

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN

October 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 | 10:00am – 1:00pm
Friday | 9:00am – 3:00pm

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Grief Has No Timeline

By: Megan Anderson

Grief is something we all experience, yet no two people grieve in exactly the same way. The loss of a loved one, a relationship, a dream, a job, or a season of life can leave us carrying emotions that are difficult to name and even harder to explain.

Grief does not follow a schedule. Some days may feel almost normal, while others bring an unexpected wave of sadness. A song, a familiar place, a holiday, a birthday, or even a simple memory can bring tears long after we thought we were doing better. This is not a sign that we are moving backward. It is simply part of learning to live with a loss that matters deeply.

Sometimes we put pressure on ourselves – or others – to “move on.” But grief isn’t something we simply get over. Instead, we gradually learn how to carry our loss while continuing to live, love, remember, and find moments of joy again. There may be good days and difficult days, and sometimes they can happen within the same day. Giving ourselves permission to experience those emotions without judgement is an important part of the grieving process.

Grief can also feel isolating. Even when surrounded by people who care about us, it can be difficult to explain what we’re experiencing. We may worry that others will become uncomfortable if we talk about our loss, or we may feel like everyone else has returned to normal while we are still hurting. Having a safe place to talk, listen, remember, and simply be with others who understand can make a meaningful difference.

Grace in Grief

Beginning in **October**, Joy will offer a monthly gathering called **Grace in Grief**. We will meet on the **second Monday of each month at 11:00am at Joy**. Grace in Grief is an opportunity for anyone experiencing grief to come to together in a welcoming and supportive space. Whether your loss is recent or happened many years ago, you are welcome. Grief doesn’t have an expiration date, and there is no timeline for when someone “should” be finished grieving.

This gathering is not about having all the answers or finding a quick way through grief. It is about making space for the realities of loss and reminding one another that we don’t have to walk through those difficult seasons alone. There will be opportunities to share, listen, reflect, and connect with others who understand the complicated journey of grief.

If you are grieving, we invite you to join us. If you know someone who is grieving, consider inviting them or sharing information about Grace in Grief with them. Sometimes simply knowing there is a place where we can show up exactly as we are can be a source of comfort.

And for those walking alongside someone who is grieving, remember that your presence often matters more than having the right words. A phone call, a meal, a listening ear, or simply sitting quietly together can mean more than you realize.

Whatever your grief looks like, you are welcome. There is room for your sadness, your memories, your questions, and your hope. You do not have to carry it alone. Come as you are.

The Happenings | October 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

SATURDAY October 3rd

9:00am Threads of Joy Fiber Arts Fellowship Group

SUNDAY October 4th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Communion Blessing

Fellowship: Joy Council

MONDAY October 5th

3:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

WEDNESDAY October 7th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

FRIDAY October 9th

1:00pm JOYful Hands Bazaar Set-Up

SATURDAY October 10th

10:00am JOYful Hands Bazaar

SUNDAY October 11th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

Fellowship: Joy Youth (2027 Youth Gathering Fundraiser)

Purple Sunday Domestic Violence Awareness

TUESDAY October 13th

6:30pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY October 14th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

SATURDAY October 17th

9:00am Threads of Joy Fiber Arts Fellowship Group

2:00pm Ukee Lutheran Practice

SUNDAY October 18th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Ukulele Service led by UKEE Lutheran's

Pastor and Ministry Appreciation Sunday

Fellowship: Sherri Schaffer / Sunshine Committee

MONDAY October 19th

3:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY October 20th

5:00pm Recovering Together Cafe

WEDNESDAY October 21st

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

6:00pm Gather Bible Study

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY October 25th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Confirmation Sunday, Handbell Choir Special Music

Fellowship: Celebration of Confirmands

WEDNESDAY October 28th

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

7:30pm JYLT Meeting



The Sunshine Team is planning something really special: a Ministry Appreciation Fellowship! The entire congregation is invited to join in fellowship following Worship on **Sunday, October 18th** to celebrate all of the incredible ministry happening here at Joy!



GRACE IN GRIEF



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

YOU ARE WELCOME - JUST AS YOU ARE



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

**Sunday,
November 8th
following
worship**



Joy Youth Group is back!

**See you every Wednesday at 6:00pm for dinner
and group from 6:30-7:30pm!**

EPIPHANY STAR WORDS - PICK A STAR WORD AND REFLECT ON YOUR
WORD, THEN SUBMIT YOUR DEVOTIONAL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
11/29/26. ALL AGES CAN JOIN IN!



Star Words

We are putting together a devotional, written by you, our congregation! You are
invited to ponder the significance the word you chose might have in your life
and how God might be speaking to you through one simple word.



Grace in Grief

Grief can be a difficult and lonely journey, but you don't have to walk it alone. **Grace in Grief** is a welcoming space to gather with others who are experiencing loss, share stories, find support, and simply be present with one another. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, and everyone is welcome.

