



Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, February 2, 2024



Rev. Cody Mills Email: pastor@abidingword.org

Rev. Mills Cell Phone: 218.405.0710

Office Email: admin@abidingword.org

Office Phone: 979.836.5921

Website: www.abidingword.org

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

Book of the Month

Reverend Cody Mills

Amazon Excerpt:

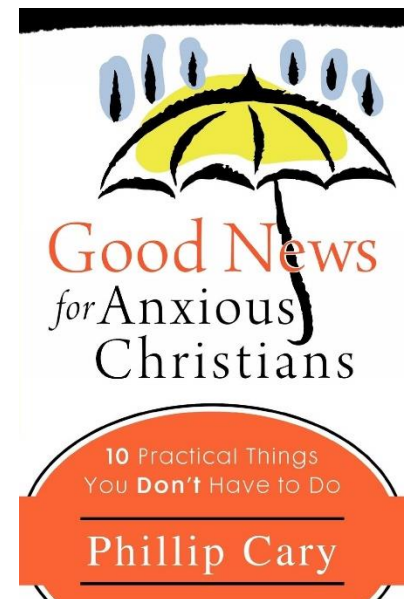
It is that time once again.

Like a succession of failed diet regimens, the much-touted techniques that are supposed to bring us closer to God "in our hearts" can instead make us feel anxious, frustrated, and overwhelmed. How can we meet and know God with ongoing joy rather than experiencing the Christian life as a series of guilt-inducing disappointments?

Phillip Cary explains that knowing God is a gradual, long-term process that comes through the gospel experienced in Christian community, not a to-do list designed to help us live the Christian life "right." This clearly written book covers ten things Christians don't have to do to be close to God, such as hear God's voice in their hearts, find God's will for their lives, and believe their intuitions are the Holy Spirit. Cary skillfully unpacks the riches of traditional Christian spirituality, bringing the real good news to Christians of all ages.

Rev. Cody's notes

If you ever wonder what happens to churches that move toward a one-trick pony show, boxed sermons, and stage sets, this is a great book. Churches and worship services built on these "boxed sets" change when it seems attendance is slipping. They are always looking for a new fix to play on emotion only to leave us dry. Cary speaks directly to the heart of an individual who is concerned with whether or not Christ is still near. Cary assures us the only satisfying promise is from Christ in the form of communion and baptism.





Funeral Arrangements for Dennis Penkert

Visitation will be held Wednesday, February 7th at Brenham Memorial Chapel noon to 7pm with family being present

from 5-7pm. A memorial service will be held Thursday, February 8th at 10:30am at Abiding Word Lutheran Church Brenham with inurnment following at Prairie Lea Cemetery. You can find his obituary and offer condolences on the Brenham Memorial Chapel's website.

www.brenhammemorialchapel.com

Please continue to keep the family in your prayers.

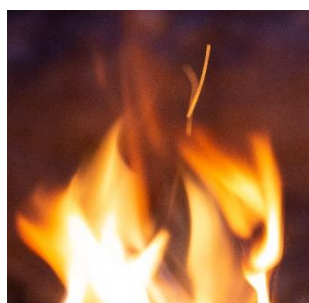
**The admin would like to sincerely apologize for misspelling Doris' name in the newsletter last week.*

~~~~~

**Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Smitty's Café**



~~~~~



Mortgage Burning Celebration Luncheon Sunday, Feb. 18th

We will celebrate the mortgage burning with a catered lunch from Lone Star Grill on Sunday, February 18th. The lunch will be a grilled chicken breast with rice, mashed potatoes, green beans and salad. We appreciate if you will RSVP by Sunday, February 11th to let us know you are coming. You can call or email the church office or write your RSVP and number attending on the back of the attendance card this Sunday. Anyone wishing to bring a dessert is welcome. What an exciting time for our congregation!

PHONE DIRECTORY APP!!



We've sent an email out with the instructions for our new Phone Directory App. It has been sent only to those of you who have signed the Consent Form to be listed in the app. If you have not completed a form and would like to use the directory, please pick a form up from Welcome Table or contact the Church Office to have one emailed or mailed to you. Then return the completed form to the Church Office. This is a secure app that can only be accessed by those who are listed in the Directory. Once we receive your Consent Form, we'll send you the instructions! If you have questions, please contact Jan Kelm, 979-251-4066, jankelm61@gmail.com.

~~~~~



### Journey Together Ladies' Bible Study Tuesday, February 6, 10:00 am at the Church

~~~~~

"Souper Bowl" Lunch Sunday, February 11th



The Fellowship committee is planning a "Souper Bowl" Lunch on Sunday, February 11th after the service. A Mardi Gras theme will also be incorporated as this is the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

A sign-up sheet for soup and sides is on the bulletin board.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 14th at 6:00 pm

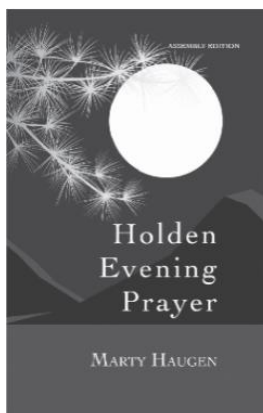


THE SEASON OF LENT
February 21 & 28
March 6, 13, 20

We will begin with a **LENTEN MEAL** of soup and sandwiches at 5:15 pm. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board for those who would like to contribute.

