Simple Joy

MARCH 2020
JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER
Volume 17, Issue 3 "Connecting. Growing. Serving"

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE
Joy LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFORYOU.ORG

Stephen "Hamie" Hayman

Praising God through Song

Dear Family of Joy,

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be in the season of Lent. Lent is a time that we take a look at ourselves and our sins. All of us have fallen short as to what God wants for us. Of course He knows this and that is why He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us and take on our sins and punishment. It is through God's mercy (not receiving what we deserve – death and punishment), and His grace (receiving what we do not deserve – God's love and forgiveness), that we give thanks to our awesome and loving God.

- To help enhance your Lenten experience, we will be having a Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday (April 9), beginning at 6:30pm. You need to sign up in advance for this as we will also have a meal.
- Good Friday (April 10),we have worship at noon and 7 pm.
- Then we celebrate God's victory over death on Easter morning (April 12),with an early service at 8:00am and 10:30am. In between we will have breakfast with an Easter egg hunt for our young people.

Take time out to praise, thank and obey God. He loves you! So do I!

God bless you!

Pastor Mark

"Welcome back Spring!"

On the cover

Stephen Hayman, fondly called Hamie by his friends, is leaving Joy. He and his wife, Kathy, are moving to Florida to a new home. While we at Joy wish them all the love they can take with them, we feel the loss already. Read Stephen's story inside on page 3.

Daylight Saving Time

Ready for longer days of sunlight? Well, don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on March 8th. It's that time of year again! (You'll lose an hour of sleep, but, oh, well…)

Psalm 46

On page 4 is an article from Psalm 46 concerning emergencies at Joy. Recently there was a medical emergency. To make matters go smoothly, safely, and efficiently, this is well worth the read.

Easter Wreath Workshop

Come and join us for some great fellowship and lots of fun while learning to make Easter wreaths on Saturday, March 14th, from 2pm - 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a $15.00 non-refundable deposit with $25.00 due the day of the workshop. If you have any questions, please see flyers on the information table in the lobby or speak with Shirley Johnson.

Growing

Joy still needs more children's Sunday School teachers. A couple people can't do it all, so Michelle Brunette is appealing to the congregation to come forward and help teach. The Mother's Day Out program, now being planned, will need teachers and helpers, too. Turn to page 6 for more information.

Chicks and Hogs

Lola Wilbur included a poster from Family Promise about their annual Chicks & Hogs barbeque event. See the colorful poster on page 11.

Diaper Drive

A table has been set up in the lobby for a diaper drive for Tori Kreps and Timothy Strempel. Their baby is due near the end of April. Please bring diapers and baby wipes to help them welcome their baby boy, Hunter.

Maundy Thursday

On April 9, a Passover Seder service will take place at Joy on Maundy Thursday. Information about the Seder meal, Communion, and a regular meal is on page 9.

Saturday Set

On Saturday, March 21st, the Saturday Set group will go to the Blue Bayou Cafe. If you are interested in going, please sign up soon. Bob Floyd lists all the information on page 9.

Prayer and Fasting

The Lenten season is upon us. Many people fast for Lent. Sharon Bohot takes a look at fasting, some of its history and how fasting and prayer are linked. You will find her article on pages 7-8.

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.

STEPHEN

On February 23, 2020, Stephen Hayman walked to the front of Joy Lutheran Church and up the stairs. With a microphone in hand, he started to speak. Pastor Mark had given him 10 minutes to tell everyone the story of how he came to be, what inspired him, what got a hold of him, and what eventually changed him. Of course, ten minutes was not enough, nor the 45 minutes he ended up using, because his life is extraordinarily full.

He began talking about his youth growing up in Glasgow, Scotland. At 16, when he was about to finish school, some of his friends had an idea. They would form a band. One by one, each chose an instrument to play. When it was Stephen's turn, he became the singer. 'Can I sing?' went through his mind. No matter. He was it – the "chosen" one. Turns out, Stephen could sing. Yes he could. His "slightly raspy vocal delivery" (http://www.nolifetilmetal.com/heavypettin.html) was unique. The band broke up after a short while, but Stephen was hooked. Yes, he was.

