



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter - April 24, 2026

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

302 N. Goliad Street • Rockwall, Texas • (214) 716-7539 • www.joyslutheranchurch.org

LADIES BUNCO NIGHT - THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 AT 6:30 PM.

Ladies, we are in for a treat with this fun and engaging monthly event, the Bunco Group! This lively game night takes place at the Church Fellowship Hall, kicking off at 6:30.

Bunco is a fantastic way to connect with fellow members, neighbors, and guests to enjoy a game full of chance and laughter. Whether you're a seasoned Bunco player or new to the game, everyone is welcome to join in the fun! A sign-up sheet has been posted in the fellowship hall.



MEN'S GATHERING - THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 AT 6:30 PM.



Guys don't do a great job connecting with others and making friends. It's not that we don't want to connect with others, it's just we don't have that many opportunities, and when we do, we will often find excuses not to engage.

Our men's gathering is not one more thing on your calendar that you feel obligated to attend, but it's an opportunity for men to connect and hear what is going on in the lives of others. This month's gathering will be at Pastor Martin's (903 Windham Dr.) Come hungry!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT & PIZZA PARTY - FRIDAY, MAY 1ST AT 6:30 PM.

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982) is a classic sci-fi film directed by Steven Spielberg about a gentle alien stranded on Earth who befriends a lonely 10-year-old boy named Elliott. Elliott, his siblings Michael and Gertie, and friends hide E.T. from government agents, forming a deep emotional bond, and work together to help him "phone home" and return to his family. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to join you for pizza and a movie!



- Blaine Davis leading our Worship – Sunday, April 26th at 10:30 am
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, April 28th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Ladies Bunco Night – Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30 pm.
- Men’s Gathering at Pastor Martin’s – Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30 pm.
- Family Movie Night & Pizza Party - Friday, May 1st at 6:30 pm.
- Nominating Committee Meeting – Sunday, May 3rd at 11:30 am.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 5th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 12th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Young at Heart Luncheon – Wednesday, May 13th at 11:45 am (place TBD).
- Church Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 13th at 6:00 pm.
- Blaine Davis leading our Worship – Sunday, May 17th at 10:30 am.
- Congregational Potluck – Sunday, May 17th after our worship.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 19th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Last Youth Sunday School before Summer Break – Sunday, May 24th.
- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Family Movie Night – Friday, June 12th at 6:45 pm.
- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 28th.



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 3rd.

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 2:42-47

Second Reading- 1 Peter 2:19-25

Responsive Reading- Psalm 23:1-6

Gospel- John 10:1-10



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

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.

VOICES OLD AND NEW... *On the Liturgy* – C.S. Lewis (1963) & Pastor Jared Melius (2018)

This section of our newsletter is an occasional offering highlighting Christian voices from yesterday and today. Last week we heard from Gene Edward Veith, as he taught us the value of a simple table prayer used by generations of Lutherans. This week we hear two more valuable “voices” speaking about liturgy. In Christian usage, “liturgy” is derived from the Greek *leitourgia*, which is made up of two words: PEOPLE (*laos*) and WORK (*ergon*). Literally, a liturgy is a “work of the people,” so at its most basic, “liturgy” refers to the order of a worship service. You don’t have to meet in a catacomb to have a liturgy! All churches have an *order* of worship. If a church worships, it has a liturgy – good, bad, or otherwise. So even so-called “non-liturgical” churches still follow a pattern of worship.

Why is all this important? The way a service is structured will inform the way we are structured. **“This is what the LORD says: What fault did your fathers find in Me that they strayed so far from Me? They followed worthless idols, and became worthless themselves.”** (Jeremiah 2:5; see Psalm 115:8) A God-centered and gospel-focused service will produce people who are the same. Our worship together is one of the primary ways we behold the Lord and are **“transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”** (2 Corinthians 3:18) May the following “voices” bless you this week as we prepare to worship together this coming Sunday.

...There is no subject in the world (always excepting sport) on which I have less to say than liturgiology. And the almost nothing which I have to say may as well be disposed of in this letter.

I think our business as laymen is to take what we are given and make the best of it. And I think we should find this a great deal easier if what we were given was always and everywhere the same.

