



The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, October 16, 2025



Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Education Hour is at 9:00 am with Worship at 10:00 am

October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE live stream can be found on the Abounding Joy website (aboundingjoy.org) and click on Videos. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, October 19 and read Isaiah 59:14-21, Ephesians 6:10-20, and Luke 8:26-33, 38-39.

THIS SUNDAY As it is MEA weekend, we will not have children and youth Sunday School and Confirmation lessons. However, Adult Education is still meeting at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It is also October birthday Sunday!

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES AND ADULT EDUCATION

STUDY This month, we are looking at the unseen realm. As Christians, we believe there is a supernatural world around us and it has impacts on our daily lives. "Your Story Has A Villian" by Jonathan "JP" Pokluda helps us understand a little more about the warfare that goes on and our call as Christians to fight against the work of our enemy. We're learning in worship services and in Adult Education about the "Unseen Battles" and how God has equipped us for these times.



IN OUR PRAYERS: *Marc Schrantz, Joyce Cass, Kathy Erickson, Marlys Hopke, Jeffrey Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Arne Moe, Penny Peterson, Madge Rowe, Steve Sarff, Ginny Shimota, Darlene* (Glen Rey's sister), *Jim* (Jeanie Frolander's, Joanie Peterson's, & Joyce Cass's brother), *Kim* (Karen Greenwaldt's brother), *Karen* (Deb Peterson's sister), *Cody* (Carole Martin's son-in-law), *Joe* (Holly Olson's uncle), *Judy* (Pr. Tom Stover's aunt), *Mary* (Dave & Karen Greenwaldt's sister-in-law), *Sue* (Anna Bleess-Lahr's sister-in-law), *Mitch* (Tammy Holland's nephew), *Jenni* (Mary Windels' cousin), *Doug* (Mary Windels' cousin's husband), *Justin* and *Megan* (Cori Schrantz's friends), *Blake* (Max Olson's school friend), *Doug* (Tim Carlson's friend), *John* (Scot & Holly Olson's friend), and *Sean* (Al Kutz's friend).

REMINDER The deadline to turn in announcements to Pastor Brandon for the upcoming weekend is Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

This Sunday we celebrate the OCTOBER birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: **October**

<i>Jo Duea</i>	1
<i>Diane Tuorila</i>	2
<i>Simon Krystosek</i>	3
<i>Tom Johnstone</i>	5
<i>Karen Greenwaldt</i>	6
<i>Liz Smith</i>	7
<i>Erik Bergs</i>	8
<i>Deb Peterson</i>	11
<i>Betty Batdorf</i>	12
<i>Greg Martinson</i>	18
<i>Braylee Spanier</i>	22
<i>Don Anderson</i>	23
<i>Terry Duea</i>	27
<i>Keith Soppeland</i>	27
<i>Ron Rowe</i>	28
<i>Wes Windels</i>	29
<i>Aurora Bergs</i>	30
<i>Bob Gans</i>	31



WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES to *Cheryl* and *Steve Hancock* and *family* on the death of Cheryl's mother, *Charlene*. *Charlene*, who died on Tuesday, October 14th, was a resident of Ridgeview Place, Sauk Rapids, and will be laid to rest in Pine City. And,

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Anna Bleess-Lahr* and her *family* on the recent death of her sister, *Sandy*, whose funeral is today in Albert Lea.

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

NEXT SUNDAY: On October 26, **Reformation Sunday**, we have the joy of sharing in the public profession of faith from three young people in a service of Confirmation! *Brendan Claseman, Kylee Kron*, and *Mason Schrantz* are our three confirmands this year. Join us in celebrating their witness of faith!

PRAYER REQUESTS may be made to our volunteer Prayer Team Coordinator Pr. Deb Peterson: debp.prayerchain@outlook.com and/or 320-250-0647 or by using a purple request sheets found either on the info table or in the black attendance folder. 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

It is mid-October, which means matters in our world are changing right now. I think this is one of the best things about living in Minnesota. Fall is truly an experience we get to see, smell, and feel in real time.

For instance, when you look out the windows, what do you see? You see colors! We've got quite a few: green, red, yellow, orange, and brown can be spotted. Not only do we get these vibrant colors, we also can smell the scents. Fall has a distinct aroma, filled with cinnamon, pumpkin, and cloves dominating the air. Then, finally, there's a feel to this time of year. Fall is famously known as sweater weather, because you need one, with the cool, crisp air. And the last thing (that is, in my opinion the best) of fall is the beauty of the stars at nighttime. They are best shared with friends and family around a campfire.

