



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, January 25, 2024



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan. 28, 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 28, and read: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; and Mark 1:21-28.

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, 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), *Steve and Doug* (Bruce Peterson's brothers), *Albert* (Ron & Madge Rowe's brother-in-law), *Sue* (Anna Bleess-Lahr's sister-in-law), *Cindy* (Deb Peterson's friend), and *Jane and Brian* (Mary Windels' friends).

THANK YOU for your prayers, cards, and calls that I received following my fall. I am healing fast and finally free from pain. Thank you for caring.

Madge Rowe

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.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Carl Batdorf, Sunday, Jan. 28
Carolyn Fiskness, Sunday, Jan. 28
Jim Hegstrom, Tuesday, Jan. 30
Rhylan Nelson, Saturday, Feb. 3



Happy Anniversary to:

Rob and Dana Claseman, Sunday, Jan. 28.

God's blessings to this couple as they mark this important milestone in their lives.

THANK YOU - Abounding Joy Lutheran Church, thank you! Last year, when our son, Beckett, was diagnosed with NUT Carcinoma cancer, we didn't know all that life would hold. It's been an emotional and hard year. But now, after rounds of treatment (and clear scans!), we start the year with grateful hearts. Through the thoughtfulness, kindness, and care of others, including you all, we are blessed. The Christmas gift you gave us to help with costs has meant more than you realize. It is most amazing to us that it came from a group of folks that doesn't even know us, but wanted to help out strangers. It goes to show that despite the craziness in our world today, there is still a lot of good. Thank you so much from our entire family. It means a ton to us. - Nate, Melissa, Kolby, Beckett, Cade, and Hayzen

"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. This book challenges us to see who we are becoming as we are invited to follow Jesus and take on His yoke. This weekend is the last day to get in on sign-ups for pre-orders and the special pricing of \$10. Please sign-up to get your copy (order will be placed on Tuesday, Jan. 30). 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. Pastor Brandon will be offering this study on Sunday mornings at Adult Forum, and is interested in offering an additional group on Wednesdays after Lenten services.

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

*"Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;
let them proclaim your power." (Psalm 145:4, NLT)*

Have you ever had more than you can handle? Who did you turn to when you were overwhelmed?

In 2020, I officiated the funeral for a young family that passed away in a house fire. This family was a part of the congregation I served, and it was incredibly difficult. When I received the call about what had happened and spoke with the family, I knew the road that was ahead of me, and I, quite honestly, did not want to walk it. This situation required me to be "the strong one," but at that moment, I wasn't feeling it all.

I decided to text some of my close friends to let them know and to ask for prayer. I barely pushed the "send" button, when my friend, Dave, called me back. He wept with me, prayed for me, and shared words of encouragement. His support in that moment, and the support of my friends over the next few days and weeks, helped me serve this family (and the community) during this time of incredible loss. As they lifted us up, we all experienced the power of God in an inexplicable way.

We all need support systems at times. Life will give us more than we can possibly handle and we will want to escape from it at times. It's then that we need someone we can turn to who will be there, speak encouragement, and strengthen us.

This is one of the main roles of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are to strengthen and support each other, encourage and bless, pray and share with one another. It's through our active witness that the power of the Holy Spirit becomes known.

Did you know that among those who are ages 16 to 24 in the US, research is revealing that 1 in 4 express feeling lonely? Loneliness has many factors, but it does include a lack of a support system. Now, we can correlate a lot of reasons as to why this is so, but what if we as the Body of Christ could somehow make sure those in our midst know they have one in us?

There is a way! Last week, I shared about the book "Growing Young." The authors are a part of the Fuller Youth Institute, where they conduct research on ways we can promote "Sticky Faith" ("a faith that sticks") in our congregations for the powerful transfer of the Gospel. Want to know something cool they found in their work? Kids can grow up knowing their support system and all they need are FIVE people in their life to do so. Five extra people who know a kid's name, pray for them, learn about their interest, show up on a regular basis, and who love them. Five people who point a kid to the love of Jesus, and a life that becomes healthy and whole into adulthood and further. Now, who wouldn't want that?!

In this year, let's continue to think about and act on these things. Which kid in our congregation can you get to know a little more? How can you pray for them? Start there and let's see what power God can bring about! *Pastor Brandon*

ANNUAL MEETING The Abounding Joy Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2024, following our worship service. The Annual Report is ready to be picked up this Sunday, January 28th (one per household, please) and bring it along with you to the meeting on February 4th.

FAMILY FUN Snow tubing at Powder Ridge 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 Wednesday, January 31st if able to attend.

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.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 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.

POINSETTIAS looking for homes. The poinsettias that have been adorning our altar area since before Christmas are to be relocating after worship this Sunday. If you would like to enjoy one in your home or know of someone who would enjoy it, you are encouraged to take one or two home with you.

USHERS and READERS Great job Readers! —only one Sunday left to fill so no more sign-up sheet on the info table. However, the sign-up sheet for Ushers has too many blanks. Please check to see when you might be available to serve and fill in the space. Remember, if you are not available when you are signed up, we will deal with it at that time. Thank you for your help!

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.

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. 21, 2024

ATTENDANCE: 123

OFFERINGS

General \$9,107

Building/Mortgage \$915

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, Jan. 25

5:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 28

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

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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

Tuesday, Jan. 30

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, Jan. 31

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

Thursday, Feb. 1

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

6:30 pm NO Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Feb. 4

9:00 am Education Hour

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Refreshments with Annual Meeting

2:00-4:00 pm Snow Tubing

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

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

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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