

JOY to the World this Week

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH / 717 FM 359, RICHMOND, TX 77406 / (281) 762-3310

Joy (ELCA) is a participating congregation with Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Reform)

POWER SURGE TAKE HOME TOOLS for January 2, 2011

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

OUR VALUES:

Faithful, Family, Friendly, Fun

OUR VISION:

Joy to the World!

OUR MISSION:

Called by God, we reach out joyfully to share Jesus Christ with all people by building healthy relationships with God and one another.

COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS — Refreshments are available in the narthex between worship services.

COMPLETE WORSHIP FOLDERS — are available from the ushers for those who desire. Be sure and ask!

CRY ROOM — A nursery/cry room is available and staffed during worship. The nursery is available for all children up to and including age 4. It is located just down the hallway on the left side.

GENERAL INFORMATION — A variety of information sources are located in the narthex, particularly on the bulletin boards and the tables.

PRAYER CHAIN — Call Lou Gross or June Tesch if you have a prayer request.

QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS & CONCERNS — Contact council chairperson— Becky Ohm in the evenings, or Pastor Christ anytime (832-549-4985).

RESTROOMS — Both men's and women's restrooms are located just down the hall on the right hand side.

RECYCLE — Please recycle your bulletins, etc., in the bin provided in the foyer.

VISIT DESIRED — If you would like a visit from the Pastor or a lay disciple for any reason, call the church office during regular office hours, or contact the Pastor directly at (832-549-4985).

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Joy Worship Schedule

CELEBRATION WORSHIP — Sunday, 8:00a

A traditional worship experience led by the Joy Choir, organ, Joyful Tooters, lay liturgists, and special music.

SPIRIT TOUCHING SPIRIT — Sunday, 10:30a

A contemporary worship experience led by the Praise Band @ Joy and lay liturgists, using a variety of contemporary Christian music and liturgies.

Joy Leadership

MINISTERS

Every Person in the Body of Christ is a Disciple! You are Jesus' front-line disciples who spread Joy in daily life. We firmly believe that God is empowering you every day as you seek to fulfill your divine calling as a disciple who makes disciples!

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Becky Ohm — Council Chairperson; **John Garrou** — Council Vice-Chairperson; **Larry Mikeska** — Secretary; **Beth Horstman** — Treasurer; **Dave Willis** — Financial Secretary

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Laura Cabato — Social Ministry; **Rick Curry** — Property; **Kathy Gann** — JoyLife; **John Garrou** — Evangelism; **Vacant** — Stewardship; **Larry Mikeska** — Communication; **Tracy Posey** — Youth & Family Ministry (FDIC)

MINISTRY LEADERS

June Tesch — Joyful Women; **Paula Curry** — Jr. High; **Shena Timberlake** — Sr. High; **Brett Carleton** — Growing in Joy (GIJ); **Vicki Schoppe** — Staffing Team

STAFF

Tim Christ — Pastor; **Terri Clark** — Administrative Assistant; **Darin Mielke** — Joy Choir Director; **Lou Gross** — Joyful Tooters; **Carol Boenig & Audrey Stoneburner** — Organists; **Tammy Canterbury, Rick Curry, Ron Light, Milton & Jeanette Richards, Sandy Wohlert** — Praise Band

This week of Joy to the World —

- Today** — **Christmass 2**
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Ed: 9:15a p
— Installation of Church Council
- Monday** — FDIC Meeting: 6:30p
— Executive Team Meeting: 7:30p
- Wednesday** — Confirmation: 6:00p
— Joy Choir: 7:00p
- Thursday** — **EPIPHANY**
— Joyful Tooters: 7:00p
— Praise Band: 7:30p
- Next Sunday** — **Baptism of Our Lord**
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Ed: 9:15a

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

INSTALLATION OF 2011 CHURCH COUNCIL — today, at both worship services. Thank you to those council leaders who are leaving.

FDIC MEETING — is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Join us in planning for 2011! Everyone is welcome.

END OF THE YEAR — *Thank you* for your generous financial support of our ministry at Joy last year! Yearly statements will be printed and sent this month.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS CLASSES — beginning January 9th, we'll continue our study, devoting a couple of weeks to the Smalcald Articles and the remainder of Epiphany to the Formula of Concord, concluding on Sunday, March 9th. This has been an exciting and eye opening class for all involved, and you are free to join in, even if you did not participate in the fall session. We meet Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

A NAZARITE VOW — is to neither to shave one's beard or drink of the fruit of the vine (exception being Holy Communion) until the vow is fulfilled. This is shared in case you begin to wonder why Pr. Tim is looking scruffy!