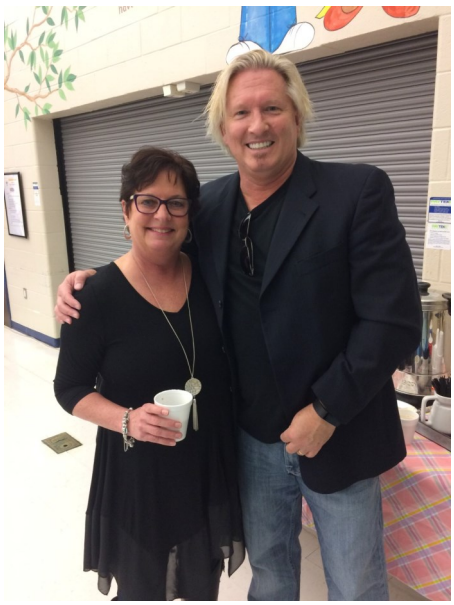
Scottish hard rock outfit Heavy Pettin' was formed in Glasgow in mid-1981 when the trio of guitarist Gordon Bonnar, bassist Brian Waugh and drummer Gary Moat--known collectively as Weeper--added vocalist Steve Hayman (a.k.a. "Hamie") and lead guitarist Punky Mendoza to the lineup. Borrowing their new name from a UFO album, Heavy Pettin' gigged extensively before signing to Neat Records to cut their debut single, 1982's "Roll the Dice"; Polydor soon extended a major-label deal, and with Queen guitarist Brian May installed as co-producer, the group recorded their 1983 debut LP "Lettin' Loose". British tours in support of Kiss and Ozzy Osbourne followed in advance of Heavy Pettin's sophomore effort, 1985's "Love Ain't Dead". (https://www.allmusic.com/artist/heavy-pettin-mn0000562512/biography) The group performed together throughout the 80's. But, Stephen got caught up in the glitzy life of performing, partying, drinking, staying up all night, and taking drugs. He knew there was more to life than that.

One stormy night he went to church by himself. As he neared the church doors, a gust of wind suddenly flung them open. People turned around and saw his drenched figure silhouetted in the open doorway. Timidly, he made his way to a seat. During the service the preacher called those who wanted Christ in their lives to come forward. Stephen made his way up front. He said it was then he was saved. He eventually offered his voice to sing in different churches.

Stephen met Pastor Mark Brunette when he moved into the house Pastor was moving out of. After some encouragement Steve started singing with Pastor on Sundays at Lamb of God.

When Pastor was called to Joy Lutheran, Steve went, too. He's been praising God with his awesome voice there since 2018. He still tours on and off with some of the original Heavy Pettin' band members as they travel to different places in Europe. He and his wife, Kathy (seen with him in the picture below) made Houston their home when she was offered a job she couldn't turn down.

But now, the two of them have decided to move on to Florida, having built a new home there. We pray their life there will be in God's hands and that they will be blessed. May they keep praising God through Stephen's singing and Kathy's support. What a wonderful team they are!



Stephen with his very special friend, Charlie Garmon

PSALM 46

EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TACTICAL PROCEDURES
For Joy Lutheran Church
Important Information for all Members

On Sunday, February 23, Joy had its first medical emergency. The ill church member was helped to the church office. Church medical team members were summoned, 911 was called and an ambulance requested. The ambulance arrived and took the patient to the hospital.

God was clearly in control. The church emergency plan fell into place, as the "A" team medical members – Lynn and Don Dodd and Daling McMahon – were present and responded immediately. Although not a member of Psalm 46 Ministry, EMT Robert Aguilar also attended the patient and was very helpful. Joy is truly blessed and thankful to have as members, professional people who work with emergencies for a living.

PSALM 46 MINISTRY

The Psalm 46 Ministry was instituted for both the medical and physical protection of its members under the direction of retired law-enforcement officer and Joy member, **Roy McDonald**. Due to its protective nature, the ministry was named for Psalm 46:

> ***"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea…"***

Psalm 46 Ministry is divided into 2 divisions: Medical Team and Tactical Team. Ministry members belong to either or both groups, and they must participate in special training to acquire the certifications necessary to serve. Because team members are qualified to handle emergency situations, it is important to recognize their leadership during an emergency, follow their directions, and not interfere in emergency procedures.

THE MEDICAL TEAM

The most qualified members of the medical team are: **Don & Lynn Dodd, Daling McMahon, & Ron Sommers. These people will always be the primary directors in a medical emergency.** Other team members are trained in first aid and certified in CPR. They may be actively assisting in the emergency, giving directions to the congregation, and doing crowd control. These people will be wearing a blue-background Joy name tag. On-duty members may be wearing Psalm 46 T-shirts.

