

JOY to the World this Week

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH / 717 FM 359, RICHMOND, TX 77469 / (281) 762-3310

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

PoWeR SuRGe Toolkit for February 15, 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; **Rachel Divin** — Secretary; Beth Horstman — Treasurer; Dave Willis — Financial Secretary

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bill Barr — Property; **Rachel Divin** — JoyLife; **Doris Goates** — Worship & Music; **Tracy Posey** — Youth & Family Ministry; **Laura Cabato** — Social Ministry; **Becky Ohm** — Stewardship; **Jeanette Richards** — Communication; **John Garrou** — Evangelism

MINISTRY LEADERS

June Tesch — Joyful Women; **Tracy Posey** — Coordinator FDIC; **Jason & Jeni Morrison** — Jr. High; **Shena Timberlake** — Sr. High; **Beth Horstman** — NCD Health Team; **Mike Gann** — Growing in Joy

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** — EPIPHANY 5
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
- Monday** — NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
— FDIC Meeting: 6:30p
— Joyful Tooters: 7p
— Joy Choir: 7:30p
- Tuesday** — JW Bible Study: 10a & 7p
- Wednesday** — Text Study: 9:30a
— Confirmation: 6p
— Ruth Bible Study: 7p
- Thursday** — Men's Bible Study: 7p
— Worship Team: 7:30p
- Fri-Sat** — Tri-Synod Men's Gathering in Austin
- Next Sunday** — TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

FDIC MEETING — Monday, Feb. 16th at 6:30 p.m.

LIBRARY NEWS — Our Library will soon be open for checking out books. If anyone has any books they would like to contribute to the library please bring them in as soon as possible. Thanks!

WATER TO THRIVE — Jr. High is continuing to collect money for Water to Thrive in the well in the Narthex.

JOYFUL WOMEN BIBLE STUDY — is underway thru April 21st every Tuesday at 10 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Study guides are \$9 and provide weekly lessons to complete. Contact for more info or questions June Tesch.

RUTH BIBLE STUDY — Wednesday, Feb. 18th at 7 p.m. All women are welcome. For more info contact Sherry Barr or Rachel Divin.

TRI-SYNOD MEN'S GATHERING — at Triumphant Love LC in Austin, Tx Feb. 20th & 21st. The theme is "Log On. Connect & Serve—God's Work. Our Hands". Newest post on <http://gulfcoastmen.blogspot.com/>. The goal is to have at least 2-3 men from each congregation attend.

ASH WEDNESDAY — Feb. 25th - Worship services at 6 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Lenten Worship services every Wednesday beginning March 4th at 7:30 p.m.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES — will begin Sunday, March 1st at noon. Is your child ready to commune? That's up to you as a parent! Call the Church office to sign up or Pr. Tim for questions/discussion.

LYO SR HIGH COMMUNITY OF SERVICE — on Feb. 27th thru March 1st. Sr. High LYO will serve the needs of our neighbors in the greater Brenham area.

MID WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP — Begins on Wed. March 4th thru April 1st at 7:30 p.m. with a Soup Supper served at 6:30. Watch for a sign up sheet in the Narthex for the Soup Suppers!

FAMILY LENTEN DEVOTIONALS — We will have a combo pack to continue practicing our 4 keys of faith foundation. Devotions, Rituals & Traditions, Caring Conversations & Family Service. The packets include Watch & Wait daily Lenten devotions, companion window calendar and their very own Watch & Wait Lenten Mobile. Each day the children will cut out an image to hang on the mobile. As it grows Easter approaches! Your children should be receiving theirs during Sunday school beginning today and next Sunday. Extras will be available in the Narthex for family & friends. FDIC encourages the use of these tools to help prepare us to "watch & wait" for Jesus as we anticipate Easter Sunday.

LADIES RETREAT — Indulge yourself in a weekend of relaxation and rejuvenation amidst the natural beauty of Lutherhill on March 6th thru 8th. For more info and registration go to www.lutherhill.org.

FAITHFUL FUN FOR ADULTS — Via de Cristo. Need a break to get out of the craziness of life and spend some fun and relaxing time growing in relationship with God? Come to Camp Lutherhill for Via de Cristo. Men's weekend - April 23rd-26th, Women's weekend - April 30th - May 2nd. Contact Pr. Christ, Pr. Kastner, Becky Ohm or Jeanette & Milton Richards if you have questions.

THE ANNUAL "CROP WALK" — at the George Ranch is scheduled for Sat. March 28th at 8 a.m. Sign up to walk or contribute to a walker! The walk is 3-miles, enjoy a peaceful walk with your family or friends and help feed the hungry! Sign up & pledge envelopes will be available in the Narthex.

LUTHERHILL SPRING RETREATS — will be March 28-29th for upper elementary youth and April 4-5th for Jr. & Sr. High students. Look for more info on the Lutherhill website at www.lutherhill.org. Cost is \$50pp.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Thursday evenings, 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Joy.

BIRTHDAYS — 2/16 Dawn Currie & Rebecca Geary; 2/18 Gracie Wyant; 2/19 Mike Ronning; 2/20 Sasha Senn;

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. Herb Palmer

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

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

Our Inter-Lutheran Ministry Partners: St. Paul's, Rosenberg: Interim, Peace, Rosenberg: Pr. Norm Albertson.

