

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN December 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

Joy Lutheran is a community of faith, love, and JOY! We will serve our community and God's world by; faithfully welcoming and including all people, serving and meeting the needs of poverty and hunger, striving for justice and peace in the world, and gathering together as a JOYful community to be refreshed and sent.

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 217
501 State Road 35
Centuria WI 54824
715-646-2357
joylutheranwi.org

OFFICE HOURS
MON | 8:00A - 11:00A
TUES | 10:30A - 1:30P
THURS | 9:00A - 3:00P

PASTOR
Angela Kutney
715.222.7915 (Cell)
angkutney@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Meg Anderson
715.501.6648 (Cell)
office@joylutheranwi.org

MEDIA & MARKETING
Deanna Wheeler
deanna@joylutheranwi.org

YOUTH MINISTER
Heather Zimmer
heather@joylutheranwi.org

  @joylutheranwi

JOYful Hands: DID YOU KNOW...

Thankofferings go back to the early 1800's and have evolved since then in many forms. In 1879, the first national American Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society were founded. The original reason was that funds were needed to support two young women who wanted to be foreign missionaries but were denied funding by the Board of Missions. So, a national women's structure was born! Because of Thankofferings, many missionaries have funding, scholarships are given to women seminary students and various funding is given throughout the ELCA ministries.

Thankoffering shows our gratitude for God's blessings on each of us every day. By keeping a jar or container to place money in daily or weekly for the blessings we receive shows our love for others. The total amount received for Thankoffering goes directly to the national ELCA office in Chicago to be distributed where needed, whether nationally or globally.

On Sunday, November 16th, the fellowship offering was designated for Thankoffering. However, you may still bring your Thankoffering to the church and our JOYful Hands Treasurer will send it to Chicago. Please note that it is a Thankoffering on your check or envelope. Thank you!

PRAYER LIST

PRAYER CONCERNS: Mary Ellen Deloach, Gary Ebensperger, Robert Frey, Bob Jones, Jill Katelhut, Mary Marlette, Ron Marlette, Jennifer Nelson, Tom Rivers, Wayne Bergholtz (cousin of Gary Ebensperger), Rhiannon (Kathy Adascheck's granddaughter), Larry Jensen (Kathie Wilson's Brother), Paulette Kapaun, Sonny Kapun, Debra Leubner (daughter of Pam Kruger), Jim Mason (Dawn Swanson's brother).

ALL MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY and THEIR FAMILIES: William Anderson (Dawn Swanson's son), Megan Anderson, Dakota Baxter, Cambell Borrowman, Mitchell Borrowman, Tina Brady (Edgell), Jordan Hughes, Josh Kreft, Cameron Wood.

REMEMBER THOSE IN CARE CENTERS and AT HOME: Karen Christensen, Betty Lou Chryst, Connie Dahl, Mary Mattson, Mary Lou Randall, Erling Voss.

NOTE: Please watch the JOYful Notes for updated November financial overview. There were many generous gifts received in November that are not reflected here.

OCTOBER

YTD

Income	\$16,410.12	\$161,569.50
Expenses	\$19,307.42	\$194,806.49
Difference	(\$2,897.30)	(\$33,236.99)



If you would like to receive council minutes or congregational financial reports please contact the Office. Call (715) 646-2357 Email office@joylutheranwi.org.



WEEKLY:

MON, TUES, THURS, and FRI - 6am to 1pm Meals on Wheels | **MONDAYS - 3:00pm** Good Neighbor Ukulele's
TUESDAYS - 10:30am Staff Meeting | **WEDNESDAYS - 10:00am to 12:00pm** JOYful Quilting Ministry

TUESDAY DEC 2nd

6:30pm to 8:00pm Advent Bible Study w/ Pastor Angie

WEDNESDAY DEC 3rd

5:30pm Music Practice Handbell Choir
6:00pm Congregational Pot Luck & Advent Party

SUNDAY DEC 7th

9:15am Faith5 Family and Fellowship hosted by Council
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Communion Blessing
JOYful Hands Cookie Walk before and after Worship
Poinsettia Orders Due to Church Office

MONDAY DEC 8th

11:00am Grace in Grief Support Group
6:00pm Grace in Grief Support Group

TUESDAY DEC 9th

6:30pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY DEC 10th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study Christmas Potluck @ Evelyn Bystrom's Home
5:30pm Music Practice Vocal Choir
6:00pm Youth Dinner
6:30pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group

THURSDAY DEC 11th

9:00am to 5:00pm Building in Use | Red Cross Blood Drive

SUNDAY DEC 14th

9:15am Faith5 Family and Fellowship
9:15am Breakfast Club (High School Youth Group)
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Youth Christmas Program

TUESDAY DEC 16th

5:00pm Recovering Together Cafe
6:30pm to 8:00pm Advent Bible Study w/ Pastor Angie

WEDNESDAY DEC 17th

5:30pm Youth Service Trip Parent Meeting
6:00pm Gather Bible Study
6:00pm Congregational Soup Supper
6:30pm to 7:30pm Rachel Kurtz Concert
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SATURDAY DEC 20th

2:00pm Saint Croix Valley Christmas Concert @ Joy Lutheran Free Will Offering: Proceeds benefit Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry

SUNDAY DEC 21st

9:15am Faith5 Family and Fellowship
9:15am Breakfast Club (High School Youth)
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion
5:30pm to 6:30pm Blue Christmas Soup Supper
6:30pm Blue Christmas Service and Fellowship

WEDNESDAY DEC 24th

NO Youth Programming
5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28th

9:15am Faith5 Family and Fellowship
10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Pajama Sunday

WEDNESDAY DEC 31st

NO Youth Programming

UPCOMING EVENTS

XXXXXX

Advent Party!

Wednesday, December 3rd
6:00-7:30pm

Wear your most festive or ugly
Christmas sweater.

Potluck dinner, tree decorating,
and MORE!

All are invited!

Sign-up for Potluck:
bit.ly/adventparty25



Cookie Walk

December 7th
before & after worship

Cookies will be sold, mix and match, for \$8/lb.

This variety of treats will be a great way to add to
your holiday baking while supporting the ELCA
Good Gifts program.

Thank you, JOYful Hands

As you are able, please donate 2 dozen cookies by 9:00am on December 7th

it's time to order
**CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS**

due to Church Office by:
Sunday December 7, 2025

Order forms available in the Narthex
beginning Sunday November 23rd



**Rachel Kurtz
Christmas Concert
12/17
6-7:30PM**

Blue Christmas a worship service of calm & comfort
for people with heavy hearts

SUNDAY, • 5:30-6:30PM LIGHT MEAL
DECEMBER • 6:30PM SERVICE
21ST • CONTINUED FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

candlelight, communion, and the hope of Jesus

501 WI-35, CENTURIA, WI 54824



FEED MY NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY | TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Current Needs: Canned Meals (Chili or Spaghetti), Baking Supplies, Canned Fruit

Drop off at Church - Shopping Cart in Narthex

Monetary donations designated to Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry can be dropped off at the church during office hours,

BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of

incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin



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PLACE LABEL HERE

The word "December" is written in a red, cursive script font. Three small, teal, star-like snowflake icons are placed above the letters: one above the 'D', one above the 'c', and one above the 'e'.

Join us on Sundays

9:15am Faith5 Family and Fellowship

10:00am Worship with Holy Communion