

## 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:

9:30a In Person & Online  
Communion: April 6th & 20th

### Inside this Issue:

From Pastor Karleen Jung  
Rejoice Church Council Update  
Treasurer Update  
Holy Week & Easter Schedule  
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## Rejoicings

April 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 worship for coffee & treats.

### April Events

- Dinner church will be held Wednesday, April 2nd and Wednesday, April 9th at 6pm.
- Cast of Characters play will be performing on April 4th, 5th, 11th & 12th.
- April 13: Palm Sunday, 11a Church Council Meeting & Confirmation class
- Tuesday, April 15th, 10a Women's Bible Study
- Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday, Y@H at 10:30a, followed by 6p Worship Around The Table (with communion)
- Friday, April 18th, Good Friday, 6:30p Worship At The Cross
- Easter Sunday is on April 20th
- Library meetings will be held at 9:30a Monday mornings
- Mondays at 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous gather at Rejoice
- Men's Bible Study Wednesday, April 16th @ 8a
- Yoga Wednesdays @ 10a
- Stitch & pray meets Wednesdays at 1p



## *From Pastor Karleen...*

### Growing Young, Part 4

*Take Jesus' Message Serious: What's Young About the Good News*

I don't know about you, but I made a lot of mistakes when I was younger. That included getting pregnant in my early 20's before getting married at a time when that was not at all what someone who was "Christian" did. As you can imagine, I felt a lot of shame around that. My partner, who would later become my husband, was very supportive of me. Yet, it was hard for me to even talk about it with anyone, much less with anyone at church. I eventually lost the baby when I was about 5 months pregnant. When that happened, I was completely blown away by how my church family supported and surrounded us with grace and love. It changed me and my attitude toward this community of faith, helping me to understand what it really means to take Jesus' message seriously. And, especially, to understand that this message is not one of shame, but of redemption. It's not a narrative of being cast out based on sin, but one of being embraced and restored.

That congregation - a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran congregation, mind you - was following Jesus' message, the good news that is about freedom, not condemnation. And the restoration of one who felt broken to restoration.

The teenagers and emerging adults we know face a long list of obstacles that threaten to get in the way of their search for Jesus. That includes our culture and their extended adolescent journeys. It also includes churches that are "drained by a thin gospel." What's a "thin gospel?" It's a gospel that isn't just preached, but lived throughout a community of faith..

As the authors of *Growing Young* did their research, they found that those congregations who were committed to taking Jesus' message of grace and redemption seriously, demonstrated it in action and through an overall spirit that pervaded the faith community.

Now, maybe you've heard less-than-inspiring news about the faith of today's young people. Recent research by the National Study of Youth and Religion identified that the dominant religious belief system of teenagers today was that of *moralistic therapeutic deism*. This belief system is *moralistic*, meaning the religious young people equate faith with being a good, moral person (being *nice*). It's about *therapeutic* because faith is a way of feeling better about themselves. And it's *deistic*, meaning that God exists, but this God is not one that is active in our today with much regularity. Thanks to moralistic therapeutic deism (MTD), God has essentially become a heavenly butler for teenagers, inspiring them at best to become cordial to others.

So, how do we share the Gospel in a way that allows faith in young people that comes from being open and questioning, not from a moralistic perspective. Churches who take Jesus' message seriously pay attention to the life and words of Christ. This results in young people who can articulate a gospel that is less talk about beliefs and more talk about Jesus, less tied to formulas and more focused on redemptive narrative, and less about heaven later and more about life here and how.

Young people want to know not only what they are saved *from* but also what they are saved *for*. They want to take action, not just hear about what they can't do. *Participation* and *challenge* are two central features of churches growing young.

Young people want to share their faith today in a way that looks different from the past. This includes authentic relationships, listening well, and being honest about questions and doubts.

The conversations we have during worship are intended to lean into this, building intentional cross-generational relationships that feel true, inviting one another to talk and also to *listen* well, and to be open to asking questions. It means wondering together about what a story from scripture might be saying, not simply jumping to the moralistic summary of our own youths.

Honestly, it feels fresher and freer and much more like the way in which Jesus did his own ministry.

So, notice next time you hear a scripture story and what words and phrases are being used to talk about Jesus, the gospel, and sharing our faith. And, if you're with a young person, notice, in particular, how they respond to a message that *isn't* moralistic, but that seeks to lean into relationships and truly living as the connected body of Christ. They will notice. And thank you for it.

