

## Rejoice Lutheran Church

1155 County Rd 75  
PO Box 307  
Clearwater, MN 55320  
320.558.6851

[rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org](mailto:rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org)

### Worship Schedule:

#### Sunday:

9:30 am in person worship  
at Rejoice, as well as on-line.  
Communion offered  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

### Lent Wednesday Services:

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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# REJOICINGS



# MARCH

## 2023

### 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.

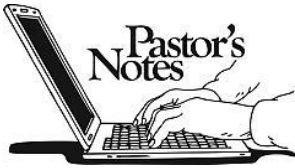
Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats after 9:30am Worship.

### Wednesday Lenten Worship Service 6:30p

### March Events

- ❖ Mondays at 7:00pm, Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Rejoice.
- ❖ Library mtgs will be held at 9:30am till noon, Monday mornings.
- ❖ Stitch & Pray meets at 1:00pm Wednesday afternoons.
- ❖ Our littlest ones, 3yrs – kindergarten are encouraged to attend faith education during Sunday morning worship, after the children's sermon.
- ❖ Enjoy Soup Suppers and fellowship during Lent. Serving began Feb 22nd at 5:30pm with Worship Service starting at 6:30pm through March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Community Food Rescue is offered Sunday mornings at 10:30am in the Education wing after Sunday Worship. All are welcome
- ❖ Join us Wednesday mornings at 9:15am for "Yoga for All."
- ❖ Rejoice church council mtg. will be held March 21st at 6:30pm.
- ❖ Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, March 21st at 10:30am.
- ❖ Young at Heart - March 16th, Discussion with CentraCare Specialist. Doors open at 10:30am, Lunch Served at 11:30am.





February 16, 2023

Dear Friends of Rejoice,

Pam and I had no idea how blessed we would be by all of you when I began my call January 1, 2020. You have been so supportive of us, especially of Pam, and I am so appreciative of your all your care and concern.

As I have stated repeatedly, and bears repeating once again, I believe the year 2022 was a very consequential year in the life of Rejoice Lutheran Church and in my own ministry over 34 years. I celebrate that with you.

I have struggled for some time now in fulfilling my commitment to caring for Pam in her health struggles, my duties as pastor, and my own personal self-care. This awareness shifted my thinking.

I recently met with Bishop Dee Pederson. I asked her what the best time for would be for Rejoice if I were to retire and her emphatic response was, "the beginning of the summer." After giving thought to your position for new leadership, I came to a difficult personal decision. My last day of pastoral service is May 31, 2023. I will have a couple of weeks of vacation to follow.

Until then, I have several key benchmarks I need to reach before retiring, including First Communion, receiving new members, confirming the group that would have been confirmed in the fall, and get our financial reporting to a place that is valuable. I want to work with leaders to help prepare you for your next chapter.

My biggest regret is that we found the perfect church home in Rejoice but must look elsewhere. We plan to remain in our home for the time, but retirement means I will not be available for any pastoral functions or you. After May 31, I will not be available to perform any pastoral duties, such as weddings, funerals and baptisms.

We will keep you fondly within our hearts and prayers. Your joy will accompany us throughout the next chapter of our lives. Thank you for such a special gift for our future.

Shalom,

*Pastor Jim,*

Pastor Jim Bump

## Rejoice Church Council Update

### Thank You

submitted by Becky Brzinski

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

There are so many members that keep our church operating to fulfill God's ministry. Thank God for the various gifts He has given us through grace.

Gratitude for the gifts of people in our church is endless.

### Thank you:

For Pam in the library who weekly organizes shelves and books, continuously preparing the books to keep the library operating.

For Mary & Wally who tirelessly prepare and work at the weekly Food Rescue Program.

For the volunteers who do tasks quietly and behind the scenes like the Maintenance Angels who continuously fix and repair around the church and property.

For the members who see a task needing to be done and stepping in to complete it. For all members who step up and volunteer for committees, events and activities.

For the volunteers with the Young@Heart program reaching out to older people in the community.

For our caring & loving educators involved with Sunday & Funday School, confirmation and Youth Formation.

For our office staff and volunteers who make Rejoice a welcoming and friendly place.

I especially want to thank our retirees, Rhoda for her years of volunteering and working as treasurer and Carol for her dedication and organization, literally keeping the church operating and pulling everyone together. Also, Nicole for sharing her musical talents with us over the years.

I want to thank Pastor Jim for his leadership and devotion to transformational worship and guidance to fulfilling God's ministry.

