

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, December 22, 2023

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Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.



Dear congregants of Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Please remember that the nave and sanctuary is a place for those that want to reflect and pray before worship begins. I uphold those that wish to be in the worship area for this time of reflection and solitude before worship. Time for reflection and prayer is an opportunity to come before God and a great practice for all individuals. Please respect those individuals, and please keep conversation in the fellowship area. ~Rev. Cody Mills

Genesis

Rev. Cody Mills

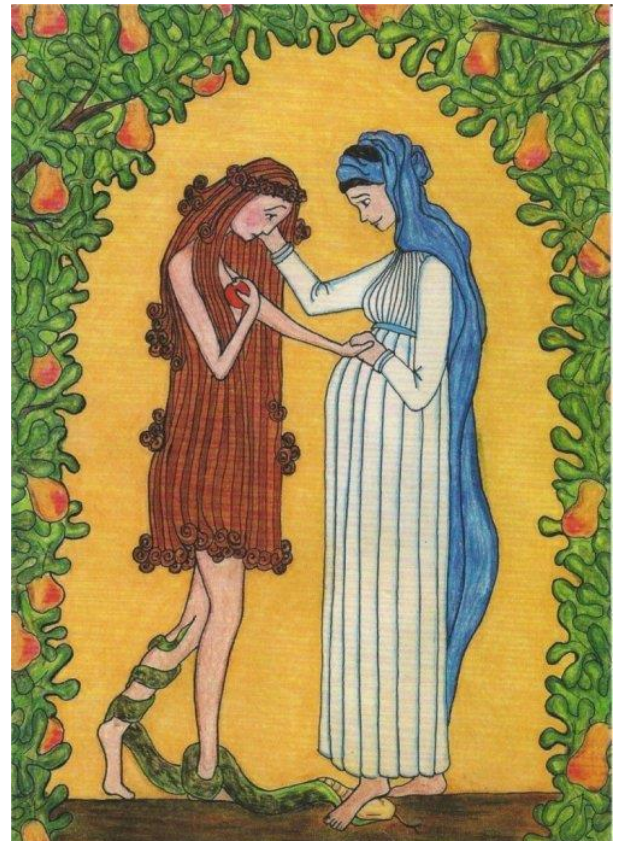
Greetings in this season of advent as it comes to a close. I will be on vacation for the next two weeks but wanted to introduce the new Adult Bible Class on Genesis. This class will be straight from scripture. I can't wait to explore it with all of you. I encourage you to attend as we navigate difficult questions and concepts. We will also see that Christ was there from the beginning as stated in John 1.

During this course, we will learn the following:

- The Bible's unity with life
- Man's struggle with God
- The first Gospel preached
- God's grace and deliverance
- Perfection through suffering
- Our own narrative and story
- Important key aspects for our life

Please take a moment and study this picture. We see Eve holding the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge and entangled in the serpent's lies and venom.

She receives good news in her fallen state. Mary is carrying the Lamb of God restoring Eve - the mother of life - to good graces.



Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday in the year of our Lord and Savior 2023. Because of this situation that comes every four years, we will have normal Sunday service at 10:00 AM with no adult or child Sunday school. We will have a service that evening starting at 6:00 PM. We are excited to present a message to you with Christ at the center, and how a Christmas tree can be a reminder. You will not be disappointed.

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Plan to celebrate New Years Eve early this year instead of waiting until midnight to do so! We will have a Brunch immediately following the service on December 31st. We will have a party hat for you so please come!!!

The Fellowship Committee will be supplying the food, things like quiche, salad, fruit salad, black eye peas, ham and biscuits. A free will offering will be out on the table to supplement their budget. We look forward to this fun time of fellowship!

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JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

*Year End Giving must be postmarked or received in the Church Office by Sunday, December 31st

*Committee Chairs - your year-end reports for the Congregational Meeting are due by January 7th. Please submit them to the Church admin.

* The Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 28th following the worship service.



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## Pastoral Care Coverage

Rev. Mills will be taking some time off beginning Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 8<sup>th</sup>.

While he is out Pastor Craig Dohse, 832-498-9618, will be available for pastoral care December 25-January 8.

Also Pastor Norm Sul, 361-362-9108 will be available for pastoral care beginning Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Bill Morris, the new pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill will be leading worship on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor Greg Knippa will be leading worship on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please Note: The Church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

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Church Directory App Update!

