



2024
SPRING
AHEAD

The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, March 7, 2024



The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024

Worship is at 10:00 am (Daylight saving time)

Three Worship Options: In-Person, Drive-in (88.5 FM), Video Message

DON'T BE LATE-Daylight Saving Time- Spring AHEAD

GOD'S WORD Sunday's sermon will be posted to our church website and at www.ajlcm.org as soon as possible. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, March 10, and read: Genesis 2:1-3; Colossians 2:6-10, 16-19; and Mark 2:23-28.

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 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 Duea's son), Don (Dave Greenwaldt's brother), Jim (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother), John (Marie Neuman's brother), Matt (Penny Peterson's son-in-law), Martin (Margaret Rey's nephew), Kathy (Joyce Neyssen's niece), Deb (Joyce Neyssen's cousin), Brian (Jane Armstrong's friend), Stephen (Erik & Miranda Berg's friend), Jan (Deb Hendrickson's friend), and Faye (Madge Rowe's friend).*

CONTINUED PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES to *Terry and Jo Duea* 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 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.

THANK YOU so much for praying for me as I continue to recover from a heart attack and several stent placements. I am doing very well, back to work, and starting cardiac therapy soon. Thank you all again. *Julie Jacobson*

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP will meet on Thursday, March 14th at 11:30 am at Drakes Fine Food & Spirits in the Country Manor Campus (520 1st St NE, Sartell).

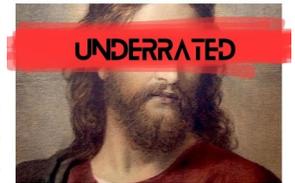
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Dean Peterson, Thursday, March 7
Max Blais, Friday, March 8
Kevin Sorensen, Sunday, March 10
Caleb Schultz, Wednesday, March 13
Elyse Foster, Thursday, March 14
Warren Luepke, Thursday, March 14



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 13 Lenten supper menu is soup and sandwich with trimmings. A suggested donation of \$5 (18 and young-er free) will be appreciated. Come and enjoy!*



GOOD FRIDAY READERS For our Good Friday services this year, we will be offering a Tenebrae service. During this service, we will need 6 readers for each service to join us in sharing God's word as we journey with Jesus to the cross. There is a sign-up sheet on the Info Table. Please consider sharing your gifts during this special service.

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

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.

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will be clean."
And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean." (Mark 1:41-42)

Today is a gift from God! It's a day to enjoy and one to commune with God's Spirit. Throughout this Lenten season, we've been reminded how important each day is and that as each of us only gets 24 hours each day, we have a gift to help us live intentionally and purposefully every day. It comes through talking with God in prayer.

Prayer was an important part of Jesus' life. It was what guided Him and helped Him be refreshed in the love of God. When we model our lives after Jesus, we find a new phase opening up in our relationship with God. A deeper desire grows for connection with God.

This deeper connection flows out to somewhere else, and we find it connected to the bigger context in the passage quoted above. Jesus had an important aspect to Jesus' mission that came out of His prayer life – He was a healer. In these verses, we learn of a man who was shunned by the world around him. But he came to know Jesus, and in this, he placed his hope and trust in Jesus to be his healer. This man had immense faith – but his circumstances were also dire. He had two options – either take the chance and ask Jesus to heal him, or continue to live with his leprosy.

We can do desperate things when we're in desperate situations. I'm sure over the course of your life you've heard stories of people who have done some pretty risky things – and for some it has paid off. Maybe you've done risky things and had them pay off. This was what the man in the passage came to grips with. His faith was risky and needed to be.

Risky faith comes through a relentless pursuit after God's heart. Know where that starts? In prayer. As we begin engaging God in prayer, we are filled with a new boldness to do powerful things for God's glory. But, we also come to understand more about ourselves as sinful people in need of grace. The man in the story had come to this understanding as well. He needed to be clean, and He knew the only one who could cleanse Him completely. We, too, need that same cleansing.

Sometimes I think that my sins are too great for Jesus to forgive. When I think that, I forget who He is. But Jesus thinks differently. Notice how He responds to the leper – with compassion. He says He is willing to cleanse. He is ready to meet you and I right where we're at and provide for us. What do you need Him to cleanse in you today? Talk to Him about what in your life needs His powerful touch.

Remember, Jesus is stronger than our sins. He paid the price on the Cross to take away all our sins. He came to cleanse us of our sins and He is willing to do so in you. Continue to draw near to Him this Lenten season and let Him heal you with His touch. *Pastor Brandon*

EASTER OUTREACH MINISTRY is a wonderful opportunity to reach out with the Love of Jesus to our Abounding Joy family and into the community. 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), and return your purchased gift card by Palm Sunday, March 24, 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 (Holy Week). Thank you so much! If questions contact: Elaine Mullenmaster: 320-493-2554.

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.

Sunday, March 3, 2024 ATTENDANCE: 134

OFFERINGS

General \$13,801

Building/Mortgage \$480

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.

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. Advance tickets available here thru Wed. evening, March 13. If you know of a good fish fry, please let us know in the Office and we'll get the word out.



HOLY WEEK Schedule:

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; and NO Fellowship following either Service on Easter Sunday.*

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, March 7

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 10

9:00 am Education Hour—Adult Forum (No Sunday School or Confirmation class)

10:00 am Worship Service with Choir

11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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

Monday, March 11

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday, March 12

10:00 am Selah Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 13

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Seekers Small Group Bible Study

4:30 pm Church Council Executive Meeting

5:30 pm Lenten Meal & First Communion Class

6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service

7:30 pm Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

Thursday, March 14

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

11:30 am Grief Support Lunch at Drakes Find Food and Spirits

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal



The Abounding Joy Foundation

Brad Lundquist, President

Carl Batdorf, Vice President

Dan Tysver, Treasurer

Greg Norman, Secretary

Bill Latare, Council Liaison

Deb Hendrickson

Wally Osterholt

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