

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, January 19, 2024

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

Supporting the Pregnancy Center

Rev. Cody Mills

On January 17, 2024, I sent an email to the entire congregation requesting help to supply baby wipes for Brenham Pregnancy Center. The response was overwhelming. I have received emails, texts, and phone calls. Thank you for the marvelous response.

Touring the facility, I realized they do more than any Planned Parenthood that I know. They offer counseling, Bible study, group therapy, and a close relationship with individuals needing support and comfort. They extend an opportunity to start a three-year relationship from conception to three years of age. The ultrasound machine they use at the facility is better than the ultrasounds at Baylor Scott and White in Brenham. It can detect a heartbeat sooner and give a clearer image of the baby.

Imagine as a student you find out you are pregnant and your peers shun you if you don't want an abortion. You feel ashamed by a church community. The father of the unborn says "I believe in your right to choose, so abort the baby." Or perhaps your parents turn away from you. As a pastor visiting with some of the students at Brenham ISD, I was shocked to find out abortion is the "right" and necessary answer. Even your friends put the squeeze to abort the child.

With all the support the pregnancy center offers to people, it astounds me that BISD will not let them in the doors to discuss potential risks of abortion and the support they can provide.

The outreach committee at Abiding Word Lutheran Church is working to find a way we can help the mission of Brenham Pregnancy Center. Some of our established or soon-to-be-established commitments will marry with the needs of the center:

- Make it/take it meals
- Trail Life troop can help stuff the gift boxes given to expecting families
- Trail Life Troop TX-777 can help give support to families with sons to provide a good foundation and mentorship
- Expectant fathers can connect with fathers in Troop TX-777
- Bring back the bottle campaign
- Starting host families that will be willing to have supper with some of the families to build rapport with them

Thank you to all of you who responded to the email and continue to respond to help the center!

James 2:14-17

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Special Speaker

Rev. Cody Mills

Simmon Hammar from Tartu Academy of Theology from Estonia will be speaking in Tyler, Texas, at the Sirloin Stockade on Friday, February 26, at 12:00 PM. The story about the academy will raise the hair on the back of your neck as he speaks about the history of the academy and Estonia. Estonia suffered from the Bolshevik revolution. Estonia lost their identity and history.

Christianity was all but wiped out. Their school is the last surviving Christian school and university. They continue to find hidden history books, Christian books, and more as people scrambled to hide what they had from the occupiers. Today, the kids do not desire to hear about their history or Christianity. Schools are still afraid to teach history.

One of the main components of the revolution was to create a revolution in the name of tolerance. The occupiers took control of the schools, removed history to teach new history, and removed churches. When I spoke with him in Minnesota during an LCMC gathering, he was shocked to hear what is happening in the United States of America schools and government. He warned it may be too late. America is already under occupation with the same mindset and philosophy that destroyed their country.

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On Sunday, January 21 we will receive our newest member, Linda Wellman. Please give her an AWLC welcome!

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**The Congregational Meeting is Sunday, Jan. 28 directly after the service.**

**Please join us. The 2023 Congregational Report will be available at the meeting.**

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The **2024 Daily Bible Reading Guide** is on the Welcome Table at Church. Pick up your copy this Sunday.



Journey Together Ladies' Bible Study MAKE UP DATE Tuesday, January 23RD at 10:00 am at the Church

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**Giving Statements are Ready!**

Giving statements are available. They will be at the church on the side table in the foyer for pickup through Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. All remaining statements will be mailed the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please let the church office know if you would like yours mailed before then. Please let Bob Rankin or the admin know if you have any questions regarding your statement.



## Choir Practice Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM

The choir will sing in the February 4<sup>th</sup> service.

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Phone App Directory Update

We are still putting the final touches on the Phone App Directory and instructions. Stay tuned for the rollout!

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## Flowers for the Altar

We have openings to provide flowers for the altar. Please see the bulletin board to sign up or contact the church office.

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After Hours Drop Box

We have installed a locked drop box by the church's front door. If you need to drop off letters, envelopes or small items for the church after hours, please make use of the drop box.

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## VBS

We are planning to have our VBS June 3-6 (Monday – Thursday). Volunteers: please check your calendars to see if you will be available. Contact Mia Mills for more information or if you want to volunteer.

