



# The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, February 12, 2026



## Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love

### *The Transfiguration of our Lord, February 15, 2026*

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

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE live stream can be found on the Abounding Joy website ([aboundingjoy.org](http://aboundingjoy.org)) and click on Videos. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, Feb. 15 by reading Ezekiel 37:1-14, Philippians 3:12-21, and John 17:20-26.

THIS WEEKEND, we will install our Church Council during our worship service. Join us as we recognize, pray for, and encourage our newest members (*Rick Bellrichard, Wanda Fonken, Jane Martinson*) leading and guiding our congregation over this next year!

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Sharon Henry, Kathy Erickson, Jeffrey Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Madge Rowe, Steve and Carol Sarff, Ginny Shimota, Christine Durheim, Johnny* (Holly Olson's father), *Barrett* (Deb Hendrickson's brother), *Gene* (Karon Doble's brother), *Kim and Traci* (Karen Greenwaldt's brother and wife), *Peggy* (Marc Schrantz's sister), *Renee* (Anna Bleess-Lahr's daughter-in-law), *Ray* (Diane Spanier's brother-in-law), *Mitch* (Tammy Holland's nephew), *Paul* (Mary Windels' cousin), *Pastor Charles* (Deb Hendrickson's friend), and *Pat* (Greg Voller's friend).

WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES to *Lorraine Kyne* and *family* on the death of her mother Nancy D. Marsh who died last Sunday, February 8th. Her funeral will be in Liberia on February 28th. And,

CONTINUED PRAYERS for and CONDOLENCES to *Wanda Fonken* and *Family* on the recent death of her sister-in-law *Ilene*. Ilene had recently been widowed by the death of Wanda's brother, Dennis. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

PRAYER REQUESTS may be made to our volunteer Prayer Team Coordinator Pr. Deb Peterson: [debp.prayerchain@outlook.com](mailto: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.

On Sunday we celebrate FEBRUARY Birthdays!

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u> to:	<u>February:</u>
Steve Cody	2
Mary Schumann	11
Wally Osterholt	13
Marilyn Schultz	15
Jim Hooper	16
Kim Mielke	17
Erika Nordby	17
Jacob Windels	18
Annie Baumhofer	20
Judy Kopka	23
Lisa Meyer	26



LENT Ash Wednesday is the start of the season of Lent and that's this coming week, February 18th. There will be two worship services that day - noon and 6:30 p.m. For the season of Lent, we will spend a great deal of time in the Gospel of John. To help us in our journey, we have a daily devotional and video study we encourage you to participate in. The title of this study is "Life in His Name" by Kyle Idleman. The video study will also be our Sunday morning adult study. If you missed the preorder sign-up, extra copies are available (\$5/ea). If you preordered, your copy may be picked up in the Office.



During Sunday morning worship, we will focus on moments in John's Gospel where Jesus meets the *needs* of the people, because He is our Savior we want.



On Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. (starting Wednesday, February 25), we will also study one of the key features found in John's Gospel with Jesus' "I Am" statements in our series, "Am I \_\_\_?" Join us for a powerful Lenten journey.



## God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

Do you have your Valentines ready?

This weekend, we are reminded to express our love towards others and remind them of how we feel with a card. Preparing Valentines is a wonderful opportunity for us to stop, reflect, and find the reasons to give thanks. And when we get them, it can be incredibly meaningful! In fact, do you remember when you received Valentines as a young person? There were always ones that meant a lot.

This reminds me of the reasons why we have this practice, and it's one of my favorite stories from church history. The day originated with a guy by the name of St. Valentine who lived in the 200's. He was a follower of Jesus and he was persecuted for telling others about Jesus. One thing that really landed him in trouble was that he secretly officiated marriages to protect men from going to war. Legend tells us that when he officiated these weddings, he would cut hearts from parchment paper and have the couples give them to each other as a visual reminder of their relationship as they said vows to love and be faithful to this person.

To this day, as we give out hearts with words in the form of gifts and cards to our valentines, we are finding reasons we are thankful for the ones we love. When we also receive those words, our hearts are strengthened. Our relationships deepen.

