



## **“Celebrating and Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ”**

**March  
2018**

### **Envisioning a New Year Together**

What are you looking forward to in 2018? What worries are you carrying around? What new things have you already begun since January 1<sup>st</sup>? What New Year’s resolutions have you already broken? What gives you hope for Joy in the coming year? What worries you? What one thing is keeping you busy that you would have to set aside or hand off to someone else in order to take up something new?

I’ve been here long enough to get a feel for Joy and get a sense of what worries many of you but also what makes you hopeful for the future. You may not have our mission statement memorized or be able to rattle off our five core values, but I believe they are strong enough and flexible enough to guide us into the future together.

In my annual report I identified some key priorities for 2018: continuing to build and deepen relationships within the congregation and with partner organizations like Family Promise and Jenks Public Schools. I’m going to continue to celebrate the generosity made possible by our Mission Endowment Fund, and let that model generosity for the rest of us. We’ll continue to welcome folks from other area congregations that have closed in the recent past, but we also need to begin to figure out how to connect with people who haven’t been in a church for a long time, if ever.

I’m really excited to work with this new congregation council and officers. I’m grateful for everyone who has helped us settle in over the last year, but this group of leaders sounds like they’re ready to roll up their sleeves and go deep. Among other things, we’ll be doing a review of all our policies and procedures. If there’s a policy you think we should have and probably don’t, let either me or one of our new council members (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) know. Having solid policies and procedures in place aren’t just busy work, but enable us to fearlessly share the Good News we have been entrusted with.

-- Pastor Jon

### *Joy's Holy Week Schedule*

*Maundy Thursday-- March 29  
Worship at Noon and 7:00 p.m.*

*Good Friday-- March 30  
Stations of the Cross at Noon  
Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday-- April 1  
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Family brunch and activities for children at 9:45 a.m.*

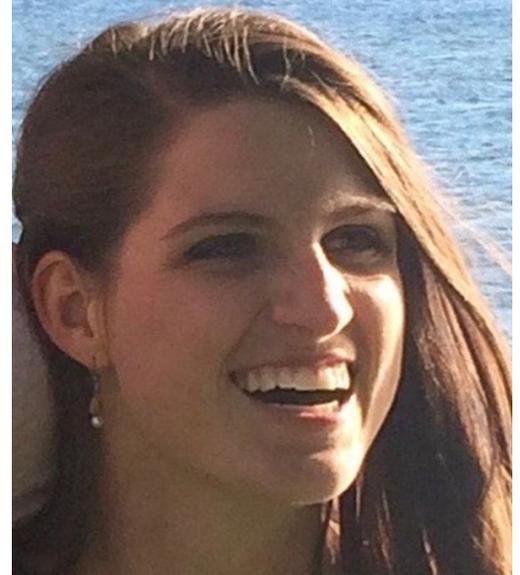
# Joy's Leadership Updates

## Introducing Our New Digital Marketing Consultant

I am so pleased to have been brought on as a Digital Marketing Consultant for this congregation. Many of you know me, some of you quite well, but for those who don't, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. I attended Joy Lutheran for 11 years between the ages of 7 and 18 after my family moved to Tulsa. I remember vividly walking into Joy as a child and feeling like it was my second home. The warmth and love that radiates from this congregation is tangible and infectious.

Even after I went to college and every time I return to visit Joy as an adult, I still feel as though I'm coming home. I am so honored to have the opportunity to give back to the people and place that helped shape me into the person I am. As your Digital Marketing Consultant I will be working to increase Joy Lutheran's presence online in the hopes that I can spread the good news about Joy in our community through the website and social media. I am passionate about the Joy family, and hope I can draw new people looking for a church home into it as well. Thank you all for this opportunity.

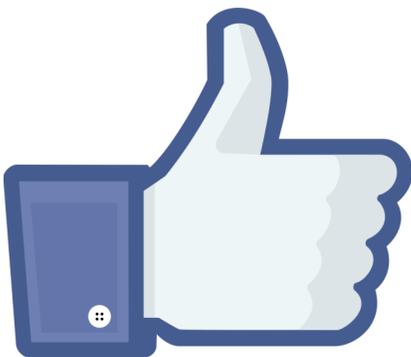
-- *Peace and love,*



## A note about Joy on social media:

How can you help Carrie's work as our new Digital Marketing Consultant? One of the most important things you can do is "like" us on Facebook, press "like" or other reaction buttons when items from Joy show up on your News Feed, and "share" items on your personal page as you feel led. Facebook is increasingly driven by algorithms that prize "engagement"--so when you click on our stories, Facebook says, "we need to show this to more people!" Many of you are already doing this, so thank you!

