

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2025

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Staff | 2 |
| Birthdays | 2 |
| Anniversaries | 3 |
| Congregational Meeting | 4 |
| Outreach | 5 |
| Stewardship | 6 |
| Evangelism | 7 |
| A Thank You | 7 |
| Fight Hunger | 8 |
| November Bible Readings | 8 |
| WELCA | 9 |
| New Bible Study | 9 |
| New Members | 10 |
| Concert | 15 |
| Brain Teaser | 16 |
| Joy Calendar | 17 |



LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



Dear JOYful Family,

Do you know what the second largest religious group in the country is?

NONE.

More accurately, “*nones*”. It’s almost become a sad punch line in our current times. The bigger question, of course, is what shall we do about it? The church, the spiritual community, has the best thing to offer to a crazy, mixed up, divided land. We can offer the better way, and that way is a ***who – Jesus.*** It is a way that is happier, because I see the evidence in you, people of JOY! On Commitment Sunday, I said that we are the second-happiest people, because we are GRATEFUL. We give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. Even and especially for God’s gracious provision when our lives are *not* going well. Peace that this world cannot give. A few moments later on that Commitment Sunday, I proposed that the MOST happy people (JOY!Ful people) are **generous**. I saw that when many of you brought your commitment cards forward and placed them in the “ark”, making a covenant to return a portion of your abundance.

This congregation exudes and exemplifies cheerfulness, motivation, and hope.

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-Terry Owen

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President-Ray Ihlenburg

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary-Linda Aker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Karin Campbell

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

Don Fields

J.R. Frederiksen

Hank Groth

Doug Juhl

Paul Spellman



| DATE | NAME |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11/01 | <i>Kenneth Erhardt</i> |
| | <i>Elise Cognetti</i> |
| 11/02 | <i>Bob Zander</i> |
| 11/03 | <i>Stanley Mahabeer</i> |
| 11/04 | <i>Amelia Reese</i> |
| 11/07 | <i>Donna Schmidt</i> |
| 11/08 | <i>Bill Mooney</i> |
| 11/09 | <i>John Kraus</i> |
| 11/12 | <i>Mary Ann Schmitt</i> |
| | <i>Cyndie Charcalla</i> |
| 11/14 | <i>Dennis Christianson</i> |
| | <i>Sally Ahrens</i> |
| 11/16 | <i>Sharon Green</i> |
| 11/20 | <i>Linda Erhardt</i> |
| 11/21 | <i>Joe Wood Sr.</i> |
| 11/22 | <i>David Robinson</i> |
| 11/24 | <i>Paul Stevens</i> |
| 11/27 | <i>Jean Beaver</i> |



Continued from Page 1

These are marks of distinction that have the power through Christ Jesus to bring others into the fold of grace.

Our hearts are glad when we are in the house of the Lord; even more so when we see a newcomer among us. We can in all locations and circumstances melt away the icy exterior of despair that we see among our nation's second largest religious group. The very word itself - "*nones*" - indicates an empty place that you and I can fill.

From a United Methodist Church sign: "We believe in the separation of church and hate". We can make a bold choice to love with our cheerful, generous, JOY! Full hearts. I truly believe that this practice can drop the "*nones*" out of the Top 25 religions faster than Penn State or Florida State (WOOF!!). I couldn't resist, given my love of college football!

I will always be cheering for you, praying for you, in your daily discipleship journey. I will show up *any time, any where you want to meet up, hang out, and be led by the Holy Spirit in holy conversation and relationship cultivation!*

Pastor Art



| <i>DATE</i> | <i>NAME</i> | <i># YRS.</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>11/02</i> | <i>Jerry and Lucille Wieland</i> | <i>1 yr</i> |
| <i>11/23</i> | <i>John and Irene Henderson</i> | <i>57 yrs.</i> |
| <i>11/24</i> | <i>Ron Piper and Patty Willoughby</i> | <i>41 yrs.</i> |

Annual Congregational Meeting

NOTICE OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

When: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Where: SANCTUARY

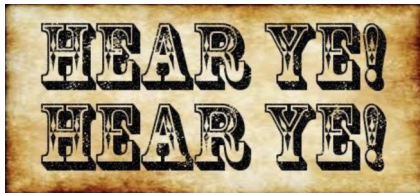
Agenda: Endowment Fund

Election of New Council Members

2026 Budget

Everyone is invited to attend the annual meeting. It will be held at 9:30 am, between our two services, in the Sanctuary. Be an active participant in the future of JOY.