MEDICAL PROCEDURES:

- **Do NOT call 911.** Medical and/or Tactical members of Psalm 46 in direct contact with the medical emergency will call 911 and provide real time information to the dispatcher as it comes available.
- **Follow the directions of Medical Team.** Unless you are a nurse, doctor, EMT or physician's assistant, please to do NOT try to render aid or interfere. (If you have these qualifications, please inform Roy McDonald and consider being a team member.)
- **Do NOT try to leave the sanctuary when all doors are closed except in an emergency.**
- **Do NOT leave your seat to inquire of team members on duty or others in the congregation.**(When possible, Pastor Mark will be informed, and he will inform you.)
- **Do NOT form a circle around an injured, sick or wounded person.** These people need their privacy, and the first responders do not need on-lookers to do their jobs. If you are the spouse, parent or guardian of a person being treated, please identify yourself, and you will be allowed access to that person. Other family & friends need to be seated.
- **Listen for directions to exit the campus and leave immediately through the designated doors!**
- **If the medical emergency occurs in the sanctuary, live feed will stop and all members will be evacuated to the Fellowship Hall where Pastor Mark will either continue his sermon or conduct a prayer session.**

THE TACTICAL TEAM

The Tactical Team is composed of members trained to protect the church in a crisis situation. These volunteers have licenses to carry a concealed weapon. They must also pass qualifying marksmanship tests. They act as greeters, sit at the side doors in the back of the church and throughout the sanctuary.

IF YOU HAVE A LICENSE TO CARRY, BUT ARE NOT ON THE TACTICAL TEAM, YOU MUST FOLLOW THE SAME DIRECTIONS AS THE CONGREGATION. If you have a license to carry, please inform Roy McDonald.

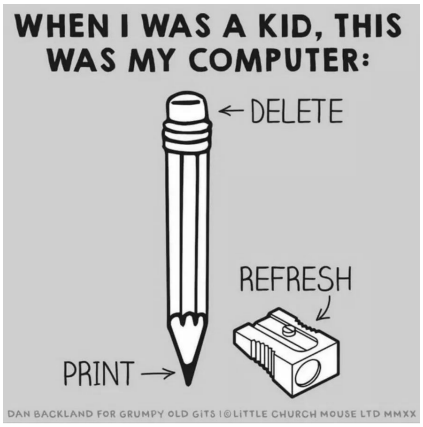
TACTICAL PROCEDURES:

The tactical team is still in the process of practicing a variety of scenarios.

- **In a crisis situation, the congregation will be told to** get down on the floor of the sanctuary. **Do this IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT DISCUSSION.** Keep children beside you. Do not try to stand up. You may get shot, cause someone else to get shot, or block the best shot of a Tactical Team member.
- **LISTEN TO DIRECTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM!!!**
- **Do NOT try to escape through the back doors, unless it is safe;** you will be informed.
- **Do NOT try to enter the Narthex if there is a conflict taking place there.** The sanctuary doors may be locked to keep assailants from entering.
- **If someone is wounded, do not move that person.** When it is safe, Medical Team members sitting in the congregation will take charge.
- **When police and ambulances arrive, the designated spokespersons will provide information.** Unless you are injured, go to the designated waiting area until the **ALL CLEAR** and wait for exit information.

Please pray for the safety of Joy Lutheran Church and for the Psalm 46 Ministry. Also, prior to the start of the service, please plan to visit the restroom and remain in the sanctuary throughout the service, as it is very difficult to protect our members when they are scattered.

– Roy McDonald



Making Sunday Mornings Special

Sundays at Joy are a little sweeter because of a special crew who wants it that way. The aroma of fresh perked coffee floats through the air, cakes and donuts are on plates ready for the taking, and welcome smiles greet all who pass by. Pictured above is Jesse Mask, in the center, who gets up when the rooster crows to buy donuts for the "donut gang" that gathers at the kitchen window every Sunday. Likewise, Curtis Copaus, to Jesse's left, and his wife, Betty, rise at dawn's early light to make sure everything is ready in the kitchen: coffee made, water out, and fresh cakes/donuts on display. Curtis and Betty also buy bottled water to bring to church. Yes, they're ready. Every Sunday. And they can always use volunteers, too. When everything is ready in the kitchen, Curtis fills in as a greeter, too. We thank them for their time and expertise for sure!

Alfred Ernest "Sonny" Wukasch

On February 29th a memorial service was held for Sonny Wukasch at Joy. Sonny went to be with the Lord on February 26, 2020, after 79 years of life with family and friends. He served at Joy as an elder and was always willing to lend a listening ear to anyone who needed it. He brought on many a chuckle to those he charmed with his wit, even Pastor Mark.

He was very involved in growing the church from way back at Grace Lutheran, where he raised his children, to today's Joy Lutheran. He was honored to read God's Word during worship service. He was always ready and willing to serve.

Although Sonny was born in Port Arthur, Texas, he attended and graduated from Channelview High School in 1958. He raised his family in Channelview and still lived in the house where they grew up.

Some remember when he rode his motorcycle to church on Sundays when Family of Joy worshipped in schools. He really enjoyed those rides.

Oogie (Ilda), his wife, was the love of his life. His son, Ernie, testified to this during the memorial service. She and Sonny spent 59 married years together. They and Ernie, Chris, and Jennifer made up the family

The Bible verse Sonny chose for his memorial is: ***"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*** (John 15:13)

Yes, Guys Like To Hug!

