



The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, February 26, 2026



Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love The Second Sunday in Lent, March 01, 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) and click on Videos. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, March 1 by reading Psalm 63:1-8, Romans 16:17-20, and John 2:1-12. 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.



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 this Sunday at 4:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the Info Table or contact Pastor to get further info.

WORSHIP SERVICES during Lent are 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. We are studying one of the key features found in John's Gospel with Jesus' "I Am" statements in our series, "Am I ___?" Join us in this powerful Lenten journey.



IN OUR PRAYERS: Cheryl Biel, 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), Mitch (Tammy Holland's nephew), Paul (Mary Windels' cousin), Pastor Charles (Deb Hendrickson's friend), and Pat (Greg Voller's friend).

CONTINUED PRAYERS for and CONDOLENCES to Brian Frank and family on the recent death of his sister, Deb. 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 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:

Lisa Meyer, Thursday, February 26

Greg Voller, Sunday, March 1

Joy Mikyska, Monday, March 2

Joanie Peterson, Tuesday, March 3



LENT During this season of Lent, we are devoting time to the Gospel of John. We are using the daily devotional and video study "Life in His Name" by Kyle Idleman. This video study is also being used in our Adult Education class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. You can still get a book. Extra copies were ordered (\$5/ea) and are available in the Office.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN MEALS are served from 5:30-6:15 pm. The meal is offered for a freewill donation. We extend a big Thank You to Anna Bleess-Lahr and those who have volunteered to help each week with preparation, serving, and clean-up!

EASTER OUTREACH MINISTRY Let's join together to reach out with God's love to our Abounding Joy Family and Our Community. We will kick off our gift card outreach for Easter this Sunday, March 1. Visit the display table in the fellowship area, choose an egg from the Easter basket, and purchase a gift card from the store named on the egg. *(Please tape the receipt to the gift card and write the \$ amount on the card itself using a sharpie.)* Cash gifts are also welcome! Return your purchased gift card to the container provided on the display table by Palm Sunday, March 29. If you are aware of a family, neighbor, co-worker or shut-in struggling who would benefit from this ministry, please contact Pastor Brandon. Names are held in confidence. The gifts received will be distributed before Easter. Thank you! If questions, call: Elaine Mullenmaster (320-493-2554).

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

Have you ever opened up your dryer to find a little extra money that went through the wash, but ended up being alright? Or how about when you dig through your couch cushions and find coins that fell out? Those little surprises are fun to find! Though we never intended to wash or lose those finances in the first place, finding them is sure a special treat.

When we read John's account of Jesus' life in the Gospel with his name, we find a whole bunch of little surprises throughout. We don't quite know if John fully intended it this way, but the Holy Spirit sure did! In John's words, there are some special treats we can come upon.

For instance, John's favorite number was clearly seven. There are a bunch of sevens in various parts of the texts. Now, in numerology, seven is the number that represents completion, perfection, or wholeness. There were seven days of creation. On the second table of the Law, there are seven commands. There are seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer. Seven is a number we see in the Scriptures, and John loved to use seven to portray the perfection of Jesus.

In fact, we find seven of something in the passage of Scripture we'll focus on today. Take a moment now to open your Bible to John 1:35-51. Take a moment to read this now.

Did you find the sevens? In this passage, we find Jesus called by seven different titles. If you didn't see them, let me take a moment to help you.

First, John the Baptist calls Jesus the "Lamb of God." Secondly, the two disciples call Jesus "Rabbi." Thirdly, Andrew calls Jesus "Messiah." Fourthly, Phillip calls Jesus "the one whom Moses, the Law, and the prophets wrote about." Fifthly, Philip also

calls Jesus "Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph." Sixthly, Nathaniel calls Jesus "the Son of God" and "the King of Israel." And seventhly, Jesus calls Himself "the Son of Man."

That's a lot! But what surprises there are in these titles. It also seems as though John is preparing us to see Jesus in all these titles as we go through the Gospel. In fact, we will notice them more than once.

Yet, why do these titles matter? All these titles stem from prophecies that were written about the coming Messiah. Throughout the 39 books in the Old Testament, these were the dominant ways the Messiah would show up. John is trying to show us how as Jesus shows up, He is the surprise of God. Jesus is the one in whom all these come together because He is the perfect one.

For instance, Jesus as the Lamb of God would live a sacrificial life. Jesus as Rabbi would be the true teacher for the people. As Messiah, He would free His people. As the one written about, He would fulfill prophecy. As Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph, Jesus will be called this title and known by it (most prominently as He hangs on the cross). He would be fully God and fully man. That would make Him the true king of Israel.

By faith, Jesus has come to be our true king. John is setting Jesus apart in these opening verses. He's helping us see the way Jesus will live as we are called to follow Him. In following Him, we will see how He fulfills it all.

For His is the perfect one! He is perfectly saving us. His salvation is still surprising and it will continue now until we reach the day of its completion with Him. So, as you keep reading these accounts, let Jesus show you how fully He loves you and how perfectly He saves you. *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 invite students, par-*

ents, grandparents — everyone to join us! 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.

ANOTHER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY is set up in the Fellowship Area to help the Terebinth Refuge. A Thrivent grant has been used to purchase some of the towels and bed sheets on display. You are invited to help with a cash donation (in the milk jar) to help purchase paper products to donate. Terebinth Refuge is a Christ-centered resource offering hope, healing, freedom, and a safe place for sexually exploited and trafficked women. They bring education and awareness to the St. Cloud area in efforts to prevent human trafficking.

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' for sharing treats!

FISH FRY The best Fish Fry is one that not only tastes terrific but also benefits a great cause—St. Katharine Drexel School Fundraiser Fish Fry is on Friday, March 20th, 4:00-8:00 pm. This delicious fish fry includes all you can eat hand-breaded fish, baked beans, chips, coleslaw, and beverage. This fundraiser includes a bake sale, silent auction, meat raffle, and ice cream sale. For advance fish fry tickets for adults (\$15) contact Greg Voller or Marilyn in the Office. (Kids tickets can be purchased at the door: 10-yrs and younger \$8; and, 3 -yrs and younger eat free).

USHER VOLUNTEERS 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!

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?"

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 22, 2026

ATTENDANCE: 153

OFFERING: Gen: \$2,952
AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$300

This Week at Abounding Joy

The Second Sunday in Lent, March 1

9:00 am Adult Education Hour
10:00 am Worship Service
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments
4:00 pm Discovery Hour

Monday, March 2

6:30 pm Acoustic Joy Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 3

1:15 pm Joyful Sisters Small Group Bible Study
6:30 pm Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am Men's Faith Talk
Noon Bible Study
1:15 pm Joyful Stitchers Quilt-tying and Binding
5:30-6:15 pm Lenten Meal
6:30 pm Lenten Worship Service

Thursday, March 5

9:00 am Intercessory Prayer

The Third Sunday in Lent, March 8

9:00 am Education Hour—Adult Class/Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Prayer Partners
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments
11:30 am Table Talk

The Abounding Joy Foundation

Carl Batdorf, Pres. Dale Hellickson, V-Pres. Deb Hendrickson, Sec. Bruce Peterson, Treas.
Tim Carlson Brian Frank Jane Martinson Pastor Brandon Foster

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

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