

# Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, December 1, 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

## Advent

*Rev. Cody Mills*

We are approaching advent season. It is a moment when we are to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. We await His birth to bring hope and renewal.

When we come to Christ we ask for redemption and renewal. His blood restores us to the correct foundation and relationship with God the Father. Without Christ, we would still be at war with God because of sin.

The messenger that meets the shepherds in the night is one speaking comfort and hope letting them know the prophecy is fulfilled and peace with the Father is restored.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for such a wonderful message, let us go to the Father in prayer and gratitude. We ask for God's work to be completed in us. We prepare our hearts and minds and ask that He continue to work even when we have failed. We ask that His creativity restore us to the place we belong. That is with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. His kingdom has no end.

Thanks be to God for bringing the light into darkness to restore and renew us. We go to God in prayer to renew a right spirit in us and help our unbelief. We ask that He bring us to His presence so we can enjoy the true presence of our creator.



Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



## Grief Session, December 6

AWLC is again hosting a gathering and Bible study/sessions for those grieving. It is open to all in the community. The sessions are using a Christian-based program based on a book on living with grief in sight of the Cross of Christ by Rev. Dr. Kristian Kincaid. It is called Living with Grief: Bound by Sorrow, Wrapped in Comfort. The sessions will help us look to the Cross for healing. There are many uncertainties in our lives, but grief is one sure thing that all of us will experience. Coming together around God's Word in the presence of others allows us to mourn together and learn of the goodness that is Jesus Christ. **Sign up on the church website or call the church office.**

Sessions are Wednesday evenings 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, supper included, at the Church on the following dates:

- December 6
- December 13
- December 20 – Longest night candle vigil

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**Saturday, December 2nd; 8:30 am at Smitty's**

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**Journey Together Ladies' Bible Study & Luncheon, Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the church. Bring a dish to share!**

## This Saturday - Christmas Parade! Downtown Brenham



We welcome your children or grandchildren to ride on the float. Contact Susie Houston for details. Parade begins at 6:00 pm, December 2<sup>nd</sup>; come join the fun and watch and wave!

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## Join us at the Church Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> for



**\* NO Adult or Children's Bible Study Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**\* The AWLC Choir will be singing in the Service**



We need a 12' to 15' ladder. Contact the church office or Jan Koska if you can bring one that Sunday.



The flowers for Sunday are given by the choir as a special Thank You to Lottie Tegeler and Debbie Heidemann

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**Poinsettias for the Sanctuary are available for \$10 each; 20 available**  
**Sign up in the church foyer or contact the Church Office through Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be placed in the sanctuary on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.**

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Volunteers needed for lighting the Advent Candles each Sunday in Advent. No speaking required (the Lay Minister can read and pray or you can). Contact Rev. Mills, the church office, or Jan Koska if interested.

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**We Need Participants!**

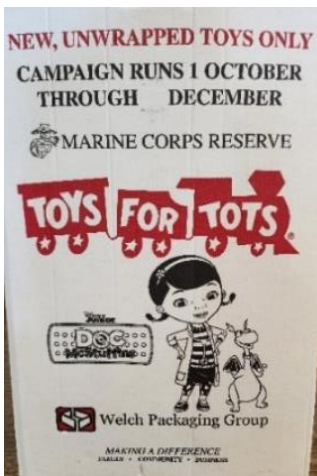
No acting skills required – other volunteers needed as well December 9 & 10. Sign up on the Bulletin Board to participate. Contact Bill Rankin for more information

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**NALC Ladies' Luncheon**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am  
 at the Cannery  
 get your \$15 tickets from Donna Kelling or the Church Office (envelope on the admin's desk)



**Toys for Tots  
 Toys Due  
 Sunday,  
 December 10th**

We have a donation box at the church for toys. New toys are accepted. Nothing used.

Susie Houston is also collecting money (cash/check) to buy toys as well. If you want to write a check -make it out to and give it to Susie Houston who will cash it and buy the toys for the ages that still need gifts. That way the \$ and toys will stay in Washington County.

## Community Event



*Christmas Remembrance*

**Date:** Sunday,  
December 10, 2023

**Time:** 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** Memorial Oaks Chapel  
1306 W. Main Street  
Brenham, TX 77833

You are cordially invited to join us for a special gathering with guest speaker, Pastor Phil Geleske. A brief service filled with hymns and scripture readings, and a touching moment as candles are lit while the names of our departed loved ones are read.

Afterward, please enjoy refreshments with us. Be sure to collect an ornament keepsake to take home as a token of remembrance for our families.



1306 West Main  
Brenham, TX 77833  
979-836-4564  
memorialoakschapel.com

## Church Directory App!

We have been working on setting up a church directory mobile phone app. This is provided free to us through our church database software.

In the next few weeks, we will be introducing this church Directory App with instructions on how to use it. This app allows you to see the contact information for others who have consented to be part of this mobile directory. It also allows you to add a profile picture and allows you to limit your information visibility.

In the meantime, we would like to get your consent to have your information displayed in the app and available to others in the church who have also consented to have their information in the app.

Attached to the newsletter is a consent form you can print, sign, and bring to the church; there will also be consent forms available at the church for you to sign.

We appreciate your patience as we work to set this up.

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### Abiding Word Lutheran Church's Information, Data & Image Policy

Throughout the life of the Church, we use images or videos for promotional materials, printed publications, internet posts including social media, television, and other media sources. We also list birthdays, anniversaries, contact information, etc. in our newsletter.

As a religious organization, we generally collect, use and disclose personal data for the following purposes:

- (a) To identify our members and those who regular worship with us and visitors to the Church;
- (b) To carry out the ministry programs and activities of the Church;
- (c) To manage the administration and operations of the Church;
- (d) To establish and maintain responsible relationships among Congregants.

We take your privacy seriously. If you do not want your information or your children's information, (i.e., birthday, anniversary, or images), shared on our newsletter, livestreaming, social media outlets, etc. or shared with others involved in the life of the church, (i.e., phone number and email shared with committee chair), please inform the church office.

This is not a change from what we have been doing. We just want to make you aware of how we use your information.

**Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:**

**First Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

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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, December 3**

**First Sunday of Advent**

- Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
- Musician: Debbie Heidemann
- Lay Minister: Susie Houston
- Reader: Dottie Schaer
- Greeters: Mary Ann Schulte & Gary Hind
- Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Susie Houston
- Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm
- Ushers: John & Dottie Schaer
- Little Lambs: Dottie Schaer
- Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Darlene Etzel

**Our Servants Following Sunday, Dec. 10**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

- Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills
- Musician: Debbie Heidemann
- Lay Minister: Jan Koska
- Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck
- Greeters: Jean King & Marilyn Watts
- Communion: Rev. Cody Mills, Mary Ann Schulte & Gary Hind
- Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith
- Ushers: Sheila Demery & Robert Mikeska
- Little Lambs: Rev. Mills
- Sunday School: Cathy Johnson
- Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

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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\***

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Herman Aschenbeck      | Roy Kelm          |
| Barbara Lighter        | Wade Mills        |
| Dennis & Doris Penkert | John Porter       |
| Ray & Ethel Sanders    | Stanley Schneider |
| Blake Shedd            | Patsy Wegner      |

**Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\***

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lonnie Addicks                    | The Feathers' Family |
| Dawson Lee Jasinski & family      | John Jensen          |
| Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling |                      |
| Lucreacia                         | Susan Neidlinger     |
| Kim Sauer                         | Rita Werner          |
- Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Carmine, TX  
 For rain and those affected by the drought  
 Those affected by the wildfires  
 National and government leaders  
 All those in the 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](mailto:admin@abidingword.org) or by calling the church office.

**Updated 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 2-6 pm
  - Friday: Home visitations through the day
  - Saturday: Off
  - Sunday: Worship – 8:30 am – 11:30 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**

- ❖ Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am @ Smitty's
- ❖ Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> –Downtown Christmas Parade, 6:00 pm
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Sing-a-Long before Service; Choir Singing in Church Service; Tree Decorating after service
- ❖ Tues. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – Ladies' Bible Study Lunch, 10:00 am @ Church
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – Bethlehem in Independence – we need volunteers.
- ❖ Sun. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Toys for Tots Due
- ❖ Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – Ladies' Evening Bible Study, 6:30 pm @Church
- ❖ Fri. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – NALC Ladies' Luncheon, 11:00 am

## December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Candy Canes Due	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Choir Practice 6:00 pm  Grief Session 5:30 pm	<b>30</b> Lloyd Quebe	<b>December 1</b>	<b>2</b> Men's Breakfast Smitty's 8:30 am  Christmas Parade Downtown Brenham 6:00 pm
<b>3</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am <b>No</b> Adult or Children's Bible Study Christmas Music Sing-a- Long 9:45 am Choir & Worship 10:00 am Tree Decorating after service Bill Rankin	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Journey Together Ladies Bible Study & Lunch 10:00 am  Worship Committee 5:30 pm Geraldine Johnson Marita Mikeska	<b>6</b> Grief Session 5:30 pm Robert Mikeska	<b>7</b> John Davies	<b>8</b> Dottie Schaar  Rick & Carol Hutchens	<b>9</b> Bethlehem in Independence
<b>10</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am <b>Toys for Tots due</b> Ralph Becker	<b>11</b> Wade & Hollie Mills	<b>12</b> Homeschool Co-op 11:00 am	<b>13</b> Grief Session 5:30 pm Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Mell Morrow	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NALC Ladies' Lunch at the Cannery 11:00 am Paisley Hooks	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	<b>20</b> Longest Night Service 5:30 pm Danny & Cathy Johnson Carol Hutchens	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am <b>No</b> Adult or Children's Bible Study Worship 10:00 am Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	<b>25</b> Office Closed 	<b>26</b> Office Closed Rev. Mills out through Jan 9	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Jon Hill	<b>30</b> 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](http://abidingword.org). Link on the Home page or click on "Worship" > then "Livestream" -  
<https://www.abidingword.org/live-stream>

**Happy Birthday**  
**Bill Rankin, December 3**  
**Geraldine Johnson, December 5**  
**Marita Mikeska, December 5**  
**Robert Mikeska, December 6**  
**John Davies, December 7**