Clint Reynolds and Charlie Garmon give each other a big MAN hug during Children's Church on February 23rd, proving guys don't mind a hug now and then. Mom, Karen, grins at the two.

Please Remember To....

Donate to aniMeals

Collect Pop Tabs

Donate Some Change for the NCAM

We are GROWING!

Joy needs YOU!

JOY'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

STOP SKIMMING, YOU NEED TO READ THIS!!!

God has blessed Joy with so much growth and we are so thankful. We are seeing more and more families visit each week. Many families with children are looking for churches that have something to offer their children. We can have friendly people, great sermons, great music...but if we don't have the ministry for the young people, we could lose families! That's why we need you!

Did you know that we only have one Sunday School class for all ages with only one teacher – Lori Fillbrandt? Lori is a brand-new grandma AND she works A LOT at her job, but yet she is our faithful leader! We love Lori and she needs your help! Naomi Brunette helps when she's well and Michelle Brunette has recruited Maggie Shelton, so that she can help Lori, and Clint Reynolds for the High School Youth. We want to be able to have two classes ASAP. We want to have enough teachers to have a healthy rotation where you might only have to teach once a month.
Our kids are worth it !!!!!!

We need teachers and helpers of all ages. Young adults, Parents, Retirees....it takes all of us! We need this vital ministry. There is a sign up at church! Please pray about this! We are following *The Story* at this time as well. Please contact Michelle Brunette at mbrunette14@comcast.net to learn how you can get involved!

We thank Dena Thompson for joining the Sunday School rotation!!!!

EASTER EGG HUNT

We're asking for donations of *stuffed* plastic Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 12th, 2020, at 9:15 am. All donations can be placed in the Easter box located next to the information table in the lobby starting in March. Please, no chocolates in the eggs because they will melt in the sun. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!!

Last year's Easter Egg hunt – so many enjoyed the hunt and just being together in a safe place.

Mother's Day Out

Mother's Day Out Progress - Michelle Brunette

Coming Fall 2020 to Joy Lutheran!
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Class Ages – TBD from waiting list
Registration and Tuition Fees –
Will be announced SOON so you
can share with family and friends!

TEACHERS NEEDED! Please send resume' to Michelle. Share with your family and friends!

MDO planning is now in the works with the start of 2020. Facebook posts have been sent out to various group pages to generate a waiting list.

We have 12 children on our waiting list with one teacher interested at this time. These posts will continue to be generated.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from this ministry, please have them email Michelle.

Goal is to create a waiting list to determine what age groups we need to start with (min. 2 classes)
Ages 18 months – 4 years.

As we get closer, registration fees will be collected to help with upfront costs.

The Teacher – Student– Director Ratio will be in the black to be able to start and will eventually be able to start and will eventually be able to pay down the upfront costs we will incur.

MDO will need to utilize the two big classrooms on the left side of the hall (Classes 1 & 2) at a minimum. It will be discussed with the Leadership Team if we need to utilize all four classrooms depending on the need and possibilities.

We are also checking into a playground for all the children to be able to use.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Brunette via **mbrunette14@comcast.net**

Volunteer Positions Available for Sunday Production Team
WE WILL TRAIN YOU!
Cameras for Live Feed, Computer for Screens, Sound Board

Prayer & Fasting For a Time Such as This

By Sharon Bohot

In the Book of Esther, Mordecai, cousin to the Queen, informs Esther that she must use her position as Queen to save her people from the edict signed by the king to annihilate the Jews. ***"Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. [14]For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."***

*[15]Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, [16]**"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."** [17]Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.*

As each day passes, it becomes more evident that we are approaching the end of the Church Age. Good is evil and evil is good. The media bombards the public with lies and deceit. The nation is divided; our freedoms, and cherished Christian values are constantly being threatened with annihilation. So what do we do in the midst of all the angry rhetoric, political upheaval and mob mentality? DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON, WE CAN FAST & PRAY!

The end goal of the Christian life is to become the person that God wants us to be. This can only be accomplished by allowing His vision, mission, purposes, and goals to shape our lives. ***"Spiritual discipline"*** helps to shape and mold character over an extended period of time that accelerates and focuses on the process. Spiritual discipline is the ***"strict training"*** that Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 9:25: ***"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training."***

Spiritual disciplines include: **routine worship of God with praise & thanksgiving; being in the Word & meditating upon it, prayer, confession & repentance, and fasting.** These behaviors please God and draw us into a closer relationship with Him. This article will focus on prayer with fasting, as prayer is the Christian's most powerful weapon against the devil and his schemes, and fasting amplifies prayer.

