

# Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, June 9, 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

## Unbind Him!

*Rev. Cody Mills*

Augustana District is a non-regional district in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. To be part of the Augustana District, you must answer several theological questions and meet with a board of individuals to make sure your theology is sound. This is no small task, and I am grateful to be part of the Augustana District. I was asked to write a devotional for their newsletter and magazine, and I was grateful for the opportunity. The following is the devotional that will be published, and it follows our theme of creation and faith.

John 11:40-44

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Life is not always okay. We tend to seek joy to feel happiness, comfort, and meaning, including Mary and Martha, who seek Jesus to come and heal Lazarus, who is ill and close to death. Scripture reveals we are not only close to death but also dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1). When one realizes this death, we claw at the grave and try to free ourselves. Mary and Martha are no different when they scramble to interrupt Jesus' teaching and demand He come to save Lazarus before He dies. We come to Christ with our terms, which we think we have been clever in crafting as though appearing before a court as our own witness and defense.

Mary and Martha are distraught that Lazarus is close to dying. They allow the weight of the law to dig its fingers into their hearts, and they come to Christ with a demand. When He finally tends to Lazarus, He is moved and troubled. He cried to see the hurt that occurred with Lazarus's death and was concerned that His words were of little recognition to the people. He is constantly teaching that He IS life and He is God. Upon hearing the phrase, "If you were here, He would not have died (John 11:32)," His response was, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

The law apart from Christ is certainly binding, and Lazarus is no exception to this rule. Once he died, the family wrapped him in linen and anointed him with oil. This action completes the understanding that He genuinely is dead according to the law. We truly bind ourselves to sin and cannot free ourselves. We lay at rest and stink of death. We can put as much perfume (justification of sin) all we want, but we are dead and stink.

That is until a preacher comes and presents the words of forgiveness of sins. Two things occur here. First, God's mercy allows us to ask for forgiveness of sins; second, he restores us through forgiveness. On behalf of Jesus Christ, the preacher stands before the sinner who is dead in sin and declares, "Lazarus, come out," followed by, "Unbind him!" These words given by Christ through a preacher removes the sin that binds us and signifies only death. We come out as a new creature without the stench of death, or that stuff binds us. Although Lazarus is only temporary, we see what Christ has promised. Let the word of our Lord echo in the ears of the dead, "Come out" and "unbind him!"

This is the Glory of the Lord that you are forgiven of sin, and sin does not confine you to death. You are resurrected and anew in Christ's declaration of life. Peace to you.

# Vacation Bible School

## 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  
(meal included)



**VBS 2023: You are God's Masterpiece**  
**June 27-29<sup>th</sup>**

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

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## VBS Volunteers

### Luncheon With In-Service

**Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

**After service until 2pm**

\*Please reach out to Mia, 218-282-0770  
with questions, comments, or concerns.

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## Vacation Bible Schools at Local NALC Churches

As we prepare for our Vacation Bible School on June 27-29, we are hopeful that members will reach out to family, friends and neighborhoods to invite them to participate with us.

We recognize that our dates may not work for each family, and the child's Christian education is our primary concern. Therefore, we are sharing other church VBS dates as they are also sharing ours. Perhaps a child may want to attend two VBS sessions!

**Welcome** - June 12-15, 5:30-8:00 pm  
**Salem** - June 19-23, 5:30-8:00 pm  
**St. John / Prairie Hill** - July 31-Aug 6

## VBS Prayer for the Week

(Adapted from Deeper Kidmin)

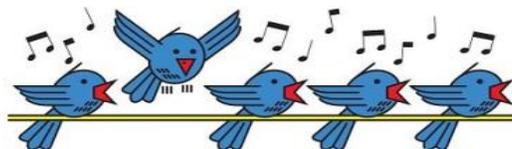
**Week 2:** Psalm 16:1 God today I ask for safety and good health at VBS for all involved. Keep us all safe as we take refuge in you. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## Prayer Guide for VBS

If you would like to join the church in praying for VBS, please pick up a copy of "**14 Days of Prayer for VBS**" on the Welcome Table.

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**CHOIR**  
**Rehearsal**

**Next Choir Practice**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 6:00 pm**



**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!**

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**Servant Schedule  
July – December  
has been posted**

Check your email or pick up a copy on the Welcome Table. As always if a date doesn't work for you, please find a replacement and let the church office know. Thanks for all you do! All our servants are greatly appreciated!

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**Reminders**

- ❖ Youth Sunday School is breaking for the summer. Sunday Adult Bible Study will continue.
- ❖ **Check out Rev. Mills' weekly Facebook clip!** You can also find sermons, adult Bible studies, upcoming events and more!  
<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingWordBr enham/>
- ❖ Online Giving is available through the Church Website.  
<https://www.abidingword.org/tithe>



**Ladies Evening Bible Study  
Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 pm  
at the Church**

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**NALC Ladies Bible Study  
Thursday, June 15, 1:30 pm  
at the church**

The study is held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. For more information contact Lottie Tegeler.