All active, full time members
are eligible
to vote.



OUTREACH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Outreach is starting an Ambassador Program. *What is this new outreach, you ask?*

The purpose is to seek out first-time visitors, acknowledge, welcome, and guide them with grace and love. *So where do you come in?* We need a chairperson to coordinate this wonderful outreach effort and keep the ball rolling.

Your duties would include:

Solicit interest of individuals to act as greeters at all services except for Easter and Christmas Eve.

Compile a list, schedule a brief gathering of potential ambassadors and invite them to attend. Entertain questions and concerns. Obtain commitments.

Prepare a schedule and provide essential contact information to all committed participants.

Oversee, monitor and request replenishment of first-time gift supplies.

Provide ongoing information to Outreach Ministry.

If you like to interact with people and help provide a warm welcoming environment here at Joy, this may be just what you are looking for.

Please prayerfully consider becoming the chairperson.

Please contact Sharon Johnson, Outreach Chair at 352-843-1321



STEWARDSHIP

Why Greeters, Ushers, and Treat Providers Matter

- * ***You're the first smile people see.*** A warm greeting or a plate of treats can soften hearts, ease nerves, and make someone feel like they belong before the service even begins.
- * ***You set the tone for worship.*** Whether guiding someone to a seat or offering a cookie with a wink, you're shaping the spiritual atmosphere—one of joy, hospitality, and grace.
- * ***It's ministry in motion.*** Greeting isn't just logistics—it's pastoral care. Ushering isn't just seating, it's sacred choreography. Treats aren't just snacks—they're love and connection.

Generosity isn't just about giving money—it's about giving yourself. Your time, your presence, your smile, your hands. When we serve, we embody the love of Christ in tangible ways. We become the welcome, the warmth, the grace someone else needs.

To serve is to say, "Here I am, Lord. Use me."



EVANGELISM

**How do we let the light of Christ shine?
What might God be calling you to do to bear
witness to the Gospel?**

**You are JOY!-filled, vibrant people.
Being evangelists is really as simple as being that
same warm, welcoming person in your daily walk.
Let others see that hope in you!**

**Spirit of the living God, lead us out wherever we are,
to wherever you want us to be Amen.**

Pastor Art

Thank you!

***Thank You for helping me save cancelled stamps!!
I send them to NESBYEN, NORWAY, where they are cleaned, sorted, and
sold to stamp collectors all over the world. The money earned goes to
help children with TB (adults too) wherever they live.***

We have done this since 1929.

***(I have been collecting cancelled stamps
for over 60 years——cannot stop!)***

THANK YOU for helping me!

Jennie Halvorsen

Ps. The collection bin is in the Outreach Room.



FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY



ELCA
World Hunger

FIGHT HUNGER 2 WAYS IN 1 DAY

JOY! designates a special offering on the last Sunday of every month to alleviate world hunger. **ELCA World Hunger** supports 149 programs in the US (several right here in Florida), and in 63 countries. You may contribute using the envelope in your set of church envelopes or with a pew envelope with checks made out to Joy Lutheran Church.

