

Rejoice Lutheran Church

1155 County Rd 75

PO Box 307

Clearwater, MN 55320

320.558.6851

rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Worship Schedule:

Sunday:

9:30a In Person & Online

Communion: March 9 & 23

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From Pastor Karleen Jung

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March 2025

Sunday Worship

Worship is in person at 9:30am on Sundays at Rejoice Lutheran Church and live streamed on our YouTube channel:

[@rejoicelutheranclearwater5447](https://www.youtube.com/@rejoicelutheranclearwater5447).

Join us in Fellowship Hall after for coffee & treats.

March Events

- Mar Sunday Worship and Fellowship
- Mar 5: Ash Wednesday
- Mar 12: Girl Scouts at 5:30 pm
- Mar 16: Church Council meeting
- Mar 20: Young@Heart 10:30 am
- March 27: Reel Spirituality Group
- Library meetings will be held at 9:30 am Monday mornings
- Mondays at 7:00pm, Alcoholics Anonymous gather at Rejoice
- Yoga Wednesdays @ 10am
- Stitch & pray meets Wednesdays at 1pm

Rejoice Church Council Update

Your church council met on Sunday, February 16. Sara Nelson and Mark Ahrenholz have spent hours on our financial

records and we approved a Treasurer's report which shows General Fund expenses greater than income by just under \$12,000 in January; cost of our mortgage exceeded income by just under \$1,000.

Pledges to the General Fund for 2025 are currently \$104,076 and to the Mortgage Fund are \$50,897. Thank you for your generosity and faithful giving! Thank you Sara and Mark for your diligence and hard work on the books!



Each member of the council shared their goals for this year. This is a work in progress, but here is what those goals look like so far:

Nurture the faith of our members through worship and educational opportunities. Re-establish Faith Formation programs: Sunday/Funday School, Bible study etc.

Provide opportunities for our members to respond to the Gospel through stewardship.

- Recruit, train, engage and recognize volunteers, teachers and leaders to support educational programs.
- Develop calendar, procedures, budgets for leadership of outreach events throughout the year.
- Gather time and talents information from adults and youth.

Be a caring congregation for our members and within our community.

- Design programs that encourage interaction and learning between generations.
- Build partnerships with local schools, community organizations, other churches and collaborate on educational initiatives that benefit the broader community.
- Develop programs that celebrate and respect diverse backgrounds and perspectives and promote cultural competency and understanding within the community.
- Organize and train lay visitors and new member partners.
- Explore options for additional mission partners in the community.

Improve the administration and management functions of our church.

- Seek funding which can support hiring of support staff and/or investment in resources for educational purposes.
- Plan for transitions on the council: recruit new members, provide clear roles and expectations.
- Hire a new music coordinator.
- Organize archived church materials and digitize materials as much as possible.
- Update the church history.
- Develop a narrative budget for 2026.
- Develop procedures and timelines for completing and maintaining our financial records.
- Continue to review our insurance needs and coverage and gather quotes in order to secure affordable commercial insurance.

Improve communication patterns in all areas of church life.

- Develop a comprehensive communication plan using multiple channels to inform the congregation and community about educational opportunities.
- Improve use of data in ChurchTrac to communicate with all members as needed.

Make Rejoice Lutheran Church a welcoming place for members and guests.

- Complete continuing maintenance, repair, and support actions including a Fall and Spring Cleanup Day.
- Explore options to lease space in the Education Wing and the land behind the Food Self.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Chwalek
Council President

Growing Young, Part 3

Empathize with Today's Young People: Why 25 is the New 15, and 15 is the New 25

When you were growing up - especially when you were a teenager, did anyone ever say to you, "We had it so much harder than you kids do today when we were growing up."? I sure did. And, honestly, when it happened, I felt misunderstood and often unheard.

We've been working through the book *Growing Young* since the beginning of the year. The chapter we're focused on this month begins with an interesting story of a young teenager named Steve, who was wrestling - as teenagers often do - with important questions of life. He went to his pastor to ask a simple question that was, really, a much deeper question about the nature of suffering. And, rather than listening to or digging deeper to understand the deeper questions behind his simple, more surface-level question, his pastor answered that question, rather than digging deeper to more fully understand why Steve was asking the question to begin with.

