



# Joy News

Official Publication of Joy of Christ Lutheran Church | ELCA | Mar/Apr 2025

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of the upcoming events, please consider joining with us. All opportunities will be available online via Facebook. For any links to the worship opportunities, please contact the Church office at 808-455-1138.

### **Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Service**

April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9AM (Holy Communion)

### **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**

April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM (Holy Communion)

### **Good Friday Worship Services**

April 18<sup>th</sup> at 12NOON (spoken)

April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM (with Music)

### **Easter Morning Worship Opportunities**

Sunrise Worship Service at Punchbowl

April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:15AM

Easter Celebration at JOC

April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9AM (Holy Communion)

Followed by an Easter Brunch  
and an Easter Egg Hunt for our younger keiki

## Pastoral Message



***“Jesus said, ..... Go and do likewise.....” (Luke 10:37)***

If you feel saturated by political news these days, you are not alone. I have never experienced so much polarization in the media. Partly because the same story is conveyed differently in different news channels and social media. The news changes depending upon which channel you are watching!

However, one thing doesn't change: that is the mandate of Jesus. At the end of the good Samaritan story Jesus said, “go and do likewise.’ Jesus implies that we care for the victim, we stand with the vulnerable and we journey with the weak in our community. The temptation is to go after the robbers and neglect the one who is hurt. The temptation is to find fault with the mighty and ignore the powerless.

During the lent, how about we fast from feeding ourselves with so much news of polarity and engage ourselves in something for the weak and meek in our own community to our neighbors? Fasting does not mean ignoring. In fact, we care for the victims fearlessly because we are not ignoring what is going on in our community. By caring for people, they will be led from fear to security, hopelessness to hopefulness, helplessness to helpfulness.

Most importantly, during the lent, how about including our leaders in our prayers!

Let us all have a meaningful season of Lent!

Your servant in Christ,  
Rev.Dr.JP Sabbithi  
Pastor, Joy of Christ Lutheran Church.



## **THE 124th ANNUAL ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

Come join us to celebrate the joy of Easter  
with this  
long-standing tradition.

When: Sunday, April 20th

Where: at the National Memorial Cemetary  
of the Pacific (in Punchbowl) Gates should  
open about 5:30am

More details will come as the service is  
planned. Contact the church office at 808-455-  
1138 closer to the date for additional information.

## SHARING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP TO THE GLORY OF GOD!



Amina shared her gift of Hula in December. What a joy to watch our keiki grow in faith.



Once a month our keiki share a song they have learned in Sunday School. They are such a blessing to the congregation worshipping in person and for those who join online. To see them grow physically as well as in their love for Jesus and others is a joy!

# *Celebration!!!*



The beginning of a new chapter—Dana has retired from Kaiser Permanente Medical Center after 33 years of service. She is planning to spend time with those she cares about, especially her mother, Avril; her daughters and son-in-laws and, of course her three wonderful grand daughters. We offer our blessings to her as she enters this new chapter and our prayers that God will continue his blessings into the future.

# *Celebration!!!*



On February 2nd, Pastor Ruth was installed at St, Peter's Episcopal Church, Honolulu. While we will miss her leading us in worship when Pastor JP is gone, we rejoice with her that she continues to minister as she is called. As you can see in the pictures above, Joy of Christ had an entourage to bless her new beginning. May she go with many blessings for her future ministry.



## **SAFETY FIRST**

You may have seen this lift parked in the parking lot. Did you wonder why? The metal leaves at the top of the cell tower were removed before they could fall and hurt someone. And then they trimmed the tree for us as



### **Will You Help?**

After worship on Easter Sunday, our keiki will be having an Easter Egg Hunt. We are requesting plastic eggs fill with candy (no chocolate) and brought to the church prior to the worship service. Our teenagers will hide the eggs after the worship service, The keiki will search during the Easter Brunch. Will you help?

## A LENTEN THOUGHT

(Modification of a Chicken Soup for the Soul Story)

Dennis was attending a weekly evening adult class when the teacher assigned homework. The assignment was to go to someone you love and tell them you love them. But it had to be someone you had never said those words to before or at least for a very long time. At the next class, Dennis shared his story.

Dennis didn't feel he had anyone to say those words to, but driving home his conscience started telling him who needed him to say those words – his father. You see, 5 years earlier, they had a vicious disagreement and hadn't spoken since. By the time he arrived home, he was sure who needed those words.

The next day after work, he rang the bell and waited; hoping his dad answered. As luck would have it, his dad answered the door. Dennis didn't waste any time. He took a step in the door and said, "Dad, I just came over to tell you that I love you." It was as if a transformation came over his dad as he reached out and hugged Dennis and said, "I love you too, son."

Two days after this visit, Dennis' dad, had a heart attack ending up in the hospital. For a time, he wasn't sure if his dad would make it. He only knows that if he had waited to tell his dad, he may not have had another chance.

So, who in your life might need to hear those words and perhaps you should say them now!

Contact Information:

**Joy of Christ Lutheran Church | ELCA**

784 Kamehameha Hwy. • Pearl City, HI 96782

Church Office: (808) 455-1138

Rev. Dr. JP Sabbithi, Pastor    [jsabbithi@gmail.com](mailto:jsabbithi@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.joyofchristhawaii.org](http://www.joyofchristhawaii.org)