Peace, in Christ,  
Pastor Karleen

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### ***From the Church Council...***

Your church council met on Sunday, March 16th.

The current network system at Rejoice has many issues and is in serious need of updating. We have researched our needs and have received a quote for updating the system - \$3,200. Please stay tuned for fundraising opportunities for this update and consider a big tip at the Cast of Characters performance to support the network update needs. Thank you for your generosity!

**Spoke Folk** is an immersive faith-building experience for young people filled with Bible study, prayer, small groups and other discipleship habit training as well as learning a program filled with music, personal testimonies, and drama. Participants complete an 8 day tour biking to a new church each day to share the program with a new congregation and practice what it looks like to be bold in sharing what they believe in a supportive environment to be better practiced and strengthened to go home and do the same. Spoke Folk would like to stop at Rejoice on June 25 this year. **In order to host the group, two things are needed: A COORDINATOR AND HELP FOR THE EVENT and PEOPLE TO ATTEND THE EVENING PROGRAM ON JUNE 25. Please contact Susan Chwalek if you are willing to help host this event at Rejoice in June.**

Rejoice will once again host the **Clearwater Farmer's Market** this summer. The market will take place in our parking lot every Friday (except July 4) in June, July and August.

It's time to think about gardening! **Rejoice has 8 raised beds available for \$20 and some in-ground areas available for \$30 for the season.** Please contact Kathy Langva if you are interested in the Rejoice community garden this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Chwalek  
Council President

## *From the Treasurer...*

The General Fund giving continues to be a significant concern. For the first two months, the total given to the General Fund was \$31,307.09, coming in a little over \$10k short of the needed budget amount of \$41,371. Building Fund giving was \$16,213 versus a budget of \$11,410. If you are able, please consider increasing your monthly donation to the general fund. Thank you for your continued generosity and support for Rejoice.

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**Thursday, April 17th**  
John & Fran Roscoe,  
of Minnesota Round Barns

This morning, as I gaze towards the Dragoon Mountains, all I can see is a vibrant line of green. The cottonwood trees lining the San Pedro River are bursting with fresh, bright green leaves, signaling that Spring has arrived and new life fills the air here in Arizona. As I look at the arrival of Spring I remember my Dad on either Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday saying, "Climb in the car we're going for a ride." One thing I remember is looking at the barns, some with Quilts painted on them. Which is why I thought you would enjoy our guest speaker for April. John Roscoe, who, along with his wife Fran, will share the fascinating history and stunning photos of Minnesota's Round Barns. For those of you who grew up on a farm—or perhaps just passed by one—this is sure to be a familiar and interesting topic.

Our Young@Heart group will meet on Thursday, April 17th, which happens to be the first time one of our get-togethers coincides with Holy Week. Pastor Karleen will enhance our gathering with a special after-program on the Stations of the Cross, and you're more than welcome to join her.

**Doors will open at 10:30, Lunch will be served at 11:30.** Please call the Rejoice Office at 320-558-6851 to let us know you'll be attending. We're looking forward to seeing you there—feel free to bring a friend along!

## *From the Education Council*

Hello Families of Rejoice:

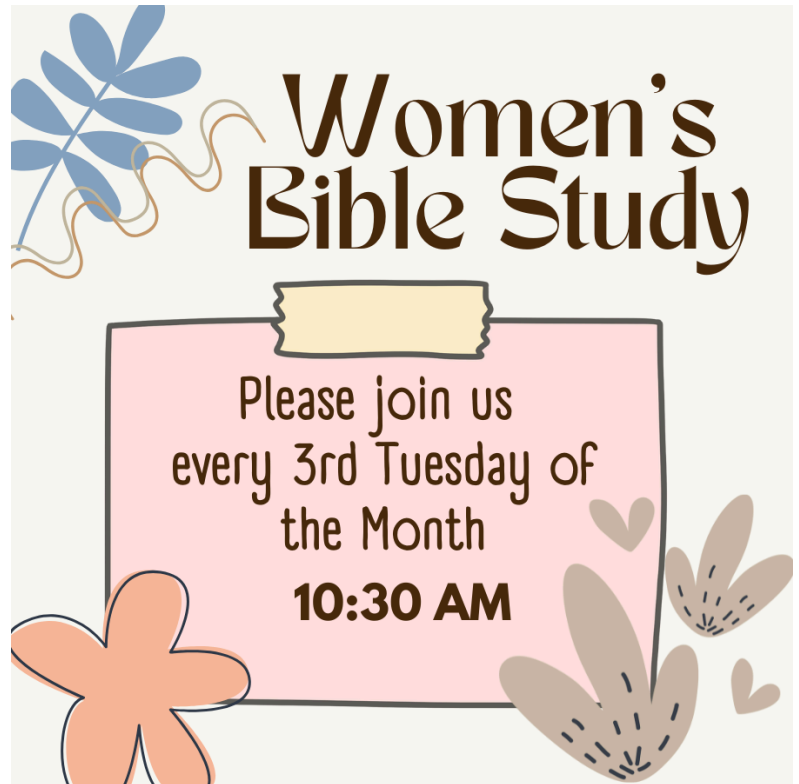
We have successfully relaunched our FunDay School Program on Sunday mornings. We are trying a different scheduled approach to allow kids to participate in our services, as well as have time with their peers. This format will be in place through the remainder of this “school year” (through May 18 th ). We are open to your feedback and would love to hear about your interest in supporting this program into the next school year. We will also be setting an upcoming date to begin planning for our Vacation Bible School.

Please send me an email if you are interested in partaking in planning and leading/supporting.

Please note as well the relaunch of Bible Study groups at Rejoice. Thank you to those taking the lead in this effort. We look forward to bringing forward additional opportunities for our congregation to engage in interest areas to deepen our faith and relationships with one another.

Thank you all for your support.

Lindsey Sand  
Lindseys6517@gmail.com



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### **From Personnel:**

We are still seeking someone to fill the Music Coordinator position. If you are interested in this 2-4 hour per week position or know someone who would be a good fit, please visit <https://www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org/employment>

# Holy Week and Easter - This Year @ Rejoice

As we approach Easter, we invite you to observe Holy Week, a sacred time to linger in the space between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. This week challenges the divisions that separate humanity, such as powerful and powerless, enemy and friend, innocent and guilty. Holy Week provides an opportunity to confront our pain and the pain of others.

**Our Holy Week Liturgy, which will be identical for both services on Maundy Thursday at 6:30p and Good Friday at 2p,** offers a creative way to engage in this sacred time through communion, prayer, meditative Taizé songs, and expressions of grief.

We will also observe the **Stations of the**

**Cross**, an ancient meditative pilgrimage on Jesus' "Way of Sorrows" to his death. We will use a graphic art series by Lauren Wright Pittman that offers a modern reflection on Jesus' journey to crucifixion. A companion guide will be available for you as you follow Jesus' journey on Maundy Thursday, from 1-6p and Good Friday, from 11a-1:30p.

Then...





**...Be sure to join us on Easter Sunday for Festival Worship at 9:30a!**

We know that Easter Sunday is meant to be a jubilant celebration, a chance to begin again. Yet, for many, grief can weigh heavily on their hearts.

Therefore, this Easter, it is important to make space for those spaces in between - between grief and joy, mourning and hope, as we recognize that these emotions can coexist.

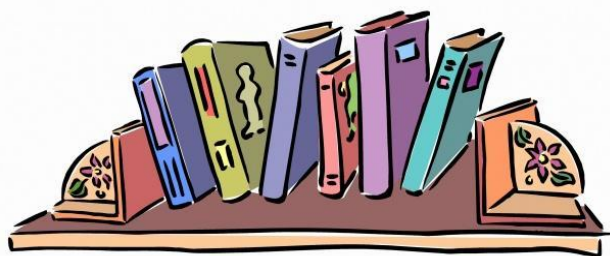
The good news of Easter is that resurrection is for everyone, no matter where they find themselves on the spectrum of grief and hope.

We hope you will join us this Holy Week and Easter at Rejoice!



Join us on  
**Easter Sunday**  
April 20th  
Festival Worship | 9:30a  
Continental Breakfast | 10:30a

 everything  
[in] between  
grief & hope



**April's Noisy Offering**  
on Sunday, April 27th will benefit  
the Rejoice Library! Save your  
money to help support learning.



# Men's Bible Study

The inaugural meeting of the Men's Bible Study happened on Wednesday, March 19th.