-- *Pastor  
Jon*



## Annual Deaconess Assembly

I will be away from Joy March 15-19 for the Annual ELCA Deaconess Community Assembly in Farmington, Minnesota. All my Deaconess sisters gather from around the country for a few days of reunion, continuing education, and decision-making. Every member of the Deaconess Community who is under call is required to attend as much as possible every year.

This is work time as part of my call to Joy, not vacation. If you need anything from me I'm available by phone and email while I'm away. My sisters and I are engaged in a wide variety of ministries, so I'll be networking, learning and bringing new ideas and challenges back to Joy!

-- *Peace, Sister Jennie Myers*



## International Women's Day is March 8

Join us this International Women's Day, March 8, as we boldly invest in the education of women and the future of communities around the world through the ELCA's International Women Leaders initiative. **Because of a generous commitment from a fellow supporter of the International Women Leaders initiative, gifts will be matched up to \$100,000!** Pray for an awakening to the power and capacity our sisters have in transforming the world. Share the difference education has made in your life using #ELCA Women on social media. Give to invest in the education of women at [ELCA.org/IWL](https://www.elca.org/IWL).

# Joy's 2018 Council Leadership



From left: Susan Humphrey, Andrew Allen, Carol Graham, Bob Young, Pr. Jon, Dave Dearhamer, Mike Lowe, Jr. (Not pictured Ron Peters and Ed Reyes)

## New Council, Officers, and Council Liaisons

Congratulations and thank you to our newly installed congregation council. Here is a list of our officers and council liaisons for the remainder of 2018:

**President:** Susan Humphrey  
**Vice President:** Ron Peters (also liaison to Caregivers Team)  
**Treasurer:** Bob Young (also liaison to Finance Team)  
**Secretary:** Dave Dearhamer  
**Worship and Music Team Liaison:** Carol Graham  
**Witness Team Liaison:** Andrew Allen  
**Property Team Liaison:** Mike Lowe, Jr.  
**Hospitably Team Liaison:** Ed Reyes

In addition, please note that lone Allison was re-elected to serve as Financial Secretary for another year at our recent annual meeting, and Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries Alicia Urban serves as council liaison to the Learning Team.

We want to make sure we thank outgoing council members for their service in 2017: Bonnie McMains, who served as president, and Kailan Helm, who served most recently as secretary.



## 2017 at Joy by the Numbers

The following information was omitted from our 2017 Annual Report

Total members received during 2017: 26

By Baptism: 3

By Affirmation of Faith: 14

By Letter of Transfer: 9

Total members removed during 2017: 10

By death: 1

By Letter of Transfer: 0

For other reasons: 9

Number of baptized youth confirmed during 2017: 2

Average weekly worship attendance in 2017: 129

Average weekly worship attendance in 2016: 124

### Interested in Membership?

Talk to Sister Jennie if you are curious or interested in joining our church. There will be other opportunities to join soon.



New members Barbara James and Matix become part of our Joy family on February 4th. Please introduce yourself to Barbara as we welcome her in Christ's love and fellowship!



## Family Promise 2018 Updates

Family Promise, which Joy has signed on with to be a Host Congregation, set an ambitious opening date of March 2018 to keep pushing forward. While we will miss that actual date, an unbelievable amount of progress has been made in the last month towards beginning to serve homeless families in the area.

With 13 Host congregations in place, recruitment of Support Congregations continues. Most recently, First Christian Church of Jenks and

Metropolitan Baptist Church have joined the network. The Family Promise core team has transitioned to being a Board of Trustees and continues to write grants and work on sustainable funding sources. \$85,000 of the original goal to open with \$100,000 has already been raised, including \$2,500 from Joy's Mission Endowment Fund.

Leadership is close to signing a lease on a potential Family Promise Center, which will serve as a home base for families during the day, and Faith United Methodist has approved a donation of a 15 passenger van. There is also progress toward securing a cargo van for bed and belongings transport on the weekends. Finally, the process of searching for a director has begun. That's the last major piece before Family Promise can begin directly serving homeless families across the area.

