



The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, October 23, 2025



Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025 (wear red)
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 26 and read Numbers 21:6-9, Colossians 3:5-15, and John 3:1-17.

THIS REFORMATION SUNDAY We are so blessed to have the opportunity to join in the 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!

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Bill Latare, Joyce Cass, Kathy Erickson, Marlys Hopke, Jeffrey Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Arne Moe, Penny Peterson, Madge Rowe, Steve Sarff, Ginny Shimota, Marc Schrantz, Lavern (Mark Durham's father), 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), Peggy (Marc Schrantz'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).*

CONTINUED CONDOLENCES and PRAYERS for *Cheryl and Steve Hancock and family* on the recent death of Cheryl's mother, *Charlene*. And for: *Anna Bleess-Lahr and her family* on the recent death of her sister, *Sandy*. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

NOVEMBER SERVICE TEAM meets in the Journey Room after worship this Sunday, Oct. 26th.

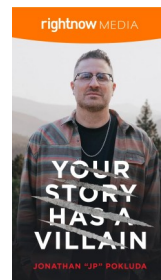
REMINDER The deadline to turn in announcements to Pastor Brandon for the upcoming weekend is Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Don Anderson, Thursday, Oct. 23
Terry Duea, Monday, Oct. 27
Keith Soppeland, Monday, Oct. 27
Ron Rowe, Tuesday, Oct. 28
Wes Windels, Wednesday, Oct. 29
Aurora Bergs, Thursday, Oct. 30



OCTOBER SERMON SERIES AND ADULT EDUCATION STUDY This month, we have been 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 Villain" 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.

LADIES' NOON LUNCHEON will be tomorrow, October 24th, at noon at Blue Line Sport Bar & Grill (1101 2nd St. S, Sartell). If you didn't sign up, give B.J. Peterson a call to reserve a chair for you. 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!



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

This weekend, we will celebrate the 508th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation with Reformation Sunday (remember to **wear red**). It is incredible to be a part of a movement that has wonderfully changed the world for the better. It all started with one person who believed God's Word.

In these weeks through our sermon series, we've seen and learned some of Luther's words and parts of his story. Much of what Luther wrote came from personal experience and thoughtful meditation. It developed over time and years, and I'm sure there were moments in his wrestling where he felt he was stuck in the middle.

Have you ever been in that spot? The middle is an interesting place. It's not the best, but it's not the worst. It's not the start with all the excitement, but it's also not the ending with a fitting conclusion. It's just stuck right there in between, hanging out with all the tangles to sort through.

Or take the middle of a movie – there are really important points happening in the middle, but it's not what stands out to you. The beginning has to grab your attention and usually, it's the ending that gets you in a film. But the middle? It helps but it's what you go through to get to the end. The middle is an interesting spot to be in. (And us middle children feel that...)

Even when we think of life, a lot of it is lived in the middle, but it gets summed up. Think of a gravestone – there are two years on it. One states the year of the beginning of a life and the other states the end of it. The middle is simply a dash. That dash is important, but we can easily forget how important the middle is. That's where a lot of life is lived, where many things are learned, and where we become firm on what we believe.

Last week, we looked at how Paul spent his time in Arabia. He learned some things in that time, but he came out of the desert with a solid knowledge of the things he learned. It took time for him to learn those things; but once he knew them, he lived them out.

What exactly did Paul learn in the middle that he would later live out? It's found in Romans 8:28-39. These words are considered the summary statement of Paul's ministry and life. Please take a moment to read his words in your Bible.

What did Paul know and learn in the middle of all those years? God is up to far more than we can even imagine. This is because He loves us with a love we can never fully understand or grasp. Paul had an experience of that love, one that reminded him of the love David came to understand from Psalm 139 (you can read that too).

What Paul learned and came to know in the middle is also what we can know too! Paul shares with us that all the things that happen in this life – in the time in between – are important and they serve a purpose. These things, these moments of life (the ones that make sense AND the ones that don't) are all for our good in order to show us Jesus' power at work in us! With Jesus' power, Paul learned that there is nothing that comes in between God's love for him.