Grace in Grief meets the **second Monday of each month at 11:00am** beginning in October at Joy Lutheran Church.

Congregational Meeting

Please join us for our upcoming Congregational Meeting. This is an opportunity for our church family to come together, hear important updates, discuss matters of our congregation, and share in the work of our church.

All members are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Confirmation and High School Youth Group

Calling all middle and high school students! We invite you to join us for Confirmation and High School Youth Group – a place to grow in faith, build friendships, ask questions, have fun, and be yourself.

Whether you're a longtime part of the church or joining us for the first time, **you are welcome here!** Come connect, learn, laugh, and grow with us. **We'd love to see you there!**

Star Word Devotional Submissions

Has your Star Word guided, challenged, or inspired you this year? We invite you to share your reflections by submitting a short devotional based on your Star Word. Your story, insights, and faith journey may be just what someone else needs to hear. We would love to include reflections from our church family as we continue to learn and grow together in faith.

DEADLINE: November 29th, 2026



Looking for a fun, meaningful way to kick off your Sunday?

Come join us for **Faith5 Family** – a 30-minute burst of connection, laughter, and learning **before worship!** Faith5 Family is designed for young children, their families, grandparents, friends...everyone is welcome!

Sunday Mornings 9:15am – 9:45am



Our youth spent time volunteering at **Feed My Neighbor** community pantry, putting their faith into action through service and care for our community. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and for the opportunity to live out God's love by helping our neighbors!

Note from Pastor Angie: *"I want you to know that these students did amazing work. And I'm not just saying that. They served willingly, joyfully! I was/am very proud of these students!"*



PURPLE
Sunday
October 11th

Join us in recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month by **wearing purple to worship** on **Sunday, October 11th**. Purple is a symbol of hope, courage, and support for survivors of domestic violence.

We invite you to help us raise awareness, stand with survivors, and support those impacted by domestic violence. We will also be **collecting monetary donations for Community Referral Agency (CRA)** in Polk County, to help their important work in our community.

Together we can break the silence, offer hope, and remind survivors they are not alone.



1 IN 3 WOMEN—AND 1 IN 4 MEN—HAVE BEEN IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS, AND 1 IN 5 WOMEN AND 1 IN 7 MEN HAVE FACED SEVERE PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

ON AVERAGE, NEARLY 20 PEOPLE PER MINUTE ARE PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER IN THE UNITED STATES.

MALES EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE THEIR OWN PARTNERS AND CHILDREN WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS.

ON AVERAGE, 3 INCIDENTS ARE REPORTED BEFORE OFFENDERS ARE CHARGED WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

THE MOST COMMON SENTENCE FOR AGGRAVATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS PROBATION.

EXPOSURE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE HAS LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES FOR THE BRAIN.

**RECOGNIZE.
REPORT.
PREVENT.**

RESOURCES

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-261-7233 | 24/7 Crisis Line

Community Referral Agency Text Line
715-553-3359

"A Sacred Welcome to Autumn"

Good Neighbor Ukulele Circle Concert

Brought to you jointly by
Holy Trinity UMC & Joy Lutheran Church

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026

Location:

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

1606 165th Ave, Centuria WI 54824



*Sing along with
favorite hymns*

All ages welcome



3:00-3:15 – grab a root beer float
to enjoy during the concert



3:15-4:15 –
ukulele concert



JOY LUTHERAN Lefse Ministry

For more than 30 years, JOY Lutheran's Lefse ministry, has honored Scandinavian traditions, baking this popular, delicious potato flatbread for our annual Fall Bazaar fundraiser which provides funds for community organizations.

Come join the camaraderie and service, complete with stimulating conversation and laughs!

Contact Bruce Christensen (715) 553-1013, or Sarah Campbell (715) 557-0387 for more information.



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.

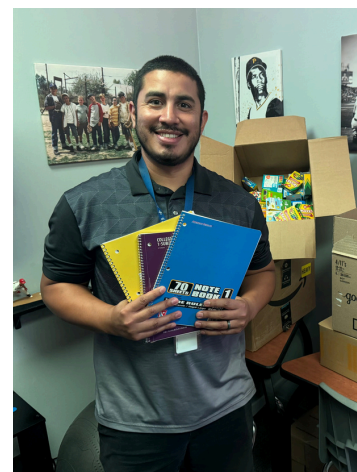
More spotlights coming soon! Stay tuned!

THANK YOU - SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A very big and gracious THANK YOU to all who donated school supplies! Your generosity will help provide for students across all grades in the Unity and Saint Croix Falls school districts.



