



# The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love  
Thursday, April 4, 2024



## The Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 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](http://www.ajlcmc.org) as soon as possible. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, April 7, and read: Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14; 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:19-29.

**SPECIAL MUSIC THIS WEEKEND!** Our Sunday School students will share a special song they've been working on in worship! Get ready to hear their special message.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us this Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Area as we begin an important discussion on ways we can actively work at passing on faith to the next generation through a series titled "Growing Young." This weekend, we'll look at some important statistics about faith in younger generations as we begin an important study over the next month. Starting April 14th, we'll also join in a sermon series to dive deeper into these themes. Please join us!

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** *Jeffery Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Jim* (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother), *John* (Marie Neuman's brother), *John and Kathy* (Joyce Neyssen's brother & sigster-in-law), *Nathan* (Ron & Sandy Stewart's son), *Kasih* (Arlene & Doug Morey's great-grandson), *Lee* (Elijah and Simon Krystosek's uncle), *Matt* (Penny Peterson's son-in-law), *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), *Jan* (Deb Hendrickson's friend), *John* (Terry & Jo Duea's friend), *Faye* (Madge Rowe's friend), and *Mary Jo* (Joyce Neyssen's friend).

**CONTINUED PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES** to *Rick and Michelle Bellichard and family* on the recent death of Rick's father (incorrectly reported last issue as Rick's brother), Jim from Austin, MN.

May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

**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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

*Jeffrey Karbedeh, Friday, April 5*  
*Amy Armstrong, Sunday, April 7*  
*Mike Gilbert, Thursday, April 11*



**DISCOVERY NIGHT** Have you been interested in becoming a member of Abounding Joy? We will have a special "Discovery Night" on Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested in joining or learning more. Contact Pastor Brandon if you are interested. The 30th doesn't work? No problem! Simply contact Pastor Brandon and we'll also make other accommodations.

**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.

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

## God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

*"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." - John 17:4-5*

Whenever we stick with something, we always focus on what's to come at the outcome. When we can see that something great is the outcome, we will stick with it. When I was 22, I ran a full marathon (the first and only one for me). There were parts that were hard and difficult, but I knew that when I finished, I would experience joy for sticking with it and finishing it.

As Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He was considering sticking with God's salvation plan, He kept His eyes on something greater to come through it, something that was revealed on the third day after His death: glory.

The word "glory" has many meanings. For Jesus, the word would have brought to mind people of high importance, or situations of substantial significance. The word is identified with "heaviness." This moment, because of all that has happened, matters the most. When I finished my marathon, I experienced glory. I had done it and I did it well! But the momentary glory I experienced after my marathon was NOTHING in comparison to the glory Mary Magdalene experienced that early Easter morning.

For Mary, the pain and turmoil of the past few days was heavy upon her soul. She was deeply grieved over the loss of her Lord and Savior's life. All she could muster the strength to do was come to the tomb, care for the body, and weep. Until she learned the body wasn't there! That's when she experienced the glory that mattered more than all - Jesus is alive! He resurrected and met her in the moment.

What Mary experienced in seeing and speaking with the resurrected Jesus was a heaviness that undid all her past heaviness. Mary was a witness of His glory and His presence. In Jesus' resurrection, we learn that He is still WITH us. Death could not remove His WITH-ness WITH us! In fact, death no longer gets to be the end of the story.

This part of the story of the Bible takes place in a garden, one similar to where the destruction of death began. But in this garden, new life grows and blooms. The Bible wants us to believe our God makes the way when there was no way so that we would follow WITH Him and live in His glory forever! In this garden, is the invitation laying before us to follow Jesus.

Today is when your life of following Him can begin. It's a daily commitment of practicing His presence. Because He lives, every day becomes a chance to experience His glory, building a life of seeing Him WITH you. *Pastor Brandon*

**TASK FORCE** The Abounding Joy Council is looking for folks from our congregation to share in the next steps for our congregation, especially in regards to our building. We are looking for 9 people from the congregation and are looking for a good cross-section of our congregation to serve in these discussions and decisions. Is this something you would be interested in? If yes, please contact a council member to share your interest.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE** Wednesday, June 19th, is going to



be a special day for kids at Abounding Joy! **SUMMER BLAST** is our one-day Vacation Bible School. We are going to need help making it happen so watch for details where you can

volunteer. Save the date so you can be part of making this day a "BLAST!"

**EASTER Sunday, March 31, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:**

7:00 a.m. 40

10:00 a.m. 140

**OFFERINGS**

General \$5,211

Building/Mortgage \$630

## *This Week at Abounding Joy*

**Thursday**, April 4

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday**, April 7

9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Forum

10:00 am Worship service

11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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

**Monday**, April 8

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

**Tuesday**, April 9

10:00 am Selah Small Group Bible Study

**Wednesday**, April 10

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk

12 Noon Bible Study

1:00 pm Seekers Small Group Bible Study

4:30 pm Church Council Executive Team Meeting

6:30 pm Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

**Thursday**, April 11

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### ***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](http://www.lcmc.net))

NALC - North American Lutheran Church ([www.theNALC.org](http://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](mailto:Pastor.Brandon@ajlcmc.org)

**Director of Youth and Family Ministries:** Tim Knorek

Tim's contact info: (507) 508-4128 email: [tknorek@ajlcmc.org](mailto: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

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Website: [www.aboundingjoy.org](http://www.aboundingjoy.org)

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