Do you know that? Do you know that God's love can never be separated from you because of Jesus Christ alive in you? This means that no matter what sin you commit (or how many times you commit it), Jesus Christ is not moved because of you. It was never you who got Him in your life, and it's never you who keeps Him there. God is with you in this life. "He accepts you before you sin, He accepts you while you sin, and He accepts you after you sin." (Neil T. Anderson)

Because of Jesus, great promises belong to us! Paul knew this completely. He could live his life free from worry. Instead, he could live in power that sin would be defeated. Paul had assurance that Jesus was a conqueror and that we could be conquerors of sin with Him!

This is what Luther came to know. That's what he conveyed through his 95 theses. Luther would eventually be put to the test over this trust, and here's what he had to say, "unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason...my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience would be neither right nor safe... Here I stand, I can do no other."

Luther was convinced of God's love for him and all people. He learned that in the middle. This is what we can have. Don't discount your middle, because God is at work in it. Because of Him, you are loved, you are a conqueror, and you are His. *Pastor Brandon*

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).

JOY GARDEN—Cut down and Clean-up Extra help is needed on **Thursday morning, October 30, 9:30** to clear out the garden. There is a sign-up sheet on the Info Table for you to indicate your availability in volunteering for this project.

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



INSPIRING HOPE Breakfast Join Anna Marie's Alliance for their annual fundraising breakfast on Wednesday, October 29th, 7:30-9:00 a.m., at The Park Event Center, Waite Park. You will learn more about their great work and hear inspiring stories of survivors who live right here in our community. Make your reservation on line: <https://annamariesalliance.betterworld.org/events/2024-inspiring-hope-breakfast-co> AND, don't miss their Grand Opening and Open House today 3:00-6:00 pm Anna Marie's Alliance (505 10th Ave N, St. Cloud)! You are invited to see their capital improvements—new spaces that represent safety, hope, and healing for victim-survivors of relationship abuse in our community. Join them for a brief program, tours of the facility, and light refreshments. Courtesy RSVPs welcome to Lori Eich or lorie@annamaries.org or 320-251-7203 x251.

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE is part of our mission statement. Let's work together to fulfill this statement and regularly do what we can to get that grocery cart filled with Food Shelf donations. This is definitely a time of need, especially with the government shutdown and the access to food assistance will not be available starting in November. Your outreach help in stocking the food shelf is deeply appreciated by so many people (seniors, adults, and children) in need. We *thank you* in advance for your extra effort in the upcoming months!

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 the Office 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.

TRUNK-or-TREAT This Sunday, October 26, 3:30 to 5:00 pm, we are serving our local community at our annual Trunk-or-Treat Event. This 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 Villain" 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 19, 2025

ATTENDANCE: 120

OFFERING: Gen: \$5,818
AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$1,400

This Week at Abounding Joy

Friday, October 24

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

Reformation Sunday, October 26 (Wear Red)

9:00 am Education Hour
10:00 am Worship Service with Rite of Confirmation
11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments
11:10 am November Service Team Meeting
3:30-5:00 pm Trunk-or-Treat
2:30-5:00 pm Every Tribe & Tongue Worship

Monday, October 27

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study
6:30 pm Chime Choir

Tuesday, October 28

10:00 am Selah Small Group Bible Study
6:30 pm Men's Ensemble

Wednesday, October 29

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk
10:30 am Seekers Small Group Bible Study
Noon Bible Study

Thursday, October 30

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer

All Saints Sunday, November 2 (wear White)

9:00 am Education Hour, Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Adult Class
10:00 am Worship Service with Special Guests from World Mission Prayer League
11:00 am Fellowship and Refreshments
2:30-5:00 pm Every Tribe & Tongue Worship

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

6000 County Road 120, St. Cloud, MN 56303

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

Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

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