Our **LENTEN SERVICES** will begin at 6:00 pm, following the meal.

This year for our Lenten Services we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. The Hibbs will be providing another sneak peak of this service on Sunday, February 11th



Committee Chairs

The admin is updating the list of Committee Representatives and officers for 2024. As you appoint officers for the year, please let the Church Office know. Thanks for your help.

Left at the Church...

A black folder with fingerprint art ideas. It is on the admin's desk.

Congregational Reports are still available. Pick up your copy at church or request one from the Church Office.

NALC Events

NALC Seminar – February 10th

You are invited to Sack Lunch Saturday at Peace Lutheran Church in Rosenberg with Pastor Brad Hales!

Date is **Saturday, February 10th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**. This event is not just for pastors, it is for everyone, even YOU! Come learn about aging & rural ministry! Does a rural and aging church mean a destiny of decline, or can there be something different?

Pastor Brad Hales, Director of Church Planting & Aging for the NALC will be sharing about the vitality of these congregations and how these churches already have the assets and gifts for renewal! Bring a sack lunch for the break. Water, tea and coffee will be provided. It's a free event! Please RSVP or contact with questions to:

Michael Dittrich: michael.patd@gmail.com, cell: 281-381-5588 or Pat Dittrich: pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com, cell 713-254-0044

Ladies!

SAVE THE DATE
April 20, 2024
"Be the fruit"

Event: Women's South TX District Gathering
Where: Our Savior Lutheran Church
1900 Hwy 72 East, P.O. Box 130
Three Rivers, TX 78071
Contact: Oursaviorluth@gmail.com ph: 361-786-3327
Diane Roeske at dbroeske@outlook.com
ph: 361-449-7998

This event is open to all WNALC women. For more information contact Pat Dittrich, WNALC Representative SE TX Mission District. Pditttrich.wnalc@gmail.com, cell: 713-254-0044

Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
Responsive Reading: 147:1-11
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

~~~~~

*Thank You*

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

~~~~~

Our Servants This Sunday, February 4

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
Musician: Debbie Heidemann
Lay Minister: Gary Crocker
Reader: Charlotte Smith
Greeters: Betty Dove & Ken French
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Gary Crocker
Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm
Ushers: Robert Mikeska & Lottie Tegeler
Little Lambs: Wade Mills
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson
Altar Guild: Darlene & Berrie Etzel

Our Servants the Following Sunday, Feb 11

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
Musician: Debbie Heidemann
Lay Minister: Susie Seidel
Reader: Jan Koska
Greeters: Sandra & Ralph Becker
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Susie Seidel
Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith
Ushers: Michael & Donna Kelling
Little Lambs: Michael Kelling
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson
Altar Guild: Melody Perry & Pat Quebe

~~~~~

**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.

**Our Servants Ash Wednesday, Feb 14**

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Lottie Tegeler  
Reader: Roger Hibbs  
Greeters: Darlene Etzel & Sheila Demery  
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Lottie Tegeler  
Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm  
Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Tom Insley  
Altar Guild: Kathleen Insley & Karen Johnson

~~~~~

Prayer Concerns Within Our Church Family*

Herman Aschenbeck Barbara Lighter
Ronnie Lueckemeyer Wade Mills
Doris Penkert & Family John Porter
Ray & Ethel Sanders Stanley Schneider
Blake Shedd Judy Weatherly
Patsy Wegner

Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family*

Amy O'Malley Brink Jane Barker
John Jensen Lucreacia
Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling
Lila Miller Manuel Perez
Joetta Raylots Kim Sauer
Donna Stump Rita Werner
National and local government leaders
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 or by calling the church office.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Congregational Meeting	29 Lloyd & Pat Quebe	30 Jean King	31 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Kim Bosse	February 1 Sue Mahoney	2	3 Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am
4 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Choir & Worship 10:00 am First Communion Eden Swansey	5	6 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Committee 5:30 pm Sandra Becker	7	8 Dennis Penkert Funeral 10:30 am Trail Life Open House 6:30 pm Arline Schlaudraff	9 Rev. Cody Mills	10
11 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am "Souper Bowl" Lunch	12	13 Raising Arrows Homeschool Gathering 10:00 am Outreach Committee 5:30 pm	14 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm Valgene Horak John & Gayle Hill	15 NALC Ladies' Bible Study 1:30 pm Sheila Demery	16	17
18 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Mortgage Burning Lunch	19 Dorothy Gibson Dwayne & Laurie Muske	20 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	21 Lenten Meal 5:15 pm Lenten Service 6:00 pm Roger & LilaJan Hibbs	22 Wade Seidel	23	24 Roy & Jan Kelm
25 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	26	27	28 Lenten Meal 5:15 pm Lenten Service 6:00 pm	29	March 1	2 Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday 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. Link on the Home page or click on "Worship" > then "Livestream" - <https://www.abidingword.org/live-stream>

Happy Birthday
Eden Swansey, February 4
Sandra Becker, February 6
Arline Schlaudraff, February 8

If you have any announcements, articles, pictures, prayer requests, 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 end of day the Wednesday before. Thank you.

The admin does her best to be 100% accurate with the newsletter. But there has only been one perfect person – Jesus Christ. The admin is human and busy running the Church Office and supporting the pastor and the congregation, thus prone to mistakes as any other human. Grace is appreciated. If you do see dates, times, or details that need to be changed, please kindly let her know.