

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN March 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 | 10:30am - 1:30pm
Thursday | 9:00am - 3:00pm

PASTOR

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OFFICE ADMIN

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YOUTH MINISTER

Heather Zimmer

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Reflection | Lent - In a Restless World

By Megan Anderson

In a world that feels increasingly restless—shaped by uncertainty, conflict, and constant noise—the season of Lent arrives as a deliberate pause. It invites us to step back from the relentless pace of daily life and to reflect honestly on where we are, both personally and as a global community. Lent does not offer quick solutions, but it offers something just as necessary: space to listen, to repent, and to begin again.

Our world today often encourages accumulation, reaction, and self-protection. Lent, by contrast, calls us toward restraint, reflection, and generosity of spirit. Through practices of prayer, simplicity, and self-examination, we become more aware of how our choices affect others. Fasting helps us recognize excess; giving helps us confront inequality; prayer helps us remember that we are not alone in our struggles or responsibilities.

Lent also invites us to face the brokenness of the world with humility rather than despair. It reminds us that transformation rarely begins with grand gestures, but with faithful, daily acts of compassion—listening without judgment, offering forgiveness, standing with those who suffer, and choosing hope when cynicism feels easier.

As we journey through Lent, we are called not to withdraw from the world, but to engage it more thoughtfully and lovingly. In a time when division can feel overwhelming, Lent offers a path toward renewal—beginning in the heart, extending into our communities, and gently shaping a more just and compassionate world.



Surrounded by firelight,
we marked Ash
Wednesday together,
remembering our
humanity and God's
enduring grace.

The Happenings | March 2026

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri - 6:00am to 1:00pm Meals on Wheels | **Monday** - 3:00pm Good Neighbor Ukulele Group | **Tuesday** - 10:30am Staff Meeting
Wednesday - 10:00am to 12:00pm JOYful Quilting Ministry

Sunday March 1st

9:15am Faith5 Family
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion | Communion Blessing
First Communion Class following Worship Light Lunch Provided
Fellowship: Joy Council

Tuesday March 3rd

6:30pm Lent Book Study w/ Pastor Angie

Wednesday March 4th

6:00pm Lenten Supper hosted by Joy Council
6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group
7:00pm Lent 2 Worship Service

Saturday March 7th

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

Sunday March 8th

9:15am Faith5 Family
9:15am Breakfast Club High School Youth
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion
JOYful Hands (WELCA) Meeting following Worship

Monday March 9th

11:00am Grace in Grief Support Group
6:00pm Grace in Grief Support Group

Tuesday March 10th

6:30pm Council Meeting

Wednesday March 11th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study
5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice
6:00pm Lenten Supper hosted by Christensen / Beaulieu Families
6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group
7:00pm Lent 3 Worship Service

Sunday March 15th

9:15am Faith5 Family
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Antonson Baptism
First Communion Class following Worship
Fellowship hosted by Sara Route - Muffins for Mission: Donations benefit the Food Pantry

Tuesday March 17th

5:00pm Recovering Together Cafe
6:30pm Lent Book Study w/ Pastor Angie

Wednesday March 18th

6:00pm Lenten Supper hosted by Music Ministry
6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group
7:00pm Lent 4 Worship Service
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday March 19th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice
6:30pm Lent Meditation

Saturday March 21st

9:00am to 11:00am JOYful Sprouts Fellowship and Playgroup

Sunday March 22nd

9:15am Faith5 Family
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Schrupp Baptism
New Member Info Meeting w/ Pastor Angie following Worship

Wednesday March 25th

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice
6:00pm Lenten Supper hosted by Youth Ministry and Families
6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group
7:00pm Lent 5 Worship Service
7:30pm JYLT Meeting

Thursday March 26th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

Saturday March 28th

2:00pm UKEE Lutheran Practice

Sunday March 29th

NO Faith5 Family
9:00am Palm Sunday Breakfast
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

Tuesday March 31st

6:30pm Lent Book Study w/ Pastor Angie

SHOP OUR STORE

Joy Lutheran Church will receive a portion of each purchase.

