



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, March 14, 2024



The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 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 17, and read: Exodus 22:21-27; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; and Luke 12:15, 22-34.

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), John (Terry & Jo Duea's friend), Stephen (Erik & Miranda Berg's friend), Jan (Deb Hendrickson's friend), and Faye (Madge Rowe's friend).*

PRAYER REQUESTS may be made by a request to our new volunteer Prayer Team coordinator Pr. Deb Peterson: AJ.prayers@ajlcmc.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.

GOOD FRIDAY READERS Thank you for your response to this plea. We are still in need of 1 more reader for the 6:30 pm service. If you are available and willing to volunteer, please call the Office (320-217-8784). Thank you!

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.

On Sunday, March 17th, we celebrate the

MARCH birthdays:

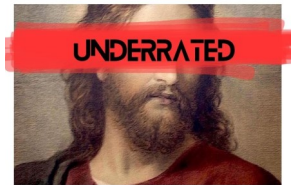
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

March

Greg Voller	1
Joy Mikyska	2
Joanie Peterson	3
Brian Frank	6
Pris Krieg	6
Dean Peterson	7
Max Blais	8
Kevin Sorensen	10
Caleb Schultz	13
Elyse Foster	14
Warren Luepke	14
Ginny Shimota	18
Diane Spanier	18
Elijah Krystosek	20
Whitney Nelson	20
Arlene Morey	21
Christine Durheim	23
Mary Swenson	25
Debbie Hahn	26
Cheryl Braaten	31



UNDERRATED There is one Wednesday remaining in Lent. Please 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're learning five key words from the Hebrew and Greek language (Hesed, Tapeinophrosune, Yosher, and Eulogia—one more next week) that help us see how lasting Jesus' impact still is. Join us next Wednesday evening in fellowship and worship. *Note from the kitchen: March 20th Lenten supper menu is a spring fun meal of BBQ's, chips, calico beans, watermelon, coleslaw, fun side dishes, and an ice cream sundae bar setup! A suggested donation of \$5 (18 and younger free) will be appreciated. Come and enjoy!*

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head... "She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." (Mark 14:3, 8-9)

This moment in Mark's Gospel is a powerful scene. As we read, we capture Jesus being anointed by a woman with a jar of expensive perfume. We know from John's gospel that this woman is Mary, sister of Lazarus.

It's also an interesting scene for sure. It seems they are enjoying the evening, readying for the Passover Week and the Festival of Unleavened Bread ahead. Jesus knew the importance of the timing, but the rest seem unaware. In a moment, Mary does something unexpected - she comes into the circle of disciples and pours this perfume on his head.

As the aroma of the oil rose in the room, the scent would have reminded these Jews of another moment in the Old Testament.

In Leviticus 8, the scene that takes place is the ordination of Aaron and his sons as priests of Israel. These were God's chosen instruments to be the go-betweens for the people and their sins. The priestly role was of high importance. The way Moses signified their importance: by anointing them with a special blend of oil that was pleasantly fragrant.

The oil was for important and specific use. It set one apart for specific roles they alone could accomplish because God called them to it. Aaron and his sons were anointed for the role of being priests, a role of deep significance to the worship life of Israel. These men would lead people in understanding the character of God and how He forgives.

What happens immediately following the anointing in Leviticus 8 is a sacrifice - a death occurs. This death is substitutionary, in that it fulfills the space another should have taken. This sacrifice is a sin offering, meant to exchange the sins of the priests onto the bull in offering. This would provide these priests the standing they need to rightly offer God the worship He is worthy of. God also provides these leaders so that we would know the richness and depth of His love.

Connect these thoughts together and we see that Jesus is being anointed, not in some random act, but in one that is immensely profound. Mary is acclaiming Jesus as the Great High Priest, the one chosen by God. Her act points out that He is the one we look to, the one who goes-between for our sake.

Is it any wonder then, that Jesus states that this act was done to prepare His body for death? Jesus knows that He is anointed and set apart for a special role that is deeply significant for the worship life of Israel, and it will involve a substitution. He is set apart to save us by becoming our substitute.

Jesus will become our substitute as a sin offering for us in His death. His Cross exchanges our sin for His righteousness, so that we might receive the grace of God. He takes our place so we can have His right standing before God and worship Him freely. And He does this because He loves us.

These next few weeks, we are to join Mary and do what she did. No, we have no need to pour oil on Him! We are to take on and display her heart that calls others to look at Jesus, the chosen one to be our go-between. He was anointed to be our Great High Priest who stands in God's presence to intercede for us, all because He loves us. As you worship in the wind-down of Lent and prepare for Resurrection Sunday, may your heart be continually freed by the power of His love for you. *Pastor Brandon*

EASTER OUTREACH is an 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 on the display table. Cash gifts are also welcomed! If you are aware of a family, neighbor, coworker, or shut-in who 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.

MARCH IS FOOD SHARE MONTH

When you are shopping for your household, you are encouraged to remember those in need and buy a little extra for donating. Please bring non-perishable food items (not expired) and/or cash or check (made payable to Abounding Joy with a memo 'food shelf') to help fill the shopping cart. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated. We thank Carl and Betty Batdorf for delivering the donations.



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.

EASTER "He Is Risen!" yard crosses—do you have one? It's time to bring it out. On Palm Sunday, we put them in our yard or window with the blank side facing out. On Easter Sunday, turn it around to proclaim "He Is Risen!" These crosses are not yard art or Easter decorations but a witness to the Risen Christ. For ordering info go to EasterCross.org.



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 10, 2024 ATTENDANCE: 121

OFFERINGS

General \$6,275

Building/Mortgage \$1,240

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 14

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 17

9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation class, and Adult Forum

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

Monday, March 18

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday, March 19

1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 20

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding

4:30 pm Church Council Meeting

5:30 pm Lenten Meal & First Communion Class

6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service

Thursday, March 21

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 22

Noon Ladies' Noon Luncheon at Grizzly's Wood-Fired Grill



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