

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, September 8, 2023

Rev. Cody Mills Email: pastor@abidingword.org

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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

Mission: More Than a Middle Name

Pastor Bryce Formwalt

As an association of congregations, I love our name: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. It brilliantly captures our aspirations: a network of autonomous congregations united by a Lutheran theological foundation and a common commitment to a greater mission for Jesus Christ in the world!

We recognize four core values that shape our association. We are 1) Free in Christ, 2) Accountable to One Another, 3) Rooted in the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, and 4) Working Together to Fulfill Christ Great Commission to Go and Make Disciples of All Nations. While all values are important, it is the fourth one that defines our purpose... our mission.

Yet as I survey our congregations, this fourth value is far less obvious. If you were to ask someone to observe our member congregations and describe our association based on what our churches are doing and how they are spending time and resources, I doubt that our mission to go make disciples of all nations would be noted as our clear and obvious purpose.

This realization has grown clearer to me in recent months. I came across an LCMC congregation's website that publicly claims the first three of our association's core values while completely omitting any mention of the fourth! Additionally, during a meeting of LCMC pastors, a colleague stated that a Lutheran understanding of mission is simply the proper proclamation of the gospel and administration of the sacraments. I respectfully challenged this notion, expressing that although fulfilling the Great Commission includes proper gospel proclamation and sacrament administration, these actions alone do not equate to going and making disciples of all nations. We need to take Jesus' words in Matthew 28 seriously.

I lament that, in an association that professes the centrality of our mission for Christ in its name and beautifully articulates how we are working together to carry out Christ's Great Commission as the fulfillment of this mission, mission may be little more than a middle name to us!

So, I ask you, pastors and churches: what does your church's mission look like? If an unbiased observer were to spend time within your community to draft a report describing who you are as a church and what your church is about, what would it say? How is your church working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go make disciples of all nations?

This, my friends, is our mission... our purpose. I pray that we don't forget it, dumb it down, or drop it off the list. Mission is more than our middle name!

First Communion Classes begin Saturday, September 9th at 9:00 am. These will last for six weeks. It's not too late to join. Contact Rev. Mills if interested.



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Children's Sunday School starts back up Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>! Cathy Johnson will be our Sunday School teacher.

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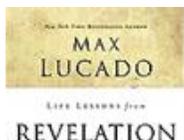
! We still have room for more!



Basic First Aid/CPR/AED Free Training Class Saturday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. at the Church

Invite your friends! Sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office. This is NOT a certification course. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Insley.

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**Journey Together Ladies' Bible Study**



has begun a new study on Revelation. Next meeting is Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am at the church. You can order your book - *Life Lessons from Revelation* by Max Lucado at Amazon or other booksellers.



**Ladies' Evening Bible Study**

Meets Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm at the Church

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We've Made It...Now It's Time to Take It!

The casseroles are ready! Now the outreach is up to us as a congregation. If you know of someone in the congregation or community who is experiencing difficulties and would appreciate a visit and meal, please avail yourself of a meal prepared by the "Make It and Take It" project of Abiding Word. Simply call the church office and let our admin, Pat Weeks, know to whom you plan to give a casserole and the date. There is also a sign-up sheet on the admin's desk where you can put your name, recipient, and date. Then you can pick up a container from the freezer with the chicken spaghetti. By keeping track in the church office, we can eliminate duplications in the same week. The Outreach Committee is hopeful that this will assist you in visitation to those in need.

**Texas Gulf Coast
Via de Cristo Weekend
Camp Lone Star - Pines
Campus
Tomball, TX
September 14-17**



What is VIA de CRISTO?

VIA de CRISTO is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VIA de CRISTO is a highly structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

If interested, contact Sheila Demery, Mia Mills, or Geraldine Johnson.

For more information check out the website:

<https://www.tgcvdc.org/>

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**Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 pm**

Excitement is brewing for Abiding Word's National Night Out on Oct. 3rd at 6 pm. We will reach out to the neighborhoods behind the church and across the road. You are needed to welcome guests that come and run the booths and activities that we will have. Mark your calendar and plan to participate. You are a church neighbor!

Please share your ideas with Berrie Etzel and Wayne Winkelmann, and let them know if you would like to participate.

