



JOY

Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall...

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter –October 23, 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

REFORMATION SUNDAY IS THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

REFORMATION DAY

On October 31, we commemorate the start of the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. On this day we recognize God's work of reform in the Christian Church, and we pray for unity among our brothers and sisters in Christ.



"The Reformation was a time when men went blind staggering drunk because they had discovered, in the dusty basement of late medievalism, a whole cellar full of fifteen-hundred-year-old, two-hundred proof Grace-bottle after bottle of pure distillate of Scripture, one sip of which would convince anyone that God saves us single-handedly. The word of the Gospel-after all those centuries of trying to lift yourself into heaven by worrying about the perfection of your bootstraps-suddenly turned out to be a flat announcement that the saved were home before they started."

(Robert Farrar Capon, *Between Noon and Three*)

Don't forget to wear red this Sunday!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY –

First Reading- Revelation 14:6-7

Second Reading- Romans 3:19-28

Responsive Reading- Psalm 46:1-11

Gospel- John 8:31-36

The Common Thread of our Lectionary Readings

We have an eternal gospel to proclaim that is good news for the sin-sick and the oppressed. Essentially, this good news is: *be still and know that God is God*. Therefore, we have nothing to fear – even death and the devil. Even hell. God is a refuge and a fortress for those beset by the fear of sin, death, and the evil one.



Patty, Leon, Tommy & Laurie, Danielle, Mary Kay & Mike, Mary, Annette & Charles, Bonnie, Patty, Rich, Andrea, Helen, Weston, Ben, Kelli & Brian, Pady, Kay, Michael, Ron, Jimmy, Ellen, Will.

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.

The
Blessing
Board

- Reformation Sunday – *this* Sunday, October 25th at 10:30.
- Adult Sunday School – *this* Sunday, October 25th at 9:15 in the fellowship hall.
- Youth Sunday School – *this* Sunday, October 25th at 9:30 upstairs in the library.
- Artists Gathering – Tuesday, October 27th at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.
- Bunco – Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. (*Final Bunco of the year*)
- Men's Gathering – Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 at Pastor Martin's – 903 Windham Dr.
- All Saint's Sunday – Sunday, November 1st.
- S'mores at the Orr's! Movie Night (*Toy Story 2*) – Friday, November 6th.
- Worship & Music Team Meeting – Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30.
- Christ the King Sunday – Sunday, November 22nd.
- First Sunday in Advent (Start of Year B) – Sunday, November 29th.
- Bunco Ornament Exchange Party – Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30 at Luigi's Italian Restaurant.
- 'Hanging of the Greens' (and Crèche) Party with Meatball Subs! – Sunday, December 6th at 3:00.
- NALC North Texas/Oklahoma Convocation - December 12th at San Miguel Lutheran in Ft. Worth.
- White Elephant Exchange Party – Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 pm at Paul & Linda Manak's home.



O, POOR JUDAS, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

*The following is from pen of martyred Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, of blessed memory.
May his words drive us to our knees in prayer for those who continue to ignore the Lord's call on their lives.*

Who is Judas? That is the question. It is one of the most ancient and haunting questions in Christendom. Let us consider first only what the evangelist [Matthew] himself tells us: **Judas, one of the twelve.** We can still sense some of the horror the evangelist must have felt when he wrote those few words. Judas, one of the twelve—what more need be said? And did this not really say everything? Judas' entire, dark secret and at the same time the most profound horror at his deed. Judas, one of the twelve: that means it was impossible for such a thing to happen, it was completely impossible, and yet it did happen. No, nothing more needs to be explained or understood here. It is wholly and completely inexplicable, incomprehensible, and will always remain an utter riddle—and yet it did happen. . . .

Yet it also meant something even more incomprehensible: Jesus himself had called and chosen Judas! The real mystery is that Jesus had known from the outset who would betray him. . . . Those whom he chose he also loved. He allowed them to participate in all parts of his life . . . and Judas was one of them. Not even the smallest indication that Jesus might have secretly hated Judas. No, and indeed Judas seemed singled out from the others through his office of treasurer for the disciples.

Christendom has always seen in Judas the dark mystery of divine rejection and eternal damnation. With horror, it has recognized and testified to the seriousness and judgment of God with regard to the betrayer. For precisely that reason, however, it has never looked upon Judas with pride or arrogance; instead, it sings in trembling recognition of its own enormous sin: O, poor Judas, what have you done! Thus do we, too, say nothing more than this: O, poor Judas, what have you done! And we will seek refuge in the One who was hung on a cross for our sins, bringing about redemption for all of us.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Lenten Sermon at Finkenwalde Seminary*, March 14, 1937

**For people who hate discipline and only get more stubborn,
there'll come a day when life tumbles in and they break, but by then it'll be too late to help them.**

-Proverbs 29:1 (*The Message Translation*)



What a blessing this past week as we gathered after worship to celebrate Oktoberfest! A huge THANK YOU! to those who tidied up our yard (Joshua and Paul), decorated (Bobbie, Dennis & Rhonda), and for all who brought delicious German food and desserts. A special thanks to Genni for overseeing our games!



< Leon carb-loading to prepare for the German Bingo game!

Genni calling out German Bingo pieces! >



Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry

Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever!

A list of suggested gifts has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. You can also give cash in lieu of packing a box. Donations should be turned in by November 14th. Boxes and labels will be available soon at the back of the sanctuary.



Pastor Wally Seibel Celebrating His 70th Birthday!

Most of us celebrate our birthdays with cake and ice cream, but Pastor Wally celebrated by achieving his goals at powerlifting. He said: "WAYYYYYYYYYYYYY less than Ethan!!! And significantly less than I was doing 2-3 years ago. BUT — I was able to wear my singlet (onesie as Chris calls it) representing the NALC!"

Squat 132.5 KG (292 lb)

Bench 92.5 KG (203.7 lb)

Deadlift 162.5 KG (358 lb)

