

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, January 5, 2024

Rev. Cody Mills Email: pastor@abidingword.org

Rev. Mills Cell Phone: 218.405.0710

Office Email: admin@abidingword.org

Office Phone: 979.836.5921

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

Recommended Book of the Month

Rev. Cody Mills

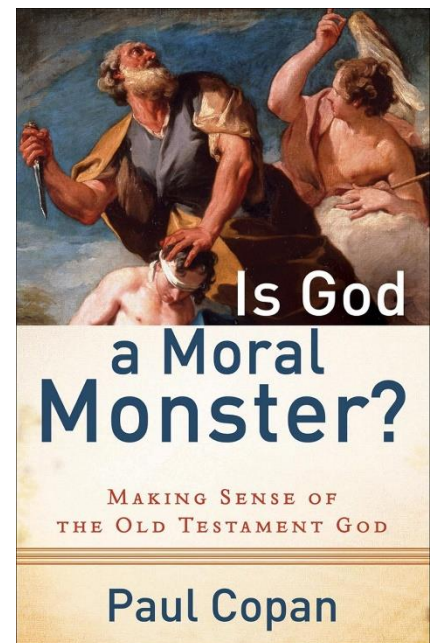
Is God a Moral Monster by Paul Copan

Amazon Excerpt:

A recent string of popular-level books written by the New Atheists have leveled the accusation that the God of the Old Testament is nothing but a bully, a murderer, and a cosmic child abuser. This viewpoint is even making inroads into the church. How are Christians to respond to such accusations? And how are we to reconcile the seemingly disconnected natures of God portrayed in the two testaments?

In this timely and readable book, apologist Paul Copan takes on some of the most vexing accusations of our time, including:

- God is arrogant and jealous
- God punishes people too harshly
- God is guilty of ethnic cleansing
- God oppresses women
- God endorses slavery
- Christianity causes violence and more



Copan not only answers God's critics, he also shows how to read both the Old and New Testaments faithfully, seeing an unchanging, righteous, and loving God in both.

Rev. Cody Mills

This book is one of my all-time favorites as the book navigates the tough questions in the Old Testament. I also applaud the author as he gives insight an apologist. Paul writes we need to be ready at all times to give a defense for what we believe and why we believe it. We do not equip our kids well enough to stand against such questions when they are presented. Many adults aren't even prepared to give a defense to such questions.

This book is a great *apologia* for young and old adults. Use the book to prepare yourself and to speak to your kids and grandkids. Prepare them for college and universities as they continue to become a popular place to mold and shape anti-Christ individuals.

Some Pictures from our fun New Year's Eve Brunch



Christmas Tree Takedown

This Sunday, January 7th



We will be taking down the Christmas tree after church this coming Sunday. We need your help to remove Christmons and the top section of tree; put on cover and place back into storage closet. Please stay after the service if you are available to help.



Poinsettia Pick-Up

If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please pick it up from the Fellowship Hall this Sunday.



Ladies' Evening Bible Study
Wednesday, January 10th 6:30 pm at the Church

Pastor's Note

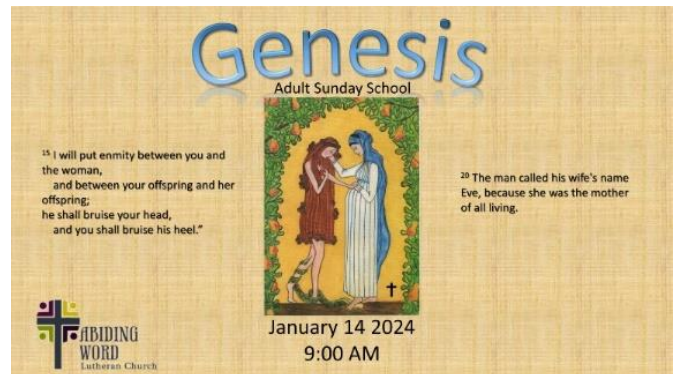
Rev. Mills is taking time off through Jan. 8th.

While he is out Pastor Craig Dohse, 832-498-9618, and Pastor Norm Sul, 361-362-9108 are available for pastoral care.

Pastor Greg Knippa will be leading worship on January 7th.

There will be no Adult or Children's Bible Study on Sunday, January 7th.

Join us on January 14th as the adults start a new study on Genesis and Children's Sunday School resumes.



Committee Chairs - Year-End Reports due to the admin by January 7.

