

JOY MISSION CHURCH Newsletter

Joy on mission...the hands and feet of God!



Faith

**February Ministry of the Month:
Faith Lutheran Church
Wilmington, NC**

Faith began their journey in 2019 as an off-shoot of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Wilmington. They are dual-affiliated in the NALC and LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ). They do not yet have a called pastor but have a strong core of lay leaders who serve as ministers for one another and within the community.

Faith held worship services in the clubhouse of a retirement facility, until COVID-19 changed their plans. They then moved to a member's backyard and are now in rented office space. Faith is very active in their community and have a heart for ministry to domestic violence survivors.

It is our joy to partner with Faith this month and to support them in the mission we share as the body of Christ. Please pray for Faith and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world.

We are NOT the mission. Our mission is the Great Commission:

"And Jesus came and said to them,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of age." (Matthew 28:18-20) This is why we exist – to:

Love God. Love neighbor. Serve with joy in Jesus' name.

JOY MISSION CHURCH

We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus' name through worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

PASTOR'S CORNER

What is Lent and why is it important?

Lent is a forty-day season of the Church year in which we observe a time of reflection and repentance from our sins. It begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 17th this year, and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, or Easter.

Lent is important, because it helps us to recenter our lives on Jesus and how He wants us to live. We aren't just here for ourselves, but to give glory to God by loving Him and loving others in His name. The three disciplines of Lent - prayer, fasting (denying ourselves), and almsgiving (giving to the needy) - serve to realign our priorities to fit God's design and intent. Lent is a time to change and be changed by drawing nearer to God. The Word reminds us,

"⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be

wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." (James 4:8-10)

Let us mourn and weep for our sinfulness and **draw near to God in worship** as we hear the passion symbols speak each **Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 PM on the Joy Facebook page.**

2/24 The Paten and Chalice

3/3 The Rope

3/10 The 30 Pieces of Silver

3/17 The Water & Basin & Scourge

3/24 The Crown of Thorns & Hyssop

Then draw near to God for worship during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday (4/1) and Good Friday (4/2), on Facebook at 7:00 PM, as our Lenten journey comes to an end at the foot of the cross.

In the light and joy of Christ,
Pastor Paulette



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