

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, December 8, 2023

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

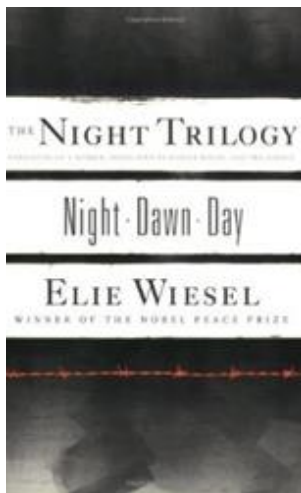


Dear congregants of Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Please remember that the nave and sanctuary is a place for those that want to reflect and pray before worship begins. I uphold those that wish to be in the worship area for this time of reflection and solitude before worship. Time for reflection and prayer 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

Book of the Month

Rev. Cody Mills

Amazon Description:



Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, Elie Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were taken from their home in 1944 to Auschwitz concentration camp, and then to Buchenwald. Night is the terrifying record of Elie Wiesel's memories of the death of his family, the death of his own innocence, and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute evil of man. This new translation by his wife and most frequent translator, Marion Wiesel, corrects important details and presents the most accurate rendering in English of Elie Wiesel's testimony to what happened in the camps and of his unforgettable message that this horror must simply never be allowed to happen again.

In a sermon I referenced the moment from Elie Wiesel's book – Night – a cry was heard during the death of three men, "Where is merciful God, where is He?" someone behind me was asking. "For God's sake, where is God?" And from within me, I heard a voice answer: "Where is He? This is where – hanging here from this gallows..."

God is there, dying in shame and extreme torment for the world. Wiesel wrote about the atrocities letting the world know faith in God cannot be shaken. A Jew who became a Christian, he looked at the horrors in the camp and placed in his book the reminder that Christ died for the suffering. It is difficult to find Christ when there is suffering. But he is there with you and suffering also.

Where is God? He is restoring life and making the last to be first in the kingdom of God. Thanks be to God.

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## Christmas Eve Service

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





Abiding Word Lutheran Church is well on its way to begin our journey as a Trail Life Troop in Brenham, TX. The sheer amount of interest in the troop continues to grow quickly as the word is spreading. We realize that we are going to need more funds to get this troop started. We currently have close to \$2,000 raised. Success will quickly dwindle this amount. Good news, we only need a good starting fund. Once the troop begins to function, Trail Life has a strict code about fundraising. The troop must never solicit free donations but must work for the fundraising. We could certainly use some donations to be ready for the launch.

**Where are we and our goals:**

- The Ministry Board is complete and meeting to polish our plans to manage the work and mission. There are a few individuals who continue to meet with the board to help the success of the mission that are not board members.
- We continue to work diligently to ensure great success with an estimated forty to fifty kids by the end of the first year. Possibly in the first few months!
- Work with the American Heritage Girls group to promote the growth of boys and girls in God and raise individuals to find their identity in Christ. This way they can function in the world as men and women of God.
- Influence these young men and women to be who God made them by bringing responsibility and courage to those they interact with in the schools.

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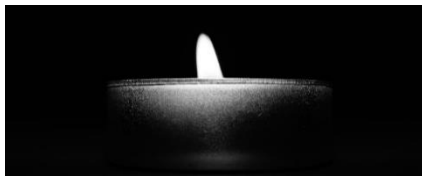
A BIG Thank You to all who stayed after service to help decorate our tree last Sunday!



And Another BIG Thank You to our outstanding Choir who brought us wonderful music in the last month! We appreciate you!



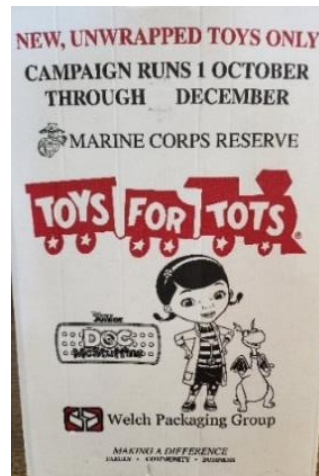
What a fun time at the Parade last Saturday! Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this happen and to those who participated and cheered during the parade!



