



NOTES OF JOY

Joy Lutheran Church • 302 North Goliad Rockwall, Texas 75087 • Tel. 214-716-7539 • www.joylutheranchurch.org
Joyfully sharing Jesus and ourselves with our neighbors

White Elephant Christmas Party

The Annual White Elephant Christmas Party will be held on December 2nd at the home of Paul & Linda Manak with co-hostesses Jo & George Dieterich starting at 6:00 p.m. There is a White Elephant involved and you don't want to get it. Please RSVP on sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Ladies Ornament Exchange

The Annual Ladies Ornament Exchange will be held on December 6th at Luigi's Restaurant at 6:30. Bring an ornament for the gift exchange and yes it will get stolen by one your of your friends.

Committee Activities

Joy Properties

The grounds care continues by Bob Maxwell, Richard Oltmanns, Bruce Kraft, and Paul Manak. An update on the proposed Prayer Garden to be built on Joy Property by Andrew Long and he has met the City of Rockwall requirements with the layout and design of the fence.

Worship

If you would like to assist in altar care the signup sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Training is available.

Outreach & Fellowship

They had the last of the picture retakes done and the pictures have been mailed out and the Directory will be available the first of next year to the congregation.

Stewardship

The committee Thank You luncheon went very well and had a great turnout. The Mosaic banks have started to be turned in and will continue to collect them thru the first Sunday in December. They are assisting the youth with the Angel Tree and we are collecting items for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Greenville for their CASA Closet (foster children). The Angel gifts will need to be returned by December 10th. At the December meeting the committee will plan for 2018.

Education

The Living Nativity will be the evening of December 9th starting between 6 and 6:30 p.m. The Youth Christmas Program will be on December 10th during the church service.

Financial Update

The finance committee has been meeting to work on the 2018 Proposed Budget and have been receiving in the Pledge cards. The preliminary budget will be presented at the November Council Meeting.

For a treasurer's report please ask Bob Maxwell.

Serving in December

Greeters 3 – Karen McClenon

10– Vince & Dorothy Nelson
17 – Paul and Linda Manak
24 – Bob Maxwell
31 – Jim & Nelda Haynes

Usher 3 – Sue Shannon & Inez Roach

10 – Gail Crawford & Dawn Mahoney
17 – Rhonda White & Judy Pettett
24 – Jo & George Dieterich
31 – Judy & Jim Randolph

Flowers 3 – Rhonda White in honor of

Betty Shaver (mom's) Birthday
10 – Judy Randolph in honor of Jim Randolph's birthday
17 – Karen McClenon
24 – Derrick's
31 – open

Initial Visits – Karen McClenon

Altar Care – Jo Dieterich

Assisting 3 – Lon Hickman Jr. (reader) & Melissa Hickman (Comm. Asst.)

10 – Larry Magruder
17 – Steve Orr
24 – George Dieterich A.M. & Christmas Eve
31 – Jo Dieterich

Pianist 3 – Aaron Tsai

10 – Aaron Tsai
17 – Gillian Boley
24 AM – Bethany Boley
24 PM – Gillian Boley
31 – Bethany Boley

Counters 3 – Paul Manak & Don Caldwell

10 – Paul Manak & Rhonda White
17 – Judy Randolph & Les Polsen
24 – Rhonda White & George Dieterich
31 – Jo Dieterich & Kathy Kraft

Refreshments 3 – Rhonda White

10 – Jo Dieterich
17 – Derrick's
24 – Eliasson's
31 – Open

Thank you from Paul & Sharon Appel

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ of Joy

Thank you for all you did to make our last Sunday together as parishioners and pastor memorable. The kindness you extended to Sharon, me and our family that day matched the kindness you have always shown us throughout the past eighteen years. That kindness is a fruit of the Spirit which you have produced abundantly, I expect, as long as Joy has existed as a congregation of Christ's church.

Sharon and I appreciate the gifts also. Our children and grandchildren had a good time unwrapping all those bills!! The crystal remembrance marking my forty years of active parish ministry and Sharon's role in that time of service we have displayed in our new home.

May your light reflecting the love of Christ always shine.

May your celebration of God's grace, mercy and peace continue without end.

May every day be for Joy a new day for sharing Jesus and yourselves with your neighbors.

Gratefully,

Paul & Sharon Appel

Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017

A Parting Gift from Pastor Paul Appel

GLORY AND GRACE - We have all done some preparing to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this month. We have watched one of the Luther movies or documentaries. We have read a Luther biography. We have visited important Reformation sites in Germany. We have used Luther's Small Catechism for daily devotions. We have studied with others the 95 Theses, those statements Luther offered as guide to discuss the place and purpose of the sale of indulgences in the life of the Church. As a final act of preparation for the celebration to come, let's consider Theses # 62. Luther wrote, *"the true treasure of the Church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God. "*

God's glory and grace, Luther would consider Gospel. Glory serves as an English translation of the Hebrew word, shekinah. Shekinah in the Old Testament refers to the physical presence of God. Hence, God's glory or shekinah came and settled upon Mt. Zion or later came and filled the Temple. God's glory gave proof of God's presence.

When young, Martin Luther pictured God as an angry judge. Luther wondered how he could stand in the presence of an angry judging God and not receive condemnation for his many sins. Luther actually did express fear and dread of God almighty. Yet, as Luther continued to study the Scriptures, the Spirit opened Luther's eyes to see, his mind to know and his heart to believe that God did not want to condemn him as a sinner but to save him from the eternal consequence of his sin. God was gracious. God, the almighty creator of heaven and earth, gave his only begotten Son Jesus Christ to save sinners. God's own dear Son Jesus Christ gave his life up to death upon the cross of Calvary on every sinner's behalf and rose from death to life on Easter for every sinner's benefit and became that savior. God's Holy Spirit gives every believer that faith which clings to Jesus Christ as Savior and follows Jesus Christ as Lord in this life, through physical death to eternal life. This was all grace. God Father, Son and Spirit acted graciously. And God's glory, God's very presence, no longer frightened Luther. Rather God's glory, God's very presence, filled Luther with joy, gave him hope, offered him peace., He counted it a privilege to read and study. to preach and teach the Scriptures filled with and revealing the glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to all. Through the Scripture God actually reached out touched and grabbed those who believed. He eagerly accepted Jesus' invitation to partake of the Holy Supper. Luther gratefully. received Jesus his Savior and Lord in, with and under those forms of bread and wine and in receiving Jesus reaped the benefits of Jesus' own cross death and Easter triumph; namely forgiveness, life and salvation. All this giving by God, Luther named as grace. Hence the glory and grace of God, Luther could describe as the most holy Gospel. Let's celebrate this treasure of the Church, "the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God." Let's celebrate together!

December 2017

December

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

Sunday 26 Monday 27 Tuesday 28 Wednesday 29 Thursday 30 Friday 12/1 Saturday 2

White Elephant Christn

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1st Sunday of Advent Ladies Ornament Exch: Living Nativity 6:00

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

2nd Sunday in Advent Young @ Heart Lunche

Children's Christmas Pr

Turn in Angel Tree Gifts

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

3rd Sunday in Advent St. Thomas Apostle

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

4th Sunday in Advent Christmas Day St. Stephan Deacon & f St. John Apostle & Evar Holy Innocents Martyrs

Christmas Eve