



Joy Lutheran Church: A Historical Overview

September 28, 1971	Nineteen area residents meet with Regional Director to discuss the possibility of an ALC mission in Parker
October 19, 1971	A steering committee of seven members chosen at a meeting with Bishop Madsen
February 6, 1972	Regular morning worship services begin, with Sunday School held in Methodist Center of Parker
February 25, 1972	Pastor Robert DeYoung accepts call to be first pastor of emerging congregation
April 23, 1972	First service conducted by Pastor DeYoung
June 19, 1972	First Vacation Bible School held jointly with Methodist congregation
July 16, 1972	Steering Committee recommends purchase of 6-acre lot on Pine Lane-Parker Hill Estates
August 27, 1972	First annual picnic held in Elizabeth Community Park

October 22, 1972	The name "Joy" is chosen for the congregation. Another mission congregation, 1000 miles away in Prescott, WI, chooses "Joy" for their church name. The Division of American Missions of the American Lutheran Church and the Vacation Bible School Mission provide funding to construct the church
December 16, 1972	Joy Lutheran constituted as a member congregation of the American Lutheran Church. Thirty-five families sign the charter of the church
December 17, 1972	Pastor DeYoung is formally installed as pastor of Joy Lutheran by Bishop Madsen
January 1, 1973	Membership: 84 baptized, 49 confirmed
January 28, 1973	First annual meeting. First council elected
June 17, 1973	Permission granted to sell lot on Pine Lane (unable to secure waiver of neighborhood covenants)
September 20, 1973	5-acre lot on Pine Drive purchased
November 19, 1973	First confirmation: Dana Hansen
December 13, 1973	Approval by congregation of building plans by C.F. Murphy and Associates
January 1, 1974	Membership: 136 baptized, 77 confirmed
February 10, 1974	Ground-breaking ceremony for new building
August 4, 1974	First worship service in basement
September 1, 1974	First worship service is held in new sanctuary

October 20, 1974	Dedication of new church building 265 joyous people participate in the dedication service for the new building
December 1, 1974	Confirmation: Wayne Stoner
January 1, 1975	Membership: 156 baptized, 88 confirmed
April 6, 1975	Confirmation: Lisa Antonsen and Jill DeYoung
May 4, 1975	"Cool in Furnace" musical
September 3, 1975	Pastor DeYoung accepts a call and moves to parish In Mt. Pleasant, Ill.
January 1, 1976	Membership: 178 baptized, 102 confirmed
January 26, 1976	Pastor Ron Beckman accepts call to Joy and is installed as new pastor
March 20, 1976	Catholic Mission begins to use facility for weekly Saturday Mass
May 1976	Joy houses four different congregations: Joy Lutheran Church, Faith Baptist, Parker Catholic Mission, and the Seventh Day Adventists
June 6, 1976	Confirmation: Muriel Antonsen, Richard Cameron, Marlene Church, Laurence Free, Carl Holsopple, Barbara O'Barr and Susan Schauer
June 6, 1976	"Sam" Spring musical
October 31, 1976	Preaching, Teaching, Reaching Mission Dr. Robert Vogel, speaker 5 th anniversary of congregation observed Membership: 253 baptized, 153 confirmed

August 1979	Joyful Mission Preschool established
September 16, 1979	Pastor Greg Uthus installed as Associate Pastor. He serves until 1983.
June 1981	Confirmation: Steve Sloan, Keith Tallman, Doug Cooper, Steve Yant
February 1985	Pastor Mike Lemke installed as Associate Pastor
September 14, 1986	Dedication of new sanctuary Pastor Ron Beckman leaves to accept a call to work with Martin Lutheran Home Ministries Pastor Mike Lemke becomes Senior Pastor
February 1, 1990	Pastor Barb Lemke installed as Associate Pastor. Joy becomes one of a few congregations in the ELCA to have a full-time husband/wife team as pastors
January 1997	Vision Statement We are a praying church, focused on Christ and the Scriptures. Through prayer, we believe the Holy Spirit will heal us spiritually, emotionally, physically, and in relationships. Praying will help us to discover our spiritual gifts and will lead us to loving, caring actions to meet the needs of all people created by God
May 1998	Challenges face Joy and Pastor Mike Lemke departs. Pastor Barb Lemke becomes Senior Pastor
February-November 1999	Interim Pastor: Pastor John Conrad
November 1999	Pastor Barb Lemke leaves to pursue another call.

November 1999- September 2000	Interim Pastor: Pastor Paul Schairer
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September 2000	Pastor Dave Fisher accepts call
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There was significant growth in the congregation at this time. A building project was approved. Project was called “Shout for Joy” capital funds appeal. A new sanctuary was built and remodeling on both levels of the building as well as the preschool was remodeled and expanded.

November 2002	Ground breaking ceremony
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December 2003	Pastor Lynette Crase accepts call as Associate Pastor
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June 6, 2004	First worship service in new sanctuary
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2007	Vision Statement Grounded in scripture and Lutheran tradition and led by the Holy Spirit, we are growing people into a deeper relationship with Christ and to greater service in our community and world.
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2007	Conversion of old sanctuary into fellowship hall, kitchen and Adult Education Room (AER)
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2009-2010	Changing times with controversial ELCA Social Statement
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February 2010	Pastor Dave Fisher leaves to form his own church
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March 2010	Pastor Lynette Crase installed as Senior Pastor
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August 2011	First Intern: Christine Hjelmstad
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2012-2013	Second Intern: Martha McCreight
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August 2013	Pastor Lynnette Crase leaves to pursue another call. Pastor Randy Mundt accepts call as Interim Pastor
June 2015	Pastor Rodney Hank accepts the call to Joy
July 11, 2015	Pastor Rodney Hank is officially installed by Bishop Gonia as Senior Pastor
September 2015	First outdoor service-Joyful Celebration Metropolitan Jazz provides music
August 2016	First men's retreat at Specht's cabin in Leadville
November 2016	First Winter Shelter Network (temporary housing for women and children under the age of 18 years of age) in conjunction with 6 other Douglas County churches
June 24, 2018	Twenty fifth Anniversary Celebration of Pastor Rodney Hank's Ordination (actual date June 28th)
January/February 2020	Reconfiguration and remodel of office space
March 13, 2020	Church building closes due to Coronavirus pandemic. Worship services pivot to online
May 2020	ZOOM congregational meeting with online voting to extend call to Pastor Ryan Jerome as Associate Pastor, which he accepts
July 2020	In-person worship services resume, with strict guidelines from the State Health Department and TriCounty Health Department. Worship services continue online.

August 22-23, 2020	Pastor Ryan Jerome is officially installed by Bishop Gonia as Associate Pastor
May 2021	Worship services resume fully, with minimal COVID restrictions
November 2021	Live streaming of worship services begins
January 31, 2022	Bishop Jim Gonia preaches this day which is the kick off for the 50 th Anniversary celebration of Joy Lutheran Church

