

JOYful News

LUTHERAN

experience faith • know love • share joy

From our Pastor...



Joy Lutheran Church

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501 State Road 35
Centuria WI 54824
715-646-2357

joylutheranwi

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: 11:00am-2:00pm

Deanna Wheeler
deanna@joylutheranwi.org

*Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

April 1st marks one year since we became a brand-new church. One year... and what a year it's been. The fact that we were born **on** April Fool's Day **IN** a pandemic is kind of funny. 😊 But for those who have a hard time remembering dates, this is an easy one to remember. So, there's that.

We did learn a lot this first year; like how to wear masks properly, to shop quickly (or on-line), to pick up the telephone and call people we miss. We learned that we can worship from a lot of different places, including our homes and the parking lot. We learned that we could visit from our cars, driveways, on walks, and on Zoom. We also learned that we like being together, and miss each other when we are apart, especially for so long. Most importantly, I think, we learned that faith and love and joy are gifts from God and every day of our first year we were given new opportunities to experience, know, and share these gifts with others.

As we begin this new year, and as we finally get ahead of the pandemic, we have a lot of exciting things to look forward to! This year we will be able celebrate Easter together in person... and we will SING! 🎤 We will be recognized at the Synod Assembly as a new congregation and begin planning a celebration Sunday in honor of becoming Joy! We will be able to open our building again to community groups, including NA and karate. We will reimagine some favorite things like fellowship meals, coffee from our coffee bar, youth events, craft events, bible studies, and more. It's all so exciting!

Joy Lutheran Church
Experience Faith,
Know Love,
Share Joy

Vision Statement
Joy Lutheran
comes together in
service to our
community locally
and globally to
experience faith
that comes from
God's word; to
know the love of
God and to share
the joy of our faith
through Jesus
Christ.

From Our Pastor

(Continued from page 1)

And more exciting news! We received an invitation from the Synod and Luther Seminary in St. Paul to serve as an internship site for a student who will begin her studies in June toward ordained ministry of word and sacrament. This two-year internship has been recommended by the council and will be discussed in more detail, and voted on, at the April 25, 2021, Annual Meeting.



Joy, thank you for a great first year. I am looking forward to this new year together and all the ways we will worship, learn, pray, and serve.

We are Joy!

We are church... together!

Happy Birthday!

Pastor Angie

Holy Week Schedule

April 1: 7pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 2: Good Friday (online service only)

April 3: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at Luther Point Bible Camp.
Register at <https://lpbc.breezechms.com/form/1e02d8>

April 4: 10am Easter Sunday Service

We are taking reservations: call the office 715-646-2357
or go to <https://rsvp.church/r/x9NIVwPE>.

**May
Newsletter
Deadline**

Tue, April 20

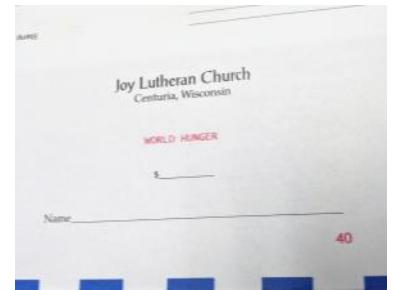
**Food Pantry
Volunteers**

April
Dave Beaulieu

May
Volunteer needed

World Hunger Envelopes

In the Joy Lutheran offering envelope packets there is an envelope each month labeled "WORLD HUNGER." Offerings received in these envelopes are sent onto the ELCA for the ELCA World Hunger Program. The following paragraph, taken from the ELCA World Hunger website gives a general description of the ELCA World Hunger program.



Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

For more information about the ELCA World Hunger program check out their section on the ELCA website at: www.elca.org/hunger. If you have questions about the ELCA World Hunger program you can ask Al Arndt, also.

PS: Offerings received in the envelopes labeled "WORLD HUNGER" do not go to the Joy Emergency Food Pantry. If you wish to contribute to the Joy Emergency Food Pantry place your offering in a regular offering envelop and write Food Pantry on the envelope.

