



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, February 1, 2024



The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, Feb. 4, 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, February 4, and read: Isaiah 40:26-31; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; and Mark 1:29-34.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING Join us this Sunday, February 4, following our worship service for our Annual Meeting.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Dave Erickson, Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, John* (Marie Neumann's brother), *Kathy* (Joyce Neyssen's niece), *Shuler* (Joyce Neyssen's great niece), *Deb* (Joyce Neyssen's cousin), *Sue* (Anna Bleess-Lahr's sister-in-law), *Mary Jo* (Joyce Neyssen's friend), and *Jane and Brian* (Mary Windels' friends).

WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES to *Joyce Neyssen* and the family of *Dan Gorecki* who died recently. Dan was Joyce Neyssen's brother-in-law.

May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

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.

WOW SECRET SISTERS plan to attend a 'reveal party' on Saturday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Rhylan Nelson, Saturday, Feb. 3



"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. While the time for preorder has completed, we do have a few extra copies you can purchase. 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which is February 14. Worship service is at Noon and also 6:30 pm with Holy Communion and optional imposition of ashes. After Ash Wednesday, Lenten Services will be Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with a light meal served at 5:30 pm.

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.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY 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!

Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024

ATTENDANCE: 129

OFFERINGS

General \$3,660

Building/Mortgage \$115

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:6-8)

This summer, I celebrate my 20-year class reunion! I know what some of you are thinking...twenty years is nothing. And you're right; in the grand scheme, twenty years is not a whole much. Yet, as I approach this time of being joined with my high school peers, I also see a lot that has happened in these twenty years. In truth, when I thought of the year 2024 then and all it would hold, it seemed so far away. And yet, it came fast.

This reflection has made me think of how the future comes a lot sooner than we think. In thinking back, I'm also thinking ahead. What's going to happen in the next twenty to thirty years? What changes are going to be present in our world? What are the issues going to be facing folks then?

This has led me to consider Abounding Joy. In twenty years, we'll be over thirty years old as a congregation! What's the story going to be of this place then? Isn't it exciting to think about what could be and what stories we can tell from that standpoint? What about all the people who will have a connection to this congregation then? I get pumped for what God could do in that time and what we're going to learn.

I admit, I've been guided to think about this based on another book I'm reading, called "Resilient" by Valerie Bell, the CEO of a child discipleship program called Awana. In this book, Bell asks these same questions in regards to the faith of our kids. What will the world look like when our kids are adults? How will they follow Jesus? What do they need now from the church to ensure that they are walking with Jesus then?

She showcases that the key to their faith, and to our story, is resilience. Resilience is what leads us to see that we may be knocked down, or we may have stumbled on our own, but we're not out. We can get back up and keep writing an incredible story. If you think of it, resilience is built into the DNA of the Church, and all through those years in history, it's resiliency that's helped the Church go through the dark times as well as the light. Here's the thing about resilience: it's taught and built. It's instilled now for when it's needed in the future. It comes through personal connection, care, and correction. It's found through training - being involved in and learning through today's challenges but in safe places, so that when life presents other challenges, hope can be seen and forward movement can take place. Here's the truth: in Jesus, we are resilient people.

We must aim to help our kids become resilient followers of Jesus, understanding that His love never fails us, it always forgives, it restores, and it makes new. We must also remember this, too. God is writing a story through Abounding Joy (one I'm so thankful and excited to be a part of). What does God want to accomplish through us? What does God want to accomplish through our kids? What do we need to do today in order to see that happen?

God, by His Spirit, makes all this happen and He invites us to be a part of it with Him. We can train now for what's coming. And the days are coming. Like my reunion, they come faster than we think. Keep praying for our kids and our church. Keep showing up for others. Keep seeking Jesus. And the next thing you know, we'll have even more stories to tell of what He's done in these years. *Pastor Brandon*

NEW!! Semi-Regular Blurb



Introducing Q&A where I, Tim Knorek, will be answering questions submitted by Confirmation Students. The purpose of Confirmation is to invite students and prepare them for a lifelong active faith lived out in the community of the church. One of the

Confirmation expectations is that every student will attend and engage with Sunday worship and at least once a month fill out a Worship Note. There they can submit questions that they have about the service or faith in general. I've been asked some great questions and want to share them with the congregation.

Q: What defines the Church?

How do we know it's the right one?

A: The Church is the gathering of people in Christ, in which the Good News (about who Jesus is and what He has done for us) is clearly taught and where we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Congregations often have different histories, traditions, or music and that is okay as long as we are united in the message of Jesus - the Gospel.

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, Feb. 1

6:30 pm No Choir Rehearsal

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, Feb. 4

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

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Refreshments

11:15 am Annual Meeting

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

3:00-5:00 pm Family Fun

Tuesday, Feb. 6

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, Feb. 7

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding

1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study

Thursday, Feb. 8

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Feb. 10

10:00 am WOW Secret Sisters Reveal Party

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 mem-

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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Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

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