

### STARTING OVER!

The new school year will begin again this month, just like always. Students will get up earlier, just like always. They will have new teachers, perhaps different subjects, new classmates, and maybe a new school, just like always. But is it "just like always"? Starting over again sounds matter-of-fact, like it's no big deal. And most of the time it is. But "beginnings" can stir up hope inside of us to do better and try harder. We're not just talking about school here. Read more inside.



### CONNECTING

- Sept 6<sup>th</sup> -Potluck &
   Devotions beginning at
   11:15 am Fellowship Hall
- Every Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

### **GROWING**

- Sept 9th Confirmation class at 9:15 am for 6th graders.
- Sept 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 am
- Sept 9<sup>th</sup> There will be a new adult Bible study at 9:15 am led by Rich Gutekunst

### **SERVING**

 All August - Outreach Ministries (see inside)

### STARTING OVER ...

# **AGAIN**

This is a picture of someone's lower legs and feet. Without the rest of the body, one must use clues to conjure up who it might be. It stands like a child. The way the right foot is cocked toward the left one suggests he or she might be in trouble, nervous, unsure, bored, anxious, or doing something that takes a little time – like counting to 100 before trying to tag everyone who ran and hid.

The tennis shoes look new. The jeans look pretty new, too. Other than that there is not much else to go by. The shoelaces look like they're double bow tied which suggests he or she is an active child whose shoelaces come untied a lot. Many people double tie their laces, even adults, especially if they're fairly active. So this is a fair assumption for the child in the picture.

But what does any of this tell us? Let's assume this child is dressed for the first day of school in the fall. What's going on in her or his mind? This day is one that has been expected. It happens every year. School starts over again.

Emotions build as students face the unknown. This isn't just true for students starting school. In many ways, we all start over again throughout life, venturing beyond what is familiar and growing in the process.

The wonderful thing about starting over again is that it's entirely new each time. However, going back to the familiar (the way school still looks and even, smells) is comforting so students can turn their focus on trying new things, establishing new friendships, becoming part of a team, studying harder, and finding a deeper sense of purpose.

All of this leads to something even greater when it's time to start over again with God. Repeat: WHEN it's time to start over again with God, not IF it's time to start over again. No matter our age, our gender, our place in life, our rank among others, our role in society – the need for God is always there. When we sin, we start over again in faith to do better. When we graduate and venture out into the world, we start over again with God's Word as our guide. Over and over we start over again, and we grow inside ourselves when we do it with God.

If you have a little one who is starting school this month for the first time, this is not a "start over again". This will be brand new, and it's up to you to help her/him to be excited more than scared. God will give you the right words to soothe your child and make the first experience with school great. That is, until the next year when it starts all over again and can be even greater!



NOTE: This article appeared in our 2017 newsletter. Since school starts over again each year, along with many things in life, we thought our readers would, perhaps, share it with someone this year.







#### HI EVERYONE!

As you can tell by the cover, this issue of Simple JOY takes a look at starting something new. That makes some of us get that uneasy feeling, usually in the pits of our stomachs. While a new start is exciting at its best, it can be really scary at its worst.



So, our kids will go back to school this month.

Some will start for the first time. I remember when I started kindergarten. I was fine until I saw my mother exit the room quietly, hoping I wouldn't notice. But I did, and tears erupted, wails of agony and even anger came from somewhere deep inside of me! So strange that was, because I was a very shy person, not one who wanted to be noticed, especially in that way.

That was my first day at school, not a nice memory until I think of how wonderful that class became to me. Through the kindness of my teacher and a classroom filled with creative opportunities, I found a different me.

All of us have different stories about the firsts in our lives. Without them, we wouldn't grow, even if some don't turn out so well. God is there to help us in the "firsts" of life, encouraging us through His word, His examples of living, His protective love for us. So, help your child, your friends and family start their firsts with the comforting feeling that you and God stand behind them.

