

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 9, 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 —

Next Sunday — Epiphany
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Ed: 9:15a

Monday
— LaCocina: 6:30p
— Church Council: 7:30p

Wednesday
— Joy Choir: 7:00p

Thursday
— ELST Ministerium: 10:00a
— Social Ministry Mtg: 6:30p
— Joyful Tooters: 7:00p
— Men's Bible Study: 7:30p
— Praise Band: 7:30p

Saturday
— Quintana Beach Trip: 8a-3p

Next Sunday — Epiphany 2
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Ed: 9:15a
— Purity Milestone: Both Services

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS CLASSES — begin this evening at 6:00 p.m. 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.

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

PURITY MILESTONE SERVICE — at both worship services on Sunday, January 16th for our young members who have made a personal commitment to themselves and God to remain pure until marriage.

JW BIBLE STUDY — on the Triune God begins on Tuesday, January 18th at 10 a.m. only. Material cost is \$10. Please sign up on the Joyful Women bulletin board or contact Denyse Bray with any questions.

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!

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.

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.

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 — 1/11 Mitchel Hong, June Meyer & Kayla Posey; 1/12 Christin Blaschke; 1/14 Joyce Hopkins

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 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	John Garrou
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 Jahn	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	To the Glory of God	
Altar Guild	D. Bray/Faucetts/B. Marvin/B. McDow	
Ushers	Mike & Kathy Gann	Parke & Gracie Wyant
Acolyte	Joshua John	Cory Leith
Liturgist	Dan Strode	Susan Krabbe
Lector	Tammy Soward	Doris Goates
Cantor	Dan Strode	
Child Sermon	Chris Parnell	Doris Goates
Communion		Denyse Bray
Audio	Beth Horstman	James Goates
Video	Beth Horstman	James Goates
Counters	Allen Schoppe/Kathy Gann	

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 . . . The Wide and Gaping Landfill — Week of January 9, 2011

Monday, January 10

Priorities - Proverbs 16:16-18; Mark 7:20-23

In the U.S., we create 4.5 pounds of waste per person per day, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This equals 1,642.5 tons of waste per person, per year. Are we really praying for our daily bread? What do we mean by daily bread? To petition "give us this day our daily bread" allows us to repent in those areas of our life that have skewed priorities. We often love our things, but find it hard to love the people around us. We place our trust in temporary things and orient all our energies toward them. We often define success in monetary terms, and wealth in dollars and cents. Instead, we can learn to appreciate the wealth of our relationships and invest our lives in others. Where do you have skewed priorities? Pray for God to show you what they are and lead you to real change.

Tuesday, January 11

Landfill - Luke 16:1-9

There's good news and bad news about landfills. The good news: according to the EPA, the number of landfills in the United States dropped from 7,924 in 1988 to 1,754 in 2006. The bad news: landfill capacities have increased enormously. The EPA states in its 2006 municipal solid waste study that, "while the number of U.S. landfills has steadily declined over the years, the average landfill size has increased. . . . Since 1990, the total volume of MSW going to landfills dropped by 4 million tons, from 142.3 million to 138.2 million tons in 2006." This is remarkable, considering that the U.S. population increased by more than 50 million people during this time. As Christians, we have a lot of "junk" that gets in the way of us stepping into the movement of God in the world. We have every kind of excuse for why we can't engage in God's mission in deeper ways. What "junk" stands in the way of you engaging with God's mission in a deeper way? Ask God to help you navigate this landfill.

Wednesday, January 12

Nameless - Luke 16:19-31

The story of the rich man and Lazarus, found only in Luke, is a study in deep contrasts. What's unique about this story is that the beggar, Lazarus, is named. That intensifies our concern for the poor man; makes it personal. It illustrates how God cares for the poor, and how God is completely aware of their plight. The rich man is nameless and faceless, and could be any rich person. Isn't it interesting how this nameless person seems to have everything in life, but has nothing in death? Isn't it interesting that Lazarus is named and known, and has everything in death, while seeming to have nothing in life? How do you view the "poor" in our society? Ask God to help you identify with the needs of the lowest among us.

Thursday, January 13

Heart - Luke 16:19-31 again

The rich man calls to the great patriarch of the Jewish faith, and asks for Lazarus to be sent to give him some relief from the heat of his agony. Several points are worth noting. First, the heat of the torment may well depict the intense agony of what it means to be confined to the underworld, knowing that God exists and knowing that you are not in heaven. Second, the rich man knows who Lazarus is. During his time on earth, the rich man knew that the poor man was out there and had needs. He even knew his name. Third, the rich man's view of Lazarus has not changed since death. The rich man still views the poor man as someone beneath him who might be sent to give him relief. This reveals the rich man's lack of heart. Are there people in your life who you view as "beneath" you? In your prayers, ask God to correct your lack of heart.

Friday, January 14

Excuses - Matthew 6:11; Matthew 19:16-22

As we pray "give us this day our daily bread," we must consider what this means in the context of our relationships with others. When we ask questions about our skewed priorities, those priorities should always begin with the relational question. Perhaps this story is less about how are we going to miss hell, and more about how we shouldn't miss the opportunity to provide for others. Perhaps the "wide and gaping landfill" has something to do with the excuses we throw out preventing us from being the hands and feet of Christ. In Matthew 19, another wealthy person is confronted with the reality of what it means to follow Jesus. What excuses have you created that keep you from connecting with God's mission in the world?

Saturday, January 15

Will - Romans 1:8-12

The image of the landfill is very potent, serving as both a tactile and metaphorical reminder of all the junk that we accumulate. What junk gets in the way of our reaching out to others? "What's in your ~~wallet~~ landfill?" In the story, there is a chasm between Lazarus and the rich man. This leads us to ask how we get across the chasm between where we are and where God wants us to be. In the story, the chasm was bridged through conversation. How do we open the conversation about how God's will is being done through us now? Paul longed for the day when he could see his friends in Rome again, but there was much standing in the way of that happening. What chasm, or landfill, separates you from the things you long to do? Ask God to bridge that chasm and set you free to do God's will.

Sunday, January 16

Opportunities - Luke 16:19-31 once more

The story is intensified because, while the details could be reversed in life on earth, they are permanent in this scene of eternity. Abraham tells the rich man that what he is asking Lazarus to do for him now, in death, he could have done for Lazarus in life. This is ironic, and perhaps the point. The story ends with a cryptic note pointing to the crucifixion of Christ, and a dark and tragic comment about how we frequently miss the opportunities to serve that God sets before us. Where are the opportunities that you are missing? Ask God to open your eyes to the possibilities of service all around you.