That young man - whose full name was Steve Jobs and who would eventually become the founder and CEO of Apple, Inc. - walked out of the church that day and never came back. When he went to his church to help him pin down answers, his congregation failed to understand what he was really asking.

When someone comes to us with a question, especially a young person, it's often an opportunity or on-ramp to a deeper conversation about faith instead of being a dead end. Churches that want to "grow young" must dive into the deep waters of the lives of our teenagers and young adults. We need to deeply empathize with their experiences today in what is often a challenging and frightening world.

By *empathy*, we don't mean patronizing young people. It also doesn't mean a superficial or false sympathy. It also doesn't mean judgmentalism, especially when it's cloaked in "helpful suggestions." When we talk about empathy, we mean *feeling with* young people. According to Stanford University, it's the work we do to understand people - the way they do things and why, what they're going through, what they might need, how they think about the world, and what is meaningful to them.¹

¹ Institute of Design at Stanford, "An Introduction to Design Thinking Process Guide."
<https://web.stanford.edu/~mshanks/MichaelShanks/files/509554.pdf>.

Young people are wrestling with three ultimate questions: Who am I? (a question of *identity*); Where do I fit? (a question of *belonging*); and What difference do I make? (a question of *purpose*). These questions aren't unique to young people, teenagers and young adults, but they often feel them much more intensely than older generations. Research has shown that adolescence is beginning earlier and ending later than in previous generations. Twenty-five feels like the new 15 and 15 often seems like the new 25. The starting line for our young people is earlier and later than those of different generations. The search for identity by young people is made much harder by their pervasive stress brought about by fears about what is happening in our world, the planet, and their own future. (As I was growing up we never had "active shooter" drills, did you?) It's also challenged by their peripheral faith - often feeling that they are part of, but not quite part of, our congregation. Then, the quest of our young people is also challenged by always present technology, growing sexual inquisitiveness, and adult abandonment. This generation's hunger for purpose remains unsatisfied because of their cynical realism and required straddling of many cultures and expectations.

Here are a few ideas that we might lean into to support our young people:

- Always respond with grace, love and mission. The good news of God's grace is more important than ever for our young people to hear.
- Think about your own story and your own journey as a teenager or young adult. It may be hard to rewind, but think about your own quest for identity, belonging and purpose. What was that like? How might that help you empathize more deeply with our young people?
- Stereotype no more. Recognize that every person - including every young person - is unique and wants to be seen in that way, just like you and me. Lean into their own experience with more empathetic listening so you can begin to understand what hurdles they are facing today.
- When you see something new, confusing, and maybe even offensive in culture, ask why. Ask why a trend is popular and then think about how it might be connected with identity, belong, or purpose. A conversation like that would go a long way towards understanding the experience of today's young people.
- Walk through our church building and worship service with the eyes of a young person. Empathize with how the church culture you have come to love feels to a first-time visitor, especially a young person.
- Dive deeper with one young person. Take the time. Notice them. Listen to them.
- Hang out once in a while with young people. It's an opportunity to learn about trends in youth culture, plus it helps keep all of us more young.
- Don't leave singles feeling singled out. Extended adolescence means there's a new gap between college and marriage that most congregations ignore. We often blame folks in their twenties for not being involved in our churches, but the reality is that we offer little or nothing for single adults that age.
- Support marriages...tangibly. Perhaps offer to mentor a younger couple that is nearing or just married.

Peace, in Christ,
Pastor Karleen

Soup Meal Coordinator Needed

A Soup Meal will be served during the 5
Lent services.

The coordinator will be responsible for
ensuring soup is available, service groups
are arranged, and set-up, service and
clean-up is accomplished.

Please, consider offering your time and
talents.

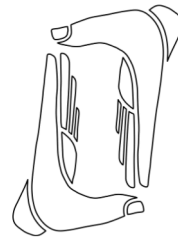
Contact Sue Severson for more
information at sseverson34@yahoo.com
or 320-266-2381.

