

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, May 12, 2023

Rev. Cody Mills Email: pastor@abidingword.org

Rev. Mills Cell Phone: 218.405.0710

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Office Phone: 979.836.5921

Website: www.abidingword.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

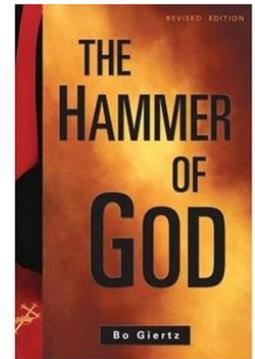


Dear congregants of Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Please remember that the nave and sanctuary is a place for those that want to reflect and pray before worship begins. I uphold those that wish to be in the worship area for this time of reflection and solitude before worship. Time for reflection and prayer 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

Book of the Month

Rev. Cody Mills

The Hammer of God is a novel written by an Atheist turned Bishop. The events that unfold continue to keep the pages turning as it follows pastors struggling to be righteous before God in a spiritual drama of life and death. In the end, the book dives deep into the faith of a Christian and answers a fundamental question. Is righteousness earned on our accomplishments, or is righteousness that Christ gained for us? Perhaps that is what it means to be in worship. Worship is receiving the righteousness of Christ's works as our own.



Righteousness is the work of God, including the ability to believe. When we cannot believe, God believes for us so that we may believe. Matthew 16:17 Jesus replies to Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." Jesus does not give credit to Peter for believing, but His Father has done to work for us to believe.

To the Mother's

Rev. Cody Mills

Mothers of all sorts play a role in this world. This particular day can indeed be difficult for women who have never had the opportunity to bear a child due to miscarriage, are unable to conceive, never married, and/or have an abortion(s). To these women, know that you are not without recognition. We could address some or all the things that have kept you from bearing a child, but you have indeed influenced both the young and the old around you. To this, I give thanks for you and pray for you. The sting of not being able to bear a child when you desired will always be there. Perhaps in the forefront of your mind for the rest of your life.

Perhaps you bore a child and have no contact due to circumstances such as adoption and/or a strained relationship. These scars don't go away. When one bears a child, there are scars left behind that are visible and invisible. Whether you belong to the first group of women unable to have a child or one who has lost a relationship, we confront the hardship in our lives. One person I spoke with reminded me that all these hard and painful moments are like looking into a bronze mirror with little clarity. Yet, God has not left you and has made a promise to the women He has created. God is still there.

Whether you bore a child or not, you are a divine creation from God. And those children/grandchildren/nieces and nephews/neighbors/godchildren/neighbor child/ are also a divine creation from God. Whether in a strained relationship or troubled teen, they are here because of God. This would mean that all women are because of God! I give thanks to all of you and keep you all in prayer. To those continuing to raise a child as a mother, it is a very delicate matter. God be with you. Pax – (peace)

Many of you have been asking how to help our former members John and Pam Milner who recently lost everything in a house fire. This is a link to a third-party fund established for them.

<https://arootedplace.org/milner-house-fire/>

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## 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

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NALC Ladies!

NALC Ladies Bible Study continues Thursday, May 18. The study will be held at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. For more information contact Lottie Tegeler.

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**Please Note: Youth Sunday School is breaking for the summer. Sunday Adult Bible Study will continue.**

The flowers for Sunday, May 14 are given by the Mills family in honor of one year of service to AWLC!



We still have open Sundays in May and June to provide altar flowers. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 17:16-31

Responsive Reading: Psalm 66:8-20

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

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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 14

### Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Becky Bosse

Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck

Greeters: Ralph & Sandra Becker

Audio/Video: Gary Crocker & Charlotte Smith

Ushers: Sheila Demery & Robert Mikeska

Little Lambs: Michael Kelling

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Pat Quebe, and Darlene Etzel

## Our Servants Next Sunday, May 21

### Ascension of our Lord

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Susie Houston

Reader: Marilyn Watts

Greeters: Jean King & Ken French

Communion: Rev. Mills & Susie Houston

Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm

Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Michael Kelling

Little Lambs: Michael Kelling

Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Pat Quebe, and 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*

Betty Becker

Betsy Faske

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

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 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.

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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 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mon                                                                                                                   | Tue                                                  | Wed                                                                        | Thu                                                | Fri                                                                                | Sat                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7</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<br><br>Eleanor Mills                                    | <b>8</b><br>Benita<br>Schramme<br><br>Rick Hutchens                                                                   | <b>9</b><br>Outreach<br>Committee Meeting<br>5:30 pm | <b>10</b><br>Ladies Evening<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 pm<br><br>Karen Johnson | <b>11</b>                                          | <b>12</b><br>Mike Swenson                                                          | <b>13</b><br>Blake Shedd                                                                                                                         |
| <b>14</b><br><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study 9:00<br>am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am | <b>15</b>                                                                                                             | <b>16</b><br>Church Council<br>Meeting 5:45 pm       | <b>17</b>                                                                  | <b>18</b><br>NALC Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>1:30 pm | <b>19</b>                                                                          | <b>20</b>                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>21</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study 9:00<br>am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                                                      | <b>22</b>                                                                                                             | <b>23</b>                                            | <b>24</b>                                                                  | <b>25</b>                                          | <b>26</b><br>Darrell Soeken<br><br>Kyle Mills<br><br>Herman & Sandra<br>Aschenbeck | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>28</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br><br>Adult Bible Study 9:00<br>am<br><br>Worship 10:00 am                                                                                      | <b>29</b><br>Office Closed<br><br> | <b>30</b><br>Gene & Dorothy<br>Stanford              | <b>31</b><br>Linda Horak                                                   | <b>June 1</b>                                      | <b>2</b>                                                                           | <b>3</b><br>Men's Breakfast<br>at Smitty's<br>8:30 am<br><br>Red = Adult's Birthday<br>Blue = Child's Birthday<br>Green = Wedding<br>Anniversary |



**Happy Birthday**  
**Mike Swenson, May 12**  
**Blake Shedd, May 13**



Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 5:45 pm

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.