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING — will be held on Thurs., Jan. 14th at 6:30p. For information contact Laura Cabato.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — will break for the holidays until Thursday, January 13th. The topic for discussion in 2011 will be, "Answering Islam, the Crescent in the Light of the Cross", a book by Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb. Is the god of Mohammed also the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? For more information contact Mike Meyer.

SAVE YOUR CHRISTMASS TREES! — The annual trip to Quintana Beach for the Dune Restoration Project/Bonfire is scheduled for Sat. Jan. 15th. Drop your trees off next to the education buildings on the lawn area by Jan. 14th. Be sure to let your friends and family know to drop their trees off to help save the dunes. Watch for more info in the future!

2011 FLOWER CHART — has been posted on the Council bulletin board near the kitchen. Be sure to specify the celebration/memorial you would like acknowledged in the toolkit.

2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES — are in the Narthex. Pick up your box today! FYI - your envelope number is different.

2011 SERVING SCHEDULE — We have been working on the new serving schedule and list of servers for 2011. There is a great need for second service ushers, readers, A/V and communion assistants! There is a great need for help in all ministries. Please call the office at 281-762-3310 or email office@joyrichmond.org.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Part 2 — Sunday, January 30th. We will have a potluck lunch at noon with the meeting being called to order at 1:00 p.m. be a part of our annual celebration of all God has accomplished through Joy in 2010!

JOYFUL WOMEN COOKBOOK — Submit your family's favorite recipes so we may compile another cookbook; this will be Vol. 3! An envelope to collect recipes is on the bulletin board in the Narthex or email your recipes to Eva Randel or Kim Randel.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! — From Joyce Hopkins for the greeting cards you have brought for the nursing homes. She has plenty of cards to share with several nursing homes in the area. Your generosity is appreciated! She will notify you again if she is in need of more cards.

SHADE TREE MINISTRY — Appreciates your generous donations of Rice and Beans. Donations are always needed and can be placed in the bin in the Narthex for distribution. Volunteers to assist David and Martha on Tuesdays and Fridays handing out the rice and beans would be greatly appreciated! If you have time or a friend who is looking for volunteer work contact David or Martha Willis. Other items needed include men's work gloves and shoes.

BIRTHDAYS — 12/30 James Goates; 1/8 James Petrosky

People of Prayer

Prayer is one of the marks of Discipleship. We invite everyone to grow in your prayer life. Include these persons, needs, concerns and thanksgivings in your prayers this week.

Due the extensive nature of our prayer list, we are changing our routine policy. A name will be placed on the Sunday list once and in our Newsletter list as long as requested. If you wish to have someone included several Sundays, please continue to fill out a prayer request card during worship.

Our Synod Staff: Bishop Michael Rinehart, Assistants to the Bishop: Peggy Hahn, AiM; Pr. Don Carlson; Pr. Kerry Nelson

Our Congregational Leaders: especially our Pastor, staff, and Church Council leaders.

Our Sister Congregation: Iglesia Luterana de Cristo Rey in Reynosa, Mexico; Bp. Bazellel Hernandez

Serving Jesus Today

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	Celebration of the Willis' 63 rd Anniversary	
Altar Guild	D. Bray/Faucetts/B. Marvin/B. McDow	
Ushers	Bob & June Tesch	Dan & Kathy Strode
Acolyte	Joshua John	Cory Leith
Liturgist	Darin Mielke	Chuck Canterbury
Lector	Bev Marvin	Betty Christ
Cantor	Darin Mielke	
Child Sermon	Chris Parnell	Tracy Posey
Communion	Larry Mikeska	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Kevin Loewe
Video	Beth Horstman	Kevin Loewe
Counters	Tammy Soward/Fred Kunzler	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	Celebration of Grace Riley Goates Birthday	
Altar Guild	D. Bray/Faucetts/B. Marvin/B. McDow	
Ushers	Al & Candace Rieder	Paula & Kristen Curry
Acolyte	Joshua John	Cory Leith
Liturgist	Bill Bray	Dan Strode
Lector	Martha Willis	Bob Tesch
Cantor	Bill Bray	
Child Sermon	June Tesch	Kathy Strode
Communion	Shirley Morris	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Beth Horstman
Video	Beth Horstman	Amy Cabato
Counters	Melody Mielke/Bob Jahm	

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

E-MAIL — Pastor Tim: pastor@joyrichmond.org Terri Clark: office@joyrichmond.org

Our Daily Joy!

