

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 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; **Brett Carleton** — Growing In Joy; **Cari White** — 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 — LENT 3
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a

Monday — NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
— Joyful Tooters: 7p
— Joy Choir: 7:30p

Tuesday — JW Bible Study: 10a & 7p

Wednesday — Soup Supper: 6:30p
— Lenten Worship: 7:30p

Thursday — Men's Bible Study: 7p
— Worship Team: 7:30p

Saturday — JoyLife Workday: 9a

Next Sunday — LENT 4
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
— First Communion Class: noon

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

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 — Wednesdays 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!

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 — Pick up a Lenten Devotional from the Narthex! Extras are available for family & friends. FDIC encourages the use of these tools to help prepare us to "watch & wait" for Jesus as we anticipate Easter Sunday.

JOYLIFE WORKDAY — Are you interested in working on the bulletin boards in the hallway? On Saturday, March 21st there will be a planning/work crew at 9 a.m. Join the crew if you have ideas or would like to help!

RESCHEDULED FDIC MEETING — Monday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

JR HIGH GARAGE SALE/CARWASH/BBQ — Jr. High is now collecting garage sale items for their fundraiser on May 2nd. If you have items you would like to donate, leave them in the Jr. High classroom. Watch the toolkit and newsletter for more info about this fun event!

NORDIC CHOIR TO PRESENT CONCERT — the flagship choral ensemble of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa will appear in concert on Tues, March 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 18220 Upper Bay Road in Houston (2 blocks from Space Center). Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. Call 1-800-4LUTHER or visit www.luthertickets.com for tickets.

RUTH BIBLE STUDY — Thurs. March 26th at 7 p.m. We will be watching "One Night with the King" and compare Hollywood to the Word. Our Esther lessons are during March, April and May. All are welcome!

FAMILY GROWTH RETREAT — at Lutherhill on Sat. March 28th 11:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. Lutherhill is offering you and your family the opportunity to spend some quality time together for an afternoon. Lunch and a cook-out dinner will be provided. Please RSVP at (979) 249-3232 or office@luthershill.org. This retreat is on us! All we ask is that you tell us what you think of the retreat.

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.

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.

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.

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

BIRTHDAYS — 3/15 Kristen Canterbury; 3/19 Jim Hill

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 Shannon Lieke's Birthday	
Altar Guild	K. McCarter/D. Pitman/C. & A. Rieder/M. Willis	
Ushers	Al & Candace Rieder	Lisa & Amanda Ronning
Acolyte	Chance Morrison	Taylor Currie
Liturgist	Dan Strode	John Garrou
Lector	Weldon Faucett	Rose Cabato
Cantor	Dan Strode	
Child Sermon	Courtney White	Jessica Carleton
Communion	Jim & Pam Hill/Kathy Strode	
Audio	Beth Horstman	Aspen Timberlake
Counters	Allen Schoppe/Tammy Soward	

Serving Jesus Next Sunday

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Altar Flowers	Celebration of Jim Hill's Birthday	
Altar Guild	K. McCarter/D. Pitman/C. & A. Rieder/M. Willis	
Ushers	Chad & Rachel Divin	Larry & Melissa Mikeska
Acolyte	Ariel Lander	Kaylyn McStravick
Liturgist	Darin Mielke	Chuck Canterbury
Lector	Jerry Daniels	Doris Goates
Cantor	Darin Mielke	
Child Sermon	June Tesch	Kayla Posey
Communion	John Garrou/Becky Geary/Tracy Posey	
Audio	Courtney White	Lisa Ronning
Counters	Bob Jahn/Jim 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...Tablets of Stone — Week of March 15, 2009

Monday, March 16

Grace Comes First

This week our focus is on the Ten Commandments, but we come to them through the venue of other texts which remind us that they are far more than a set of rules. We embrace the commandments not to earn God's favor but because we are God's people and long to be in the closest possible relationship with God. As you read the following texts, notice which comes first, our obedience or God's grace: Genesis 15:1,6; Exodus 19:3-8; Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Leviticus 19:18b; Mark 12:29-31; John 13:34-35; 14:15; and 1 Peter 2:9-10. Do you cherish the gift of grace? Do you demonstrate your thankfulness in how you live each day? Spend time with the LORD.