#### **NOTABLE PAGES**

- Pastor Mark lists some new ministries in his article on page 4 that will begin in the fall.
- On page 4, Kathi Hawn, JOY's Leadership Team chairperson, summarizes the details of the last monthly meeting held in July. Next meeting will be on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- Opportunities to serve at JOY are laid out by Donna Eichberger on page 7. The Ways to Serve check list is on page 11 to fill out and bring to church.
- Deacon Rich Gutekunst is helping to provide opportunities to encourage each other and dig into God's Word on page 7.

And now, I pray this issue will be informative, spark your curiosity, and make its way into the hands of people you care about. Until next month...

#### Barbara Ogden, Editor

If any of you, our readers, wish to contribute submissions to our newsletters, please contact me at *angelcare4u@sbcglobal.net* or 281-452-7435.

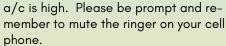
You Are Invited to a

# Prayer Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 5:00–7:00 PM JOY Lutheran Church

Satan hates prayer because it is the believer's most important weapon against him. Whether daily darts, stumbling blocks, relationship issues, illness, job loss, or other problems challenge our days, we all want the Lord to rescue us. Often we find comfort and encouragement when others offer up prayers to God in our behalf; and it pleases the Lord when we, "bear another's burden" through intercessory prayer. Paul urges Christians to pray for others in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made in behalf of all men..." Jesus encourages His disciples to pray for Him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Men and women who pray intercessory prayers and those who seek to learn and develop their prayer lives in fellowship with others are asked to meet at JOY on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>September 11, from 5:00-7:00 pm</u> to lift up the needs of congregational members and the church in prayer. The group will also discuss prayer topics/activities for the future direction of the Prayer Ministry. Pizza and water will be served to sustain the body and scripture to nourish the soul. It is suggested that you bring a sweater in case the



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Come and be part of an uplifting and energizing ministry that draws the Christian closer to God. To participate, contact Sharon Bohot at (281) 300 – 0348.

### FOR SEPTEMBER

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SEND IN SUBMISSIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER BY

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18
NewsLetter

# Pastor's Notes

Dear Friends and Family of Joy,



It has been an exciting couple of months as your Pastor! We moved into the new building and have almost outgrown it. But there is still room for you! If you have not visited us yet I would like to

personally invite you to "Come home." It is a place where you will experience true joy and love.

This Fall we will begin some new ministries for you and your children. Below is a list of ministry events that will begin in September.

God has blessed us in many ways! Please pray for Joy and the beginning of Fall this year! God bless!

- Pastor Mark

#### **NEW MINISTRIES IN SEPTEMBER:**

- September 6 Pot luck and devotions beginning at 11:30 am
- September 9 Sunday School for all ages.
- September 9 There will be a new adult Bible Study beginning at 9:15 am led by Rich Gutekunst.
- September 9 Confirmation class will begin with 6<sup>th</sup> graders. If you have not been confirmed you may attend. Pastor Mark will be leading this class starting at 9:15 am.

# JULY LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT



The Leadership Team (LT) met July 10<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. There are so many things underway as we move forward into the new church.

- Brenna Vierling, the Marketing team lead, gave us an update on the new website and the work the group is doing.
- Casey Jones, as the Facilities chair, reported on the ongoing needs for the church. Currently work is being done on the alarm system, camera installation, telephone system, etc. This is definitely still a work in process; however, with the steps that are being taken we can see progress.
- The financial report was given and if anyone in the congregation has questions about the finances, please reach out to Robert Hawn, the treasurer.
- The LT is still working on the permanent signage/ monument for the church. We are obtaining estimates and hope to get this going in the very near future.
- After the general meeting the LT went into executive session to discuss some personnel issues. We have approved to hire a part time office administrator and Rich
   Gutekunst for a part time Christian Education position. Rich will help us develop our Sunday School program and weekly Bible studies.

