

# Joy News

Official Publication of Joy of Christ Lutheran Church | ELCA | July, 2019

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"Joyfully sharing God's Love in Christ"*

## The Installation of Pastor Jayaprakash "JP" Sabbithi

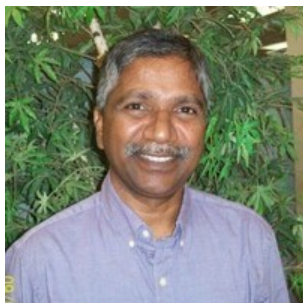
**Bishop Andrew Taylor:** The Pacifica Synod rejoices with Joy of Christ Lutheran in the call of Rev. JP Sabbithi as your pastor. I am pleased to install him today.

**Council President Dana Westphalen:** I present JP and this letter certifying the call.

**Bishop Andrew Taylor:** JP, In the presence of this assembly, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

**Rev. JP Sabbithi:** I will, and I ask God to help me.





## Pastoral Message

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I grew up singing this first stanza of this hymn to conclude our evening family prayers. We continue to do that even today. However, during my college days

when I moved to a different part of the country, I only heard it sung during the funerals. Interestingly Henry Francis Lyte wrote this great and famous hymn just before his death in 1847. I would like to share with you some parts of the story told by Amos R. Wells in his book, "A Treasury of Hymn Stories."

*Henry Francis Lyte was born June 1, 1793 in Scotland. He was early left an orphan, and in comparative poverty. Three times in college his poems won him prizes. He became a clergyman of the Church of England. When Lyte was sick, he was visited by a young clergyman to provide him spiritual comfort. To their mutual grief, they found themselves groping for the light, veritable blind guides. Their search led them into confident certainty, and Lyte emerged from that sick room a changed man. Lyte continued to experience challenges with his health. On the fourth of September 1847, for the last time he was on the pulpit. He said, "I stand here among you today as alive from the dead, if I may hope to impress it upon you, and induce you to prepare for that solemn hour which much come to all, by a timely acquaintance with the death of Christ." That evening he wrote his last and greatest hymn: Abide with me. This hymn handed to a member of his family that very night. He died on November 20 same year. His last words being, "Joy! Peace!" Thus "Abide with me" was written in the shadows of death. Moreover, Lyte had been having some trouble with his people, and it is said that the words, "when other helpers fail," were prompted by the estrangement of some of his helpers in the church.*

# Pastoral Message (continued)

At one time or the other, we all feel helpless in our lives. Feeling helpless is normal. When we feel helpless, we want our friends and family around us. Not that anyone can fix the feeling of being helpless, but somehow, we find comfort knowing that they are present. Of course, there are also those who cause more stress by trying to help in unhelpful ways; we want to keep them out.

Lyte's prayer to God was simply to ask God to be with him. As a person of faith, he knew God was already with him. So why was he struggling so much? His struggle was not so much death itself, rather, going through the sickness. In his last days, he was also struggling with relationships, some might have been unresolved.

Sickness could isolate people. Going through any kind of sickness or even life's struggles and challenges could be long and lonely journeys. Those are the times we need the help of God more than any other time in our lives. We not only need God but also need one another to become the channels of the presence of God to one another. God doesn't fix our problems. Rather God journeys with us in our struggles so that we don't need to be alone. "Abide with me, O help of the helpless, Abide with me". Amen.

Blessings,  
Pastor JP  
[jsabbithi@gmail.com](mailto:jsabbithi@gmail.com)



# Re-dedication of Joy of Christ Congregation

**Bishop Andrew Taylor:** We are gathered here to affirm the rededication of the Joy of Christ congregation.

The community of the believers join you today to reaffirm your dedication to the work of God. Will you continue to engage in the work of God by sharing the gospel with your neighbors, the surrounding community, and the world?

**Congregation:** We will, and we ask God to help us.



## **Fun Fact:**

115 people attended the Installation of Pastor JP and the re-dedication of Joy of Christ congregation and ministry in Pearl City Hawaii.





# Celebration of Installation of Pastor JP and re-dedication of Joy of Christ Congregation

A celebration followed under a tent in the front yard. Food was provided by Paliuli Restaurant at Mililani Country Club. It was a long day, but one enjoyed by many as we celebrated together with a meal as is appropriate.



## Reports from Synod Assembly, 2019

"The conference was enlightening for me, as I was able to interact not only with other pastors and lay leaders from Hawaii, but I was able to meet more of the extended ELCA family as well. A theme of the conference was on the topic of listening, and I learned more about the value of listening, most importantly to God's will for me and for our congregation, but also I learned of the critical need to listen to others who are seeking God's truth. We had small group sessions that provided an exercise in hearing others and their concerns and truly listening instead of turning inward and focusing on my own needs while they are sharing their views and concerns. I learned of the many areas in which ELCA supports valuable initiatives dealing with homelessness and veterans and how the ELCA seeks to enhance diversity as well."

### **Tod Outlaw**

O Lord Open My Ears: Listening for God while listening to each other, was the theme for this year's Pacifica Synod Assembly held at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, California. We spent 1.5 days listening to wonderful guest speakers such as Kathryn Johnson from the ELCA Churchwide Office in Chicago, Dr. Brian Collins who spoke about the Art of Listening How Philosophy Might Help Us Navigate Difficult Dialogues. For me the most moving and motivating speaker was Reverend Dr. John Nunes, current President at Concordia College. He spoke about privilege and diversity. He quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer who said, "whoever stops listening to others will soon stop listening to God." For me, it was 1.5 days of being renewed, revived, and refreshed with fellow Lutherans. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to attend this year's Assembly.

