

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 7

JULY 2026

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



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

Dear JOYful Family,

Our quest for personal achievement can often be a great struggle, an uphill climb. Or literally climbing a mountain, like Everest – the biggie. It’s even a noun to itself, i.e. “my personal Everest”. There are traffic jams up near the top. I can’t even imagine being completely physically spent, maybe suffering frostbite, and in a traffic jam. Stymied and stuck. Not to mention (sorry to sound morbid) the dead bodies. For what? I don’t get it.

The quest, the commission we have been given by our Lord involves innovative connections. Experimenting. It is natural that we might look at churches that are growing and thriving and ask wistfully, “why can’t we be like them? What are they doing right that we’re doing wrong – or not doing?” I don’t think we’re called to imitate strategies or programs that might not work in our context.

In variations on a theme of defining insanity, or repeating the same things expecting different results, consider these questions:

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

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



DATE	NAME
07/01	<i>Edie Stewart</i>
07/03	<i>John Voyles</i> <i>Wayne Armstrong</i>
07/04	<i>Ken Charles</i>
07/05	<i>Janet Voyles</i> <i>Jeffrey Hogan</i>
07/07	<i>Richard Plessner</i> <i>Judy Spillane</i>
07/10	<i>Ethel Kleiner</i> <i>Jean Kutscher</i> <i>Kim Hessel</i>
07/12	<i>Michael Parli</i>
07/13	<i>Yvonne Conner</i>
07/14	<i>Bob Bleau, Sr.</i> <i>Sharri Soper</i> <i>Dana Russo</i>
07/17	<i>Dorie Bay</i>
07/19	<i>Cecil Carter</i>
07/20	<i>Amy Wuertz</i>
07/22	<i>Art Salzlein</i>
07/25	<i>Kathy Berlin</i>
07/26	<i>Sarah Logue</i> <i>Dawn Winblad</i>
07/30	<i>Kathy Fisher</i> <i>Tom Ittner</i> <i>Diane Plessner</i>

Continued from Page 1

1. What do we keep doing that is getting us diminished returns?
2. What have we blindly copied without even praying about it? Moving forward in Warmth and Hospitality, let's prayerfully consider the missional value in what we can offer with renovation and expansion.
3. What assumptions do we hold that need to be challenged?
4. What kind of gap is there between the culture and expectations of the community we serve and the status quo we've created in our church?
5. If the next generations were redesigning our church, what would they do?
6. Are we looking for guaranteed results? If so, why?

I confess that I have not completely fleshed this out or thought this through. But I am excited about doing it together with you! In the month of July, I'll be grappling with these six questions with the two-way lens of Holy Scripture with you. The sermons will be interactive. "Holy conversations" to help us as we journey along our daily paths and encounters with others.

The Holy Spirit of joy is alive in this, our present moment in ministry as a spiritual community. God is poised, ready and waiting to accomplish His good things through us. Enthusiasm will build (literally!) in our amazement of God's goodness.

I am happy to show up *any where you want to meet up, hang out, and be led by the Holy Spirit in holy conversation and relationship cultivation!* *Pastor Art*

Happy Anniversary

DATE	NAME	# YRS
07/09	Ruth Ann & Paul Silliman	49
07/14	Cyndie & Dick Charcalla	54
07/19	Diane & Richard Plessner	46
07/31	Debbie & John Cobb	44



Welcome to Our Church

On Sunday, May 24, 2026, we celebrated Pentecost and New Member Sunday with 11 new members.

In both Jerusalem and Ocala people came together from different places and languages/backgrounds to worship.

We know that by the grace of God we too have the gift of the ever present Holy Spirit.

LEGEND

MF: Moved from/Previous Residence

H/I: Hobbies and Interests

O: Occupation

PCI: Previous Church Involvement

F: Family

** Associates

ILENE CASPER

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Ilene Casper is reinstated

ED & LINDA LUSHBAUGH

**CHERRYWOOD PRESERVE
JUNE—SEPTEMBER**

MF: Dover, Delaware

O: Ed -Retired business owner

Linda-Retired physician assistant

F: 3 Grown sons, 2 daughters-in-law and 1 (3 month old) grandson

H/I: Linda-Gardening, reading, music, movie, TV (HGTV), road, and game shows

PCI: Linda Choir (years ago)

SAMUEL (SAM) McHENRY

MARION OAKS

Full Time

MF: Gainesville, Arkansas, Alabama

O : **Sam:** Student; teacher of music theory and tuba lessons at UF; working towards a Dr. degree to teach in college.

Holley-Choir director at Trinity High School

F: **Wife** Holley Dantzler

H/I; **Sam** Music Instrument Collection, model trains, video games

PCI: **Music Director –Wesley UMC, Gainesville, Layman**

ANDY J. and JACQUELINE (JACKIE) NUCCIO

OTOW-RENAISSANCE

Full Time

O : **Andy-Retired** bus driver, electrician

Jackie: Retired Book Keeper

F: **Son (Andrew), Daughter (Lisa) and granddaughters (Lucy and Cassidy)**

H/I; **Andy: Sports and Cards**

Jackie: Tap dancing-Broadway Dance, and cards

PCI: **Andy: St. Mary's of the Lake Bingo for 9 yrs. For our children's school.**

Jackie: St. Mary's of the Lake with school activities for children.

