

Simple Joy

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

October 2019
Volume 16, Issue 10

Join us for

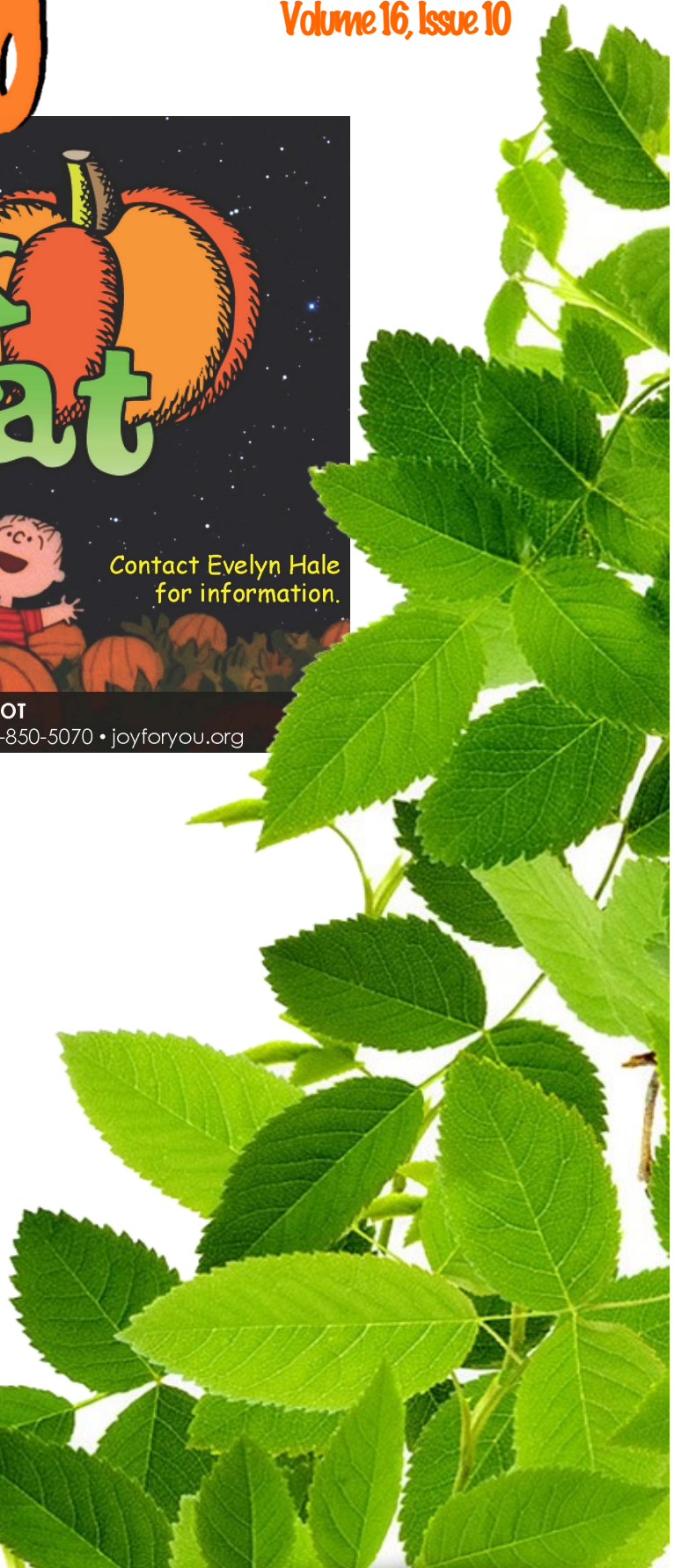
Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 26
6-8 p.m.

Have your vehicle set up
by 5:45 p.m.

Contact Evelyn Hale
for information.

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT
14450 Woodson Park Dr., Houston, TX 77044 • Phone: 832-850-5070 • joyforyou.org





For the last two newsletters I wrote about three key words! They are words that describe our discipleship process here at Joy. These key words are as follows:

1. CONNECT- Connecting to Jesus Christ and to others.
2. GROW- Grow in our faith and our relationship with Christ and others.
3. SERVE- When we become mature as disciples we serve God and others.

This is simply what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We become more like Him. Ephesians 4:11-13 says, *"It was he (Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ (the Church) may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

As your Pastor, I am here to help you connect, grow and serve God and others. When you become a mature Christian, you see the need to help others do the same. That is why Jesus commanded us to *"go and make disciples of all people."*

So it is my prayer that you commit to maturing as a disciple! Get involved! Ask God to show you how you can serve! You will be glad you did!

