

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 March 1, 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** — LENT 1
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
— Sr. High Coffeehouse: 9:15a
— Jr. High Chill & Spill: 9:15a
— First Communion Class begins: noon
- Monday** — FDIC Meeting: 6:30p
— Joyful Tooters: 7p
— Joy Choir: 7:30p
— Council Study: 8p
- Tuesday** — JW Bible Study: 10a & 7p
— Confirmation: 6p
- Wednesday** — Soup Supper: 6:30p
— Lenten Worship: 7:30p
- Thursday** — Men's Bible Study: 7p
— Worship Team: 7:30p
- Fri-Sat** — Lutherhill Women's Retreat
- Next Sunday** — LENT 2
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
— First Communion Class: noon

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

FDIC MEETING — Monday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

LIBRARY NEWS — Our Library is now open. We have many good books to choose from. You may use the library anytime the building is open. Come in and check it out. Any questions ask Sue Jahn or Darleen Kastner.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS! — We are seeking volunteers to share your talents for 3-5 minutes prior to Midweek Lenten services. Sign up in the Narthex.

MID WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP — Begins this week Wednesday thru April 1st at 7:30 p.m. with a Soup Supper served at 6:30. A sign up sheet is now in the Narthex to bring your special and unique contribution to these fellowship meals. Along with the sign up sheet are instructions for bringing soup. Please be sure to take a copy of the instructions when you sign up!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES — will begin today at noon. Is your child ready to commune? That's up to you as parents! Call the Church office to sign up or Pr. Tim for questions/discussion.

EASTER LILIES — Purchase your Easter Lily in honor/memorial of a loved one to brighten our sanctuary during Easter Services! Cost is \$9.00. Checks are to be deposited in the envelope at the time of sign up. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Deadline is April 5th.

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. Your child should have received theirs during Sunday school. Extras are 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.

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

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.

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.

HOP ON THE BUS 2009! — Join us Aug. 3-7th when we will be traveling to Cristo Rey for Vacation Bible School! We would like to start planning our trip on Sunday, March 29th after church. If you are interested in joining us, sign up now in the Narthex or join us on March 29th for more info. Contact Paula Curry with any questions.

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

ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS ON SEXUALITY IS ONLINE — available at www.elca.org by clicking on the appropriate link.

BIRTHDAYS — 3/2 Tammy Soward & Ashley Stutes; 3/7 James White

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 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	Chuck Canterbury
Lector	Bob 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	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	Celebration of Marvin Family Baptism	
Altar Guild	K. McCarter/D. Pitman/C. & A. Rieder/M. Willis	
Ushers	T. Soward & A. Stutes	Parke & Gracie Wyant
Acolyte	Emma Gaas	Megan Budd
Liturgist	Fred Kunzler	Dan Strode
Lector	Mike Meyer	Corinne Light
Cantor	Fred Kunzler	
Child Sermon		
Communion	Mike & Judy Ronning/Joyce Hopkins	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Jessica Carleton
Counters	Kim Hodenfield/Pam Hill	

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

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

Our Daily Joy!

Taking Root: Walking Wet...Water of Promise — Week of March 1, 2009

Monday, March 2

A Time of Preparation

The Lenten Season, the weeks preceding Easter, is a time for reflection and meditation on the wonder of God's love made manifest in Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the Cross and glorious resurrection on Easter. In the early church (and in some churches today), Lent was a time of instruction and spiritual nurturing for those who would be baptized during the Easter vigil. Consider your own baptism; do you see it as a testimony to God's grace or as a work you must do to be saved? If it is a gift of grace, how do you/we receive it? Read Matthew 28:18-20; John 1:12-13, 29-34; and Acts 2:37-42. This Lent, pray you will learn to more fully live in your baptismal covenant.

Tuesday, March 3

Covenants

A covenant is a sacred promise or pledge; the theme of covenant weaves like a golden thread through Scripture. Our week's texts recall one of God's covenants; read Genesis 9:8-17 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. God takes the initiative in Scriptural covenants; some require God's people to respond; some are unilateral. Can you recall other Biblical covenants? The New Testament is also called the New Covenant; ponder this. Read Genesis 15:1-21; 17:1-13; Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 31:31-34; and Matthew 26:26-30. Is there a relationship between circumcision (*Genesis 17*) and baptism? How does each relate to the covenant community? Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 and pray.

Wednesday, March 4

Sign of the Covenant

Read Genesis 9:8-17; mark every reference to covenant. This covenant, established between God and all creation, is everlasting. What is its sign? The waters that brought judgment on sin also brought those on the ark to safety. Now read 1 Peter 3:18-22; the text is difficult. Pray for insight into Peter's analogies. Peter mentions "the pledge of a good conscience toward God" (3:21, *NIV*); what was Noah's "pledge of a good conscience"? Was it trust in God's word? At the risk of stretching an analogy, consider that as we are "saved through water" (*baptism—3:20-21*), Jesus is our ark, the One who saves us. What is the covenant sign (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)? Pray with gratitude.

Thursday, March 5

Baptism: Gift and Grace

Our human tendency is to try to earn our salvation one way or another. Ponder the abundance of God's gifts and grace. Can we earn these? Even faith is a gift of God's grace (*Mark 9:24; John 6:44; 17:25-26a; 1 Timothy 1:14; Hebrews 12:2*), and this is a divine mystery. Hear God's heart as you read Luke 15:20; 19:10; John 3:16-17; 6:37; 1 Timothy 2:4; Titus 2:11; and 2 Peter 3:9. Baptism is a command (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38*), but it's a command established in grace; being baptized is running into or resting in Jesus' love; it's receiving the gift he purchased with his blood. Pray Toplady's lyrics: "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy Cross I cling."

Friday, March 6

Let's Open the Gifts

Many receive God's gifts but neglect to open them; it's like putting aside a wrapped package. Grace, baptism, forgiveness, salvation, the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, and so much more are part of our inheritance as God's beloved children. Do we walk in our baptismal covenant; repent and seek forgiveness and renewal daily; and allow the Spirit to work in and through us; or do we claim but then ignore God's priceless gifts, leaving them "on the shelf"? Read Romans 6:1-11; Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 2:9-14; and Titus 3:4-8. What are these epistle writers telling us about our life in Christ? Talk to the Lord about "unwrapping" what it means to belong to Jesus.

Saturday, March 7

Make Disciples

Jesus doesn't tell us simply to baptize; he says, "*Go, make disciples.*" Do you see yourself as a disciple of Jesus; if so, do you invite others into relationship with Jesus and encourage them in their faith journeys? Read Matthew 28:18-20. Did you notice Jesus' words about baptizing, teaching, and obeying? What do the following texts teach about being a disciple and/or making disciples: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; John 13:34-35; 14:15; Ephesians 4:11-13; and Hebrews 10:14-25; 13:20-21? Talk to Jesus about growing as a disciple and about making disciples.

Sunday, March 8

Walking Wet

Read Matthew 5:17-18; Romans 10:4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Titus 3:4-8a; and 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2:9-10, considering how each reflects back to thoughts about Covenant and God's initiative in reaching out to us with mercy and love. Did you notice that the promises are rooted in Jesus' death and resurrection? "Walking wet" refers to how we live daily in light of our baptism, in light of God's grace. Ponder this and pray as you read Colossians 2:6-15; 3:1-4, 12-17. Three times in Colossians 3:15-17, Paul tells us to be thankful. Offer thanks!