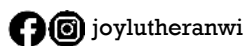


JOYful News

LUTHERAN
experience faith • know love • share joy

Joy Lutheran Church

PO Box 217
501 State Road 35
Centuria WI 54824
715-646-2357



joylutheranwi.org

Pastor

Angela Kutney
715-222-7915
pastorangie@joylutheranwi.org

Office Staff

Mary Pollock
office@joylutheranwi.org
Tue: 9:00am-4:30pm
Wed: 9:00am-4:30pm
Thu: 1:00pm-4:30pm
Fri: 9:00am-Noon

Deanna Wheeler
deanna@joylutheranwi.org

*Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Bishop Laurie - Returning to Worship ELCA Considerations for Returning to Worship

May 23, 2020

Yesterday, May 22, 2020 the President of the United States declared that churches should reopen immediately and that churches should be considered essential businesses. In response I'd like to highlight a few key thoughts that many of you already know but bear repeating:

1. St. Paul writes in the letter to Galatians, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female, we are all one in Christ Jesus." In the same way we are neither Democrats or Republicans or Independents we are all beloved children of God. As spiritual leaders we are to care for the health and well-being of all people. A pandemic is a health crisis not a political situation. Because of the separation of church and state, the government cannot prevent us from worshipping, or order us to worship, at any time.
2. Yes, the church is essential. The Church has never shut down. The church is not a building. It is the people of faith. We know we are essential, but it is not essential to gather in person at this time. I encourage you to continue to offer online worship opportunities.
3. It is not recommended for our congregations to gather at this time. I recommend you put together a team or committee that will prepare your building and congregation for a time in the future when you can safely gather. The Badger Bounce Back plan limits gatherings to 10 until we enter phase 2. In phase 2 gatherings are to be under 50. We are currently in phase 1. Badger Bounce Back Plan <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02653a.pdf>
4. Once we are able to safely gather, follow the ELCA guide for Returning to Worship. We are encouraging social distancing procedures sitting 6 feet apart and avoid practices which can contribute to spread of the virus such as communion, singing, shaking hands, or passing offering plates. https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Returning_to_In-person_Worship.pdf

(Continued on page 2)

Joy Lutheran Church

Experience Faith,
Know Love,
Share Joy

**July Newsletter
Deadline**

Monday, June 15

**Scholarship
Application
Deadline**

Monday, July 15
Applications
available online or
at the office

**Bishop Laurie - Returning to Worship
ELCA Considerations for Returning to Worship**

(Continued from page 1)

5. Undeniably, it would be a blessing to gather, but reports from across the country have shown congregations that have gathered have also become hotspots of the coronavirus, multiple deaths in a single congregation. We don't want that to happen in our synod. St. Peters, an ELCA congregation in New York lost 44 members to the Coronavirus.
6. Take time to prepare for face to face worship. Do what is necessary to put in place policies and procedures so that members of your congregation can safely gather. Continue online worship. It is dangerous to rush back to in person worship without a plan.
7. Many have asked about outdoor worship. While it is safer to gather outdoors because there is more space, there are still risks. It is difficult to enforce social distancing, keep people in their cars or 6 feet apart. Singing and communion are particularly risky even outdoors.

Dear friends, as leaders of the church, when faced with making decisions, I encourage you to keep asking, "What would love do? How can we best love our neighbors? How can we keep our members safe?" I am praying for you all. I trust that you will do what is best to care for your congregation.

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Joy Lutheran Small Business Directory

Are you a member of Joy Lutheran Church and are part of a small business?

Whether you own a restaurant or hardware store, sell Pampered Chef or handmade crafts, we want to know! Regardless of whether or not it's full-time or part-time, this is YOU we're talking about :)

We're creating a directory of small businesses within our congregation. If this is you, send us a message with your business name and the contact info (email/ phone).

We hope to have something together by the July newsletter.

A Message from Pastor Angie

Dear Members and Friends of Joy Lutheran Church,

Happy Birthday! Okay, I know that some of you read that and thought “Oh, no! She’s lost it!” Don’t worry, I haven’t. Yet. 😊 I’m saying Happy Birthday, because I am writing this the week before Pentecost Sunday. The day the promised Holy Spirit blew through a room and lit people up. The day the church was born. I was remembering last year at this time, I was so excited because I bought a streamer rocket launcher (Yep, you read that right!) to shoot streamers over the sanctuary as a moment of surprise. Like the surprise of the Holy Spirit!



Can you imagine the scene? Experiencing a group of people SO on fire for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world that they are speaking in such a way that everyone can understand?! Those disciples, those fire-talkers, were at the very beginning of something new, something bigger than themselves, bigger than their imaginations, their buildings, homes, neighborhoods. It was Divine. It was Holy Spirit stuff! And the church was born and grew exponentially in such a short time. Just think, the disciples, who had before this, found refuge in hiding behind locked doors, and comfort in the routine of fishing... were now speaking in languages they had never spoken before. Telling the WORLD about the risen Christ! It’s a Holy Spirit miracle.

So, again, let me say Happy Birthday to you, church!!!

