



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter -May 8, 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



Dear Members and Friends of Joy Lutheran Church... last year we completed a much-needed renovation to the exterior of our church. Over the years our Texas weather led to deterioration, so repairs were essential to preserve the integrity of our building and avoid higher repair and insurance costs in the future. The Church Council recommended funding the project with existing resources. That recommendation was enthusiastically adopted at last summer's annual meeting.

While those repairs were underway, we also initiated a second round of renovations for the interior of our building. We formed two teams: one focused on suggesting improvements, and the other on finding ways to raise funds for these projects. We've intentionally avoided rushing this phase, so donations could build over time. So, what is our current status?

On April 12, Team One reviewed the list of projects proposed over the past eight months. Some were removed from consideration, and the new list was prioritized. We also assigned various team members to gain estimates for these projects. Last night, May 7, Team Two met to review these estimates, determine the total cost of the projects deemed most needed, and explore ways to make up any funding gaps.

The church council will discuss Team Two's work on May 13 and decide next steps. We should be able to hear about those steps by Sunday, May 17. We have received quotes for new doors and for a new sound system. The cost of upgrading our sound equipment is \$7,480. This includes installing three new speakers at the front of the sanctuary, a headset mic, a new sound mixer, a new computer dedicated to our audio-visual needs, and removal of the four microphones currently hanging from the sanctuary ceiling. In addition to these projects, we are also securing a bid for painting the lobby, fellowship hall, kitchen and restrooms and perhaps doing more to knock down the echo in the fellowship hall. Here are four ways you can help:

1. Pray for wisdom and unity within our church leadership and membership.
2. Consider giving a one-time donation. For instance, Mother's Day makes a wonderful opportunity to give to the building fund in loving memory of a loved one.
3. Consider giving a monthly pledge to the Building Fund.
4. Share your feedback and ideas with both teams and council members.

Thank you for your continued prayers, presence, and generosity!

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON – THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 AT 11:45 AM.

Our next YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON is set for this coming Wednesday at FABLE AND FIRE BISTRO (on the square at 118 Rusk). Please sign up on the bulletin board and invite a friend!



Save These
DATES

- Art Gathering – Tuesday, May 12th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Young at Heart Luncheon – Wednesday, May 13th at 11:45 am.
- Church Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 13th at 6:00 pm.
- Blaine Davis assisting Pastor Martin in 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.
- Nominating Committee Meeting – Sunday, May 24th at 11:30 am.
- 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.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

First Reading- Acts 17:16-21

Second Reading- 1 Peter 3:13-22

Responsive Reading- Psalm 66:8-20

Gospel- John 14:15-21



Trey's father Fred and his uncle Sam and aunt Sally, Judy, Patty, Tommy & Laurie, Janet, Weston, Devin, Mary Kay & Mike, Brian & Kelli, Joanne, Linn, Annette & Charles, Dax, our mothers, and our Armed Forces. Special prayers will be offered this Sunday as we celebrate Collin McCrillis' decision to become a Marine. He leaves the 17th for Quantico, Virginia for Officer Candidate School. Oorah!

STEWARDSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

PATRIOTPAWS is a local organization providing high-quality Service Dogs, at no cost, to help restore the independence of disabled American Veterans. Some vets struggle with mobility. 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.



WE'VE STARTED AN ARTISTS' GATHERING AT JOY!

Do you enjoy painting or crafts? 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. Consider letting your neighbors and friends know about this opportunity as well. See Pastor Martin for more info.



REMEMBERING THE DEAD AND REDEDICATING THEIR PLACE OF REST

The cemetery is full of indispensable people.

— *Anonymous*

Behold! I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

— *St. Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52*

Tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood is a cemetery where WW I and WW II African American veterans are buried, along with some of the earliest founders of our community. The old Gardenhire Cemetery (now Memorial Park) is at the corner of Spring Creek Drive and Woodpark Drive in the subdivision Ridge Road Village.

The Rockwall Breakfast Rotary Club became interested in bringing this cemetery to community recognition and have partnered with Rockwall County Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Commission to do just that. Our own Tommie White led the research on this project.

This past Wednesday morning Pastor Martin joined Tommie and Laurie White and an enthusiastic group of neighbors and friends to witness its public rededication. Pastor Martin was privileged to lead the closing prayer for this ceremony. Looking over the lush and peaceful grounds of this cemetery recalls a poem by Linda Pastan entitled *Unveiling*. We get the sense that her short phrases (no line is over five words long) are fleeting thoughts as she walks through a quiet cemetery where departed family members await the Second Coming. This brevity keeps the pace flowing and adds emphasis to each word. Pastan pictures death as an unveiling of a mystery — an opportunity to gather with loved ones at 'the big people's table' and speak of things too high for little ears to hear, things too marvelous for the living to grasp.



UNVEILING

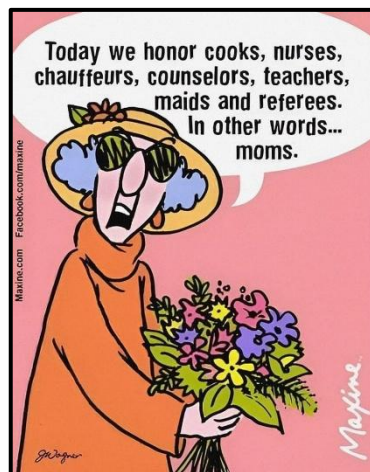
by Linda Pastan

In the cemetery
a mile away
from where we used to live,
my aunts and mother
my father and uncles lie
in two long rows,
almost the way
they used to sit around
the long planked table
at family dinners.
And walking beside
the graves today, down
one straight path
and up the next,
I don't feel sad, exactly,
just left out a bit,
as if they kept
from me the kind
of grown-up secret
they used to share
back then, something
I'm not quite ready yet
to learn.



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.

And now for something completely different... (for Sunday)



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

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