Thank you so much!! This is amazing. We had a student this morning that did not have anything in his backpack. I felt bad because that dad only spoke Spanish, and so I helped the student and dad get all situated. It has a great purpose, outcome, and impact! :)



The Luther Point Bible Camp board would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Carissa Ditlefsen for her many years of service to the camp. She started as a camper, then became a summer counselor and finally our program director. Carissa resigned earlier this month. We wish her God's blessings in her future endeavors. The board has posted a job opening for a director and plan its own retreat Oct. 16 and 17 to focus on strategic planning. On Saturday the 17th, we plan to take out the docks and prepare the camper cabins for winter. We'd love to have volunteers come and help with the dock. The work will start at 10am. Bring your waders! The camp's annual meeting will be November 8th at 2pm. We encourage as many people as possible to join us.



A note from JOYful Hands: Our JOY Church Bazaar will be held at JLC on Saturday October 10 from 10am-12:30pm. In order for it to be a success, we are in need of donations from women and men!! Donations needed are: *your garden PRODUCE (rodent free please) *MANY PIES and any UNPRICED BAKED GOODS(specify any allergens like nuts or wheat) – bars, cookies, BREADS, coffee cakes, gluten free – will be packaged at church so bars can come cut in 24 pieces on the pan (no plates or bags) or get containers at church Sunday before, preserves (JAMS/JELLIES) and canned foods (PICKLED DILLS, SWEET PICKLES, BEETS, BEANS), NO refrigerated items *30+ Theme baskets with a list of the contents as they will be wrapped (some empty baskets in narthex) *Hand-made/CRAFT or sewing items, WOODWORKING projects, etc. priced accordingly, *VINTAGE items priced accordingly and signed in as they will be returned if not sold *HOLIDAY & SEASONAL items will be freewill unless marked.

Please bring your items (baked goods, preserves, vintage, garden produce, theme baskets, crafts, holiday/seasonal items) to the appropriately marked tables in the Fellowship Hall. Item drop off dates and times prior Sunday 9:30-11:30am, Wednesday 9:30am-7pm, Friday 1-6pm. THANK YOU!!



Feed My Neighbor | Community Food Pantry

Together We Can Make a Difference

Current Needs: bottled water, baking mixes, healthy cereals, canned meats, toilet paper

****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

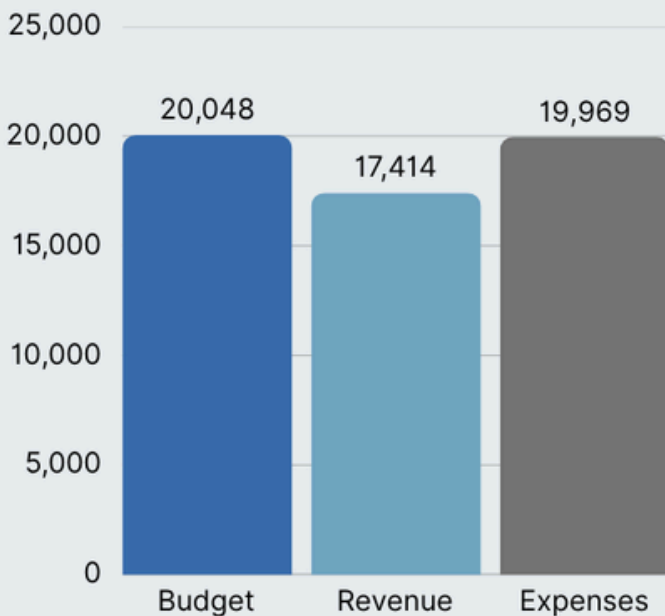


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follow prompts on your screen to give



Giving Report



August 2026

We operated with a budget of \$20,048, while actual revenue totaled \$17,414. At the same time, expenses reached \$19,969 just shy of the monthly budget but exceeding incoming revenue. This results in a shortfall of approximately \$11,020 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.



October 2nd
Margot Nelson
Karen Bever

October 3rd
Freya Flor
Kourtney Gross

October 4th
Victor Nelson

October 5th
Jeremiah Gingras
Nancy Glaim
Brook Johnson

October 8th
Jerry Owens

October 9th
Peter Carlson

October 10th
Twyla Bublitz
Edward Ellefson

October 11th
Scott Johnson
Xander Haack

October 13th
Jeffrey Skarda
Jesse Turner

October 15th
Knox Nelson

October 16th
Corrine Dahl

October 17th
Kevin Ek
Kari Larson
Lucas Nelson
Bentley Route
Aric Tourville

October 18th
Katie Christensen
Barbara Jorgensen

October 19th
Madison Robelia

October 20th
Belle Carlson

October 23rd
Teresa Lunsman

October 24th
Bob Jones
Joshua Davis

October 25th
Sylvan Hendricks
Michael Kutney

October 26th
Gracelynn Gross

October 30th
Jaclyn Mackey

October 31st
Tiffany Regnier

If you don't see your birthday listed, it means the church office does not currently have your birthday information on file. Please contact the office so we can update our records and make sure your special day is included! Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date!



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

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

October

Join us on Sunday Mornings

9:15am Faith5 Family
10:00am Worship with Holy Communion