



# The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love  
Thursday, April 11, 2024



## The Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 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 14, and read: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 4:11-16; and Luke 9:1-6, 10.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us this Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Area as we continue 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 explore the power of keychain leadership. It will tie into the themes we'll explore in the sermon series that begins this weekend. Please join us!

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** *Jeffery Karbedeh, Karon Doble, Ken Lucy, Dorrie* (Karon Doble's sister), *Jim* (Joanie Peterson, Joyce Cass, & Jeanie Frolander's brother), *John* (Marie Neuman's brother), *John* and *Kathy* (Joyce Neyssen's brother & sister-in-law), *Nathan* (Ron & Sandy Stewart's son), *Kasiah* (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), *Pr. Brad* (Pr. Brandon's friend), *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).

**WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES** to *Tom Johnstone* and *family* on the death of his wife and our beloved member, *Dianne*, who died Saturday, April 6. The funeral service for Dianne will be tomorrow, Friday, April 12, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation starting at 9:30 a.m. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

**PRAYERS** Following our worship services this Sunday, there will be prayer partners available at the front of the sanctuary for anyone who wishes for prayer (for yourself or someone else). Describe briefly your request and prayers will be offered.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:**

*Mike Gilbert, Thursday, April 11*  
*Greg Norman, Friday, April 12*  
*Cindi Rhoe, Friday, April 12*  
*Tim Knorek, Sunday, April 14*  
*Anna Bleess-Lahr, Monday, April 15*  
*Wendy Norman, Monday, April 15*  
*Jim Schumann, Tuesday, April 16*  
*Doug Morey, Thursday, April 18*



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:**

*Scot and Holly Olson* celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary on Wednesday, April 17th. God's blessings to these couples as they mark this important milestone in their lives.

**SPECIAL GUEST** On April 28, Pastor Brandon will be gone for a wedding, so we will have a very special guest with us. Amy Okeson, Director of Serving Ministry at Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND, will be with us to share the message this day! Let's join in welcoming her here with us.

**TABLE-TALK** The Household's Christian Calendar

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

The Christian life is a life of continued hearing 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.

Please sign up at the info table 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.

## God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

### *"Get Rid of the Fake ID"*

In two weeks, I will be taking the week off to rest and recover. I am also afforded the opportunity to officiate a wedding for some friends of ours! I've been looking forward to this and am so thankful for the council's openness to allow me to do this for them. Officiants get the special opportunity to be with couples on this day, leading them to begin their married life worshipping God. In that, we also get to sign the marriage license with the main attendants – the witnesses.

A portion of my role as officiant is to ensure the identification of those witnesses. It is my role, on behalf of the state, to make sure these people are who they say they are. Well, how do I figure that out? I card them and ask for their ID.

This small, hard item that is carried in our back pockets and purses shares significant information. It also tells me some details. Whether it's a school card or a driver's license, each form of identification produces a profile, or simple details that are true about us. With our ID's, if the profile matches the person, access is granted to certain places and situations. Without them, we can't prove what is true about us and are denied.

Fake ID's also give a profile of a person. However, if a fake ID is in possession of a person who is not the one identified, it doesn't tell the truth. A fake ID seeks to deceive the one processing the information on that card. Fake ID's try to do the same thing real ID's do (getting access and proving certain truths), except they do it falsely.

Whether we like to admit it or not, each of us carries a fake ID at times. There are times it's easier to portray or profile ourselves as something that we really aren't, for the sake of getting access to someone or something. We sell ourselves out to fit into a standard set by someone else. We choose to live in someone else's defined identity rather than the one we already have.

Identity is something we are given and yet also actively reinforce. It can be hard to live into our identity because it requires vulnerability and authenticity. And while we may be able to be

those things with ourselves (even though sometimes that can be just as difficult), it's a different story with others. Real identity means we have to encounter love and live in that love. Fake ID's let us have an escape from doing the difficult work. But fake ID's only get us busted – and being busted makes life miserable.

In the Bible, there are lots of pictures of identity given, but there's one passage that stands out to me. It comes from the book of Song of Songs. In that book, there are a man and a woman. The woman declares an identity that is anything but miserable. She is a woman whose identity is, shall I say, "euphoric?"

Here's what she says in Song of Songs 2:16-17: *My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.*

This woman is not "busted." She is found! In that state, she issues forth her identity – and it's found in love. The love that is there causes an unbridled zeal to live fully into that love because it is reciprocal and unending.

That sounds a lot like the stories Jesus told in Luke 15. That chapter is all about the lost being found. Being found is worthy of rejoicing and busting out in praise! That's what Jesus came to do. It's what He came to give you, help you reinforce, and live into.

