

# Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter

Friday, June 16, 2023

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



## We Love a Praise Report!

### Update on Thomas Michael Kelling A note of Praise and Thanksgiving!

From Michael and Donna: Many of you ask about Thomas Michael every Sunday. We are blessed by your concern and prayers. Here is a note that our son Matthew and his wife Aislinn sent about Thomas's situation.

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To compress two months of issues and complications into two sentences: The short update on Thomas is that he is doing well; he is struggling to keep his blood oxygen levels where they need to be, but overall this type of struggle is expected for someone with his



condition. We are expecting his next surgery in a few weeks at which point he should be much more stable for the rest of his life; not the same as a person with a fully functioning heart, but far more than he is now.

This update is about the support and blessings that people have bestowed on our family since we received news about Thomas' condition. As I said in my previous long update, the news about Thomas' condition hit us hard, and it took an incredible mental and physical toll on us. But even outside of the news directly, we were hit repeatedly with bad news and bad luck around that time. These problems ranged from major/expensive to just plain annoying. This time in our lives would have been stressful without having to process the news of and give birth to a medically fragile infant, but add the pressure of dealing with the news of a severe heart defect and we quickly became overwhelmed with dealing with "life". Yet through it all, at every turn of the page, we have been smothered in blessings and support by countless friends and family. Some of the things that people have done to support us since Thomas' birth include gift cards including restaurant meals and delivery services, homemade meals, appliance repair and replacement, cash, car repair, payments for Ronald McDonald House, daycare, babysitting, dog and cat sitting.

We had thrown around the idea of starting a GoFundMe page to help cover costs, but frankly it simply hasn't been needed. All in all, the cash/gift card donations have amounted to well over \$10,000 worth of gifts, and that doesn't count the hundreds of hours of babysitting and dog/cat sitting that have been gifted to us, nor does it count the overflowing number of cards that we received or the phone calls or the listening ears or the many other ways that people have supported us. Every gift, big or small, made an impact on our lives, and we are eternally grateful.

But the biggest gift of all is the prayer that people have covered us with. It is my strong belief that well over 1,000 people have prayed for Thomas and our family during our journey. And we know countless people still pray for us every day, which continues to bring God's blessings into our lives. We feel this prayer working in our lives daily, and we strongly believe that this prayer played a huge role in creating the long list of blessings above.

My heart aches for Thomas. I pray for him constantly, and I get frustrated that God isn't answering our healing prayers in the way we want. But I can't deny that every one of our needs outside of Thomas has been covered by the generosity and love of our family and friends. Not a single one of the gifts listed above can fix Thomas or relieve our stress about Thomas, but they bless us deeply because they remove stress from other parts of our lives, letting us focus on our family and getting through each day.

So thank you. Thank you for supporting us. Thank you for the gifts, prayers, and emotional support. Thank you for being there for us in our darkest hours. Thank you for your patience when we didn't respond right away or didn't post enough updates. Thank you for your grace when we lost our temper with you, or we were otherwise unable to get done what needed to be done. Thank you for sacrificing in big and small ways to take our pain onto your shoulders.

Thank you for being God's love personified in our lives.

Matthew and Aislinn Kelling



**VBS 2023: You are God's Masterpiece  
June 27-29<sup>th</sup>**

**Vacation Bible School**

**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. Pick up a flyer on the Welcome Table.



**VBS Volunteers**

**Luncheon With In-Service**

**This coming Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

**After service until 2pm**

\*Please reach out to Mia, 218-282-0770  
with questions, comments, or concerns.



**VBS Prayer for the Week**

(Adapted from Deeper Kidmin)

**Week 3:** Philippians 2:1-2 Give the VBS team unity as we make final preparations. Keep communication open and help us to be like-minded, having the same love, and being one in spirit. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



**Prayer Guide for VBS**

If you would like to join the church in praying for VBS, please pick up a copy of **"14 Days of Prayer for VBS"** on the Welcome Table.

**Vacation Bible Schools at Local NALC Churches**

As we prepare for our Vacation Bible School on June 27-29, we are hopeful that members will reach out to family, friends and neighborhoods to invite them to participate with us.

We recognize that our dates may not work for each family, and the child's Christian education is our primary concern. Therefore, we are sharing other church VBS dates as they are also sharing ours. Perhaps a child may want to attend two VBS sessions!

