Orientation 10 A</p> <p>Beginner's Study 11 A</p> <p>Council 1 PM</p> <p>Tutoring 3-5 PM</p>	<p>18 Joyful Hands 9:00</p> <p>Happy Hands- 9:00</p> <p>Choir 3:00 PM</p> <p>Fellowship 4:30</p> <p>SVC 5:30 PM</p>	<p>19 Brick City Ring- ers 6:30 PM</p>	<p>20 TOPS-7:30A</p> <p>Bell Choir 10 A</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 ADVENT 4 Worship Svcs 8:15 & 11 AM</p> <p>New Members Received</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 A</p>	<p>23 Time 4 Prayer 9 am</p> <p>Stephen Minis- try—9:30 A</p>	<p>24 OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC. 4PM & 6 PM</p>	<p>25 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>CHRISTMAS</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC 10 AM</p>	<p>26 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 WORSHIP SVC 10:00 AM</p> <p>Interfaith Dinner</p>	<p>30 Time 4 Prayer 9 am</p>	<p>31 Beginner's Bible Study 11A</p>	<p>A New Year is like a blank book with the pen being in your hands- This is your chance to create a beautiful narrative for yourself</p> <p>Happy New Year !</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. *Thank You*

Contact Us

7045 SW 83rd Place
Ocala, FL 34476
Phone: 352.854.4509
Fax: 352.854.4845
email: joyocalafl@gmail.com
www.joylcoala.org
www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala



December 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