

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, July 21, 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

Sound of Freedom

Rev. Cody Mills

Sound of Freedom by Angel Studios has been targeted by different media monsters and a particular group of people. These groups call the movie a conspiracy theory, Qanon patriarchal outrage, and even call the Christians the terrorist. These individuals refuse to see the reality of human trafficking in any sense. Perhaps, the groups screaming foul are screaming foul because a Christian studio produced the movie that is spreading like wildfire and beat the box office movie Mission Impossible. Sound of Freedom nears \$100 million while Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning part one is now reaching \$80 Million, according to Screen Daily.

Regardless of the battling words calling the movie a conspiracy theory, California has seemingly produced a bill to lessen the punishment for sexual predators. Another bill is being introduced in Minnesota to allow pedophilia without consent. These bills are shocking!

Some may claim foul as they read this church newsletter. You might even call this a political issue; pastors should not be political. As a pastor, I won't stand before you and tell you who to vote for, what politician to support, etc. But it must be known that some issues deemed "political" are not political but theological and about preserving life and family. This particular case with Sound of Freedom and the outright hatred of the movie is not a political issue but an evil and satanic issue. As Christians, we should always value life and uphold and reclaim God's value of life. Don't let groups lie and say the issue is a political issue when it is a theological one.

The movie does not show the many different types of sex trafficking. It is not always kidnapping and trading (which is enormous!) Sex trafficking happens in homes where parent(s) use their children for rent and drugs. Kids are groomed to think that sexual exploration and exploitation are indicative of the world to love. Right now, the culture is grooming kids already for sex trafficking rings, whether they know it or not. At a young age, they are exposed to books about exploration and sexual identities. The culture no longer teaches marriage before sex or the purpose of sex is for husband and wife. Instead, young children learn sex as a natural thing to explore whenever and encourage sex.

Nadia Bolz-Webber, a female pastor in the ELCA, wrote in her book, "How can one teach that against sex outside of marriage or having an affair is wrong when it feels so good!" She encourages having an affair and sex outside marriage in her book. She also wrote about encouraging her kids from her first marriage to engage as soon as possible and explore with many people. How is this not grooming?

Children are exposed to drag queens, parades with people exposing themselves to the public, and even bringing little children into their dances to perform lap dances on the children. In the parades, adults hold children on their shoulders to see the events unfold, and the children see sexual connotations acted out physically before their eyes.

Another hardball fact, the number one supporter of abortions and abortion clinics is the sex traffickers. The number one rule at the pregnancy center is, "Don't ask who the father is or how you became pregnant." They call that tolerance and loving. Don't ask, and don't tell. After the abortion, they are right back into the hands of the perpetrators. I guess it is good for business.

At one time in history, we would call this child abuse because it is extremely harmful to the psychology of the child forced to watch such things occur. Instead, it is highly celebrated because the parents (or the so-called parents) are exposing their children to open-minded nonsense. Interestingly, the group that calls Sound of Freedom a conspiracy at best cries out for the "me too" movement. I cry for those that have been sexually abused and raped. Statistics say that nearly one in eight women are raped or sexually assaulted.

Don't get me wrong. Sex trafficking happens on all sides of the proverbial aisle and in any ethnicity. The movie Sound of Freedom never portrayed any one group as the culprit. The main part of the story does occur overseas, but that was an actual event.

As I said, this is not a political but a theological issue. The government is supposed to be an extension of the arm of God for civil obedience. But what happens when the culture openly enforces something contrary to God's plans for sexuality? We are seeing the events unfold. You have politicians supporting such activity that I would call criminal. As I stated before, Nadia Bolz-Webber even supports such activity. Does she know that such support is grooming kids? Never mind that she supports such atrocious things; she handed out condoms and pamphlets at the ELCA youth gathering. It was a proud moment for her and earth-shattering, according to her book. She was even a star speaker!

