

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, December 29, 2023

Rev. Cody Mills Email: pastor@abidingword.org

Office Email: admin@abidingword.org

Website: www.abidingword.org

Rev. Mills Cell Phone: 218.405.0710

Office Phone: 979.836.5921

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

Some Pictures from our Christmas Eve Service



New Year's Eve Brunch This Sunday, December 31st

Plan to celebrate New Years Eve early this year instead of waiting until midnight to do so! We will have a Brunch immediately following the service on December 31st. We will have a party hat for you so please come!!!

The Fellowship Committee will be supplying the food, things like quiche, salad, fruit salad, black eye peas, ham and biscuits. A free will offering will be out on the table to supplement their budget. We look forward to this fun time of fellowship!

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

*Year End Giving must be postmarked or received in the Church Office by Sunday, December 31st

*Committee Chairs - your year-end reports for the Congregational Meeting are due by January 7th. Please submit them to the Church admin.

* The Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 28th following the worship service.

Pastoral Care Coverage

Rev. Mills will be taking time off through Jan. 8th. While he is out Pastor Craig Dohse, 832-498-9618, will be available for pastoral care December 25-January 8.

Also, Pastor Norm Sul, 361-362-9108 will be available for pastoral care beginning Jan. 3rd.

Bill Morris, the new pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill will be leading worship on December 31st.

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

Please Note: The Church office will be closed on Monday January 1st.

NALC Ladies' New Study

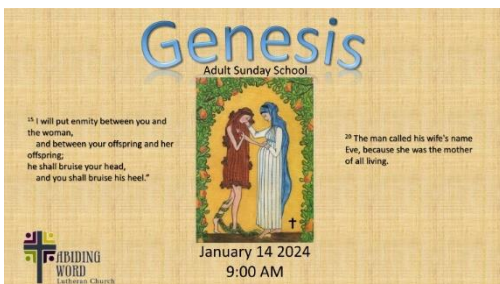
This group was formed several years ago to give support to each other in our congregations and to provide outreach to each other and to the community. We offer a Bible Study on the third Thursday of each month at Abiding Word at 1:30 p.m. The new Bible Study beginning January 18th will be based on the book, "The Love Stories of the Bible" by Shannon Bream. Doris Glenewinkle will be leading this study, and we pray that you will be interested in joining us. Everyone is welcome to come participate.



Thank You Received

"Abiding Word Members, Thank you so much for the kind words and the gift card that you gave me! I truly enjoy helping out when and if I can! Your kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated! Thank You! Blessings, Charles Dierking"

Worship Servant Schedule is out. Pick up a copy from the Welcome Table or ask the church admin.



New Adult Sunday School starts Sunday, Jan. 14

Reminder:

No Adult or Children's Bible Study Sundays, December 31 and January 7

Tuesday, January 2nd Journey Together Ladies' Bible Study at the Church

FROM ALL OF US ON THE CHURCH STAFF



Thank you so much for your generous gift for all of us on the church staff. We are so grateful and overwhelmed by your love. We appreciate each one of you; it is our pleasure to serve you and Abiding Word.

Rev. Cody Mills, Pat Weeks and Debbie Heidemann

Community Service Opportunity

Speak life into youth at a NCFCA Christian Speech & Debate tournament, January 4-6, 2024, hosted at Blinn College, Brenham. No experience is necessary because competitors (ages 12-18) practice real-world communication and need feedback from adults with a variety of perspectives. Your input can truly make a difference. Judging one round requires approximately three hours. Please visit <https://ncfca.org/judge-a-tournament/> to see the schedule of rounds available and choose one or more that work for you. Or for more information, contact Amy Minke at BrenhamJudges@NCFCA.org or 979-575-1950.

Link to this graphic:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1INaSy-Aau1doSnLerIZ80Th9gDXAGWgZ/view?usp=sharing>



Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

First Sunday after Christmas

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Responsive Reading: Psalm 111

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

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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, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas

Pastor: Bill Morris

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Wade Seidel

Reader: Susie Seidel

Greeters: Jean King & Darlene Etzel

Communion: Bill Morris & Wade Seidel

Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin

Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Larry Stark

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson and Patti Swenson

Our Servants the Following Sunday, Jan. 7

First Sunday after Christmas

Pastor: Pastor Greg Knippa

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Becky Bosse

Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck

Greeters: Tom & Peggy Campbell

Communion: Pastor Greg Knippa & Becky Bosse

Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm

Ushers: Lottie Tegeler & Gary Crocker

Altar Guild: Darlene & Berrie Etzel & Jan Koska

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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

Judy Weatherly

Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Lonnie Addicks

Family of Allen Draehn

Lindsey Eckert

The Feathers' Family

John Jensen Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Otto Kemper

Lucreacia

Susan Neidlinger

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](mailto: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 7th – Pastor Greg Knippa officiating

*Sunday, January 14th – First Communion and Council Installation

*Sunday, January 21st – New Member Installation

*Sunday, January 28th – Congregational Meeting

December 2023/Jan. 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am No Adult or Children's Bible Study Worship 10:00 am Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed Rev. Mills out through Jan 9	27	28	29 Jon Hill	30
31 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am No Adult or Children's Bible Study Worship 10:00 am New Year's Eve Brunch following the Service	January 1 Office Closed 	2 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Committee 5:30 pm	3	4 Larry Stark Sue Anderson	5	6 Men's Breakfast @ Smitty's 8:30 am
7 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am No Adult or Children's Bible Study Worship 10:00 am Gayle Hill	8 Bob Smith	9 Homeschool Co-Op 10:00 am Outreach Committee 5:30 pm	10 Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Marilyn Heckmann Bill Lighter	11	12 Betty Becker Dorothy Stanford	13
14 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	15	16 Journey Together Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	17	18 NALC Ladies' Bible Study 1:30 pm	19 Doris Porter	20 Sue Vierus
21 Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	22 Paul & Jan Koska	23 Dennis Penkert	24 Charlotte Smith	25	26	27 Jan Koska Westen Muske Wayne Winkelmann Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday 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. Link on the Home page or click on "Worship" > then "Livestream" - <https://www.abidingword.org/live-stream>

Happy Birthday

Jon Hill, December 29
Larry Stark, January 4
Sue Anderson, January 4

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.