



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter –October 9, 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



**YOUNG AT HEART
Luncheon**

Our next **Young at Heart Luncheon** is *this* Wednesday, October 14th at 11:45 at *Onassis* 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!

GET READY! OUR OKTOBERFEST IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

Join us for our Oktoberfest celebration after church on October 18th. A sign-up sheet has been posted. Come enjoy a wonderful time of German food, dark beer, fellowship, and fun with our church family. Invite a friend!



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY –

First Reading- Isaiah 25:6-9

Second Reading- Philippians 4:4-13

Responsive Reading- Psalm 23:1-6

Gospel- Matthew 22:1-14

The Common Thread of our Lectionary Readings

The Lord makes for us a feast of the richest food and the best wine. And through this holy meal, he puts death to death. Therefore, we cannot want for anything. He gives us food and drink, not only for the body but for the spirit too. He spreads this table in the presence of our great enemies: sin, death, and the devil. They cannot prevail, so we will fear no evil, nor be anxious for any good thing. An incomprehensible peace and contentment overflows in the lives of those whose shepherd is the Lord. Yet this is not all. He is also preparing a great wedding feast (Revelation 19:9; 21:1-4). Those who believe in Christ, who are clothed in the righteousness of the Lamb of God, are invited to feast forever in his presence.



Sharon, Patty, Leon, Tommy & Laurie, Danielle, Fred, Mary Kay & Mike, Mary, Annette & Charles, Bonnie, Rich, Andrea, Helen, Weston, Kelli & Brian, Padyn, Kay, Michael, Larry, Ron, Will, Larry & Yvonne, and praise for Jodi's progress!

Save These DATES

- Adult Sunday School – this Sunday, October 11th at 9:15.
- Artists Gathering – Tuesday, October 13th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- Young at Heart Luncheon – Wednesday, October 14th at 11:45 at *Onassis* in Rockwall.
- Oktoberfest – Sunday, October 18th after our worship.
- Worship & Music Team Meeting – Wednesday, October 20th at 5:30 pm.
- Church Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00 pm.
- Reformation Sunday – October 25th at 10:30 am.
- Bunco – Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.
- S'mores at the Orr's! Movie Night – Friday, November 6th.
- NALC North Texas/Oklahoma Convocation - December 12th at San Miguel Lutheran in Ft. Worth.

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.



WAY TO GO, ETHAN!



Ethan Gainey took first place in his weight class (under 100 kg) at the 2026 USA Powerlifting Olympia Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Olympia Championships features both raw and equipped competitions. Equipped lifters are permitted to use bench shirts and squat suits as well as belts and knee wraps or sleeves. Ethan lifted raw! Just look at his impressive performance:

Squat 320 KG	(705 lb.)	Deadlift 315 kg	(684 lb.)
Bench 192.5 kg	(424 lb.)	Total 827.5 kg	(1824 lb.)

We are thankful the Lord brought Ethan and Madison to Joy. By the way... did you know that Pastor Wally is also a weightlifter? He is competing in a meet on October 18; but he said that he will *not* be lifting as much as Ethan! Since all I ever lift is a book, I am impressed with both these gentlemen!

GOD, OPEN OUR EYES!

The following is from a friend and mentor of mine – may it encourage and challenge us all. My friend was a theologian and lawyer as well as a prolific writer. He passed from this life and into the arms of Jesus almost a decade ago.

O GOD, PLEASE open our eyes! Help us step out of the world and its mad rush to destruction. Allow us to move quietly to a place – just for a moment – where we can think ... reflect ... see past the “busyness” of life and all the temporary baubles that Satan dangles before us. Let us see the eternal values.

Make us aware, God, as Elisha’s servant was informed, that beyond the enemies’ troops wait the invisible armies of the Living God. Help us, as Balaam, to see past the foolish frustrations of every day to the serious truth that we are dying in our present worldly course.

Allow us to realize with Paul that even while our body is growing old and returning to dust, our inner man can be renewed by springs of living water. Help us to see past present clouds to the Heavenly City where our names are written. Let us confess that we are strangers and pilgrims here. May we pass by the world's solutions, in hope of a better resurrection.

Lord, please let us see! Give to our understanding eyes of faith. Let us know the hope which calls, the splendor of our inheritance, the power available to us who believe! God, please open our eyes.

As did Jesus, let us see the joy set before us, and in that knowledge give us strength to endure our cross. With John on Patmos, may we see that behind earthly conflicts rages a far greater struggle. May we know that above it all the Throne endures and the Lamb is worthy. Let us find comfort in knowing that the Hand which holds the seven stars reaches also to assure our fearful hearts.

Lord, please let us see! And when we see these things, we will leave our carelessness and negligence. When our eyes are really open, we will humbly and joyfully do Thy Will.

O God, please open our eyes.

-Edward Fudge

Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'?

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

-Jesus of Nazareth (John 4:35)

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

-St. Paul of Tarsus (Ephesians 1:18)

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)