May God bless your journey!

Pastor Mark

Highlights

Autumn is here, and with it October brings in oranges and yellows, witches and goblins. Every year one of the holidays kids like best arrives — Halloween. In my neighborhood most kids celebrate at churches, schools, and festivals, and parties. Not as many are coming door-to-door any more. In these days it's probably safer. With that in mind, Joy will be hosting a Trunk or Treat again this year!



Barbara Ogden, Editor

If anyone wishes to contribute to our Simple Joy newsletters, please contact me at angelcare4u@sbcglobal.net Thank you!

TRUNK OR TREAT will be on Saturday, October 26th, 2019, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Evelyn Hale graciously volunteered to organize it. Thanks Evelyn! Read more about the spooky event on p. 6.

Volunteering

Joy is grateful for volunteers who step up when help is needed. Some volunteering, like teaching and hosting small groups takes more time, other opportunities are shorter, like volunteering at events like the Fall carnival, potlucks, or the upcoming Trunk or Treat. See some of our volunteers on p. 4.

Please Remember :

Newsletter Submissions for November are due Monday, October 21st

Thank you ahead of time for your contributions to our Simple Joy Newsletters. It takes a team to put it together each month.

Read more about what's going on at Joy by flipping through the pages of this issue and, as always, I pray it will be informative, spark your curiosity, and make its way into the hands of people you care about. Until next month...

Altar Flowers for Sundays



If you'd like to get flowers for the altar on Sundays, go into the church office to check the Flower Chart on the bulletin board. Just sign up for the date you'd like to get flowers.

The Sunday before the date on which you signed up, pick up the vases from Kathy Sommers. Arrangements at the HEB in Summerwood are \$35.00 per vase, but we must use certain flowers for this price. (You can go somewhere else, but the price may be different. (Some members like to buy and arrange the flowers themselves.)

Take the vases to HEB (the Wednesday before is the latest to drop off vases for the upcoming Sunday). Give them to the florists and tell them you're from JOY Lutheran Church and need flowers for the altar. Choose any of the flowers that are on display in the floral area at HEB that week. **Note:** if you request special flowers that need to be ordered, and they are not out on the floor, it will cost more than the \$35.00 a vase.

The arrangements will be prepared on Saturday evening and will be ready for pick up by 8 am Sunday morning. If you can't pick up the vases then, see Kathy so she can pick them up and bring them to the church. If you have any questions, call the church office at 832.850.5070. There are spots available for the rest of the year, so sign-up today!

Kathy Sommers

WHO'S NEW AT JOY?



NEW CONFIRMED MEMBERS

During worship service on Sunday, September 8, 2019, Pastor Mark called forward 8 people who had completed Joy's Connecting class and then went on to be confirmed in the Lutheran faith. It was an exciting day for them and all who got to congratulate them.

Pictured from the left to right: India Darks, Tiara Darks, Charlotte Darks, Michele and Danny Yancey, Barry Nichols, Susan Taylor, and Michael Hale. Not pictured, but also newly confirmed is Diamond Darks.

Afterwards, the confirmands went to the fellowship hall for refreshments and a special cake to honor their commitment and dedication to become confirmed members, ready to move forward with Christ to the next phase of their spiritual journeys. Congratulations to all of them!



Inscription on cake reads: "All New Members Welcome to Joy"

CAUGHT!



Evelyn Nape was caught trying on her brand new shawl made by Laura Parker just for her. What a nice gesture. And thank you to Evelyn for showing off Laura's talent!



Little Shelby Vierling was caught asleep in her father Dan's arms during service on September 22nd. Pastor's sermon must have worn her out!!



Jesse Mask, in his "antique" Chevrolet truck, caught taking his usual nap before church one Sunday. Gotcha Jesse!

MEET SOME OF JOY'S VOLUNTEERS



Volunteering is what happens when people give of themselves freely and purposefully. It starts in their hearts and shows in their actions towards others. It's a gift that we probably all have had at different times of our lives and something we might consider encouraging ourselves to return to. You don't get a pat check. You do it for free. But, oh the returns are transforming when the volunteer sees the results of volunteering.

The people pictured are volunteer "teachers" of sorts. Below are their names from left to right and what they teach:

Lori Fillbrandt & Michele Yancey – Children's Sunday School, Michelle Brunette – High School/Young Adult class, Mark Eichberger – Bible Study class, Donna Eichberger – Women's class, Sandy and Ben Herr – Connecting class, Carl Mattern – Small group teacher/host, and Erin and Rich Farina— Small group teachers/hosts.

