

JOY MISSION CHURCH Newsletter

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

upcoming EVENTS

Service Saturday

Grab your gloves and loppers!
Saturday, 10/9 from 8:30-12:30,
we will do yard work at the home
of a Joy member or friend.



NALC
North American Lutheran Church

Disaster Response

Helping natural disaster survivors
with donations of hygiene kits and
baby diapers and wipes.

Way to go Joy Mission Church!

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.



Our first Service Saturday was a huge blessing!



JOY MISSION CHURCH

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

Drawing Near

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*Cleanse your hands, you sinners,
and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

*¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and he will exalt you.*

(James 4:6b-8, 10)

As a child, I was terrified of thunderstorms, especially those that came in the dark of night. Whenever I heard the rumbling in the distance and saw the flashes of light grow brighter and closer, I would pull the covers over my head and hide. Of course, hiding accomplished nothing. I was still anxious and afraid.

After waging war with my pride, I would roll back the covers, slide out of bed, and tiptoe down the hall to my sister's room. As quietly as a mouse, I would carefully peel back the covers and slip into bed beside her, trying my best not to wake her. She could be a storm in her own right.

Comforted by my sister's presence, I could finally relax, rest, and eventually drift off to sleep. Even though the storm still raged on, there was peace in being near someone I loved, a comfort stronger than even the fiercest wind and rain.

Our God offers us even greater peace and comfort in any storms we face. He is mightier than Covid-19. He is more powerful than cancer or the aching sorrow of losing loved ones. He is greater than the demons of addiction, hatred, depression, and despair.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

James reminds us, that our God is an ever-present help, just as the psalmist also writes:

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)*

Jesus Himself, comforts His disciples, saying,

*...And behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20b)*

Our God is not far off. He is not distant, cold, uncaring, or unconcerned. Our God is with us - always in His Word, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in the fellowship of Christ's Church, in prayer and praise - even in the midst our struggles and strife. The storms of life indeed rage on, but by God's grace in Christ Jesus, we can draw near to Him, feel His presence, and, in Him, find comfort and peace.

Let us pray: Holy God, you are our ever-present help. Whenever we feel anxious or afraid, teach us to humble ourselves and draw near to you, that we may continue to love and serve in the joy of your comfort and peace. We ask this to your glory and in Jesus' name. Amen.

In the joy of Jesus' love,
Pastor Paulette



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