



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, January 18, 2024



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan. 21, 2024

Worship is at 10:00 am

Three Worship Options: In-Person, Drive-in (88.5 FM), Video Message

GOD'S WORD Sunday's sermon will be posted to our church website and at www.ajlcmc.org as soon as possible. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, January 21, and read: Jonah 3:1-5,10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; and Mark 1:14-20.

ADULT FORUM STUDY This Sunday at 9 a.m., we continue the Bible study titled, "Called." In these sessions, we look into the letter to the Ephesians at how we are *called* by God, *called* to faith, *called* to service, and *called* to share, with the help of Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. This study is free to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship area.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Joshua Claseman, Kevin Johnson, Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Doug Morey, Barrett (Deb Hendrickson's brother), Jim (Joyce Cass's, Jeanie Frolander's, and Joanie Peterson's brother), John (Marie Neumann's brother), Sandy (Anna Bleess-Lahr's sister), Albert (Ron & Madge Rowe's brother-in-law), Sue (Anna Bleess-Lahr's sister-in-law), Denny (Anna Bleess-Lahr's children's father), Cindy (Deb Peterson's friend), Clayton (Dan & Belinda Tysver's friend), and Jane and Brian (Mary Weindels' friends).

EVERY TRIBE AND TONGUE We were so grateful to have members of Every Tribe and Tongue Ministry with us in worship on Sunday, January 7. We were blessed by their presence and the song they shared! That song was their way of sharing the testimony of God's faithfulness. For you see, the little girl (Grace, around 11), was mute for the first five years of her life. Together, this congregation prayed for her to be able to speak. During the fifth year of her life, as a community, they got a sense that God was sharing that soon Grace would not only speak, but would be a singer as well! Shortly after this, she started forming words, and now, she is singing God's praise!

What we have been able to do is offer a space for them to gather and seek God. In that, God is up to mighty things! We praise God for this ministry that meets weekly in our facility.

On Sunday, January 21, we recognize and celebrate **JANUARY Birthdays.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

	January
Derek Brinkman	3
Emma Doyle	4
Justin Bacop	6
Pat Hagen	6
Caleb Brinkman	10
Will Luepke	10
John Kokula	13
Bill Latore	14
Misty Hahn-Schultz	14
Mike March	15
Laurie Lucy	16
Dana Blais	18
Bruce Peterson	18
Kylee Kron	20
Jim Tuorila	20
Brady Nelson	23
Carl Batdorf	28
Carolyn Fiskness	28
Jim Hegstrom	30



Happy Anniversary to:

Kurt and Kristi Eisenschenk, Monday, Jan. 22
God's blessings to this couple as they mark this important milestone in their lives.

"THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY" This Lent, we're going to join together as a church to read and study this book by John Mark Comer. The book challenges us to see who we are becoming, and invites us to follow Jesus. Before Sunday, January 28th, you are encouraged to sign-up for pre-orders of the book (\$10). There are also study materials available to get more out of this book. Contact Pastor Brandon if you would like to use these resources for your group, or if you would like to start a group for Lent. Please sign-up to get your copy and join in the study!

PRAYER REQUESTS may be made by a request to our Prayer Team coordinator Betty Batdorf: 320-291-5141 and/or AJ.prayers@ajlcmc.org. She contacts the prayer team for prayer. Daily prayer will be offered for one month. If you wish to have continued prayer, please submit a new request.

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." - 1 Timothy 4:12

What were the first set of keys you received? Mine were for a once maroon 1986 Pontiac 6000. By the time I became the driver of this fine automobile, it was already 14 years old, and had been the previous wheels of my parents and my sister. Even though it came to me with some age (and rust), I still was so excited to have a car of my own. This was a new responsibility for me, one I'd learn a few lessons in. But I am grateful for that car and all it taught me.

Recently, I've been revisiting a book called "Growing Young" by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. This book features concepts to help leaders and congregations incorporate young people into the life of the church, in order to instill vibrancy and hope into congregations. One of the key aspects shared through this book has to do with what's called "Keychain Leadership."

In the church, whether we are a paid or lay leader, we have "keys"- these are the spaces/conversations/rooms we have access to. Keys are what cause others to look to us for information or direction. Keys showcase that we are the ones who model for others. Many times, these keys have been given to us after proven consistency. But sometimes, once we gain the keys, we like to keep them to ourselves.

But in this book, they guide us to reframe our thinking of these keys. Instead of keeping them, keys are meant to be shared, especially with youth. There are different ways to go about this, but the idea is to create avenues to welcome youth to have responsibility, learn lessons, and get excited about playing a part in church. Instead of treating them with kid gloves, we invite them into the greater community.

I am thinking about this and I'd love for you to think about it too. What are ways we all can be inviting the young people in our midst further into greater community? How can we create space for them to see the great role they play in the church? What keys are we keeping hold of that we need to share and in turn, probably learn about from them?