Interfaith Food Bank—You can help fight hunger locally by donating non-perishable food next Sunday. The cart for the food bank will be in the Narthex. All the items are gathered and taken to Interfaith. Every can, box or bag that is given helps someone who otherwise may not have a meal to sustain them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY AND LOVE.
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

NOVEMBER's FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY IS:
NOVEMBER 30th

BIBLE READINGS FOR *NOVEMBER* 2025

| SUNDAY | FIRST READING | PSALM | SECOND READING | GOSPEL |
|--------|---------------|--------|-----------------|----------|
| NOV 2 | Daniel | Psalm | Ephesians | Luke |
| | 7:1-3, 15-18 | 149 | 1:11-13 | 6:20-31 |
| NOV 9 | Job | Psalm | 2 Thessalonians | Luke |
| | 19:23-27a | 17:1-9 | 2:1-5, 13-17 | 20:27-38 |
| NOV 16 | Malachi | Psalm | 2 Thessalonians | Luke |
| | 4:1-2a | 98 | 3:6-13 | 21:5-9 |
| NOV 23 | Jeremiah | Psalm | Colossians | Luke |
| | 23:1-6 | 46 | 1:11-20 | 23:33-43 |
| NOV 30 | Isaiah | Psalm | Romans | Matthew |
| | 2:1-5 | 122 | 13:11-14 | 24:36-44 |



Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

November 7–9, 2025

Warren Willis United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center,
Fruitland Park, FL

Women from across the synod are invited to gather for a week-end of fellowship, worship, workshops, and Bible study in the beautiful setting of Warren Willis Camp & Retreat Center. Enjoy time with sisters in Christ, renew your spirit, and be refreshed for the season ahead. The deadline to register is October 10! Don't miss out!

BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE STUDY WITH CHARLIE
6 WEEK STUDY
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 3RD 2025
1:PM IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX

MATERIAL AVAILABLE AT AMAZON

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Paperback

September 2, 2025 by [Andy Langford](#) (Author), [Ann Langford](#) Author

The Christian year is fundamentally a roadmap for pilgrims, as biblical witnesses lead spiritually hungry people on a journey to receive the full riches of God's grace. During Advent, we take the first steps.

In *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*, Andy Langford and Ann Langford Duncan invite you on an Advent-to-Christmas pilgrimage to draw closer to Jesus and invite others to join you on this journey. Traditional Scripture readings and acts of worship reveal anew the treasures of God's grace for all people. Let this book guide you to open your heart to the priceless gifts of the good news. Start your pilgrimage today and experience the full riches of God's love.

During Advent and Christmas, explore:

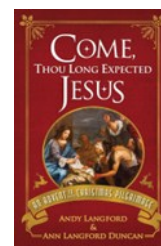
An Early Prophet: Isaiah

Two Later Prophets: John the Baptist and John the Theologian

The Mother of God and First Disciple: Mary

The First Witnesses: Angels, Shepherds, Simeon, and Anna

Grace Born in Bethlehem





Welcome to Our Church

September 28, 2025 was a day of great celebration! Officially 13 new members became a part of Joy Evangelical Lutheran. We all come to worship and to serve inside the walls of Joy and outside in our community. Knowing that God thru His Holy Spirit in some way leads each person to come here is exciting! A very special welcome to each of you and prayers for blessings from our Lord.

Please wear your name tags to help learn new names.

Name tags are arranged in the cupboard alphabetically by last names.

Per Shirley Reents

LEGEND

MF: Moved from/Previous Residence

H/I: Hobbies and Interests

O: Occupation

PCI: Previous Church Involvement

F: Family

** Associates

WAYNE & DENISE ARMSTRONG**INDIGO EAST—OTOW
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Mascoutah, IL

O: Wayne: Retired, Manager with Lockheed Martin-teaching adults.

Denise-Retired-RN Nursing Skills.

F: 2 Children Currin Armstrong 41 of Ocala and Jennifer Armstrong 38 of St. Louis, MD.

H/I: Wayne: Sports and politics
Demose: Animals and pets

PCI: Wayne– Denise were members of the East Side Baptist in Bellville, IL until 1998

Denise: Some background in the Catholic Church

Both are new but want to support Joy as needed.

