



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter –October 16, 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

IT'S HERE! OKTOBERFEST IS THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH



Join us for our Oktoberfest celebration after church **this coming Sunday**. Come enjoy a wonderful time of German foods, dark beer, fellowship, and fun with our church family. Invite a friend!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY –

First Reading- Isaiah 45:1-7

Second Reading- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Responsive Reading- Psalm 96:1-9

Gospel- Matthew 22:15-22

The Common Thread of our Lectionary Readings

God goes before us, just as He went before King Cyrus of old. He levels demonic high places—even death and hell themselves—bringing salvation with glory and strength. What would we do then, as chosen and devoted disciples, but worship and become imitators of the Lord? Therefore, we concern ourselves with matters of His eternal kingdom instead of being preoccupied with the things of this world. God will take care of this world and its governance, just as He did with Persia, Babylon, and Israel.



Sharon, Patty, Leon, Tommy & Laurie, Danielle, Fred, Mary Kay & Mike, Mary, Annette & Charles, Bonnie, Rich, Andrea, Helen, Weston, Kelli & Brian, Pady, Kay, Michael, Kelly, Ron, Will and Yvonne.

Save These DATES

- Adult Sunday School – this Sunday, October 18th at 9:15 in the sanctuary.
- Youth Sunday School – this Sunday, October 18th at 9:30 am upstairs in the church library.
- Oktoberfest Luncheon – this Sunday, October 18th after our worship.
- Artists Gathering – Tuesday, October 20th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- Worship & Music Team Meeting – Tuesday, 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.



WHAT DO WE CULTIVATE?

The following is from Lutheran theologian Marva Dawn, of blessed memory.

May her wise words encourage and challenge us all as we seek to bless and shape the next generation.

I confess: I'm troubled because I meet so many church youth – and adults too – who don't know why they're Christians or what difference it makes in their lives. I'm grateful that Idamae Knutson, a reader of *The Lutheran*, sent me a striking art piece to remind me of Socrates' proverb: "What is honored is cultivated." If we want the children in our churches truly to know Christ and follow his way of life, it requires more than Sunday school classes. To honor both Christ and children necessitates that we immerse our youth in the traditions of the faith and in Jesus' way of life, that we cultivate in them both the community's *beliefs* and its *practices*.

In Galatians 4, Paul compares cultivating faith to childbirth – the pain of actual delivery, as well as the long agonies of pregnancy's sicknesses, burdens, concerns and disciplines. Nurturing Christian spirituality in our church's children is a continuous, arduous process. It's hard to keep the time-consuming efforts of spiritual nurturing a top priority in our schedules. We're easily tempted with methods that are more fun but not good for souls. But keeping our mind on the goal of spiritual pregnancy – for Christ to be formed in our children – gives us the courage for hard labor and the long haul. How can we all – parents, clergy, youth ministers, Sunday school teachers, parishioners – constantly cultivate spiritual growth in youth? Perhaps these questions can give us some direction:

- **Downward** – Do the children know their lives depend on a transcendent God's gracious gifting? Do our lives demonstrate that the Triune God is our source of faith, hope, love, life, truth, wisdom, meaning? Christian spirituality begins in the wonder that God is for and with us. How can we immerse children in the splendors of grace?
- **Upward** – Do the children respond to God's grace with praise? How can we help them learn practices of personal and corporate worship and the worship in daily life? Have we immersed them in the continual practice of prayer?

• **Backward and sideward** – Do our children know the history and presence of the faithful community – biblical narratives of God’s care for God’s people, the “cloud of witness” who remember and pass on faith’s story, the present parishioners who become friends and mentors? Do they know living and past saints as models for the Christian way of life?

• **Outward** – Do we limit our children’s participation in aspects of our culture that are adverse to Christian formation? To prevent children from being formed by the violence, greed, sexual immorality and passivity of our society’s media bombardment, our best defense is to engage them in practices of peacemaking, generosity, resistance to instant gratification and service. Do we help them make such critical behavioral beginnings to form Christian virtues?

• **Inward** – How do we cultivate Christian character in our children rather than merely fashion personality? Can we help them reject our culture’s emphasis on appearance and teach them the value of who they are as God’s children?

• **Forward** – How can we help children discover their Christian vocation of living to God’s glory? Can we discuss with them their daily decisions in relation to biblical faith, the connections between spiritual practices and ordinary life, their occupational choices as avenues for Christian service?

• **Toward** – Are our children confident that someday all suffering and this world’s problems will be ended? Do they know they are citizens of God’s kingdom and that living now in light of eternity puts their present burdens and concerns in better perspective? By such cultivation, children learn the delight of giving their whole lives to God – that serving as ambassadors of Christ’s reign by living now in his eternal presence is the greatest possible joy.

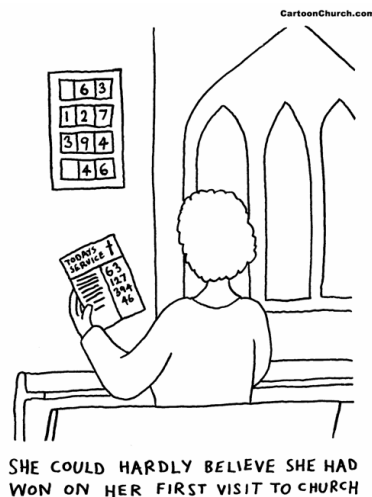
To nourish Christian spirituality in our church’s children is to help them discover the grace of the Triune God and to live in response to it. If we – their parents, pastors, youth leaders, teachers and other parishioners – live in the light of eternity, our love for God and for the children might birth in them the desire to participate in the splendor and sacrifice of discipleship too.

-Marva Dawn

I am ... in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.

-St. Paul to the Galatians (4:19)

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)