

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, May 19, 2023

Rev. Cody Mills Email: pastor@abidingword.org

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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

The High Priestly Prayer

Rev. Cody Mills

On May 18, we celebrated the ascension of our Lord. Because the ascension of the Lord landed on a weekday, I moved the readings to Sunday. Because I moved the lessons to Sunday, we don't get to read the High Priestly Prayer. I encourage you to read John 17:1-26.

The High Priestly Prayer is a historical moment when Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven to pray to His Father. Martin Luther describes the Book of John as vindictive and isolating from the other religions and beliefs that plague the world. John reveals one path to heaven, and that is Jesus Christ. The prayer that Jesus offers to God the Father enforces the idea that there are indeed two different groups of people. There is the world and those not of the world. Yet, at the same time, those not of the world continue to operate in the world.

So how is one no longer of this world? Jesus prays to His Father that His Glory received from the Father be passed to those elect so they have faith in God. In all reality, this is a terrifying process because faith only comes from God through Christ and is held by the Holy Spirit. We, as Lutherans, speak this language when we confess the purpose of baptism. Essentially, you must die on the cross.

We are baptized into Christ's death and raised in His resurrection to receive life. Verses twenty-two and twenty-three, "I have given them the glory that you gave me in order that they may be one, just as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them just as you loved me." Jesus reflects His Father the glory given Him and the glory (credit) given to those baptized in His name. In baptism, Christ receives the sin and death we deserve by becoming cursed; while you receive His glory to stand before the Father as His Son. This promise is further revealed in verse 24 "Father, I desire that those you have given me may be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory which you have given me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world."

So what does this mean? What does it mean to receive righteousness through Jesus Christ and His prayer? You receive the righteousness of Jesus Christ by His death and through the baptismal promise freeing you from the law to serve one another. This is the beautiful promise given to you through this prayer and the words spoken by Christ. What is there left for you to do? Nothing. Nothing at all! You go about your lives knowing that Christ has paid for your sins.

This promise does not give you a "pass" to sin or do evil lest you use the Lord's name in vain. But gives you the ability to freely care for your neighbor apart from the laws so that they are not used as an instrument of your survival.

Remember, you are God's masterpiece. Through the blood of the Son, Jesus Christ, you are restored. His blood makes you white as snow. This wisdom is folly to the world, as St. Paul puts it. It is a stumbling block to their glory. The rest of the world is children of Satan as they continue to seek glory in God's kingdom apart from the Son. Rest in God and know that He is truly good.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School



VBS 2023: You are God's Masterpiece June 27-29th

Family Rally Night: Wednesday, June 21st at 5:30 pm (picnic meal & activities)

VBS: Tuesday - Thursday, June 27-29, 5:30 - 8:00 pm (meal included)

Sign up on the Church's webpage: <https://www.abidingword.org/2023-vbs>
Or Contact Geraldine Johnson at 979-203-3131



**Now Taking
Hymn Requests
For July Services**

**Now through June 25 Write your favorite
hymns on the back of your Welcome Card
or contact the Church Office!**

The flowers left over for Mother's Day were distributed to the women at Kruse Village. They were very much appreciated!



The Church Choir will be singing on Sunday, July 2nd. All are welcome to join. Practices are every Wednesday in June at 6:00 pm. Just show up!



Update: The flowers for Sunday, May 21 are given by the Mills family in honor of one year of service to AWLC! One rose for one year.

Online Giving is available through the Church Website.

<https://www.abidingword.org/tithe>

Select the Online Giving option.



If you missed the notice last week, there is a third-party fund established for our former members, John and Pam Milner, who recently lost everything in a house fire. This is the link if you would like to help them.

<https://arootedplace.org/milner-house-fire/>



The admin will be out of the office Friday, May 26. Please have any bulletin changes or announcements to the office by noon, Wednesday the 24th! Thanks.

Please Note: Youth Sunday School is breaking for the summer. Sunday Adult Bible Study will continue.

Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

Ascension of our Lord

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Responsive Reading: Psalm 47

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

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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, May 21

Ascension of our Lord

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Susie Houston

Reader: Marilyn Watts

Greeters: Jean King & Ken French

Communion: Rev. Mills & Susie Houston

Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm

Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Michael Kelling

Little Lambs: Michael Kelling

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe, and Darlene Etzel

Our Servants Next Sunday, May 28

Day of Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Jan Koska

Reader: Lottie Tegeler

Greeters: Sheila Demery & Karen Johnson

Communion: Rev. Mills & Jan Koska

Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin

Ushers: Roy & Jan Kelm

Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe

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## Prayer Time for Servants Before Worship Service

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\*

Betty Becker

Betsy Faske

Cathy Johnson

Barbara Lighter

Ralph Martin & family

Marita Mikeska

Wade Mills

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray and Ethel Sanders

Don Schlaudraff

Stanley Schneider

Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Carol Crosby

Carol Fornof

Sonya Graham

Mollie Grote

Will Hibbs

Starlyn Jasinski

Dawson Lee Jasinski & family

Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

John & Pam Milner

Glyn Spies

Alan Thackett

Rita Werner

The family of Taylor Wick

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.

## Pastor's Schedule

Monday: Off

Tuesday: Classical Conversations Tutor all day;  
Church Office – 5 pm - 10 pm

Wednesday: Church Office/Appointments/Continuing  
Education 9 am-5 pm

Thursday: Church Office/Appointments 5 - 10 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

*Men's Breakfast, 1st Saturdays, June 3 at 8:30 am at Smitty's

*Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 1st Tuesday, June 6, 11:00 am lunch at home of Lois Rankin

*Ladies' Evening Bible Study 2nd Wednesdays, June 14 at 6:30 pm at the Church

May/June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14  Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	15	16 Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	17 Eleanor Mills	18 NALC Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm	19	20
21 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	22	23	24 Membership Meeting 4:00 pm Marilyn Watts Ken French	25	26 Darrell Soeken Kyle Mills Herman & Sandra Aschenbeck	27
28 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	29 Office Closed 	30 Gene & Dorothy Stanford	31 Linda Horak	June 1	2 Jan Kelm	3 Men's Breakfast at Smitty's 8:30 am
4 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	5 John & Doris Porter Bob & Maggie Rankin	6 Journey Together Ladies Lunch & Devotional at Lois Rankin's home 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	7 Pat Quebe	8 Cathy Johnson	9	10
11 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	12	13 Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	14 Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Danny Johnson	15 NALC Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm Donna Kelling	16 Paul Koska	17
18 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Stanley Schneider	19	20 Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	 VBS Family Rally Night 5:30 pm John & Susan Davies	22 Larry & Marjorie Stark Tom & Kathleen Insley	23	24 Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday Green = Wedding Anniversary

Check out our Facebook page for sermons, adult Bible studies, upcoming events and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingWordBrenham/>

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.

Happy Birthday

Eleanor Mills, May 17*
Marilyn Watts, May 24
Ken French, May 24

*Corrected date