**Salem** - June 19-23, 5:30-8:00 pm  
**St. John / Prairie Hill** - July 31-Aug 6



**Now Taking *Hymn Requests***

**For July Services**

**Now through June 25 Write your favorite hymns on the back of your Welcome Card or contact the Church Office!**





**Final Choir Practice**  
**Sunday, June 25,**  
**after the service.**

**Patriotic Music Sing-a-Long**  
**Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:45 am**

Join us for a special music before the service.

Wear your **Red, White, and Blue!**

\*No Adult Bible Study July 2nd



**Community Event**

**Twenty-fifth Annual Gospel Jubilee and Sing-a-Long**

**Monday, June 19 at 7:00 pm**

At the family Life Center, St. John's United Church of Christ.

The Circle # 1 of St. John's United Church of Christ, Burton, TX invites you to the Gospel Jubilee and sing-a-long where you can enjoy the complimentary Ice Cream Social.

**Parents and Grandparents:**

There are activity sheets, coloring books, and crayons available in the foyer for children during the service. Please ask a greeter.



**Happy 60th wedding anniversary**



*Marjorie and Larry Stark!*



**Servant Schedule July – December has been posted**

Check your email or pick up a copy on the Welcome Table. As always if a date doesn't work for you, please find a replacement and let the church office know. Thanks for all you do! All our servants are greatly appreciated!



*There are a number of openings in June and July to provide flowers for Sunday. The sign-up list is on the bulletin board or call the church office.*

**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>

## Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:

### Third Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8

Responsive Reading: Psalm 100

Second Reading: Romans 5:6-15

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:1-4, 16-20

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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, June 18

### Third Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Wade Seidel

Reader: Jan Koska

Greeters: Ronnie & Pat Lueckemeyer

Communion: Rev. Mills & Wade Seidel

Audio/Video: Roy & Jan Kelm

Ushers: Michael Kelling & Berrie Etzel

Little Lambs: Michael Kelling

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Melody Perry

## Our Servants Next Sunday, June 25

### Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills

Musician: Debbie Heidemann

Lay Minister: Gary Crocker

Reader: Sandra Aschenbeck

Greeters: Preston & Melody Perry

Audio/Video: Bill & Lois Rankin

Ushers: Roy & Jan Kelm

Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Melody Perry

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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\*

Tom Campbell

Cathy Johnson

Barbara Lighter

Ralph Martin & family

Marita Mikeska

Wade Mills

Dennis & Doris Penkert

John Porter

Ray & Ethel Sanders

Don Schlaudraff

Stanley Schneider

Susie Seidel & family

Patsy Wegner

## Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\*

Carol Crosby Sonya Graham

Mollie Grote The family of Lonnie Grawunder

Will Hibbs Dawson Lee Jasinski & family

Starlyn Jasinski Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling

Harvey Ludwig Kim Sauer

Glyn Spies Eloise Wehring

Rita Werner The family of Taylor Wick

The family of Aubert V. 'Bert' Jaeger

Faith Lutheran Church

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

\*Men's Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, July 1 at 8:30 am at Smitty's

\*Journey Together Ladies Bible Study, July 11, Texas Steak & Seafood on Market St. at 11:00 am

\*Ladies' Evening Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, July 12 at 6:30 pm at the Church

## June/July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>11</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 pm	<b>14</b> Choir Practice 6:00 pm Ladies Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Danny Johnson	<b>15</b> NALC Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm Donna Kelling	<b>16</b> Paul Koska	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am VBS Workers In- Service after service- 2:00 pm Stanley Schneider	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Church Council Meeting 5:45 pm	<b>21</b>  VBS Family Rally Night 5:30 pm John & Susan Davies	<b>22</b> Tom & Kathleen Insley Larry & Marjorie Stark	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Choir Practice after service Last Sunday to turn in Hymn Requests	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  VBS 5:30-8:00 pm	<b>28</b>  VBS 5:30-8:00 pm Elsie Mills	<b>29</b>  VBS 5:30-8:00 pm	<b>30</b> Robert & Marita Mikeska	<b>July 1</b> Men's Breakfast at Smitty's 8:30 am Melody Perry Ron & Judy Warschak
<b>2</b> Coffee & Connection 9:00 am NO Adult Bible Study Patriotic Music Sing-a- Long 9:45 am Worship 10:00 am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Closed  McKenna Reimer	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Betsy Faske	<b>8</b> Gary Crocker Taylor Reimer Red = Adult's Birthday Blue = Child's Birthday Green = Wedding Anniversary

### Happy Birthday

**Paul Koska, June 16**  
**Stanley Schneider, June 18**

### Happy Anniversary

*John & Susan Davies, June 21*  
*Tom & Kathleen Insley, June 22*  
*Larry & Marjorie Stark, June 22*

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.