

REJOICINGS

December

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 offered

2nd & 4th Sunday

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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:

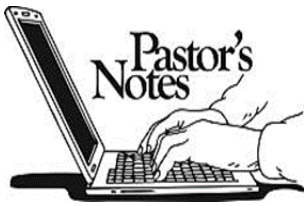
RejoiceLutheranClearwater YouTube.

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

December 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.
- ❖ 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 9:00am for "Yoga for All."
- ❖ Rejoice Church Council will have a Meeting December 17th.
- ❖ Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, December 19th at 10:00am.
- ❖ Young @ Heart - December 21st, Christmas Trivia & Sing-a-long.
- ❖ Doors open at 10:30am for good food & Fellowship. Lunch will be served at 11:30am
- ❖ December 10th Mexico Mission group will be serving for fellowship
- ❖ Sunday School All ages Welcome Sundays at 9:45 AM (Part of Worship)
- ❖ FUNday/LiveWires up to 5th grade.
- ❖ Confirmation Crew Grades 6th-8th will meet the first two Sundays of the month at 10:30am to Noon.





Where's the Baby?!

Across the four weeks of Advent this year, we will wait and watch together around the sermon series, "Where's the Baby?" Each Sunday will bring a different answer, as we light another candle on the wreath and move closer to the celebration of Christmas.

We will also share communion every week for the season of Advent because it is a good way to feel connected and nourished by the grace of God. As the days shorten and the nights grow longer, we relish the comfort of God's tangible presence in the bread and wine.

Where's the Baby?!

On December 3, *The Baby Is with Mary*. This will be the Sunday of the **Infamous Fall Fest 30 Second Sermon**. Come to worship for what just might be the shortest sermon you'll ever hear. :)

On December 10, *The Baby Is with Us, Emmanuel*. On this Sunday, our theme will be hope in the darkness. Worship will be a little more subdued and somber because so many of us are carrying anxiety, grief and heartache through our days. These difficult, big emotions get heavier and harder with the holidays. Worship will include a time for healing prayers—a chance to lay down some of our sorrow and be lifted into God's care.

December 17, *The Baby Is Away in the Manger*. Our children will bring some extra excitement to worship with their singing and bells. Join us for a Christmas Treasure Hunt with the kids, as we look for the Baby.

December 24, *The Baby Is Loose!* Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, worship will happen at **3PM and 4PM on December 24**. The first worship will be a Family Christmas Eve, for those households with young children. This 35-minute worship includes the reading of the Christmas gospel as we build the nativity scene in the front of the church. We'll sing some of the beloved carols and get the manger ready for Baby Jesus. This is the first year Rejoice has offered a Family Christmas Eve and we'd love your help spreading the word to the neighborhood! Traditional Christmas Eve worship will happen at 4PM and include holy communion and candlelight. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

Sunday, December 31 will be a worship for New Year's Eve. We'll gather at 9:30AM, as we usually do, and reflect on all that God has done for us, and all that God has in store on this final day of 2023.

See you at church, Pastor Susan

Holy Communion Offered Every Sunday of Advent

Worship on December 3, 10, 17 and 24 will include holy communion this year.

Rejoice has the habit of communing twice each month, but some of our family and friends commune every week. Have you ever wondered how that might be different?

Have you ever visited a church that does communion this way?

Advent is a short season (just 4 Sundays long) and historically, one that fits well with communion themes and practices.

This year, we'll sample every-Sunday communion for this short season, and in January return to our twice/month practice.

We believe and teach that communion is the undeniable forgiveness of our sins, and a meal of grace that nourishes us in faith.

Martin Luther thought there was no such thing as "too much grace." If you don't want to come forward each Sunday, you may remain seated or just come forward for a blessing.

If you'd like to talk more about the communion practices of the Church, Pastor Susan would LOVE that.

Rejoice Church Council Update

Your church council met on November 19. The October 29 council meeting minutes were amended to reflect the upcoming annual meeting date on February 4, 2024. The financial reports continue to be refined and much hard work is going into producing accurate monthly reports. The council tabled approval of the financial reports at the meeting given some questions about income. Your gifts to Rejoice are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The council approved a motion to provide a donation receipt to cover printing costs and to pay \$1,890.00 for the remaining balance for the savings card fundraiser. This represents a significant discount in what the vendor would typically charge for the fundraiser.

Sue Henstein is beginning work on the 2024 church budget.

Committee budgets are due to Sue by December 1.

