



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, December 28, 2023



The First Sunday after Christmas, December 31, 2023

Worship is at 10:00 am—NO Education Hour

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, December 31, and read: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; and Luke 2:22-40.

ADULT FORUM STUDY Adult Forum is taking a break this Sunday. See you next year.

OUT-OF-THE-OFFICE Pastor Brandon is out-of-the-office until next year, January 2, 2024.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Kevin Johnson, Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Pat Rose, Dolly Swenson, John* (Marie Neumann's brother), *John* (Paul Tomsche's brother), *John* and *Kathy* (Joyce Neyssen's brother & sister-in-law), *Dan* (Joyce Neyssen's brother-in-law), *Albert* (Ron & Madge Rowe's brother-in-law), *Mike* (Judy Kopka's nephew), *Deb* (Joyce Neyssen's cousin), *Bill* (Michelle Bellrichard's coworker's husband), *Dale* (Bob & Donna Nie-man's friend), *Greg* (Diane Spanier's friend), *Gary* (Joyce Neyssen's friend), and *Clayton* (Dan & Belinda Tysver's friend).

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING Christmas is a time when we remember God gave the greatest gift for us, Jesus. His love changed everything! This inspires us to give gifts to each other, and on Christmas Eve, we at Abounding Joy are giving our general offering to two recipients—a local family whose child has been affected by cancer and the Dream Center. These general offerings, with the exception of designated offerings, totaled \$3,887 (\$1,943.50 each). Thank you for your generous sharing! You are blessed to be a blessing to these recipients.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP will meet on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Coborn's by the deli (1725 Pine Cone Road S, Sartell).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Mary Gilbert, Saturday, Dec. 30
Dan Peterson, Saturday, Dec. 30
Deb Anderson, Sunday, Dec. 31
Reece Spanier, Sunday, Dec. 31
Pastor Ron Boettner, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024
Derek Brinkman, Wednesday, Jan. 3
Emma Doyle, Thursday, Jan. 4



LCMC's 12th ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER (see attachment) Prayer was a holy habit practiced by Jesus Himself (see Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1). The disciples who walked alongside Him witnessed a connection between His public life and ministry, and this habit of prayer. It was a connection so significant that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). LCMC's Three Days of Prayer on January 2-4 is an opportunity for us to follow the Lord's example and to come together as one across the association with a shared purpose: to pray. This January, we encourage you to pray at work, home, or school, wherever you are and whatever you are doing. We have included prayer prompts for each of these days to guide your prayers. When we pray, we see God work in mighty ways. We believe He's still up to great things in our association and congregations.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL A week ago, an envelope with a Time and Abilities sheet and an Estimate of Giving card for 2024 was placed in your mail folder. These sheets help us know the areas in which we can connect you to serve in our congregation. We would appreciate if you could fill these forms out and return them to the office by January 10th. Those not taken out of the mail folders by Wednesday, January 3rd, will be mailed. *Please help us save on mailing expense!*

SIGN-UP SHEETS 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. Your help in filling these positions for the next few months is deeply appreciated!

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.

FELLOWSHIP DECORATING We all notice when the décor in the Fellowship Area changes (accent colors, table decorations, etc.). Who does this? How much work is involved? I could help with that!

If these are your thoughts, please contact Carolyn Fiskness or Margaret Rey. They would welcome new members on their team. (*Thank you ladies!*)

THE ABOUNDING JOY FOUNDATION At Christmastime we celebrate God's wondrous gift to each of us, His only son Jesus Christ, and we look forward to the upcoming year. With that in mind, please consider an end-of-year donation to the Abounding Joy Foundation. The Foundation's purpose is to support the ministry and mission of Abounding Joy Lutheran Church. What a wonderful way to support the spreading of the Good News long after we are gone. Your donations are exempt from federal income tax. Contact Dan Tysver for more information. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (ESV) 2 Corinthians 9:7

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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP meets on Thursdays at 8:45 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.

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, Dec. 28

6:30 pm No Choir Rehearsal

The First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 31

No Education Hour

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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

Monday, *BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR—2024*

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, Jan. 3

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding

Thursday, Jan. 4

8:45 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

11:30 am Grief Support Group @ Coborn's Deli

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.—Attendance: 134

OFFERINGS

General \$3,019

Building/Mortgage \$315

5:00 p.m.—Attendance: 126

General \$2,567

Building/Mortgage \$0

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

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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