



# JOY

## Lutheran Church

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

### The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter - May 1, 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](http://www.joyslutheranchurch.org)

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT & PIZZA PARTY - TONIGHT! MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 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. We are so appreciative of Genni and her crew for putting on these wonderful events!

*Save These*  
**DATES**

- Family Movie Night & Pizza Party - **tonight**, Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Nominating Committee Meeting - **this 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.
- 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>.

## 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 a few canned items or dry goods **this Sunday**, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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 [patriotpaws.org](http://patriotpaws.org).



### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

First Reading- Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Second Reading- 1 Peter 2:2-10

Responsive Reading- Psalm 146:1-10

Gospel- John 14:1-14



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Judy, Patty, Tommy & Laurie, Janet, Weston, Devin, Mary Kay & Mike, Brian & Kelli, Joanne, Linn, Annette & Charles, Dax, our national, state, and local governmental officials, and our Armed Forces in harm's way.

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

Do you enjoy painting or crafts? Are you looking for a great place to get together to use (or develop) your talent among 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* (Part 2)

St John Chrysostom (347-407) & Ernest Koenker (1920-2012)

This section of our newsletter offers Christian voices from yesterday and today. Last week we heard about the value of liturgical worship. Today, the first voice speaks of the importance of gathering with other Christians for regular worship (see Hebrews 10:24-25). The second speaks of how the liturgical calendar allows us to **“walk as Jesus walked”** (1 John 2:6) throughout the year.

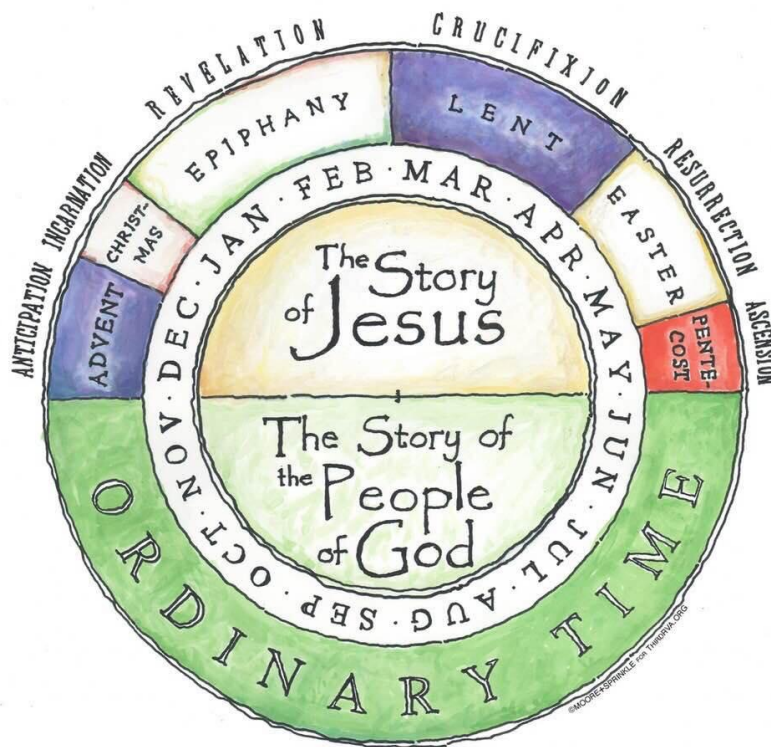
Don't, then, be careless, beloved, about spending time [in worship]. For if some despondency is troubling you, here it is chased away; if business concerns, they turn away; if irrational passions, they are extinguished. We go home from the marketplace and the theatre and other gatherings in the outside world trailing a great number of worries and despondencies and sicknesses of the soul. If you constantly spend time here, you will completely discard those evils which you received out in the world. But if you turn away and flee, you will completely destroy even those blessings you acquired from the divine Scriptures, while your wealth is gradually sucked down the drain by the gatherings and conversations in the outside world. And that these assertions are true, when you go home from here make an effort to catch sight of those who stayed away today and you will see how substantial the divide between your cheerfulness and their despondency. - St. John Chrysostom, Sermon, *On The Martyrs*

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If one is well instructed in the Bible, his understanding of the liturgy will be immeasurably enhanced, while at the same time his knowledge of the liturgy should lead to an ever-greater appreciation of the great teachings of Christianity. Liturgical forms are simply a means of deepening and strengthening the spiritual life of those who have been addressed by the Word . . . The liturgy and the Bible exercise a reciprocal action on each other. The liturgy proclaims the Word. Within these set forms the Biblical message sparkles and challenges hearers from one generation to another. But the Word also illuminates the liturgy. If the liturgy mirrors Scripture in presenting 'the whole Christ,' Scripture, in the primary forms of lessons and exposition, is required to call forth the response of faith and love . . . As the seasons of the church year make their annual circuit, the preacher has no other task than to unfold the *mysterium Christi*, the mystery of Christ. He makes it known in all its splendor, with a sense of awe and wonder and with all its meaning for the faltering lives of Christ's little ones.

- Ernest Koenker, *Worship in Word and Sacrament* (1959)

As Koenker points out, one of the great benefits of having a biblically grounded, consistent liturgy is that it aids a congregation in focusing its worship on Christ and His gospel. Our liturgical calendar reflects that focus by following the events in the life and ministry of Jesus. Following a Christ-centered, gospel-shaped liturgy week-to-week is a powerful way to help our people think more like Jesus and, by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, become more like Jesus. The following chart demonstrates that through the liturgy, the Gospel story is retold as a drama that spans the course of the full year – the *liturgical year*, the *Christian year*.



This calendar orients your life around the truths of the Gospel instead of around secular time, business cycles, hunting and sporting seasons, etc. Remembering God's work, Christ's death and resurrection, and the Spirit's coming will change you, drawing you into deeper intimacy with our Triune God. This map of sacred time is a constant reminder that your life is bigger than you know. You are part of God's cosmic plan that started before time and will continue into eternity.

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.



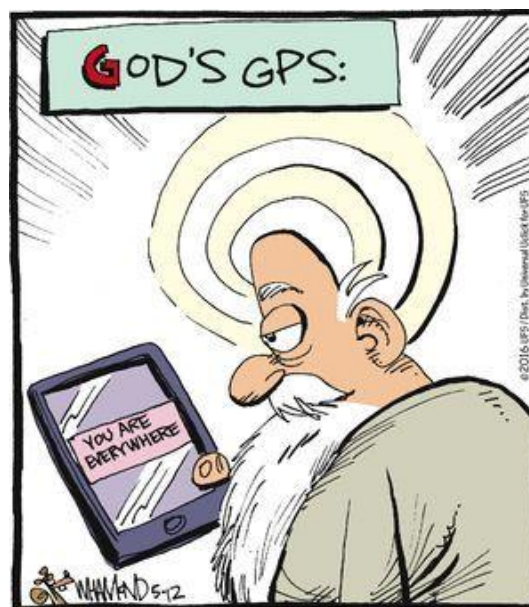
Our next **YOUNG AT HEART LUNCH** is set for Wednesday, May 13 at 11:45 at **FABLE AND FIRE BISTRO** (on the square at 118 Rusk). Please sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall and invite a friend to come and share this great opportunity for fun and fellowship!

Our **RENOVATION AND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT** is moving forward! We have received two estimates for new front doors and a new vestibule window. We have also received an estimate for a complete overhaul of our sound system and upgrades to our video streaming.



Team One will meet soon to review estimates and determine next steps. Team Two will analyze recommendations and update the congregation. Please support our building fund to help launch these essential projects and to allow us to explore future fellowship hall upgrades.

*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*)