Tuesday, March 17

Listen to the Entire Message

Some are quick to reject the Hebrew Scriptures (*Old Testament*) and embrace only the message of God's love in Jesus (*John 3:16*), but what does Paul say about all Scripture (*2 Timothy 3:14-17*)? As we dwell in Scripture this week, be aware of grace in the Hebrew Scriptures and law (the command to obey) in the New Testament. At times, we hear only what we want to hear; pray you will listen to the Lord speak with your heart wide open. Read Exodus 19:3-8; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Jeremiah 31:3, 31-33; Matthew 5:17-19; and John 14:23a; 15:9-14. Pray.

Wednesday, March 18

What Does It Mean to Love the LORD?

In Days 1 and 2, we read Scriptures that said we demonstrate our love for God by obeying God. Sometimes we equate love simply with an emotional response, but Scripture takes us deeper. Read Mark 13:29-31; John 13:34-35; 14:15, 23a; 15:9-14; James 2:17-19; and 1 John 2:3-6; 4:9-10, 4:19-5:5. God comes with grace and love; it is total gift (*Ephesians 2:8-9*), but can we take the gifts yet spurn the Giver? Isn't that what we are doing when we willfully choose to ignore God's commands? Notice that the promise of obedience is joy (*John 15:10-11*; *what is another benefit—Matthew 11:29-30?*). Tell the Lord of your love and of your desire to demonstrate it in obedience.

Thursday, March 19

Living in Relationship

Worldly wisdom tells us to see through the lenses of our desires and understandings. What does Scripture tell us (*Isaiah 29:16*; *55:8-11*; *Romans 11:33-36*; *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*)? Do we trust God's heart as we read the Ten Commandments; do we believe they guide us into the fullest and most blessed life and relationships? Consider the Cross; the vertical beam points to our relationship with God; the horizontal reminds us of our relationships with others; relate this to the Ten Commandments as you read Exodus 20:1-19. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Share what the LORD has revealed to you with someone else. Pray you will see God's love and grace in these teachings.

Friday, March 20

Our Dependence on God and Need for a Savior

Read Exodus 20:1-19; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Mark 12:29-31; and John 13:34-35. The teachings about living in relationship with God and others are clear, but are we able to fully obey? Even if we follow the letter of the law, we will always fall short in living the heart of the law (*Romans 3:23*). The Spirit works in us to transform us, but we are helpless and lost in sin apart from the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus (*2 Corinthians 3:17-18*; *Galatians 2:19-21*). Does grace negate the importance of the law or does grace provide the power and desire to live to please the Lord (*Romans 8:1-13*; *Ephesians 5:8-10*). Tell the Lord you want to love God and others with all your heart.

Saturday, March 21

Love, Honor, Obey, Remember, Teach

In Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Moses shares the utmost importance of obedience that flows from love (the promises are corporate). Are you feeding the hearts and minds of your family with God's Word? Read Exodus 20:1-19. Have you memorized the Ten Commandments? A McGuffey Reader poem might help you learn them: "Above all else love God alone; bow down to neither wood nor stone. God's name refuse to take in vain; the Sabbath rest with care maintain. Respect your parents all your days; hold sacred human life always. Be loyal to your chosen mate; steal nothing, neither small nor great. Report, with truth, your neighbor's deed; and rid your mind of selfish greed."

Sunday, March 22

Two Mountains, Two Sermons

Jesus calls his authentic followers to be salt and light (*Matthew 5:13-16*). How does this relate to Moses' words in Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and Paul's in Colossians 3:12-17? Moses received instructions for the LORD's people on Mt. Sinai (*Exodus 20:1-19*); Jesus taught about the heart of the law from a mountainside (*Matthew 5-7*). We are called to live the law of love—love for God and love for others (*Mark 12:29-31*)—the Ten Commandments 'in a nutshell.' Read Matthew 5-7 with a heart of gratitude for God's grace and a desire to live to please God.