



# JOY

## Lutheran Church

*Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...*

### The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter - April 17, 2026

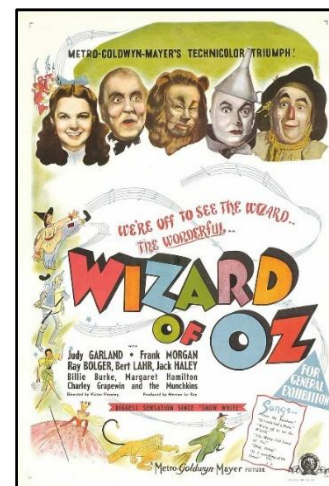
*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!" (Psalm 100:1)*

302 N. Goliad Street • Rockwall, Texas • (214) 716-7539 • [www.joylutheranchurch.org](http://www.joylutheranchurch.org)

### Family Movie Night!

**TONIGHT - Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:45 pm**

1939 was arguably the peak of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Our Family Movie Night is highlighting a fan-favorite from that year: *The Wizard of Oz!* This beloved film tells the story of a *twista* uprooting a Kansas farm girl and her little dog from her sepia-toned rural life and dropping her smack-dab in the middle of a candy-colored fantasy land populated with witches and wizards and munchkins, oh my. This party is not to be missed! Invite a friend to join you in skipping down the yellow brick road as you enjoy popcorn and candy and watch a true Hollywood classic.



- Family Movie Night - Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.
- Art Gathering - *Will Not Meet* this Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> but will pick back up on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Music & Worship Team Meeting - Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm (open to all).
- Blaine Davis leading our Worship - Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am
- Art Gathering - Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Ladies Bunco Night - Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Men's Gathering at Pastor Martin's (903 Windham Drive) - Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Family Movie Night & Pizza Party - Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:45 pm.
- Nominating Committee Meeting - Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 am.

- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Young at Heart Luncheon – Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am (place TBD).
- Church Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- Blaine Davis leading our Worship – Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.
- Congregational Potluck – Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> after our worship.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Last Youth Sunday School before Summer Break – Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Family Movie Night – Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.
- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

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## STEWARDSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

### HELPING HANDS COLLECTION UPDATE

Every first Sunday of the month, we join forces with Helping Hands Food Bank to gather food items and donations. Please consider bringing some canned or dry goods on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Year to date we have collected \$238.07.

PATRIOTPAWS is a local organization providing high-quality Service Dogs, at no cost, to help restore the independence of disabled American Veterans. Veterans carry wounds both visible and invisible. Some struggle to walk or stand without help. Others can't sleep, can't be in crowds, or feel trapped in their own homes. A Service Dog helps break that cycle. We are collecting change for this organization over the first three Sundays of May. For more information see Linda Manak or go to <https://patriotpaws.org/>.



**Interested in becoming a member of Joy? Please contact Pastor Martin.**

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

First Reading- Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Second Reading- 1 Peter 1:17-25

Responsive Reading- Psalm 116:1-14

Gospel- Luke 24:13-35



Patty, Tommy & Laurie, Janet, Weston, Devin, Mary Kay & Mike, Brian & Kelli, Joanne, Linn, Mary, Annette & Charles, and our Armed Forces.

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### WE'VE STARTED AN ARTISTS' GATHERING AT JOY!

Do you draw or paint? Have you been thinking of learning? Or do you enjoy crafts or other hobbies like card making? Are you looking for a great place to get together to use (or develop) your talent among encouraging friends? This informal gathering meets on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 2:00 in the fellowship hall. We bring our own lunch and eat together at noon. See Pastor Martin for more info.

## Come, Lord Jesus - Gene Edward Veith

When I became a Lutheran, one of the few things about my new church that I did not love was the Common Table Prayer that everyone in my congregation would say before meals:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
And let these gifts to us be blest.

This struck me as a children's prayer, like "God is great, God is good" and "Now I lay me down to sleep." Nothing wrong with them, but they sound like singsong nursery rhymes. I much preferred the catechism's table prayer with its strong Biblical core from Psalm 145:15-16: "**The eyes of all look to you, O Lord.**" But little did I know the depth of the Common Table Prayer and why Lutherans love it. This prayer also has a strong Biblical core: "**Come, Lord Jesus**" is the last prayer in the Bible (Rev. 22:20). Moreover, it is pretty much the last word of the Bible, appearing next to the last verse of Revelation, just before the closing benediction and the final "**Amen.**" Scripture ends with a prayer for Jesus to return. The church prays for His return until that happens. But it is also a prayer for Jesus to come in the Gospel. A few verses earlier, the Book of Revelation reveals this to be the word of the Holy Spirit, the word of the church as the Bride of Christ, the word of those who hear this Word of God – namely, us – and also the one "**who is thirsty**" and in need of grace:

**The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.** (Rev. 22:17)

The Common Table Prayer asks Jesus to come into a humble context, the family gathered together for a meal. "**Be our guest.**" Join us. We welcome You into our home and to our table. God gives us this day our daily bread by means of farmers and bakers, but also through the "bread winners" and the hands that prepared our meal. Thus, God is present when we sit around the table with our family to enjoy a good meal. The 19th-century German artist, Fritz von Uhde, a devout Lutheran, made a painting of this prayer. It shows an ordinary peasant family sitting around a table and then Jesus walks in. They stand to greet Him, with bows and shy looks, as they would with any guest. Jesus, the Lord of the universe, has come to this humble family to be with them. When we call upon the name of Jesus, as we do in this prayer, He is present with us. "**For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them**" (Matt. 18:20).

The prayer also acknowledges that our food and sustenance are "**gifts.**" We receive "**everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body,**" in the words of the *Small Catechism*, from the hands of our gracious God (*SC, Lord's Prayer*). The concept of "gift" is important for Lutheranism. Our salvation is not a matter of "wages," of getting compensated for our work (Rom. 4:4). Indeed, our work has merely earned us death: "**For the wages of sin is death,**" says St. Paul, "**but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (Rom. 6:23). Salvation is not our doing, but the gift of God's grace. "**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God**" (Eph. 2:8).

What is true in God's spiritual kingdom is also true in God's earthly kingdom. Our life is His gift. Our vocations in the home, the workplace, the society and the church are His gift. Thus, our spouse, our children and the other members of our family are His gifts. And the food that we are about to eat, after we pray, is His gift. We pray that God will bless these gifts. And that He will bless them "**to us.**" They will be for our good. This prayer helps us reflect on Christ's presence and God's gifts even in something as ordinary as eating a meal. We now say it in our home, too.

## NALC NEWS...

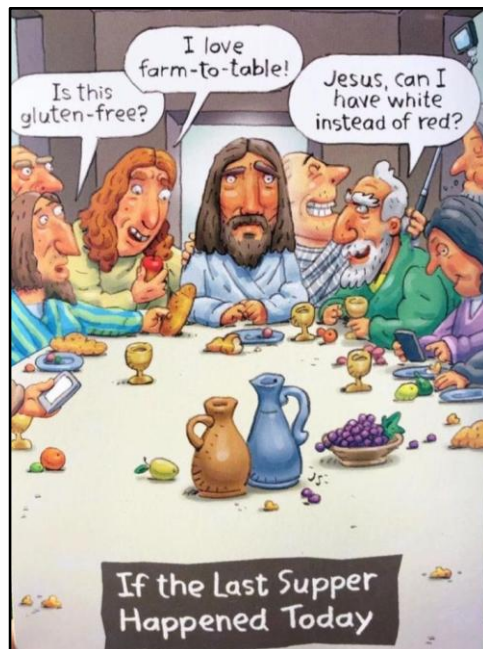
### FOLLOWING JESUS. FORMING DISCIPLES. FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.

- A “Family Reunion” of the NALC Texas-Oklahoma Mission Region is scheduled from 3:00 pm on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> through 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Welcome Lutheran Church in Brenham, Tx. Registration forms have been posted and placed on the information table in the fellowship hall.
- Online Convocation – August 7<sup>th</sup> Delegates will participate in elections, vote to approve the proposed budget, and receive key updates from Bishop Dan Selbo. We look forward to gathering together as we seek to steward our shared life faithfully.
- Women's Online Bible Study - 1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month, 12:00 p.m. CDT on Zoom. Hosted by the Women of the North American Lutheran Church (WNALC), this online Bible study invites women from across the church to gather around God’s Word for meaningful conversation, encouragement, and growth in faith. To join, send an email to <wnalc@thenalc.org>



Our Renovation Team One held a meeting this past Sunday with nine people in attendance. We set priorities for the next phase of our renovation and beautification projects. Last year, we renovated the church exterior; this year, we are focusing on interior upgrades: new front doors, vestibule window, audio/visual improvements, sanctuary lights, and painting the restrooms, fellowship hall, and kitchen. We are collecting quotes for these items and expect to get started on our list over the next few weeks. We have started a building fund, so please consider how you might financially help with these projects.

*And now for something completely different...*



***“A joyful heart is good medicine, but depression drains one's strength.”***

*(Proverbs 17:22, God's Word Translation)*