



The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, October 30, 2025



Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love
All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2025 (wear white)
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, Nov. 2 and read Psalm 32:1-7, 1 John 3:1-3, and Matthew 5:1-12.

THIS SUNDAY, we are so blessed to have the opportunity to meet and hear from Neeraj and Nijhar Minz from World Mission Prayer League! Neeraj and Nijhar will lead Adult Education at 9 a.m. as well as share the message during our worship service. As we join in this All Saints Sunday worship, we will also be encouraged to pray for the Persecuted Church, as well as for unreached people groups. Join us in welcoming them to Abounding Joy!



WORLD
MISSION
PRAYER
LEAGUE

IN OUR PRAYERS: Bill Latore, Joyce Cass, Kathy Erickson, Marlys Hopke, Jeffrey Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Arne Moe, Penny Peterson, Madge Rowe, Steve Sarff, Ginny Shimota, Marc Schrantz, Sandy Stewart, 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).

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.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Bob Gans, Friday, Oct. 31
Dolly Swenson, celebrates 101 yrs.
Sunday, Nov. 2



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

(Belated) Terry & Jo Duea, marked 58 years of marriage on Tuesday, October 28th;
Lorraine & Pr. Pajibo Kyne, celebrating their wedding anniversary on Saturday, November 1st; and
Dave & Kathy Erickson celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary on Thursday, November 6.
May God's blessings be upon these couples as they celebrate this milestone in their lives.

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION THANK YOU:

"Appreciation can make a day – even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary." Margaret Cousins

Over the past month, the cards, gifts, and kind sentiments shared with me have been such a wonderful gift as I serve as your pastor. I am so grateful for all the ways you have expressed your kindness, thoughtfulness, and prayers for me and my family. Thank you for taking the time to do that – it truly made many of my days! God bless you all as **TOGETHER** we move forward with God's plan for Abounding Joy! *Pastor Brandon*

VETERANS LUNCH Our annual Veterans and First Responders lunch will be held next 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. Please sign up on the Invitation Sheet on the Info Table this Sunday so we can get a count for the meal. I hope to see double what we had last year to celebrate and hear a great speaker. *Jim Tuorila*



LADIES' LUNCHEON will be on a 'Holiday Pause' until January. Preparing for and celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas fills our calendars so we'll do our part in helping to keep your schedule a bit lighter. Happy Thanksgiving!

God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

In the next few days, we will have reached the eleventh month of the year! It's hard to believe that it's almost November again. As November starts, the world around us shifts. The temperatures continue to drop and it seems to happen fast. Along with this, the leaves finally fall, the grass starts to turn brown, and the last of the crops are harvested. It's a time where our world enters a time of rest and rejuvenation.

As that happens, a pause in production starts. November is the time where this pause begins to take effect. Which is why it's the perfect time to return thanks and praise to God. It's the right time to thank God for what He has done and begin rejuvenating for what He will do.

Sometimes it's hard to wrap our minds around this. For the last few months, our world has been active and going, so to stop and pause can feel abrupt. Then to shift and add in praise to God. That can feel like a hard pivot, especially when we haven't practiced Sabbath.

Sabbath has always been designed to be a day when we pause and praise. We cease from our regular roles to celebrate how God has held the whole world together and brought good into our lives. Sabbath also readies us for times when we experience jubilee - a longer time of rejoicing in God. Sabbath sets us up to see God as worthy of our praise always.

But God is God. He's got the praise of all heaven with the angels and those who have already died being given to Him. Why would He need ours added on top of that? Let's read Psalm 95 to find out a little more of the why. Please take a moment to read this in your Bibles now.

Sabbath was a part of the world and it's rhythm when this psalm was written. It was a day of reflecting on God's creativity and goodness. It was also meant to be a day when we would be softened because we could stop and let God be God. Yet, as we stop, we are called to hear His voice and trust Him for what's to come. The psalmist writes to show us that His rest is one filled with praise.

God is inviting us to praise Him so that we experience His goodness in a way we wouldn't otherwise. Through praise, we are humbled, loved, and cared for. We "learn the rhythms of grace" (as Eugene Peterson put

it) and His mercy is new. Praise captivates our hearts and fills us with abounding joy.

This is why Sunday became such an important day for the disciples of Jesus. This was the day they stopped to get together to give God praise. Sunday was the day that Jesus came back to life, defeating death for all who would trust in Him. This day became significant to them because it meant that Jesus was really God who was with them. This day has been the day throughout history for all people who would claim Jesus as Lord.

