

REJOICINGS

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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November 2023

Sunday Worship Service

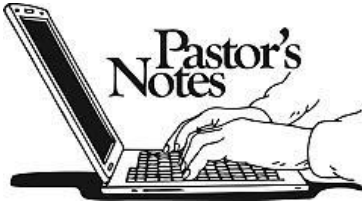
Worship will be in person at 9:30am on Sundays,
at Rejoice Lutheran Church as well as live streamed on the Rejoice
YouTube channel:

RejoiceLutheranClearwater YouTube.

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

November 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 November 19th.
- ❖ Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, November 21st at 10:00am.
- ❖ Young @ Heart - November 16th, Gift Card Bingo & Volunteer Thank-You Chicken Dinner. Doors open at 10:30am for good food & Fellowship. Lunch will be served at 11:30am.
- ❖ November 12th, 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 10:30 AM to Noon.



Like! And Share.

As part of our sermon series last month, I talked about the power of putting your *mouth* where your *money* is—how saying one positive thing about an organization you support with your money (like your congregation) can multiply your gift many times over by inspiring others.

A perfect example of how potent this can be is what happens when you “like” and “share” things on social media. Your friends can see what’s important to you, and that encourages them to check us out! These simple acts also increase the likelihood of Rejoice Lutheran Church showing up more often when people in our area are online looking for a church to visit.

Another way your voice can amplify your investment is when you comment online (as well as in conversation with friends and neighbors) about things that are happening through the congregation. In September, one parent asked me about having a first communion class. We put together a schedule, announced it on Facebook and in the worship videos, as well as in the newsletter. People liked and shared the information. By October 24, we had over 30 people signed up. That’s an amazing result!

There’s a lot of concern about the danger of social media, and it’s true it can cause serious problems. But don’t let those important worries erase the ways social media is helpful. The two most common ways people find a new church are with an online search or being invited by a friend. We elevate our online presence every time someone likes, shares, or comments on the congregation—this includes offering authentic, positive reviews on sites like Google and Yelp.

For some of us, I’m sure this feels like a foreign language. The nature and speed of social media is staggering for a few of us who remember party lines and rotary dial phones. To be fair, I grew up with both of those. I’m grateful for smart friends and patient kids who help me wade into this brave new world. Join me in stretching the reach of Rejoice. This is a generous, energetic, and authentic congregation with a deep love for its community. Comment, review, like and share this good news!

See you at worship, Pastor Susan

November Worship Notes

Sunday, November 5 All Saints Celebration with Holy Communion (see note below)

Sunday, November 12 Between All Saints and Thanksgiving—a consideration of your legacy

Sunday, November 19 Welcome to the Table! Join us for the celebration and blessing for First Communion with several Rejoice kids.

Sunday, November 26 Thanksgiving worship—this year, we will not gather on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, rather we will have a Thanksgiving Hymn Sing on Sunday morning. Bring your "Things I'm Thankful For" list along to worship, either on paper or in your heart, and join us as we sing and offer thanks to God.

All Saints Day, Sunday, November 5

In worship on November 5, we will raise up the names of the saints from our congregation, community, lives, and even those saints from across the whole history of the Church. The Lutheran definition of a saint is to be a forgiven sinner. As one friend likes to say, "Lutherans have a really low bar for sainthood." On All Saints Sunday, there will be an opportunity to light candles and share the names of those we love who have died, as well as to list the newest saints in our congregation—those who were baptized in the past year. Worship is both solemn and hopeful on this day. If you have family or friends who'd like a way to remember loved ones, bring them with you for worship on November 5.

November Confirmation Class

Sunday, November 12 after worship

Due to schedule conflicts, the confirmation retreat has been rescheduled to December. We will meet on November 12 to determine our updated meeting times and work on our "What Matters To God" project together. Bring your Bibles and any colored pencils or art supplies you'd like to use. Remember your help packing backpacks is needed every week on Sunday mornings, even when confirmation class doesn't meet. See you soon!

Rejoice Church Council Update

Your church council met on Sunday, October 29, 2023. We start each meeting by reviewing our core values. Where have you seen our core values at work in your life? Courageous Service, Extravagant Hospitality, Transformational Worship, Compassionate Justice, Joyful Generosity and Purposeful Community. Pastor Susan led us in interactive devotional time by asking: What is it that God is asking us to JOIN as a faith community in Clearwater?

Heidi Eckerman, our bookkeeper, has started her work. Financial reports were abbreviated as she has recently been out for medical reasons. The council tabled approval of any financial reports until more information is available at the next meeting. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING! We have not yet appointed a Treasurer to the church council.

Chari Ahrenholz reviewed the final report from the Fall Festival - please review that elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks be to God for such a successful Fall Festival! Thank you to Chari and Leah Ahrenholz for their leadership. They plan to start planning the next Fall Festival in March 2024 and will be looking for greater participation from the congregation.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU! The important work of the nominating committee will soon begin as they work to fill out the ballot for the Annual Meeting in February 2024. Two nominating committee members are needed at this time. Please talk to Susan Chwalek, Becky Bryzinski or Pastor Susan if you are interested in this important position.