When we carry our fake ID's around, showing them off, and working for access to what is not meant for us, we're seeking out misery. The Holy Spirit has not brought us into God's family to make us miserable, but to make us authentic with our brothers and sisters in faith and our God. In that authenticity, we will know the blazing strength of God's love at work in all of us.

Today, get rid of your fake ID. Confess to God your desire to keep carrying it around, rather than live in the identity of His child. Then be courageous and open yourself up to the church who you are and whose you are. Engage in conversation so that we could know one another as we truly wish to be known. And let the Holy Spirit guide you to bust out in praise of who God says you are. *Pastor Brandon*

THANK YOU for caring. All of your expressions of sympathy, prayers, and cards on the death of my father Jim were deeply appreciated. It is good to be in this church family. *Rick and Michelle Beltrichard*

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.

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.

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.

**LADIES' LUNCHEON** is scheduled for Friday, April 26, at noon at The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant (12 Division St., Waite Park). There is a sign-up sheet available on the Info Table.

**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 or register on the sign-up sheet on the info table. The 30th doesn't work? No problem! Simply contact Pastor Brandon and we'll also make other accommodations.

**SAVE THE DATE TO START THE PARTY!** June 19th is going to be a special day for kids at Abounding Joy and in our community! We are going to start a party and we will need some party-starters to help! Save the date to help us make this day a "blast!" Watch for more info and sign-up sheets in the weeks to come.



**VOLUNTEER FUNERAL COORDINATORS** are being recruited. Laurie Lucy has done a super job for some time but with added home responsibilities, she needs to step back. The goal is to have 3-4 co-coordinators so that if one is out-of-town or not available when the need arises, there is someone else who can be contacted. Laurie has detailed notes she will share along with being available for consultation. Please contact the Office or visit with Laurie if this is something with which you would like to help. A big THANK YOU to Laurie for serving as our Funeral Coordinator for the past how many years!

**QUARTERLY STATEMENTS** for this first quarter of 2024 will not automatically be printed and in your mail folder. If you would like to have a copy of your statement, you are very welcome to stop in or call the Office and one will be printed for you. Statements will be printed after the end of the second quarter, July 1st.

**SUMMER CAMP** Have you Heard about Family Camp? Family camp is Bible camp for people of all ages: families and individuals. Our partners at Mount Carmel offer a range of camp opportunities this summer. There are week-long options such as July 13-19 with artist Paul Oman or a condensed 2-night weekend option, July 19-21.



If you've never been to Bible camp before, this is a chance to try it out for the first time. You'll get to stay in a cabin, meet new people, swim in the lake, play, learn about God's Word, and experience a talent show, water carnival and a family folk dance. It's a lot to fit into a weekend. All campers from Abounding Joy get a 20% discount and a camp scholarship to help with the cost; all available to families who want to check it out. Come talk to Tim Knorek for more information and how to register.

**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.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COORDINATOR**  
We are looking for a volunteer to take over as Coordinator for the OCC Drop-off Location at our church. Training and materials will be provided. Please contact Kim Mielke if interested.

<b>Sunday, April 7, 2024</b>	
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b> 137	
<b>OFFERINGS</b>	
General	\$6,082
Building/Mortgage	\$1,430

**Abounding Joy Quarterly Tithing Report (Jan.-March 2024)**

Aslan Health (Local) 1/2 of 35%	\$2,245.50
Quiet Oaks Hospice (Local) 1/2 of 35%	2,245.50
Sola Publishing (National) 15%	1,926.00
The Navigators – Luke & Sarah DeBoer (International) 10%	1,283.00
Institute for Lutheran Theology (10% fixed)	1,283.00
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) (10% fixed)	1,283.00
NALC (10%)	1,283.00
Emergency Fund (10%)	<u>1,283.00</u>
Total Tithe	\$12,832.00

*Each month Abounding Joy gives away at least 10% of all undesigned offerings. The Mission Team seeks recommendations for ministries to support locally, nationally, and internationally.*

*This Week at Abounding Joy*

Thursday, April 11

**6:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 12

**9:30 am** Visitation for Dianne Johnstone Funeral

**11:00 am** Funeral Service for Dianne Johnstone

Sunday, April 14

**9:00 am** Sunday School, Adult Forum

**10:00 am** Worship service with Choir

**11:00 am** Fellowship and Refreshments

**11:00 am** Prayers

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

Tuesday, April 16

**6:30 pm** Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 17

**9:00 am** Men's Faith Talk

**12 Noon** Bible Study

**1:15 pm** Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding

**4:00 pm** Church Council Meeting

**6:30 pm** Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18

**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