

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN

September 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

715.222.7915
angkutney@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMIN

Meg Anderson

715.501.6648
office@joylutheranwi.org

MEDIA & MARKETING

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deanna@joylutheranwi.org

YOUTH MINISTER

Heather Zimmer

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The Ministry of Encouragement

By: Megan Anderson

We often think of ministry as something that happens in front of the church – a sermon preached, a song sung, a class taught, or a program organized. But some of the most meaningful ministry happens quietly, in ordinary moments, through simple acts of encouragement.

A kind word can lift someone's spirit. A phone call can remind a person that they haven't been forgotten. A handwritten note can brighten a difficult day. Sitting with someone who is grieving, listening to a friend who is struggling, or offering a helping hand to a neighbor can communicate something powerful: **"You matter. You are not alone. Someone cares."**

The bible reminds us of the importance of encouraging one another. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Paul writes, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." Encouragement is not simply being positive or saying something nice. It is choosing to notice people, to listen, and to offer hope when someone needs it.

We never know what another person may be carrying. The person sitting beside us in worship may be facing a difficult diagnosis. A neighbor may be lonely. A coworker may be overwhelmed. Someone we see every Sunday may quietly be struggling with grief, family concerns, financial worries, or simply feeling discouraged.

That is why encouragement matters.

And it doesn't have to be complicated. Send a text. Make a phone call. Write a note. Invite someone for coffee. Thank someone for the work they do. Pray with someone. Welcome a new face. Check in on someone who has been absent. Sometimes the smallest gesture can have a much greater impact than we realize.

As a church family, may we look for opportunities to practice the ministry of encouragement. Rather than waiting for someone to tell us they need support, let us become people who notice, reach out, and care.

This month, choose someone to encourage. It might be someone you know well or someone who haven't spoken with before. Take a few minutes to let them know they are valued and remembered.

We may never know exactly what our words or actions mean to someone else – but God can use even the smallest acts of kindness to bring hope, strength, and love into another person's life.

The Happenings | September 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 SEP 2nd

5:20pm Handbell Choir Practice

SATURDAY SEP 5th

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

SUNDAY SEP 6th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Communion Blessing

Fellowship: Joy Council

MONDAY SEP 7th

NO Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY SEP 8th

JOYful Hands (WELCA) Lefse Making Shifts All Day

6:30pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY SEP 9th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study @ Joy

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

6:00pm New Student / Parent Confirmation Orientation & Registration Night

7:00pm Youth Gathering 2027 Informational Meeting (Students and Parents 8th – 12th grade)

SUNDAY SEP 13th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Rally Sunday – Backpack Blessing and Blessing of Confirmation & Youth Group Ministries

JOYful Hands (WELCA) Meeting following Worship

Fellowship: Rally Sunday Fellowship

MONDAY SEP 14th

JOYful Hands (WELCA) Lefse Making Shifts All Day

TUESDAY SEP 15th

5:00pm Recovering Together Cafe

WEDNESDAY SEP 16th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

6:00pm Gather Bible Study @ Joy

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group KICK-OFF

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SATURDAY SEP 19th

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

11:00am Memorial Service for Shelly Maxwell

SUNDAY SEP 20th

9:15am Faith5 Family (First Day!) – Designed for families with young (and older) children! Come and learn before Worship!

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

Ministry Fair Following Worship

MONDAY SEP 21st

JOYful Hands (WELCA) Lefse Making Shifts All Day

3:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

WEDNESDAY SEP 23rd

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

SUNDAY SEP 27th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

MONDAY SEP 28th

JOYful Hands (WELCA) Lefse Making Shifts All Day

WEDNESDAY SEP 30th

9:00am to 3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive

NO Joyful Quilting Ministry

5:50pm Handbell Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

7:00pm JYLT Meeting

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION & REGISTRATION

Wed, September 9th | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

A light meal will be served.

Students new to Confirmation Ministry, registering for the first time, and guardians are invited to attend. Pastor Angie will walk through the schedule, answer questions, and ensure registration forms and ministry covenants are completed.

CLASS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16TH WITH DINNER AT 6PM.

Joy Youth Group is back beginning 09/16!
See you every Wednesday at 6:00pm for dinner
and group from 6:30-7:30pm!



IMAGINE more

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING PARENT/STUDENT INFO MEETING

**This meeting is for youth and their
adults to learn about the youth
gathering!**

(you're not committing to anything, don't worry)

When: Wednesday Sept 9

Who: Youth 8th -12th grades

Time: 7pm

MINNEAPOLIS 6/28/27-7/2/27



JOY
LUTHERAN
experience faith • know love • share joy

FALL

YOUTH RETREAT

WORSHIP. CAMPFIRE. BUBBLE SOCCER.

GAMES. FOOD. JESUS.

