



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, February 29, 2024



The Third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 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, March 3, and read: Ecclesiastes 5:1-3; James 4:7-10; and Mark 1:35-39.

RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY & ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings for our Lenten journey through the series, "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry." During the Adult Forum time at 9:00 a.m., we'll continue studying with the videos that accompany this series. Join us in worship and in class. *We do have several extra copies available, so if you would like to get one (\$10), come talk to Marilyn.*

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Kirk (Terry & Jo Deau's son), Jim (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother), John (Marie Neuman'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), Faye (Madge Rowe's friend), and Mary Jo (Joyce Neyssen's friend).

WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES to Terry and Jo Deua on the recent death of Terry's sister; and to Pastor Tom and Diana Wright and family on the death of Tom's 94-year-old father, James, who died Tuesday, February 27. His funeral service will be on Saturday, March 9, at 11:00 am at New Life Lutheran Church (LCMC) in Duluth. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

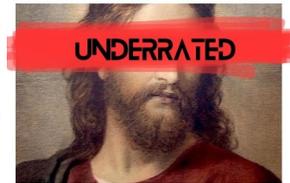
PRAYER REQUESTS may be made by a request to our new volunteer Prayer Team coordinator Pr. Deb Peterson: 320-250-0647 and/or AJ.prayers@ajlcmc.org. She contacts the prayer team for prayer. Daily prayer will be offered for one month. If you wish to have continued prayer, please submit a new request.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Greg Voller, Friday, March 1
Joy Mikyska, Saturday, March 2
Joanie Peterson, Sunday, March 3
Pris Krieg, Wednesday, March 6
Dean Peterson, Thursday, March 7



UNDERRATED On Wednesdays in Lent, join us for a meal 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 fellowship and worship. *Note from the kitchen: Wednesday, March 6 Lenten supper menu is Italian-pastas, salad, desert etc. A suggested donation of \$5 (18 and younger free) will be appreciated. Come and enjoy!*



EASTER OUTREACH MINISTRY This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out with the Love of Jesus to our Abounding Joy family and into the community. This ministry will begin this Sunday March 3rd. See the display table in the fellowship area where you are invited to take an egg from the Easter basket. Purchase a gift card as named on the egg (indicate the \$ amount on the card, a sharpie works well). Return your purchased gift card by March 24th to the container provided on the display table. Cash gifts are also welcomed! If you are aware of a family, neighbor, coworker, or shut-in who is struggling and would benefit from this ministry, please contact Pastor Brandon. The names are held in confidence. The gifts received will be distributed the week before Easter. Thank you so much! If questions contact: Elaine Mullenmaster: 320-493-2554.

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

For our honeymoon, Monique and I went on an adventure with a self-driving tour of Ireland for ten days. As 25 year old newlyweds, this seemed like a fun and fantastic idea - and it truly was! Ireland is such an enchanting, welcoming place, with many helpful and kind folks who truly desire for you to feel safe and comfortable while enjoying your stay.

When thinking about Ireland, one can't help but remember St. Patrick and his profound impact on this island and on the witness of faith. Though it's not quite March, he is the history-maker I'd like to introduce you to today.

Patrick was born in Britain during the fourth century to Christian parents. However, when he was 16 years old, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates who took him back to Ireland, where he was held captive and did forced labor for six years. At this time, Ireland was a land filled with paganism and superstition. Patrick worked primarily as a shepherd, and it was this activity that deepened and formed his spiritual life. Patrick became a person of prayer.

At 22, Patrick ended up escaping from the pirates and boarded a ship that eventually got him back to Britain. While there, Patrick began studying Christianity more deeply. It was also at this time that he felt called by God to be a missionary, and the land he would go to was where he had just left.

After his ordination, Patrick was faithful to that call, and returned to Ireland. For 29 years, he worked hard, proclaiming the Gospel and establishing monasteries (the foundations of some can still be seen and visited). With courage and boldness, he stood up to bloodthirsty kings and pagan rulers demanding that they end practices of bloodshed and commanding they repent of their sins. All this while, Patrick prayed against the spiritual battle that also plagued the nation.

One of Patrick's most legendary and famous teachings (and evangelistic tools) involved the shamrock. Known for its three leaves connected at the center, Patrick taught that this is an image of the Trinity. Among the nation, three was a significant number, as were the idea of triple deities. Like Paul with the Athenians, Patrick named the God who is three in one, and led many to faith in Christ.

