



# The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, February 19, 2026



## Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love **The First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 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. 22 by reading Exodus 33:17-23, I Corinthians 4:14-21, and John 1:35-42. During Sunday morning worship in this season of Lent, we will focus on moments in John's Gospel where Jesus meets the *needs* of the people, because He is our Savior we want.



THIS WEEKEND, We once again will get to enjoy the lovely music Laura Dahl produces as she will join us in worship, leading with the men's group! We welcome Laura and are thrilled to have her with us this first Sunday in Lent.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Sharon Henry, Kathy Erickson, Jeffrey Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Madge Rowe, 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 *Brian Frank* and *family* on the death of his sister, *Deb*, who died yesterday. May the promise of the resurrection to new life in Jesus bring hope and comfort to all who grieve.

CONTINUED PRAYERS for and CONDOLENCES to *Lorraine Kyne* and *family* on the recent death of her mother Nancy D. Marsh. Her funeral is in Liberia this week. Lorraine will be traveling there later in the spring to share memories with her siblings.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

*Annie Baumhofer*, Friday, February 20  
*Judy Kopka*, Monday, February 23  
*Lisa Meyer*, Thursday, February 26



LENT During this season of Lent, we are spending time in the Gospel of John. To help us in our journey, we are using the daily devotional and video study "Life in His Name" by Kyle Idleman. This video study will also be used in our Sunday morning Adult Education class beginning this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. If you missed the preorder, you can still get a book. Extra copies are available (\$5/ea) in the Office until they are gone.



WORSHIP SERVICES during Lent are 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights starting next week, February 25. We will 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.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN MEALS will be served from 5:30-6:15 pm. The meal is offered for a freewill donation. 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.

## God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

The season of Lent has begun, and this year, we are journeying through the Gospel of John. John's Gospel is so very different from the other gospel accounts of Jesus' life. As we will learn, some of this comes from the time John wrote His words (he pens them after the other gospels had been circulating for some time). John comes at his account from a different and fresher perspective.

Fresh perspectives are one of the outcomes of Lent. As we dwell on themes of slowing down, walking with Jesus, and repenting from sin, we start to see a new pattern, and way, unfold before us. We gain new insights to content we have known but have previously been quick to get through. Lent invites us to be present in the moment to see more of what we might have missed.

That's why over these next six weeks, we're going to slow down. We're going to enjoy the story of Jesus as John tells it. We're going to take time to see this different perspective and gain a fresh perspective on Jesus.

The best place to start is with John's first words. So, take a moment. Take a deep breath. Now, open your Bibles to John 1:1-14 and read it slowly. Then, if you need to, read it again!

Chances are, we are familiar with these words. We hear these words at Christmas. We even looked at them in worship about a month ago. Our familiarity and regularity with them over the past few weeks may have caused us to miss some of the fantastic and radical matters John shares.

In many ways, this opening is poetic. There's a

rhythm and pattern to the lines. This is what makes them memorable. John is invoking the creation story. Genesis 1 is also poetic. It has rhythm and pattern as it tells the beginning of the world. John calls this to mind because He is showing us that in Jesus there's a new creation happening. John is giving us new perspective as we look at Jesus.

In fact, as we look at these opening words, we discover that by telling us who Jesus is, everything changes. In following Jesus, we will discover how everything changes for us. Jesus is bringing about entirely new life as we walk with Him. John is serving this major theme.

This new life is illuminated with light. Jesus brings new light into our lives. The most beautiful piece about this light is that it dispels the darkness. It does not stop winning in its work, for the darkness has not, nor ever will, overcome it.

John tells us an incredible amount in these opening lines! It all seems so great, so grand, so generous. That's what John wants us to gain perspective about. For Jesus has come as someone so incredibly unique, so compelling, and so loving. His love will change everything! John wants you to gain that perspective. When you gain this perspective, you believe and "have life by the power of His name." (John 20:31)

Will you walk with Jesus this Lent? I promise, John is going to be a great guide. Plus, there's nothing to lose in taking the journey (except maybe your sin and your old ways of thinking...), but oh, what good there is to gain! Through Jesus, you will gain a new perspective. *Pastor Brandon*

## TABLE TALK Sunday, March 8, 11:30 a.m.

Did your sibling call you an NPC? Have you experienced doom scrolling? Still don't know what Italian Brainrot is and are you afraid to ask? Join



us for a Table Talk with Eric Blake, a 25-year veteran in youth ministry and a dad of teenagers, as we engage the topic of technology, phones and social media in light of the Word of God. You will have an opportunity to create a family covenant on how to use technology, share in discussion, and ask questions.

Our Table-Talk events are an opportunity to come together over a meal (served at 11:30 a.m.) and converse about important topics across generations. We'll meet in the Hope & Peace Sunday school room. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Info Table to give a number for which to prepare.

## 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.)*

## RightNow MEDIA

We are partnered with RightNow 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>

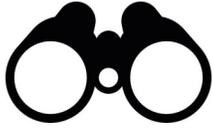


Some recent releases you might want to check out are: "The Familiar Stranger" and "Essentials of Faith: Why do we go to church?"



SECRET SISTERS REVEAL—Mark your calendar and save-the-date if you are a Secret Sister! The big, fun reveal gathering will be on Saturday, March 14th, starting at 10:30 a.m. As you make plans to attend, maybe you have a favorite snack or light meal contribution you'd like to make and share. So as not to 'reveal' early, there's no sign-up sheet but 'Thank you'!

WHERE ARE YOU? There are a number of blank lines on the Usher Volunteer list. Please check the sign-up sheet on the Info Table and let it be known when you might be available. Remember, if your schedule changes and you aren't available for when you had signed up, someone will be recruited to fill your space. Thank you.



EMERGENCY FILE Did you know there's an Emergency File in the back of the second mail folder box? In this file is member and frequent visitor contact information letting us know who to contact in case you are the subject of an emergency. Please take a minute to check the folder to see if your current information is correct and notify Wendy Norman with changes. We don't plan emergencies so it's a good thing to be prepared! Thank you!

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 15, 2026

ATTENDANCE: 111

OFFERING: Gen: \$5,433

AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$725

## This Week at Abounding Joy

### The First Sunday in Lent, February 22

9:00 am Education Hour  
10:00 am Worship Service with Guest Musician Laura Dahl and Men's Ensemble  
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments

### Monday, February 23

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

### Tuesday, February 24

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

### Wednesday, February 25

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk  
10:30 am Seekers Small Group Bible Study  
Noon Bible Study  
5:30-6:15 pm Lenten Meal  
6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service

### Thursday, February 26

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer

### The Second Sunday in Lent, March 1

9:00 am Education Hour—Adult Class/Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship Service  
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments  
4:00 pm Discovery Hour

### ***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

**6000 County Road 120, St. Cloud, MN 56303**

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

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