GRADES 6-12

OCTOBER
9-11
\$70

CAMP WAPO
1204 74TH AVE, AMERY WI

www.lakewapo.org

MEET AT JOY ON FRIDAY AT 6PM
RETURN TO JOY BY 11:45 SUNDAY

2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

We're excited to begin looking ahead to the **2027 ELCA Youth Gathering!** This special event brings together thousands of young people from across the ELCA for an unforgettable experience centered on faith, community, worship, service, and fun. It's an opportunity for youth to meet new friends, deepen their relationship with God, explore what it means to live out their faith, and experience the incredible diversity of our church.

Our group will be preparing for this exciting journey through upcoming meetings, activities, and fundraising opportunities. Whether you've attended a Youth Gathering before or this will be your first one, we hope you'll consider being part of this amazing experience.

Stay tuned for more information about registration, travel plans, fundraising and upcoming Youth Gathering events. We can't wait to see where this journey takes us!

**** Youth will be hosting Fellowship on the 2nd Sunday of each month, starting in October to fundraise for this trip.****

JOURNEY - Fall Youth Retreat

Journey is a weekend designed to help you discover that God is already walking beside you, whether you're stepping into middle school, finding your place in high school, or wondering what comes next this weekend is for you.

The weekend will be filled with laughter, worship, adventure, and meaningful conversation. Together we'll explore what it means to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and discover how God is shaping each of us to love, lead, and serve in our everyday lives.

Campers will experience classic camp games, creative activities, engaging worship, inspiring speakers, and small group conversations designed for their age and stage of life. Middle and High School students will share the excitement of camp while also having opportunities to connect in similar age groups where they can ask questions, build confidence, and grow alongside peers.

By the end of the weekend, campers will head home with new friendships, renewed confidence, practical tools for living out their faith, and a deeper understanding that wherever life leads, they never journey alone.

Ministry Spotlight @ Joy



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experience faith • know love • share joy
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 am ~ Pastor Angela Kutney
www.joylutheranwi.org

Joy Lutheran Sunshine Team

Our goal is to be nurturing, encouraging and caring by supporting and acknowledging events in our members lives.

Our action plan is to send cards on behalf of Joy Lutheran in expressing sympathy, get well and birthday wishes, cards to military and nursing home people.

To request a card for someone please contact:

Sherri Schaffer 715-553-0686 Nursing Home and Military	Jill Route 715-566-1871 Fellowship
Dawn Swanson 715-688-9288 Nursing Home	Angela Stephen 715-556-3469 Fellowship
Linda Jones 715-553-0505 Prayer chain (70 members)	Kerry Swenson 715-553-0046 Birthdays

"Spreading joy, faith, and love—one card at a time."

The reason why I serve at Joy Lutheran is to love and serve others, as God has commanded me, in hopes that it glorifies God.
Sherri

I serve on the Sunshine Team because we spread Joy!
Jill

I serve on the Sunshine Team because I enjoy sending encouraging cards to the home bound.
Dawn

I serve Joy Lutheran because getting information out to our congregation about people in need of prayer is life changing. There is so much power in prayer!!
GOD IS GOOD!
Linda

We're excited to shine a light on the ministries that make a difference in our church and community! Stay tuned as we highlight each ministry, share their purpose, and show you how you can get involved.

More spotlights coming soon! Stay tuned!

**GOOD
things
ARE
COMING**

SOMETHING EXCITING IS COMING!

Get ready for an exciting season of **growth, connection, and faith building** at Joy Lutheran Church!

Upcoming Adult Book Study with Pastor Angie

A new opportunity to gather, learn, reflect, and grow together is coming soon (this fall)! Bring your thoughts, questions, and your love of meaningful conversation.

Celebrating Milestones all year long

We are creating opportunities throughout the year for children, youth, families, and all of us to learn and navigate particular Milestones in our life and faith journey's. Together we will build community, have fun, and grow in faith and friendship.

Stay tuned for the dates, details, and surprises coming your way!

There's something for everyone – and we can't wait to grow together!

JOYful Hands (WELCA)

LEFSE is a tasty Scandinavian treat made to sell at our JOY Bazaar on October 10th.

Dates to prep and cook are:
Tuesday, Sept 8 & Mondays Sept 14,
21, & 28

PLEASE SIGN-UP FOR ANY SHIFT YOU ARE
ABLE! Sign-up with family and friends.
You can sign-up on the JOYful Hands
table in the Narthex.

We really need your help to create this
popular item.



Fall Change it Up Gathering

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Siren Lutheran Church
24096 1st Ave
Siren, WI 54872

Coffee and Registration: 8:00 AM
Program: 9:00 AM
Lunch: Noon

Theme: God, Girlfriends and Chocolate

Theme Verse: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

GUEST SPEAKER

Gaye Lindfors

Our speaker, Gaye Lindfors approaches life as a front row observer of spirited celebrations, everyday annoyances, and you've-got-to-be-kidding-me moments. She is a city girl with a Midwest small-town heart who led an HR team that supported 11,000 airline employees, served as president of the National Speakers Association-Minnesota Chapter, and was the Midwest Regional Director for Christian Women in Media. She has discovered that laughing from the belly is her favorite form of exercise.