Not pictured are several more small group leaders/hosts. We thank them all for volunteering so willingly and tirelessly.

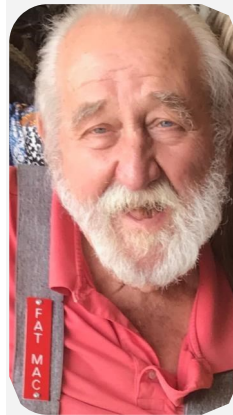


Greetings from the Leadership Team,

Our past two meetings have been on the quiet side and short in duration. A couple items to note are:

- We have been in discussions on starting a **Mother's Day Out** program. At this time, we are checking to find out all the requirements including to see if a license is required, if additional insurance is required, how best to advertise and how many workers would be needed. As we gather more of these questions we will make a decision and inform the membership.
- We have also been in discussions about starting a Spanish service at our location. If this comes to be, the Spanish-speaking pastor would hold his service midafternoon on Sundays. This discussion is in its early stages and more information will be shared as we continue.
- I want to mention and ask you to make note, that in late October (most likely on the 27th), we will hold the Fall Congregational meeting. At this meeting we will be asking the congregation to approve the proposed 2020 budget. Also there will be a presentation of the rewrite/update of our Constitution and By-Laws. Copies of this rewrite/update will be made available for members a couple weeks before the meeting.

Bobby Reichle, Chairman



JOY'S BICYCLE OUTREACH

KM "Fat Mac" Williamson

AUGUST 13, 1940 –
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Mac became a butcher at 17. He then joined the military and served in the Air Force. He was stationed at Great Falls, Montana where he served as a military police officer. After his service in the Air Force, Mac spent 2 years with the Jacinto City Police Department and then 2 with Galena Park Police Department. He finally found his home with the Baytown Police

Department where he served the community 27 1/2 years until his retirement on January 31, 1995. After his retirement Mac devoted his life to fixing up used bicycles and giving them away at Christmas time to children in our community. Mac gave away close to 500 bicycles in one year alone. Mac often said he was ready whenever the good Lord was ready to take him. He would often say "I've lived a good life". And that he did. Mac lived a life of service, a life well lived.

Joy will miss the "Bicycle Man". Through the years, Bobby and Kaye Reichle made sure donated bikes made their way into his talented hands where he rendered them like new again to give to kids. God truly blessed his ministry and his life of service. You can see a video of this inspiring man at

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_KnG7ll1fKg

Prayer Meeting

October 1, 2019 at 5 pm

Fellowship Hall

Come pray with us and touch the heart of God!

Scriptures That Banish Fear

Fear has no place in the heart or mind of a believer.

"Fear not" appears in the Bible 365 times. Yet many Christians are paralyzed or debilitated by fear of global warming, serious illness, job loss, insufficient retirement income, emotional challenge, or things over which they have no control. They buckle under and settle for less than God's best.

Diluting trust in the written Word of Deuteronomy 31:8 *"He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,"* robs the believer of peace and joy. The enemy uses fear to decrease hope, limit victories, and promote disobedience.

Meditation upon God's promises helps to overcome fear by increasing faith:

Psalms 18:2 *"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."*

Romans 8:28 *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."* Combat fear by believing that God will turn your trial or problem around because He has a purpose for each child's life.

Isaiah 43:1 *"Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine."*

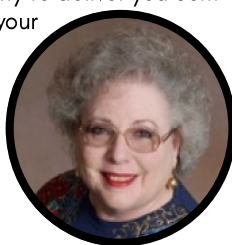
Romans 8:14-16 *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry, 'Abba Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

"We have been given a spirit of a sound mind so that we can use our abilities to think, reason, and understand. And in the process of reasoning and understanding, it is our faith that creates the foundation upon which our emotions are created. So we face our fears with faith."—Dr. Robert Schuller, *Hour of Power*

St. Paul wrote to Timothy, *"I [God] have not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and love..."* (2 Tim. 1:4)

The all-powerful, all-knowing Father cares deeply about every detail of life, calls His own by name and commands fear to flee from their hearts. Pray that God will increase your trust and faith in His willingness and ability to deliver you completely from worry and fear. Ask God to reveal His love in your problem, financial struggle, or crisis and observe how He *"moves mountains."*

Sharon Marion-Bohot, Prayer Ministry Director
for emergency prayer requests call (281)-300-0348



HURRY UP & POP THOSE TABS!