Our insurance carrier has provided a premium quote for renewal of the policy in the next few months. The premium represents a substantial increase - in the range of \$4000-\$5000. Pastor Susan commented that this is the trend in church insurance and that several companies have left the church sector altogether. Paul Amundson will contact other companies for a quote but we will budget for the increase as quoted by our current carrier.

The Transition Team is wrapping up its work. The Mission Site Profile is nearly complete. This is an exciting step in the process of calling a new, settled pastor to Rejoice! We are thankful for the work of the Transition Team! The council executive committee (president, vice president, secretary) and Pastor Susan met after the council meeting and reviewed nominations for the Call Committee. The council will approve the Call Committee via email before the next meeting which is December 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Susan Chwalek, Council President

Young at Heart: Young@Heart

December 21, 2023



Ho, Ho, It's Christmas Time at Young@Heart and Santa is stopping by to visit all 'Good little girls and boys'. We're all kids at heart correct? I know I am this time of year. Our program is being planned by those two Lidberg girls, Audrey & Nancy. So what do they have in store for you? Well, a little music, a little Trivia, and a few surprises. Rhoda has arranged the flight of Santa from the North Pole to Rejoice Lutheran in Clearwater. No easy feat. Jim and his crew are planning a great Christmas luncheon for everyone. So what can I say, If you miss this you'll be sorry? Well guess who is going to miss it? Me!! I'll be in Benson, AZ until May (that is if the snow is gone).

Give Carol at the Rejoice Office (320-558-6851) a call so we may get an accurate count for dinner. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Linda Agre

Clearwater/Clear Lake Food Shelf:



Dear Congregation of Rejoice.

We are extremely grateful for the donation of \$285.

It's the generosity of the community that supports our friends and neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. It also reflects your commitment to the community.

The food shelf will have an additional box of holiday food items during December.

We're open to all who are struggling with food insecurity.

*** the food shelf will be closed December 26th – December 30th ***

Blessings, Karie E Gohman

Angels of Maintenance:



SHOVELING & SNOWBLOWING

(Rejoice has shovels & snow blower) It's that wonderful time of the year in Minnesota, when the snow falls, and the winds blow...And sidewalks need to be cleared. Rejoice is asking for volunteers that would be available to clean sidewalks on Sundays before 9:30am Worship after a snow fall of 2 inches or more.

Contact Paul Amundson if you can assist

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD
HELP US COME UP WITH A
BETTER SIGN FOR REJOICE?



Contact Paul Amundson 320-224-6119

Youth and Family:

European Christmas Tea - December 2

Inviting all kids of any age from Rejoice!

All kids! All ages!

You are invited to serve cookies at the tables at the **European Christmas Tea** on Saturday, December 2. You may serve from 10-11:00 a.m. or 11-12:00 noon.

Dress in your Christmas best if you wish! Please arrive 10 minutes prior for instructions.

Please let Lindsey Sand or Janelle Rudningen know if you can help serve on December 2.
lindseys6517@gmail.com or Janelle@rejoicelutheranchurch.org

You are welcome to bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas treats or bread to share.

You are invited to a
**European Christmas
Tea Party**

Saturday, December 2nd
10am-12pm



Taste flavored coffees & teas
Sample Scandinavian Treats
& Christmas Goodies.



Hosted by the Youth of Rejoice

Rejoice Lutheran Church

1155 Co. Rd. 75, Clearwater, MN 55320
320-558-6851 www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Looking for Kids for Our Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th

We are inviting you to help us with a nativity scene using you, the children, during the worship service Sunday, December 17!

We will ask the children to walk into worship during a hymn, "Away in a Manger" and sing along and then play the bells to "Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah".

Please try to attend Funday School December 3 and/or 10th so that we can get you a costume and practice our song for bells.



Rejoice Food Rescue

"Baby it's Cold Outside".....

Linda, a skilled knitter, with a heart of gold
Makes hats, scarves and mittens to ward off the winter cold
This lovely winter wear is freely given away
in the Food Rescue room, every Sunday.

If you have extra yarn for which you have no use or plans
your gift of yarn will benefit others and is in loving hands.

Area nursing homes need the following items:

- Large print books.
- Coloring books
- crossword puzzle books
- colored pencils and markers

Please drop these items in the Food Rescue room by December 10th.

We will deliver these requested items to the nursing homes.

Thank you,

Your Rejoice Food Rescue Team: Cheryl, Mike, Wally and Mary

Christmas Message to Rejoice Snowbirds:

We miss you, and wish you were here to share this joyful and holy season with us. Know that you will be thought of, and we pray that you will experience the simple peace of Christ. We ask you to remember us in your prayers. Be safe, be well and Merry Christmas.