We continue to work on preparing our instructions for all of you to be able to download and use the app, but with the holidays, we're limited on the amount of time we can spend on this work. We look forward to completing this project and sharing that info with you in January!

Please continue to submit your consent forms if you wish to participate.

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A large pair of sunglasses was left at the Church. Claim it from the Church Office if they are yours.



### The NALC Ladies' Luncheon

The ladies who attended had such a great time. Thank you to all the ladies who worked hard to put this together.

### NALC Ladies' New Study

This group was formed several years ago to give support to each other in our congregations and to provide outreach to each other and to the community. We offer a Bible Study on the third Thursday of each month at Abiding Word at 1:30 p.m. The new Bible Study beginning January 18<sup>th</sup> will be based on the book, "The Love Stories of the Bible" by Shannon Bream. Doris Glenewinkle will be leading this study, and we pray that you will be interested in joining us. Everyone is welcome to come participate.

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Servant Schedule is Out

The Worship Servant Schedule for January – June has been emailed. Please let the office know if you expected to be on the schedule but did not receive an email. There are paper copies of the schedule available on the Welcome Table.

We are so appreciative of your willingness to use your gifts to serve the Church in this way.

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### NALC Event

February 10, 2024: Pastor Brad Hales from the NALC will be at Peace Lutheran in Rosenberg for a special event! Pastor Brad will be speaking about the church with aging members and different ideas to grow this ministry. This event is for everyone not just the pastor!! More info will be coming.

## Community Service Opportunity

Speak life into youth at a NCFCA Christian Speech & Debate tournament, January 4-6, 2024, hosted at Blinn College, Brenham. No experience is necessary because competitors (ages 12-18) practice real-world communication and need feedback from adults with a variety of perspectives. Your input can truly make a difference. Judging one round requires approximately three hours. Please visit <https://ncfca.org/judge-a-tournament/> to see the schedule of rounds available and choose one or more that work for you. Or for more information, contact Amy Minke at BrenhamJudges@NCFCA.org or 979-575-1950.

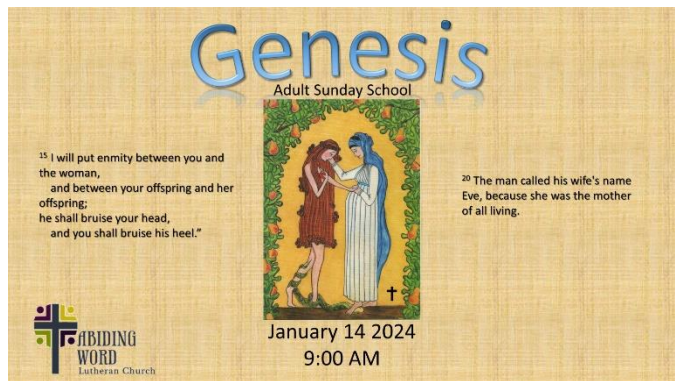


Link to this graphic:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1INaSy-Aau1doSnLerlZ80Th9gDXAGWgZ/view?usp=sharing>

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New Adult Sunday School starts Sunday, January 14



Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Responsive Reading: Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

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## *Thank You*

To all our faithful servants every Sunday. The church couldn't function without you.

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Our Servants This Sunday Morning, Dec. 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
Musician: Debbie Heidemann
Lay Minister: Cathy Johnson
Reader: Marilyn Watts
Greeters: Ralph & Sandra Becker
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Sheila Demery
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin
Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Gary Crocker
Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills
Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

Our Servants This Sunday Evening, Dec. 24

Nativity of Our Lord

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
Musician: Debbie Heidemann
Narrator: Mia Mills
Speakers: Jan Koska, Roger & Lilajan Hibbs
Greeters: Ronnie & Pat Lueckemeyer
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Roger Hibbs
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin
Ushers: Sheila Demery & TBD
Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

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## Our Servants the Following Sunday, Dec.31

### First Sunday after Christmas

Pastor: Bill Morris  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Wade Seidel  
Reader: Susie Seidel  
Greeters: Jean King & Darlene Etzel  
Communion: Bill Morris & Wade Seidel  
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin  
Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Larry Stark  
Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

## Prayer Time for Servants Before Worship

Note for all those involved in the worship service: Rev. Mills would like to meet for prayer in the church office with all those involved in the worship service, 5 minutes before the service starts. Please join if your duties permit.

