

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, March 24, 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

Lutheran Week 2023

Rev. Cody Mills

“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation!” –Mark 16:15

The American Lutheran missiologist, James A. Scherer says, “For Luther, mission is always pre-eminently the work of the triune God—*missio Dei*—and its goal and outcome is the coming of the kingdom of God. Luther sees the church, along with God’s word and every baptized believer, as crucial divine instruments for mission. Yet, nowhere does the reformer make the church the starting point or the final goal of mission, as 19th-century missiology tended to do. It is always God’s own mission that dominates Luther’s thought, and the coming of the kingdom of God represents its final culmination” (James A. Scherer, *Gospel, Church, & Kingdom: Comparative Studies in World Mission Theology* [Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987], 55).

As one of the Core Values of the North American Lutheran Church is Mission Driven, it is important for us to be reminded that this is not our mission, our vision, our strategy, but it is “pre-eminently the work of the triune God—*missio Dei*!”

This year’s NALC Lutheran Week completes a six-year focus on the Holy Trinity, concluding now with “God the Father Creates...in His Image,” as the theme for the Braaten-Benne Theological Lectures. However, it seems appropriate to conclude this cycle with the theme, *Missio Dei*, as we celebrate the fact that everything we do as a mission-driven Lutheran body comes from God and His mission—that we are to go into all the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, preaching the good news of salvation in and through Jesus Christ—to the whole creation!

Our prayer is that this year’s Mission Convocation will indeed be a mission-oriented and mission-driven gathering! While there will be necessary times dedicated to reports, actions and elections—including the election of a bishop—highlights will be the several “On Fire for Mission” sessions, focusing on domestic mission, international mission and mission related to congregational life. These will begin with brief Bible study and devotional periods, followed by presentations on the theme, with extended time for table talk, reflection, breakouts, and strategies for “taking it home!”

We are also excited to hold a Faith Formation Festival (“Everything You Want to Know About Youth & Family Ministry”) and the Gathering of the Women of the NALC (“Using Our Gifts to Serve”) earlier in the week. The hope and prayer of all involved is that this will light a spark or fan the flame for mission, that we return home inspired and excited about *missio Dei*—the work and mission of God in our local congregations, in North America and throughout the whole creation!

Location: Venue
Omni Oklahoma City Hotel
100 Oklahoma City Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73109



When:
August 7, 2023 – August 11, 2023

Costs:
Faith Formation Festival Tuesday, August 8th, 8 a.m. to Wednesday, August 9th, 12 p.m. Cost: \$120 (includes lunch on both days)

Women of the NALC Gathering Tuesday, August 8th, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost: \$100 (includes lunch)

Carl E. Braaten-Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology Tuesday, August 8th, 1 p.m. to Wednesday, August 9th, 12 p.m. Cost: \$150 (includes Wednesday lunch and a copy of the ALPB book to be published from these lectures); \$75 (Wednesday morning only)

Mission Festival & Convocation Wednesday, August 9th, 1:30 p.m. to Friday, August 11th, 5 p.m. Cost: \$275 (includes Thursday lunch and banquet dinner, and Friday lunch)

We will be welcoming New Members, This Sunday, March 26!

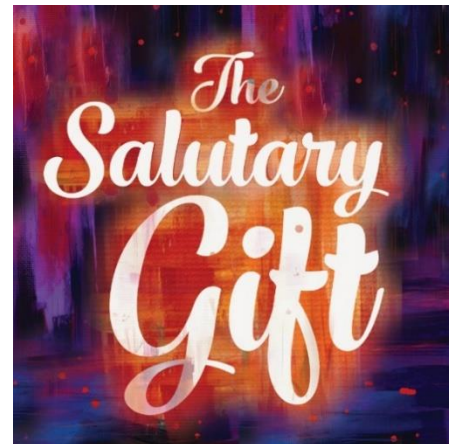
*Betty Dove *Betsy Faske *Roger and Lilajan Hibbs



Please keep these families in prayer as they serve the Lord along with us here at Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Let them know how thankful we are that the Lord has brought them here!



**Join us for the Last Wednesday
Lenten Meal and Service
March 29
Lenten Meal 5:15 pm
Lenten Service 6:00 pm**



Thank you to all who have helped in preparing meals for our mid-week Lenten services! There is one more mid-week Lenten meal and we need some of you to sign up to bring soup, sandwiches and dessert. So far, Darlene Etzel is providing soup and Pat Quebe is providing dessert.

We are requesting our Sunday servant Readers and our A/V servants to also serve during the following Wednesday Mid-Week Lenten service or find a replacement and let the church admin know. Thanks so much for your service during this special season!



Needed: Communion Assistant and Help Moving Chairs!

We are getting the carpets cleaned in the sanctuary March 30th. We need help to move chairs out of the Sanctuary after the Wednesday Lenten service March 29! Please consider helping with this BIG project!

Volunteers also are needed to help with set-up for the Easter Sunrise Service, April 9. Please let Rev. Mills or the church office know if you can help with this. Thank You!



