

JOY to the World this Week

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

Joy is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PoWeR SuRGe TAKE HOME TOOLS for December 13, 2009

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.

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Joy Worship Schedule

CELEBRATION WORSHIP — Sunday, 8:00a

A traditional worship experience using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*, led by the Joy Choir, organ, lay liturgists, and special music.

SPIRIT TOUCHING SPIRIT — Sunday, 10:30a

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

Information You Can Use

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

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 foyer, 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, Rick Godwin 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 member, call the church office during regular office hours, or contact the Pastor directly at (832) 549-4985.

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

Rick Godwin — Council Chairperson; **Becky Ohm** — Council Vice-Chairperson; **Vacant** — Secretary; **Beth Horstman** — Treasurer; **Dave Willis** — Financial Secretary

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Vacant — Property; **Vacant** — JoyLife; **Doris Goates** — Worship & Music; **Tracy Posey** — Youth & Family Ministry; **Laura Cabato** — Social Ministry; **Becky Ohm** — Stewardship; **Larry Mikeska** — Communication; **John Garrou** — Evangelism

MINISTRY LEADERS

June Tesch — Joyful Women; **Tracy Posey** — Coordinator FDIC; **Paula Curry** — Jr. High; **Shena Timberlake** — Sr. High; **Beth Horstman** — NCD Health Team; **Brett Carleton** — Growing in Joy; **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** — Worship Team

This week of Joy to the World —

Today — **ADVENT 3**
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a

Monday
— La Cocina: 6:30p
— Church Council: 7:30p
— Joyful Tooters: 7p
— Joy Choir: 7:00p

Tuesday
— NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
— Joy Choir at FMC: 7p

Wednesday
— Pericope Study: 9:30a

Thursday
— PB@J: 7:30p
— Men's Bible Study: 7:30p

Saturday
— Joy Choir: 9a

Next Sunday — **ADVENT 4**
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
— Joy Choir Cantata: 7p

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

ADULT CLASS — Sunday Adult Class begins at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 6, 13, 20 class will focus on the "Purpose of Christmas".

POINSETTIAS — We have ordered poinsettias from the Brookwood Community for our Christmass Worship. Cost is \$9. A signup sheet is in the Narthex. Deadline is Dec. 19th

KRAUSE CHRISTMAS TREE — We have partnered with Krause Children's Center to support the Christmas Angel Tree project. Children's names and prayers will be displayed on the lollipop prayer tree in the Narthex. Please take a lollipop and pray for that child during Advent and beyond. We will also be collecting gift cards to Target and Wal-Mart. There will be a basket at the base of the tree to place cards by **today** so they can be delivered for Christmas.

FAUX FRUITCAKE FUNDRAISER!! — Thrivent still has matching funds that we can use within Joy!! If we can raise \$1020.00 they will match it dollar for dollar. These funds will benefit our Fellowship Hall tables and chairs. Buy your faux fruitcake now - all the joy of giving - none of the hassle of eating! Deadline for money in hand is Dec. 17th so get the word out. This Sunday, is the one and only day to purchase!

A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM — Live Nativity at New Hope Lutheran Church on Sat. Dec. 19th at 6-8 p.m. Experience the wonder.

AUDIO/VIDEO OPERATORS — If you are interested and willing to commit to operating either/or audio/video during late worship, a meeting will be held Wed. evening, 7:30 p.m. If unable to attend, contact Larry Mikeska.

CHRISTMASS CANTATA — Choir members from Faith United Methodist and Bay City Presbyterian Church will be singing with the Joy Choir on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 7:00 p.m. Join us for this wonderful evening!

CHRISTMASS EVE WORSHIP — Service times are 5p - Family/Children's Service; 7:30p - Service of Lessons & Carols; and 10p - Candlelight Services.

CHRISTMASS EVE HELP — Assisting Ministers, Readers, Ushers, and Communion Assistants are needed for Christmass Eve. A signup sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

2010 SERVING SCHEDULE — We are currently working on the new serving schedule and list of servers for 2010. If you did not fill out a Time and Talent sheet for the new year please notify the office if you are still interested in serving in your currently ministry i.e. usher, reader, assisting minister. If you have not served in the past we welcome anyone who would like to assist at Sunday Worship services! There is a great need for Audio Techs and Altar Guild. Please email the office at office@joyrichmond.org or call 281-762-3310.

SAVE THE DATE! — for the Congregational Meeting, Part 2 will be held on Sunday, Jan. 31st at 1 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendars. More details will follow at a later date.

2010 FLOWER CHART — has been posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen. Be sure to specify the celebration/memorial you would like acknowledged in the toolkit.

END OF THE YEAR REMINDER — **Thank you** for your generous financial support of our ministry at Joy this year! For tax advantages, gifts to Joy need to be received at Joy prior to the end of the calendar year. Yearly statements will be printed and sent in January.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All men are invited! Contact Mike Meyer for additional information. It's not too late to join us!

SHADE TREE MINISTRY — Appreciates your generous donations of Rice and Beans. They are also in great need of men's shoes. Donations are always needed and can be placed in the bin in the Narthex.