WHAT IS FASTING?

In the Bible, fasting is usually a voluntary total abstinence from food and drink for a set time period for the purpose of devoting oneself to seeking God. A person is assumed to be fasting once 8-12 hours have elapsed since the last meal. Fasting denies the flesh what it wants so that believers can focus more clearly on strengthening their spirits.

COMMON THREAD: GODWARD

There are three general reasons for fasting:

- to express repentance, (inward)
- to mourn deaths & tragedies, (outward) or
- to seek God's favor (forward).

Fasting, like prayer, is always God forward because it is based on human lack and need for God – for His *help, favor,* and *guidance.* Believers need His *rescue and comfort in trouble;* they need His *forgiveness* and *grace* because they have sinned. Fasting expresses *to* God the felt need *for* God. People of God pray for daily bread, but in times of *trial,* they seek divine intervention through augmented prayer---***fasting.***

Esther was faced with two challenges: the legal genocide of her people on the appointed day and the Persian law that called for her death in going before the king unsummoned unless he held out his scepter to her. In preparation to face the king, both Esther and the Jewish community observed three days of fasting and prayer, believed to have occurred the 14th, 15th, and 16th days of Nisan, these being the eve and the first two days of Passover.

FASTING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS (Mt. 4:1-9; Lk. 4:1-2) and THE LENTEN SEASON

Why did Jesus fast in the wilderness?

The New Testament (NT) tells that after being baptized by John the Baptist, ***"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness** (Judaean Desert) **to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights He fasted and became very hungry."*** Jesus having refused each temptation, Satan then departed and Jesus returned to Galilee to begin His ministry.

In the Old Testament (OT), the only day commanded by God to fast was on the **Day of Atonement** (for their sins). **Why, then, did Jesus fast for forty days?** Christ is at the heart of the Scriptures: **He is patterned, promised, and present from Genesis onward.** Jesus, Paul, and Peter saw the OT shape as proclaiming, **"Christ's sufferings and glory,"** yet at the same time, each of them maintains that this message is what Moses and the prophets themselves **"wrote," "said," "prophesied,"** and **predicted. (Luke 24:25-27; Acts 26:22-33; 1 Peter 1:10-12).** Therefore, the answer may be found in Deuteronomy.

For example, **Moses twice fasts for 40 days.** The first time is when he was preparing himself to receive the Ten Commandments to give to Israel at the base of Mt. Sinai. **(Deuteronomy 9:9-11).** Similarly, Jesus gives the New Law in the Sermon on the Mount shortly after his 40-day fast **(Matthew 5).**

The second time Moses fasts for 40 days comes immediately after he gives the law. Moses returned from the mountain to find the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. God wished to wipe out Israel and make Moses into an even mightier nation **(Deuteronomy 9:14)**, but Moses fasted another 40 days for the sins of his people **(Deuteronomy 9:18).** Afterward, God permitted Israel to continue to the Promised Land. **(Deuteronomy 10:10-11).**

Once there, the people doubted whether they could overcome the inhabitants in the land, so they sent out scouts, 10 of whom brought back a discouraging report, causing the people to rebel. The punishment was that the Israelites would wander 40 years in the desert (one year for each day the scouts surveyed the enemy) to find out whether or not it was their intention to obey God.

Deuteronomy shows us that Jesus is a new Moses who, after fasting for 40 days, gives us a New Law and suffers for the sins of the people. He is also like a new Israel. Unlike the Israelites who complained and fell short repeatedly in the desert, Jesus responds to temptation with scripture.

By uniting ourselves with the mystery of Christ's trial in the desert, we're reminded that the 40 days of Lent are like our journey through the desert in this life. If we remain faithful, following Jesus Christ, we, too, will enter into the true promised land of heaven.

In the OT, people often fasted in times of distress, individually and communally when they wanted God to hear their prayers:

- **In times of war**
- **When loved ones were sick or to mourn the passing of a loved one**
- **When seeking forgiveness**
- **When faced with impending danger**
- **When seeking God's will**
- **When seeking God's favor; a strong desire for God's blessing and guidance**
- **To discipline or chasten the soul for purposes of moral improvement & humbling**

(continued)

(Prayer & Fasting For a Time Such as This…)

Fasting without true repentance or with wrong motives defeats the purpose of fasting---to have God hear the prayers. Jesus also taught His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:16-18), ***"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*** This suggests that like prayer, fasting is an act of righteousness done to please the Father.

