



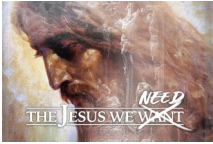
The Abounding Joy Herald

Thursday, March 19, 2026



Gathering in Joy - Reaching Out with God's Love *The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 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) and click on Videos. Prepare your hearts for worship on Sunday, March 22 by reading 2 Kings 4:18-22, 25-27, 32-37; Romans 8:11-19; and John 11:17-27, 38-45. During Sunday morning worship in this season of Lent, we are focusing on moments in John's Gospel where Jesus meets the *needs* of the people, because He is our Savior we want.



LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES conclude this coming Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. We have been studying one of the key features found in John's Gospel with Jesus' "I Am I ___?" Join us as we wrap up this powerful Lenten journey.



IN OUR PRAYERS: *Joyce Cass, Jeanie Frolander, Karon Doble, Kathy Erickson, Jeffrey Karbedeh, Ken Lucy, Madge Rowe, Carol and Steve Sarff, Ginny Shimota, Johnny (Holly Olson's father), Jim (Jeanie Frolander's, Joanie Peterson's, Joyce Cass' brother), Barrett (Deb Hendrickson's brother), Gene (Karon Doble's brother), Kim and Traci (Karen Greenwaldt's brother & wife), Peggy (Marc Schrantz's sister), Mitch (Tammy Holland's nephew), Paul (Mary Windels' cousin), Tom (Joyce Neyssen's cousin), Pastor Charles (Deb Hendrickson's friend), and Pat (Greg Voller's friend).*

WE EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES to *Dean Peterson and family* on the death of his daughter, *Kim*, who died Saturday, March 14. And also

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Anna Bleess-Lahr's Family* as they mourn the death yesterday of her brother *Lee's* wife *Lynn*.

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:
Elijah Krystosek, Friday, March 20
Arlene Morey, Saturday, March 21
Marcy Cody, Sunday, March 22
Christine Durheim, Monday, March 23
Debbie Hahn, Thursday, March 26



LENT As we devote this season of Lent to the study of 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 may borrow the video if you haven't been able to access it through your study book. There are still extra copies 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!

LAST WEEKEND: We welcomed Grant and Robin Hagen, Beckett (2 yr.) and Belinda (4 mo.) as new members to Abounding Joy. Due to weather conditions, Kim DiLaura and Jake and Maria Doto will be received into membership on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Please join us in welcoming them as they join in our mission together!

PASTOR BRANDON: Is out-of-town attending the Exponential Conference for Pastors and Church leaders in Orlando, FL. Following the end of the conference, he and his family will enjoy the next week on vacation. As he is gone, Pastor Julie Smith and Pastor Tom Stover will be sharing messages with us on Sunday mornings; Tim Knorek led worship last evening; and Bill Latare will lead Wednesday night worship on the 25th.

If you have any spiritual needs during this time, please contact the church office.

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME BEG! I'm seeing way too many blanks on the Usher Schedule in the upcoming Holy Week services and Sundays. The sign-up sheet is on the Info Table. Bring a smile to my face by signing up to serve as Usher in one or more of the blanks. Thanks in advance, Marilyn



God's Word is Powerful and Sufficient

As we had so few in worship last weekend due to weather conditions, I thought we could share the questions here in the Herald. We did watch the video for Adult Education. You are encouraged to watch it on your own accessing it thru your code or you may borrow the AJ video if brought back by Sunday.

Here are the questions from Sunday, March 15:

Jesus knows us, loves us, and came into the world to lead us in His ways. When we are wandering or unaware of what it really means to live for God's glory, Jesus not only teaches us but shows us. Our Savior loves to bring us to the truth in a way we can see, understand, and live out – all for His glory.

Recall of a time when you learned a truth that was simple but ended up being life-changing. Then consider a biblical truth that has done the same for you. What truths did you learn? How did they impact your life?

Jesus is a great teacher and knows how to come to our level to help us grasp, understand, and put into practice the truths of our new life in Him. Often, we are clueless, but Jesus shows us the way. Let's learn more about how Jesus does this by watching our next session.

Watch Session 4 video.

Now take a moment to share anything from the video that encouraged you, stood out to you, or challenged you.

As Kyle Idleman shared in this session, he used the game "King of the Hill" to make an important point about us. What point did Pr. Idleman make? How was it true of the disciples and how is it true of us?

Instead of getting on the disciples, Jesus preached a sermon – one without words – with His hands. Read about it in John 13:1-10. What was Jesus' living sermon about?

Jesus understands some matters about Himself and about His disciples. What does John mention that Jesus "knows"? What is important about Jesus' knowledge of these things?

Read John 13:12-17. Who are the disciples to be, according to Jesus?

