

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN

July 2026

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 217
501 State Road 35
Centuria, WI 54824
715.646.2357
joylutheranwi.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday | 8:00am - 11:00am
Tuesday | 9:00am - 12:00pm
Thursday | 9:00am - 3:00pm

PASTOR

Angela Kutney

715.222.7916
angkutney@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMIN

Meg Anderson

715.501.6648
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MEDIA & MARKETING

Deanna Wheeler

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YOUTH MINISTER

Heather Zimmer

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The History and Significance of Juneteenth

This past June, a group of youth and adult leaders from Joy Lutheran Church traveled to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, for an immersion experience on the Pine Ridge Reservation. During their time, they learned about Lakota history, culture, spirituality, and realities facing Native American communities today. Some of that history is painful, yet it is important to hear. By listening to these stories, we honor the experiences of those who came before and deepen our understanding of our neighbors today. Below are two historical events that shaped the Pine Ridge Reservation and continue to influence life there.

Stories shared by: Asher Wheeler

Wounded Knee Massacre

The Wounded Knee Massacre took place on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1890. The Natives moved to the area where the massacre took place and were stripped of their defenses and weaponry. They were forced to huddle around each other, using body heat to stay warm in the harsh December temperatures. After the slaughter of Crazy Horse at the Battle of Big Horn, the native Americans following him rushed South to Pine Ridge. It was just before they arrived, the United States Cavalry 7th Division decided to fire upon the defenseless people of Wounded Knee. Around 300 Native Americans were slaughtered - men, women, and children. Afterwards, it is said it snowed for 3 days straight because God was so ashamed of what his people had done, that he covered the scene in a blanket of snow. After the Blizzard, other Native Americans dug through the snow, hoping for any chance of finding their family alive. The men and children were then buried in a mass grave where Native Americans were not allowed to visit, let alone pray. It is assumed there is another mass grave 100 yards to the north of Wounded Knee where the women were buried after the US Soldiers abused them.

Lost Bird

After the slaughter, or "battle" as it was called at that time was over, the Colonel of the Nebraska National Guard found an infant, no more than 8 months old, kept under the frozen body of her mother. She was alive after the storm due to the body heat from all the corpses layered on and around her keeping her warm. The Colonel "adopted" her. In reality, he kidnapped her, tortured her, and kept her in a cage for others to see - but only for the right price. She was moved from place to place as the Colonel traveled and eventually ended up in Fresno, California, passing away in 1920 at the age of 29. She was eventually found in 1991 and her body was moved back to Wounded Knee to lie amongst her family.

The Happenings | July 2026

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri – 6:00am to 1:00pm Meals on Wheels | Tuesday – 10:30am Staff Meeting
Wednesday – 10:00am to 12:00pm JOYful Quilting Ministry

WEDNESDAY JULY 1st

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

SATURDAY JULY 4th

9:00am to 11:00am Threads of Joy Fiber Arts Fellowship Group

SUNDAY JULY 5th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Communion Blessing; Rev. Amy Deloach–Waelchli Preaching

MONDAY JULY 6th

NO Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY JULY 7th

NO Staff Meeting

2:00pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY JULY 8th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study

SATURDAY JULY 11th

3:30pm Memory Days Variety Show & Pie and Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY JULY 12th

10:00am Worship | Polka Service Service of the Word

11:00am Memory Days Chicken Dinner

MONDAY JULY 13th

11:00am Grace in Grief Support Group

6:00pm Gather Bible Study

TUESDAY JULY 14th

NO Staff Meeting

2:00pm Youth Group

6:30pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY JULY 15th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

Fall Scholarship Deadline

Newsletter Deadline

SATURDAY JULY 18th

9:00am to 11:00am Threads of Joy Fiber Arts Fellowship Group

SUNDAY JULY 19th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

JOYful Hands (WELCA) Meeting following Worship

MONDAY JULY 20th

4:30pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY 21st

10:30am Staff Meeting

2:00pm Youth Group

5:00pm Recovering Together Cafe

SATURDAY JULY 25th

9:00am ARC WELCA Board Meeting

2:00pm UKEE Lutheran Practice

SUNDAY JULY 26th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

MONDAY JULY 27th

1:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY JULY 28th

10:30am Staff Meeting

2:00pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY JULY 29th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

Variety Show!

