

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, May 5, 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

My Heart Aches

Rev. Cody Mills

April was difficult for Brenham after a child died from gun violence and another individual was injured on April 1st. Then, another individual was shot on April 29, 2023. It is easy for panic to set in with words of accusation about the parents, teachers, and police officers. We begin to look for answers, and in doing so, we slander people without even knowing the circumstances relating to those in authority. We are called to keep peace and teach. No circumstance warrants the loss of life or attempts on life.

When the shooting occurred in Uvalde, Texas, I spoke about the terrible events as the work of Satan. This is no different. Whenever we are confronted with events that take the lives of another human being, deprive another human being of basic needs, or devalue a person's identity, we find Satan running rampant. He works hard and works through violence in a way that looks like it is love. His words can sound sweet and lovey – as though from God or through more noticeable means. With that said, Satan can work the words that seem as though they are doing good. All you have to do is scan some comments about the recent events on the KWHI website. You can quickly see the panic, deductions, assumptions, and blaming even the victims. More often than not, these are words that Satan hides, and I am not afraid to reveal the nature of Satan and his work.

Instead, we need to look to the 5th, 7th, and 8th commandments:

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not kill. - We should fear and love God so that we do not physically hurt or harm our neighbor, but help and support him in every bodily need.

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal. - We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them by deception or dishonesty, but help him to improve and protect his property and income.

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. - We should fear and love God so that we do not lie about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or give him a bad reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

We can kill by destroying the reputation of individuals when we should build them up and support them in their needs, steal their vocation and identity by misrepresenting them, and create a failure in the peacekeeper mentality by condemning those in place to give security and training.

Does this mean we should not condemn certain actions that go against the ten commandments and what Scripture teaches? No! But does it mean we must approach it with a biblical understanding and support? Yes!

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

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## Save the Date for Vacation Bible School



**VBS 2023: You are God's Masterpiece**

**June 27-29<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Rally Night: Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm (picnic meal & activities)**

**VBS: Tuesday - Thursday, June 27-29, 5:30 - 8:00 pm**

Sign up on the Church's webpage: <https://www.abidingword.org/2023-vbs>

Or Contact Geraldine Johnson at 979-203-3131



**Ladies' Evening Bible Study**  
May 10, 6:30 pm at the  
Church

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The flowers for Sunday, May 7 are given by Karen and Mike Johnson in honor of family birthdays.

We still have open Sundays in May and June to provide altar flowers. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

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**A Thank You from Larry Stark**



"Thank all for your prayers. My heart procedure went very well and recovery continues.

Larry Stark

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A Request from the Admin

Please leave any leftover newsletters from Sundays on the Welcome Table or the Admin's desk to send to our shut-ins. Thanks!

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**Please Note: Youth Sunday School will meet one more Sunday, May 7 before breaking for the summer. Sunday Adult Bible Study will continue.**

**A Book Offer from Bob Smith:**

I just received *Tall Mountains, Deep Valleys*, from the printer—it's my latest book and I want to give each family in the church a copy. The book is a collection of pieces written over a virtual lifetime. I realize that there might be some who are not into reading, and therefore would not benefit from the gift. In order not to press the issue, I ask those of you who would like the book to let me know by sending me an email to [bobsmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobsmith@sbcglobal.net). I would like to personalize the gift by inserting your name on the title page and signing the book. Please indicate your preference for personalizing.

To \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exs. John, John and Joy, the Jones Family)

Note cards to fill out this information and a basket in which to place your notes in will be available in the Foyer at church next Sunday. Your book will be available the following Sunday. If you know one of your friends would like the book, and they are not with us this Sunday, please feel free to register for them.

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Worship Servant Schedule Updates

The admin is updating the worship servant schedule for the rest of the year. Please let the admin know of any updates to serving preferences and times you will be unavailable. Thanks.

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**Community Event**

Memorial Oaks Chapel and Catherine Kenjura will be presenting a dinner seminary on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm covering estate planning and funeral pre-planning.

Location: Washington County Chamber of Commerce Boardroom at 314 S. Austin St. Seating is limited. RSVP required to 979-836-4564.

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The admin will be out of the office Friday, May 12. Please have any bulletin changes or announcements to the office by noon, Wednesday the 10th! Thanks.

Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Responsive Reading: Psalm 146

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

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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 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
Musician: Debbie Heidemann
Lay Minister: Mia Mills
Reader: Dottie Schaer
Greeters: Ronnie & Pat Lueckemeyer
Communion: Rev. Mills and Mia Mills
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin
Ushers: John & Dottie Schaer
Little Lambs: Dottie Schaer
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson
Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe, and Darlene Etzel

Our Servants Next Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
Musician: Debbie Heidemann
Lay Minister: Becky Bosse
Reader: Jan Kelm
Greeters: Ralph & Sandra Becker
Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith
Ushers: Sheila Demery & Robert Mikeska
Little Lambs: Charlotte Smith
Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Pat Quebe, and Darlene Etzel

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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           |
| 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                        | Dawson Lee Jasinski & family |
| Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling |                              |
| David Martin                      | John & Pam Milner            |
| Glyn Spies                        | Alan Thackett                |
| Rita Werner                       | 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

*Ladies' Evening Bible Study 2nd Wednesdays, May 10 at 6:30 pm at the Church
*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

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Fifth Sunday Breakfast 9:00 am No Sunday School Worship 10:00 am	May 1 Gene & Jean King	2 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study- Lunch at Yumm's 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	3	4 William Corn	5 Kathleen Insley Wayne & Susan Winkelmann	6 Men's Breakfast at Smitty's 8:30 am
7 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Eleanor Mills	8 Benita Schramme Rick Hutchens	9 Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	10 Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Karen Johnson	11	12 Mike Swenson	13 Blake Shedd
14  Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	15	16 Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	17	18 NALC Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm	19	20
21 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	22	23	24	25	26 Darrell Soeken Kyle Mills Herman & Sandra Aschenbeck	27
28 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	29	30 Gene & Dorothy Stanford	31 Linda Horak	June 1	2	3 Men's Breakfast at Smitty's 8:30 am Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday Green = Wedding Anniversary

Happy Anniversary

Wayne & Susan Winkelmann, May 5

Happy Birthday

Kathleen Insley, May 5
Eleanor Mills, May 7
Benita Schramme, May 8
Rick Hutchens, May 8
Karen Johnson, May 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.