Join us on Ash Wednesday

March 5th

Worship | 6:30p

Children's Worship | 5:30p



everything
(in) between

intention & action



Unbroken
A living faith

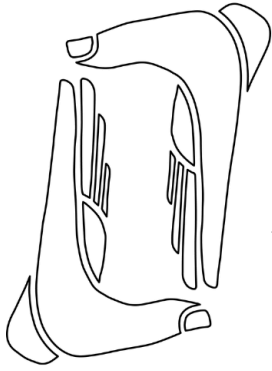
Dinner Church returns!

Wednesdays in Lent

Our faith is passed down from generation to
generation - it's an unbroken line of ancestry
that connects us all the way back to Jesus.
This Lent, using the emerging work of *A Living
Catechism*, we'll explore this great tradition
and how we are and always have been
both/and people - people living in the in-
between. We hope you'll join us!

**Wednesday evenings in Lent,
beginning March 12th at 6p.**

**Watch for more information and soup
sign-ups coming soon!**



everything [in] between

Meeting God [in] the midst of extremes

This Lent, you're invited to explore the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and an openness to being transformed. How do we see through scripture that the binaries of our world are false? How do we learn to see a fuller spectrum instead of simply black and white? Join us as we discover God present in the [in] between.

March's Noisy Offering -
on Sunday, March 23rd -
will go to support the
Clearwater - Clear Lake
Food Shelf as part of
their March campaign.
Be sure to mark your
calendars!



**CLEAR LAKE LIONS
FISH FRY
MARCH 7th & 21st, 2025**



**St. Marcus Parish Hall, Clear Lake
Serving from 4:30 pm to 7:30pm**

**ADULTS (11 AND UP) - \$16.00
KIDS (4-10) - \$8.00
3 AND UNDER - FREE**

Education - March Council Update

Hello, Rejoice Members Young and Wise-

I am looking forward to kicking off my term on the Council and diving into all things Education. I have set forth a few goals for the coming year(s) that I would love to share. Examine current programming, and revamp where needed to address the interests, ideas, and schedules of our congregation and our community. Create a thriving youth program where kids and teens feel part of the larger congregation and

community. This includes relaunching our Funday School program in March and starting our VBS planning! Look to make our programming engagement for all, ensuring that there are opportunities for all age groups to take part in continuing their faith education. This includes looking for opportunities for intergenerational learning.

Rebuild programming infrastructure and resources, reclaiming dedicated space and finding opportunities for enhancing our tools. Engage those interested in opportunities to serve as educators, advocates, or supporters of our education programs. Infusing energy into our programming and keeping things hopping!

If you are interested in serving on the Education Committee, or getting involved in programming. Please reach out to me. I look forward to the road ahead!

Let's do this!

Lindsey Sand
lindseys6517@gmail.com
320-760-6517



Hello Families of Rejoice Lutheran Church!

We are thrilled to announce that Funday School is making a grand comeback! Starting Sunday, March 9 th, we will be relaunching programming for our youth, Pre-K to 5 th grade. This will be a time for them to connect for a half hour of fun, learning, and growing in their faith.

When: Every Sunday from March 9 th -May 18 th . Children will get the opportunity to participate in the 9:30 AM service and then be excused prior to the “Sending” for dedicated Youth Time. Parents will be able to participate in Fellowship and youth can leave prior to the 11 AM timeframe if needed.

Where: Education Wing

Who: Youth, Pre-K through 5th grade

Expect engaging Bible stories, creative crafts, lively songs, and plenty of games that will make learning about God's love FUN! Whether your child is new to Funday School or a seasoned participant, we invite all youth to join us!

Need more info? Join the Funday School Team after worship on March 2nd in the Fellowship Hall to get your questions answered or to learn more!

You can also reach out to Lindsey Sand at 320-760-6517 or lindseys6517@gmail.com.

So, mark your calendars, invite friends, and get ready for a joyful journey of faith and fun!

Stay tuned for more information about our Summer Vacation Bible School and 2025-2026 School year plans!