Even though we reserve this for one day out of the year, it really is a practice we should engage in more. Especially because it teaches us to tell someone the important matters of our hearts. This even includes God.

Our God is good to us and there are so many reasons to be grateful for His love. One of the psalms that teaches us an active response to God's love by naming what we're grateful for is Psalm 105, especially verse 1-4. Take a moment to read this in your Bibles.

Notice the verbs this psalm uses: call, make known, sing, tell, and seek. We are to use our energy towards these matters. If you've been in moments of hardship or struggle, you may have noticed this: When we stop and consider what we are grateful for, we find ourselves continually looking to God. It helps us remember all the ways He is with us.

Yet, if you notice, these words the psalmist calls us to are not identified with private practices. There are others who are going to notice. Our gratitude is expressed "among the peoples." Now, that doesn't mean it has to be loud, just present and visible. Much like a band of gold on our ring fingers give indication of the vows we've made to another, our expressions of gratitude will have an outward impact.

When we show our love for God, the whole world gets in on who God is in our lives. As His strength carries us continually, others see. It becomes known. As our relationship is strengthened, God reveals Himself to be the same one for others.

So, take some time to express your love to God this week. Make sure you add Him to your list of Valentines and don't forget to share with Him your love. As we look to God, we will experience once more the power of His love. He's showing it back to us!

*Pastor Brandon*

WEDNESDAY LENTEN MEALS will be served prior to our Wednesday 6:30 pm worship services starting February 25th (no evening meal Ash Wednesday). The meal will be served from 5:30-6:15 pm for a freewill offering. There is a sign-up sheet on the Info Table for you to volunteer your services in helping to prepare, cook, bake, and/or clean-up.

DISCOVERY HOUR If you have interest in joining our congregation or just wish to learn more about us and our mission, please attend the Discovery Hour Sunday, March 1st, at 4:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the Info Table or contact Pastor to get further info.

REMINDER Announcements serve to point us to our opportunities to live out our mission over the next week before we go with God's blessing. To ensure this happens so that all can hear, announcements are readied in advance. The deadline to turn in announcements to Pastor Brandon for the upcoming weekend will be Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT Did you get yours? Statements were in mail folders on Sunday, January 11th so if you didn't get one, please contact me. There was a glitch in printing and some of them didn't print. I found the glitch when I saw that mine was missing! Let me hear from you if yours is missing, too. Thank you, *Marilyn Schultz (Fin. Sec.)*

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Some recent releases you might want to check out are: "The Familiar Stranger" and "Essentials of Faith: Why do we go to church?"



## Just 'kids' having fun!

Snow tubing was rescheduled and took place on Saturday, February 7th.



**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. We are grateful for your generosity and commitment.



Sunday, February 8, 2026

ATTENDANCE: 144

OFFERING: Gen: \$3,080  
AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$1,020



## This Week at Abounding Joy

Friday-Sunday, February 13-15  
Recharge Retreat, Mt. Carmel

The Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 15 (wear White)  
9:00 am Education Hour  
10:00 am Worship Service with Acoustic Joy  
11:10 am Fellowship and Birthday Refreshments

Tuesday, February 17  
6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18  
9:00 am Men's Faith Talk  
Noon Worship Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes  
1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding  
1:15 pm Joyful Sisters in Christ Small Group Bible Study  
4:00 pm Church Council Meeting  
6:30 pm Worship Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Thursday, February 19  
9:00 am Intercessory Prayer  
10:00 am Abounding Joy Foundation Meeting

The First Sunday in Lent, February 22  
9:00 am Education Hour—Adult Class/Confirmation Class/Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship Service  
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments

### *The Abounding Joy Foundation*

Carl Batdorf      Tim Carlson      Brian Frank      Dale Hellickson  
Deb Hendrickson      Bruce Peterson      Pastor Brandon Foster

### *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:** 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.      Rick Bellrichard, V-Pres.      Gary Braaten, Sec.      Lisa Meyer, Treas.  
Erik Bergs      Wanda Fonken      Steve Kron      Amy Krystosek      Jane Martinson

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**Website:** [www.aboundingjoy.org](http://www.aboundingjoy.org)

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