



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter -May 22, 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

WHY PENTECOST SUNDAY?

This week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, one of the three principal festivals of the church year, along with Easter and Christmas. The Church observes Pentecost as the fulfillment and close of the Easter season. The word *Pentecost*, meaning "the fiftieth day," originally referred to the Jewish Festival of Weeks, a thanksgiving for the first fruits and the gathered harvest (cf. Ex. 34:22). The Christian Church kept the name to mark the end of the 50 days after Easter and the first gathering of believers into the Church.

Red is the liturgical color for this Sunday. Across the world, Christians use this vivid color to remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We recall how the Spirit enabled a humble fisherman to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead. On that day, three thousand people from throughout the Roman Empire repented, were baptized, and received the Spirit's gift. Sent by God the Father and by His Son, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came to carry on the Father's work on earth. Yet we celebrate more than a past event, because the Spirit is still at work today. That is why this Sunday is both joyful and important for the Church. Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Creed clearly describes the Spirit's daily work:

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Through the preaching of the Gospel and Baptism, the Holy Spirit calls and gathers believers to Christ and His Church. This gracious work is ongoing; it is not yet completed in our lives. The Spirit works among people of every nation and language – among all to whom the Church is sent to proclaim the Gospel. For this reason, Christians pray for the continued outpouring of the Spirit and for the fulfillment of His sanctifying work. Through the Gospel and the Sacraments, the Spirit nourishes, preserves, and increases the Church and its members. As believers in Jesus, we too have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and our Baptisms are wonderful reminders of the Spirit's gracious activity of regeneration.

Luther wrote a Pentecost hymn that may serve as both a prayer to the Holy Spirit and a devotional reading for the coming Sunday. In it, we ask the Spirit to work among us, strengthen our faith, and comfort us as we serve Him:

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,
with all Your graces now outpoured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Your light
In holy faith Your Church unite;
From ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue
This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Light, guide divine,
Now cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From ev'ry error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Fire, comfort true,
Grant us the will Your work to do
And in Your service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by Your pow'r prepare each heart,
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to You, our Lord, ascend.
Alleluia, alleluia!

–“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!” (*Komm Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott*, 1524)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY -

First Reading- Numbers 11:24-30

Second Reading- Acts 2:1-21

Responsive Reading- Psalm 25:1-15

Gospel- John 7:37-39

JOY'S ARTISTS GATHERING

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.



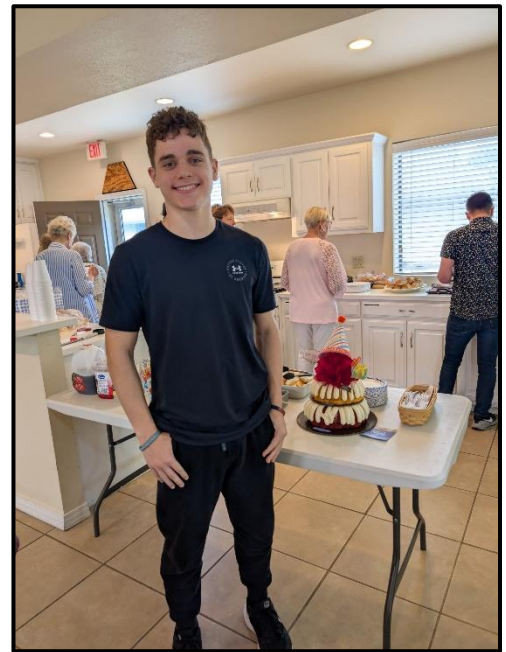
Youth Outing
to Shenaniganz!



Happy Birthday
Reilly!

Picnic Luncheon!





Save These DATES

- Last Youth Sunday School before Summer Break – this Sunday, May 24th.
- Nominating Committee Meeting – this Sunday, May 24th at 11:30 am.
 - Artist’s Gathering – Tuesday, May 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
 - Ladies Bunco Night – Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30 pm.
 - Men’s Fellowship – Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30 pm.
 - The Greater Rockwall Youth Symphony Concert at Joy, June 13th at 11:15 am.
 - Family Movie Night – Friday, June 19th at 6:45 pm. -Jumanji & Raising Cane’s Chicken Tenders!
 - Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 28th.

Joy will host the Greater Rockwall Youth Symphony Summer Music Camp in our building from June 8 through June 13. Below is a brief overview of the program and ways you can get involved.



The Greater Rockwall Youth Symphony Summer Music Camp is a one-week, full-day intensive held June 8-13 from 9:00 to 4:30. Students ages 7-18 participate in a structured, enriching environment designed to support musical growth, teamwork, and leadership. Open to students from multiple districts and homeschool communities, the camp provides ensemble training, sectionals, musicianship development, and mentorship throughout the week. A core focus of the program is serving at-risk youth and students who may not otherwise have access to consistent arts opportunities. Many participants receive tuition assistance or full scholarships, ensuring financial barriers do not prevent participation and that students have a safe, inspiring place to learn and belong during the summer months.

The week will conclude with two student performances on June 13. The students will perform a special morning concert (starting at 11:15) free of charge for members of Joy and their families, followed by an evening community concert at the local community center to celebrate the students' work and share their progress with the broader public. The program also serves as a training ground for emerging educators and professional musicians, offering hands-on teaching, leadership, and mentorship opportunities while strengthening the region's arts ecosystem.

During the week, we will need a few volunteers from Joy to open up at 8:45 in the morning, lock up at 4:30 in the afternoon and to be available during the day if needed. If you would like to volunteer to help with this activity, please let Sharon Johnson know as soon as possible.



"A real soldier does not fight because he has something that he hates in front of him. He fights because he has something that he loves behind his back." (1910)

"War is not 'the best way of settling differences;' it is the only way of preventing their being settled for you." (1915)

G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936) - quotes without comment for Memorial Day

Collin, Patty, Tommy & Laurie, Fred, Sam & Sally, Dianna, Isaiah & Jazmin, Janet, Weston, Devin, Dax, Mary Kay & Mike, Brian & Kelli, Joanne, Linn, Annette & Charles, and our armed forces near and far.





UPDATE ON OUR RENOVATION & BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS...

We are pleased to share that the Church Council has approved a new sound system. The project includes three front sanctuary speakers, a headset microphone, a new sound mixer, a dedicated computer and iPad for audio-visual use, and the removal of the four microphones currently hanging from the sanctuary ceiling. We are also seeking a bid to paint the lobby, fellowship hall, kitchen, and restrooms, along with possible improvements to reduce echo...echo...echo in the fellowship hall. We have also received a generous commitment covering the cost of replacing the front doors and vestibule window! This phase of the project is set for later this year. GOD IS TRULY BLESSING US! 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. Did you know that \$500 was donated to our building fund on Mother's Day? Such donations make great ways to honor a loved one.
3. Consider giving a monthly pledge to the Building Fund.
4. Share your feedback and ideas with our teams and council members.

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

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 service. If you are willing to help in this area one week per month, please talk to the pastor.



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*)