We have signed a new agreement with Wright-Hennepin Security to update the fire and burglary systems. Thanks to Paul Amundson for his leadership on this. Paul is also looking for interested members to form a committee to replace and improve the outdoor sign. Please talk to him if you are interested in this committee. The lawn mower at church will also need to be replaced before the next mowing season. Stay tuned for more information about how you can be involved in this important ministry.

The Transition Team is wrapping up its work on the Mission Site Profile. Nomination forms for the Call Committee are now available and should be turned in to the church office by November 16. The Call Committee will be appointed by the council at our next meeting on Sunday, November 19.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our staff (Pastor Susan, Carol, Lisa, Heidi, Janelle), our musicians, our Fun Day School teachers, our volunteers, and you church council as we plan and move into the future that God is calling us to here at Rejoice.

Council President, Susan Chwalek

Young at Heart



Young@Heart

Thursday November 16, 2023

So who doesn't like BINGO? I can only name one person.

Join us and the Young@Heart Team in November for Gift Card Bingo.

That's correct., Prizes for this Bingo will be a gift card. People, who can't use a gift card?

An afternoon of fun with Wally calling numbers and a delicious catered dinner paid for by your 'Happy Dollars'.

Your Y@H Team thought it was about time to give Jim and his team a rest.

A big Thank you to all our Volunteers who work so hard to put everything together.

Give Carol at the Rejoice Office (320-558-6851) so we may count you for dinner. See You There, Linda Agre

Clearwater/Clearlake Food Shelf



October 1, 2023

Dear Friends of Rejoice ~

We are extremely grateful for the donation of \$180.00 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.

We continue to see an increase in clients –

In September we served 101 families: distributing over 9,525 lbs. of food.

The contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Serving friends and neighbors. Providing emergency food and support information.

C-CLFS is located in the brown Community Building under the water tower in Clearwater 1100 County Road 75, P.O. Box 324, Clearwater, MN 55320 320-558-2954 cclfs2954@aol.com

Blessings,

Karie E Monk Gohman

Co-coordinator, Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf

FYI....

You may have noticed a large concrete wall has appeared just beyond the pine trees south of Rejoice.

A Minnesota DOT building is under construction.

When complete it will be used to store DOT vehicles, salt, and sand for road maintenance.

Angels of Maintenance:

Show Us a SIGN !!

The Church Council has requested that the Building and Property committee begin work on a special church enhancement project to upgrade the sign in front of the church. We are looking for a group of individuals to come up with design proposals to present to the congregation. Photos below provide images of design possibilities from other churches.



This committee will be tasked with finding an appropriate sign that will: Identify the church, welcome visitors, announce events, promote outreach to the community.

MOW HELP NEEDED !!

For several years now lawn maintenance at Rejoice has been accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteers. This means the only cost for Rejoice is gas, oil, and maintenance. This has been significant savings for Rejoice. The equipment available for volunteers has been old donated lawn mowers that often won't start or have operational problems. If we expect to rely on volunteers in the future, then we need to provide them with equipment that is reliable, and easy to operate.

Building and Property is asking for the congregations help in locating the following lawn maintenance equipment before the spring of 2024.

- Lawn tractor – Looking for a new or slightly used machine. Prefer zero turn with a minimum 48 inch mower deck.
- String Trimmer – Battery operated

If you are aware of reliable equipment that is similar to that described please forward this to Building Committee Chairman, Paul Amundson.

Contact Info: Cell 320-224-6119

Rejoice has already received significant member donations toward the purchase of a new mower. Look for a funding appeal before the next summer mowing season begins.

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

Calling for Call Committee Nominees

The Council is requesting nominations for a call committee to work with the Holy Spirit, the congregation, and the SW MN Synod of the ELCA to identify our next pastor. Please read it carefully as you consider nominating yourself or another member of the congregation for this role. If you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Susan or Council President Susan Chwalek.

Call Committee Form

The Call Committee plays an important part in our community life. The committee is comprised of 5-7 members elected by the Congregation Council and blessed by the congregation to do the work of identifying a pastor for Rejoice. The Committee should represent the best and broadest sense of who we are, including people with a range of experience, perspective, and age. The work can be intense in time and effort, especially around the scheduling of interviews, but is also very rewarding. The length of commitment varies but is generally 6-15 months.

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Name of Nominee: _____

If not yourself, do you have the nominee's permission to nominate them?

Yes ___ No ___

Why do you want to serve on the call committee? Or Why are you recommending this person?


How are you/they representative of the congregation and the community around Rejoice?

How do you see your/their faith connecting with this search?

Is there anything else you'd like the council to consider?

