

YOU CAN

CONNECT with *Joy*

A family church teaching people to reach their world

WINTER/SPRING 2026



Warm your
winter with
Joy **community**

in this issue

NEW GROUP LISTINGS, CONNECT AND GROW THIS WINTER

JOY CHRISTIAN CENTER | 770 21ST AVE NE, ST. CLOUD, MN 56304 | GREATJOY.ORG

Join us for GROUPS Better Together

Find & Register for your group

3 Options for registration & payment

1



CHURCH
CENTER APP



2



ONLINE
greatjoy.org



3



IN PERSON
Sign ups at Joy:
January 4, 11 & 18

Groups Table of Contents

SUNDAY

7:00 – 8:30pm – 35 Below

MONDAY

6:00 – 7:30pm – Healing University – Part 1

6:30 – 8:00pm – Blessed Are the Neurospicy

6:30 – 8:00pm – Fourth Step Workshop

TUESDAY

6:00 – 7:30pm – Middle East Meltdown – Part 2

6:00 – 7:30pm – Tongues Beyond the Upper Room

6:00 – 8:00pm – Fathers Forging Young Men

6:30 – 8:00pm – Planning Your Summer Garden

WEDNESDAY

6:00 – 7:30pm – Discover You!

6:00 – 8:00pm – The Chosen

6:45 – 8:15pm – Discerning the Voice of God

THURSDAY

1:00 – 2:30pm – Middle East Meltdown – Part 2

6:00 – 7:00pm – Doing Life With Your Adult Children

6:00 – 7:30pm – Luke: Gut Level Compassion

6:30 – 7:30pm – Financial Peace University

6:30 – 7:30pm – Living Intentionally

6:30 – 8:00pm – Ladies Game Night

SATURDAY

6:30am – 3:30pm – Ladies at the F5 Range

8:00 – 10:00am – Men's Java with Jesus

35 BELOW | 10 WEEKS

This group exists for young adults to meet like-minded people, going through similar stages in life. Our focus will be on fellowship, as well as spiritual subjects, with some good old-fashioned hangout time. All young adults are welcome whether single or married. JoyCare is available, for those with kids. We'd love for you to join us!

WHEN: Sundays, 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1 & 3/15

TIME: 7:00–8:30pm

LEADERS: Ashton Sahlstrom | 320-241-2290
Megan Stiles | 605-809-5489

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults ages 18–35

BLESSED ARE THE NEUROSPICY | 6 WEEKS

Do you deal with autism (ASD), Aspergers, ADHD, OCD, dyslexia or other forms of “neurodivergence” and would like a place to share experiences and find mutual support in a biblical context? Please join us as we discuss the engaging book, *Blessed are the Misfits* by Brant Hansen, an “Aspie” himself. A formal diagnosis isn’t required, just an awareness of neurodivergence traits that impact your life. Screening tools are available at spicybraintest.com and psychology-tools.com/test/autism-spectrum-quotient.

WHEN: Mondays, January 19–February 23

TIME: 6:30–8:00pm

LEADERS: Scott Pauley | scopau60@gmail.com

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: 12

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults

THE CHOSEN - SEASON 5 | 8 WEEKS

What does it actually mean to be chosen? To answer that question, we will look through the eyes of those who met Jesus. Join us as we view and discuss the latest season of *The Chosen*.

WHEN: Wednesdays, February 11–April 1

TIME: 6:00–8:00pm

LEADERS: Pastor John Jose | 320-253-7819
Sandra Brakstad | 320-267-1396

WHERE: Sandra Brakstad's home

GROUP SIZE: up to 10

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults

DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD | 7 WEEKS

If hearing God has seemed challenging, Priscilla Shirer invites you to explore a more intimate relationship with Him, one that can make hearing Him—His will, His heart and His voice—your ongoing experience. Discover how you can listen with greater confidence, clarity and discernment.

WHEN: Wednesdays, January 21–March 4

TIME: 6:45–8:15pm

LEADERS: Maggie Schefers | 320-248-3007

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 12

COST: book - *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer

OPEN TO: women and girls (grades 11 & up)

let's **GROW TOGETHER** *with community*

DISCOVER YOU! | 1 DAY

Join us for this interactive group designed to help you discover more about yourself. We'll be doing a gift inventory and personality assessment with time to explore what this means for your life and relationships.