There are only **TWO MONTHS LEFT TO COLLECT POP TABS** for the RONALD McDONALD HOUSES OF HOUSTON! We will be turning them in for a monetary collection beginning December 2019 to Elephant Recycling (Scrap Metal Recycling Facility).

Aluminum is currently going for 30 cents per pound. We need a lot of tabs! Our congregation will be presenting our check to the RONALD McDONALD HOUSE of HOUSTON in December 2019

I pray for a successful year and I want to personally "Thank" each and every single one of you who has contributed to one of the ten best charities in America declared by "Worth Magazine".

Karen L. Hope

karenhopemadride@yahoo.com



DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY - JAN 2020

It's time to start planning a second session of FPU for next year here at Joy. The class teaches God's way of handling money and covers everything from budgeting, investing, insurance, real estate, and giving. Come learn to live like no one else so that later you can live and give like no one else.

If you're interested in attending, sponsoring someone, or willing to volunteer (we'll need babysitters during class), please contact Dan Vierling at 281-733-9945 or vierlind@yahoo.com.



THE SEAFARERS' CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM CONTINUES

PLEASE PACK A SHOEBOX FULL WITH THESE ITEMS:

Address Book	Shave Cream	Band Aids
Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner	Baseball Caps	Stationery
2020 Calendars	Tea Bags	Gum & Hard Candy
Texas Items	Chap Stick/Lip Balm	Throat Lozenges
Combs	Toothbrushes	Deodorant
Toothpaste	Flavored Drink Packets	Travel Size Tissues
Envelopes	T-shirts	First Aid Items
White Tube Socks	USB Flash Drives	Dental Floss
Hot Chocolate	Key Chains	Lotion
Magazines	Nail Clippers	Note Pads
Q-Tips	Pens/Pencils	Playing Cards
Popcorn	Puzzle Books/Word Search	Puzzles
Sewing Items	Emma Fobes' Handmade Crosses	Flashlight w/ Batteries (keep batteries separate)

MAKE SURE TO PUT ONE OF EMMA FOBES' CROSSES INSIDE EACH BOX



- Wrap the box in Christmas paper after it is filled.
- Bring completed boxes to Joy until **October 31st**.
- Place filled/wrapped boxes under Seafarer table in lobby.
- Contact People: Betty Copaus and Kaye Reichle

We thank Emma for making crosses to add to each box.

And thanks to everyone who donates a gift box (or more) to the seafarers while they are away from home during Christmas.

GOAL: 100 BOXES!



TRUNK OR TREAT

Fall is here. Anyway, that's what they tell us. And with that comes the Holiday season. Halloween, better known to Lutherans as Reformation Day, is October 31.

As a Christian witness to our little trick or treaters, Joy is supplying you with special notes that you can pass out with your candy. They remind us that nothing is sweeter than the love God has for us. You can pick these up in the church lobby in bundles of 10. Here's what they look like:

(FRONT)

(BACK)

The candy you get this year may be really sweet, but the sweetest treat of all is how much God Loves You!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
14450 Woodson Park Drive
Houston, Texas 77044
Phone: 832-850-5070 • joyforyou.org
Facebook.com/joylutheranhouston

Several members are gathering in Joy's parking lot on Saturday, October 26, from 6-8 p.m. for Trunk or Treat. You should arrive by 5:45 p.m. to position your vehicles. Feel free to join us for this evening of fun. The more, the merrier!

JINGLE BELL TREE

It's not too early to think about Christmas (yes, I watch too much of the Hallmark Channel). At least not too early to start thinking about the Jingle Bell Tree. This year we will once again adopt a Family Promise family to receive gifts, but also invite you to let us know if there is someone you know who is experiencing hard times and would benefit from being a recipient. Please let Kathy Sommers or Lola Wilbur know if there is someone you wish to suggest. They can be an adult, child or family.



-Lola Wilbur

Remember, October is Pastor Appreciation Month!



HOW IT WORKS: Those who love to garden or who are interested in all types of plants, including veggies, fruits, and decorative ones, enjoy Papa's Garden as a "green thumb" ministry. "Papa" refers to God, the master gardener. There's no better than He is when it comes to plants. The Earth is His canvas.

So, come share your seeds (as the Franklins graciously did earlier this spring), seedlings, yard decorations, and plants of all kinds with, not with just church members, but people in general who could use the blessing you pass their way. Watch your thumbs turn green in this ministry!