Sunday Worship Servants

Sunday Worship	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Greeters	Bill & Rhoda Senkler	Kay Krogstad & Edith Johnson	Pam & Rick Bender	Craig & Shaylynn Reid & Kids
Ushers	Edith Johnson Gladys Steiger	Mary Wilson	Ryan & Lisa Pridgeon	Jeff & Laurie Hoff
Readers	Rhoda Senkler	Gladys Steiger	Becky Brizinski	Audrey Lidberg
Communion Setup	Karie Gohman-Monk	X	Karie Gohman-Monk	X

November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HC Holy Communion			1 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	2	3 Office closed	4 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
5 9:30a Worship All Saints Day/HC 9:45a Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30 – Noon Confirmation	6 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg. 7:00p AA Mtg	7	8 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	9 6:30p Girl Scouts	10 Office closed	11 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
12 9:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship – Mexico Mission 10:30 – Noon Confirmation	13 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg 7:00p AA Mtg	14	15 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	16 10:30a-Young @ Heart.	17 Office closed	18 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
19 9:30a Worship/HC/Noisy Offering/First Communion 9:45a Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 11:00a Council Mtg	20 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg. 7:00p AA Mtg	21 10:00a Women's Bible Study	22 9:00a Yoga for All	23 Office closed 	24 Office closed	25 9:00a 7 th Day Adventist Church
26 9:30a Worship/HYMN SING No Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship Pastor Susan Off	27 9:30-12:00 Library Mtg. 7:00p AA Mtg.	28	29 9:00a Yoga for All 1:00p Stitch & Pray	30		



November Celebrations

Birthdays

11/2	Tracy Nickolauson	11/14	Jeff Hoff	11/24	Bryce Hanson
11/5	Carolyn Stensby	11/14	Wally Westerberg	11/24	Gene Krogstad
11/6	Brian Johnson	11/17	Robert Eckerman	11/25	Bradley Johnson
11/7	Rhoda Senkler	11/18	Stella Heberling	11/26	Raya Dunderi
11/9	Paul Amundson	11/19	Mark Ahrenholz	11/27	Amber Doering
11/10	Lucia Holm	11/22	Elizabeth Barthel	1/30	Leigh Holman

Anniversaries

11/5 Ryan & Lisa Pridgeon
11/13 Michael & Linda Allen
11/30 Randy & Paula Lilga

Gratitude

From the 2023 Fall Festival Leaders,

Thank you to all Rejoice members who solicited and/or donated items to the raffle and silent auction. Thank you Rejoice members who worked to make the Fall Festival such a success this year. We earned more this year than any other previous year, over 17,000.00 after expenses. Here is a breakdown:

Silent Auction:	\$4,615.68	Bake Sale:	\$2,211.44
Olie's Grill:	\$1,260.56	Dinner:	\$3,355.98
Gift Boutique:	\$ 576.00	Raffle:	\$3,341.50
Farmers Market:	\$ 420.00	Granny's	\$2,881.76

Thank you went out to businesses that donated; feel free to thank them personally when you patronize the following:

Clearwater/Clear Lake/ Becker	Annandale/Silver Creek	Monticello	St. Cloud/Waite Park	Foley/Howard Lake
183 Hasty Diner	Annandale Art & Textiles	Applebee's	Bernick's Pepsi	Champion Meats
A-J Acres Campground	Bigalk's	Bluestone Grill	China Star Buffet	Murphy Chevrolet
Andra K Salon	Home-style Country Café	Chatter's	Coyote Moon Mt's on 8 th	TRB Farms
Brickyard Bar & Grill	In Hot Water Coffee Shop	China Buffet	Handyman's Hardware	
Brigg's lake Nursery	Lakeside Garden Center	Culvers	La Casita	
Burger King	Miller's Jewelry	Do Jo Karate	Marcus Theatres	
Butterwing's & Smith	Petty Brothers Meats	Fitness Evolution	Maverick's Steak House	
Circle G Farms	Thayer Inn	Loch Jewelers	Papa Murphy's	
Clearwater Animal Hospital	Up The Creek	Monticello Emagine	Pizza Topper's	
Clearwater Campground		Monticello C Club	Scheel's	
Clearwater Corners		Von Hansen's	RediMedics	
Clearwater Travel Plaza		West Metro	Skatin' Place	
Charlies			Summerland	
Clearwater Outfitters			Texas Road House	
Coborn's			The Grand Depot	
Daggett Trucking			Up in Smoke	
Dairy Queen				
Flintstone's				
Legion Post 323				
Light Body Fitness				
Mary Kay Cosmetics				
McDonalds Meats				
O'Brothers Beer & Wine				
Parts City Auto				
Ralphies Gas Station				
T & R Meats				

****The Fall Festival Committee plans to meet in March to start planning. Consider joining our team and do your part to make 2024 Fall Festival an even greater success!****

Thank you!

My family and I are so grateful for your prayers, kind words of sympathy, food, and other gifts, hugs and love extended to us on Pete's passing and memorial service. Your friendship and love lightened our spirits enormously.

Audrey Lidberg and family

Doors are open for walking 9:30 -3:00pm Monday – Thursday





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 Sunday School Children of

Rejoice Lutheran Church

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

****European Christmas Tea – December 2nd**

During your Holiday baking please plan on baking extra for these events – Thank You!



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