ORDER HERE

bit.ly/joybonfireshop



Check back! New products added as they become available.



july 16-19, 2026 | des moines, iowa

The 2026 Triennial Gathering is based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division.

Scholarships will be available from Joyful Hands to cover a portion of the registration fees. Carpooling will be available. Please contact Carol Johnson or Deborah Schmalz if you are interested or if you have questions.



For more info about the Triennial Gathering scan QR code or visit: womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page



BREAKFAST CLUB

High School Youth

9:15AM Sundays

February 22
March 8
April 26
May 17



GRACE IN GRIEF



A COMFORT CIRCLE OF COMPASSION AND HEALING
2nd Monday of each month at 11:00am & 6:00pm

YOU ARE WELCOME - JUST AS YOU ARE

Thinking about becoming a member or just want to learn more? Come hang out with Pastor Angie at our New Member Info Meeting. It's a relaxed time to hear our story, ask questions, and find out what's next. No pressure—just a great chance to connect!

Sunday, March 22nd

After Worship, Pastor Angie will meet with those interested in becoming new members or have already transferred membership to Joy Lutheran Church.



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IS APRIL 12TH

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

MARCH 29TH

9:00-9:45AM
FREE-WILL DONATION

MENU:
PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, EGG BAKE, FRUIT, YOGURT BAR & MORE!

BENEFITING YOUTH SERVICE TRIP TO SOUTH DAKOTA



JOY LUTHERAN

501 Hwy 35 P.O. Box 217 Centuria, WI
joylutheranwi.org | 715-646-2357
experience faith * know love * share joy

LENT 2026

The Trials of Jesus | A Series of Special Services for Lent

Like a courtroom drama, a series of witness comes forward to give testimony about their experiences with the accused – Jesus Christ. Through their accounts we come to know the truth, that Jesus came to take our place in the defendant’s chair. Services include dramatic monologues, thematic hymns, prayers and children’s messages that bear evidence to the fact that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Week 1 | The Voice of Judas – Mark 14:16,32–42
Jesus’ betrayer defends him.

Week 2 | The Voice of Annas – John 18:12–24
A chief priest discusses Jesus’ arrest.

Week 3 | The Voice of Caiaphas – Matthew 26:57–68
The high priest faces off with the Son of God.

Week 4 | The Voice of Peter – Luke 22:54–62
Jesus’ bold disciple speaks of his weak faith.

Week 5 | The Voice of Herod – Luke 23:1–12
One king of the Jews testifies against another.

02/18 Ash Wednesday

6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Worship

02/25-03/25

6:00-7:00pm Dinner & Class
7:00-7:30pm Worship

03/29 Palm Sunday

9:00am Breakfast
10:00am Worship

04/02 Maundy Thursday

6:00pm Dinner
NOTE: all church potluck
(bit.ly/potluckdinners2026)
7:00pm Worship w/First Communion

04/03 Good Friday

7:00pm Worship

04/05 Easter Sunday

10:00am Worship

NEW GROUPS AT JOY



Threads of Joy – Fiber Arts Group

Threads of Joy is a welcoming fellowship at Joy Lutheran Church for anyone who enjoys knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, or other fiber arts. Whether you’re a beginner or experienced crafter, bring your current project and enjoy a relaxed time of creativity, conversation, community (and COFFEE!) We gather to share skills, encourage one another, and build friendships – one stitch at a time. All are welcome!

Threads of Joy meets THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Bring along any excess supplies you have to trade or share with others. Whether you’re giving, swapping or just connecting, all are welcome!

JOYful Sprouts – Play and Fellowship Group

JOYful Sprouts is a welcoming play and fellowship group at Joy Lutheran Church for children from newborn through Kindergarten and their caregivers. This relaxed gathering offers a safe, joyful space for littles ones to play, explore, and grow while parents and caregivers connect and build community. Through playtime, conversation, and shared moments, JOYful Sprouts nurtures friendships for both children and adults as we grow together in joy! **Older**

siblings are welcome to attend as well! All families are welcome!

