

Rejoice Lutheran Church

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Clearwater, MN 55320
320.558.6851

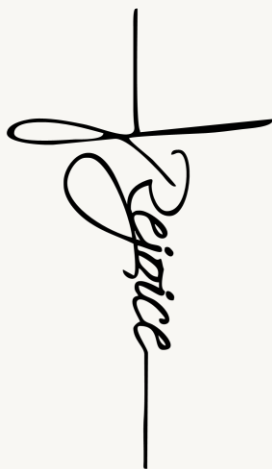
rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Worship Schedule:

Sunday:

9:30 am in-person worship
& online

Communion: Oct. 13th & 27th



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REJOICINGS



October 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, treats & Bible study after worship.

October Events

- NEW: Pastor Karleen will be leading a Bible study, "Excavator," Sundays after worship (10:45 – 11:30am)! All are welcome!
- A memorial for Gail Bradford will be held on Oct 5th at 10:00am.
- Women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday, October 15th at 10:00am.
- Young @ Heart will gather on Thursday, October 17th at 10:30am.
- Church council meets Sunday, October 20th at 11:00am.
- 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.
- Library meetings will be held at 9:30am Monday mornings.
- Girl Scouts will meet at Rejoice on October 2nd & 30th at 5:30pm.
- Mondays at 7:00pm, Alcoholics Anonymous gather at Rejoice.



Rejoice Church Council Update

Your council met on Sunday, September 15, 2024, At each meeting, the CORE values are recited and members share where they see these values in action among our church and community. This activity helps us to focus on “What is God up to?” and “What is God asking us to join?”

Pastor Karleen attended her first council meeting and offered devotions and prayer along with a report of her transition to Rejoice and Minnesota.

Discussions were held about endowment fund investments, worship & arts team, upcoming Sunday School, upcoming Fall Festival, and noisy offering schedule for the year.

The aluminum can collection has been turned over to an organization called Kingdom Works who will collect the cans for use in their fundraising. See separate article from Sue Severson for further information.

The next council meeting will be on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 11:00 am.

Submitted by Becky Brzinski, Council Vice President

Our God, Revealed in the Story

Narrative Lectionary - Year 3 (2024-25)

This new lectionary year offers the stories of Scripture, which reveal a God of promise, relationship, mercy, and new life. God is revealed in the often rocky relationship with God’s covenant people. The prophets look back to the history of this relationship between Israel and their Creator and also forward to the coming of the Messiah. God is fully revealed in this promised Messiah - Jesus. Jesus shows us the true nature of God - a loving and gracious God - through his teachings, healings, and relationships especially with people pushed to the margins of society. Jesus’ commitment to love eventually leads him to Jerusalem. And to the cross. Then, God is revealed in the church - born in the good news first proclaimed by faithful women. We all have news to share. The early church teaches us that we can spread the gospel in all circumstances - with the help of the Holy Spirit.

This fall, we’ll be digging into the Hebrew scriptures - the Old Testament. Throughout the rest of September and up until October 20th, we will focus on the theme, *Promises Made, Promises Broken*. Throughout the history of God’s people, God has made covenants - agreements with promises on both sides - with God’s beloved people. Yet, a tragic pattern emerged. God and the people would make promises to each other and, then, the people failed to follow the ways of God. In September we heard the promises God made to Adam and Eve at creation. Then, they ate the forbidden fruit. We heard the story of how God delivered the people of Israel from slavery and gave them the Torah. But, then, they worshiped a golden calf.

But, the truth is that God keeps God’s promises, just as God did with Abram, Joseph, Hannah and David. Even when the people have not held up their end of the bargain, God is faithful and renews the promise again and again.

This is the God we will see this lectionary year - our God who is revealed in the story of Scripture.
- Pastor Karleen

From Pastor Karleen Jung

I'm a bit of a wordaphile. I love words. I grew up reading. I worked with many people for whom English isn't their first language and began to appreciate the cultural significance of certain words. And, then, I had the privilege (!) of learning Greek and Hebrew in seminary. What I understand about words is that most of them are deeply embedded with culture.

For example, on September 29th, we'll hear the story of the Exodus in worship. And of Passover. Both of these words had incredible historical and cultural significance for the people of Israel. And for Jewish people today.

It's one of the reasons that I subscribed to this odd little monthly calendar that I use. Because every month there is a new word. And I get to spend the entire month thinking about, pondering over, and unpacking what that word means to me. And to others.

The word for October is "opportunity."

It might not seem like a *fitting* word for church. I'm not sure I've ever thought of my faith as being an opportunity. And yet, how many times have I heard someone say (Thank you, Rodgers & Hammerstein!), "When God closes a door, God opens a window." Opportunities can arise out of challenges and successes alike. Opportunities are circumstances that make it possible to do something.

If I think back on my own life and its most pivotal moments - from the painful and difficult ones to the larger-than-life decision-making ones, I'm always amazed at how much growth followed each opportunity. And how God led me into a new way of being, thinking, and doing.

Right now, at Rejoice, we are in a time of transition. I'm new to you. You're new to me. We're getting used to each other. We're in a pivotal time. This can be a real opportunity for us to boldly say "yes" to those things that carry out the mandate of loving God and loving neighbor. It can also be an opportunity to say "no" to those things that are no longer working for us - that no longer serve our mission as the body of Christ in our community.