Andrew Allen has agreed to serve as Joy's Family Promise Coordinator, and we have already been approached by another potential partner congregation to serve as a Support Congregation when we host families. Look for more details soon about what hosting will entail for Joy, and how you can help!

# Family Art Night, Monday, March 5, 2018

**Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade and an adult are invited to Family Art Night on the first Mondays of every month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Joy Lutheran Church.**



**Please RSVP by March 1**

**Family Art Nights are free & taught by an art teacher, but space is limited and requires an RSVP to Joy Lutheran Church ([joyartnight@gmail.com](mailto:joyartnight@gmail.com) or 918-299-3292).**

**In your RSVP email, please include the following information:**

- ~ Adult(s) name(s) (need to stay with child(ren))**
- ~ Child(ren) name(s), age(s), and school(s)**
- ~ Phone number and email in case of cancellation**

**If you can't attend and would like to be on email list for future free food or art events please sent contact info to the email address above.**

## **Spiritual Gifts Class Wrap-Up**

Thank you to all who came to the Spiritual Gifts Sunday school class during February. We had a great combination of adults and Confirmation youth join us. We enjoyed the conversations and the chance to help each other learn about themselves and finally to dream about how we can use our gifts at Joy and the wider community. If you were torn about which Sunday school class to attend and missed us, there will be other opportunities to learn about your Spiritual Gifts in the future.

*-- In God's Peace, Sister Jennie Myers  
& Susan Humphrey*

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT**



**FRIDAY, MARCH 9 at 6:00 P.M. UNTIL**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 at 1:00 P.M.**

# Family and Youth

## A Message from the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Joy Lutheran Church

Last fall, the Mission Endowment Fund granted me money towards my J-Term classes, which allowed me to go to Luther Seminary in St. Paul and take three residential classes. These classes included Theology of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry; Theology of the Cross; and Race and Protestantism in America. Each of these classes not only furthered my progress in my M.Div. program, but gave me new insight and tools to make me a more effective Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Joy. While in Minnesota, I also spent time with one of our college students – Amy Lundborg currently studying at St. Olaf College.

Thank you to everybody who made this J-Term of study possible – MEF for giving me the grant money to attend classes, Stephanie Mueller and Susan Humphrey for filling in during children's sermons, Pr. Jon and Sarah for the added work in the office during my absence, and to all of those that helped and prayed for me and my family during this time away.

*---Alicia Urban*



Hayly, Shelby (not pictured), and Taylor have proudly been representing Joy on their Jenks Winterguard Team.

If you have pictures of your kids and youth participating in the community, send them to Alicia at [aliciadcm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aliciadcm@sbcglobal.net)

# Valentine Dinner and Fund Raising

## Look at our Heroes!



# ELCA Youth Gathering Shirts

You may not be attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, but you can help fund the trip AND own the same shirt that our youth will wear during their week in Houston.

Actual color will be dark grey



Shirts are **\$20 each** and all proceeds go towards Joy Lutheran's youth gathering expenses.

Orders will be taken until **March 25**; please fill out the order form below and return to Alicia Urban.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Adult Sizes and Quantities:

**S:** \_\_\_\_\_

**XL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**M:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2X:** \_\_\_\_\_

**L:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3X:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include payment of \$20 per shirt**

# Outreach and Care at Joy Lutheran

## Caregivers at Joy

Thank you to all caregiving volunteers in helping/praying and showing your care for one another this past year, our combined efforts add up to a big difference to those receiving our thoughts and prayers, in addition to other items like visits, helping hands, and driving hands.



*Please let us know if you would be interested in joining one of more of our caregiving groups, which include:*

-- *Driving Hands*

-- *Helping Hands Meals*

-- *Hospital/Homebound Visits*

If you are someone who feels you need some extra care and would appreciate a home visit, a home-cooked meal or help getting to church please call the church office.

## Witness Team Updates

### Math & Literacy Carnival Night

Witness Team has some fun updates to share with Joy. On May 1 our congregation has been invited to be a part of Jenks East Elementary School's Math & Literacy Carnival Night for their 1st-2nd grade students. We joined with Jenks East Elementary as a Community Partner of theirs at the beginning of the year. Literacy and learning assistance is something that many on the Witness Team have identified as a passion of theirs and it matches as an area of great need in our community. This is our current outreach project. The extra opportunity with the Carnival Night is that we will have the chance to be around young families at Jenks East and have brochures advertising what Joy is about and some of our summertime events.