All this happened slowly at first; but gradually, the nation of Ireland changed through Patrick's example. A culture emerged that was embedded in Christian values that deemed all life was worthy of caring for and protecting. In a sense, the nation became something new.

Patrick made history in Ireland, but he knew it was only by the powerful hand of God that anything happened at all. Patrick trusted Jesus deeply and that is what compelled him to live reliant on prayer. He even said as much in his own words, "If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God."

Today, we thank God for using a man like Patrick to make His name known and to transform the world. We remember his witness, learn from his example, all as he pointed to Jesus. *Pastor Brandon*

LADIES, the WOW (Women of the Word) Eat and Meet Winter General Gathering is Tuesday, March 5, starting at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Area. "Sole Care" is the theme for this gathering. The evening begins with a light meal, a review of our ministries, new ministry ideas, and fellowship. We are excited to have our member, Deb Hendrickson, share a picture presentation of her mission journey based on John 13:1-17. There is a sign-up sheet on the info table. All ladies (members, friends, and visitors) are welcome and encouraged to spend an evening together!

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 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.

FISH FRY ANYONE? The St. Katharine Drexel School annual fundraiser Fish Fry is Friday, March 15, 4:00-8:00 pm. This delicious fish fry includes all you can eat hand-breaded fish, baked beans, chips, coleslaw, and beverage (\$14 Adults, \$8 10-yrs and younger, and 3-yrs and younger eat free). This fundraiser also includes a bake sale, silent auction, meat raffle, and ice cream sale. For advance fish fry tickets contact Greg Voller or Marilyn in the Office. If you know of a good fish fry, please let us know in the Office and we'll get the word out.

LADIES' LUNCHEON for March is scheduled for Friday, March 22, at Noon at Grizzly's Wood-Fired Grill (137 2nd Ave S, Waite Park). There is a sign-up sheet available on the Info Table.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024 ATTENDANCE: 154

OFFERINGS

General \$2,075 Building/Mortgage \$790

TABLE-TALK: The Household's Christian Calendar

Join us for an evening of fellowship and conversation Sunday, April 14 with dinner at 5:30 pm.

The Christian life is a life of continued hearing of God's Word about the great things He has done for us in Jesus. In this Table-Talk we will consider the importance of family devotional life and look at how observing days, weeks, and even years of the Christian calendar can be a great tool for our family life of faith, especially as we wonder how to pass faith in Christ to the next generation.

Our guest speaker, Kristen Einertson, is a blogger and a co-founder of All the Household, a one-stop shop for teaching and learning about Lutheran liturgical traditions. Kristen is the wife of Christian Einertson and mother of Theodore and Mary. She and her family live in Farmington, MN.

Please sign up at the info table or let Tim know you are coming, so that we have enough food ready for everyone. Childcare for younger kids can be provided upon request.

Named after Martin Luther's custom to discuss various important topics at the dinner table, Table-Talk is an opportunity for families and people of all ages to engage important topics and questions in light of God's Word.

HOLY WEEK

On **Palm Sunday**, March 24, we sing "Hosanna!" to the King who came to give His life for His people and enter into the week of Jesus' passion with Him.

On **Maundy Thursday**, March 28, we will worship at **6:30 pm**. Our students who have been preparing for first communion will also be partaking this evening in a special celebration.

On **Good Friday**, March 29, we will offer two opportunities to worship at **noon** and **6:30 pm**. This will be a Tenebrae service, focusing on Jesus as He is denied all the way to the Cross, where He will die for our sins. Our Men's Ensemble will be leading music at this service.

On **Easter Sunday**, March 31, join us for worship either at **7:00 am** for a Sunrise service or at **10:00 am** for worship our Risen Savior! Please note that there will be NO Sunday School or Confirmation Classes this day.

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, Feb. 29

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The Third Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 3

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

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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

Monday, March 4

6:00 pm Missions Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 5

1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study

5:30 pm WOW General Gathering

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding

5:30 pm Lenten Meal

6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service

7:30 pm Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7

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)

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.

Kim Mielke, Pres. Bill Latare, Vice-Pres. Darlene Stover, Sec. Bruce Peterson, Treas.

Erik Bergs Steve Hancock Dennis Holland Amy Krystosek Marc Schrantz

6000 County Road 120, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: (320) 217-8784 Email: general.info@ajlcmc.org OR bulletin@ajlcmc.org

Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am-1:00 pm