

Rejoice Lutheran Church

1155 County Rd 75

PO Box 307

Clearwater, MN 55320

320.558.6851

rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Worship Schedule:

Sunday:

9:30 am in person worship
at Rejoice, as well as on-line.

***Communion will be offered
this month on Sept. 15th & 29th***

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REJOICINGS



September 2024

Sunday Worship Service

Worship will be in person at 9:30am on Sundays,
at Rejoice Lutheran Church as well as live streamed
on the Rejoice YouTube channel:

RejoiceLutheranClearwater YouTube.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats after 9:30am worship.

September Events

- Sunday, September 1 hymn sing during worship.
- Sunday, September 8th, Pastor Jung's first day & God's Work, Our Hands day.
- Rally Sunday – first day of Sunday School, September 15th.
- Open house celebrating Lorraine Bluhm's 90th birthday, September 15th, 1 – 4pm, at Rejoice Lutheran Church – all are welcome.
- Church council meets Sunday, September 15th at 11:00am.
- Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, September 17th at 10:00am.
- Young @ Heart will gather on Thursday, September 19th at 10:30am (and will celebrate Audrey Lidberg's 80th birthday at 11am).
- We will celebrate Duane Johnson's 90th birthday during fellowship on Sunday, September 22nd.
- Fall Festival, Saturday, September 28th
- Stitch & Pray meets at 1:00pm Wednesday afternoons (no meeting on September 11).
- Community Food Rescue is offered Sunday mornings at 10:30am in the education wing after Sunday worship. All are welcome.
- Library mtgs will be held at 9:30am till noon, Monday mornings.
- Mondays at 7:00pm, Alcoholics Anonymous gather at Rejoice.



Rejoice Church Council Update

Your church council met on Sunday, August 18. It is a joy to reflect on the core values of this congregation at the beginning of each meeting and share what God is up to in our faith community!

Kent Asheim shared a short synopsis of the Clearwater Cast of Characters 2025 production and the rehearsal and performance schedules were reviewed. A building use contract will be developed for the 2025 production in the near future.

The Endowment Committee is researching investment options for the endowment funds.

Do you have a flair for decorating and making a space more beautiful? The paraments and decorating team of the Worship, Music & Arts team needs you! This team is working on cleaning and consolidating the decorations needed throughout the church year. You can join this effort on upcoming Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Contact Linda Campana for more information.

The Social Concerns committee has received generous donations from the Clearwater Masons and the Clearwater Cast of Characters to support the weekend food backpack program this fall! The September noisy offering will also support this program at Clearview Elementary School.

Get ready for Rally Sunday on September 15! Excitement is building for the new Sunday School year! Call the church office to register your child for Sunday School. Teachers and helpers are needed - we can work around any schedule for anyone interested in being a part of the Sunday School program this year. Please contact Carolyn Bissell for more information.

Linnea Lindquist will be supporting Sara to compile the monthly newsletter going forward. Please send all information and articles for the monthly newsletter to Linnea at linnealane@aol.com. Newsletter deadlines for the remainder of this year are: September 20, October 18, November 22, and December 20.

The next meeting of the church council will be on September 15, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Chwalek
Council President

From Pastor Karlene Jung



Greetings from Louisville!

I am so excited to be joining you as your pastor in just a week or so. As we get to know each other, you'll learn that I have a calendar that, each month, focuses on a different word. I spend the entire month thinking about that word, journaling on it, and immersing myself in its meaning.

So, the word for September is *knowledge*. It's kind of a perfect word to introduce myself to you - as a seeker of knowledge. "Knowledge" in Greek is *gnosis*. It's a word that refers to what is known or understood, either through experience, perception, or revelation. Really our entire lives are about *gnosis*. About growing into who we are, who we have been called to be as children of God, and how we are to live out that life.

My life has been one of seeking that understanding. I grew up on a sheep ranch in north-central South Dakota, born into a *huge* family - I have about 75 first cousins. It was a great life on the prairie until my dad died unexpectedly when I was fourteen. You can imagine its impact on me. A few years later, at 19, I moved to Los Angeles - quite a culture shock. For ten years, I worked as a courtroom clerk for the L.A. County courts, then got involved in my local union. From there I began working as an organizer in the labor and social justice movements in So. California and along the south Texas border. I did this work for nearly 25 years. During this time, I also earned my undergrad degree in Labor Studies - Organizational Development and Growth.

