



# The Abounding Joy Herald

Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love  
Thursday, April 18, 2024



## The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 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 21, and read: Genesis 28:10-17; Acts 17:22-31; and Mark 5:1-20.

**ADULT EDUCATION** 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 empathy. It will tie into the themes we'll explore in the sermon series that begins this weekend. Please join us! Also, note, next week, April 28, we will not have an Adult Education as Pastor Brandon will be out of town and we will have a special guest on this day.

**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.

**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), John (Terry & Jo Duea's friend), Faye (Madge Rowe's friend), and Mary Jo (Joyce Neyssen's friend).

**WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES** to Carole Martin on the recent death of her 95-yr-old brother, Bill.

**CONTINUED PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES** for Tom Johnstone and family on the death of his wife and our beloved member, Dianne. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

On Sunday, we celebrate these people with **APRIL Birthdays!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:	April
Margaret Rey	1
Jeffrey Karbedeh	5
Amy Armstrong	7
Mike Gilbert	11
Arne Moe	11
Greg Norman	12
Cindi Rhoe	12
Tim Knorek	14
Anna Bleess-Lahr	15
Wendy Norman	15
Jim Schumann	16
Doug Morey	18
Gary Braaten	19
Arlan Neumann	19
Felix Bergs	20
David Windels	22
Al Kutz	27
Jennifer Doyle	28
Brielle Spanier	29



**THANK YOU** My family and I would like to Thank the Abounding Joy congregation for the heart felt cards, thoughts, and prayers with this difficult loss of Dianne. They have been uplifting and comforting to us all. Special *Thanks* to *Laurie Lucy* and *all those who* helped with the luncheon afterwards. Special *Thank You* to *Pastor Brandon* on a wonderful service and lovely singing of the Lord's Prayer. *Tom Johnstone and Family*

**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 about Abounding Joy. Contact Pastor Brandon if you are interested. The 30th doesn't work? No problem! Simply contact Pastor Brandon and we'll make other accommodations.

## God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15)*

God has given us a great life and there is so much to celebrate and thank Him for. But sometimes, when we mess up, we can forget the grace that's found in this moment. We tend to get stuck on them. I agree with what Pastor Kevin DeYoung says in these moments, "It's easy to become convinced that we can never change or that God is ready to kick us to the curb after we've screwed up in the same way for the millionth time."

We see this same attitude in Peter when Jesus comes to him in the very last chapter of John. Peter had messed up BIG TIME. He completely denied that he knew who Jesus was or that he was involved with Him right before Jesus died. This Peter – the one who knew who Jesus was and had a huge turning point in his life, the same guy who said he'd never abandon ship – flat out refused to be associated with Jesus, based on the questioning of a servant girl (who had absolutely no credibility in her society), and acted in a deceptive way. Peter grieved over the way he had treated Jesus, but Jesus confronts him.

Jesus talks to Peter. He doesn't avoid him, but sits down with Peter to have serious conversation. Jesus deeply loves Peter and He will not abandon him. But Jesus also needs to set some things straight with him. So, He sets Peter down to talk.

Jesus first calls Peter "Simon" – his old name. Jesus is pointing out to him that until Simon recognizes his wrong, he is still that old person. Jesus shows Simon the way to be made right again. But Jesus also changes His question each time. He is pushing Simon to understand the oaths he made to God. Jesus is really asking Simon if he is even His friend.

Imagine Jesus asking you that. "Are you even my friend?"

I believe all of us can relate to the feelings Simon Peter has here as he is confronted by the person he hurt. We all, even as followers of Jesus, have moments where we mess up BIG TIME. We know the feeling of guilt when we've messed up over and over again in the same way. It stings. It's not easy to look back on our lives and see how disgusting some moments have really been.

That is what is so great about this passage. Jesus asks a tough question, but He also gives a better answer. Peter's life is restored; but it's given new direction. Your life, though it's messy, is restored in Christ. You are given a new direction! So, meet with Jesus now this day, confess your sins, and have confidence that He forgives and restores you! *Pastor Brandon*

JOY GARDEN helpers are meeting April 23, Tuesday morning, 9:30 to discuss the needs of the garden and front landscape shrubs for this year. Anyone who would like to help with watering, trimming, deadheading, weeding, etc. this garden season is welcome! Having a beautiful and inviting church curb appeal is important to our members and our visitors. If the weather is calm and not rainy, for those who can stay a bit longer, we could start to cut back the hydrangeas after the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Bless-Lahr.

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.

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.

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.

## LET'S BE FUN! LET'S BE HEARD!

It's time to sign up to help and participate in the Sartell Parade on Saturday, June 8, 10:00 a.m.

\*Sign Up Sheets: Families and individuals are encouraged to help plan, decorate the float, and to walk in the parade. The theme is "FISHING" so put your thinking caps on and bring us your ideas so that we can all be Fishers of Men/Women.



Please visit the table in the fellowship area this Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> to sign up. We need as many people as possible to help with this event.

\*Sunday May 5, is the kickoff for collecting candy donations to pass out at the parade. Candy donations can be placed in the food cart (May 5-26) in the fellowship area.



This parade is a great way to show our presence in the community and to let the community know who we are.

Please contact Amy Krystosek, Steve Hancock or Darlene Stover if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE 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!"



If you are available, you can also sign up so we can contact you to plan details and help make this 1-day Vacation Bible School a fun experience!

VOLUNTEER FUNERAL COORDINATORS are being recruited. At this time, we have several volunteers but we'd really like *at least one more!* Laurie has detailed notes that 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. Again, we extend a big THANK YOU to *Laurie* for serving in this capacity!

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.



## 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.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

ATTENDANCE: 124

### OFFERINGS

General \$18,643 Building/Mortgage \$850

## *This Week at Abounding Joy*

**Thursday**, April 18

**6:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday**, April 21

**9:00 am** Sunday School, Confirmation Class, 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

**Tuesday**, April 23

**9:30 am** Joy Gardeners' Meeting

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

**7:00 pm** "Scam" Presentation by St. Cloud Police Dept Rep

**Wednesday**, April 24

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

**12 Noon** Bible Study

**Thursday**, April 25

**9:00 am** Intercessory Prayer Group Meets

**6:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal

**Friday**, April 26

**Noon** Ladies' Luncheon at Olive Garden

### ***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