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread . . . Living on a Prayer — Week of January 2, 2011

Monday, January 3

Feast - Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-4

This text looks forward to the day when God's promised restoration will be fulfilled. No longer will God's people need to hide in walled cities for fear of war. Instead, God's Kingship will be celebrated with a feast on God's mountain. The poor, the needy, and the alien will be special guests. God will be a faithful refuge for his faithful people, and God will restore all that has been broken by sin. Just as in John's revelation, death will be swallowed up and every tear will be wiped away. God's people will be restored. This is one of many texts that portray the consummation of God's work of reconciliation and recreation as a wedding feast. There will be abundance for all people, provided free from God's gracious hand. Think of the most fabulous feast you've ever experienced. We simply can't imagine the greatness of this feast that God has planned. In your life, look for ways that you can experience a "foretaste" of the feast to come. Pray for God to open your vision of the future to what God has in mind.

Tuesday, January 4

Manna - Exodus 16:31-36; Revelation 2:16-17

We cannot pray these simple words, "give us this day our daily bread" without being catapulted back into the story of the exodus. God's people wander through the wilderness, crying out in hunger, "Why did God drag us out of Egypt just to starve us to death?" God responds by sending bread from heaven. Manna, a white flaky substance, covers the ground each morning. God commands the Israelites to gather enough manna to make enough bread for one day. Here the story gets interesting, because some of the Israelites gather more than they need for the day, perhaps to ensure they have enough for tomorrow. But what was left over rotted. When we pray "give us this day our daily bread," we're not only asking that God would provide just what we need for this day, we're also asking that we might learn to live one day at a time, trusting in God's daily provision. Are you trusting that God will provide just enough for each day? Ask God to help you trust in God's provision for today.

Wednesday, January 5

Foretaste - Leviticus 23:4-8; Matthew 26:26-29

The Bible often talks about God's vision for the future as a great banquet in which there is abundance for everyone. Perhaps this isn't so much a prayer for whatever we need to sustain us today. Perhaps it's actually a request for a "foretaste of the feast to come," a nibble, an appetizer to keep our faith alive and whet our appetite for the future. For Christians, the Lord's Supper is one form of this "foretaste" of the coming feast. When we gather at the table we get just a glimpse of the coming reality of the Kingdom. We are God's people who know the promise of God, that one day God's Kingdom dream will be fully revealed. What things in your life give you a "foretaste" of the feast to come? In your prayers, ask God to remind you of this coming feast in the small and ordinary things of life.

Thursday, January 6

Prayer - Matthew 6:5-15

Jesus' teaching about prayer falls in the middle of his Sermon on the Mount, his teaching about life in the Kingdom of God. Jesus focuses on our hearts more than the outer form of prayer. Prayer is not about performance, but relationship with God. The number of words matters less than our heart's inclination. In your prayers, do you ever struggle to find the right words? Don't worry. You don't have to use the right words. Incline your heart toward God and trust that God listens to your prayers and, in time, will answer them.

Friday, January 7

Prayer 2 - Psalm 39:12; Matthew 21:21-22

Jesus says two core things about prayer. First, it's a matter between you and God. While Jesus isn't forbidding public prayer, he is saying that God is the recipient of prayer, not other people. How often do you get hung up on your words when you pray? Some who pray in public try to impress others with their smooth words, and some refuse to pray publicly because they are afraid that they aren't articulate enough. The question is, "articulate enough for whom?" The second thing Jesus says about prayer is that we don't need to pray with an endless amounts of words. The "pagans" that Jesus refers to could be those who prayed magical incantations, repeating the same words over and over, in an attempt to get God's attention. But we already have God's attention. Our prayers need to be honest, heartfelt, and to the point. God wants our prayers, and we need to pray. Today, talk to God in an honest, heartfelt, to the point way.

Saturday, January 8

Persistence - Matthew 6:7-8; Acts 2:37-42

You might ask: "If God already knows what I want and need, why should I bother to pray at all?" It's a logical question! One answer is that words affect relationship. For example, your wife knows you love her, but it's important for her to hear it from you, and it's important for you to say it. Prayer also opens our hearts to give God access. What's unspoken is not as available to God because God won't forcefully engage us in conversation. And prayer is more about allowing God to change us than about us changing God. This tension is a mystery, but it explains why Jesus is so persistent about teaching persistence in prayer. Do you pray with persistence? Ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking.

Sunday, January 9

Framework - Matthew 6:5-15 again; Luke 11:1-4

Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer to serve as a framework. Notice the core topics that the Lord's Prayer addresses: It begins by reminding us who God is, and therefore who we are. It reminds us of what God's primary agenda is, and what ours is to be. We are invited to pray about our needs and the needs of the world. It addresses the need for healthy relationships and reconciliation. We are encouraged to pray for protection. It ends with a doxology in later manuscripts. Allow this framework to shape your conversation with God.