Sunday becomes our day too. Yes, Jesus was God, but He was also human, just like you. He had limitations; He got hungry; He probably snored and farted; He was tempted to sin; He bled and He died just like we will and do. Jesus was a man. But Jesus was this God we've just mentioned! Jesus is the one worthy of all praise! Jesus brought us salvation and wants us to trust in Him! And this is something for us - God's heart is passionate about us knowing Him in our lives. When we know Him and are passionate about Him, we're connecting to God's heart. This passion shines through when we praise Him!

You see, God could have stayed in heaven, separated from us because of our sin. He could have looked on all our faults and stayed away. We often ask, "Couldn't there have been another way for God to bring salvation?" but we neglect to see that God did not even need to do that because He is righteous. But He didn't stay away. He came.

God's glory had something different in mind. God became a human, lived like a human, and died like a human to display something even greater - the depth of His love. God's glory is all about displaying the fullness of His love for us. This means that for us to know it, it would have to be shown to us in the most real way we can grasp - through a human example, Jesus.

Jesus is worthy of worship and the reason we praise. God loved us enough to not let us stay lost, but that we would give Him the praise He deserves. Today, let your worship of God exist! You will be most fully alive when you're most fully satisfied with Him. Give Him your praise and celebrate in Him as you join our world in rest. *Pastor Brandon*

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY OUT-REACH We are "Thankful for Christmas" and God stepping into time as a tiny baby. We are doing a combination Thanksgiving/Christmas community outreach beginning this Sunday, November 2. This is a way for us as a Church Family to reach out into the community with the love of Jesus.



Please see the display table in the fellowship area. You are invited to take a sticker from the basket on the display table, purchase a gift card from the store named on the sticker (please use a

sharpie to indicate the amount on the gift card), and return your gift card with the receipt attached by Sunday, November 23. There is a gift card box provided on the display table in which to put your donated gift card. Cash donations are welcome! If you are aware of a family member, neighbor, coworker, or shut-in who would benefit from this ministry contact Pastor Brandon. Please pray for this ministry and its recipients. Thank you! If questions contact Elaine Mullenmaster: 320-493-2554.



REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE Let's work together to do what we can to get that grocery cart filled with Food Shelf donations. This is definitely a time of need with the government shutdown and the SNAP food assistance not available starting November 1st. 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!

REFORMATION SUNDAY CELEBRATION was highlighted by the Affirmation of Faith by three of our young people: *Brendan Claseman, Kylee Kron, and Mason Schrantz*. Let us prayerfully support them as they continue their faith journey.



MEMBERS of THRIVENT: Did you know it is very easy to apply for a \$250 debit card to support various ministries like Christmas shoeboxes, Terabithia Refuge, Salvation Army, etc.? You don't have to fill out any forms, raise funds, etc. You just call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "action team". A lovely lady will guide you through some questions about your project, and you'll receive a free \$250 debit card to do your ministry project. You can do this twice a year. Questions? Ask Ginny Shimota 320-291-0343

St. Cloud Christian School invites you to their annual

VETERANS CHAPEL

Please join us and invite any Veterans to our Remembering our Veterans Chapel presented by the 6th grade class

Please arrive 10 minutes early to get a good seat!
Check in at the office first-- in Door 1 and down two steps
Chapel is on the second floor.
We are sorry but we do not have an elevator.

St. Cloud Christian School
430 3rd Ave NE, St. Cloud
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13 NOV 2025, THURSDAY 9:15-10:00AM

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>.



Sunday, October 19, 2025

ATTENDANCE: 185

OFFERING: Gen: \$4,565
AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$700



This Week at Abounding Joy

All Saints Sunday, November 2 (Wear WHITE)

9:00 am Education Hour, Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Adult Class with WMPL Guests
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

Monday, November 3

5:00 pm Chime Choir

Tuesday, November 4

6:30 pm Men's Ensemble

Wednesday, November 5

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk
Noon Bible Study
1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding
1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study
5:00 pm Nominating Team Meeting
6:00 pm Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

Thursday, November 6

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer

Friday, November 7

11:00 am-1:00 pm Veterans and First Responders Luncheon/Program

Sunday, November 9

9:00 am Education Hour, Sunday School/ No Confirmation Class/Adult Class
10:00 am Worship Service with Reception of New Members
11:00 am Prayer Partners
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

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Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

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