DAVID C. and BARBARA A. (BARB) SELDEN

STONE CREEK-SANDALWOOD

Full Time

MF: Greeley, CO

O : **David-Software-Still working**

Barb-Executive Assistant—Still Working

F: **2 daughters and 2 grandchildren**

H/I; **David: Pickle Ball-out of doors**

Barb: Pickle Ball, Backgammon, Photo book making

PCI: **David: Usher and safety**

Barb: Board Member, Usher, Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Volunteer.

LOUISE (LOU) M. WERNER

OAK RUN-LINKSIDE
Full Time

MF: Maryland

O : Retired Russian Linguist

F: No children, widow (11 years)

H/I; Music, traveling, reading, singing, public speaking, and writing

PCI: Choir

JAMES L. and JILL M. WHITMAN
(Accosicate Membership)

PINE RUN
Jan-April

MF: Sturgeon Bay, WS

O :

F:

H/I;

PCI: Members of Bay View Lutheran Church; Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

To My Dear Friends of Joy Lutheran Church my heartfelt thanks for the many prayers you made on my behalf while I was recuperating from my broken leg. I

also thank so many of you who visited me during that difficult time.

Thanks to the many kind members who have brought delicious food to our home and also provided transportation for my wife to be able visit me during my stay at Bridgewater Rehab.

A special thank you to Pastor Art for his numerous visits to me, his prayers and words of encouragement and the greetings to me from the members of Joy. He also brought one of those beautiful blankets

made by the Joy Quilters..

God Bless You All

Norman Halvorsen

COUNCIL

President's Message:

I apologize for not sending you monthly messages before. I overlooked this little task and had to be reminded. Here it goes! I'm going to talk about faith.

Over the years, I have had many unusual things happen to me. God seems to love to put obstacles in my way to test me and see if it makes me stronger.

I'm going to tell you one of such strange occurrences. While on vacation in Tennessee, my family decided to take a hike along one of the many beautiful rivers around the Pigeon Forge area. We saw a beautiful waterfall and eventually headed back to the Park's designated parking lot only to find the parking lot filled with police, park rangers, and emergency services. It turned out that a young man with his girlfriend and newborn (all living in a van) had been in a high-speed chase with the police. He jumped out of the van in the parking lot we were also parked in and fled on foot with the van still running and rolling with the young girl and her one-week-old still in the van. The baby was howling, probably because the mother was crying her heart out. We saw that their van had run into the back of our van, and put a significant dent into our back fender which finally made it come to a stop.

Turns out the run-away vehicle was uninsured and there was nothing we could do. I should have been furious but instead decided to help the young mother while John, my husband, dealt with our vehicle and the police. I gently talked her into letting me hold the baby and almost immediately with a little rocking the baby settled down. You know what I mean, you other mothers. Next, I calmed the young mother down and talked her into calling her own mother to get some help, even though they were estranged.

Nicholas, my son, John and I went and had dinner, then went back to the hotel, spent the night and packed to go back home the next morning. This is where God's mysterious ways come in. We went to the back of the van to load our luggage, and the big dent was GONE. I mean totally gone! No indication that there had ever been a dent.

God always seems to give me big challenges and surprises me in even more amazing ways. Some might say science could explain this away, but to me the Lesson here was: *Help those who need it more.*

I'm sure many of you can relate and I hope to hear your stories.

Until next month, with Love, Karin

WELCA NEWS

WOMEN of JOY

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming WELCA meeting on July 20th at 11:00 AM in Swenson Hall.

Our guest speaker is Lori Szepelak. She will be sharing her unique experience with photography and the Afterlife.

We hope you'll come join us for our speaker, food and fellowship.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex.

We'd love to see your name added.



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:

July 26th



Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

Afternoon in Paris

Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 3:00pm



Ray Ihlenburg and Janet Voyles invite you to enjoy an Afternoon in Paris – a light, musical stroll through the City of Light.

Ray will play a musette-tuned accordion, with Janet on keyboard and clarinet, sharing the classic Parisian melodies heard along the Champs-Élysées and in cafés across Paris.

Join us at JOY Lutheran Church and stay afterward for French desserts.

Joy Lutheran Church
7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476

LOOKING AHEAD...

1. MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD – Ministry Chair “Coffee Klatch”, 9:00 in the Narthex

2. MONDAY, AUGUST 24TH - Linda Murphy begins her internship with us!

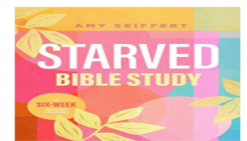
3. SEPTEMBER 13TH – back to two Sunday services (8:15 & 11:00)

“JOY!Formation” for new folks/prospective members:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH AND 22ND, 7:00 IN SWENSON HALL

We will receive new members on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH.