BECKY BLACKMON**ARLINGTON-STONE CREEK
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Pensacola, FL

O: Retired– Civil Service

F: 3 Children and 3 grand children; a widow– 1 son lives in Ocala, 2 daughters in Pensacola

H/I: Crafting, musicals, and reading

PCI: Decorations-rummage sale events
Interested in Bible Study times

TRACY CARTER**INDIGO EAST—OTOW
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Ocala for 3 years and moved from Littleton, CO where we lived for 25 years.

O: Retired— Analyst

F: Husband-Rodney, deceased son Ryan (2-6-2010)

H/I: Musical events, line dancing, karaoke, walking, and water aerobics

PCI: Choir, singing, playing bells, technical needs, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School, and foodbank.

PATRICIA (PATTI) GROTH**PINE RUN
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Allentown, PA

O: Working, Office Administration

F: Wonderful to have parents Hank & Jean Groth near by

H/I: Reading, bike riding, walking, and relaxing

PCI: Greeting, serving communion, and welcome desk;
Previous attendance at Ocala Christian Church

LINDA KRAIGENOW**SARATOGA-STONE CREEK
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Port Charlotte, FL—Seymore, CT

O: Presently retired-Insurance Agent, Medical office;
Addiction Recovery Counselor

F: Stepson, daughter, and 3 grandchildren
Husband John of 15 years, plus 2 cats

H/I: Baking, jewelry making, water color painting, and poker player

PCI: Church council member, president of women's group, Stephen Ministry, and kitchen duties at Hope Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte
Presently John is disabled and requires care giving time.

**JOHN KRAUS and KATHY FISHER TOWER HEIGHT#12-OAK RUN
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Philadelphia, PA

O: John: retired –35 Eest Pest Control
Kathy: Retired waitress

F: John: Son & daughter-John & Wendy step children Billy, Joe, & Marigrace
Kathy: 3 daughters Marie, Laura, Erica, and 1 son Mark-
In all 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and 4 great, great grands.

H/I: John: watching sports, trivia, and grandkids
Kathy: Cooking and grandkids.

PCI: John: Limited mobility these days
Kathy: Cooking for church activities

JIM & JOAN NICHOLSON

**WINDSON W - OTOW
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Lenexa, KS (37 YEARS), Parsippany, NJ (10 yrs)
and Milford, CT (20 yrs.)

O: Jim: Retired Information Technology Project management
Joan: Retired teacher

F: 2 sons Billy and Tommy; 4 grandchildren-Graham, Remy, Jade, and Lena

H/I: Jim: Woodworking, reading, and sports
Joan: Reading, quilting

PCI: Jim: For worship services-usher, greeter, lector, and worship assistant–
20 years, on church council “I’m burned out now.” Possible interest for
Property or Outreach
Joan: Sunday School superintendent, WELCA board

PATRICK & NICOLE REESE**WEST SHIRE VILLAGE
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Butte, MT

O: Patrick: Moving to a new job

Nicole: Working as a “shopper” with Walmart

F: 2 girls, Amelia (6) and Jazmine (9)

H/I: Going on walks

PCI: Both girls were baptized here and attended Vacation Bible School

LAURA M. VALES**MARION LANDING
(FULL TIME RESIDENT)**

MF: Kenosha, WI

O: Retired as an animal care tech, worked at Taco Bell after high school, aerobic, personal trainer, and fork lift driver.

F: Husband– Dave, 2 children-Todd Chroninger & Heather Holden

H/I: Line dancing, gardening, and crocheting

PCI: Did teach Sunday School in younger years, went to a Catholic School for 1st—5th grades.
Interested in helping with Food Bank.



Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

2025-26 Season

A New Musical Adventure

The Brick City Ringers

Join us at Joy when we welcome one of the newest community handbell ensembles in the central Florida area! Formed in the fall of 2024, the Ocala-based Brick City Ringers will share a diverse program of music showcasing a dazzling variety of styles and ringing techniques. While half of the program will feature Christmas selections, the other half of the program will demonstrate why handbells are not just for Christmas.