Blessings, The Rejoice Funday School Team

March 20, 2025

Exciting New Program for Y@H

Group:

**St. Cloud Area Senior Fun
Singers Performance**



We will be treated to a special performance by the St. Cloud Area Senior Fun Singers. This talented vocal chorus, made up of individuals aged 55+, brings joy to the community through their music ministry. Their repertoire is diverse, covering everything from beloved show tunes, patriotic anthems, and big band hits, to pop songs and seasonal favorites.

We are thrilled to welcome this group for what promises to be a heartwarming and enjoyable performance. Please join us in making them feel at home and celebrating the power of music to bring people together!

Doors open at 10:30am and Lunch will be served at 11:30am

Please call the Rejoice office at 320-558-6851 to let us know if you are able to attend.

Bring a friend! We hope to see you there.

March 2025 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Saturday
						1 9a 7 th Day Adventists
2 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship & Food Rescue	3 9:30a Library 7p AA	4 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Play Rehearsal	5 Ash Wednesday 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 5:30p Children's Worship 6:30p Worship	6 6:30p Play Rehearsal	7	8 9a 7 th Day Adventists
9 9:30a Worship w/Communion 10:30a Fellowship & Food Rescue 11a Confirmation	10 9:30a Library 7p AA	11 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Play Rehearsal	12 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 6pm Dinner Church	13 6:30p Play Rehearsal	14	15 9am 7 th Day Adventists
16 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship & Food Rescue 11a Church Council	17 9:30a Library 7p AA	18 10a Women's Bible Study 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Play Rehearsal	19 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 5:30p Girl Scouts 6pm Dinner Church	20 10:30a Young @ Heart 6:30p Play Rehearsal	21	22 9am 7 th Day Adventists 9:30 Visitation Group Training
23 9:30a Worship w/ Communion & Noisy Offering 10:30 Fellowship & Food Rescue	24 9:30a Library 7p AA	25 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Play Rehearsal	26 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 6pm Dinner Church	27 6:30p Play Rehearsal 6:30p Reel Spirituality	28	

March Celebrations

Birthdays

John Brzinski, 3/8	Kirkland Allen, 3/21	Dayle Meyer, 3/28	Brian Sand, 3/30
Ayla Suchomel, 3/12	Rosemary Monk, 3/21	Michael Wedin, 3/29	
Betty Loehr, 3/17	Penny Leuthard, 3/22	Emry Graham, 3/30	

Anniversaries

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

We need worship helpers for March!

If you can help on Sundays by being an usher, greeter, communion helper, or serving coffee and treats after church, please sign up on our Church Connect page at rejoice.churchtrac.com or email the church office at info@rejoicelutheranchurch.org. A sign up chart will also be located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Or call the office at 320-558-6851 to volunteer. If you'd like an email reminder, be sure to include your email address. Or, lastly, scan the QR code and sign up. There are many, many ways to let us know how you'd like to help.



We thank you for your willing service to our congregation!

Sunday Worship Servants

Sunday Worship	March 2	ASH WED March 5th 5:30	ASH WED March 5th 6:30	March 9
Greeters (2 needed)	Darryl, Carol, Marilyn	X	Marilyn Lindsey	Mary and Darryl
Ushers (2)		Pat, Rhoda	Mark	Chris & Cindy
Fellowship (2)	Chari, Rosemary	X	X	Pam & Richard, Chari
Communion Steward (1)	X	X	Karie	Sue S.
Communion Servers (3)	X	X	Chari, Leah, Karie, and Sue S	Leah, Karie (1 needed)

Sunday Worship	March 16	March 23	March 30
Greeters (2)	Tyrell & Heidi	Richard & Pam	
Ushers (2)			
Fellowship (2)	Lindsey	Chari	Doris
Communion Setup	X	Karie	X
Communion Server	X		X

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

Office Hours

Mon 9:30a-2p
Tue-Thu 10a-2p

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ChurchConnect

rejoice.churchtrac.com

Website

rejoicelutheranchurch.org

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Karleen Jung

Office Administrator

Sara Nelson

Office/Social Media

Heather Conklin

Music Coordinator

Janelle Rudningen