I'm also a church musician. I learned piano at the age of 5 and the pipe organ in junior high - studying both in high school and college. My mom - a piano teacher and church organist - put me on the organ bench at the age of 13. So, as I worked in the courts and social justice movement, I also worked as a part-time Worship Director in two ELCA churches in the Los Angeles Foothills - directing choirs, accompanying worship, and, for a time, teaching children's music in an elementary day school. It was through *this* work where I began to experience that God was calling me to something new.

So, I began to work on my M.Div. at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, intending to become a full-time worship director. Sometimes, though, the Holy Spirit has other plans for us. After a LOT of nudging and discernment (I'm a reluctant pastor!), I applied for candidacy in the Southwest California Synod. I completed my degree at Fuller, then moved to St. Paul for a year of Lutheran study at Luther Seminary and chaplaincy training. This was followed by another year of internship at Chatfield Lutheran Church, southeast of Rochester. I was ordained in 2017 and called, first, to Grace & Glory in Goshen, KY, then to a second church - Third/MOSAIC in Louisville. By the way, the correct pronunciation and dead-giveaway-that-you're-not-a-local-if-you-don't-pronounce-it-this-way is Lou-u-h-ville! 😊

In the midst of these experiences, I was married and divorced, yet blessed with a pretty great son, Mike, who lives in Minneapolis, is a CPA, and works as a senior tax manager at Boulay in Eden Prairie. You'll get to meet him and his girlfriend, Katie, at my installation. Along with all of the possibilities I could imagine here at Rejoice, my son was also a pretty powerful impetus for me to get back to the upper Midwest - to come *home*.

This *gnosis* list - this list of learning experiences - barely scratches the surface of my life. Plus it continues as I'm in the last year of my Doctor of Ministry degree. Yet, my life has been rich and full. And, at times, incredibly hard. Yet, I wouldn't trade it for anything because through it all I've also gotten to *know* God. Deeply.

That's why I'm in ministry - to share my *gnosis* of God with you. And to hear about your experience of God. So that we might grow together and lean fully into being the joyful people of God that we are called to be. In Clearwater. Minnesota.

I can't wait to see what God does with us. And I am thankful to you - and to God - for this new opportunity to gain even more *gnosis*. I hope you'll join me.

Pastor Karlene Jung



What can we do to welcome Pastor Karleen Jung?

We have a new pastor coming to Rejoice! This is an exciting time for our congregation. Two of our core values are ***extravagant hospitality*** and ***purposeful community***. What are some things we can do to welcome Pastor Karleen and show our hospitality? Some suggestions:

- Wear name tags at church for several weeks as she learns our names.
- Introduce yourself and your family to her.
- Introduce her to the Clearwater community and business leaders. Encourage her to participate in events outside of the Rejoice community.
- Accept her as she is, not as we would have her be.
- Suggest eating places/coffee shops, medical centers, dentists, salons, shopping centers, etc.
- Invite her to meet for a cup of coffee or lunch; invite her to community events; invite her to sit with you during fellowship after worship, etc.

Thanks! Personnel & staff support team: Linnea Lindquist, Lori Lanes, Dick Chwalek, Scott Scharmer



Will you please help with Pastor Karleen's moving expenses?

Pastor Karleen will be at Rejoice shortly. Part of Karleen's contract is that Rejoice will pay her moving expenses of approximately \$4,000. Her moving expenses are a little higher because she needs to move her baby grand piano from Kentucky to her Monticello apartment. We would like to raise funds to help cover these moving expenses. If you are moved to donate, we would greatly appreciate it. If you write a check, please put "moving expenses" in the memo part of your check and drop it off in the office or offering plate. Please feel free to reach out to Linnea Lindquist or myself. Thank you and God bless.

