

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN April 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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Reflection | Christ is Risen in the Midst of It All

By Megan Anderson

This Easter, we proclaim again the good news that has carried the Church through every age: **Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

And yet this year, as in so many years before, we say these words in a world that still knows grief, division, violence, fear, and uncertainty. We look around and see wars that continue, communities burdened by injustice, neighbors struggling with loneliness, and creation itself crying out for care. The empty tomb does not erase these realities – but it does speak directly into them.

Easter is not a denial of suffering. It is the bold confession that **God meets us in the midst of suffering and brings life where we least expect it.** Resurrection does not pretend Good Friday never happened. Instead, it declares that death, despair, and hatred will not have the final word.

The risen Christ comes to a wounded world still bearing scars. That matters. Our Savior is not distant from human pain, but present within it – offering peace, breathing hope, and calling us to live as resurrection people.

So this Easter, we do not celebrate with shallow optimism. We celebrate with deep trust:

- that love is stronger than fear,
- that mercy is stronger than judgement,
- that hope is stronger than despair,
- and that God is still making all things new.

As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to announce resurrection, but to embody it – through compassion, justice, reconciliation, and courageous love for our neighbors. In a fractured world, Easter sends us out as witnesses that new life is possible, even now.

May the risen Christ renew your hearts, strengthen your faith, and send you into the world with hope that is honest, humble, and alive.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Happenings | April 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 April 1st

NO Youth Programming or Dinner

Thursday April 2nd

6:00pm Congregational Potluck

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Friday April 3rd

7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service

Saturday April 4th

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

Sunday April 5th

NO Faith5 Family

10:00am Easter Worship w/ Holy Communion Communion Blessing

Fellowship: Cinnamon Roll to Go hosted by Jeff and Kari Larson

Monday April 6th

4:30pm Good Neighbor's Ukulele Group

Wednesday April 8th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

Thursday April 9th

4:00pm to 7:00pm Free Family Photos hosted by Every Image of You – Low Income Families and Families in Recovery

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

Sunday April 12th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion New Member Sunday and Holy Humor Sunday

Fellowship: Joy Council

Monday April 13th

11:00am Grace in Grief Support Group

6:00pm Grace in Grief Support Group

Tuesday April 14th

6:30pm Council Meeting

Wednesday April 15th

6:00pm Gather Bible Study

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Saturday April 18th

9:00am to 11:00am JOYful Sprouts Play Group and Fellowship

Sunday April 19th

9:15am Faith5 Family

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

Fellowship: JOYful Quilting Ministry

Monday April 20th

1:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

Tuesday April 21st

5:30pm Recovering Together Cafe

Wednesday April 22nd

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

Sunday April 26th

9:00am Directory Photos Sign-Up Online

9:15am Faith5 Family and Breakfast Club

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Antonson Baptism

Fellowship: Antonson Family

11:00am Directory Photos Sign-Up Online

Sponsor a Kid – Youth Service Trip

Monday April 27th

4:30pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

Wednesday April 29th

6:00pm Youth Dinner

6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

7:30pm JYLT Meeting

ALL CHURCH

Potluck Dinner

Maundy Thursday, Apr 2nd
6:00-7:00pm



SIGN UP: [BIT.LY/POTLUCKDINNERS2026](https://bit.ly/potluckdinners2026)
OR SCAN QR CODE

BREAKFAST CLUB

High School Youth

9:15AM Sunday, April 26



SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH EASTER WORSHIP

with Holy Communion 10:00AM



Following Worship
Cinnamon Rolls



Apple River Conference Women of ELCA present

Spring Into Life Gathering

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Theme: I Need a Faith Lift

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

Guest Speaker: Penne Sewell

Luck Lutheran Church
510 Foster Ave East
Luck, WI 54853

Registration due 04/15
Send payment (payable to Women of ELCA) to:
Kandy Unger 9703 N. Mudhen Lake Dr,
Siren, WI 54872

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

In these challenging times do you feel your faith
wavering a bit? Do you ever wonder where God is
in the challenges and struggles of life? Are you
really doing what God wants you to do?
Sometimes we just need a buoying of our faith, a
"Faith-Lift," to find God in our midst. Our guest
speaker, "Hilda Poy," also known as Penne Sewell,
will walk us through scripture support, prayer and
interactions with each other that will help us see
and experience God in our lives each day. Come,
be refreshed, with faith renewed!

The custom of Holy Humor
Sunday was rooted in the
musings of early church
theologians like Augustine
and Gregory of Nyssa. They
expressed the idea that
God played a practical joke
on the devil by raising Jesus
from the dead.

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY



"Risus paschalis - the
Easter laugh," the early
theologians called it.

Holy Humor Sunday
services give Christians
not only an opportunity
for ongoing celebrations
of the greatest miracle in
human history - Jesus'
resurrection - it also gives
each of us an opportunity
to celebrate, and give
thanks for our own,
smaller, resurrections in
this world and this life.

APRIL
12TH

We invite you to dress the part!
Wear funny hats, glasses, shirts, etc.



experience faith • know love • share joy

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY AT JOY LUTHERAN APRIL 12TH 2026

501 STATE RD 35 CENTURIA

WORSHIP
10:00AM
ALL ARE INVITED

After
Worship
Fellowship
hosted by
Joy Council

www.joylutheranwi.org | 715-646-2357

SHOP OUR STORE

Joy Lutheran Church will receive
a portion of each purchase.

bit.ly/joybonfireshop

ORDER
HERE



Check back! New products added as they become available.

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

Joy Lutheran

DIRECTORY PHOTOS



We are excited to announce a special photo opportunity for our new church directory!
This is a wonderful chance to capture beautiful portraits of our church family.

We encourage everybody to participate.