There are many varieties of plants that do well in the fall and even into winter – onions, greens, broccoli, tomatoes, and more. Tomatoes can make it through the coldest days of winter if they are covered and have lights underneath the covering to keep the temperature warmer. And, there's nothing like a home-grown tomato from your garden or container right in the middle of winter!

Talk to successful gardeners like the Franklins, the Eichbergers (especially Donna), Jesse Mask, and even Barbara Ogden. If any one else dabbles in gardening at Joy, let one of them know so you can be added to the list of joy-filled Papa's gardeners.

URBAN HARVEST OCTOBER TIP: BUILDING HEALTHY SOILS

For a well-managed soil system and therefore productive plants, constantly add organic matter as a food source for microorganisms and to improve soil health and structure. Return crop residues, lawn clippings and add as much Humates, mulch and compost as you can. The minimum benchmark for good soils is Organic Matter at 3%. At that level you have enough energy to sustain a healthy population of microbes. Organic Matter is carbon; carbon is stored sunlight and is the building block of life. Only use quality Organic fertilizers, mulches and composts. There are a lot of deceptive 'Organic' products coming into the marketplace because of market growth. Read the labels as you would in buying your own food.

Lastly, if you do nothing else, grow your foods organically and buy only organic foods. The amount of nutrition in organic foods in contrast to chemically raised foods is startling. And with organic foods you won't be consuming the nasty chemical pesticides that are causing us so much mental and physical illnesses.

LIFE'S LESSONS FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

Song of Solomon 8:6

"Set me a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy as cruel as the grave;
Its flames are of fire,
A most vehement flame." (NKJV)



Two little dogs live at my house; one is Trudy, the other is Nova Lee. Trudy is the alpha dog, meaning she is the top ranking one. She is a Boston Terrier/Shinsu mix. She is furiously loyal and devoted. She is my hearing aid and alarm system. All that being said, she has one major flaw: **JEALOUSY**. She wants all the attention. If I am speaking softly to Nova Lee and petting her, she immediately comes running to push Nova Lee out of the way and places herself in that spot. Trudy wants to sit in my lap and will push Nova Lee off if I don't stop her. There may be room for two, but Trudy wants it all.

As the top dog, I am careful to feed her first, but she still wants to check out what I am giving Nova Lee. It is the same thing!

Trudy is jealous of anyone else, including family members. You should hear how she carries on when they hug me. Jealousy is aggravating and grieves me.

LIFE LESSON: Jealousy can ruin a relationship. No matter how much you love someone, other people have a place in you life, too. When someone is demanding of all your time and attention, it gets old in a hurry! The cat, Skyler, is not jealous at all. He knows his position and rank. His "Royal Highness" is **sure** he is loved more than anyone. Nothing beats confidence in yourself and your place in a relationship.

Joyful Servant,
Betty Rosser

AN BABY ELEPHANT NAMED **JOY**

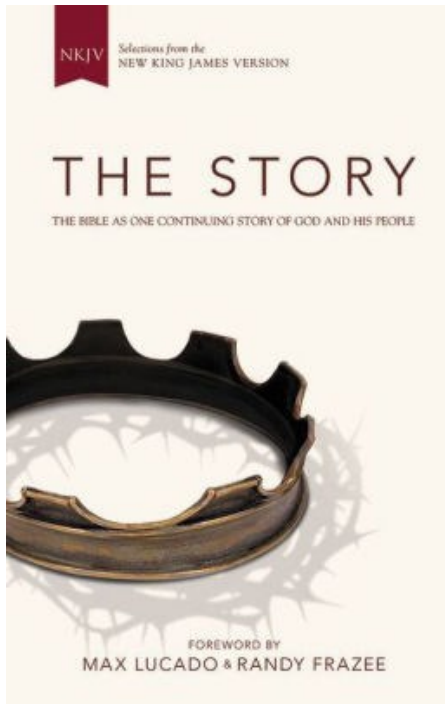


She's at the Houston Zoo. She's 2 years old, and her name is Joy. Sound familiar? Yes, both she and Joy Church share the same name! How about that? And, she is exuberant with joy most of the time as she plays and learns! However, when she came down with the elephantendotheliotropic herpesvirus earlier this year, she became gravely ill. If not treated rigorously and quickly, this virus can cause death in a few days. Her intensive treatment included antiviral medications, blood and plasma transfusions, and other supportive therapies. Amazingly, to help with the collection of blood and plasma from healthy elephants, in stepped the **Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center**. The centrifuge needed to separate plasma and other components was needed so often that the Center loaned the zoo one to use. Yes, the same Blood Center where human volunteers go to donate blood. Joy survived, and as seen in the picture, is joyfully playing with Mom again. So precious is life.