How does Jesus use the action of washing feet to help His disciples understand who they are to be?

How does this stand in opposition to being "king of the hill"?

We can easily misunderstand what it means to be a witness in our world. Jesus' teaching is meant to reorient us to who we are because of who He is. He calls us to act, but to do so in accordance with His example. As our teacher and Lord, we are to put into practice His words and patterns.

What are some ways that could look like in our lives?

Jesus sums up the reason for this sermon: it's to show the disciples His heart. Let's read it from His lips in John 13:34-35. What is Jesus' heart full of? What is our heart to be filled with for others?

How is our love a witness to the world of His love? Give an example of how you've seen this in your own life.

Jesus' life was given for us to see so that we might be changed by His grace and have life in His name. That life is one filled with love. His love is constantly helping us, continuously challenging and shaping us, and unconditional for us. Jesus loves you.

So, to finish, what's one point from this discussion that you want to take with you? How will this point impact your life in a positive way and help deepen your belief in Jesus?

To read: John 11-14; To memorize: John 13:14-15



It's almost time!!!—St. Katharine Drexel School Fundraiser Fish Fry is *tomorrow, 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.

FIRST COMMUNICANTS: On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we have three young men who will be joining us at the Lord's Table for their first communion. We welcome *Jack Blais*, son of Dana and Troy Blais; and *Nolan* and *Garret Worm*, grandsons of Jon and Jeanie Frolander.

LADIES' LUNCHEON will be at noon on Friday, March 27th, at the Great River Bowl and Partners Pub (208 2nd St. S., Sartell). There's a sign-up sheet on the Info Table. All Abounding Joy ladies and lady-friends are invited and encouraged to share in great food and conversation.

CREATING A BLOOMING GARDEN: You can be part of creating this garden in the Altar Area for our Easter Celebration on April 5th. If you would like to share a plant, please pick up a form from the Info Table or a fellowship table, make your decision, and return the form by Palm Sunday to Belinda Tysver or to the Office. You are invited to take your shared plant home on Easter after worship.

EASTER OUTREACH MINISTRY wraps up soon! Let's join together to reach out with God's love to our Abounding Joy Family and Our Community. 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).

HOLY WEEK IS FAST APPROACHING:

On **Palm Sunday**, March 29, at **10:00 a.m.**, we sing "Hosanna!" to the King who came to give His life for His people and enter into the week of Jesus' passion with Him.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 2, we will have our Maundy Thursday worship service with Holy Communion at **6:30 p.m.**

On **Good Friday**, April 3, we will offer two opportunities to worship at **noon** and **6:30 p.m.** This will be a Tenebrae service focusing on Jesus as He is denied all the way to the Cross, where He will die for our sins.

On **Resurrection Sunday**, April 5, join us for worship at 10 a.m. for our celebration of our Risen Savior! Please note that there will be NO Education Hour this day.

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.



"OH, THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS..." Living in Minnesota, we know that we can get all kinds of weather, and sometimes that weather affects how we



"gather in joy" at Abounding Joy. That's why together Pastor Brandon and the council have worked together to create an Inclement Weather Policy. Whenever projected storms are in our region, we are cognizant of your safety and this policy was made with you in mind. You will find this approved policy with this copy of the Herald. It outlines how we will make decisions for worship, as well as how we will inform you with any forecasted weather. There are physical copies available on the Info Table.

2026 TIME AND ABILITIES Please take a few minutes to look over the sheet and mark the areas where you would like to share your time and abilities. We realize that our available time and physical abilities change as time marches on, so it's important for us to be up-to-date on areas where you will be most comfortable being called to help. Please return your Time and Abilities sheet to the box on the Info Table **as soon as possible**. Thank you!

MN FOOD SHARE month is this month—MARCH.



When shopping for your own household, it is deeply appreciated if you are able to buy a few extra items to share in the grocery cart by the entry coat racks. This grocery cart is available year around but this month is a special March Campaign in Minnesota. We appreciate and thank Carl and Betty Batdorf for their faithful collection and delivery of our donated items!

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



Sunday, March 15, 2026
ATTENDANCE: 45 (blizzard conditions)
OFFERING: Gen: \$430
AJ Capital Expense Fund: \$120

This Week at Abounding Joy

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22

9:00 am Education Hour—Adult Class/Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service with Julie Smith, LCMC Staff
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments

Monday, March 23

6:30 pm Gospel Gals Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 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
7:30 pm Youth Group

Thursday, March 26

9:30 am Intercessory Prayer

Friday, March 27

Noon Ladies' Luncheon at Great River Bowl and Partners Pub

Palm Sunday, March 20

9:00 am Education Hour
10:00 am Worship Service with Pastor Tom Stover and Reception of New Members
11:10 am Fellowship and Refreshments

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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Website: www.aboundingjoy.org

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