This directory will help us connect with one another and strengthen our community!

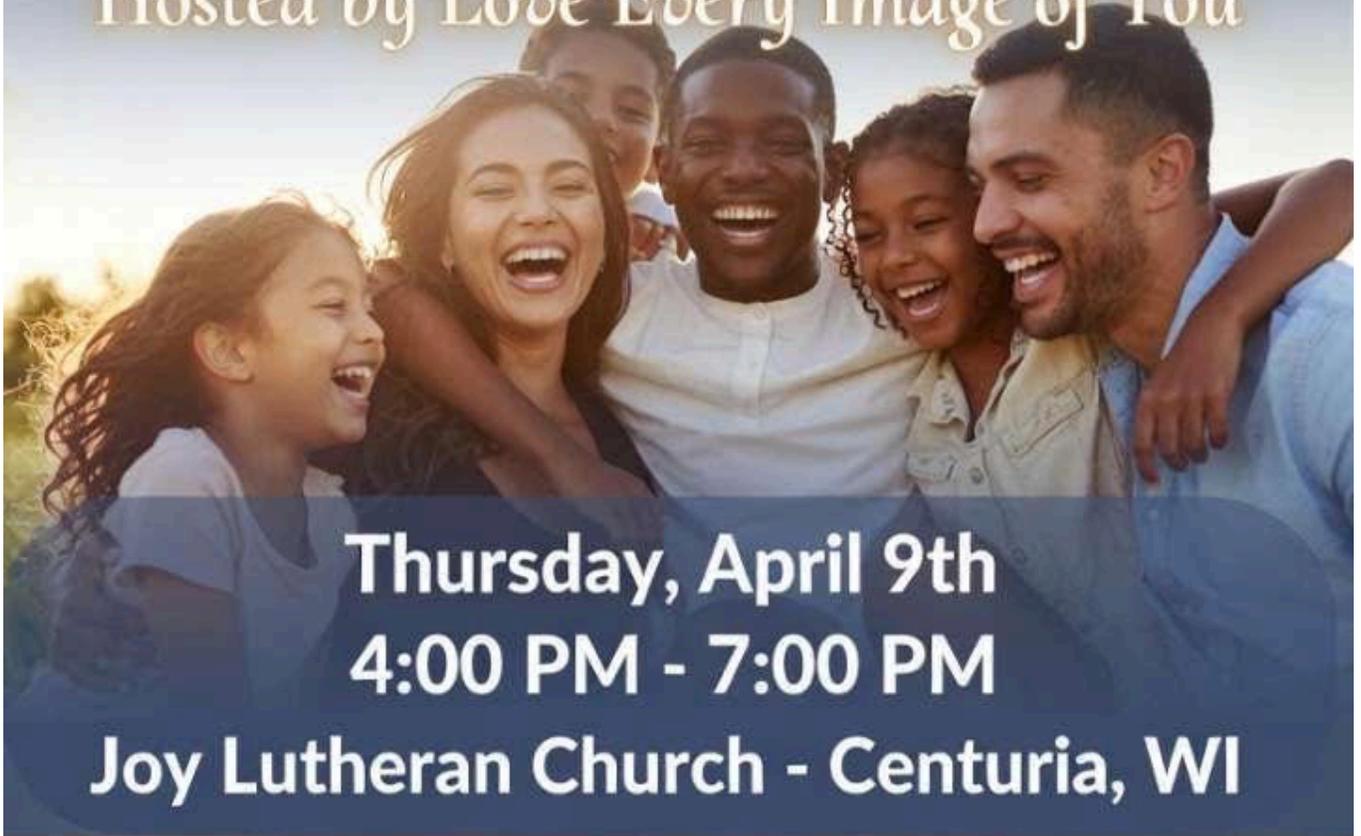
Sarah Campbell will be available before and after Worship on **April 26th** and **May 3rd**
in 5-min slots. Please sign-up online.

<https://bit.ly/joydirectory>

If you prefer to submit a photo, please submit to the office at office@joylutheranwi.org

★ FREE FAMILY PHOTOS

Hosted by Love Every Image of You



Thursday, April 9th

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Joy Lutheran Church - Centuria, WI

Who This Is For

This event is created for:

- Low-income families
- Families in recovery

All families are welcome with kindness and respect

What You'll Receive

- A short family photo session
- 3-5 professionally edited images
- Delivered by email after the event

How to Book

Text or Call: 320-334-4456

Appointments recommended. Walk-ins welcome but scheduled families prioritized

Completely FREE ✨

We believe every family deserves beautiful photos and meaningful memories.



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 OPPORTUNITIES

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 May Newsletter and are available upon request following the April 14th Council Meeting.

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



April 1st

Katelyn Hendricks
Nicholas Hoag
Adrien Olson

April 3rd

Linda Appelholm
Pam Livingston
Sarah Campbell

April 4th

Lydia Pfeifer

April 5th

Sandra Edgell

April 6th

James Hexum

April 7th

Mary Ellen Deloach
Kathy McKenzie

April 8th

Bill Henck
Lorraine Turner

April 9th

Rodney Sempf

April 10th

Jean Chryst
Ava Muller
Henry Christensen

April 11th

Caroline Hoag

April 14th

Angela Steffen
Isabelle Hansch
Leah Galle
Morgan Anderson

April 16th

Lucia Reach
Cooper Carlson

April 17th

Sara Route

April 18th

Carol Johnson
Edward Sass

April 21st

Janice Lehmann

April 23rd

Harlow Hanson

April 24th

Sandy Christensen
Robert Krueger
Troy Gross

April 25th

Rick Regnier
Stephan Haack

April 26th

Elijah Alwin

April 27th

Ryan Stridde

April 30th

Dave Grossmann
Josey Wilson



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April

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