BLOOD DONORS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AT THE BLOOD CENTER... JUST ANOTHER WAY TO VOLUNTEER!

THE STORY!

God's Great Plan from Genesis to Revelation! Small Groups Starting!



Have you ever been discouraged because the Bible seems full of disconnected stories? Did you know that all these individual stories have one simple theme? The Bible is one grand, unfolding epic – God's story from Genesis onward, but sometimes it may seem hard to see the whole point. Did you know your own story is contained within it?

The Story is a book that presents Scripture as a continuous story in chronological order, so you are reading the main theme of the Bible in the order in which it happened.

JOY members have enthusiastically embraced *The Story*! Small groups began meeting the third week of September in JOY homes. 2 classes are offered on Sunday morning before the church service.

Currently there are 66 members meeting during the week in homes and 17 in Sunday morning classes.

Here are the opportunities for you to hear *The Story* read and discussed:

1. There are 6 small groups meeting in homes: Sunday afternoon, Wednesday morning and evening and Thursday evening.
2. Two small groups meet on Sunday morning at JOY before the service.
3. Pastor preaches each week on one chapter of *The Story* book.
4. JOIN ANYTIME!!

JOY wants each member to have a copy of the book, *The Story*. Ask at the church office if they still have copies for \$5.00. Otherwise it can be purchased at Christian book stores or on Amazon.

Did you know that Adam and Eve had 2 different sets of clothes? One they sewed themselves and one God made for them.

Did you know that Jacob was the first great psychologist? Do you know who gave the first tithe 4000 years ago?

YOU can join a small group anytime! You can hear Pastor's exciting sermons every Sunday! You can come an hour before the service and listen in the Bible class!

God has gone to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what *The Story* is all about – the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity.

Donna Eichberger



SATURDAY SET

Last month, 17 people went to Monument Inn and enjoyed some great seafood and fellowship. A big "THANK YOU" to those that called ahead of time to let us know that they couldn't make it!

Where are we going this month? This will be announced when the sign-up sheets are put out the first week of October.

Hint: we're going to a place we've been before, and we'll celebrate October Fest! Hope to see you there!

Bob Floyd



THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

It's that time of year again to renew or sign-up for The Lutheran Witness magazine subscription. The subscription cost for 2020 is \$14.25.

For all renewal subscriptions, please see The Lutheran Witness subscription list, located on the information table in the foyer, and verify that your information is correct. If the information is correct, please place an **OK** by your name. If you need to make changes (i.e. name, address, or number of copies) draw a single line through the information needing to be changed, and then write down the correct information at the end of that line.

If you're canceling your subscription, draw a single line through your name and address.

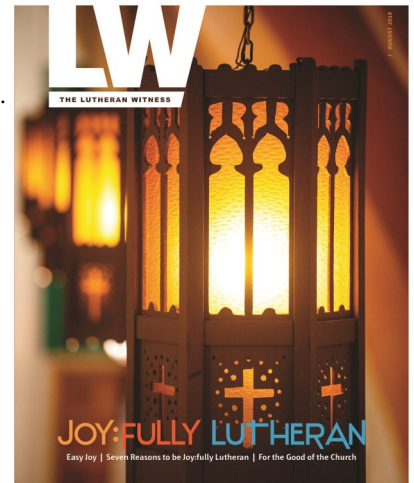
All new subscriptions, please fill out The Lutheran Witness Additions sheet with your name and address which is also on the same table in the foyer.

The deadline to make changes or order a subscription is **Sunday, October 13th, 2019**. Payments by check should to be made out to Joy Lutheran Church with *The Lutheran Witness* written in the **memo line**. Place the check in the envelope provided near the Subscription List and Additions sheets, and then put the envelope in the tin container on the table.

If you're paying with cash, place your payment in one of the same envelopes and be sure to write The Lutheran Witness and your name on the front of the envelope before putting it into the tin container.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Sommers in the church office. 832.850.5070

Kathy Sommers



Why God Hates Lying



In their book *The Day America Told the Truth*, authors James Paterson and Peter Kim revealed that 91 percent of Americans lie on a daily basis.

God doesn't like lying... [Proverbs 6](#) lists seven things God hates, and it's worth noting that two of them refer to dishonesty: *"There are six things the Lord hates—no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family"* (verses 16-19 NLT).