JOYful Sprouts meets THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

This playgroup is a ministry of our church, grounded in faith and fellowship. Parents and caregivers are required to stay onsite with their children.



2026 Joy Council Members

The Council of Joy Lutheran Church serves as the congregation, working in partnership with the pastor to guide the spiritual, administrative, and mission-focused life of the church. Council members are entrusted with stewardship, vision, and decision-making that support worship, education, outreach, and the overall health of the congregation, always seeking to serve faithfully and in accordance with Christ’s call.

2026 Members and Officers

Morgan Anderson (**Youth Representative**), Elizabeth Ebensperger (**Treasurer**), Kevin Ek, Elizabeth Hoag, Angela Kutney, Teresa Lunsman, Lydia Pfeifer (**Secretary**), Deborah Schmalz (**President**), Dave Schultz, Ron Skog, Lindsay Spinder (**Vice President**).

Contact information and photos for the new council will be updated and available on our Website soon.

Youth Education



CONFIRMATION

If Unity School District cancels / closes for inclement weather, we will not have programming.

On February 18th we enter the Season of Lent. The Confirmation Wednesday night program schedule remains the same. The Lenten Worship services **are a part of the Confirmation programming and curriculum** and students and families should plan to attend these Worship Services together.

FIRST COMMUNION – Sunday March 1st and Sunday March 15th

Class is open to all ages! Youth should have a guardian attending with them.

First Communion classes will begin at 11:30 a.m. and include a light lunch, concluding by 1:00 p.m.

March 1 – Make communion cups

March 15 – Make communion bread

First Communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 2, during worship at 7:00 p.m.



Please reach out with any questions—we look forward to this meaningful season of learning and preparation together.

Adult Education

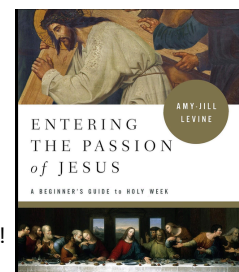
LENT 2026 BOOK STUDY with PASTOR ANGIE – Entering The Passion of Jesus

Join Pastor Angie this Lent for a book study on *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. Together, we'll explore the risks Jesus and his followers took during Holy Week – and what those stories mean for our faith today.

We'll read the book individually and gather for discussion on:

Tuesdays, March 3rd, 17th, and 31st from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Joy Lutheran Church.

Books are available through local libraries, Amazon, or by contacting Pastor Angie (paperback approx. \$9.50). All are welcome!



If you have questions about education opportunities at Joy, or would like to share a recommendation, please reach out the Pastor Angie or the Church Office. Stay tuned, more opportunities are always being added!

SUPPORTING



**Luther
Point
BIBLE CAMP**

**HELPS PROVIDE
FAITH-CENTERED
EXPERIENCES FOR CAMPERS,
FAMILIES, AND LEADERS**

JOIN US IN GIVING TO LPBC IN MARCH!

**March 1st, Fellowship hosted by Joy Council
FREE WILL-DONATION**

**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 24TH-26TH
SPRING CLEAN UP WEEKEND - STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS**

Monetary donations can also be dropped off at church office designated to LPBC



Feed My Neighbor | Community Food Pantry

Together We Can Make a Difference

Current Needs: Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant and Baking Supplies

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: YOUTH DINNER

Sign-Up to host Wednesday night dinner for Confirmation and High School Youth Group. Dinner should be ready by 5:30pm. Hosts can use the church kitchen and come anytime to prepare their meal, as needed. Paper plates, cups, silverware, and Kool-Aid and Lemonade are available for use. Dinners hosts should plan to feed 25 people and make enough for seconds!