Sue Henstein, Finance Team chair

Social Concerns Team



God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 8th

The excitement is building at Rejoice Lutheran Church. September 8th is God's Work Our Hands Sunday. God's Work Our Hands is where ELCA churches across America come together to help those members of our family who need help with such things as yard cleanup, window washing, and general maintenance of their home. Please think about what help you could use around your property and let your Rejoice family work for you.

We need 3 or 4 groups to go out and work in our community on Sunday September 8th. Please dress appropriately and bring garden gloves. Great opportunity to get your kids involved in community service.

We will also be filling snack bags for Pathways for Youth at Rejoice this Sunday after our shortened service, again we are asking for your help for this very worthy cause.

Noisy offering schedule:

- September: Weekend Food Backpack program
- October: ELCA World Hunger
- November: Rejoice Worship, Music & Arts (for a new Christmas tree)
- December: Rivers of Hope
- January: Children's Haven International
- February: Green Lake Lutheran Ministries
- March: Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf/Minnesota Food Share March Campaign
- April: Rejoice Vacation Bible School

If you have questions, please contact Kent Asheim

Fall Festival – September 28th, 2024

**Rejoice's Fall Festival will soon be upon us.
Please find it in your hearts to lift a helping hand!**



SILENT AUCTION: Becky Brzinski will lead the Silent Auction. She will be the contact person for items to bring and wanting to help. Help is needed to solicit items from businesses in the area. Rejoice members are also asked to donate items & make up gift baskets for the Silent Auction. Help is needed with preparation, setup, clean up & follow-up of winning items following the sale.



RAFFLE NEEDS: Donations of money or items for the Raffle; bring to church office. Raffle tickets are available for sale in the office, after church on Sundays & at the Farmers Market on 9/13.

DAYS PRIOR to the festival needs:

- **Prepare meatballs 9/26 8:30am:** Kent & Grace Asheim, leads 320-333-0623 or 320-266-2543
- **Bread making, kneaders needed Friday 9/27 11:30am & packers 2 – 4pm:** Lori Lanes - lead - 952-250-6547
- **Scandinavian cookies:** Audrey Lidberg – lead – 320-558-9909
- **Krumkake 9/19 6pm:** Linnea Lindquist - lead - 612-306-5888
- **Granny's Attic setup:** Rhoda Senkler – lead - 320-266-1770
- **Gift boutique:** Deb Biorn – lead - 320-291-1865
- **Potato peelers & lutefisk help:** Brad Johnson - lead - 320-290-5307
- **Silent Auction setup:** Becky Brzinski - lead 320-420-6356
- **Tables:** set up tables in various areas, help get tables from the American Legion

DAY OF the festival needs:

- **Kitchen help:** Lori Lanes or Kay Krogstad – leads 952-250-6547 or 320-260-2723
- **Dining room servers/help:** Linnea Lindquist – lead - 612-306-5888
- **Bake sale:** Danna Gohman-Hard – lead 320-240-4078
- **Prepare lutefisk:** Brad Johnson – lead 320-290-5307
- **Farmers market:** Wally Westerberg & Mary Bergeron - leads 320-282-2373 (Please bring your garden produce to sell)
- **Ole's Grill:** We have a team but are willing to accept new helpers!
- **Selling & taking dinner tickets:** Call the office or email Rejoice@RejoiceLutheranChurch.org to reserve tickets

Please contact the leads if interested in helping; if you don't volunteer you may receive a call asking for help, so please give it some prayerful thought to say "YES"!

Thank you, Good and Faithful People – Chari Ahrenholz and Doris Scharmer



Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you may be eligible to get a Thrivent Action Team Visa card for \$250 that could help defray Fall Festival expenses. I was just approved for one that will be used for Ole's Grill expenses, such as plates, napkins, brats, burgers, ketchup, butter, etc. If you're a Thrivent member and would like to see if you can help out through an Action Team, please feel free to contact me by 9/15. Thanks! Linnea Lindquist



Worship, Music & Arts Team Update

From Marilyn Koontz
320-260-2934

The team is looking for folks who would be willing to help decorate the church sanctuary and other spaces within the church for various seasons of the church year. The most decorating help is needed for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Special décor is also used for Pentecost and Epiphany. The green season is from May through November (a long season) in which the décor starts with spring and summer décor, and then transitions into the colorful fall décor.