JULY 11TH AT 3:30PM

FREE WILL DONATION

BENEFITING FEED MY
NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY



*pie & ice cream
social to follow*

FREE WILL DONATION
FOR CAMPSHIPS TO LUTHER
POINT BIBLE CAMP

MEMORY DAYS



JOIN US AT 10:00AM - SPECIAL MUSIC WORSHIP SERVICE POLKA LED BY JERRY PROKOP



WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER

SUNDAY, JULY 12TH

11AM - 1PM



MENU: chicken, beans,
coleslaw, bun, chips, pickles,
pie, beverage

Chicken provided by Hog Wild

QUARTER: \$12 OR HALF: \$15

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
BIBLES FOR YOUTH
& LUTHER POINT
BIBLE CAMP**

BUILDING JOY

a playground for our community

For many years, the playground at Joy Lutheran has been a place where children have laughed, played, and built friendships. Unfortunately, time and weather have taken their toll. Our currently playground has become worn and damaged, and parts of the structure are becoming no longer safe for children to use.

To continue providing a welcoming and safe place for children and families, we are raising funds for a new playground. This project will ensure that the children of our congregation and community have a secure place to play, explore, and being together.

The good news, is that we only need **\$1,000** to make this happen! With your help, we can replace the aging playground and create a space that will serve children for years to come.

Every gift makes a difference and will help us bring this project to completion.

Thank you for helping Joy Lutheran Church remain a place where children are welcomed, valued, and encouraged to grow in faith and community.



Generosity Update

Last month, I kicked off our series of Generosity talks covering the connections between spiritual practices and giving of our time, talents and treasures. Thank you to Erin Kaiser, Sherri Schaffer, and Sandy Christensen for sharing their reflections.

My talk focused on financial giving as a spiritual practice and the status of our finances. In addition a matching gift challenge was announced for the first seven days in June. A member of the congregation pledged a \$5,000 matching gift with the promise an additional \$1,000 if this goal was exceeded.

Dear members of Joy, you heard, you prayed and you responded with generous and gracious hearts. I am so grateful to announce that in the first seven days, we received offerings of \$30,069, bringing the total to \$36,069. This will eliminate the \$25,000 cumulative deficit we had at the end of May and means that vital programs and staffing can continue.

Thank you for being a generous and committed church family. We are all blessed by this community of believers. Let us continue to experience faith, know love and share joy.

Yours in Christ,

Deborah Schmalz
Joy Lutheran Council President



WE'RE HIRING

CUSTODIAN

*call or email the church office for an application
715-646-2357 | office@joylutheranwi.org*

We're hiring! Joy Lutheran Church is looking for a dedicated **custodian** to join our team. If you or someone you know takes pride in keeping spaces clean and welcoming, we'd love to hear from you! Call or email the church office if you have any questions. Looking for somebody to start as soon as possible.



Feed My Neighbor | Community Food Pantry

Together We Can Make a Difference

Current Needs: baking mixes, bisquick, jiffy, canned meats, tuna, spam

Drop off at Church – Shopping Cart in Narthex

Monetary donations designated to Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry can be dropped off at church during office hours or placed in your regular giving envelope during Worship.

Ways to Serve at Joy | Volunteer Opportunities

Follow the links provided to sign-up online! You can also sign-up by contacting the office.



RECURRING OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Acolyte: Light candles at the beginning of service, help with communion, extinguish candles at end of service.

Reader: Read lessons for the day. Readings will be sent to you via email to practice and a printed copy will be available on the lectern.

Usher/Greeter: Greet people, hand out bulletins, dismiss rows for communion, advise Pastor of those needing communion in their seat, take attendance.

Sign-up Online at: bit.ly/JoyWorshipAssistant

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Provide treats and beverages on Sunday mornings during the fellowship hour.

Sign-Up Online at: bit.ly/JoyFellowshipHost

Your time, talents, and financial gifts help meet both the daily physical needs and the spiritual well-being of our community.

