



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter – August 21, 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



Lord willing, we will welcome three new families into our church this **Sunday, August 23rd**.

Interested in becoming a part of our church family?

Membership papers are available on the Guest Table.

Have questions? Please see Pastor Martin.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES:

"AND SO WE CAME TO ROME" (ACTS 28:14)

Talk about whiplash! Paul has just spent eleven chapters removing our confidence in works but starting in chapter twelve he lays out the legitimate place of works in our faith journey. This is why it is so difficult to preach Law/Gospel sermons, as Luther writes:

"No matter how I preach, something goes wrong. Someone always goes off on a tangent. If I don't preach about faith, the result will be useless and hypocritical works. If I only emphasize faith, no one does any good works. The result will be either useless, faithless do-gooders or believers who don't do any good works." - Martin Luther

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY –

First Reading- Jeremiah 15:15-21

Second Reading- Romans 12:9-21

Responsive Reading- Psalm 26

Gospel- Matthew 16:21-28



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.



Save These DATES

- New Member Sunday – August 23rd at 10:30 am.
- Artists Gathering – Tuesday, August 25th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- Young at Heart Luncheon – Wednesday, September 9th at 11:45 at *Oar House Seafood* in Rockwall.
- Church Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm.
- Rally Day – Sunday, September 13th.
- Sunday School Resumes – Sunday, September 20th at 9:15 am.
- Congregational Potluck – Sunday, September 20th after our worship.
- Oktoberfest – Sunday, October 18th after our worship.
- Reformation Sunday – October 25th at 10:30 am.



Our next **Young at Heart Luncheon** is on Wednesday, September 9th at 11:45 at *Oar House Seafood* in Rockwall. 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!

Jodi, Gail, Patty, Danielle, Lucy, Carol, Tommy & Laurie, Fred, Mary Kay & Mike, Brian & Kelli, Mary, Annette & Charles, Michael, Donnie, Sandy, Kassie, Justin, Weston, Will, and the family of Quinn Bosse.



"MY TEARS RAN; I WEPT, AND IT WAS WELL WITH ME."



After forty-five years serving in nine congregations, hardly a week passes without news of a friend or former parishioner's death. On August 6th, Dr. Clifton Istre died peacefully at home in Covington, Louisiana, surrounded by family. He was 93. Cliff was a dear friend and an elder at the church I served in Mandeville. A devoted student of Scripture and humble servant of Christ, he taught me to trust God in both good times and bad. Though raised in extreme poverty in Jennings, Louisiana, during the Great Depression, he was among the most generous people I have known with both his time and resources. Like David, **"He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor."** (1 Chronicles 29:28)



Death, our **"last enemy to be destroyed,"** (1 Corinthians 15:26) does not come only for the old. This past Wednesday, August 19, we were heartbroken by the tragic death of 21-year-old Quinn Bosse, a young man we knew in Brenham. He died when his tractor was struck on a highway. Quinn was beginning his third year at Sam Houston State University and was engaged to be married. I first met him soon after we moved to Brenham when his mother brought him to our home. Grieving the death of a family member, he came with questions. His questions were remarkably deep for someone so young. That was Quinn. It was a joy to teach him during his confirmation years and to watch him grow. Four years ago, in his letter of recommendation to become an Eagle Scott, I wrote:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my unreserved recommendation of Quinn Bosse to be considered for the high honor of Eagle Scout. Quinn has consistently demonstrated the highest degree of compliance to Scout Law . . . he is one of the finest young men I have had the honor to disciple and confirm. He will, without a doubt, bring honor to your organization in the years to come. He has strong leadership qualities and will be a great mentor and example to other scouts. (October 9, 2022)



Quinn (in black shirt) receiving his pre-confirmation Bible (October 6, 2013)



Quinn (in red robe) preparing for Bethlehem in Independence outdoor Bible scenes (December 14, 2017)



Quinn receiving his Eagle Scout award (November 2022)

“It’s so wrong, so profoundly wrong, for a child to die before its parents. It’s hard enough to bury our parents. But that we expect. Our parents belong to our past, our children belong to our future. We do not visualize our future without them. How can I bury my son, my future, one of the next in line? He was meant to bury me! God is love . . . and love suffers . . . Instead of explaining our suffering, God shares it.”

-Nicholas Wolterstorff, (*Lament for a Son*)

These two deaths differ in significant ways, but they share one thing in common: both Cliff and Quinn were prepared! Both had deep and abiding faith and hope of resurrection. Their families are no doubt grieving, but they **“do not grieve as others do who have no hope.”** (1 Thessalonians 4:13) The fourteen-year-old son of Augustine, Adeodatus (*Gift of God*), was baptized on the same day as his father. Three years later, Adeodatus was dead. Looking back on this “Gift” Augustine says to God:

“I saw other things about him more wondrous still. I was in awe of his abilities; and who but you could be the architect of such wonders? Swiftly you took his life away from the earth, and I recall him with all the more assurance, now that I have nothing to fear for him in boyhood, or youth, nor even in full manhood. We had made him one of us, our companion in your grace, to be brought up in your discipline. We were baptized, and anxiety over our past life fled from us . . . My tears ran; I wept, and it was well with me.”

-Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions* 9.6.14