- ❖ Sat. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – First Communion Classes begin
- ❖ Sun. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – Children's Sunday School Restart
- ❖ Wed. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>–Ladies' Evening Bible Study
- ❖ September 14-17 – Via de Cristo Weekend
- ❖ Sat. Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am - Basic First Aid/CPR/AED Free Training Class
- ❖ Sept. 18-25 – Rev. Mills will be out of the office.
- ❖ Tues. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
- ❖ Sun. Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, Worship Committee meeting
- ❖ Tues. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 pm - National Night Out for the Community
- ❖ Sun. Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> after church–Altar Guild Meeting
- ❖ Sat. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 9-noon – Children's Business Fair, an event taking place in our community
- ❖ Sun. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> - Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch
- ❖ Sun. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>-2024 Committee Budgets Due
- ❖ December – Downtown Christmas Stroll and Lighted Parade, details to come
- ❖ December – NALC Ladies' Luncheon, details to come

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2024 Budgets Due, The End of October

Committee Chairs, please get your 2024 committee budgets to Gary Crocker, Treasurer by October, the 29th. Thank you!

Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:1-20

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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, September 10

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Susie Houston

Reader: Dottie Schaer

Greeters: Ronnie Lueckemeyer

Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Susie Houston

Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith

Ushers: John & Dottie Schaer

Little Lambs: Dottie Schaer

Sunday School: Cathy Johnson

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe & Darlene Etzel

Our Servants Next Sunday, September 17

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Donna Kelling

Reader: Lottie Tegeler

Greeters: Darlene Etzel

Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Michael Kelling

Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm

Ushers: Robert Mikeska & Berrie Etzel

Little Lambs: Michael Kelling

Sunday School: Donna Kelling

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe & Darlene Etzel

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## 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\*

Jean King

Barbara Lighter

Wade Mills

Laurie Muske

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray & Ethel Sanders

Don Schlaudraff

Stanley Schneider

Susie Seidel & family

The family of Glyn Spies

The family of Alma Turner

Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Dawson Lee Jasinski & family

Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Lucreacia

Jack Pash

Steve Rogers

Kim Sauer

Rita Werner

For rain and those affected by the drought

Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Carmine, TX

Those affected by Hurricane Idalia

Those affected by the wildfires in Maui

National and government leaders

All those in the military and first responders

Those affected by the war in Ukraine

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 pm - 6 pm

Friday: Home visitations through the day

Saturday: Off

Sunday: Worship - 9 am - 11 am

Emergency Calls: 218-405-0710

Extra time is spent with committees, classes, and other events. Schedule subject to change.

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Looking Ahead

*Ladies' Evening Bible Study, 2nd Wednesdays, September 13 at 6:30 pm at the Church

*Journey Together Ladies' Bible Study, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, September 19, 10:00 a.m.

*Men's Breakfast, 1st Saturdays, October 7th at 8:30 am at Smitty's Cafe

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	4	5 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	6 Choir Meeting/Practice 6:00 pm Trail Life USA Meeting 6:00 pm in the library <i>Jagger Shedd</i>	7	8 Kathy Shedd	9 First Communion Class 9:00 am Lori Wegner
10 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Doris Penkert <i>Ray & Ethel Sanders</i>	11	12 Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	13 Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Marjorie Stark Berrie Etzel	14 Via de Cristo Weekend Darlene Etzel	15 John Porter	16 First Communion Class 9:00 am First Aid Training 10:00 am Barbara Lighter Mia Mills Michael & Donna Kelling
17 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	18 Rev Mills out of office through 25th	19 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 11:00 am Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	20	21 Lottie Tegeler Valgene & Linda Horak	22 Don Schlaudraff	23 First Communion Class 9:00 am Church reserved for private event Mike & Karen Johnson Dennis & Doris Penkert
24 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	25	26	27	28 Patti Swenson	29	30 First Communion Class 9:00 am Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday Green = Wedding Anniversary

Reminders

- Children's Sunday School will begin Sept. 10 at 9:00 am.
- **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

Kathy Shedd, September 8
Lori Wegner, September 9
Doris Penkert, September 10
Marjorie Stark, September 13
Berrie Etzel, September 13
Darlene Etzel, September 14

Happy Anniversary

Ray & Ethel Sanders, September 10

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 noon before. Thank you.