Last Grief Session, Dec. 13

AWLC hosted a gathering and Bible study/sessions for those grieving using a Christian-based program based on a book on living with grief in sight of the Cross of Christ by Rev. Dr. Kristian Kincaid. It is called Living with Grief: Bound by Sorrow, Wrapped in Comfort. The last session is Wednesday evening December 13 at 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, supper included, at the Church.

It culminates in the Longest Night Candle Vigil on December 20th at 6:00 pm at the church. This is open to the congregation and the community.



Toys for Tots Toys Due Sunday, December 10th

We have a donation box at the church for toys. New toys are accepted. Nothing used.

Susie Houston is also collecting money (cash/check) to buy toys as well. If you want to write a check -make it out to and give it to Susie Houston who will cash it and buy the toys for the ages that still need gifts. That way the \$ and toys will stay in Washington County.



A pair of sunglasses was left in the sanctuary last Sunday and a black jacket was left after the ladies' Bible study Tuesday. Claim them from the Church Office if they are yours.



Volunteers needed for lighting the Advent Candles each Sunday in Advent. No speaking required (the Lay Minister can read and pray or you can). Contact Rev. Mills, the church office, or Jan Koska if interested

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**Poinsettias for the Sanctuary are available for \$10 each.**



Sign up in the church foyer or contact the Church Office through **Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**. They will be placed in the sanctuary on **Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**.

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We Need Participants!
No acting skills required – **December 9 & 10.**

Sign up on the Bulletin Board to participate. Contact Bill Rankin for more information.



NALC Ladies' Luncheon

Next Friday, December 15th, 11:00 am at the Cannery get your \$15 tickets from Donna Kelling or the Church Office.

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**Community Event  
Sunday, Dec. 10th**

*Christmas Remembrance*

**Date:** Sunday, December 10, 2023  
**Time:** 5:00 PM.  
**Location:** Memorial Oaks Chapel  
1306 W. Main Street  
Brenham, TX 77833

You are cordially invited to join us for a special gathering with guest speaker, Pastor Phil Geleske. A brief service filled with hymns and scripture readings, and a touching moment as candles are lit while the names of our departed loved ones are read.

Afterward, please enjoy refreshments with us. Be sure to collect an ornament keepsake to take home as a token of remembrance for our families.

**Memorial Oaks Chapel**  
We Make It Personal.®

1306 West Main  
Brenham, TX 77833  
979-836-4564  
memorialoakschapel.com

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**Ladies' Evening Bible Study
Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 6:30 pm**



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, fellowship time!

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JUST A LITTLE  
*Reminder*

- \*Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> the Emergency Response Team will meet after the service.
- \*Year End Giving must be postmarked or received in the Church Office by Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>
- \*Committee Chairs - your year-end reports for the Congregational Meeting are due by January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please submit them to the Church admin.

### Church Directory App!

A message from the Membership Committee:  
We are so excited to announce that we are getting close to rolling out our new phone app directory! This is an app that will keep everything up to date. If you change your address or phone number, you can either enter that change yourself or ask the office to do so and there will be an immediate update. New members will be immediately input into the app. You won't have to wait another 5+ years before you get a new version with the new data. A picture of each individual will be on the app so you will be able to put a face with a name.  
We sent you a Consent Form last week, and also have some available on the Welcome Table. Once we get your consent, we'll add you to the app. We can accept a picture that you already have, or we'll be available starting Sunday to take a quick picture. This will basically be a head shot so whatever you're wearing at that time will not really be an issue. For some of you who have had photos taken for recent anniversary pictures in the newsletter...we've used some of those for practice purposes so you can decide if you like those or want something different.  
Once we prepare directions for loading and using the app, we'll send those out so you can download the app and begin using it. And if you need help, we'll be available to make sure it's all working well for you.

Thank you so much for your patience.