Why is God so adamantly opposed to lying? Because it's so destructive. In the book of Proverbs we're told, *"Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an ax, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow"* (25:18 NLT).

God hates lying in any form. He hates it because he is the source of all truth. In fact, God used that word to describe his very character. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"* ([John 14:6](#) NLT). When God chose a word to describe who he is, he said, "I am...the truth" (emphasis by the author)

In dramatic contrast, Satan is identified as "the father of lies" ([John 8:44](#) NLT). It's as clear as day: God is truth, and Satan is the father of lies. Therefore when we lie, we are behaving more like the children of the devil than the children of God.

Are you lying about something or someone right now? Do you have a résumé that isn't honest? Do you find that you give exaggerated reports of what you've done? Are you lying about someone else to tear them down and make yourself look better? That is a sin before God.

God doesn't say, however, that if you have ever told a lie, you can't worship him. If that were the case, none of us could worship him. We have all lied in one way, shape or form. At the same time, if you are practicing deceit, if you are continuing to tell lies, then it will hinder your fellowship with God...You might say, "Lying isn't a problem in my life. I never lie." Actually, you may lie a little more often than you think you do.

One way people lie is by gossip and backbiting. Gossip is a powerful force. It wrecks marriages. It ruins careers. It topples governments. It destroys reputations. It spawns suspicion. It generates grief. Even the very word *hisses* when it's pronounced. And if you've ever had someone gossip about you and tell lies about you, then you know how painful it can be.

Sometimes a little bit of truth is presented with a lot of lies added to it. The tabloids do this. They'll include a shred of truth to give their article a believability factor, but then they fill it with all kinds of lies.

Sometimes people rationalize gossip. They'll present it in ways like, "Have you heard?" or "Did you know?" or "I don't believe it's true, but I heard..." or "I wouldn't tell you, but I know it won't go any further..." Then there's the so-called spiritual version: "I'm telling you this only so you can pray..." It's gossip. [Proverbs 20:19](#) says, *"A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatters"* (NLT).

Another way people lie is through flattery. While backbiting is saying behind a person's back what we would never say to their face, flattery is the opposite. Flattery is saying things to a person's face that we would never say behind his or her back. Kids are very good at this with their parents. They've taken it to an art form. It's tempting to flatter someone when you want to get something from them. But it's a form of lying.

Exaggeration is another way people lie. They'll tell a story and begin to embellish it a little. Each time the story is told, it becomes more dramatic. Of course, they're always the heroes of their own stories, which show how clever they were or how they came into a situation with just the right words. They stretch the facts a bit. It's a form of lying.

Keeping silence is another form of lying. When we hear something about someone else that we know for a fact isn't true, and we remain silent, it's a form of lying. They might be slamming a friend, and we don't stand up for that friend. We don't tell them the truth. That is slander by silence. It's complicity by passivity.

We live in a time when moral relativism is the rule of the day, when many people don't believe in absolutes. They don't believe there is such a thing as absolute truth. If they want to be a success and have to steal, lie or maybe even murder to get there, that is what they'll do.

Do you have sins you're ashamed of, wrongs you've committed? God will forgive you of every sin you've ever committed. He [wiped your slate clean from the cross].

By Greg Laurie,
Senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Have you signed up yet?

Back in January, Joy applied to be listed as a nonprofit organization in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. Did you know that Kroger shoppers, just like you, can support Joy financially just by shopping for groceries? A small percentage of each shopping total is donated to Joy.

Once you link your Kroger Plus Card to Joy Lutheran Church, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card!

Simply follow the steps below:

Go to <http://www.kroger.com>
Once logged into your Kroger account, search for
Joy Lutheran Church either by name or **HK013**
and then click "enroll"

New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address, and a Rewards Card. Members must have a registered Kroger Rewards Card account to link to Joy.

If you do not have a Kroger Reward Card, please see the Customer Service desk at any Kroger and register.

For more information, see Kathy Sommers in the church office. She has a Fact sheet about the Kroger Reward Program.

TRICKY messages

On Sundays when the children come forward during church service for the Children's Message, the kids never know what's going to happen, literally. Mr. Clint (Reynolds) or Pastor Mark are known to be tricksters so the kids are learning to be cautious when they sit down with them. Here are a few examples of tricky messages they've endured:



September 22, 2019

Pastor Mark lures Robert Eggert to sit in a chair after telling him it might not be sturdy enough to sit down in. Robert cautiously, along with the other children watching, eases into the chair and...**NOTHING HAPPENS...NADA!!** Nothing is wrong with that chair at all. Robert sits laughing. But, the lesson was to have faith in all life's challenges.