Fall is truly an experience here. But no matter where you live, each place holds its own set of experiences. It's part of living right now that takes in these pieces and finds immense joy. Everything that is around you is something God specifically designed for you to see.

No matter where we are, Jesus is working in it. The Apostle Paul discovered that in his first few years of being a follower of Jesus. Let's learn a little bit about his story from Galatians 1:13-18. I encourage you to take a moment to read it in your Bibles.

Did you catch it? Paul shares what happened right after he came to know Jesus as Lord. Then he drops this little hint about going to Arabia. Do you know where Arabia is? Arabia is in the desert! It's the exact opposite of Minnesota right now, with the only exception being that in fall, life is dying and in the desert...well...

In the desert, there's an experience. It's dry, hot, and humid, and you definitely feel it. There are colors there, but because there is lots of sand, it's the same color

with not a whole lot of vegetation. There are probably smells too, but I'm not quite sure I want to identify which ones. Most of all, the desert is a place of isolation.

The apostle Paul heads into Arabia on his own. Now, we know that Paul writes some great things in his letters about what Christ has done in our lives. He tells us important words about our faith life and how to live for God. (In case you didn't know, much of the New Testament is written by Paul.) And sometimes when we read about Paul in the Bible, we seem to think that when he came to know Christ everything happened immediately. But that isn't what happened.

Paul left everything he knew to go into the desert to sort things out in his faith life. How long did this take? Well, about three years. Paul was already a very smart guy – he was a Pharisee (these guys knew everything there was about being a Jew and being obedient to God)! But Jesus surprised Paul, and Paul took the time to get to know Him. Paul lived in the desert for three years just so he could sort out all the kinks he had with Jesus. Before he said or wrote anything that we have that helps us grow in our faith, he spent time working out what he believed.

That was an experience Paul had to take in. He had to see how Jesus was at work there so that wherever he went, he'd be looking for Jesus there. Paul found Jesus in all sorts of places with a well-formed faith that transformed (and still does) the world.

If Paul needed the experience in his world to figure that out, we can see that our today matters in seeing and knowing Jesus. And no matter where we are in our experience, our life is changing. But in the change, Jesus is alive and at work in you. Jesus also wants you to let His transformation occur in you. Let him have that time. Listen to others stories as you take that time. Remember, Growing with Jesus is a process that takes time, but you have to take the time. Will you take your time today to get to know Him? *Pastor Brandon*

LADIES' NOON LUNCHEON will be Friday, October 24th, at noon at Blue Line Sport Bar & Grill (1101 2nd St. S, Sartell). There is a sign-up sheet on the info table. All Abounding Joy ladies and friends are welcome.

SPECIAL GUESTS - NOVEMBER 2: Please join us as we welcome Nijhar and Neeraj Minz from World Mission Prayer League, a Lutheran Missionary Organization that empowers congregations to play a part in making Jesus' name known all over the world. They will be with us to share God's word through the message and help us understand our task in praying for unreached people groups. Please welcome them as they worship with us this day!

VETERANS LUNCH Our annual Veterans and First Responders lunch will be held on Friday, November 7, from 11:00am-1:00pm. Our guest speaker this year is Cory Vaske, Stearns County Veterans Service Officer. All veterans, first responders, and a guest, plus widows and other special guests, are invited to attend free of charge. I hope to see double what we had last year to celebrate and hear a great speaker. *Jim Tuorila*

ALTAR GUILD: The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to help on a schedule of one time per month to set up communion, clean up, and put away after communion. Training will be provided. Please contact Belinda Tysver (320-492-8608) or Jo Duea (320-339-9812).



THANK YOU We give a big **THANK YOU** to the Rummage Sale Committee for all their hard work in making the rummage sale so successful: *Amy Krystosek and her team—Anna Bleess-Lahr, Roger DeBoer, Jeanie Frolander, Steve and Cheryl Hancock, Carol Lee, Jane Martinson, Joyce Neyssen, Donna Nieman, and Darlene Stover.*

Thank You to the Men's Faith Talk group who helped set up tables, along with all of the members who helped with set-up, straightening, helping our guest shoppers, and clean-up. Everyone is so greatly appreciated!