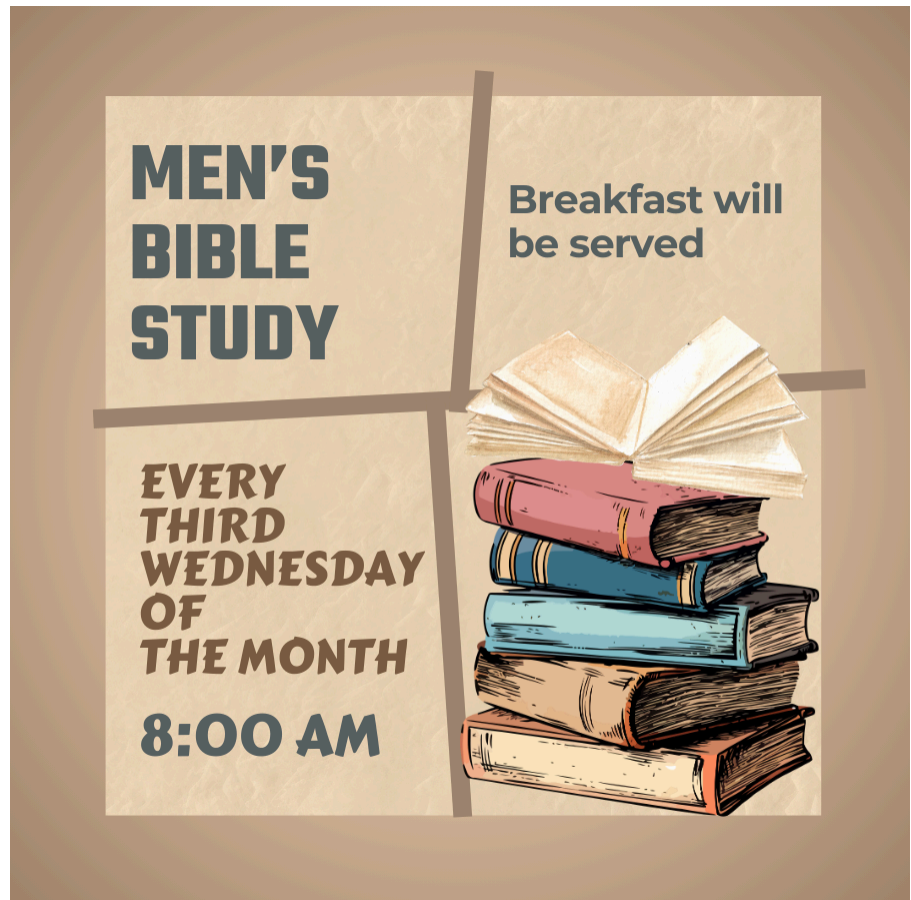
There were eleven in attendance and at that time a decision was made to continue with Men's Bible Study once a month on the third Wednesday of each month. The start time

will be 8 o'clock in the morning and the gathering will include breakfast.

During our first gathering last month, we welcomed a gentleman who showed up because he had heard about our Bible study group. He also informed us that he was looking for a faith community to join.

It was apparent to all of us that this ministry is already working. Please come and enjoy some faith fellowship on April 16th at 8:00a. Be sure to extend an invitation to a friend or neighbor and bring them along!

See you on April 16th!





**Community Food Rescue: Vegetables, produce, bakery items that have been donated by various individuals and community businesses are available to you at no charge.**

We are a land of plenty; however most of us are challenged by the increasing cost of food. The Food Rescue program provides a variety of fresh vegetables and other food that will supplement your dinner table. We are committed to your well-being as well as the environment. Needlessly food is dumped into landfills rather than consumed.

**So join us, come on down to the Education Wing of Rejoice, take what you and your family will enjoy. Good for you, good for the environment!**

# REEL SPIRITUALITY

## THE FISHER KING

Thursday | 6:30 PM

April 24, 2025

Online



Scan to register



# Clearwater Cast Of Characters

Presents

## *The Viewing Room*



Written by Mark Edward Smith

Directed by Kent Asheim

**Cast of Characters**

In Memory of  
**Chester Dumbrosky**  
“Deceased 2025”

The Clearwater Cast of Characters play is scheduled for March 28th-29th, April 4th-5th, and April 11th-12th. This show is filled with lots of laughter and at times, some real life situations.

There are still dinner tickets available for all shows.