BIRTHDAYS — 12/17 John Gross; 12/18 Michael Geary & Corinne Light

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 Cantos, 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; Pr. Bazellel Hernandez

Serving Jesus This Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	In celebration of Wohlert Family Birthdays	
Altar Guild	M. Willis/C. Reider/ A. Reider/S. Morris	
Ushers	Cliff & Shelly Halvorsen	Larry & Melissa Mikeska
Acolyte	Kelsey White	Rhianna Schwartz
Liturgist	Bill Bray	Dan Strode
Lector	Jerry Daniels	Gregg Carleton
Cantor	Bill Bray	
Child Sermon		
Communion	Hazel Peska/Marilyn Blaschke/Tracy Posey	
Audio	B&A Walquist	
Counters	Bill Peska/Bob Jahn	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	In celebration of the Kunzler's Anniversary	
Altar Guild	M. Willis/C. Reider/ A. Reider/S. Morris	
Ushers	Mike & Kathy Gann	Parke & Gracia Wyant
Acolyte	Emma Gaas	Brianna Wyant
Liturgist	Cari White	John Garrou
Lector	Jill Kunzler	Susan Krabbe
Cantor	Fred Kunzler	
Child Sermon		
Communion	Paula Curry/Lori Hamner/Kathy Strode	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Aspen Timberlake
Counters	Fred Kunzler/Melissa Mikeska	

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

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

Our Daily Joy!

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY: Give — Week of December 13, 2009

Monday, December 14 1 John 3

It is as we experience the eternal, infinite, measureless love of God that we are able to reflect it selflessly to others. Read John 1:12-13 and 1 John 3:1-3. Ponder what it means to be a child of God. Scripture tells us we are sinners (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10). John tells us that, as God's children, we still sin, but we cannot continue to intentionally wallow in sin (1 John 3:4-10). Consider that sin is the fruit of self-love and glorification. True love, which is rooted in truth, seeks to love, obey, and glorify God, and to love and bless others. Read the rest of 1 John. Read 1 John 3:16-18 again. Spend time in prayer, asking the Lord how you can live into this today.

Tuesday, December 15 1 John 4

What we believe about Jesus is of utmost importance! This Advent, embrace anew the mystery of the Incarnation: Jesus, fully God and fully human, came as God's perfect, atoning sacrifice for our sin. Read 1 John 4:1-6. Satan is stronger than we are, but notice the assurance we have in 4:4. Read 4:7-21, noting that love is not simply an emotion; it is primarily action and choice. How does God demonstrate love for us (Romans 5:8)? Meditate on 1 John 4:8 and 4:16. Memorize 4:19, and pray that God's love will be manifest in and through you.

Wednesday, December 16 1 John 5

Read 1 John 5:1-5. According to John, how do faith and obedience interface with each other? Read 5:6-12. Notice that the Spirit testifies, and the Spirit is truth (5:6). Do you only hope that you have eternal life, or do you have the "blessed assurance" of knowing? Prayerfully, and with gratitude, read 5:13-15. Now read Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-9. Even faith is a gift (Hebrews 12:2a). Ponder God's great, glorious, and totally sufficient love. Read 1 John 5:16-21. Anything that preempts God in our lives is an idol. In 5:18, is John saying believers don't sin (see 1:8-10)? We are not to *dwell* in sin/darkness (1:5-7). Pray, "Lord, in my life, 'thy will be done.'"

Thursday, December 17 2 John

John writes 2 John to the "chosen" woman and her children; this might refer to a specific woman and her family or to a church. Read the epistle and note the references to truth and love. Compare John 14:15, 14:21, 14:23 and 15:10-13 with 2 John 6. How do we demonstrate our love for God? In 2 John, John warns against deceivers. In 3 John, John speaks of hospitality; why here, in 2 John, does he warn against inviting a deceiver into one's home (see Matthew 24:24; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:14)? Read John 1:14, 1 John 4:8-11 and 4:19. Ponder truth and love. Pray that your life will be characterized by truth and love, and that, in this, you will glorify God.

Friday, December 18 3 John

John's third epistle is written to a believer named Gaius, whom John commends for his hospitality and his consistent faith walk. Read 3 John, noting what John has to say about Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius. What brings John joy (4)? How important is hospitality? What are John's complaints about the church leader Demetrius? Do your words and actions make people want to know Jesus? Much of the letter is about encouraging and blessing those who are sharing the gospel with others. How will you be a blessing to those who share God's truth? Spend time praying for your pastors, missionaries, and others who share Jesus.

Saturday, December 19 Jude

Jude, a variation of the name Judas, is thought by many to be a half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55). In Jude's epistle, he calls followers of Jesus to live godly lives, flee from temptation, persevere in the faith, witness to the truth, and pray. Jude begins his epistle by identifying himself as a servant/bondservant/slave of Jesus. Does this also describe you? Read Jude. What does it mean to "contend for the faith" (3)? Consider Jude's warning about the perversion of grace and the danger of sin. Like Jude, we also live in a world where sin and apostasy are rampant. What does it mean to show mercy mixed with fear (23)? Read Jude 20-25 again, and pray.

Sunday, December 20 Psalm 77

Have you ever felt like God was not hearing your prayers and didn't care about your circumstances? The writer of Psalm 77 understands. Read Psalm 77:1-9. Do you hear the Psalmist's anguish? Now read 77:10-20. What changes beginning with 77:10? What was the focus in 77:1-9; what/who is at the center of 77:10-20? Notice how the Psalmist recalls the Lord's greatness, holiness, power, faithfulness, and deliverance. In these, he finds hope. Recount how God has been faithful to you; express your gratitude. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 and continue in prayer.