Special Thank You to the congregation for all the donations. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to do this and raise \$6,123.74 for the Youth and Family Ministries and give a 25% donation to Terebinth Refuge.

This was a great, successful outreach event!

EDUCATION SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY FROM

ABOUNDING JOY FOUNDATION If you are a high school graduate or older and a member of our congregation pursuing further education, we invite you to apply for financial support through the Abounding Joy Foundation. Application forms are available at the information table near the main entrance or by emailing Marilyn at general.info@ajlcmc.org (request the "Education Financial Support Request Form—2025"). Submit completed applications by November 16, 2025, via email to Brad Lundquist at qvistb@msn.com or by hand to the Church Office. We ask you to avoid sending your application via postal mail. Grants will be awarded based on alignment with our Statement of Faith, number of applicants, and available funds, with distribution planned for Sunday, December 7.

ABOUNDING JOY CAPITAL EXPENSE FUND Help us build up our Abounding Joy Capital Expense Fund (formerly Building Fund) so that we can prepare for Abounding Joy's Future. Our goal is to reach \$250,000! *NOTE: You do not have to write this lengthy name on your contribution envelopes. Just use the "Building Fund" line already on there and it'll get deposited to the correct account.*

SAVE THE DATE FOR TRUNK-or-TREAT On Sunday, October 26, 3:30 to 5:00 pm, we are planning to serve our local community at our annual Trunk or Treat Event. A Trunk-or-Treat event is an opportunity for families to enjoy trick-or-treating in the safety of the Abounding Joy parking lot. We are planning to decorate trunks, tables inside, dress up, and provide treats for anyone who comes, as well as provide hot chocolate for any cold trick-or-treaters. This is a great opportunity to love and serve our neighbors near Abounding Joy; especially young families. We have a lot of fun!

Ways to get involved:

- 1) *signing up* to dress up, decorate a trunk (or a table inside), and join in the fun;
- 2) *make* a donation of candy to be given out (you may drop those off in Tim's office);
- 3) help by spreading the word about the event (flyers are available to give out); and, of course
- 4) *come* to enjoy some trick-or-treating!

Sign-up sheet is at the info table, for more information, talk to Tim Knorek.

RIGHT NOW MEDIA We have partnered with Right Now Media to offer you (FREE) over 20,000 resources of great Christian content to help you grow your faith in Christ. Scan the QR code or go to <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/joinaboundingjoy>. *NOTE: You'll find the "Your Story Has A Villian" series on RightNow media.*



OUR e-GIVING PLATFORM If you choose to give your offering electronically, you can give at this secure link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZN68/> or use the QR code. Whether you choose to give online or in person, we are grateful for your generosity and commitment.



Sunday, October 12, 2025

ATTENDANCE: 135

OFFERING: Gen: \$4,021
AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$310

This Week at Abounding Joy

Sunday, October 19

9:00 am Adult Education Hour/ No Sunday School or Confirmation Class
10:00 am Worship Service with Acoustic Joy
11:00 am Fellowship and Birthday Refreshments
2:30-5:00 pm Every Tribe & Tongue Worship

Tuesday, October 21

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble

Wednesday, October 22

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk
Noon Bible Study
1:15 pm Seekers Small Group Bible Study
6:00 pm Youth Group

Thursday, October 23

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer

Friday, October 24

Noon Ladies' Luncheon, Blue Line Sports Bar & Grill, Sartell

Reformation Sunday, October 26 (Wear Red)

9:00 am Education Hour, Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Adult Class
10:00 am Worship Service with Rite of Confirmation
11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments
2:30-5:00 pm Every Tribe & Tongue Worship
3:30-5:00 pm Trunk-Or-Treat

The Abounding Joy Foundation

Brad Lundquist, President	Dennis Holland, Council Representative
Carl Batdorf, Vice President	Dale Hellickson, Member at Large
Greg Norman, Secretary	Deb Hendrickson, Member at Large
Bruce Peterson, Treasurer	Pastor Brandon Foster, Ex Officio 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: Holly Olson

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.

Bill Latare, Pres. Amy Krystosek, V-Pres. Gary Braaten, Sec. Lisa Meyer, Treas.
Erik Bergs Steve Hancock Dennis Holland Steve Kron Kim Mielke

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Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

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