

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 22, 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; **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 4
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
— First Communion Class: noon
- Monday**
— FDIC Meeting: 6:30p
— Joyful Tooters: 7p
— Joy Choir: 7:30p
- Tuesday**
— JW Bible Study: 10a & 7p
— Confirmation: 6p
— Nordic Choir Concert: 7:30p
- Wednesday**
— Soup Supper: 6:30p
— Lenten Worship: 7:30p
- Thursday**
— Ruth Bible Study: 7p
— Men's Bible Study: 7p
— Worship Team: 7:30p
- Saturday**
— Crop Walk: 8a
— Family Growth Retreat: 11a-7p
- Next Sunday** — LENT 5
— Worship: 8:00a & 10:30a
— Christian Education: 9:15a
— "Hop on the Bus" Planning Mtg: 12p

—Live, Love & Serve with Joy!

Ministry Opportunities

PLAN AHEAD!! — *Holy week worship schedule:*

Maunder Thursday: 7:30 p.m.

First communion for our young people

Good Friday: 7:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday: 7:30 p.m.

The Easter Vigil & Baptismal Renewal

Easter: 8:00a - 9:15a - 10:30a

Three Worship Celebrations

Joy Sunday School Celebration

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.

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

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 for more info. Contact Paula Curry with any questions.

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!

BLESSING OF THE KEYS — This year's milestone celebration will include a discussion meeting on April 25th for parents & new drivers. On April 26th at worship services new drivers will receive a book, keychain and a blessing! Sign up now in the Narthex.

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.

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!

BIRTHDAYS — 3/22 Eric Garcia; 3/24 Laura Cabato; 3/35 Lou Gross; 3/26 Allen Schoppe; 2/27 Gregg Carleton

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 Jim Hill's Birthday | |
| Altar Guild | K. McCarter/D. Pitman/C. & A. Rieder/M. Willis | |
| Ushers | Chad & Rachel Divin | Larry & Melissa Mikeska |
| Acolyte | Ariel Landing | 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 | |

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 | Bob & June Tesch | Mike & Kayla Posey |
| Acolyte | Abby Timberlake | Rhianna Schwartz |
| Liturgist | Dan Strode | Susan Krabbe |
| Lector | Alan Lowe | John Garrou |
| Cantor | Dan Strode | |
| Child Sermon | Chris Parnell | Shena Timberlake |
| Communion | Beth Horstman/Hazel Peska/Lori Hamner | |
| Audio | Beth Horstman | James Goates |
| Counters | Melissa Mikeska/ Bill Peska | |

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE — www.joyrichmond.org

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

Our Daily Joy!

Taking Root: Walking Wet...Gospel of Truth – Week of March 22, 2009

Monday, March 23

"Ancient Words, Ever True"

Are our faith journeys gradual ascents up a straight and predictable road, culminating in "spiritual maturity"? Or are there peaks and valleys; periods of growth and bearing fruit but also times of lying fallow; and seasons of joyful, exuberant delight in our relationship with the Lord, but also periods of quiet peace, or maybe even times of desperation? Consider reading about seasons in the life and faith of the prophet Elijah: 1 Kings 17:1-19:18. Where are you today in your relationship with the Lord? Do you desire a closer, more intimate walk with Jesus and a life that bears more fruit? Read John 10:14-15, 27-28; 15:4-5 and Philipians 1:6, 9-11; 2:13; 4:4-7. Pray.

Tuesday, March 24

"They Resound with God's Own Heart"

DeShazo writes, "Holy words, long preserved for our walk in this world; they resound with God's own heart; O let the ancient words impart..." Do you hear God's heart as you read the Bible? Pray it will be so! Listen to what the Psalmist, Jeremiah, Jesus, Paul, and Peter say about the Word: Psalm 119:18,34-35,89,105,111,165-168; Jeremiah 15:16; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; and 2 Peter 1:19-21. Do you approach Scripture as a starving person comes to a banquet table? Consider Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalm 63:1; and John 6:26-29,35. Do you feast on God's Word and invite others to the table? Note the correlation between faith and the Word in Romans 10:17. Pray.

Wednesday, March 25

Look Up!

Just as 21st Century believers often complain and grumble, so did God's ancient people, Israel. Though God provided for the people's needs during the wilderness wanderings, they were not satisfied. Read Numbers 21:4-9. The text might seem odd, but consider that the snakes' venomous bites were God's judgment on sin and the pole was the picture of God's grace (yes, God judged sin, but God also provided the means of grace, of life and restoration). The snake on the pole would help the people see the correlation between sin/judgment and grace/life. They couldn't save themselves; they could look up in faith and experience grace and life. Embrace this truth.

Thursday, March 26

Come to Jesus with Your Questions

Our Gospel text is from John 3; read 3:1-21. Notice that Nicodemus comes to Jesus, uncertain about what to believe. Meditate on the revelation of God's heart of love and desire to save us. What does it mean to believe in the name of the only Son of God (3:18)? Notice the contrast between light and darkness (3:19-21; see also 1:4-13)? Nicodemus had questions; he didn't understand everything Jesus told him, but we know from later accounts that Nicodemus believed Jesus (7:50-51; 19:38-42). Some reject Jesus because they have questions; others come to Jesus with their uncertainties. Seek the light of Jesus' presence as you read Scripture. Talk honestly to Jesus.

Friday, March 27

The Cross

Glance again at Day 3 and then read John 3:14-21; 8:28; 12:32-36. The Israelites were not to worship the pole; we are not to worship the Cross, but the pole and the Cross help us see God's ineffable holiness (the aspect of God's nature that must judge sin) and God's limitless, relentless love (the aspect of God's nature that caused Jesus to take on Himself, to bear, the penalty for our sin). God judges sin, but God also provides the way of redemption, the escape from God's judgment on sin. Read John 1:29; Romans 5:8; 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; and Galatians 6:14. Pray in Jesus' name; don't just accept facts about him; adore him, obey him, and offer him your heart and life.

Saturday, March 28

The Word and Faith

Our theme texts teach us to look to Jesus, trusting him as the One through whom God offers forgiveness, grace, and salvation. Does the beauty and symmetry of God's Word delight you; are you thrilled to see how the ancient words of the Hebrew Scriptures paint pictures, centuries before the Messiah's birth, that help us understand God's plan for redemption, fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? Ponder the link between faith and the Word as you read Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Luke 8:4-15; Romans 10:17; and 1 Peter 1:23-25. Pray your heart will be good soil.

Sunday, March 29

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9; John 3:1-21; 20:30-31; 21:15-17; and Romans 10:8-17. Cradle your Bible in your hands; do you cherish this precious revelation of God's love and grace? Will you share it as you witness with your words and with your life? Consider Hankey's lyrics and then pray. "I love to tell the story...of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings, as nothing else can do...(it) seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet...the message of salvation from God's own holy Word."