

# Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, March 10, 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

## On Being the Bride

*Rev. Cody Mills*

Christ is given to you without payment or sacrifice when the Gospel is preached in faithfulness and authority. Christ giving freely is a terrible concept because we always want to flee to the cliff of disaster and work. Doing so puts us in peril and danger as we inch closer and closer to the edge. The edge of the cliff is not well-defined and shrouded in darkness. We cannot see where the cliff ends and find ourselves slipping uncontrollably because of the slippery moss. Below the ridge, we find jagged shards waiting for us like razor-sharp teeth. Somehow, there cannot be anything so faithful! There is no way Christ can be enough. But Christ gives Himself gives Christ, and that is enough.

Because Christ gives Himself, we should let everything be what it is. Works of love become a work of love. Worthwhile work becomes worthwhile work for the neighbor. Anxiety about enough is no longer necessary because we work for the community knowing we are free. When we feel that Christ is insufficient, we no longer freely serve love. In short, we try to free ourselves from God's love and sacrifice.

We should hear in the Gospel that we are the beloved of Jesus Christ, and the Gospel tells us that God has made a decision about you and for you. In fact, God lays his life down for the whole world. This is His desire to reconcile the entire world to Him. To accomplish His desire, we become the Bride. He does not wish to see us retreat to the gully below that is waiting to devour us and keep us from true love. There is only certain death for us when we divorce ourselves from the promise of Christ on the cross.

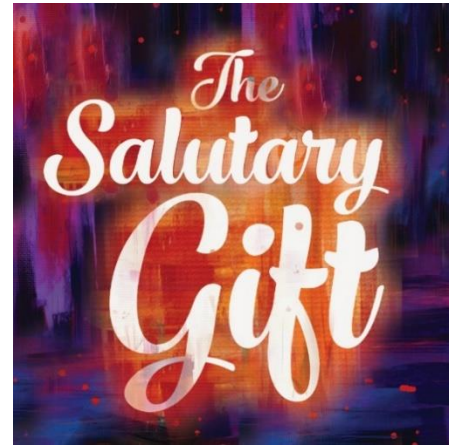
You first hear the words baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as a gift and promise to you. Then you receive the body and blood when He delivers them to you, and you begin married life. You become a member of His church, you become His Bride, and you begin a journey with scripture as His vows.

We don't stop needing to hear His good news, we don't stop reminding each other of the promise, and we don't retreat and find ways to satisfy His love for us. You stand at the cliff's edge and hear the words – You are my beloved, I am the bread of life that feeds your soul, I am the water that satisfies your thirst, I died so you can love, and You are forgiven with my blood. With each statement, you step away from the edge, and your feet are no longer on the slippery wet rock. The perils below grow dim, and the edge gets smaller in the distance.

On being the Bride, your identity is a child of the Father, a Bride to Christ, and a redeemed lover of life. You get to sing, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine..." (Song 2:3)



**Wednesday Lenten Meals  
and Services  
March 15, 22, 29  
Lenten Meal 5:15 pm  
Lenten Service 6:00 pm**



We will have meals each Wednesday during Lent starting at 5:15 pm.

March 15 will be soup, sandwiches, and desserts. We still need people to sign up to bring food. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway if you would like to help with this. These have signed up for the 15<sup>th</sup> - Soup – Patti Swenson, Sandwiches – Karen Johnson, Dessert – Linda Horak.

We are adding readers to the Mid-Week Lenten service. If you read or work A/V on a Sunday during Lent, please plan to work 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!

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On **Sunday, March 12** there will be a special presentation on the Gideons during the service. Please make plans to attend to learn more about this ministry.



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We will be welcoming New (and returning) Members, **Sunday, March 26!**  
\*Betty Dove                      \*Betsy Faske                      \*Roger and LilaJan Hibbs  
\*And returning members, Tom and Kathleen Insley

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**GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME! ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!!!!**



Thomas Michael Kelling had open-heart surgery on Tuesday, March 7. He is doing as well as can be expected in his new "home" at Dell Children's Hospital in Austin. We want to thank all of you for your continued prayers for him and his parents, Matthew and Aislinn Kelling and older sister, Felicity. They have a long road ahead of them. Thomas will be having another surgery at approximately 4 months. We are truly thankful for our Church Family.



