JOY Lutheran Church

Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall…

The 'Joyful Noise' Newsletter –November 27, 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

PRAY FOR OUR CALL COMMITTEE!

As Pastor Martin prepares to retire at the end of December (his last Sunday with us is December 27th) our call committee has been set up to help Joy call a new pastor. Paul Manak leads the committee, whose members are Steve and Kay Orr, Leon and Diane Kern, Doug Agee, Wendy McCrillis, Dennis Chubbs, Trey Phillips, and Rhonda White. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their work.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S INFLUENCE
Time, Talents, Treasure and Testimony

Joy's Stewardship Ministry helps members learn to faithfully manage what we've been given: our time, talents, treasure, and testimony. Your tithes and offerings fund Joy's daily and monthly operations, including staff salaries, NALC commitments, local benevolence, utilities, maintenance contracts, office supplies, and committee needs. Your generosity is appreciated.

GIVING PLAN CARDS are on the guest table at the back of the sanctuary. Please prayerfully consider your family's 2027 giving. Your timely response helps our team build an accurate, responsible 2027 budget.

TIME & TALENT FORMS are also on the guest table. These forms help our ministry team leaders gain a better understanding of how God is leading you to use your gifts within the Joy family and beyond.

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.

We are thankful for our regular guests who gather with us for worship and fellowship. Is God calling you into membership at Joy? Membership forms are available on the greeter's table. Just fill out the form and hand it to the pastor.





We are again partnering with Rockwall Helping Hands and Rockwall Toys for Tots for the **annual toy drive**. The angel tree is at the back of the sanctuary. Gifts need to be at Joy by December 6. Please return each gift unwrapped. The ages are from 0 to 18. Each angel you take home states if the gift is for a boy or girl and the age. Also, please note that gift cards can be used as well. Gift cards should be given directly to Linda or Trey.

Our Ladies Ornament Exchange Party is scheduled for this coming Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30 at Luigi's Italian Restaurant. This event is open to members and guests alike. A sign-up sheet is on the fellowship board.



Save These DATES

- First Sunday in Advent (Start of Year B) – this Sunday, November 29th.
- Artists Gathering – Tuesday, December 1st at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.
- 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.
- Movie Night! Friday, December 11th at 6:30 pm. The movie, from 1989, is *Prancer*.
- NALC North Texas/Oklahoma Convocation - December 12th at San Miguel Lutheran in Ft. Worth.
- White Elephant Exchange Party – Saturday, December 12th at 6:00 pm at Paul & Linda Manak's home.

Prayer Request

Patty, Leon, Tommy & Laurie, Andrea, Cheri, Ron, Ellen, Will, Ethan, Weston, Dax, Mike & Mary K, Brian & Kelli, Charles & Annable, Rich & Teresa, Jacob & Sue, John.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY –

First Reading- Isaiah 64:1-9

Responsive Reading- Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel- Mark 13:24-37

The Common Thread of our Lectionary Readings



This Sunday is the start of a new church year: the Advent-to-Pentecost cycle of Year B. Advent invites us to prepare for the Savior's coming and to wait for it, and this Sunday's readings urge patience and discernment as we do. We aren't meant to wait alone. As C.S. Lewis writes, "The one really adequate instrument for learning about God is the whole Christian community." (*Mere Christianity*, p. 144) The NALC offers an **Advent devotional resource**. Each day from the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, through Christmas Day, it provides the appointed readings, a Scripture passage, a reflection, and a prayer. These devotions call us to repentance, renew our hope, and point us to Jesus Christ, who has come and will come again.

Access the devotional at thenalc.org/advent, where you can:

- Download the color or the black-and-white PDF
- Sign up for daily emails
- Sign up for daily text messages
- Explore additional daily readings and resources

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*)