Serving Jesus Today

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	Celebration of Brandi & Randi Goates Birthdays	
Altar Guild	D. Bray/K & W Faucett/B. Marvin/B. McDow	
Ushers	D. Boenig & R. Godwin	Chuck & Kyle Canterbury
Acolyte	Ariel Landinger	Taylor Currie
Liturgist	Ashley Stutes	Susan Krabbe
Lector	Zack White	Pam Hill
Cantor	Darin Mielke	
Child Sermon	Laura Parnell	Shena Timberlake
Communion	B. Geary/M. Blaschke/D. Bray	
Audio	Courtney White	Aspen Timberlake
Counters	Bob Jahn/Jim Hill	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	Celebration of Keli Faucett's Birthday	
Altar Guild	D. Bray/K & W Faucett/B. Marvin/B. McDow	
Ushers	Cliff & Shelly Halvorsen	Larry & Melissa Mikeska
Acolyte	Abby Timberlake	Kaylyn McStravick
Liturgist	Emily Sattler	Corinne Light
Lector	June Tesch	Vickie Schoppe
Cantor	Emily Sattler	
Child Sermon	Ashley Stutes	Kayla Posey
Communion	Gregg & Irene Carleton/Betty McDow	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Lisa Ronning
Counters	Kathy Gann/Bill Peska	

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

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

Our Daily Joy!

Seasons of Discipleship...Lying Fallow — Week of February 15, 2009

Monday, February 16 **Is Being Busy the Highest Virtue?**

Perhaps you have today off because it is President's Day. Consider spending quiet moments in prayer for national and world leaders, but then also quiet your spirit and begin anew to ponder the meaning of resting in the Lord. How often, when we ask others how they are, do they respond, "busy!" Is being busy the highest virtue; is it our activity that defines us and makes our lives purposeful? Read Exodus 23:10-13; Psalm 46:10; and Matthew 11:28-30. Are you weary? Do you long to be nearer to the Lord? Sit quietly in Jesus' presence and find rest and peace.

Tuesday, February 17 **Law or Grace?**

When you hear the command to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, do you hear law or grace? Ponder this as you read Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11; 23:10-13; Matthew 11:28-12:13; and Mark 2:27-28. Is time apart for worship and rest a gloriously wonderful gift or simply a demand? If it is a gift, do you receive it with a joyful and thankful heart? Did the Spirit give you any new insights about how Sabbath rest affects us and our relationships with God and others? How do worship and rest affect and reflect our trust in God? The One who created and redeemed us knows best how to bless us. Talk to the Lord about receiving the gift/grace of the Sabbath.

Wednesday, February 18 **Fallow Ground**

Reflect again on the themes of Days 1 and 2. Now ponder what fallow ground means in agriculture and in our lives. Read God's instructions to the Israelites in Exodus 23:10-13 and Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28-30. Consider that fallow refers to being uncultivated, inactive, unused, and/or unproductive for a time. In our society, inactivity or lack of productivity is often cause for angst, but is this necessarily the biblical view? Certainly we hear words like press on and strive in Scripture, but we also are reminded to rest or to find rest. Are seasons when we are like fallow ground always of our choosing? Listen to Jesus say, "Come to me"; seek Jesus and find rest.

Thursday, February 19 **Where Is the Blessing?**

We often think the greatest blessing is in constant activity and in doing. Is there blessing in just being? As you read Exodus 23:10-13; Psalm 37:7a; 91:1-2; Matthew 11:28-30; and Mark 6:30-31, jot down the blessings of rest or lying fallow. Can even seasons of fallowness that are forced on us by circumstances (unemployment, sickness, debilitating grief, brokenness, and depletion), when yielded to the Lord, become times of healing and restoration of our spirits? Do we find our best blessings in life circumstances or in the Lord? Pray your way through Psalm 27.

Friday, February 20 **Remember!**

Why do you think the commandment about the Sabbath begins with the word, "Remember" (*Exodus 20:8*)? How easy is it to forget that we are made to worship; we are created for God's glory; and we need God's Sabbath rest (*Psalm 95:1-7; Isaiah 43:7; Luke 10:38-42*)! But do we need rest only on the Sabbath? If one must work on the Sabbath (traditionally Saturday, but many Christians celebrate Sunday/Resurrection Day as the Sabbath), are there ways to honor God's command? Tell the Lord of your desire to seek time alone to allow him to refresh you; share your desire for an ever-closer walk with Jesus. How might your rest also be a gift to others (*Exodus 23:10-13*)?

Saturday, February 21 **Refreshment and Restoration**

Read Exodus 23:10-13; Psalm 23:1-6; 36:7-9; and Matthew 11:28-30, pondering all the references to refreshment and restoration. In Psalm 23, what is the correlation between rest and restoration? If we are always busy, will we hear the Lord knocking at the doors of our hearts (*John 10:27; Revelation 3:20*)? Read Matthew 11:28-30 again; listen to Jesus say, "Come." Now consider Horatius Bonar's lyrics: "I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come to Me and rest; lay down, thou weary one, lay down, thy head upon My breast.' I came to Jesus as I was, weary worn and sad; I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad." In prayer, receive the grace and rest Jesus offers.

Sunday, February 22 **Shabbat Shalom**

The Hebrew words "Shabbat Shalom" are greeting, blessing, and prayer. Our translation, "Sabbath Peace," only touches on the riches of the oft-heard expression. Consider that the root of Shabbat means to sit; the root of Shalom embraces the ideas of completion, perfection, and peace. Again ponder how you perceive Exodus 20:8-11; the Pharisees saw law; Jesus offers grace (*read Matthew 11:28-12:14; Mark 2:27-28*). Listen to Jesus' invitation (*Matthew 11:28; Mark 6:31b and John 7:37-38*). After Jesus refreshes us, he will again send us out in his strength for God's glory. Pray for the gift/grace of Shabbat Shalom; you will be strengthened to love God and serve others.