I want to specifically thank the four council members ending their terms at this time.

Rhoda Senkler has attended council meetings for years providing the financial status and reports for the council's reference. **Thank you!**

Sue Henstein, who works quietly & diligently on Stewardship drives, the Capital Finance Campaign and serves on the Finance team sharing her gifts of financial knowledge. **Thank you!**

Marilyn Koontz, who, with her team, has beautifully decorated our church for the seasons. She puts in countless hours with church events and consistently opens and locks up the church for our use, being dependently available. **Thank you!**

Scott Scharmer has served as Vice President volunteering wherever needed. He steps up to help with committee work, interviewing and personnel, financial work and even fixing the toilets. **Thank you!**



## The Rejoice Backpack Program

The Rejoice backpack program provides a backpack filled with nutritious, nonperishable, child-friendly food items to children who are at-risk of going hungry over the weekends due to various reasons. This program is designed to assist children attending area schools that are facing hunger in our region. The youth at Rejoice pack up the backpacks on Wednesday night and an adult delivers them to area schools for distribution to students who face food insecurity. We are currently low on our stock of food for this program. Donations of the following items are needed: cereal, pop tarts, granola, oatmeal, juice boxes, peanut butter packs, tuna, Ravioli/spaghetti-pop top lids, Ramen noodles packages, small single serve mac & cheese, fruit snacks, applesauce, & raisins. You may bring food to the church office during office hours or when at Rejoice for worship. Thank you.

“A hundred years from now it will not matter what your bank account was, the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of clothes you wore, but the world may be much different because you were important in the life of a child.” ~ Author Unknown

## Young at Heart



Our program for March is one that no one wants to really talk about but it is a subject that has touched all of us. Dementia/Alzheimers.

Katrina Sand, Occupational Therapist with a special interest in Dementia from CentraCare, will be our guest speaker.

Katrina has asked that if anyone has a question that they would like answered to submit your questions [agre5628@icloud.com](mailto:agre5628@icloud.com) and your question will be given to her.

Just a reminder to call the Rejoice Lutheran Church Office at 320-558-6851 and give our great cooks a ‘heads up’ that you will be attending. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. with the program following. Please bring a friend. - Linda Agre from Benson, AZ



## Clearwater Food Shelf

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves. Please consider a monetary donation during March – it’s not all about Basketball brackets!

## Sunday Worship Servants

| Sunday Worship  | March 5         | March 12                        | March 19             | March 26                        |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Greeters        | Betty L & Glady | Chris Schill                    | Cindy Bluhm          | Mary Wilson                     |
| Ushers          | Becky Brzinski  | Mary Wilson                     | Ryan & Lisa Pridgeon | Jim & Carol Eich                |
| Readers         | Rhoda Senkler   | Kevin Sanders                   | Jim Lanes            | Chris Schill                    |
| Communion Setup | <b>X</b>        | Becky Brzinski<br>Lisa Pridgeon | <b>X</b>             | Becky Brzinski<br>Lisa Pridgeon |

## Lutheran World Relief – Personal Care Kits

This Lent, we're putting God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.

Across the globe, families have been suffering from compounding crises such as war, violence, natural disasters, disease, and extreme weather.

We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: *a Season of Hope*.

We're excited to engage in this project as a community during our Lenten journey this year.

### Here's our collection schedule:

**February 26:** Bars of soap - 2 bars per kit, 4-5 ounces, any brand, in original wrapping

**March 5:** Bath towels - light-weight, maximum size 52" x 27", dark color recommended

**March 12:** Toothbrushes - adult size, in original packaging; multi-packs are OK

**March 19:** Combs

**March: 26:** Nail clippers - metal, attached file optional



## Library

**Sorry for the inconvenience, but the library is closed for inventory.**

If you haven't already done so, **please return all borrowed books and DVDs ASAP to the library.**

It will re-open **Sunday March 12** or when inventory has been completed. Thanks for your cooperation.

Please consider purchasing and selling our **Rejoice Savings Card**.

This savings card will raise money for Rejoice and community ministries such as the relocation of the food shelf.

Along with the card we are reaching out to the surrounding communities to invite them to Rejoice during Lent to enjoy our soup suppers and worship services.

This is an important opportunity for our church to get our name out into the community and to be a welcoming ministry.

Please consider creative ways to get involved and help with this project.

Contact the Office for additional information.