The next scheduled Leadership Team meeting will be Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In His Service,

Kathi Hawn -JOY Leadership Chair



### JOY'S ANNOINTING CEREMONY

BY SHARON MARION-BOHOT

Many people today host a House Blessing for their new home by inviting a minister and guests to anoint the doorframes with anointing oil in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and by asking the Lord's blessing upon the home and all who dwell therein. Joy Lutheran Church is a new church home.

In anointing Joy, the congregation formally consecrated the church to God for His divine purposes and will. In Exodus 40:9 God instructed Moses to consecrate His Sanctuary. "When Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and consecrated it and all its furnishings. He also anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils." (Numbers 7:1)

On Sunday, July 15, Joy members gathered and Pastor Mark prayed over the anointing oil and the participants. All then moved outside to join Pastor as he anointed the church cornerstone. Next, the able-bodied promenaded around the campus, giving thanks for the land and structure and



lifting up prayers for Joy, the school next door, and Summerwood. The walk ended with the group petitioning God to make Joy a bright light in the community and Pastor Mark anointing the doorframe of the front entrance. Upon entering the church, members gathered at the Sanctuary doors for anointing and prayer. Then they shouted, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!"

In the Sanctuary, Pastor Mark, Rich Gutekunst, and the elders applied spikenard anointing oil while making the sign of the cross to the Chancel area-the candles, altar, communion ware, offering plate, baptismal font, lectern, instruments (drums), and sound system-in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Sixteen Joy readers delivered church history, read scriptures, and led prayers and songs.

Spikenard is a costly spice derived from a rare Himalayan plant blended with olive oil and used for anointing acts of consecration, dedication, and worship. The word spikenard

in Hebrew means light. In consecrating the altar candles, we are reminded that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) Because the Joy candles are tubes filled with oil, we are reminded of the inner working of the Holy Spirit Who helps us to live a heavenly scented life, pleasing to God.

The cross is the center of the liturgy or public worship. Therefore, it is placed upon the altar or on the wall above the altar. The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the "one mediator between God and men." (ITim:2:5) Christ calls His disciples to "take up their cross and follow Him." (Matt. 16:24) "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps." (1Peter 2:21) When we look upon the *plain* cross, we the Christ *risen*. When approaching the altar, the acolyte is to bow at the cross to show respect toward the Lord.

Traditionally the altar was made of stone and was immoveable. Paul speaks of Christ as "the Supernatural Rock" that accompanied the Israelites in the desert-the rock from which flowed water. (1 Cor 10:4 & Ex. 17:6) In 1 Peter 2:16, Jesus is identified as the "cornerstone." Jesus used this word to refer to himself in Luke 20:17-18 when Jesus asked the people, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?""

Not only is Christ "that living stone," but we are called to be "living stones." (1Peter 2:6) This means the altar is also the sign of the Church, made up of living stones, gathered and built into one peace and unity. Pastor Mark then anointed the altar as the participants sang, "Christ Is Our Cornerstone."

He then anointed the Communion Ware. The Sacrament sits upon the altar, for Jesus' body was broken and His precious blood was poured out for us upon the altar of the cross. Jesus died in our place. Therefore, we come to the altar to partake of the Lord's Supper for "the remission of our sins." In taking Communion, there are certain benefits promised – we obey the Lord to remember Him; we will be raised up on the last day and have eternal life; we remain in Jesus and He in us; we have the opportunity to examine ourselves so that we do not partake unworthily.

After the Communion Ware was anointed, Mike Wadzeck brought forth the offering plate and raised it up. In the Old Testament, people who desired to offer sacrifices to God did so through an altar. Christ approached the Father through Himself as an altar, now Christ is our altar through Whom we approach the Father. Jesus was the altar of His own sacrifice. Consequently, He is the altar of every one of our sacrifices, for we can bring no offering to God except through Christ. Therefore, our



offerings and tithes are placed upon the altar, and we offer our prayers to God through Christ. Following the prayer petition, "May the work of our hands and feet produce "first fruit" offerings acceptable for Your glory, Lord," Mike placed the offering plate on the altar and anointed it.