August 11, 2019

Pastor Mark was at it again. He brought out a glass jar with a bunch of rice in it and asked for a volunteer. Again, cautious eyes searched his face. What was he going to do? He asked volunteer Zoey Shelton to see how many golf balls she could fit into the jar of rice before it got full. She could tell it wouldn't be many. But, she went along with it.



Finally, Pastor fixed the problem by pouring the rice into a jar holding all the golf balls. Ha! Ha! It worked like magic. The lesson? Don't give up. God will help us when we face challenges.



July 14, 2019

The other trickster, besides Pastor, is Clint Reynolds. He loves to cause the kids to wonder what's up. Like this day when he brought a long rope for the Children's Message. You can see the girls he enticed into holding it look kind of puzzled. But hey, the rope meant something special. Mr. Clint explained that no matter how far you go in life, like the rope's length, God is always with you.





Being a Christian is Like Being a Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch and brings you in.
(John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all
the yucky stuff. He removes the
seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

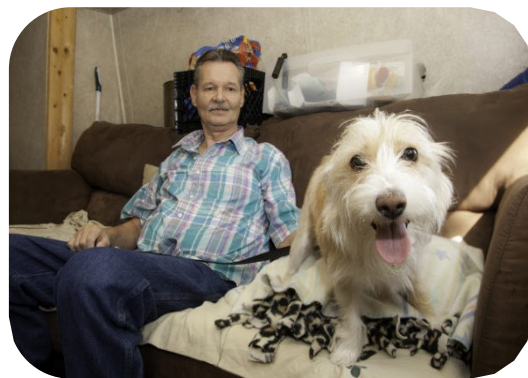
Then he carves you a new smiling face.
(Psalm 71:23)

And he puts his light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)



ANIMEALS on WHEELS

A True Story



Working as a heavy equipment mechanic at Fort Bragg in the 1970s, Richard Wright developed a double hernia in his stomach, which required immediate surgery and a colostomy bag. Today, he struggles with a permanent disability and, as a result, is a grateful Meals on Wheels client. "I love it," he says of the program. "I get a hot meal every day and it's always on time."

Tragedy struck a second time in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey flooded his home in a Humble trailer park and he was forced to live in a nearby elementary school until the water subsided. At the school, his beloved Dachs-hund named Rocky contracted the parvovirus and died.

With his home in tatters and his best friend gone, Mr. Wright has worked hard to rebuild his life in a FEMA trailer. He adopted a Terrier puppy named Mary Lou and enrolled her in the aniMeals program, which delivers dry dog food, treats and toys once a month. Taking advantage of aniMeals' partnership with the local Emancipet program, Mr. Wright recently had Mary Lou spayed at no charge to help reduce the homeless pet population in his neighborhood. Through a partnership with the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation, Mary Lou received vaccines as well.

In addition to the nutritious meals brought to Mr. Wright and Mary Lou, Mr. Wright's volunteer driver looks after him as well. Knowing he is a bit unsteady on his feet and uses a walker, her church group built a ramp to his trailer's door so he could enter with ease.

"I'm blessed," he says about being a Meals on Wheels and aniMeals client. "I'm lucky to be alive."

Through the years Joy has witnessed others, who like Mr. Wright, go through hardships that can be life-changing. A program of Interfaith Ministries of Houston, aniMeals on Wheels has helped so many seniors and disabled who have so little.

Every bit of dog and cat food and other pet items Joy collects goes to aniMeals' clients. Mary Brown makes sure of that.

To help out, donate often at Joy. Simply place your food donations (and other items) on the metal rack in the lobby in the AniMeals' marked basket.

We have a "friend" to help remind you. You may have seen a cute pup "hanging around" the rack on Sundays with his Frisbee, rope, and a little flying squirrel.

Did you know he "WILL PLAY FOR FOOD?" Says so right on his Frisbee!



Joy Lutheran Church
14450 Woodson Park Dr.
Houston, TX 77044



Welcome HOME

WELCOME TO JOY!

Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
Connecting Class @ 9:15 am
Confirmation @ 9:15am
Sunday School @ 9:15am
Women's Bible Study @ 9:00am
Worship Service @ 10:30am

JOY Lutheran Church

CONNECTING • GROWING • SERVING

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November Newsletter Submissions due
10/21/19

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