What bothers me the most about the whole issue is how somebody like Nadia Bolz-Webber would claim that sex needs consent but teaches her kids to have consent at a young age. They are taught to give in and explore. How is this not evil. It is almost as though sex with consent becomes forced consent by proxy. Now, they can call pedophilia legal! After all, they will call you a bigot and Christian extremist for not supporting exploration at a young age. Teaching kids the dark side of engaging recklessly in sexual exploitation is the true evil according to their eyes. In other words, they say teaching kids about the dark side of engaging in sexual practices at a young age is harmful and a scare tactic. No wonder they scream and holler at Sound of Freedom.

Oh yes. If you have seen Sound of Freedom, you will notice the happy reunion of the daughter and son with their dad. But this is rarely the case. Most children rescued from such rings will never successfully integrate into their families, other families, or society. Men cannot be trusted because they are the number one violator, women cannot be trusted because they are the groomers, and families cannot be trusted because they failed to protect them. Most of these children will always have severe psychological, physiological, and trust issues. They end up running away and engaging in the life they knew. Sexual exploitation.

This is probably why some groups do not want you to see the Sound of Freedom! Because it exposes something genuinely evil, you may even become anti-woke and fight the system that now grooms kids. Who would want that?!

No, this needs to be brought to light. I needed to write this article because it is relevant. You need to know because it is exposed. It is not a political issue. It is a theological issue. It is a parent issue. It is a church issue. It is personal. It is the sanctity of LIFE. We have failed God's Word when the church and Christians are stripped of their ability to talk and preserve life.

NEXT Sunday!
5th Sunday
Pancake
Breakfast
Sunday, July 30th 9:00 a.m.



AND Following Breakfast...
Back by Popular Demand



Favorite Hymn
Sing-a-Long!

Starting at 9:45 a.m.

(No Adult Bible Study)

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Glyn Roy Spies, Kathy Shedd's father, passed away July 18, 2023. Visitation with the family will be Friday, July 21, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Oaks Chapel. Funeral services celebrating Glyn's life will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Rehburg at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 22. Burial will follow at the Church cemetery. Below is the link to his obituary.

<https://www.memorialoakschapel.com/obituaries/glyn-spies>

Please continue to keep the Shedd family in your prayers.

**Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall on BISD Issues**  
**Hosted at Abiding Word**

Open to the public for interested parents, teachers, taxpayers, et al to express concerns and questions that they have. Some of the topics of concern include Discipline, BISD Police Department, Transparency, TASB, and Budget Shortfall. The moderator of the event will be Keith Domke, Managing Editor of the Brenham Banner Press.

This is sponsored by Texas Church Leaders and Let Our Teachers Teach P.A.C., a political action committee dedicated to electing school board members who support traditional education values, as opposed to the "woke" values being pushed upon us. Contact Bill Rankin if you have questions about this event.

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Update on Thomas Michael Kelling

Thomas Michael Kelling had his second surgery on Tuesday, July 18. The doctor said that everything went as planned and he did great. He will be in the hospital for approximately two more weeks and then he should be able to go to his "real" home and be with his family.

This is not the end of the journey, but it IS a giant hurdle that is now behind us.

We appreciate all of your prayers. This is proof of the power of prayer and God's plan for Thomas's life.

Please continue to keep Thomas, Matthew, Ailsinn and Felicity (his big sister) in your prayers as they begin their future life together. Michael and Donna



*The flowers for Sunday
are given by Jean King
in memory of Milton
and Evelyn Haack.*

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### **Church Security and Safety**

We think of church as a peaceful place where we go to worship. Events over the last 10 years have made us realize that is not always true. Evil can enter through the doors of a church just as easily as the doors of a school or a business. Abiding Word Lutheran Church has always had the safety of its congregation as one of its highest priorities. Measures are in place to handle situations that may arise. That said, we are always looking to improve. A Security and Safety subcommittee of the Property Committee is being formed to review our procedures from the unlikely event of a gunman to a possible cardiac arrest during a service. We are looking for volunteers to serve on this committee. Tom Insley is heading the committee. If you are interested in serving, please contact him at 281-468-5329 or email at [tinman47@ymail.com](mailto:tinman47@ymail.com).