I know it doesn’t feel much like a birthday celebration this year. We have been separated for 11 weeks now because of Covid-19. And never in my wildest imagination did I think I would need to know how to lead, and minister, and celebrate during a pandemic. Nope. Yet, here we are. And in the midst of our separateness, we have certainly been the church together. We have worshipped and prayed, doubted and feared, grieved and rejoiced. We have fed the hungry, cared for the lonely, visited with the sick and the dying. We have reconnected with old friends, checked in on our neighbors, rediscovered the lost art of letter writing, and made actual phone calls... and for some, that alone is worth celebrating! Finding new and creative ways to be the church has been exciting and trying. But together we are doing it. That power, creativity, patience, love for neighbor, concern for God’s world, is what it means to be the church. And that is something to celebrate! Even today. Even in a pandemic.

(Continued on page 4)

Council Members

Terrie Lunsman, President
715-553-0914

Todd Sturgul, V. Pres.
715-553-0606

Sarah Campbell, Secretary
715-557-0387

Al Arndt, Treasurer
715-210-1355

Steve Beyl
Bruce Christensen
Kim Grossmann
Don Ellefson
Kelly Nelson
Richard Schmalz
Jim Sorensen

Next Council Meeting

June 11, 7pm

If you would like to receive a copy of the minutes and financial reports, please let Mary in the office know.

Message from Pastor Angie

(Continued from page 3)

The questions I begin with, what’s next? When can we gather together again, in large numbers? When can we share the Lord’s Supper? When can we use our building safely and serve meals and enjoy fellowship treats? When can we get back to greeting one another with handshakes and hugs? The honest truth is, I don’t know. I haven’t led during a pandemic before. Like many of you, I am relying on scientific data, the recommendations of the CDC, the ELCA, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and our Bishop, Laurie Skow-Anderson and the synod ministers, to help navigate this. I have shared the bishops letter with all of you, so we all have the same information. As we think about the future, and imagine what is to come, let us not forget to live in this very moment. To live as people lit up, on fire, for sharing the Good News of Jesus with a very broken, lonely, separated world.

I don’t know the future, but I do know God, and I believe in the promise that God is with us. Always. And for that I give thanks!

Let us pray,

“When we feel alone, when we feel rejected **Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

When we feel drained and dried up, and we can’t give any more,
Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

When we are unsure of how to move or where to go or what to do,
Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Come, Holy Spirit, revive us, move in us, and encourage us on the journey of faith. **Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Amen!**” *(from Re:Worship, Pentecost Resources, 2015)*

Happy Birthday, Joy!

Pastor Angie

Taking Jesus and Joy with you in June & July

Flat Jesus is inspired by a national school project called Flat Stanley, based off a book written by Jeff Brown. This summer may look a little different than past summers but Flat Jesus is excited to share the summer with you. Stay connected on your vacation, stay-cation or about town.

Where will your journeys take you and your Flat Jesus?

1. Color and cut-out Flat Jesus. You may want to glue him to a cereal box or laminate him to make him sturdier for all his travels.
2. Take pictures of Flat Jesus exploring with you and share with us on social media using #sharejoy
3. No social media—send them to us via email at office@joylutheranwi.org, and we can upload them to our social media. (You can even snail mail photos to PO Box 217, Centuria WI 54824)





Food Pantry

Wednesday 1-2pm
Thursday 5-6pm

Bags are pre-packed with food and ready for pick-up by anyone in need.

We can add more hours if you would like to volunteer.

Together, we make a difference through Thrivent Choice®

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who directed Choice Dollars® to our congregations of Fristad and Milltown.

Joy Lutheran Church of Centuria is now able to receive donations, so please be sure to update your account.

Thrivent Financial and its members once again showed us how, together, we can make a difference by helping to strengthen communities and change lives.



EACH HOUSEHOLD THAT COMPLETES A BINGO (4 IN A ROW) WILL GET A \$5.00 MILLTOWN DRIVE IN GIFT CARD

Watching TV	Watch Sunday Worship	Help Prepare Food	Arts and Crafts
Read a Devotional	Take a Walk	Listening to Music	GRACE SPACE
GRACE SPACE	Drawing or Coloring	Have a Family Dinner	Story Time with Pastor Angie
Reading books	Family Game Night	Writing a Note	Family Prayer

TAKE PICTURES OF YOUR ACTIVITIES AND YOUR COMPLETED BINGO!
SEND TO DEANNA@JOYLUTHERANWI.ORG

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

501 State Road 35
PO Box 217
Centuria WI 54824-0217

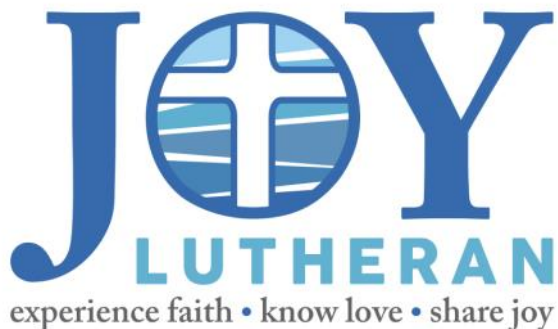
Phone: 715-646-2357
office@joylutheranwi.org

«AddressBlock»

Join us online on Sundays

9:30am Faith5 Family (for all ages) via Zoom

10am Worship (YouTube, Facebook)



We still have things that need to be done at the church. So if you are able to help yard work, finish up painting, organizing rooms; please let us know. We can be sure the church is open for you.

During the work week, the phone calls are being forwarded to Mary—so there is someone “at the office” even when she is working “safely at home.”