The Brick City Ringers have previously performed on one of the Seasons of Joy Christmas concerts, as well as performing with the Golden Sounds Chorus at Ocala Palms, and most recently the Blessing of the Animals at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Crystal River.



November 16, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)

Free Admission. Reception follows concert.

Just a Brain Teaser

HOME TOUCH® Activity Page

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Acts 27

Monday: Acts 28

Tuesday: Ephesians 4-5

Wednesday: Ephesians 6

Thursday: Colossians 1-2

Friday: Colossians 3-4

Saturday: Psalm 132

It's N-ovember! Can you name the answers to these geography questions where all answers begin with 'N'?

DOES IT ADD UP?

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| ? | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | ? | 8 |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4 | 7 | ? |

1. Its capital is Concord.
2. The tomb of this former resident of the isle of Elba is located in Paris.
3. It is bordered by California, Oregon, Utah, Arizona and Idaho.
4. The origin of this state's name derives from an Oto Indian word meaning "flat water."
5. It is the most densely populated city (of those over 100,000) in the United States.
6. At 4,130 miles, it is generally regarded as the world's longest river.
7. This notorious Roman emperor ruled in Rome during the lifetime of the apostle Paul.
8. It is the capital and largest city of Kenya in Africa.
9. It is called the country music capital of America.
10. It is often called Holland.
11. Jesus lived here as a boy.
12. This country is famous for its fjords.
13. These provinces are in eastern Canada.
14. This Massachusetts island used to be a whaling center.
15. The words "code talkers" are strongly associated with this Native American nation, and the bilingual speakers who were specially recruited during World War II to send tactical messages.

N-ovember: 1. New Hampshire; 2. Napoleon; 3. Nevada; 4. Nebraska; 5. New York City; 6. Nile; 7. Nero; 8. Nairobi; 9. Nashville; 10. Netherlands; 11. Nazareth; 12. Norway; 13. Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia; 14. Nantucket; 15. Navajo.

Does it add
up? Solution:
072+398=470


NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER

WOMEN

2025

| SUN | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| | <p><i>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for copy ready articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am</i></p> <p><i>Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you. Susan</i></p> | | | | | 1 Cleaning Svc 2-4 |
| 2 ALL SAINTS' DAY WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM | 3 Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N Member Care 2:30 pm | 4 Beginners' Bible Study 11 AM | 5 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM WELCA Exec Bd 12 OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM | 6 LMM-- 8:15 AM CE MINISTRY 11AM Publicity&SM 1P (N) Stewardship 3P BCR-6:30 PM-S | 7 BELL CHOIR-10 AM Holy Hiatus 7P | 8 Cleaning 2-4PM |
| 9 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM CONGREGATIONAL Mtg. 9:30 AM | 10 Stephen M. 9:30AM Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N | 11 Property 10 AM Beg Bible Study 11AM Finance 1 PM | 12 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM | 13 Wear Gloves Lunch Share Outreach 1:30 PM Council Exec. 3 P BCR 6:30 P M-S | 14 BELL CHOIR-10 AM | 15 Cleaning 2-4PM |
| 16 W & M Ministry Awareness WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM Concert 3:30 PM Brick City Ringers | 17 Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N | 18 Beg Bible Study 11AM Council 1 PM | 19 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM | 20 BCR 6:30 PM-S | 21 BELL CHOIR-10 AM | 22 Sanctuary Clean Up 9A Cleaning Svc 2-4PM |
| 23 Worship Svc. 8:15 & 11 30 ADVENT 1 Fight Hunger Sun. Worship Svc. 8:15 & 11 | 24 Stephen M. 9:30 a Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N | 25 Beg Bible Study-11Am | 26 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship 5:30 PM | 27 BCR 6:30 PM-S | 28 BELL CHOIR-10 AM | 29 Interfaith Meal Share Cleaning 2-4PM |

Contact Us

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NOVEMBER 2025

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