This Summer...



Women’s Spiritual Enrichment Group
Saturdays at 10:00am • Swenson Hall

Begins July 25, 2026

If you’ve ever wished God would hand you a detailed map—or if you find yourself gripping tightly to plans, outcomes, and expectations—this study offers a gentle reset. We’ll explore how to release the illusion of control, trust God’s steady hand, and live more freely as the women God created us to be.



This Summer... Come early for worship on the FIRST Sunday of each month for...

New Connections

July 5, August 2

A relaxed gathering for newer members, recent visitors, and anyone wanting to feel more at home at Joy. Whether you've been worshiping with us for a few weeks or a few months, or a few years, this is a chance to meet others who are also finding their way into the life of the congregation.

If you're looking for a gentle next step, this is it.

No agenda, no pressure.

It's simply a welcoming doorway into deeper community.

Come early for 10am worship

Doors open at 9:15am



Start with conversation • Stay for worship

LIFE SOUTH BLOOD MOBILE

Will be on our campus on

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

FROM 7:30 AM—1:00 PM.



LifeSouth Community Blood Centers has served the Ocala and Marion County area, since the 1980s, establishing the Marion Region to provide a consistent, localized blood supply for local hospitals.

Won't you do your part! Sign up and register to donate.

Every donor will receive a 250th Anniversary T-Shirt (while the supply lasts).

Each pint donated saves three lives.



*Walk-ins are always welcome!
Appointments are encouraged!*



**Happy 250th Birthday, America!
On July 4, 2026, the United States celebrates its semiquincentennial milestone—marking exactly 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 .**

We received the following invitation for a Savvy Caregiver Training if anyone is interested.

Savvy Caregiver Training

ARE YOU PREPARED TO CARE FOR A LOVED ONE WITH MEMORY LOSS AND CONFUSION?

The Savvy Caregiver Program is a FREE, seven-week training designed for family caregivers who assist individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and cognitive decline.



LOCATION

Marion Senior Services
1101 SW 20th Court
Ocala, FL 34471



DATE

Mondays
July 6th to August 17th, 2026



TIME

1:00pm to 3:00 pm



REGISTER TODAY!

Contact Michelle Johnson

- Email: johnsonm@agingresources.org
- Phone: 352-692-5250



BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
05-Jul	ZECHARIAH	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	9:9-12	145:5-14	7:15-25a	11:16-19, 25-30
12-Jul	ISAIAH 55:10-13	PSALM 65:[1-8] 9-13	ROMANS 8:1-11	MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23
19-Jul	ISAIAH 44:6-8	PSALM 86:11-17	ROMANS 8:12-25	MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43
26-Jul	1 KINGS 3:5-12	PSALM 119:129-136	ROMANS 8:26-39	MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JOY:

E-mail: joyocalafl@gmail.com

Web Site: www.joylcocala.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

Joy Blog:

<https://joyocala.blog>

Photos & Videos to:

Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com



JULY

2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for <u>copy ready articles</u> to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</p> <p>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month. Thank you. Susan</p>			<p>1 Joyful Hands 9A</p> <p>Worship Service 6:30 pm</p>	<p>2 Stewardship 3P</p>	<p>3 Cleaning Svc. 1-3</p>	<p>4 Starved 10A (SH)</p>
<p>5 New Connection- 9:15 A</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 A</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH)</p>	<p>8 Joyful Hands 9A</p> <p>Worship Svc 6:30P</p>	<p>9 Wear Gloves Lunch Share (OC)</p> <p>Outreach 1:30P (SH)</p> <p>Publicity 1P</p>	<p>10 Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>11 Starved 10A (SH)</p>
<p>12 Worship Svc: 10 AM</p>	<p>13 [V A C</p>	<p>14 A T I O N</p>	<p>15 B I B L E</p> <p>Worship Svc 6:30P</p>	<p>16 S C H O O L]</p>	<p>17 8:00-11:30 VBS</p> <p>Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 LifeSouth Blood Drive 7:30-1:00 PM</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC 10 AM</p> <p>CONCERT 3:00 PM</p>	<p>20 WELCA 11 AM</p>	<p>21 Beg Bible Study 11A</p>	<p>22 Joyful Hands 9A</p> <p>Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	<p>25 "It's All Under Control" - 10A</p>
<p>26 FIGHT HUNGER SUN.</p> <p>Worship Service 10 AM</p>	<p>27 Stephen Min- istry 9:30 AM</p> <p>"Nonna's of Stonecreek" Video taping 3:00 PM</p>	<p>28 Beg Bible Study 11:00A</p> <p>Pineland Minis- ters Mtg. 12 Noon</p>	<p>29 Interfaith Dinner Share</p> <p>Joyful Hands 9A</p> <p>Worship Svc 6:30 P</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Cleaning Service 1-3 P</p>	

Contact Us

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www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala

<https://joyocala.blog>



JULY 2026

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