



# The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love  
Thursday, February 8, 2024



## ***The Transfiguration of Our Lord, Feb. 11, 2024***

***Worship is at 10:00 am (wear White)***

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](http://www.ajlcmc.org) as soon as possible. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, February 11, and read: Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; and Mark 9:2-9.

**ADULT FORUM STUDY** Join us this week in the Fellowship Area around 9 a.m. Pastor Brandon has a special one-week Bible study on angels for us.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Jim (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother) Marion (mother of Dan Peterson's children), Martin, Kathy (Joyce Neyssen's niece), Shuler (Joyce Neyssen's great niece), Deb (Joyce Neyssen's cousin), and Mary Jo (Joyce Neyssen's friend).

**THANK YOU** We want to share that Kevin's halo brace was removed yesterday (Tuesday) and he has progressed to a neck brace for 6 weeks. The doctor said he has healed better than most people and he expects a full recovery. Kevin's broken neck could easily have killed or paralyzed him so this is such wonderful news and we are so thankful for your prayers and the healing hands of our God! *Patty and Kevin Johnson*

**THANK YOU** for your prayers, cards, and texts I received after my surgery. It went so much better than I thought it would. *Joshua Claseman*

**PRAYER REQUESTS** may be made by a request to our new volunteer Prayer Team coordinator Pr. Deb Peterson: 320-250-0647 and/or [AJ.prayers@ajlcmc.org](mailto: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.

**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.

**LADIES' NOON LUNCHEON** is scheduled for Friday, February 23rd, at Applebee's (4190 W Division St, St Cloud). There is a sign-up sheet on the info table. All Abounding Joy ladies and friends are welcome.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Mary Schumann, Sunday, Feb. 11  
Wally Osterholt, Tuesday, Feb. 13  
Marilyn Schultz, Thursday, Feb. 15



**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which is this coming Wednesday, 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.

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** Join us after worship this Sunday for our Super Bowl luncheon! We are still in need of some sandwich makers. If you are able to share in this way, please contact Anna Bleess-Lahr by Friday (tomorrow) morning. Everyone is welcome!

**"THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY"** *The book order has arrived. If you placed an order, you are encouraged to pick it up in the Office; there are a few extra copies you can purchase (\$10) on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Pastor Brandon if you would like to use additional study 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.*

**WOW SECRET SISTERS** If you participated in this activity, please plan to attend a 'reveal party' on Saturday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m.

**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.

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024

ATTENDANCE: 136

OFFERINGS

General \$25,191

Building/Mortgage \$795

## God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

One of my favorite sayings that I think on often is this: "History is made in a moment, but you never fully recognize it in the moment." As we enter into the month of February, this short month is packed full of history.

For instance, February is marked with times to remember our American history. This month is known as Black History Month - a time when we recognize the contributions of African Americans to our society, culture, and communities. February is also the month when we celebrate President's Day - a time when we think of the men who have led our country, from it's infancy all the way to today. We think on those stories as we remember their tremendous lives. February is a history remembering month.

In many of the stories we have, who would have thought in the moment it would have been so historic? For instance, when George Washington was passed over for promotion in the British army, who would have realized that this would be the catalyst that would launch his military career, guiding him to the role he would play as our first commander-in-chief during the American Revolution, and later America's first president? History is indeed made in a moment, but never fully recognized in the moment.

This is true in the stories in the Bible. For instance, Moses had a moment when he killed an Egyptian who was abusing an Israelite. When that was found out, Moses hightailed it to the desert, to live the rest of his days there. Yet, that moment led him to Mount Horeb, where He would encounter God in the burning bush and be commissioned to lead the people of Israel out of slavery. Yet, who would have known in that moment?

This is the thing: we rarely know when history will be made or who it will be made through. But God does. With God, history can be made! When we entrust those who we encounter to the love of God, well, who knows what God might accomplish through them!

Over these past few weeks, I've been sharing about the importance of knowing, loving, and serving the kids in our midst. There's so much we don't know about the future, but right now, we have a chance to help them belong, believe, and become followers of Jesus. In light of this, here's the question I'm wondering: does God want to make history through these lives?

What would it look like if every encounter we had with each other, and especially with a young person, was one where we saw things through this lens? What if we saw that the time talking to and encouraging a person was one where God could move in their hearts to believe in His great love? What if we took our chance to share about His grace and it changes a life?

I believe God is going to make history through these lives! God loves to meet people, sometimes when they're young and uninfluential, and make some history. He can do it in a moment. After all, it's the moment that matters. So, don't miss it because it truly might make history! *Pastor Brandon*

## NEW!! Semi-Regular Blurbs

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: Why does our church say catholic instead of Christian church in the Apostles' Creed like my grandma's LCMC church?*

A: Great Question. It's a question of translation. Catholic here isn't talking about a denomination but it is a word that means "universal". So, we're not confessing anything different than the church which says "Christian". Since it can get confusing, German Lutherans have traditionally translated it as Christian so that everyone knows what we mean.

Other traditions who came to the US from other places such as England or Sweden have traditionally used the word "catholic".

## *This Week at Abounding Joy*

Thursday, Feb. 8

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Feb. 10

10:00 am WOW Secret Sisters Reveal Party

The Transfiguration of Our Lord, Sunday, Feb. 11 *(wear white)*

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

10:00 am Worship Service with Choir

11:00 am Fellowship and Souper Bowl Lunch

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

Monday, Feb. 12

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday, Feb. 13

10:00 am Selah Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon **Worship Service** with Communion and Imposition of Ashes

1:15 pm Seekers Small Group Bible Study

4:30 pm Council Executive Team Meeting

6:30 pm **Worship Service** with Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Thursday, Feb. 15

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](http://www.lcmc.net))

NALC - North American Lutheran Church ([www.theNALC.org](http://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](mailto:Pastor.Brandon@ajlcmc.org)

**Director of Youth and Family Ministries:** Tim Knorek

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

Erik Bergs Steve Hancock Dennis Holland Amy Krystosek  
Bill Latare Kim Mielke Bruce Peterson Marc Schrantz Darlene Stover

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**Website:** [www.aboundingjoy.org](http://www.aboundingjoy.org)

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