None of us do this perfectly, and the idea is for this to be integrated, not occasional. But setting our intention is a good first place to start. When we think about this, we can begin acting upon it. And maybe we'll see something about their faith we've been missing that might inspire our faith even more, like 1 Timothy tells us.

The truth is also this: we won't hold our keys forever. Like my Pontiac 6000, there will come a time when we'll be ready for something new. Instead of tossing the keys and hoping someone picks them up, maybe we could consider handing them to another and test driving with them.

Together, let's think about these things. Let's consider acting on them. Let's "grow young" together.

Pastor Brandon

WE HAVE SNOW! SNOW TUBING at Powder Ridge will be on Sunday, February 4th from 3-5 PM for anyone age 4 and older. The cost will be \$15 per person. You can pay in advance—just drop payment at the church office or you can pay the day of the event. Let Tim know by January 31st if able to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING The Abounding Joy Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2024, following our worship service. If you have something to prepare for the Annual Report, those reports are due to the office tomorrow.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING cards and Time and Abilities sheets for 2024 are now overdue, however, we'll still accept and record them. Please return them as soon as possible. These sheets help us know the areas in which we can connect you to serve in our congregation. *Thank you!*

CAMP RECHARGE : There is still time to register for Family Camp Recharge at Mount Carmel. This is a 4-day retreat for the entire family (or individuals) and a wonderful opportunity to spend a weekend growing in faith together with family and check out what Mount Carmel is all about. The Recharge retreat takes place over President's Day, February 16-19 in Alexandria, MN.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY is fast approaching! Mark your calendar and plan to stay for a soup(er) lunch after worship on Sunday, February 11. There is a sign-up sheet on the info table for those who wish to bring sandwiches, soup, or salad (dessert will be furnished). Even if your favorite team won't be playing in the Super Bowl, you can enjoy a super lunch here at Abounding Joy. Everyone is welcome!

SAVE-THE-DATE WOW Secret Sisters mark your calendars. There will be a 'reveal party' on Saturday, February 10th, at 10:00 a.m. More details later.

USHERS and READERS Those of you who are willing volunteers to Usher and/or be a Sunday morning Scripture Reader, please check the Info table. There are sign-up sheets for 2024 Ushers and Readers. You're doing a great job of filling the spaces with only a few opportunities left. Thank you for your help in filling these positions for the next few months!

VISITATION TEAM Pastor Brandon is looking to gather together folks who would be interested in calling on or visiting shut-in members to check on them or bring them communion. If this is you, please sign up (sign-up sheet available on Info Table) or contact Pastor Brandon about your interest. In the next couple of weeks, we'll figure out a time to get together and even share some ideas.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP meets on Thursdays at 9:00 am at Abounding Joy. We invite you to join our intercessory prayer group led by Pastor Deb Peterson. We believe that we are called to not only pray FOR others, but to go into our community and pray WITH others. For more information contact Pastor Deb Peterson at 320-250-0647.

MEN'S FAITH TALK meets at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Come for some Bible focused discussion. ALL MEN are invited and encouraged to be part of this gathering.

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 ATTENDANCE: 96

OFFERINGS

General \$2,235

Building/Mortgage \$350

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, Jan. 18

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 21

9:00 am Education Hour—Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Forum

10:00 am Worship Service with Acoustic Joy

11:00 am Fellowship and Birthday Refreshments

2:30-5:00 pm Every Tribe and Tongue Worship

Monday, Jan. 22

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan. 23

10:00 am Selah Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, Jan. 24

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study

1:15 pm Seekers Small Group Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 25

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The Abounding Joy Foundation

Brad Lundquist, President	Deb Hendrickson
Rick Bellrichard, Vice President	Al Kutz
Dan Tysver, Treasurer	Wally Osterholt
Greg Norman, Secretary	Pastor Brandon Foster, Non-voting member

Abounding Joy Lutheran Church

LCMC - Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (www.lcmc.net)

NALC - North American Lutheran Church (www.theNALC.org)

Ministers: All the people of *Abounding Joy*

Pastor Brandon Foster

Pastor Brandon's contact info: (701) 446-7561 email: Pastor.Brandon@ajlcmc.org

Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Tim Knorek

Tim's contact info: (507) 508-4128 email: tknorek@ajlcmc.org

Church Secretary: Marilyn Schultz

Custodian: Al Kutz

Minister of Music: Ginny Shimota

Acoustic Joy Directors: Roger DeBoer and Cindi Rhoe

The Church Council welcomes your feedback and suggestions.

Kim Mielke, President	Jim Tuorila, Vice-President	Jeanie Frolander, Secretary	Bruce Peterson, Treasurer
Steve Hancock	Deb Hendrickson	Dennis Holland	Marc Schrantz
			Darlene Stover

6000 County Road 120, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: (320) 217-8784 **Email:** general.info@ajlcmc.org OR bulletin@ajlcmc.org

Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm