

# Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, May 26, 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

## Reassurance is Christ

*Rev. Cody Mills*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. What a foretaste of glory, divine!

You and I love to falter. I can hear, "But Pastor! I have always tried to be good!" To which I would say, "Great! I am glad that you strive to be good! I have but only one reason to believe that we falter. Scripture has revealed our innate sin, and we cannot escape it. So, we sin. We cannot love the way Christ loves and cannot love perfectly."

Try as we might, and all the striving in the world is excellent, but we get wrapped up in our own assurance concerning the heavenly things. Including serving our neighbor freely. This is certainly tough to think about. The world is quite fascinated with the word "love," and so is our flesh. Loving to fish, play golf, go to restaurants, or travel is not the same as loving the neighbor. Honestly, the word love has too many attributes and categories.

But as Christians, how do we define love. Is love defined by helping the neighbor who is unable to cook? Is it about helping neighbors who cannot drive to appointments...love? Is it even correcting fellow Christians for their unacceptable behavior, love? Is it all of the above or none of the above? What about the atheist that does everything listed above?

I think that we are asking the wrong questions here. I don't think it is about how or who we love but how we receive love as Christians. The grounding for love does not come from your ability to love for a greater sacrifice or service but the reassurance that comes from Christ.

What comes from Christ is our reassurance that we are indeed receiving a magnitude of love from somebody that has secured a place for those who believe and confess His name. His blood has given us a robe for His wedding feast. Your life doesn't hang in the balance of your strings and work but by the pure grace of God.

We want to make love a legal transaction by making the golden rule a law to meet and accomplish for the glory of God. Whether you are trying to 'glorify God' or receive 'glory,' you abuse the Golden Rule. The only way to receive and give love is by receiving the sermon from Jesus Christ – You are mine and forgiven.

Love occurs when you can give love to another individual without creating it into a legalistic act. Leave it to Christ, who is the reassurance and source of life, and we need to step aside. That is to say, do not make love an act you do for glory, but allow the forgiveness of sin to give you love to breathe it out to others.

But of course, this doesn't fit the world. The world will always hold you to 'love' of some sort in the legal scheme of things. Do this if you love me! Support me if you love me! Allow me to do what I want if you love me!

So now, let us find and know that love is without such foolishness. Love is free from that burden because of the Reassurance of Christ. Reassurance is Christ!

# 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** (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**



**The Church Choir will be singing on  
Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. All are welcome to  
join. First practice is Wednesday,  
June 7 at 6:00 pm. Just show up!**



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



If you requested a personalized  
copy of Bob Smith's new book,  
please pick it up on the table in Fellowship Hall.



 The church office will be closed  
Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.  
And the admin will be out of the office  
Tuesday, May 30. Responses may be delayed.



- ❖ 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/AbidingWordBrenham/>
- ❖ Online Giving is available through the Church Website. <https://www.abidingword.org/tithe>



Thomas Michael Kelling has been released from the hospital and the family is now staying in the Ronald McDonald House next to the hospital due to his ongoing concerns. He

continues to improve and grow. He is around 10 pounds and is doing well. Big sister has finally met him and seems to approve! He will have an additional open-heart surgery sometime in July and they should be able to go to their "real" home about two weeks after that. The physicians and nurses say he is doing better than they expected. We thank all of you for your continued prayers and support.  
God Is GOOD!!!!!



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:

### Ascension of our Lord

First Reading: Numbers 11:24-30

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-15

Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-39

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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 28

### Day of Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Jan Koska  
Reader: Jan Koska  
Greeters: Sheila Demery & Karen Johnson  
Communion: Rev. Mills & Jan Koska  
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin  
Ushers: Roy & Jan Kelm  
Little Lambs: Rev. Mills  
Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe

## Our Servants Next Sunday, June 4

### Holy Trinity Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Mia Mills  
Reader: Susie Seidel  
Greeters: Sandra Becker & Marilyn Watts  
Communion: Rev. Mills & Mia Mills  
Audio/Video: Benita Schramme & Wade Seidel  
Ushers: Sheila Demery & 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 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 Eloise Wehring  
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 (note update)

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

\*Men's Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, June 3 at 8:30 am at Smitty's  
\*Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, June 6, 11:00 am lunch at home of Lois Rankin  
\*Ladies' Evening Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, June 14 at 6:30 pm at the Church

## May/June 2023

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

### *Happy Anniversary*

*Herman & Sandra Aschenbeck, May 26*  
*Gene & Dorothy Stanford, May 30*

### **Happy Birthday**

**Kyle Mills, May 26**  
**Linda Horak, May 31**