Sign-Up Online at: bit.ly/JoyWednesdayDinner

UPCOMING NEEDS

LENTEN DINNER HOST – YOUTH and FAMILIES

Serving on March 25th

Sign-Up Online at: bit.ly/LentenSupperYouthFamilies

MAUNDY THURSDAY POTLUCK

Serving on April 2nd

Sign-Up Online at: bit.ly/MaundyThursday2026

FAITH5 FAMILY LEADER

During the School Year

Sign-Up Online at: bit.ly/Faith5Leader

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



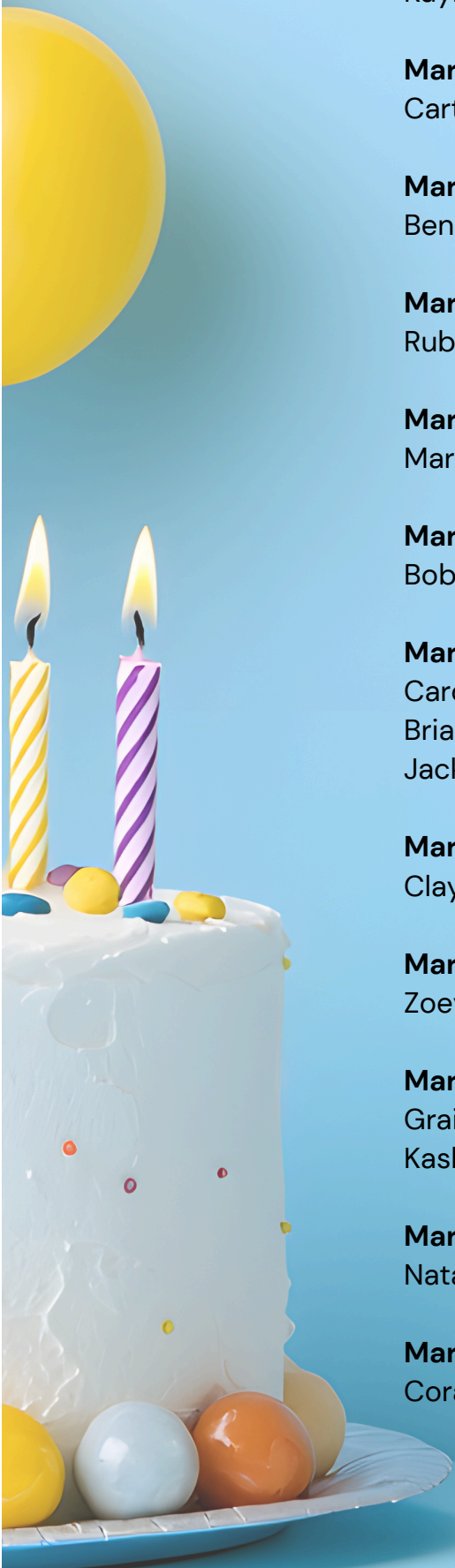
Giving Report



Financial Report will be published in the April Newsletter and are available upon request following the March 10th Council Meeting. An abbreviated Council Meeting was conducted this month to on-board new Council Members and elect officers.

If you would like to receive approved council minutes or congregational financial reports please contact the office.

Call (715) 646-2357 or Email office@joylutheranwi.org



March 2nd
Kayla Swanson

March 3rd
Carter Spengler

March 5th
Bennett Carlson

March 10th
Ruby Tourville

March 11th
Mary Lou Randall

March 12th
Bob Appelholm

March 14th
Carol Zygowicz
Brian Robelia
Jackson Gingras

March 15th
Clayton Johnson

March 16th
Zoey Thompson

March 17th
Grair Carlson
Kashton Wilson

March 19th
Natalie Christensen

March 20th
Cora Heinz

March 21st
Dawn Swanson
Eric Antonson

March 22nd
Sue Turner

March 23rd
Ryan Flaherty
Asher Wheeler
Charles Turner

March 24th
Erin Kaiser

March 25th
Devin Jones
Berkley Tourville

March 26th
Ashley Sempf
Gage Galle
Brooklyn Prince

March 27th
Rhonda Hansch
Hazel Nelson
Molly Davis

March 28th
Cheryl Peper
Kyle Bjornstad
Patrick Kelly

March 29th
Laurie Smith

March 31st
David Beaulieu



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Phone: (715) 646-2357 Email: office@joylutheranwi.org

March

Join us on Sunday Mornings
9:15am Faith5 Family and Fellowship
10:00am Worship with Holy Communion