## March Celebrations

### Birthdays

Reanna Leuthard, 3/1  
Janet Janet, 3/5  
John Brzinski, 3/8  
Kellen Johnson, 3/12  
Ayla Suchomel, 3/12  
Stacie Michalski, 3/15  
James Bump, 3/16

Gary Dagner, 3/17  
Betty Loehr, 3/17  
Jack Wipper, 3/21  
Todd Willis, 3/21  
Kirkland Allen, 3/21  
Rosemary Monk, 3/21  
Penny Leuthard, 3/22

Charles Johnson, 3/24  
Dayle Meyer, 3/28  
Michael Wedin, 3/29  
Emry Graham, 3/30  
Brian Sand, 3/30

### Anniversaries

Bender, Richard & Pam, 3/15  
Severson, Dennis & Sue, 3/18  
Lidberg, Pete & Audrey, 3/18

## Gratitude

Thank you to all those who have helped keep our sidewalks clear of Ice and Snow.

Thank you to all who helped keep the church running smoothly while Carol was on vacation.

## March 2022

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                     | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>PALS</b><br>Pastors & Associated<br>Lay People<br><br><b>HC</b><br>Holy Communion<br><br><b>SS</b><br>Sunday School                                |  |   | <b>1</b><br>9:15a Yoga for All<br>1:00p Stitch & Pray<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br><b>6:30p Lent Worship w/HC</b> | <b>2</b><br>6p Girl Scout                                   | <b>3</b><br>Office closed  | <b>4</b><br>9:00a 7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventist Church  |
| <b>5</b><br><b>9:30a Worship</b><br>9:45 <b>SS</b> 3yrs-K<br>10:15 Fellowship   | <b>6</b><br>9:00-12:00<br>Library Mtg.<br>7:00p AA Mtg.  | <b>7</b><br>.   | <b>8</b><br>9:15a Yoga for All<br>1:00p Stitch & Pray<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br><b>6:30p Lent Worship</b>      | <b>9</b><br>PALS<br>6p Girl Scout                           | <b>10</b><br>Office closed | <b>11</b><br>9:00a 7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventist Church |
| <b>12</b><br><b>9:30a Worship/HC</b><br>9:45 <b>SS</b> 3yrs-K<br>10:15 Fellowship<br><br><i>Daylight Savings<br/>                     Time Begins</i> | <b>13</b><br>9:00-12:00<br>Library Mtg.<br>7:00p AA Mtg. | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b><br>9:15a Yoga for All<br>1:00p Stitch & Pray<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br><b>6:30p Lent Worship</b>     | <b>16</b><br>10:30a-Young<br>@ Heart.<br><br>6p Girl Scouts | <b>17</b><br>Office closed | <b>18</b><br>9:00a 7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventist Church |
| <b>19</b><br><b>9:30a Worship</b><br>9:45 <b>SS</b> 3yrs to K<br>10:15 Fellowship   | <b>20</b><br>9:00-12:00<br>Library Mtg.<br>7:00p AA Mtg. | <b>21</b><br>10:00a Women's<br>Bible Study<br><br>6:30p Council Mtg | <b>22</b><br>9:15a Yoga for All<br>1:00p Stitch & Pray<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br><b>6:30p Lent Worship</b>     | <b>23</b><br>6p Girl Scouts                                 | <b>24</b><br>Office closed | <b>25</b><br>9:00a 7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventist Church |
| <b>26</b><br><b>9:30aWorship/HC</b>   | <b>27</b><br>9:00-12:00<br>Library Mtg.<br>7:00p AA Mtg. | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b><br>9:15a Yoga for All<br>1:00p Stitch & Pray<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br><b>6:30p Lent Worship</b>     | <b>30</b><br>6p Girl Scouts                                 | <b>31</b><br>Office closed |  |

## Rejoice Lutheran Church (ELCA) Non-Profit Org

1155 County Road 75  
(near the water tower)  
PO Box 307 (mailing)  
Clearwater, MN 55320

### Office Hours

Monday – Thursday  
7:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Friday - closed

**Telephone** 320- 558-6851

### Web

[www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org](http://www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org)

## Staff

### Pastor

James Bump

### Office Administrator

Carol Eich/Tara Hart

### Music Coordinator

Janelle Rudningen

### Office Assistant

Lisa Pridgeon



# LENT

Mid-Week Soup Supper & Worship  
Wednesday Evenings  
5:30 pm Supper, 6:30 pm Worship