In John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Then in Matthew 3:11 John [the Baptist] stated, "I baptize you with water to repentance. But He who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am unworthy to bear. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the

heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him..."

Through our baptism, we also receive the Holy Spirit so that "our lives may give off the aroma of Christ." (2 Cor. 2:15)

Lee Bohot anointed the Baptismal Font and the group prayed: Help us to discipline our thoughts and words for God's honor. May we worship so intensely that we, like our Lord, become obedient servants with whom the Father is well –pleased. Amen.

"So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17) The church lectern is a reading desk or staging platform on which the Bible rests and from which the Word of God is preached during the sermon.

The lectern stands at the forefront of a raised platform facing the congregation, <u>much as Jesus taught on a mountainside</u>. Both elevate the speaker above the congregation signifying the importance and divinity of the truths taught the people. Following this history, Rich Gutekunst anointed the lectern.

Maury Knape anointed the drums (instruments) to consecrate them for the praise of God. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing." (Psalm 100:1-2) And Psalm 150:3-4, "Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp. Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe."

Prayer: Thank you. Lord, for the gift of music to worship, praise and glorify your name! Thank you for our voices

Mark Eichberger also set apart the technology used in worship service by anointing the sound/video system for it amplifies the Word, worship and praise. "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17) Yes, faith comes by hearing Christ, who is the scripture.

which express joy and gladness. Amen.

Prayer: Lord we thank You for the technology that amplifies Your great truth that we may abide in You and You in us. We also thank You for the technology that carries your Word to other nations. Amen.

The ceremony ended with all participants raising their hands and praising God. Praise Team members Stephen, Michelle, and Jesse led the group in singing, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High." Then everyone followed Pastor Mark to the rear of the Sanctuary where Pastor anointed the Sanctuary doors.

ALL GLORY, POWER AND HONOR BE UNTO YOU, O GOD! PRAISE TO THE LORD!



### **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

JOY is ready to begin intentional ways to implement our disciplining process!

Those attending Bible Class on Sunday, July 22, were given an opportunity to register interest in a way to serve at JOY. 46 people handed in interest sheets!

If you did not have a chance to indicate your interest, check the hospitality table and fill out a form.

What's exciting? 13 people have agreed to host a JOY group in their homes when we start a new series in the fall.

JOY's mission is to become disciples who will, in turn, make disciples! When we succeed at this, we will change the world around us!

-Donna Eichberger



### JOY'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES

These are ongoing ministries of JOY—ministries that a person can get immersed in by being involved and seeing the good they aim to do.

- CEREAL BUCKS every dollar (buck) put into the cereal receptacle box at church for NCAM (North Channel Assistance Ministries) can buy 12 boxes of cereal from the Houston Food Bank to hand out to their needy clients.
- ANIMEALS donations of pet food/supplies help seniors to feed their pets. Without this food, they have been known to feed their beloved pets their own food. This is a program offered by Interfaith Ministries of Houston. To get more involved, volunteer once a month to delver the food. See Mary Brown for more info.
- POP THOSE TABS! simply save the tabs off of sodas or other canned food, bag them up, and bring them to Karen Hope. You'll be helping families get a place to stay through Ronald McDonald House's services when their children are hospitalized. November is the yearly date to turn in the tabs which are then sold to aluminum recycle plants with Ronald McDonald House receiving the funds.

### Faith Building:

At Joy Lutheran Church we understand that coming together to study and experience God's Word is vital for our faith journey. So, we are providing many opportunities to encourage each other and dig into God's Word.

### Starting Sunday, September 9th

- Children's Sunday School: We are planning classes for children 3 – 4 years old, Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and youth 7<sup>th</sup>– 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Adult classes: "Romans: Righteous By Faith" will meet in the Fellowship Hall led by Rich Gutekunst.
- Women's class: place to be determined, led by Donna Eichberger.