WHEN: **Option 1:**

Wednesday, January 7, 6:00–7:30pm

Option 2:

Wednesday, March 4, 6:00–7:30pm

LEADERS: Pastor John Jose | 320-253-7819

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults and teens (grades 9 & up)

DOING LIFE WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN | 6 WEEKS

Parenting doesn't stop when a child turns eighteen...and because your head and heart are as involved as ever, it can actually be more complicated! In this video series, you will gain understanding, wisdom and insight on how to navigate the toughest and most rewarding parts of parenting grown kids.

WHEN: Thursdays, January 22–February 26

TIME: 6:00–7:00pm

LEADERS: Brad & Jane Messner | 612-750-7943

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 10

COST: book - *Doing Life With Your Adult Children* by Jim Burns

OPEN TO: adults

FATHERS FORGING YOUNG MEN | 4 WEEKS

Ready to stop talking about “man skills” and actually start building them with your son? Fathers and sons please join us as we roll up our sleeves and work side-by-side and hands-on with metal forging and welding (building a knife, ax and metal cross).

WHEN: Tuesdays, January 20–February 10

TIME: 6:00–8:00pm

LEADERS: Matt Foster | 320-309-8405

WHERE: Matt Foster's Garage

GROUP SIZE: up to 9

COST: none

OPEN TO: men and sons (grades 6 & up)

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU) | 8 WEEKS

If you want to win with money, you can't keep doing what you've always done— FPU's seven baby steps lay out a clear path to know where you are and where you're headed next. If you follow each step with great focus and intentionality, your life will change! Invest \$25 into your future and upon completion of the course, it will be refunded.

WHEN: Thursdays, February 5–April 2
(no group 2/12)

TIME: 6:30–7:30pm

LEADERS: Randy Forcier | 612-802-0224

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 10

COST: fee - \$25/person or married couple
(refunded upon completion of course)

OPEN TO: adults



FOURTH STEP WORKSHOP | 6 WEEKS

Freedom is available! You will learn the tools to let go of your hurts, bitterness, resentments and fears. You can have peace and happiness like God intended you to have when you find out how to let go and let God heal you.

WHEN: Mondays, April 6–May 11

TIME: 6:30–8:00pm

LEADERS: Mike & June Redmond | 320-252-2481 or 320-292-1867

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none (*Donations accepted for printing, rent and celebration meal of week 6*)

OPEN TO: adults



HEALING UNIVERSITY - PART 1 | 8 WEEKS

In this video-based study from Charis Bible College (including Andrew Wommack), you will gain a deeper understanding of what the Word of God says about healing—spirit, soul and body. Learn how to pray effective and powerful prayers and be equipped to put this knowledge into practice. Get ready to receive what God has provided!

WHEN: Mondays, January 19–March 9

TIME: 6:00–7:30pm

LEADERS: Brad Messner | 612-750-7943

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults and teens (grades 10 & up)

LADIES AT THE F5 RANGE | 1 DAY

Ladies, join us for a one-of-a-kind handgun basics experience. Our focus will not be about competition or pressure but safety, confidence and learning together. The F5 Range specializes in making instruction simple, professional and enjoyable with an emphasis on helping women feel more capable, aware and comfortable. All equipment provided. Coffee, snacks and lunch included. Visit the website for more information: f5range.com.

WHEN: Saturday, March 28

TIME: 6:30am–3:30pm

LEADERS: Michelle Jose | 320-828-1373

WHERE: F5 Range
56290 Nature Ave, Pine City, MN 55063

GROUP SIZE: up to 14

COST: fee - \$105

OPEN TO: women

LADIES GAME NIGHT | 6 WEEKS

Escape the stresses of life and enjoy some great fellowship filled with fun and laughter. We'll meet twice a month.

WHEN: Thursdays, 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2 & 4/16

TIME: 6:30–8:00pm

LEADERS: Karen Rekowski | 320-333-8934

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 6

COST: none

OPEN TO: women

you said, yes!