IMPORTANT DATE!!!

All donations to Rejoice for 2023, must be received in the office by noon *December 28th* to be included on your annual giving statement. We thank you for your gifts and wish you and your family a safe and blessed holiday season.



Reminder that during the winter months if St. Cloud Schools are close due to inclement weather the Church Office will be closed.

Sunday Worship Servants

Sunday Worship	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 3pm Children's ----- 4 pm Christmas Eve	December 31 Service of Bells
Greeters	Jim & Carol Eich	Mary Wilson	Laurie & Jeff Hoff	Sue Severson & Mom	Kent & Grace Asheim
Ushers	Mary Wilson	Kent & Grace Asheim	Jim & Carol Eich	OPEN	Ryan & Lisa Pridgeon
Readers	Becky Brzinski	Rhoda Senkler	Gladys Steiger	Chris Schill	Rhoda Senkler
Communion Setup	Becky Brzinski	Lisa Pridgeon	Lisa Pridgeon	Lisa Pridgeon	X

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HC Holy Communion					1	2 European Christmas Tea 10a -12 noon
3 9:30a Worship/HC 9:45a SS 3yrs+ 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a – Noon Confirmation	4 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg. 7:00p AA Mtg	5	6 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	7	8 Office closed Confirmation Retreat	9 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church Confirmation Retreat
10 9:30a Worship/HC 9:45 SS 3yrs+ 10:15 Fellowship Mexico Mission 10:30 – Noon Confirmation	11 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg 7:00p AA Mtg	12 .	13 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	14	15 Office closed	16 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
17 9:30a Worship/Noisy Offering/Childrens Program 9:45 SS 3yrs+ 10:15 Fellowship 11:00a Council Mtg	18 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg. 7:00p AA Mtg	19 10:00a Women's Bible Study	20 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	21 10:30a-Young @ Heart. 6:30p Girl Scouts	22 Office closed	23 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
24 3pm Children's Service 4pm Service of Candlelight & Carols w/HC	25 Office Closed 7:00p AA Mtg	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 NOON – Deadline for 2023 year- end donations. Office Closed	29 Office closed	30 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
31 9:30a Worship Service of the Bells 9:45a SS 3yrs+ 10:15 Fellowship						



December Celebrations

Birthdays

12/2	Marilyn Koontz	12/11	Brett Hanson	12/21	Becky Brzinski
12/4	Jake Sanders	12/11	David Kirchoff	12/22	Alex Hard
12/4	Lydia Rausch	12/15	Donna Brown	12/22	Allan Groth
12/7	Blayne Leuthard	12/18	Natalie VanNurden	12/22	Kent Asheim
12/8	Cheryl Wedin	12/18	Logan Michalski	12/23	Korbin Wilmes
12/10	Deena Monk-Kobow	12/19	Julie Janski	12/24	Emelya Hanson
12/10	Pat Dahle	12/20	Madeline Johnson	12/26	River Wilmes
		12/20	Logan Wipper		

Anniversaries

12/23	Bryan & Caryn Dunderi		
12/29	Lee & Rosemary Monk	12/29	Darryl & Carolyn Bissell

Gratitude

**Thank You to all of those that volunteer their time to keep our Services running smoothly.
It takes many Church Members to run a Church.**

**We appreciate all that you do and are looking for additional Volunteers to assist for 2024!
Please contact the Office if you are interested in Sharing your talents.**



Sing Christmas Carols!

Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol you would like to suggest we sing on Christmas Eve? or on New Year's Eve morning worship?
Contact Janelle Rudningen at janelle@rejoicelutheranchurch.org and we'll see what we can do!



Share Your Music!

Do you have a recital piece or a song you would like to share with the congregation on Sunday morning for special music or for prelude? (vocal or instrument)
Contact Janelle Rudningen at janelle@rejoicelutheranchurch.org



First Communion

We REJOICED along with the 15 First Communion participants at the November 19th Worship Service!



It was truly a joyous event!

November 19th Noisy Offering
raised \$538.53 for God's Global Barnyard.

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
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday - closed

Telephone: 320- 558-6851

Web

www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Staff

Interim Pastor

Susan Debner

Office Administrator

Carol Eich

Music Coordinator

Janelle Rudningen

Office Assistant

Lisa Pridgeon



Celebrate at Rejoice

Children's Service - December 24th – 3:00pm

“Carols and Candlelight” service with Holy Communion
December 24th - 4:00pm