So, what does this word mean to you? What are the opportunities that have shaped you into who you are today? Which doors opened that you leaped through over the years? Which windows did you have to crawl through when a door closed? Which doors were open that you may have missed or ignored?

And, finally, what opportunities to witness to Christ exist today - right in front of us - that need to be noticed? How might you and I step outside our comfort zones, trust the journey that God has placed us on together, and view these opportunities through fresh eyes and with a sense of wonder and purpose?

I challenge you this month to consider this word "opportunity." To reflect on it along with me, to wonder together where God might be leading us, and to jump wholeheartedly into any opportunities that arise where we might share the goodness and grace of God, known to us through Christ. May we take advantage of these opportunities this month. Every. Single. Day.

May God bless your October. I look forward to hearing about your experiences with opportunity!

Peace,
Pastor Karleen



BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

Come and join us from 10:45a-11:30a
every Sunday as we excavate each
week's Bible story, mining for the gold
beneath it.

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Council Team Updates



From the Social Concerns Team: The noisy offering on October 20th will go to ELCA World Hunger.

From the Outreach Team: The aluminum can recycling bin has been emptied and the contents recycled by a local outreach program for men suffering and recovering from addiction. Kingdom Works out of Annandale will be monitoring and collecting the cans for recycling as part of their fundraising efforts. Jason Fisher, program coordinator, will soon be speaking to us about the program. Submitted by Sue Severson

From the Personnel & Staff Support Team:

What can we do to get to know Pastor Karleen Jung?

We have a new pastor at 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 get to know 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

NOTE: Rejoice members and frequent guests are invited to provide a family photo (4" x 6" max.) for an album so that Pastor Karleen can get to know church members and other attendees. Pictures will be in a general (but not exact) alphabetical order. Post-It notes will be provided to identify those pictured. This is completely voluntary. Pictures can be updated with family changes (e.g., new baby, marriage).

Community Events:

Food Shelf Fundraiser: You may have noticed that building construction on the new Clearwater - Clear Lake Food Shelf has begun. In a recent conversation with Mary Abraham, she asked me to let Rejoice members know that funding is still a little short for completion of the building. In order to fill this funding gap there will be a fundraiser on October 12, 2024, at the Clearwater American Legion, dinner serving between 4 - 7:00 pm, includes entertainment, silent auction, meat raffle, and more. Please mark your calendars...Paul Amundson

Sunday, October 6th, 10:00a – “Just Because” celebration: This will include celebrating Liz Smith’s 89th Birthday along with another birthday celebration. Open house and potluck will be at Clearwater Estates Clubhouse.



THURSDAY, October 17, 2024

Our Friend, Charlie Roth

Will bring his music, stories, and his songs. Charlie has been at Y@H in the past and always brings a fun and entertaining time to share with us

JOIN US FOR
GOOD FOOD & 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

October 2024 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 1pm Stitch & pray 5:30p Girl Scouts	3	4 Office closed	5 9am 7 th Day Adventists 10am Gail Bradford memorial
6 9:30 Worship 10:00 Sunday Funday School 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Bible study	7 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	8	9 1pm Stitch & pray	10	11 Office closed	12 9am 7 th Day Adventists
13 9:30 Worship & communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Bible study	14 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	15 10am women's Bible study	16 1pm Stitch & pray	17 10:30am Young at Heart	18 Office closed	19 9am 7 th Day Adventists
20 9:30 Worship & noisy offering 10:00 Sunday Funday School 10:30 Fellowship 11 Church council	21 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	22	23 1pm Stitch & pray	24	25 Office closed	26 9am 7 th Day Adventists
27 9:30 Worship & communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Bible study	28 9:30am library meeting 7:00pm AA meeting	29	30 1pm Stitch & pray 5:30p Girl Scouts	31		

October Celebrations

Birthdays

10/2 Hailey Michalski
10/2 Mark Doering
10/4 Blakely Hartman
10/4 Gail Duneri
10/4 Elaine Niesche
10/4 Dianna Ahl

10/8 Joyce Mittendorf
10/8 Richard Bender
10/12 Liz Smith
10/16 Rory Graham
10/17 Steve Ziebarth
10/20 Teigen Neubert

10/22 Paul Michalski
10/23 Les Feist
10/23 Mathias Barthel
10/25 Edith Johnson
10/30 Doris Scharmer
10/31 Lee Monk

Anniversaries

10/3 Shane & Tab Allen
10/4 Brian & Julie Johnson
10/7 Tim & Tammy Tutz
10/9 Gene & Kay Krogstad
10/10 Mike Barrett & Diane Prickett
10/11 Jim & Carol Eich
10/13 Wally Westerberg & Mary Bergeron

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!

October 2024 Worship & Volunteer Calendar				
	Oct 6th	Oct. 13th	Oct. 20th	Oct. 27th
Greeter		The Grahams	Linnea Lindquist	Lee & Rosemarie Monk
Ushers	1. Pat Dahle 2.	1. Pat Dahle 2.	1. Pat Dahle 2.	1. Pat Dahle 2.
Communion Setup	X		X	Karie Monk Gohman
Fellowship				



Gratitude & Giving Thanks!

Thank you!!!!

Chari Ahrenholz and Doris Scharmer want to say a huge “Thank you” for the great help and participation in the Fall Festival. Watch for further news for success numbers. God bless you ALL!

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