### **Kimberly Iese**



## **FEEDING BODY AND SOUL**

I.H.S. is a human services agency focused on assisting the homeless population in Hawaii. Joy of Christ has supported this mission for more than 20 years. Volunteers from JOC provide Oahu's homeless population a lunchtime meal of burrito's

and Spanish rice the second Saturday of each month. This includes both preparation and serving of the meal. Preparation typically begins at 9:30, while serving commences approximately 11:45. We are usually finished around 12:45 pm. This ministry continues to be a mainstay of JOC's social ministry effort and is consistently well received by both the population served as well as the I.H.S. staff. It would not be a success without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. The next three months, we'll be serving at I.H.S. on **Saturdays, July 13th, August 10th and September 14th**. Remember, every little bit helps. Even if you can give an hour or so of your time, it makes all the difference. If anybody is interested in supporting this worthy cause, please contact Lloyd Puckett at 808-456-5915.

## **LIVING LUTHERAN DINNER GROUP**

Our monthly dinner group continues to meet, on second Tuesday of the month at Zippy's Restaurant in Waiau at 6:30pm. We meet for a meal, fellowship, and to discuss various articles in the latest Living Lutheran Magazine. The next three months, we'll be meeting on **Tuesdays, July 9th, August 13th and September 10th**. All are invited to join us when you can. If you are interested in more information, please call Dee Schiemer at 808-696-1306.

## **ADULT CLASS**

Our adult class meets every Sunday after worship and fellowship time (approximately 10:30am). We continue to find great lecture series on Religion, Christianity and Jesus. We will be beginning a new lecture series soon.

## **NOISY OFFERING**

The first Sunday of every month continues to be Noisy Offering Sunday. This special offering goes to help people locally as well as around the world, especially those affected by natural disasters. As of May, 2019 we have raised \$181.

# PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

## A HISTORY OF SERVICE

In 2012, Dee Schiemer ended up in the hospital while visiting on the mainland. A friend brought her a prayer shawl to comfort her while she recuperated. And an idea was born.

She brought that idea back to Joy of Christ. After doing research on how to set up a ministry, she began speaking to others about such a ministry here. Mary Ohta was interested but didn't have the ability to meet as part of a group. She and

Dee went ahead with planning a way for the ministry to begin. Mary and committed to making shawls that would be blessed on all Fifth Sundays. So, it was decided that all fifth

Sundays in the year would be Prayer Shawl Blessing Sundays. They have made, prayed over, brought to church for a congregational blessings, and distributed over 20 shawls (some recent ones are pictured below).





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**RUMMAGE SALE COMING!!**  
**Saturday, October 19th**

You are invited to donate items to be sold: White elephants, slightly used home goods, clothing, toys, books, magazines, or anything that you would like to “move along” to someone else.

We will also need people to work tables and collect money—please consider volunteering.

**REMEMBER: You purge, Buyers splurge**

**UPDATE**  
**BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Dear friends, partners, family, we thank you for your continued support to sustain Joy of Christ Lutheran Church in the heart of Pearl City. We have installed air conditioning and it worked wonderfully at the installation service. It was a godsend with 115 people in attendance. As of June 30, 2019 we have received donations of \$9,370 of the \$19,000 (almost half) needed to purchase the system.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

We will continue to receive donations until the bill is paid in full.

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Cut Here

Please accept my donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Building Improvement Fund at Joy of Christ to be used toward the installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary.

## **Cookbook Corner**

This column was introduced with a recipe from Barbara Boddy, a member who believed in feeding the body and the soul, we will continue with recipes from all our members. The recipe this month comes from Dee Schiemer and is one she shares often.

### **Baked Pineapple Casserole**

1/2 cup butter or margarine  
3/4 cup of sugar  
3 eggs, beaten  
Dash of salt  
1 can (#2) crushed pineapple  
5 slices bread

Preheat oven to 325F.

Cream butter and sugar.

Add eggs and beat well

Add remaining ingredients.

Mixture will look curdled.

Place in 1 1/2 quart casserole

Bake at 325F for 40-45 minutes.

#### Notes:

Can be doubled for a 13" by 9" pan.

Especially good with Hawaiian Sweet Bread, but white, wheat or hamburger/hot dog buns will do.



**Those We**

**Keep in Our**

**Prayers.....**

Prayer is an important part of our life together as Christians. Each week, we list in our bulletin those friends and family that we pray for both individually and as a community of faith. If you wish to add someone to our prayer list, please speak with Pastor JP, Dee Schiemer or call the church office at 808-455-1138.

**For those dealing with health issues.**

Margaret T, Kimberly D, Robert R. S, Debbie H, Lulu Y C, Robert L. S, Cliff C, Renee G, Roxie L, Julie Akey, John S, Elaina M, Elaine P, Babylyn, Melodie M, Brandon B, Jessica B. Cliff C, Kris B, Rainbow, Bruce G

**For caregivers.**

Tom G, Rose G, Melanie S, Karen C

**For families that have lost loved ones, those we hear about through news and those closer to our hearts.**

Debra R, BarBara B, Gloria B, Allen S, Brian N, Jason G, Esther L, Mike L

**For those expecting.**

Stephanie G,

## GIVE ALOHA

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts program is coming in September (the whole month). Joy of Christ Lutheran Church is registered to receive matching gifts.

**Our number is 77967.**

How does it work? Members go to any Foodland and make a donation to Joy of Christ Lutheran Church up to an amount of \$249 using your Maikai Card. You will be given a receipt for your donation and you can place it in the offering plate for recording purposes. When the program is complete, Foodland will distribute matching funds to all participating organizations.



Contact Information:

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