Paul regarded fasting as a mark of his ministry and his good standing as a minister of Christ! Paul also called Christians to imitate him. Paul further taught that fasting and prayer have a place in the lives of married couples, ***"Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But this I say as a concession, not as a commandment."*** (1 CO 7:5-6)

During this Lenten season, let us use prayer and fasting to address the difficult issues today. Fasting breakfast the first Monday of each week (first fruit of time) is an easy fast. Whenever we fast and pray, let us remember:

- Members who suffer from cancer/ serious illness
- Godly candidates in upcoming elections
- Achievement of the church's 5 goals
- Discernment not to be deceived
- Protection of church property/members
- Safety for the U.S. and the President
- Salvation of prodigal children
- Guidance & direction for U.S. government
- Protection of children at school:
  - Koran reading
  - Brain washing to accept anti-God values
  - Denial of student/parental rights
  - Inappropriate teacher/student behavior
- End to abortion (innocent blood)
- Safety for the persecuted
- End to sex trafficking & drug cartels in Houston
- Religious revival & return to God in U.S. & world
- Other: Make a list!

DIAPER DRIVE

Joy's Nursery is hosting a diaper drive for Tori Kreps and Timothy Strempel – Joy's newest baby scheduled to arrive around April 28th. Starting now, and until Hunter's arrival, please bring diapers and baby wipes (any brand) and place donations on the decorated baby table (see photo above) in the lobby. Congratulations to Tori and Timothy!

Victoria (Tori) Kreps

Upon Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He went to the first place He would be expected to go – the Temple. Jesus was concerned with things that must first be resolved before He could be received as King. The first thing on His mind was the condition of His house. Upon arrival, He made a clear prophetic declaration over the temple that was first prophesied by the prophet Isaiah:

"And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "it is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." (Matthew 21:12-13 ESV) After rebuking the temple leaders, Jesus turned and walked out of the city.

In the sanctuary, we worship Holy God. As such, He is worthy of our veneration (great respect), honor and adoration.

We believe that God is present as we praise, give thanks, pray and receive the Word. What does Jesus think when He observes the coffee, cereal and snacks being consumed in the Joy sanctuary during the worship service? Does He feel revered when worshippers constantly come and go throughout the service? How do guests and those who view the service podcasts respond to the constant disruption and the sight of cups and plates under chairs and lying on seats? Would our Lord view the scene as a house of worship or a coffee shop?

Certainly there will be times when it is necessary to leave the church service for a child to use the restroom, and bringing water bottles into the sanctuary is acceptable, but exiting the area to go into a closed kitchen and return with food and drink not only demonstrates a genuine disregard for all, but also makes the work of the Psalm 46 Ministry to keep the church safe much more difficult.

Because the house of God is important to us, we should practice proper church etiquette. Our behavior is a witness to the youth, who imitate us, and to those whom we seek to win for the Lord.

– Sharon Bohot

SATURDAY SET

On Saturday, March 21st, the Saturday Set will be enjoying dinner at the Blue Bayou Cafe. If you sign up (ONE PERSON PER LINE, please) and find out that you can't make it, please let Bob Floyd (713-894-0412) or Kathy Sommers, in the church office (832-850-5070) know. If someone does cancel by Wednesday, March 19, the next person signed-up will be called to take their place.

Wondering where to go in April? The date will be April 18 (the Saturday after Easter), but no one has made any suggestions. Where would **YOU** like to go?

-Bob Floyd

Can You Memorizzzzzzzz?

If you went to Sunday School when you were young, your teacher probably wanted you to learn a Bible verse for memory. For a young mind it was probably easy. And that memory verse may have even stayed with you over the years.

As we get older, it is harder to remember, but that does not mean we can't memorize a Bible verse.

Here is a suggestion for a sure fire way to remember a verse:

+ First we have to have a time when we are still.
+ Then we have to have the verse written down on an index card or piece of paper.
+ Then we have to say it out loud.

I finally figured out where and when I could do this. In fact, I could do it several times a day.

(Now please forgive me for being crass or inappropriate)

The one place I am not moving (much) is the time I spend in the bathroom! I tape my verse on the wall across from where I sit and say the verse out loud as many times as I can. I know that if I repeat that verse out loud 100 times, I have it in my memory.

Here is one of the greatest verses I memorized recently:

"If I make my home with You, and Your words are at home in me ….. then I can be sure that whatever I ask… will be listened to and will be acted upon." John 15:7

- Donna Eichberger

Maundy Thursday
Seder Service with Meal
April 9, 2020
Fellowship Hall

In 2020, the first day of Passover falls on Maundy Thursday. This Maundy Thursday, Joy will have a Passover Seder Service with meal and Communion in the Fellowship Hall. As the Seder is a family event, it will be open to everyone. There will be no separate child care. The cost of admission will be a free-will donation. Each family is asked to bring a bottle of red wine. Joy will provide grape juice for the children and those who cannot drink wine. Through donations, Joy will also provide the meal of roast chicken, salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert. Small groups have been asked to prepare the Seder. Participants are asked to sign up in advance.

