



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, February 15, 2024



The First Sunday in Lent, Feb. 18, 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 18, and read: Exodus 34:5-9; Ephesians 3:14-21; and John 10:9-18.

THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY & ADULT FORUM This Sunday, we kick off our Lenten journey with our sermon series, "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry." These books are available for pick-up (if you preordered) and we do have a couple extra copies. During the Adult Forum time at 9:00 a.m., we'll begin studying the book that accompanies this series. Join us in worship and in class.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Jim* (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother), *Julie* (Diane Spanier's sister), *Martin* (Margaret Rey's nephew), *Kathy* (Joyce Neyssen's niece), *Shuler* (Joyce Neyssen's great niece), *Deb* (Joyce Neyssen's cousin), *Brian* (Jane Armstrong's friend), *Stephen* (Erik & Miranda Berg's friend), *Jan* (Deb Hendrickson's friend), and *Mary Jo* (Joyce Neyssen's friend).

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS We're excited to bring a group of families to Mount Carmel this weekend to enjoy a time of fun, rest, and learning about Jesus at the Recharge Winter Retreat. Please keep us in your prayers that we would have a safe trip, get to know one another better, and grow in our faith.

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. 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.

On Sunday, February 18, we celebrate the February birthdays.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

February

Rhylan Nelson	3
Mary Schumann	11
Wally Osterholt	13
Marilyn Schultz	15
Jim Hooper	16
Kim Mielke	17
Erika Nordby	17
Jacob Windels	18
Annie Baumhofer	20
Judy Kopka	23

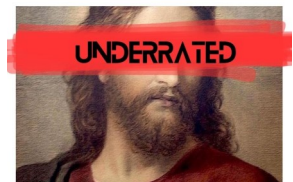


Happy Anniversary to:

Brady and Whitney Nelson, Saturday, Feb. 17.

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

UNDERRATED - On Wednesdays in Lent, join us for a meal (Feb. 21-pulled turkey sandwich, salad, and dessert) at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship at 6:30 p.m. This year, our Wednesday evening series is called "Underrated." In Isaiah 53, we learn that the Messiah would be someone who wouldn't stand out in the normal ways, but in every way, He would be underrated. Throughout Jesus' life, He embodied five underrated characteristics that He invited His followers to also embody. As we journey together, we'll learn five key words from the Hebrew and Greek language that help us see how lasting Jesus' impact still is. Join us every Wednesday evening in worship.



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.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024

ATTENDANCE: 138

OFFERINGS

General \$5,170

Building/Mortgage \$510

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

As I shared in last week's devotional, this month is marked by remembering history. It is a time, particularly in America, when we look back on the lives of those who made an impact on our country and how their stories still shape us today. There are also other person's who leave an impact on us, one that is more deeply felt. It's those who leave a legacy of faith for us to follow.

So, for the next few weeks, I'm going to introduce you to a few history-makers whose lives of faithfulness have impacted me significantly.

The first one I'd like to introduce (or reintroduce) to you is Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Dietrich Bonhoeffer lived in Germany and one of the main ways he is remembered is for the role he played in an effort to take out Adolf Hitler during WWII. However, more than that, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian who called people to faithfully follow Jesus, even when it could cost them their lives.

Bonhoeffer was born to a wealthy family in Germany. His parents were very smart people (his dad was a psychologist and colleague of Sigmund Freud), but his early years were not filled with much religious background. We could say they were marginally attached to the church. However, those little seeds were enough, for by the time Dietrich had finished confirmation, he was determined to become a theologian.

Fast-forward a few years later, and Dietrich's brilliant mind landed him in an associate pastor role that included training youth. Dietrich was a youth pastor and was deeply beloved. Though he would still become educated and love learning, this was where his pastoral heart began to take shape. He realized that God made him to be a pastor.

As Dietrich began pastoring, so did tensions between Germany and the world. Dietrich started to become an outspoken critic of Adolf Hitler. He also wrote to the church of Germany to not join forces with the state, but instead to stand steadfast with Christ, even if they should die. He reminded them through his most famous book, "The Cost of Discipleship" this corrective: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

Eventually, Bonhoeffer would live by those words. As Germany grew in power and the church of Germany capitulated to Nazi regime, Bonhoeffer led the training of pastors through an illegal seminary. He also became a target, for which he was later arrested and convicted, for his role in Abwehr, a German intelligence organization that plotted several assassination attempts on Hitler. He was sentenced to Tegel prison, and as he awaited sentencing, he ministered to other prisoners and guards.

Bonhoeffer was found guilty, without any evidence against him, and was hanged in April 1945 at Flossenbürg concentration camp. He is a modern-day martyr.

Bonhoeffer's life was incredible and to this day, his teachings are still profound. But throughout his life and ministry, Jesus Christ was the one he lived to glorify. Whether in life or death, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was Christ's, and that was all he wanted others to know. We thank God for Dietrich Bonhoeffer's faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

"What is the "extraordinary"? It is the love of Jesus Christ himself, love that goes to the cross in suffering obedience." *Pastor Brandon*

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.

WOW LADIES, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Eat and Meet General Gathering on Tuesday, March 5, starting at 5:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the info table. All ladies, members, friends, and visitors are welcome!



Q: *What are some ways we can welcome new people into faith?*

A: As a confirmation student, you know there is a lot to learn. We are all learning more about Jesus every week. It can be overwhelming to come to church for the first time.

If you see someone new, you can introduce yourself. Maybe share a little bit of your story and ask them about theirs. You can also ask if they would like some help navigating the building or knowing what to do during worship. It might not seem like much but it can make a big difference.

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, Feb. 15

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The First Sunday in Lent, Sunday, Feb. 18

8:30 am Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

9:00 am Education Hour—Adult Forum, No Sunday School or Confirmation Classes

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

Tuesday, Feb. 20

1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, Feb. 21

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding

4:00 pm Church Council Meeting

5:30 pm Lenten Meal (pulled turkey sandwiches, salad, dessert)

6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service

Thursday, Feb. 22

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

10:06 am Abounding Joy Foundation Meeting

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

Ministers of Music: Ginny Shimota, Mary Schumann, Michelle Tomsche

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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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