SCAN HERE >

to share your time and talents

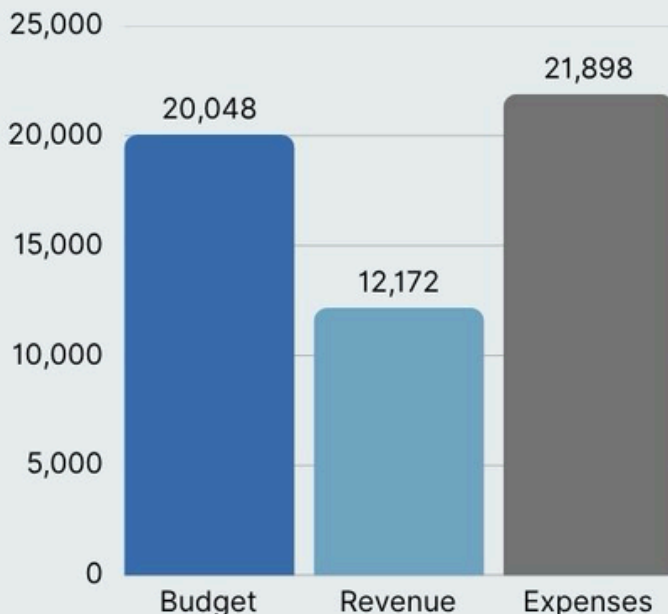


SCAN HERE >

follow prompts on your screen to give



Giving Report

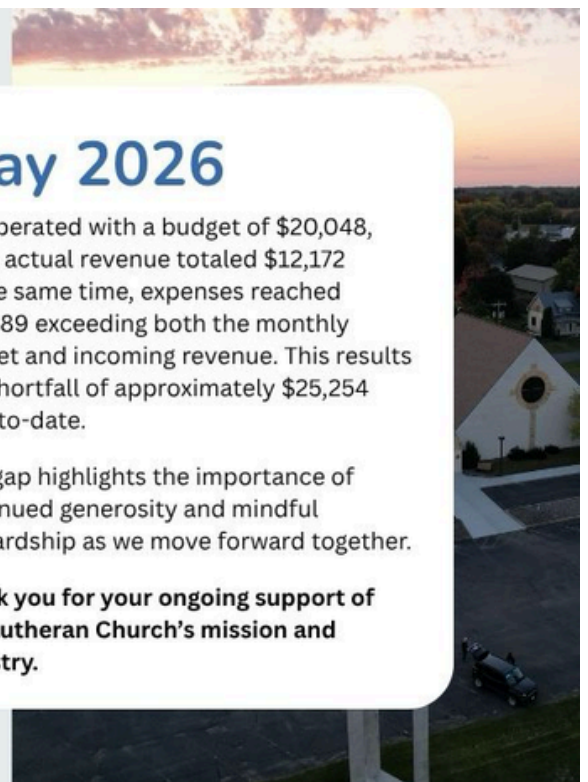



May 2026

We operated with a budget of \$20,048, while actual revenue totaled \$12,172. At the same time, expenses reached \$21,989 exceeding both the monthly budget and incoming revenue. This results in a shortfall of approximately \$25,254 year-to-date.

This gap highlights the importance of continued generosity and mindful stewardship as we move forward together.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Joy Lutheran Church's mission and ministry.





July 1st
Wayne Vlasnik

July 4th
Carly Nelson

July 5th
David Patterson

July 7th
Rayannon Lundgren

July 9th
Megan Carlson

July 12th
Hailey Lundgren

July 13th
Audrey Flaherty

July 15th
Jace Swanson
Jaxon Stridde
Mason Stridde

July 16th
Craig Turner
Elliana Thompson
Grace Vollrath

July 17th
Todd Pfeifer
Michael Carlson

July 18th
Audrey Lundgren

July 20th
Jaxson Skarda

July 23rd
Kerry Swenson

July 26th
LeAnn Belisle

July 28th
Ron Skog

July 31st
Turner Flaherty



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July

Join us on Sunday Mornings

10:00am Worship with Holy Communion