



The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Thursday, March 21, 2024



Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, March 24, 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 Palm Sunday, March 24, and read: Zechariah 9:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; and John 12:12-26.

PALM SUNDAY is this 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. It's a special day when our Sunday School children will process into the Sanctuary singing and we are all waving palms.

RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY & ADULT

FORUM This Sunday morning is our last week of our Lenten journey through, "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry." During the Adult Forum time at 9:00 a.m., we'll conclude the videos that accompanied this series.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Don* (Dave Greenwaldt's brother), *Jim* (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother), *John* (Marie Neuman's brother), *Lee* (Elijah and Simon Krystosek's uncle), *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).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Arlene Morey, Thursday, March 21
Christine Durheim, Saturday, March 23
Mary Swenson, Monday, March 25
Debbie Hahn, Tuesday, March 26



WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES to *Terry and Jo Duea* and *Family* on the death of their son *Kirk* on Sunday morning. His funeral service will be tomorrow, Friday, March 22, at 10:00 am here at Abounding Joy Lutheran Church with visitation one hour prior to the service. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

GOOD FRIDAY READERS We will have a short meeting in the Sanctuary following worship on Sunday morning to talk about a few procedure details for the Good Friday service.

EARLY DEADLINE The Herald will be out next Wednesday instead of Maundy Thursday. If you have a notice or info that you would like in the Herald next week, please have it in by 10:00 am on Wednesday, March 27. Thank you!

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.

HOLY WEEK

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. *Please stay after the service for cake and ice cream* to celebrate our first communicants having joined us at the Lord's Table.

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** to 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.*

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:29-30)

There are some weddings that you can't help but be so excited for. Maybe it's your son or daughter. Maybe it's two close friends you've known for years. Maybe it's one of your parents finding love again. There are some weddings that top all the others, and your joy and excitement is skyrocketing in anticipation of the event.

While we know that it's a day all about the bride (because we all know she looks absolutely stunning!), it takes more than her to make the wedding happen. A certain someone's gotta be there – yup, you guessed it: the groom! Without the groom, the bride is simply a woman dressed in a beautiful gown that she spent a bunch of money on. The bride doesn't beautify herself for the crowd. She does it for the groom. It is him for who it is all for.

We wait to see this moment at every wedding don't we? We look forward to that moment when the groom readies himself to see the woman he fiercely loves. And then, she appears! And joy overcomes both of them and seeps into all of us watching. This beginning moment of the ceremony captivates us all into an amazing, worshipful moment.

This is what we learn about Jesus today. He is the groom; He is the one the bride readies herself for; He is the one who makes the wedding occur. Jesus is the one who stands at the front of the sanctuary eagerly anticipating His bride to come be joined to Him. And we, the Church, are His bride. Jesus sees us coming toward Him and He is eager for us to be with Him. His sight is filled with joy and it seeps into us. That joy spreads to this world.

The bridegroom is looking at us, seeing His beautiful and stunning bride! He doesn't see our mistakes or our mess-ups; He doesn't see our sin; He sees His beloved.

Walk toward Him today! Be joined to Him. Let His joy be our joy! And as we are filled with joy, let the greatness of His goodness fill our worlds with the sight of our union with Him.

Lord Jesus, it's all about you! You make a relationship with you a reality! You are our joy. Fill us with that joy so we may spread it to this world, captivating them in worship and awe of who you are! Amen.

Pastor Brandon

EASTER OUTREACH deadline arrives this Sunday, March 24. If you picked an egg from the Easter basket, purchased a gift card as named on the egg, it is time to bring in your purchased gift card and put it in the container on the display table. If you are aware of a family, neighbor, coworker, or shut-in who would benefit from this ministry, it is time to contact Pastor Brandon with that, or those, names. The names are held in confidence. The gifts received will be distributed next 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.

YOUTH GATHERING *Put this on your schedule!*

The Wednesday after Easter, April 3, at 7:00 pm we are going to try something new. The Clasesmans will be hosting a youth group gathering at their house [6312 Fallow Road, St. Cloud (Luxemburg)]. They have a great game room space above the garage where we can hang out, play games, and have a little Bible study and conversation. We're hoping to see all of our students in grades 7-12 there. If this Wednesday night experiment works out, we can start adding Wednesday night events on a regular basis. See you there!

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 17, 2024 **ATTENDANCE:** 134

OFFERINGS

General \$14,069

Building/Mortgage \$400

This Week at Abounding Joy

Thursday, March 21

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 22

9:00 am Visitation hour for Kirk Duea Funeral

10:00 am Funeral Service for Kirk Duea

Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, March 24

9:00 am Sunday School and Adult Forum

10:00 am Worship Service with Men's Ensemble and Children's Processional

11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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

Tuesday, March 26

10:00 am Selah Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 27

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

Noon Bible Study

1:15 pm Seekers Small Group Bible Study

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Maunday Thursday, March 28

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

6:30 pm **Worship Service**

Good Friday, March 29

Noon **Worship Service**

6:30 pm **Worship Service**

The Abounding Joy Foundation

Brad Lundquist, President	Bill Latare, Council Liaison
Carl Batdorf, Vice President	Deb Hendrickson
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

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

Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

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