#### Starting Thursday, Sept. 6th 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

 Adult Bible class. "Cultivating Faith" Led by Rich Gutekunst. Bring breakfast snacks to share. Coffee provided.

#### Monthly starting Thursday Sept. 6th 11:30 - 1:00

- Monthly fellowship time and Bible study with
  - Pastor Mark. Bring a lunch item to share.

    Meets in the Fellowship Hall, First Thursday of each month.
- Rich Gutekunst





### THANK YOU!

A great big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped to make the Dedication Service a success. JOY has truly been blessed with people who are willing to give of their time, talents and treasures. After many years of praying, dreaming, and hard work we have a place to call home. Looking forward to what God has in the future for the JOY family. Watch out world, JOY is here! - Kathi Hawn

On July 15, 2018 at 3:00 pm, JOY Lutheran Church was dedicated to the Lord to be His light and shine His goodness and love out to the surrounding community and beyond. It took 15 years for the structure to become a reality. What a blessing that, since its doors opened, it has been filled with people ready to do the Lord's will and share His message of redemption with everyone.

In this picture, taken right after the dedication service in the sanctuary, well-wishers stepped outside for a group picture taken by a drone flying right above them, camera in tow! On cue, the crowd joyfully waved at the same time. We thank God for all that has come to be and all that is to come in the name of our Savior, Christ Jesus.



### THANK YOU!

The children said thank you on Dedication Sunday right after singing the song, "I've Got That Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart". With Pastor Mark leading, they bowed their heads and prayed, thanking God for His goodness in their lives. Never too young to talk to God, the children are learning it's special to take a few moments each Sunday (and hopefully, each day) to have a "conversation" with Jesus. If they can do it, so can grown ups, especially the children's parents and family members who mean so much to them.



Mitchell, was baptized by Pastor Mark - only the second Baptism to be held at JOY since the church opened!
Those present to witness the holy event were, from the left, Brian Buerkett, Dominique Buerkett, Jessica Pfannstiel, Pastor and Makenzie, elder Mike Coon, Ashley and Mark. As a new child of God, may Makenzie follow the Lord faithfully throughout her Christian life and let His love shine through her.

# Victoria Kreps

On July 15, 2018, Pastor Mark baptized Victoria Kreps. It was the third baptism to take place at JOY's new church. In the picture, Victoria (Tori) was flanked by those who care for her in special ways. To the left were her grandparents, Betty and Jesse Mask who watched her grow into a fine young person. Pastor Mark, not only baptized her, but welcomed her into his first Confirmation class at JOY. To the right of Tori stood a good friend of the family, Maury Knape.

Tori has enjoyed attending the adult Bible class on Sunday mornings, taking notes, and listening carefully. We pray that she will continue to do the same in her Confirmation class in the fall.





# The First Wedding

The first wedding held at JOY took place on July 14, 2018 with Pastor Mark Brunette officiating. The happy couple in the center of the picture are Melissa and Darryl Bowen. They just recently became members of JOY and are truly a blessing to the church. May God bless their marriage and all the firsts that lie ahead for them.



Several of JOY's newest members were active participants in the Texas Ramp Project in the past. I have a special appreciation for that ministry because the group near her home built a ramp for my mom last year, even involving kids

from the church's youth group. As much as I love that, it is not my favorite ramp story. This one takes place years ago in Pasadena, Texas.

After a man retired from full time work, he decided to take a part time job with Pasadena ISD as a bus monitor for handicapped kids. He always had the best stories about the relationships he developed with those kids. He had a way of making everyone feel special, especially kids. In his work with them, he got a unique opportunity to help one.

A twelve year-old girl on his route was wheelchair-bound. Usually, when the bus arrived, she would be waiting outside on the sidewalk ready to go. It wasn't until the bus arrived early one morning that he learned just what it took to get that little girl to the curb each morning.

