

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 20, 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 vice-chairperson, Becky Ohm 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

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

Monday — Jr/Sr High Party: 7-9p
— Joyful Tooters: 7p
— Joy Choir: 7:00p

Wednesday — Pericope Study: 9:30a

Thurs-Fri — Office Closed

Thursday — **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Worship Services:
5p Family/Children's Service
7:30p Service of Lessons & Carols
10p Candlelight Service

Friday — **CHRISTMASS DAY**

Next Sunday — **CHRISTMASS 1**
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

ADULT CLASS — Sunday Adult Class begins at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 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 today.

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

JR/SR HIGH CHRISTMASS PARTY — Join us for a Christmass celebration on Monday, Dec. 21st 7-9:30 p.m. at Tracy Posey's house. Bring a gift for the gift exchange \$10 max. Dinner will be provided, sign up to bring dessert. Parents are welcome. Please let Paula or Tracy know so they can plan food. Will look forward to seeing you, it should be a great time!!

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

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, PART 2 — On Sunday, Jan. 31st at 1:00 p.m. we will hold part two of our annual congregational meeting celebrating our ministries at Joy! Plan now to be a part of our annual celebration of all God has accomplished through Joy in 2009!

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.

FAUX FRUITCAKE FUNDRAISER!! — Thank you to everyone who participated in our Faux Fruitcake sale! We raised \$1045.00 for matching funds from Thrivent! In addition we have received generous matching funds to the total from two families at Joy!

SAVE YOUR CHRISTMASS TREES! — The annual trip to Quintana Beach for Dune Restoration Project/Bonfire is scheduled for Sat. Jan. 16th! Drop your trees off next to the education buildings on the lawn area by Jan. 15th. Watch for more info in the future! If you have any questions or you would like to help, contact Doni or Tammy Soward.

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 and work gloves. Donations are always needed and can be placed in the bin in the Narthex.

BIRTHDAYS — 12/20 Angelica Wyant; 12/22 Tom Hubbard; 12/23 Jessica Carleton & Sandy Wohlert

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 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	Fred Kunzler	John Garrou
Lector	Jill Kunzler	Dan Strode
Cantor	Fred Kunzler	
Child Sermon	June Tesch	Tracy Posey
Communion	Paula Curry/Lori Hamner/Kathy Strode	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Aspen Timberlake
Counters	Fred Kunzler/Melissa Mikeska	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	In celebration of the Goates' Anniversary	
Altar Guild	M. Willis/C. Reider/ A. Reider/S. Morris	
Ushers	Darwin & Bev Marvin	Dan & Kathy Strode
Acolyte	Joshua John	Timmy Hamner
Liturgist	Emily Sattler	Corinne Light
Lector	Mike Gann	Irene Carleton
Cantor	Emily Sattler	
Child Sermon	Jerry Daniels	Tracy Posey
Communion	Shirley Morris/Denyse Bray/Joyce Hopkins	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Aspen Timberlake
Counters	Kathy Gann/Fred Kunzler	

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

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

Our Daily Joy!

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY: Love – Week of December 20, 2009

Monday, December 21

Luke 1:1-25

During this blessed week, we must take care not to worship Christmas, but to worship Jesus, God incarnate, who came that we might know and be reconciled to God through Jesus' atoning sacrifice. When you look in the manger, remember the cross. Read 1 Peter 1:18-20. Pause and pray. Now read Luke 1:1-25. Luke is precise and shares many details about the miraculous coming of the one who will herald the Messiah. What does he reveal about John the Baptist, even before John's conception? Did you notice that John was to be filled with the Spirit even before his birth, and that he would be a Nazarite (Luke 1:14-15; Numbers 6:1-8)? Spend time in prayer.

Tuesday, December 22

Luke 1:26-56

If possible, read the lyrics or listen to the song, "Mary, Did You Know?" by Greene and Lowry. Now read Luke 1:26-56. Meditate on Isaiah 40:8; 55:11; Luke 1:37; and 2 Corinthians 1:20. How do these truths affect your faith walk? Ponder Mary's response to the angel (Luke 1:38) and Elizabeth's blessing for Mary (1:45). How did God confirm the angel's message to Mary when she came into Elizabeth's presence (1:41-45)? Notice that this happened before Mary shared her story. Read Mary's song of praise again (1:45-55), and worship the Lord.

Wednesday, December 23

Luke 1:57-80

Read Luke 1:57-80. Reflect back on all of Luke 1, remembering Zechariah, Mary, and Elizabeth, and the moments of faith, doubt, fear, joy, proclamation, and praise. Did you notice the Spirit's presence and activity (1:15c, 35, 41, 67, 80)? Think how Zechariah's words of praise and prophecy (1:67-79) must have sounded to hearts hungry for a word from the Lord. With Zechariah's words, 400 years of prophetic silence ended. Meditate on 1:77; do you equate salvation with the forgiveness of sin? Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and pray.

Thursday, December 24

Luke 2:1-20

Ponder the Gift as you read Luke 2:11-12; John 3:16; and 2 Corinthians 9:15. Pause and pray that you will not focus on the wrappings of the Christmas season, but that you will have a heart and eyes only for the Gift, who is Jesus. Realizing that you are standing on holy ground, read Luke 2:1-20. Jesus was not born into wealth and power; he did not come as the mighty, conquering Messiah many expected. Why might God have chosen for his Son to be born in the most humble of dwellings, and his birth first announced to lowly shepherds? Spend time in silent wonder as you reflect on the magnitude of God's love and the miracle of Jesus' birth. Pray and praise.

Friday, December 25

Luke 2:21-52

In your heart or aloud, sing "Joy to the World." Our Christmas text is Luke 2:21-52. Consider adding Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 1:1-20 to your Scripture reading today. Bask in the wonder and glory of the birth of our Savior. Spend time in prayer and praise. Now look again at Luke 2:21-52. What is the meaning of the name Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew)? See Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:21. Imagine Simeon's joy (Luke 2:25-35). Is Jesus your light and your glory (2:32)? Use "What Child is This?" by Allen and Dix, or your favorite Christmas song, as your hymn of praise.

Saturday, December 26

Colossians 1

Use the thoughts that guided Paul's prayers for the Colossians (1:9-14) to guide your prayer as you begin your time with the Lord. Now read Colossians 1:1-14. For what does Paul commend the Colossians? Meditate on the deep truths of Colossians 1:15-20 (John 1:1-18 will add more insight). Does the realization that all things were created through Jesus and for Jesus (Colossians 1:16) move you to worship? "First born of all creation" refers to Jesus' preeminence, not birth order. Reflect on Jesus' supremacy, his relationship to the church, and the importance of his death and resurrection. Read Colossians 1:19 and 2:9 with John 1:1 and 18. Now read Colossians 1:21-29. Meditate on 1:27 (also John 15:4-5). Dwell in Colossians 1 for as long as you are able. Pray.

Sunday, December 27

Psalms 65

Do we sometimes think our faith is all about us? Read Psalm 65, if possible, in several translations. On whom has David fixed his eyes? In the NKJV, 65:3 reads, "As for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them." Ponder the greatness of God's salvation plan as you read Genesis 22:8, John 1:29, and Revelation 5:9-10. Reflect again on the Gift of Christmas. Pray you will worship the Lord with your every breath.