### Save the Date for a 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.

## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Responsive Reading: Psalm 85

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

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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, December 10

### Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Jan Koska

Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck

Greeters: Jean King & Marilyn Watts

Communion: Rev. Cody Mills, Mary Ann Schulte & Gary Hind

Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith

Ushers: Sheila Demery & Robert Mikeska

Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills

Sunday School: Cathy Johnson

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

## Our Servants Following Sunday, Dec. 17

### Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Lottie Tegeler

Reader: TBD

Greeters: Preston & Melody Perry

Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Lottie Tegeler

Audio/Video: Benita Schramme & Wade Seidel

Ushers: Gary Crocker & TBD

Little Lambs: TBD

Sunday School: Cathy Johnson

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

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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*

Herman Aschenbeck

Roy Kelm

Barbara Lighter

Wade Mills

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray & Ethel Sanders

Stanley Schneider

Blake Shedd

Patsy Wegner

Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family*

Lonnie Addicks

The Feathers' Family

Dawson Lee Jasinski & family

John Jensen

Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Lucreacia

Susan Neidlinger

Kim Sauer

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 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.

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## Looking Ahead

- ❖ Sun. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – Bethlehem in Independence – we need volunteers.
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Toys for Tots Due
- ❖ Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – Final Grief Session, 5:30 pm @ Church
- ❖ Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – Ladies' Evening Bible Study, 6:30 pm @Church
- ❖ Fri. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – NALC Ladies' Luncheon, 11:00 am
- ❖ Wed. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – Longest Night Service, 6:00 pm @Church
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am Worship Service (no adult or children Sunday School) @Church
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm Candlelight Service @Church
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve Brunch after service @Church

## December 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mon                                                                                                                             | Tue                                                                                                                                             | Wed                                                                                                  | Thu                         | Fri                                                                          | Sat                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><b>No Adult or Children's Bible Study</b><br>Christmas Music Sing-a-Long 9:45 am<br>Choir & Worship 10:00 am<br>Tree Decorating after service<br><b>Bill Rankin</b> | <b>4</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>5</b> Journey Together Ladies Bible Study & Lunch 10:00 am<br>Worship Committee 5:30 pm<br><b>Geraldine Johnson</b><br><b>Marita Mikeska</b> | <b>6</b> Grief Session 5:30 pm<br><b>Robert Mikeska</b>                                              | <b>7</b> <b>John Davies</b> | <b>8</b> <b>Dottie Schaer</b><br><b>Rick &amp; Carol Hutchens</b>            | <b>9</b> Bethlehem in Independence                                                                                              |
| <b>10</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am<br><b>Toys for Tots due</b><br><b>Ralph Becker</b>                                                         | <b>11</b> <b>Wade &amp; Hollie Mills</b>                                                                                        | <b>12</b> Homeschool Co-op 11:00 am                                                                                                             | <b>13</b> Grief Session 5:30 pm<br>Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm<br><b>Mell Morrow</b>          | <b>14</b>                   | <b>15</b> NALC Ladies' Lunch at the Cannery 11:00 am<br><b>Paisley Hooks</b> | <b>16</b>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>17</b> Coffee & Connection 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> Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm                                                                                                        | <b>20</b> Longest Night Service 5:30 pm<br><b>Danny &amp; Cathy Johnson</b><br><b>Carol Hutchens</b> | <b>21</b>                   | <b>22</b>                                                                    | <b>23</b>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>24</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am<br><b>No Adult or Children's Bible Study</b><br><b>Worship 10:00 am</b><br><b>Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm</b>                                                          | <b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b><br>           | <b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b><br><b>Rev. Mills out through Jan 9</b>                                                                           | <b>27</b>                                                                                            | <b>28</b>                   | <b>29</b> <b>Jon Hill</b>                                                    | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>31</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am<br><b>No Adult or Children's Bible Study</b><br>Worship 10:00 am<br>New Year's Eve Brunch following the Service                                                          | <b>January 1</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br> | <b>2</b> Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am<br>Worship Committee 5:30 pm                                                              | <b>3</b>                                                                                             | <b>4</b> <b>Larry Stark</b> | <b>5</b>                                                                     | <b>6</b> Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am<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. Link on the Home page or click on "Worship" > then "Livestream" - <https://www.abidingword.org/live-stream>

### Happy Birthday

**Dottie Schaer, December 8**  
**Ralph Becker, December 10**  
**Mell Morrow, December 13**

### Happy Anniversary

**Rick & Carol Hutchens, Dec. 8**  
**Wade & Hollie Mills, Dec. 11**