If you have not yet done anything with Witness Team yet and are interested in math and literacy learning in children, I would like to invite you to join our brainstorm team on Wednesday, March 7 during the Lenten Soup Supper. Come share your ideas! For questions, talk to Sister Jennie Myers, our Director of Discipleship.

### Marketing & Branding Dinner

The Witness Team will be sending a group of leaders from Joy to a learning dinner event which is being made available to us by University of Tulsa professor & local "ad man" Bill Hinkle. Bill thought our church would benefit from attending this event. Essentially, it's a chance for eight leaders from Joy to sit and break bread together, and to listen to a keynote speaker who has deep expertise in contemporary marketing and brand management. My hope is that the eight individuals who will be attending will each hear something valuable that can be brought back and applied as we think about how we might better "brand" Joy in the surrounding communities. Please keep this group in your prayers on March 14 as they attend this dinner. I look forward to the follow-up conversations as we together wrestle with the question: "What's next for Joy?"

-- *Sister Jennie*

# Lydia's Cluster 5 Quilt/Craft Group Schedule for March/April.

We will meet every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.  
New faces are always welcome. Bring a sack lunch, there is always  
plenty of coffee and goodies.

## Esther Circle— University Village March 17 at 10:00 a.m. And April 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Come and join us for discussion and fellowship. Contact Carol Rowe-- carolrowe@cox.net or Susan Humphrey—dabblers54@gmail.com if you have questions about the Esther Circle.

### Altar Guild - Lent and Easter

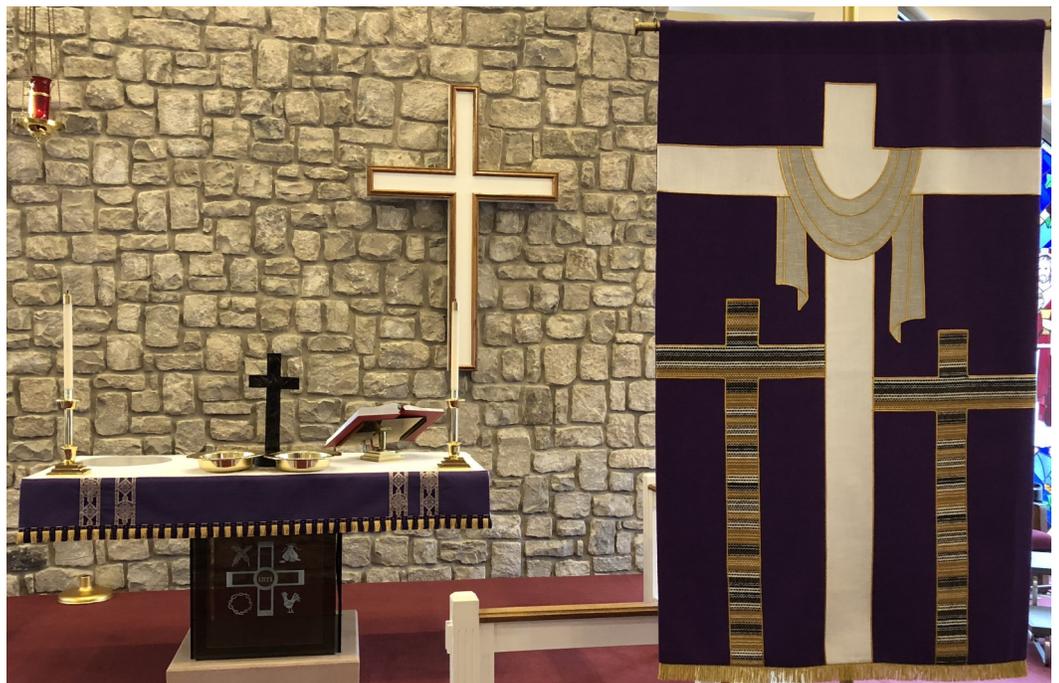
Just as the Altar Guild was catching their breath after a busy Christmas season, now Lent and Easter are upon us.

Dorothy Constien worked her magic again and sewed the beautiful purple paraments for Lent - a new super frontal for the altar, a new veil for the communion trays, a new pulpit hanging, and a new stole for Pastor Jon. The color purple matches our large Lenten banner, so our altar area is truly a sight to behold - all to the glory of God! And thank you to the many in the congregation who contribute to "communion" in their offering envelopes. Those donations allowed us to purchase the necessary materials.