Michael and Donna



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



**Easter Lilies**

Pre-order Easter Lilies on a sign-up sheet on a table in the foyer at church. Cost to be announced in church on Sunday. Orders and payment needed by March 22. You can also call the church office to order.



**Good Friday Service**  
**April 7, 6:00 pm**



Altar Flowers are provided this Sunday, March 12, by Dottie and John Schaer in honor of their anniversary.



**NALC Ladies!**

NALC Ladies Bible Study continues Thursday, March 16, 2023 with a study "Sip Savor – Drink Deeply" by Deb Burma. The study will be held at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. The books can be purchased from Amazon or Concordia. For more information contact Lottie Tegeler.



**Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 am**  
**Easter Sunday Service - 10:00 am**  
**More details to come**

## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Third Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Responsive Reading: Psalm 95:1-9

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-30, 39-42

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*Thank You*

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

## Our Servants This Sunday, March 12

### Third Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Susie Houston  
Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck  
Greeters: Sheila Demery & Ken French  
Audio/Video: Charlotte Smith & Gary Crocker  
Ushers: Michael Kelling & Berrie Etzel  
Little Lambs: Charlotte Smith  
Sunday School: In Need/TBD  
Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Darlene Etzel, Pat Quebe

## Our Servants Next Sunday, March 19

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Becky Bosse  
Reader: Donna Kelling  
Greeters: Karen Johnson & Jean King  
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Becky Bosse  
Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin  
Ushers: Michael Kelling & Gary Crocker  
Little Lambs: Michael Kelling  
Sunday School: In Need/TBD  
Altar Guild: Melody Perry, Darlene Etzel, Pat Quebe

\*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	Douglas & Marilyn Heckmann
Valgene & Linda Horak	Cathy Johnson
Jan Koska	Barbara Lighter
Ralph Martin & family	Rev. Mills and his family
Dennis & Doris Penkert	John Porter
Ray and Ethel Sanders	Don Schlaudraff
Stanley Schneider	Larry Stark
Lottie Tegeler	Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Carol Crosby	The family of Steve Broussard
Cherryl Durrenberger	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 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

\*Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesdays, March 21 at 10:00 am at the Church  
\*Men's Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, April 1 at 8:30 am  
at Brenham Grill  
\*Ladies' Evening Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, at  
6:30 pm at the Church, April 12

## March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> First Fruits Coffee & Connection 9:00 am  Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship 10:00 am	<b>6</b> Roy Kelm	<b>7</b> Journey Together Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 am  Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 pm  LilaJan Hibbs	<b>8</b> Lenten Dinner 5:15 pm Lenten Service 6:00 pm  Ladies Evening Bible Study (after service)  Sam Sommer Alicia Willard	<b>9</b> Margaret Thielemann	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Mike Johnson
<b>12</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am  Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship 10:00 am  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 pm  Dwayne Muske	<b>15</b> Lenten Dinner 5:15 pm Lenten Service 6:00 pm  John & Dottie Schaar  Gerry Hartstack	<b>16</b> NALC Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm	<b>17</b> John & Marilyn Watts   Happy St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Mission Offering Coffee & Connection 9:00 am  Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship 10:00 am	<b>20</b> Roger Hibbs  First day of  SPRING	<b>21</b> Journey Together Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 am  Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm  Betty Dove	<b>22</b> Lenten Dinner 5:15 pm Lenten Service 6:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am  Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 9:00 am  Worship 10:00 am	<b>27</b> Pat Meyer	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Lenten Dinner 5:15 pm Lenten Service 6:00 pm  Blaine Bosse	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b> Men's Breakfast 8:30 am  Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday Green = Wedding Anniversary

*Happy Anniversary*

*Dottie and John Schaar, March 15*

**Happy Birthday**

**Mike Johnson, March 11**  
**Dwayne Muske, March 14**  
**Gerry Hartstack, March 15**

**Reminder: Set your clocks one hour ahead for  
Daylight Savings Time!**

**SPRING  
FORWARD**  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



**Please Note:** If you have an article, announcement, prayer request, etc. to include in the newsletter, please send it to the office no later than the Wednesday morning before. Thank you.