REGISTRATION \$15.00

Send registration and payment (payable to Women of ELCA) to:

Kandy Unger
9703 N. Mudhen Lake Drive, Siren, WI 54872

Registration due September 5, 2026

Luther Point Bible Camp

Greetings and thank you for any support you can give Luther Point! Luther Point is in need of our help and support more now than ever before. There are big and small projects that need to be accomplished around camp. If you are able to donate any of your time and expertise in an area that would be an amazing help to restore the camp back to its former beauty. The list that is included in this newsletter is only one third of the projects that need to be accomplished at camp, so if you want to offer expertise in a different avenue not listed, please feel free to reach out. We know your time is valuable so if you can organize to bring your own crew and supplies, please go ahead and get to work. Just let interim directors Jennifer and Brad Werner or Volunteer Coordinator Sara Route know that you've started or accomplished a task so other people know it's off the list. If you want to tackle a larger scale project or family cabin, please call Jennifer or Brad Warner in advance to know if the cabins are rented that day and / or if supplies might be there for the task you / your church is tackling.

LPBC is also in need of financial resources to make camp the amazing place again that we all love and remember so please give if you are able. So many of us love Luther Point Bible Camp and want to continue its legacy with the next generation, we just might have known how to help. Thank You for your support!

Brad Werner: brad.werner@live.com, 715-292-7651

Jennifer Werner: jlwerner536@gmail.com, 715-292-7651

Sara Route: sroutel7@gmail.com, 715-977-0789

Please review the link and sign-up for any projects you are able to complete:

<https://bit.ly/LPBCVolunteerList>

MINISTRY FAIR – Sunday, September 20th

Discover Your Place to Serve! Join us for our Ministry Fair immediately after worship on Sunday, September 20th! Come learn more about the many ministries and opportunities available at our church, meet the people who make them happen, and discover how your gifts and passions can make a difference. Whether you're looking for a new way to get involved or simply want to learn more, there's a place for you. Stay after worship and find your ministry!



Feed My Neighbor | Community Food Pantry

Together We Can Make a Difference

Current Needs: fresh milk, butter, yogurt, sour cream and baking mixes.

****Extra garden produce is always appreciated!!****

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

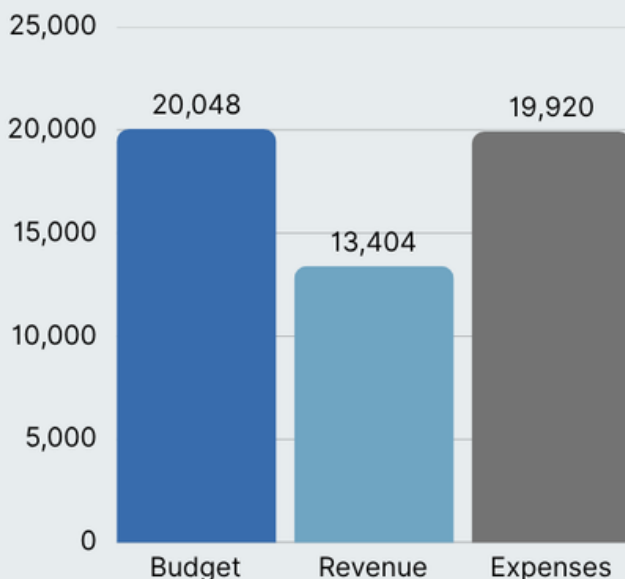


SCAN HERE >

follow prompts on your screen to give



Giving Report



July 2026

We operated with a budget of \$20,048, while actual revenue totaled \$13,404. At the same time, expenses reached \$19,920 just shy of the monthly budget but exceeding incoming revenue. This results in a shortfall of approximately \$8,465 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.



September 1st

April Peterson

September 2nd

Bruce Christensen

Sherri Schaffer

Anna Christensen

September 3rd

Khloe Swanson

September 4th

Jacob Christensen

September 5th

Dan Campbell

September 7th

Clarese Turner

September 9th

Deverah Koshatka

Arlen Hendricks

September 12th

Megan Anderson

September 14th

Danielle Sloper

September 15th

Terri Hexum

Jill Gingras

September 16th

Melissa Willson

Braden Vlasnik-Peterson

September 17th

Joan Romans

September 18th

William Olson

September 19th

Annette Skog

September 20th

Kristina Robelia

September 24th

Gary Schauls

September 25th

Olivia Schrupp

Natalie Behning

September 27th

Christopher Swanson

September 28th

Kathy Peterson

Tiffany Skarda

Brent Bubnitz

September 29th

Jodi Reed



501 State Road 35 – PO Box 217 – Centuria, WI 54824

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

September

Join us on Sunday Mornings

9:15am Faith5 Family (Starting September 20th)
10:00am Worship with Holy Communion