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A Note about Communication from your admin...

Despite the rumors going around, the admin does not know everything that is going on at the church. Please help me out by letting me know of any announcements, activity updates, servant changes, items for the calendar, etc. (thank you to those who do this regularly). If you think someone else has already informed me, they probably haven't! I'd rather hear it multiple times than not at all. Thanks for helping keep us all up to date.

GIVE BLOOD.ORG

**St. John Lutheran
Church of Prairie Hill**

**Sunday, July 30
7:30 am - 12:00 pm
Donor Coach**

Contact India Randermann (979) 877-5456
sponsor code: 0979

PROMO: \$10 eGift Card!

Scan for appointments:



Charlie, blood donor

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## *Upcoming Events*

### **“Abiding Hims”**

will sing on August 13<sup>th</sup>. This is open to all interested men in the congregation. Practice will be held Sunday, August 6th at 9:30 a.m.

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October 3 National Night Out (Texas Night Out)

At Abiding Word Lutheran Church All members and our church neighbors are invited for fellowship, fun, education about the community, etc. Members are encouraged to attend and welcome those attending to our property. Enrich your life by sharing.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BERRIE ETZEL AND WAYNE WINKELMANN

Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:57-64

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-27

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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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, July 23

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Lottie Tegeler

Reader: Jan Kelm

Greeters: Darlene Etzel & Ken French

Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin

Ushers: Berrie Etzel

Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe, Darlene Etzel

Our Servants Next Sunday, July 30

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Cathy Johnson

Reader: Jon Hill

Greeters: Sheila Demery & Karen Johnson

Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin

Ushers: Roy & Jan Kelm

Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe, Darlene Etzel

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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\*

Barbara Lighter

Ralph Martin & family

Wade Mills

Laurie Muske

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray & Ethel Sanders

Don Schlaudraff

Stanley Schneider

Susie Seidel & family

The family of Glyn Spies

Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Carol Crosby

The family of Lonnie Grawunder

Dawson Lee Jasinski & family

Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Harvey Ludwig

Marilyn Martin

Dee Neyhard

Kim Sauer

Don Walsh

Eloise Wehring

Rita Werner

Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Carmine, TX

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: 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

*Journey Together Ladies Lunch & Devotional, August 1, 11:00 am, at the home of Susan Davies, bring a salad to share

*Men's Breakfast, 1st Saturdays, August 5 at 8:30 am at Smitty's Cafe

*Ladies' Evening Bible Study, 2nd Wednesdays, August 9th at 6:30 pm at the Church

July/August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	17	18 Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm Mary Swenson Patsy Wegner	19	20 NALC Women's Bible Study 1:30 pm	21	22 Judy Warschak
23 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Ian Hill Addison Roehling Blake & Kathy Shedd	24 Billy Starnes John Watts	25 Let Our Teachers Teach Town Hall at the Church Open to the public 6:00 pm Ethel Sanders	26	27 Scott Bosse	28	29 Ray Sanders
30 5 th Sunday Breakfast 9:00 am Favorite Hymn Sing- along 9:45 am Worship 10:00 am	31	August 1 Journey Together Ladies Lunch & Devotional 11:00 am home of Susan Davies Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	2	3	4	5 Men's Breakfast at Smitty's 8:30 am
6 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Ron Warschak Cody & Mia Mills	7	8 Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	9 Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm	10	11 Carter Reimer	12 Maggie Rankin
13 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am "Abiding Hims" Mallory Skalka	14 Scott & Kim Bosse	15 Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm Cheryl Beckermann	16	17 Douglas Heckmann	18	19 Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday Green = Wedding Anniversary

Happy Anniversary

Blake & Kathy Shedd, July 23

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

Happy Birthday

Judy Warschak, July 22
Ian Hill, July 23
Addison Roehling, July 23
Billy Starnes, July 24
John Watts, July 24
Ethel Sanders, July 25
Scott Bosse, July 27

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.