Also, as you appoint new Committee leaders, please give this information to the admin. The admin appreciates your help to make her job a little easier.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Installation of New Council Members

Please join us Sunday, January 14th as we install our new Church Council Members: Ken French, Roger Hibbs, and Marilyn Watts.

We also thank Donna Kelling, Jon Hill, and Cathy Johnson as they step down, for their years of faithful service on the Church Council.

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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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Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 28
directly after the service. Please join us.

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



**This Saturday, January 6 8:30 am @ Smitty's**

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NALC Ladies' New Study
January 18th, 1:30 pm at Abiding Word
3rd Thursday of the month

The new Bible Study will be based on the book, "The Love Stories of the Bible" by Shannon Bream. Doris Glenewinkle will be leading this study. Everyone is welcome to come participate.

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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

God bless you!

Michael & Pat Dittrich

Peace Lutheran Church, Rosenberg, TX

**Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:**

**Baptism of Our Lord**

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 29  
Second Reading: Romans 6:1-11  
Gospel Reading: John 1:29-41

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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 7**

**Baptism of Our Lord**

Pastor: Pastor Greg Knippa  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Susie Houston  
Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck  
Greeters: Tom & Peggy Campbell  
Communion: Pastor Greg Knippa & Susie Houston  
Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm  
Ushers: Sheila Demery & Gary Crocker  
Altar Guild: Darlene & Berrie Etzel & Jan Koska

**Our Servants the Following Sunday, Jan. 14**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Roger Hibbs  
Reader: Donna Kelling  
Greeters: Jean King & Karen Johnson  
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Roger Hibbs  
Audio/Video: Charlotte Smith & Gary Crocker  
Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Tom Insley  
Little Lambs: Michael Kelling  
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson  
Altar Guild: Donna & Michael Kelling

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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	Roy Kelm
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*

Family of Allen Draehn	Lindsey Eckert
Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling	
Otto Kemper	Lucreacia
Lila Miller	Manuel Perez
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
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 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**

- \*Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Greg Knippa officiating
- \*Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – First Communion and Council Installation
- \*Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – New Member Reception
- \*Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Congregational Meeting

## January 2024

| Sun                                                                                                                                                      | Mon                                                                                                                           | Tue                                                                                                | Wed                                                                                   | Thu                                                                             | Fri                                               | Sat                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>31</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><b>No Adult or Children's Bible Study</b><br>Worship 10:00 am<br>New Year's Eve Brunch following the Service | <b>January 1</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br> | <b>2</b> Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br><br>Worship Committee<br>5:30 pm    | <b>3</b>                                                                              | <b>4</b><br>Larry Stark<br><br>Sue Anderson                                     | <b>5</b>                                          | <b>6</b> Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am                                                                                         |
| <b>7</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><b>No Adult or Children's Bible Study</b><br>Worship 10:00 am<br>Gayle Hill                                   | <b>8</b><br>Bob Smith                                                                                                         | <b>9</b> Homeschool Co-Op<br>10:00 am<br><br>Outreach Committee 5:30 pm                            | <b>10</b> Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm<br><br>Marilyn Heckmann<br>Bill Lighter | <b>11</b>                                                                       | <b>12</b><br>Betty Becker<br><br>Dorothy Stanford | <b>13</b>                                                                                                                           |
| <b>14</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>First Communion & Council Installation         | <b>15</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>16</b> Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br><br>Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm | <b>17</b>                                                                             | <b>18</b> NALC Ladies' Bible Study 1:30 pm<br><br>Trail Life Open House 6:30 pm | <b>19</b><br>Doris Porter                         | <b>20</b><br>Sue Vierus                                                                                                             |
| <b>21</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>New Member                                     | <b>22</b><br>Paul & Jan Koska                                                                                                 | <b>23</b><br>Dennis Penkert                                                                        | <b>24</b><br>Charlotte Smith                                                          | <b>25</b>                                                                       | <b>26</b>                                         | <b>27</b> Jan Koska<br><br>Westen Muske<br><br>Wayne Winkelmann                                                                     |
| <b>28</b> Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>Congregational Meeting                         | <b>29</b><br>Lloyd & Pat Quebe                                                                                                | <b>30</b><br>Jean King                                                                             | <b>31</b><br>Kim Bosse                                                                | <b>February 1</b><br>Sue Mahoney                                                | <b>2</b>                                          | <b>3</b> Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am<br><br>Red = Adult's Birthday<br>Blue = Child's Birthday<br>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

**Gayle Hill, January 7**  
**Bob Smith, January 8**  
**Marilyn Heckmann, January 10**  
**Bill Lighter, January 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 end of day the Wednesday before. Thank you.