We were also able to purchase two new flag stands for the Processional Cross - one for use in the Narthex and one for the Altar area. The cross now stand proud and straight!

Easter lilies will be \$12 this year - look for the sign-up form in the Sunday announcements beginning March 4. A beautiful way to honor our loved ones and also the decorate our beautiful sanctuary.

*Thank you,  
Carol Graham,  
Altar Guild Chair*



# Finance Ministry

## Finance Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Joy Lutheran Church Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday evening, March 13 at 6:00 p.m.

## The *Simply Giving* Program

Are you interested in a more convenient way to provide Joy Lutheran Church offerings? Have you ever forgotten or missed an offering to Joy Lutheran Church? It's called *Simply Giving*. *Simply Giving* is a simple, safe and practical way for members of Joy Lutheran Church to provide their church offerings through electronic funds transfer from their checking or savings accounts. Offerings are deposited directly into Joy Lutheran Church's account. It's safe and simple. If you would like to enroll, have questions or need further information, contact Bob Young, church treasurer at 918-691-2088..

Following is a financial summary of contributions and expenses for the month of January.

## Finances For The Month of January 2018

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Net
General Offering	\$22,263	\$26,484	(\$4,221)
Debt Reduction	\$3,721	\$4,893	(\$1,172)
January 2018 Totals	\$25,984	\$31,377	(\$5,393)



The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World  
Hunger and Disaster  
Appeal  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America



## Lutheran Disaster Response

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

***Thank you again for partnering with us as we answer the invitation to be part of God's renewing work in the world.***



Dear friend,

Thank you again for your generous support of Lutheran Disaster Response in 2017. As we reflect and begin a new year, I'd like to share some thoughts with you.

Because of your generosity, our church is able to walk alongside disaster survivors, meeting urgent needs and helping with the long road to recovery.

**In Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands**, we provided relief supplies to survivors and supported pastors so that they can focus on caring for their congregations and communities. We are currently assisting Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean Synod to build their capacities to respond to the disaster.

**In Haiti and Cuba**, we've replaced lost tools for farmers affected by the hurricane so they can get back to work, helped woman-headed households with cash assistance, and helped families get daily life back to normal with dishes, cookware and blankets.

**In Texas**, we're part of a group doing case management for survivors of disasters, and plans are underway for a respite retreat for rostered ministers.

**In Florida**, we've supported our affiliate in providing crisis counseling for thousands of people in 20 counties.

[And much, much more](#) is in the works as we continue to work closely with our affiliates, synods, companions and other partners.

**Our goal?** To have more resilient communities that are less vulnerable to the next disaster. Thanks to you, we're on the way there. I've already been impressed by the resiliency of our neighbors who survived disasters. Here are a few quotes that stuck with me recently:

*"Virgin Islanders are strong and caring people. We have been hit hard, and so many are suffering. Despite this, people are joining together and supporting each other and forging a recovery out of the devastation."*

– Christopher Finch, St. Croix

*"Every day when I get up the first thing I do is give thanks to the Lord because I can see the light of a new day, not the electric light, a new opportunity to be alive and do the thing the Lord has called me to do."*

– the Rev. Idalia Negron, Puerto Rico

*"People are overwhelmed with the process, but they are also overwhelmed with love of the church, the neighbor and the stranger."*

– Beverly Davis, Houston



# Monthly Energy Production Report for Joy Lutheran Church

Enphase Energy maximizes your solar energy production and keeps you informed about your system. Your monthly energy report shows how your system performed and how much you contributed to offsetting the global carbon footprint.

**Your Carbon Offset for this month: 633.0 lbs**

**You have offset the equivalent of: 7 Trees**

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
02/01/2018 - 02/07/2018	5,495 W	158.28 kWh
02/08/2018 - 02/14/2018	5,704 W	155.95 kWh
02/15/2018 - 02/21/2018	5,141 W	50.68 kWh
02/22/2018 - 02/28/2018	2,823 W	50.51 kWh
<b>February 2018 Total:</b>		<b>415.43 kWh</b>
<b>Previous Month Total:</b>		<b>513.91 kWh</b>
<b>Year to Date:</b>		<b>929.33 kWh</b>