New this year, we are offering show-only tickets. Please call (320)342-6603 for reservations.



From Our Community...

# Easter

## Ham Bingo



Sunday, April 13th



Starts at 2PM  
Doors Open at  
1:30 PM

Faith Lutheran Church



11755 Sherburne Ave  
Becker, MN



# **Local Children's Haven International Fundraisers**

We've received an email from a former youth member of Rejoice, providing information about upcoming fundraisers for Children's Haven International. This is the charity that supports the Mexican orphanage that our own Mexico Mission team serves annually.

This young woman - Katie Neuman - participated on one of those mission trips with other Rejoice members in 2015. Since then, she has organized a team of her own consisting of 22 people and has gone every year since then.

They will be hosting two fundraisers for Children's Haven and invite us to come and dine with them and say "hello!" Here are the dates and locations:

Monday, March 31st, from 4-8 pm at the Monticello Pizza Ranch

*and*

Tuesday, April 1st, from 4-8 pm at the Monticello Culver's

From Katie...

"We are glad to send these funds to Children's Haven and would love local support for their ministry. Thank you for considering to dine out either (or both!) of those nights. 😊

Thank you so much,  
Katie Neuman

## April 2025 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 5:30 Girl Scouts 6p Dinner Church	3	4 6p Cast of Characters Play	5 9a 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists 9:30a Care Ministry Training 6p Cast of Characters Play
6 9:30a Worship w/Communion 10:20 Funday School 10:30a Fellowship & Food Rescue	7 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 9:30a Library 7p AA	8 11a Staff Meeting 6:30p Play Rehearsal	9 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 6p Dinner Church	10 11:30 - 1p Clear Valley Business Connections	11 6p Cast of Characters Play	12 9a 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists 6p Cast of Characters Play
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>						
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 9:30a Worship 10:20 Funday School 10:30a Fellowship & Food Rescue 11a Confirmation 11a Council Meeting	14 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 9:30a Library 7p AA	15 10:30 Women's Bible Study 11a Staff Meeting	16 8a Men's Bible Study 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray 5:30p Girl Scouts	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b> 10:30a Y@H 1-6p Stations of the Cross 6:30p Worship	<b>18 Good Friday</b> 11a-1:30p Stations of the Cross 2p Worship	<b>19 Holy Saturday</b> 9am 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> 9:30a Worship w/Communion 10:30a Fellowship - Continental Breakfast	<b>21 Easter Monday (Church Holiday)</b> <i>Office closed!</i> 9:30a Library 7p AA	22 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	23 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray	24 6:30p Reel Spirituality	25	26 9am 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists
27 9:30a Worship, Noisy Offering 10:20 Funday School 10:30 Fellowship & Food Rescue	28 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 9:30a Library 7p AA	29 11a Staff Meeting	30 10a Yoga 1p Stitch & Pray			

# April Celebrations

## Birthdays

Thom Cotton 4/1	Jill Charboneau 4/4	Diane Prickett 4/13	Michael Allen 4/20
Martha Johnson 4/1	Jean Ziebarth 4/7	JoEllen Amundson 4/15	Shalynn Reid 4/22
Deborah Biorn 4/2	Jen Holm 4/11	Tyler Canon 4/16	Colleen Chwalek 4/22
Kristen Sancers 4/2	Jean Meyer 4/11	Scott Scharmer 4/18	William Rudningen 4/28
Linda Campana 4/3	Lori Lanes 4/13	Tabitha Allen 4/20	Cheryl VanNurden 4/30
Shaana Allen 4/4			

## Anniversaries

Heather & Eric Hendricks 4/6	Kent & Grace Asheim 4/27	Robert & Heidi Eckerman 4/29
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## *We need worship helpers for April!*

If you can help on Sundays by being an usher, greeter, communion helper, or serving coffee and treats after church, please scan the QR code or sign up through the link in the weekly email or on our Church Connect page at [rejoice.churchtrac.com](http://rejoice.churchtrac.com). We appreciate your leadership!





**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

**Telephone**

320-558-6851

**ChurchConnect**

[rejoice.churchtrac.com](http://rejoice.churchtrac.com)

**Website**

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

**Staff Pastor**

Rev. Karleen Jung

**Office Administrator**

Sara Nelson

**Office/Social Media**

Heather Conklin

**Music Coordinator**

Janelle Rudningen