To judge from their practice, very few Anglican clergymen take this view. It looks as if they believed people can be lured to go to church by incessant brightenings, lightenings, lengthenings, abridgements, simplifications and complications of the service. And it is probably true that a new, keen vicar will usually be able to form within his parish a minority who are in favor of his innovations. The majority, I believe, never are. Those who remain—many give up churchgoing altogether—merely endure.

Is this simply because the majority are hide-bound? I think not. They have a good reason for their conservatism. Novelty, simply as such, can have only an entertainment value. And they don’t go to church to be entertained. They go to use the service, or, if you prefer, to enact it. Every service is a structure of acts and words through which we receive a sacrament, or repent, or supplicate, or adore. And it enables us to do these things best—if you like, it “works” best—when, through long familiarity, we don’t have to think about it. As long as you notice, and have to count, the steps, you are not yet dancing but only learning to dance. A good shoe is a shoe you don’t notice. Good reading becomes possible when you need not consciously think about eyes, or light, or print, or spelling. The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God.

But every novelty prevents this. It fixes our attention on the service itself; and thinking about worship is a different thing from worshipping. ...

A still worse thing may happen. Novelty may fix our attention not even on the service but on the celebrant. You know what I mean. Try as one may to exclude it, the question, "What on earth is he up to now?" will intrude. It lays one's devotion waste. There is really some excuse for the man who said, "I wish they'd remember that the charge to Peter was Feed my sheep; not Try experiments on my rats, or even, Teach my performing dogs new tricks."

Thus my whole liturgiological position really boils down to an entreaty for permanence and uniformity. I can make do with almost any kind of service whatever, if only it will stay put. But if each form is snatched away just when I am beginning to feel at home in it, then I can never make any progress in the art of worship. You give me no chance to acquire the trained habit-habito dell' arte.

(C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*)

Four Stages For Coming Into The Liturgy

1. **Confusion** – where am I? what page? am I supposed to be standing or sitting?
2. **Boredom** – This is the most dangerous phase. At this phase, people begin to conclude that because the liturgy is repetitive, that it is therefore non-spiritual. This conclusion is hardly ever thought out as such. It is just a matter of impressions and feelings. This "feels" dry, dull, non-spiritual. And therefore, it must be from man and not from God.
3. **Love of the liturgy itself** – If phase 2 didn't drive people away from the liturgy, it is usually and ironically replaced by the love of the liturgy for the liturgy's sake. Here people begin to love the "feeling," the "reverence," and the connection to history. They have a sense that this is old and therefore good. People in the depths of this phase can spend hours researching whether the Creed should come before the sermon or after, trying to find out which practice is more "ancient." Truthfully, many pastors get stuck in this phase and endorse liturgical worship because it is older, more reverent, etc. Some of them leave for the Eastern church or the Roman church because they think they can get it more pure there.
4. **Love of the content** – The liturgy is a conduit for Word of God and the means of grace. There isn't, in my opinion, a better such conduit on the market. If there were, I myself would adopt it. In this phase, one uses the liturgy for the sake of the Gospel itself, not for the sake of the liturgy itself.

(Pastor Jared Melius)



Sign-up Sheets are on the Blessings Board in the Fellowship Hall. Please review these opportunities and see where God may be leading you to serve our church family.

We are especially in need of a volunteer to help record our worship service and upload it to our Facebook page. If you are willing to help in this area one week per month, please talk to the pastor.

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 31st through 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 1st 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 7th Delegates will participate in elections, vote to approve the proposed budget, and receive key updates from Bishop Dan Selbo.
- 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 next **Young at Heart Lunch** is set for Wednesday, May 13 at 11:45 at Fable and Fire Bistro (on the square at 118 Rusk). Please sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall and invite a friend to come and share this great opportunity for fun and fellowship!

We have received estimates on two projects our Renovation Team has identified as priorities:

- new front doors & new vestibule window
- audio/visual improvements



Team One will meet soon to discuss these estimates and decide on the best course forward. Please be in prayer for this next phase of our renovation and beautification project. We have also started a building fund, please consider how you might financially help with these projects.

And now for something completely different...



Man's second BIG mistake.

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but depression drains one's strength."

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