If you would like to be part of just one season or consider more than one season, please let me know -- call or text Thank you for considering this!

From Linda Campana

We will be cleaning out the seasonal church decorations. We have accumulated a lot and its time to update them. They are stored in different areas of the church. If you have donated decorations, please feel free to go thru them and take whatever is of value to you. Otherwise, we will be putting some in Granny's Attic. If you have any questions please let Marilyn Koontz, Chari Ahrenholz, Kathy Langya, Pam Bender or myself know.

Thank you for all the donated decorations to make our church look welcoming. Blessings!



THURSDAY, September 19, 2024

Friends In Harmony

Friends in Harmony is a well-established vocal ensemble made up of members from the St. Cloud area. Formerly known as The Jazz Connection some of the singers have crooned together for over 25 years. The group, made up primarily of baby boomers, harmonize on a variety of musical styles. They specialize in '50's and '60's rock "n" roll and doo-wop.

JOIN US FOR
GOOD FOOD
AND FRIENDSHIP

Please give the Rejoice Office (320-558-6851) a call to let them know you are planning on attending so we may get an accurate count for dinner.

GAMES & CONVERSATION – 10:30
LUNCH SERVED AT – 11:30



Angels Of Maintenance/ Property Committee



During the last month the Property Committee has been actively working on the following projects:

- **Food Shelf:** In September of 2021 Rejoice sold one acre of land to the Clearwater – Clear Lake Food Shelf. Today, I attended the groundbreaking for the new Food Shelf building on that property. For many years Rejoice has been an active partner in support of the Food Shelf, contributing our time, talents, and money. The Food Shelf meets a critical need for the food insecure in our community.
- **Solar Panels:** Rejoice has received a proposal from Wolf River Electric for the installation of solar panels. This proposal offers investment tax credits, Excell Energy incentives, and donations for solar panel installation with very little cash out lay, and a payback withing 1.5 years. The committee is currently reviewing the proposal.
- **Memorial Garden:** The property committee is working on a plan for a Memorial Garden. A memorial garden is a beautifully landscaped outdoor space created for placement of cremated remains in biodegradable containers. It is considered a sacred place set aside for proper interment, memorialization, and perpetual care of our church members and loved ones. A peaceful setting for reflection as a tribute to honor the life of a loved one. The garden would provide a place for loved ones to pray, meditate, and find serenity and solace.
- **Children's Play Area:** For a very long time the children's play area has been badly in need of attention. During the last month the Property Committee has focused on making Rejoice a more welcoming place for children. The children's play sets (2) have been combined into one large set. Both playsets have been pressure washed, painted, and repaired. The play area inside the fence has been cleaned up and a fire pit ring installed. And finally, we sprayed the poison ivy growing in the tree line behind the play area.
- **Furnace Motor Repaired:** The furnace that supports the kitchen area was kicking the circuit breaker out. Thanks go out to our furnace repair crew who replaced the fan motor.
- **Service:** Are you looking for a place / opportunity to serve? The Angels of Maintenance has something for everyone:
 - A strike force of cleaners who show up after large events to clean up. This would be a short-term commitment that reoccurs depending upon what events are happening and when the contract cleaners are scheduled.
 - Did you know that Rejoice has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)? This is a portable medical device designed for emergency treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. We need an individual trained in the use and maintenance of this equipment.
 - The sign in front of the church is very much in need of an upgrade. We have a sign concept that is in the works. We could use someone to focus on this project and plan for completion.

"Mighty Hands Willing to Work to Make Rejoice a Welcoming Place for Members and Guests."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

90th Birthday Celebration Open House *for Lorraine Bluhm*



Sunday, September 15th, 2024

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Rejoice Lutheran Church

Farmer's Market!!!

- Friday, September 13
- 2 – 6 pm
- Rejoice Lutheran parking lot
- Come & support these local businesses

**FARMER'S MARKET
IN CLEARWATER**

FRIDAYS AUG. 9 & SEPT. 13, 2-6PM
Rejoice Lutheran Church parking Lot

final 2 weeks!

