JOY Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall…

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter –November 6, 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

Special Congregational Meeting This Sunday, November 8th

Council President Rhonda White has called a special congregational meeting for this Sunday, the 8th, immediately after worship. All members are encouraged to attend for an update from Rhonda on next steps as our pastor prepares to retire later this year.

Lectionary Readings for This Coming Sunday –

First Reading- Amos 5:18-24

Responsive Reading- Psalm 70:1-5

Second Reading- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel- Matthew 25:1-13

The Common Thread of our Lectionary Readings

As the church year winds down the topic of Christ's return takes center stage. The question of how to be prepared for Jesus' return is answered four times in today's lessons. Being ready for Jesus' return is not passivity on our part; instead, it is an active preparing, an active waiting and serving and doing justice in the world in the name of Christ. There is no reason to fear anything. Christ promised He would return in due time. We await this moment with an active and vibrant faith.

In a book that prepared generations of clergy for pastoral duties, German theologian Erich Schick (1897–1966) argues that the last prayer of the Bible serves as a prayer for each day of our lives; this pairs well with the readings for this twenty-four Sunday after Pentecost:

An Everyday Prayer

"You are standing now at the most shattering spot in the whole wide world—an open grave. … And you vow to yourself that from now on you are going to walk, more than you did before, as a dying man, and in this moment you sense what great power can emerge from a right experience of death, what a saving, transfiguring, sustaining power it can be. When you stand there, how small so many things that have filled your days with labor and your nights with care become! … But in all this it becomes clear to you that it is not only when we suffer death that our Lord is the conqueror of death for us, but that he desires to be the conqueror of death at all times, in the midst of your life. There you sense something of the tremendous power that lies in that open secret of the Apostle: 'As dying, and behold we live' (2 Corinthians 6:29). You begin to see how the last things invade this life; indeed, how they are actually the *first* things, upon which everything rests. You see, then, why that last prayer of the Bible, 'Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!' (Revelation 22:20) is in the real sense an everyday prayer, that is meant to be spoken in everyday life and will also be heard there."

-Erick Schick, *Holy Service: A Book on Evangelical Preaching and Pastoral Care*



S'mores and More Movie Night!

(Toy Story 2) – TONIGHT, November 6th.

It's here! Our movie night is set for this evening around the firepit in the church yard with S'mores, popcorn and apple cider! Invite a friend.



Save These DATES

- Adult Sunday School – ***this*** Sunday, November 8th at 9:15 in the fellowship hall.
- Special Congregational Meeting – ***this*** Sunday, November 8th immediately after our worship.
- Artists Gathering – Tuesday, November 10th at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.
- 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.
- Ladies 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.

Prayer Request

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

The Blessing Board

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.

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.



STEWARDS OF GOD'S INFLUENCE

Time, Talents, Treasure and Testimony

Joy's Stewardship Ministry helps members grow in our understanding and implementation of a life of stewardship. Stewardship in the North American Lutheran Church isn't just about finances—it's about formation. It's about cultivating hearts so captivated by the goodness of God that generosity becomes a way of life. As we follow Jesus, we learn to live as faithful stewards of all we've been entrusted with: our time, talents, treasure, and testimony.

As we look toward the end of 2026, we have much to celebrate. Your generosity has made the work of the stewardship ministry a joyous one. Your offerings directly support the day-to-day, month-to-month operations of Joy. From staff salaries, our NALC commitments, and local benevolence, to utilities, maintenance contracts, office supplies, and committee needs—your generosity keeps our church running.

Giving Plan Cards will be available on the greeter's table at the back of the sanctuary this Sunday, November 8th. Receiving your response by December 6 greatly assists our team in building an accurate and responsible budget for the coming year.

Later this month we will hand out Time & Talent forms to gain a better understanding of how God is leading you to use your gifts within the Joy family and beyond.

Thank you for your continued faith, partnership, and generosity.

Sincerely,

Finance and Stewardship Ministry



A crucifer (also called a cross-bearer) is a person appointed to carry a church's processional cross or crucifix during religious services and processions. The word comes from the Latin words *crux* (cross) and *ferre* (to bear). As an acolyte or altar server, the crucifer usually leads the processional party at the beginning and end of a worship service, signaling that Christ leads the congregation.

On All Saints Sunday, we were blessed to have Max serve as our crucifer. He did a wonderful job. Thank you, Max!