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Rosenberg Warehouse

The Rosenberg Warehouse has space to fill! They are in need of:

- Quilts & baby blankets
- Flood buckets (filled or the supplies that go in them)
- Tools (such as shovels, brooms, mops, rakes)
- Bibles--Spanish and kids (also include bible stories!)
- Note cards with words of encouragement written on them—they insert these into the Bibles!

Contact them to arrange delivery to the Rosenberg warehouse or send a donation.

Michael Dittrich, cell: 281-381-5588



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.

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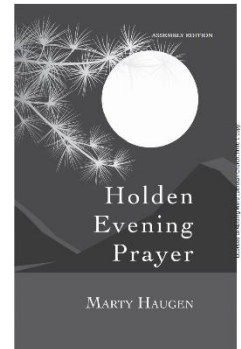
**\* ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** is February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

**\* LENTEN MEALS** will start on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The meals will consist of soup and sandwiches. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board for those who would like to contribute. The meals will start at 5:15 pm with the Lenten services starting at 6:00 pm.

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Lenten Services

This year for our Lenten Services we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. Join us this Sunday, January 21st and February 11th as the Hibbs give us a sneak peek of this beautiful service.



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## NALC Event

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

Date is **Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:michael.patd@gmail.com),

cell: 281-381-5588 or Pat Dittrich:

[pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com), cell 713-254-0044

## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Responsive Reading: Psalm 62

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

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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, January 21

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Susie Houston

Reader: Jan Koska

Greeters: Linda Horak & Sheila Demery

Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Susie Houston

Audio/Video: Benita Schramme & Wade Seidel

Ushers: Marita & Robert Mikeska

Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills

Sunday School: Cathy Johnson

Altar Guild: Melody Perry & Peggy Campbell

## Our Servants the Following Sunday, Jan. 28

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Cathy Johnson

Reader: Charlotte Smith

Greeters: Gary Hind & Mary Ann Schulte

Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Tom Insley

Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin

Ushers: Sheila Demery & Larry Stark

Little Lambs: Charlotte Smith

Sunday School: Cathy Johnson

Altar Guild: Bill & Lois Rankin

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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

Kathleen Insley

Geraldine Johnson

Barbara Lighter

Wade Mills

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray & Ethel Sanders

Stanley Schneider

Blake Shedd

Marjorie Stark

Judy Weatherly

Patsy Wegner

Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family*

Amy O'Malley Brink

Lindsey Eckert

John Jensen

Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Otto Kemper

Lucreacia

Lila Miller

Manuel Perez

Joetta Raylots

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

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.

NOTE: REVISED Pastor's Schedule

Monday: Off

Tuesday: Church Office – 10 am - 8 pm

Wednesday: Church Office – 7 am – 1 pm, 5 pm- 8 pm

Thursday: Church Office – 9 am – 2 pm, 2:30 - 7 pm

Friday: Church Office – 8 am - 4 pm

Saturday: Off

Sunday: Worship – 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Emergency Calls: 218-405-0710

Schedule subject to change. Please call to arrange an appointment or home visit.

Looking Ahead

*Sunday, January 21st – New Member Reception

*Sunday, January 28th – Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, February 11th – "Souper Bowl" Lunch

*Wed., February 14th – Ash Wednesday Service

*Wed., February 21st – Lenten Meal & Services start

January/February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am First Communion & Council Installation	15	16 Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	17 Choir Practice 6:00 pm	18 NALC Ladies' Bible Study 1:30 pm Trail Life Open House 6:30 pm	19 Doris Porter	20 Sue Vierus
21 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am New Member Reception	22 Paul & Jan Koska	23 MAKE UP DATE Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Dennis Penkert	24 Charlotte Smith	25	26	27 Jan Koska Westen Muske Wayne Winkelmann
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 Eden Swansey	5	6 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Committee 5:30 pm Sandra Becker	7	8 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 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>

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 end of day the Wednesday before. Thank you.

Happy Birthday

Doris Porter, January 19
Sue Vierus, January 20
Dennis Penkert, January 23
Charlotte Smith, January 24

Happy Anniversary

Paul & Jan Koska, January 22