Also, we need one more communion assistant for Maundy Thursday service April 6, please let the admin know if you can assist that evening!

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## Join us for Upcoming Special Services planned for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise Easter Sunday, and Easter Sunday!



**Maundy Thursday Service**  
**April 6, 6:00 pm**

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Good Friday Service
April 7, 6:00 pm

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**Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 am**  
**Easter "Rise N Shine" Rolls**  
**Easter Sunday Service - 10:00 am**  
**More details to come**

## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-44, 49-50

## Thank You

To all our faithful servants every Sunday.  
The church couldn't function without you.

## Our Servants This Sunday, March 26

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Charlotte Smith  
Reader: Marilyn Watts  
Greeters: Mary Ann Schulte & Gary Hind  
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin  
Ushers: Roy & Jan Kelm  
Little Lambs: Charlotte Smith  
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson  
Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Darlene Etzel, Pat Quebe

## Our Servants Next Sunday, April 2

### Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion)

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Gary Crocker  
Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck  
Greeters: Preston & Melody Perry  
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Gary Crocker  
Audio/Video: Benita Schramme & Wade Seidel  
Ushers: Sheila Demery & Michael Kelling  
Little Lambs: Michael Kelling  
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson  
Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

\*Please notify the church office if you have arranged for someone to fill in for you.

## 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\*

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Betsy Faske     | Valgene & Linda Horak  |
| Cathy Johnson   | Jan Koska              |
| Barbara Lighter | Ralph Martin & family  |
| Marita Mikeska  | Dennis & Doris Penkert |
| John Porter     | Ray and Ethel Sanders  |
| Don Schlaudraff | Stanley Schneider      |
| Larry Stark     | Patsy Wegner           |

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Krista Bowers | Carol Crosby |
| Sonya Graham  | Will Hibbs   |

Dawson Lee Jasinski & family  
Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling  
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.

## Looking Ahead

\*Men's Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, April 1 at 8:30 am  
at Brenham Grill  
\*Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesdays, April 4 at 10:00 am at the Church  
\*Ladies' Evening Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, at  
6:30 pm at the Church, April 12

## March/April 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mon                                                                                                                               | Tue                                                                                                                                        | Wed                                                                                    | Thu                                                                                                                                            | Fri                                                                                                                                      | Sat                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>19</b><br>Mission Offering<br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study &<br>Children's Sunday<br>School 9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                | <b>20</b><br>Roger Hibbs<br><br>First day of<br> | <b>21</b><br>Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible<br>Study- 10:00 am<br><br>Church Council<br>Meeting 5:45 pm<br><br>Betty Dove                | <b>22</b><br>Lenten Dinner<br>5:15 pm<br>Lenten Service<br>6:00 pm                     | <b>23</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>26</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study &<br>Children's Sunday<br>School 9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                                    | <b>27</b><br>Pat Meyer                                                                                                            | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>29</b><br>Lenten Dinner<br>5:15 pm<br>Lenten Service<br>6:00 pm<br><br>Blaine Bosse | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>April 1</b><br><br>Men's Breakfast<br>8:30 am                                                                             |
| <b>2</b><br>First Fruits<br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study &<br>Children's Sunday<br>School 9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                     | <b>3</b><br>Berrie & Darlene<br>Etzel                                                                                             | <b>4</b><br>Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible<br>Study- 10:00 am<br><br>Worship<br>Committee Meeting<br>5:30 pm<br><br>Sandra<br>Aschenbeck | <b>5</b>                                                                               | <b>6</b><br>Maundy<br>Thursday<br>Service<br>6:00 pm<br><br> | <b>7</b><br>Good Friday<br>Service<br>6:00 pm<br><br> | <b>8</b><br>Jeremy Reimer                                                                                                    |
| <b>9</b><br>Easter Sunrise<br>Service 7:00 am<br><br>Easter Worship<br>Service<br>10:00 am<br><br><br>Harrison Sommer | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>11</b><br>Outreach<br>Committee Meeting<br>5:30 pm                                                                                      | <b>12</b><br>Ladies Evening<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 pm                                  | <b>13</b><br>Ronnie<br>Lueckemeyer                                                                                                             | <b>14</b><br>Ralph Martin                                                                                                                | <b>15</b><br>Cameron Roehling<br><br><br>Red = Adult's Birthday<br>Blue = Child's Birthday<br>Green = Wedding<br>Anniversary |
| <b>16</b><br>Mission Offering<br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study &<br>Children's Sunday<br>School 9:00 am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am<br><br>Tony Gomez                              | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>18</b><br>Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible<br>Study- 10:00 am<br><br>Church Council<br>Meeting 5:45 pm<br><br>Gene King                 | <b>19</b>                                                                              | <b>20</b><br>NALC Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>1:30 pm<br><br>Lois Rankin                                                                          | <b>21</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>22</b>                                                                                                                    |

### Happy Birthday

**Pat Meyer, March 27**  
**Blaine Bosse, March 29**

If you have any announcements, articles, pictures, prayer requests or updates, or corrections for/to 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.