"The Passover Supper is rich with symbolism in the unleavened bread (matzah) represents the sinless Savior; it is broken in half and hidden away, representing His death and burial; it is later uncovered and eaten. "This is my body," gives the bread a new level of meaning. The sacrificial blood of the lamb also foreshadows the New Covenant. In Egypt, the Israelites painted their door posts with the blood of a spotless lamb. When the angel of death saw this, he "passed over" those homes and spared the first born from the last of the ten plagues - death. When John refers to Jesus as "…the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," it becomes evident that the Israelites had been rehearsing a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for 1500 years before His birth by celebrating the Passover [which God commanded].

During the course of the evening you will have:

- **four cups of wine or grape juice.**
- **veggies dipped in saltwater.**
- **flat, dry cracker-like bread called matzah**
- **bitter herbs, often horseradish (without additives) parsley dipped into salt water, and *charoset* (a mixture of raisons, apples, pears, spices and grape juice).**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/03	James Shelton
3/06	Mark Eichberger
	Carl Mattern
3/10	Don Dodd
3/16	Victoria (Tori) Kreps
3/17	Aaron Brunette
3/23	Brooke Farina
3/25	Elizabeth Sanford
3/27	Michelle Brunette
3/28	Tiffani Moerbe
	Frank Thompson
3/29	Anthony Williams
	Anthony Williams, Jr.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/19	Arnold & Susan Escobar

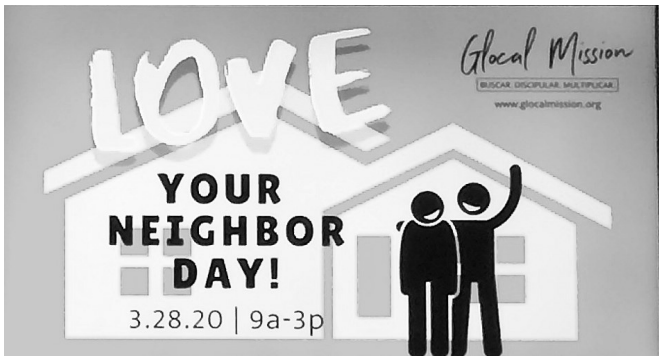
Several months ago the Knapes and Ogdens took a trip to see one of Joy's most wonderful couples - Anna and Victor Loesch, who had moved up towards Austin a few years ago to be closer to their family. They live in a retirement home in a beautiful area.

After lunching together, the couples took some extra time to visit in the Loesch's apartment, as seen above. Of course, everyone got silly and made "rabbit ears" on some of their heads!

Starting at the left is Anna Loesch, Maury and Evelyn Knape, Victor Loesch, and Barbara and Ray Ogden. The Loesch's daughter, Debbie, took the picture amid lots of laughter.

To the right is a picture of Vic when he was in the Seabees as a young man. This picture is displayed in a room honoring the veterans living there.

Vic and Anna spent years helping to build churches earlier in their lives. So, they have so many interesting stories to tell. It's worth a trip to be around these two. We were all honored to do so.



On February 16, 2020, two visiting pastors came to Joy. At the left is Dr. David Kim and in the center is Pastor Antonio (Tony) Mercado. Each addressed the congregation with the assistance of Pastor Mark about Glocal Mission.

The term GLOCAL is a fusion of the words "**global**" and "**local**". The term glocal reflects and is characterized by both local and global considerations. It's not a global ***or*** local mission. It's not an overseas ***or*** domestic mission. The mission statement of the Glocal Mission is:

> **Reaching with the gospel of Jesus 3 billion people by 2050 and raising 1 million disciple makers among 127 nations.** (cf. Esther 3:9; 8:9; Rev. 5:9; 7:9)

Dr. Kim was born in South Korea. Under his leadership, more than 50 indigenous and missional churches are currently being planted and thousands of missional pastors, leaders, and disciples are being trained GLOCALLY in places like USA, Ecuador, S. Korea, Honduras, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mexico, and many others. In 2007, Dr. Kim and his wife, Juhee, moved to Houston to become the Mission Director at LINC Houston where he serves as leading and supervising pastor over 23 mission congregations that worship in 15+ different languages. He has been serving for over 7 years at the Board of Mission Administration for TX District.

Pastor Mercado, as a Glocal Mission Catalyst Leader, leads Christian worship services in Spanish. Soon, we hope he will be able to start a Spanish-speaking service at Joy so Spanish speakers will be able to attend and understand services in their native language.