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**Community Event**

**Twenty-fifth Annual Gospel Jubilee  
and Sing-a-Long**

**Monday, June 19 at 7:00 pm**

At the family Life Center, St. John's United Church of Christ.

The Circle # 1 of St. John's United Church of Christ, Burton, TX invites you to the Gospel Jubilee and sing-a-long where you can enjoy the complimentary Ice Cream Social.

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**Flowers for the Altar**

The flowers last Sunday were given by Preston and Melody Perry in memory of Stuart Perry. There are a number of openings in June and July to provide flowers. The sign-up list is on the bulletin board or call the church office.



## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Second Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading: Hosea 5:15-6:6

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:65-72

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9-13

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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, June 11

### Second Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Susie Houston

Reader: Dottie Schaer

Greeters: Darlene & Berrie Etzel

Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith

Ushers: John & Dottie Schaer

Little Lambs: Dottie Schaer

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Melody Perry

## Our Servants Next Sunday, June 18

### Third Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Wade Seidel

Reader: Jan Koska

Greeters: Gary Hind & Mary Ann Schulte

Communion: Rev. Mills & Wade Seidel

Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm

Ushers: Michael Kelling & Berrie Etzel

Little Lambs: Michael Kelling

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Melody Perry

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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\*

Tom Campbell

Cathy Johnson

Barbara Lighter

Ralph Martin & family

Marita Mikeska

Wade Mills

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray & Ethel Sanders

Don Schlaudraff

Stanley Schneider

Susie Seidel & family

Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Carol Crosby

Sonya Graham

Mollie Grote

Will Hibbs

Starlyn Jasinski

Dawson Lee Jasinski & family

Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Kim Sauer

Glyn Spies

Eloise Wehring

Rita Werner

The family of Taylor Wick

The family of Aubert V. 'Bert' Jaeger

Faith Lutheran Church

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 or by calling the church office.

## 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 9 am - 5 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, June 14 at 6:30 pm at the Church

\*Men's Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, July 1 at 8:30 am at Smitty's

\*Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, next meeting To Be Determined

## June 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Mon                                                              | Tue                                                                                                                                              | Wed                                                                                                                                                               | Thu                                                                                                                      | Fri                                        | Sat                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study<br>9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>5</b><br>John & Doris<br>Porter<br><br>Bob & Maggie<br>Rankin | <b>6</b><br>Journey Together<br>Ladies Lunch &<br>Devotional at Lois<br>Rankin's home<br>11:00 am<br><br>Worship<br>Committee Meeting<br>5:30 pm | <b>7</b><br>Choir Practice<br>6:00 pm<br><br>Pat Quebe                                                                                                            | <b>8</b><br>Cathy Johnson<br><br><br>Admin out of<br>office                                                              | <b>9</b><br><br><br>Admin out of<br>office | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>11</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study<br>9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>12</b>                                                        | <b>13</b><br>Outreach<br>Committee Meeting<br>5:30 pm                                                                                            | <b>14</b><br>Choir Practice<br>6:00 pm<br><br>Ladies Evening<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 pm<br><br>Danny Johnson                                                       | <b>15</b><br>NALC Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>1:30 pm<br><br>Donna Kelling                                                  | <b>16</b><br>Paul Koska                    | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>18</b><br><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study<br>9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am<br><br>VBS Workers In-<br>Service after service-<br>2:00 pm<br><br>Stanley Schneider | <b>19</b>                                                        | <b>20</b><br>Church Council<br>Meeting 5:45 pm                                                                                                   | <b>21</b><br><br>VBS Family Rally<br>Night 5:30 pm<br><br>John & Susan<br>Davies | <b>22</b><br>Larry & Marjorie<br>Stark<br><br>Tom & Kathleen<br>Insley                                                   | <b>23</b>                                  | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>25</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study<br>9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am<br><br>Last Sunday to<br>turn in Hymn<br>Requests                                                                                                                         | <b>26</b>                                                        | <b>27</b><br><br>VBS 5:30-8:00 pm                             | <b>28</b><br><br>VBS 5:30-8:00<br>pm<br><br>Elsie Mills                        | <b>29</b><br><br>VBS 5:30-8:00<br>pm | <b>30</b><br>Robert & Marita<br>Mikeska    | <b>July 1</b><br>Men's Breakfast<br>at Smitty's<br>8:30 am<br><br>Red = Adult's Birthday<br>Blue = Child's Birthday<br>Green = Wedding<br>Anniversary |

**Happy Birthday**  
**Danny Johnson, June 14**  
**Donna Kelling, June 15**

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.