ClearValley
BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Contact Hia Czech at 320-282-5170 for vendor info

A photograph of various fresh vegetables including corn cobs, asparagus, and leafy greens, arranged in a row.

September 2024 Church Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship hymn sing 10:30 Fellowship	2 Labor Day Office closed	3	4 1pm Stich & pray	5	6 Office closed	7 9am 7 th Day Adventists
8 Welcome Pastor Jung 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship God's Work, Our Hands	9 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	10	11 NO Stich & pray	12	13 Office closed Farmer's Market 2-6pm	14 9am 7 th Day Adventists
15 9:30 Worship, communion & noisy offering 10:30 Fellowship 11 Church council 1 – 4pm open house for Lorraine Bluhm's 90 th birthday	16 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	17 10am women's Bible study	18 1pm Stich & pray	19 10:30am Young at Heart (& celebrating Audrey's 80 th birthday)	20 Office closed	21 9am 7 th Day Adventists
22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship celebrating Duane Johnson's 90 th birthday	23 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	24	25 1pm Stich & pray	26	27 Office closed	28 9am 7 th Day Adventists
29 9:30 Worship & communion 10:30 Fellowship	30 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting					

September Celebrations

Birthdays

9/1 Duane Johnson
 9/1 Darlene Johnson
 9/2 Renee Vivier
 9/3 Grace Asheim
 9/10 Ryan Pridgeon
 9/13 Kathy Langva
 9/14 Mark Dunderi
 9/15 Nathan Brunson

9/15 Tyrrell Graham
 9/17 Lorraine Bluhm
 9/17 Erin Woodman
 9/18 Caryn Dunderi
 9/19 Audrey Lidberg
 9/20 Addisyn Canon
 9/21 Dustin Weleski
 9/24 Dean Peterson

9/25 Dan Koren
 9/25 Jullie Johnson
 9/27 Zackery Canon
 9/28 James Johnson
 9/29 Todd VanNurden
 9/29 Lucas Maehren

Anniversaries

9/6 Heidi & Todd Peper
 9/7 Paul & JoEllen Amundson
 9/7 Brett & Nancy Hanson
 9/8 Cindy & David Kirchoff
 9/8 Linda & Randy Painter
 9/15 Greg & Cindy Bluhm

9/17 Kevin & Kristen Sanders
 9/18 Allan & Wendy Groth
 9/21 Dennis & Dianna Jussila
 9/21 Duane & Darlene Johnson
 9/26 Jim & Lori Lanes
 9/29 Jason & Jonica Imdieke

September 2024 Worship & Volunteer Calendar					
	Sept. 1 st	Sept. 8 th	Sept. 15 th	Sept. 22 nd	Sept. 29 th
Greeter	Mary Wilson	Linnea Lindquist	Cindy Bluhm		Mary Wilson
Ushers	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. Mary 2. Sue	
Communion Setup	X	X		X	
Fellowship		Mexico Mission Group	Lorraine Bluhm 90 th Birthday Celebration (Bluhm family)	Duane Johnson 90 th Birthday Celebration (Johnson family)	

Can you help on Sundays?

If you can help by being an usher, greeter, serving coffee and treats after church, please sign up by writing your name down on the chart located on the table in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the office at 320-558-6851. If you would like an email reminder, please also include your email address. Thank you!



Gratitude & Giving Thanks!

Thank you to all who continue to selflessly serve in effort to keep Rejoice a welcoming, loving, tidy and comfortable place of worship and gathering. There are numerous hours spent here by so many individuals to maintain or improve the inside and outside of the building, grounds, and weekly general duties. Also, countless hours spent managing projects, events and even fielding tons of questions from the office and helping in the office. You are a special group of individuals and it is undeniable how much you love your church. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by many! Blessings!

Rejoice Lutheran Church (ELCA) Non-Profit Org
1155 County Road 75 NW
(near the water tower)
PO Box 307 (mailing)
Clearwater, MN 55320

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday - closed

Telephone: 320-558-6851

Web

www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Karleen Jung

Office coordinator

Sara Nelson

Music coordinator

Janelle Rudningen