## Prayer Concerns Within Our Church Family\*

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Herman Aschenbeck      | Roy Kelm          |
| Barbara Lighter        | Wade Mills        |
| Dennis & Doris Penkert | John Porter       |
| Ray & Ethel Sanders    | Stanley Schneider |
| Blake Shedd            | Judy Weatherly    |
| Patsy Wegner           |                   |

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lonnie Addicks   | Family of Allen Draehn            |
| Lindsey Eckert   | The Feathers' Family              |
| John Jensen      | Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling |
| Otto Kemper      | Lucreacia                         |
| Susan Neidlinger | Kim Sauer                         |
| Donna Stump      | Rita Werner                       |

Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Carmine, TX  
For rain and those affected by the drought  
National and government leaders  
All those in the military and first responders  
Those affected by the war in Ukraine & Israel  
Our Community, Nation, and World

\*AWLC respects the right to privacy. Please verify that we have permission to add a family member or friend to our prayer list.

\*Names of loved ones outside our church are posted during the month of request and the following month unless we are asked to remove or extend them.

\*You may request that names be added to or removed from our list by emailing them to: [admin@abidingword.org](mailto:admin@abidingword.org) or by calling the church office.

## Updated Pastor's Schedule

Monday: Off  
Tuesday: Church Office – 12 pm - 8 pm  
Wednesday: Church Office / Appointments / Continuing Education 9 am-5 pm  
Thursday: Church Office/Appointments 2-6 pm  
Friday: Home visitations through the day  
Saturday: Off  
Sunday: Worship – 8:30 am – 11:30 am  
Emergency Calls: 218-405-0710  
Extra time is spent with committees, classes, and other events. Schedule subject to change.

## December 2023/Jan. 2024

| Sun                                                                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                                    | Tue                                                                                         | Wed                                                                                   | Thu                                           | Fri                                           | Sat                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>17</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>Emergency Response Team Meeting         | <b>18</b>                                                                                                              | <b>19</b><br>Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm                                                 | <b>20</b><br>Longest Night Service 5:30 pm<br>Danny & Cathy Johnson<br>Carol Hutchens | <b>21</b>                                     | <b>22</b>                                     | <b>23</b>                                                                                                       |
| <b>24</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>No Adult or Children's Bible Study<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm               | <b>25</b><br>Office Closed<br>        | <b>26</b><br>Office Closed<br>Rev. Mills out through Jan 9                                  | <b>27</b>                                                                             | <b>28</b>                                     | <b>29</b><br>Jon Hill                         | <b>30</b>                                                                                                       |
| <b>31</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>No Adult or Children's Bible Study<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>New Year's Eve Brunch following the Service | <b>January 1</b><br>Office Closed<br> | <b>2</b><br>Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am<br>Worship Committee 5:30 pm       | <b>3</b>                                                                              | <b>4</b><br>Larry Stark<br>Sue Anderson       | <b>5</b>                                      | <b>6</b><br>Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am                                                                  |
| <b>7</b><br>Coffee & Connection 9:00 am<br>No Adult or Children's Bible Study<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>Gayle Hill                                   | <b>8</b><br>Bob Smith                                                                                                  | <b>9</b><br>Homeschool Co-Op 10:00 am<br>Outreach Committee 5:30 pm                         | <b>10</b><br>Marilyn Heckmann<br>Bill Lighter                                         | <b>11</b>                                     | <b>12</b><br>Betty Becker<br>Dorothy Stanford | <b>13</b>                                                                                                       |
| <b>14</b><br>Coffee & Connection 9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am                                            | <b>15</b>                                                                                                              | <b>16</b><br>Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am<br>Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm | <b>17</b>                                                                             | <b>18</b><br>NALC Ladies' Bible Study 1:30 pm | <b>19</b><br>Doris Porter                     | <b>20</b><br>Sue Vierus<br><br>Red = Adult's Birthday<br>Blue = Child's Birthday<br>Green = Wedding Anniversary |

### Reminders

- **Check out Rev. Mills' Facebook clips!** You can also find sermons, adult Bible studies, upcoming events and more!  
<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingWordBrenham/>
- Online Giving is available through the Church Website.  
<https://www.abidingword.org/tithe>
- Watch Sunday services online on our website at [abidingword.org](http://abidingword.org). Link on the Home page or click on "Worship" > then "Livestream" - <https://www.abidingword.org/live-stream>



If you have any announcements, articles, pictures, prayer requests or updates, or corrections for the newsletter, please send them to the admin. Thanks for your help! But please send it to the office no later than Wednesday end of day before. Thank you.