I have Decided

to follow Christ
to be Water Baptized
to get Involved at Joy

now...stop by The Joy kiosk

LIVING INTENTIONALLY | 7 WEEKS

This group is for you if you desire change, have tried and failed multiple times, feel defeated in your Christian walk or might describe your faith as “hot and cold.” We’ll focus on discipleship and accountability as we strive to build our lives on the firm foundation of Jesus. The goal is to move from intention to direction—learning to live out God’s truth consistently and with purpose.

WHEN: Thursdays, January 22–March 5

TIME: 6:30–7:30pm

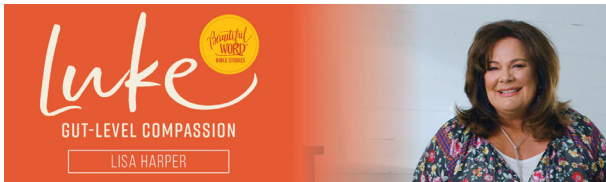
LEADERS: Jesse Jose | 320-339-6671

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 8

COST: none

OPEN TO: men ages 18–39



LUKE: GUT-LEVEL COMPASSION | 8 WEEKS

Perfection not required! Many of us believe we aren’t good enough to meet people’s expectations, which can lead us to assume we’re not good enough for God either. In this study of Luke by Lisa Harper, we see that perfection is not a prerequisite for a deep and personal relationship with Jesus and that God embraces the outliers, outcasts and overlooked.

WHEN: Thursdays, January 22–March 12

TIME: 6:00–7:30pm

LEADERS: Katy Ahlstrom | 503-717-2608

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 10

COST: book - *Luke: Gut-Level Compassion* by Lisa Harper (ISBN: 978-0-310-14134-1)

OPEN TO: adults

MEN’S JAVA WITH JESUS | ONGOING

Come grow in your relationship with God and other men of faith. We start with a short message based on a Bible topic or building on Sunday’s current sermon series. After brief introductions, the guys will have an opportunity to share testimonies of God’s work in their lives. We end with a time of encouragement and prayer for any concerns we may have.

WHEN: Saturdays (no grp 1/31, 2/7, 4/4 & 5/23)

TIME: 8:00–10:00am

LEADERS: Randy Piechowski | 320-267-4793

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none

OPEN TO: men



MIDDLE EAST MELTDOWN - PART 2 | 16 WEEKS

These lessons that complete our review of Ezekiel 38 and 39 as well as a series of questions about the Middle East from other Old Testament books, will help us understand God's plan for bringing the Jewish people into spiritual restoration and salvation. We will be discussing the video series "The Middle East Meltdown" and current events to show how prophecies over 2600 years ago are coming to pass today.

WHEN: **Option 1:**

Tuesdays, 6:00–7:30pm

Option 2:

Thursdays, January 22–May 7
1:00–2:30pm

LEADERS: Pastor Tim Lambert | 320-253-7819
Bill Slininger | 320-217-3138

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults and teens (grades 10 & up)



PLANNING YOUR SUMMER GARDEN | 1 DAY

Gather with others to talk about your plans for your summer garden. Whether it's your first garden or you've gardened for years, come and enjoy some great fellowship as we share and learn from each other.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 24

TIME: 6:30–8:00pm

LEADERS: Karl Larsen | 612-219-4602

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: unlimited

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults and teens (grades 10 & up)

TONGUES BEYOND THE UPPER ROOM | 3 WEEKS

This powerful study by Kenneth E. Hagin explores the vital role of believers praying in the Spirit. Designed to bring clarity and depth to the subject of being filled with the Spirit and speaking in tongues, this study reveals how the Holy Spirit empowers, refreshes and guides us into a deeper relationship with God.

WHEN: Tuesdays, January 20–February 3

TIME: 6:00–7:30pm

LEADERS: Teresa Lambert | 320-267-9711

WHERE: Joy Christian Center

GROUP SIZE: up to 12

COST: none

OPEN TO: adults and teens (grades 8 & up)



Special Service

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3, 4:00pm

"OH COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN" PS. 95:6

THRONE NIGHT

SUNDAY
22
FEB
5:30–7:00pm



Prayer NIGHT

REJOICE IN HOPE,
BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION,
BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER.

Romans 12:12

6:30–8:30pm
THURSDAY, JAN 15