The Great Commission is too big for anyone to accomplish alone and too important not to try to do it together. (taken from *Missio Nexus*) *(Rom. 12:3-8; Eccl. 4:12; 1 Cor. 12:12 -31; 1 Cor. 10:24; Mark 2:14-17; Eph. 4:1-8)*

A Wee Bit of Irish Humor

Baptizing an Irishman

An Irishman is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds into the water, subsequently bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon, he asks the drunk, **"Are you ready to find Jesus?"**

The drunk shouts, **"Yes, I am!"**

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, **"Brother, have you found Jesus?"**

The drunk replies, **"No, I haven't found Jesus!"**

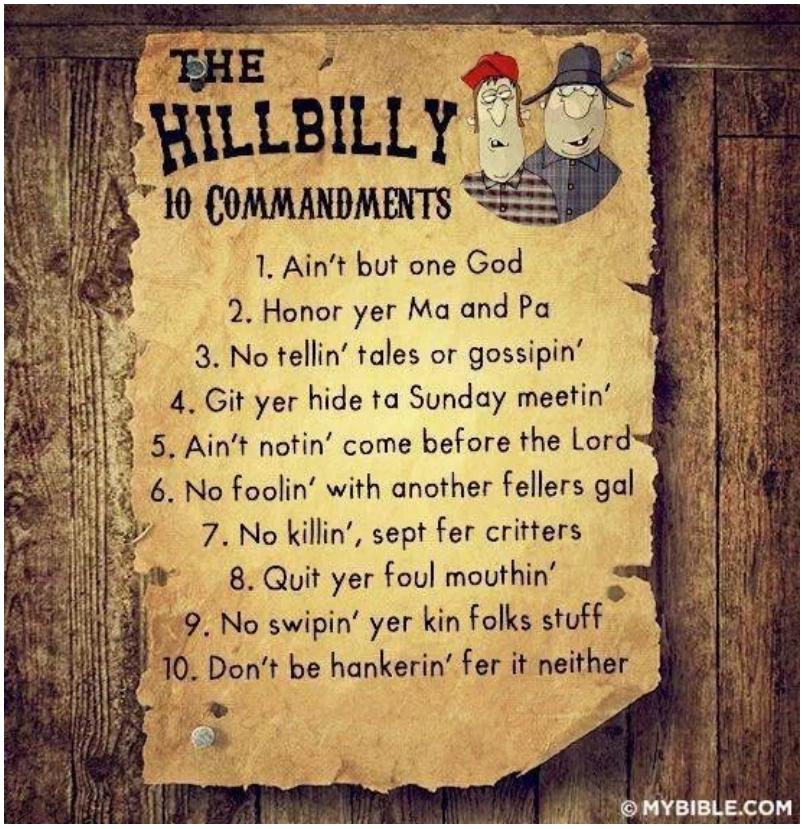
The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, **"Have you found Jesus, brother?"**

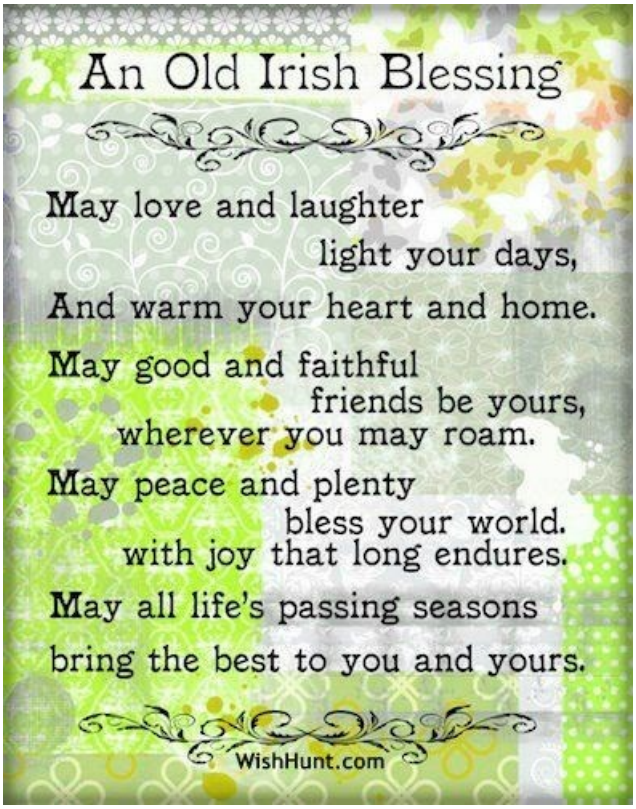
The drunk answers, **"No, I haven't found Jesus!"**

By this time, the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk again - but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when he begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up. The preacher again asks the drunk, **"For the love of God, have you found Jesus?"**

The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher, **"Are you sure this is where he fell in?"**

Just in Time for the Rodeo





Lutheran Church
14450 Woodson Park Dr.
Houston, TX 77044

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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APRIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

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