Food Pantry Volunteers

Our emergency Food Pantry needs volunteers to go through food on a monthly basis to throw expired items, make list of items needed, organize shelves, tidy up, just general care.

This is something that can be done after worship or during non-food shelf hours. Perfect for the single person looking for a way to help our church and neighbors, the high schooler needing community service hours, families wanting to be part of this very useful ministry.

Please call or email the church office if you would like to help.

Council Members

Terrie Lunsman, Pres.
715-553-0914

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

Sarah Campbell, Secy.
715-557-0387

Al Arndt, Treasurer
715-210-1355

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

Council Highlights

Joy Lutheran Council met on March 11, 2021.

- After carefully evaluating media statistics pertaining to our on-line services, and needs of the congregation, Pastor and Deanna recommend discontinuing prerecording the whole worship service for online but will continue to offer an audio recording of sermons weekly beginning the second Sunday after Easter. Due to family needs, Deanna has requested decreasing her weekly hours from 18 to 15.
- April 15 & 17 - Synod Assembly Delegates: Pastor Angie, Brent Bublitz, Kim Grossmann
- Synod has asked us to host an intern for 2 years, we would be responsible for Pastor supervising, helping to train her up, a committee which would support her, providing all pastoral experiences, financially we would spend \$6,000 over 2 years for education, travel, and retreats in payment plan. Council recommends we approve an intern at the Annual Meeting, April 25.

Pastor's Report as presented to Council on March 11, 2021

The Joy building reopened on February 7, 2021 and we have been open every day/Sunday since. This might seem like a small thing, but 4 weeks **in a row** of having the building open hasn't happened since February 2020. So, this is great progress. We have an excellent protocol in place giving us the ability to comfortably and safely worship together in community during the pandemic. We **worship** in the building on Sundays from 10-10:30am. We remain on-line for now as well premiering service on YouTube at 10am. **Faith5** is happening via Zoom as well as in person at the Joy building Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 9:55 am.

Many folks are reporting that they have either received, or are scheduled to receive, the **Covid vaccination**. I have received my first dose with the second scheduled for April 1st (Maundy Thursday).

February began to feel a bit more "normal" for me. I was able to make **home visits** and phone calls to check on people. I was able to make a **nursing home** visit this month. I appreciate the love, care, and safety precautions our local nursing homes have shown residents during the pandemic and pray that they will be opening to visitors soon.

Confirmation continues to go well. We met as a large group (Apple River Conference Confirmation class via Zoom) and have been able to meet 2x a month, the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays in person at Joy. We LOVE in person! The 2nd Year Confirmation class/families have chosen Reformation Sunday, October 31st, as Confirmation Sunday.

Pastor's Report as presented to Council on March 11, 2021

(Continued from page 4)

I took a **Continuing Ed** class on Feb 8th via Zoom. It was the **2021 Lenten Lectionary Study** with Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, from Luther Seminary. The wonderful Lenten Theme: "Seeing Jesus" was born out of that class and have provided an excellent lens for the preaching texts.

Joy's first **Ash Wednesday** service began with a bonfire in the parking lot then moved inside for the imposition of ashes and a brief communion service. It was a beautiful service, very well received, and greatly appreciated.