There was no wheelchair ramp at her house so each morning she came outside to the porch and her grandmother carefully pulled the chair down the steps. This worked on dry days but it was unsafe when it was raining. On rainy days she climbed out of the chair, scooted down the steps on her belly, and then her grandmother lifted her back into the chair. Seeing this unfold broke his heart. He and the driver decided that was the last time she would do that.

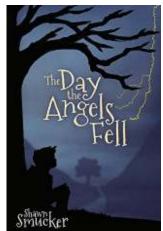
He got on the phone that day to see what could be done. He found someone who was willing to coordinate local volunteer firemen to build the ramp, so he went shopping. The local Lowes store helped him with supplies and he was able to get the ramp built by that weekend. The child did not have to crawl down wet stairs again and we later heard that they moved away but they took the ramp with them.

Korrie Thomas

# The Day the Angels Fell

(A Young Adult Novel)

By Shawn Smucker



Told by older Sam, reminiscing about the year his mother was killed in an accident, we follow twelve year old Sam and his friend, Abra, as they search for the Tree of Life in Pennsylvania.

The Tree has the power to resurrect the dead, or so they have been told, and they need it to bring Sam's mother back from the dead.

The novel has a dark feel, similar to Ray Bradbury's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. The characters are well drawn and

easily identifiable as either good or evil, and the story pulls you along as it follows Sam and Abra on their journey. And it culminates with them learning "death is not a destination. It is a passing, a transition into eternity...Death is a gift."

The novel would be a good read for young adults and older adults having to deal with grief.

Book review by James Shelton

If you are a reader, we encourage you to share your favorites by writing book reviews, similar to the one James Shelton submitted. We especially like to get reviews of books that have a message of inspiration, a moral to learn, and surprises along the way. You may send your reviews to angelcare4u@sbcglobal.net.

### WAYS TO SERVE AT JOY

JOY Members and friends — If you missed Sunday School on 7/22, you missed a great opportunity to learn about the many ways your gifts/talents can be used at our new church. Being a member of JOY doesn't mean you get to just show up on Sunday morning and go home. Oh no, we want you to get involved and be part of our family. Below is a list of "opportunities" where you can use your gifts. Please take an opportunity to complete this form and return it to church as soon as possible. You can either put the completed form in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or someone on the Leadership Team. If you have questions, please feel free to contact someone on the Leadership Team or pastor.

Kathi Hawn, JOY Chair

NAME:
CONTACT INFORMATION:
Phone / email if applicable
THE FOLLOWING ARE WAYS TO SERVE AT JOY:
Greeter
Usher
Reader
Help with nursery
Help with "Children's Church" during the sermon
Help make coffee Sunday morning
Altar guild
Help teach Sunday school for children
Help organize pot-lucks at church
Hospitality (luncheons after funerals or receptions after weddings)
Help with our youth (6-12 grade)
Sing in the choir
Serve in the prayer ministry
Serve on the properties team
Counter for the Sunday offering
Drop off meals for members in need
Facilitate a small group
Host small group
Sound system (sound board, camera, etc.)
Power point
Security and first aid
Office help
Praise Team (musician/singer)
After school mentoring
Other:



### Welcome to JOY!

There is so much for you and your family at JOY -

- Bible Discovery/Sunday School (9:15 a.m.)
- Worship & Children's Message (10:30 a.m.)
- Children's Church (pre-K & Elementary)
- Refreshments
- Fellowship
- The only thing missing is YOU!

JOY is a living, growing community of Jesus' followers spreading His love.

### **CHRIST'S SERVANTS**

Mark Brunette	Pastor
God's People	Ministers

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Fellowship	9:00 AM
Bible Discovery	
Worship	10:30 AM



#### **INFORMATION**

Services are held at:

JOY Lutheran Church
14450 Woodson Park Dr., Houston 77044

JOY Church Website: www.joyforyou.org
Church Email: joylutheran44info@gmail.com
Email for newsletter: angelcare4u@sbcglobal.net
281-741-1171 (office)