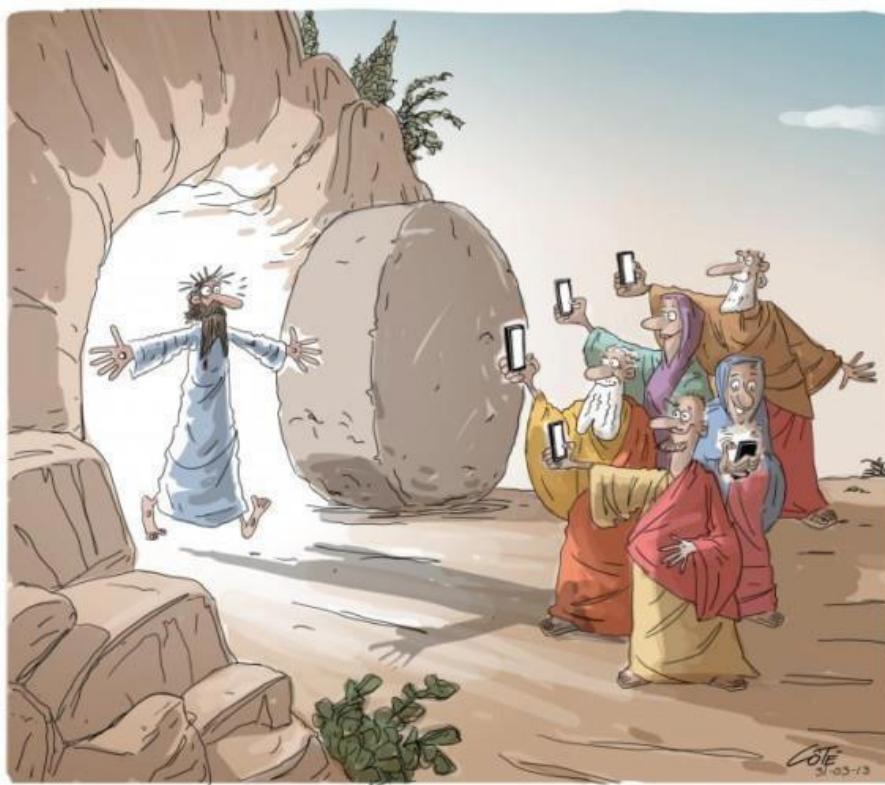
The **Gospel of Mark Bible Study** is well underway. The study is asking Jesus tough questions. And some are really tough! Those of us attending agree that it feels good to be back together face-to-masked-face to study scripture, ask tough questions, and pray.

Upcoming:

April 1, 2021 at 7:00-7:30pm will be our Maundy Thursday worship service.

Easter Sunday service will be at 10am. We will create a link for people to sign up. Or people can call the office to sign up.

Peace,
Pastor Angie



Crosses We Don't Choose¹

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene² is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

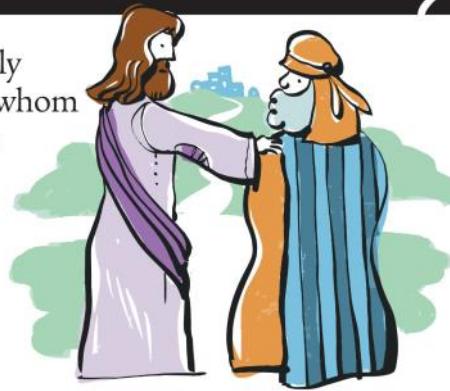
¹ Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

² Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

? ? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus.
Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: (See Luke 24:18.)

Thank you for providing Easter Flowers



Double Lily given by Debbie Korsan and Carol Laier in memory of George Laier

Double Lily given by Dave & Nancy Priebe in memory of Nicholas Sanchez, David & Patricia Wright, Emil & Marjorie Priebe

Double Lily given by Clayton & Carol Johnson in honor of Our Family

Double Lily given by Ed & Lonnie Ellefson

Azalea given by Debbie Korsan in memory of Joseph "Butch" Korsan

Hydrangea given by Mike & Pastor Angie Kutney in honor of family

Hydrangea given by Mike & Pastor Angie Kutney in honor of Joy Lutheran

Kalanchoe given by the Kaiser's in memory of Georgia

Easter Joy

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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office@joylutheranwi.org



«AddressBlock»

Join us on Sundays

9:30am Faith5 Family (for all ages) [In person & via Zoom]

10am Worship indoors—you can also sit in the parking lot to hear the service on your radio 87.9 FM

Easter Sunday, April 4

10am Worship indoors—Cinnamon Rolls for Easter... prepackaged for you to take home after the service, also a special treat bag for the kids. See page 2 for how to register.

Holy Humor Sunday, April 11

10am Worship with Sam Campeau from Luther Point Bible Camp

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the 10am Service