



# Abiding Word Lutheran Church

464 Oak Tree Crossing Dr., Brenham, Texas 77833

Weekly Newsletter Friday, March 1, 2024



Rev. Cody Mills Email: [pastor@abidingword.org](mailto:pastor@abidingword.org)

Rev. Mills Cell Phone: 218.405.0710

Office Email: [admin@abidingword.org](mailto:admin@abidingword.org)

Office Phone: 979.836.5921

Website: [www.abidingword.org](http://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

## Moving Church Mission to One Direction

*Rev. Cody Mills*

Moving the church in one direction helps the dynamic, health, relation, and discipleship of the church. One can ask a member of any church, "What is your mission and direction?" The answer is usually the same. "To do God's work!"

This seems like a great answer. In reality, this answer is often detrimental to the church community. The answer only satisfies the self and shows no real cohesion or mission of a church.

God's work is complete. The sinful nature and wolf under the sheep skin wants to compete with God. It doesn't know how to go to the cross and die. As Jesus spoke His infamous wisdom from Mark 16, <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" Work by implementing our work as "God's work."

We need to stand down and get out of His way. When we die on the cross, we receive a new life. God's work is accomplished on the cross! Jesus has great wisdom when it comes to being a disciple of His. Don't allow intentions and expectations to get in the way. When we do this, people will end up walking alone in the congregation. Nobody should ever walk alone!

The mission for Abiding Word Lutheran Church is starting to form and the mission is coming into focus. We stand at the foot of the cross, we die at the cross, and we are raised with and in Christ into new life.

With this said, if people ask, "What is your mission?" or "What does your church do?", you can respond "We help those that otherwise wouldn't receive help. We give life to those that need it!"

Abiding Word Lutheran Church of Brenham does this very well. I am thankful for all of you. I will continue to nurture this love and guide all of you as you faithfully navigate in one direction.

Thank You!

Rev. Cody Mills

Thank you all for the notes left in the "40 days to 40" punch cups. I also give thanks to my wife for planning the event and ideas.

Words from St. Paul in Philipians Chapter 1:

"<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Rev. Cody Mills



### THE SEASON OF LENT March 6, 13, 20

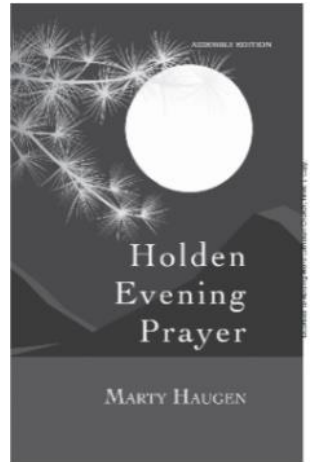
We will begin with a **LENTEN MEAL** of soup and sandwiches **at 5:15 pm**. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who would like to contribute.

Our **LENTEN SERVICES** will begin **at 6:00 pm**, following the meal.

This year for our Lenten Services we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer Service.

**\*Please note we will need A/V Sound/Tech and**

**Greeters from the previous Sunday to serve the following Wednesday Lenten services.**



### Easter Lilies

If you would like to order Easter Lilies, they are \$13 each. There is a sign-up sheet and envelope in the foyer. Deadline is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Dates and Times for Holy Week Services

- March 28, 6:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service
- March 29, 6:00 pm – Good Friday Service
- March 31, 7:00 am – Easter Sunrise Service
- March 31, 10:00 am – Easter Service



### Funeral Arrangements for Doris Penkert

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 7th at Brenham Memorial Chapel with family being present from 5-7 pm. A memorial service will be held Friday, March 8th at 10:30 am at Abiding Word Lutheran Church Brenham with interment following at Prairie Lea Cemetery. You can find her obituary and offer condolences on the Brenham Memorial Chapel's website. [www.brenhammemorialchapel.com](http://www.brenhammemorialchapel.com) Please continue to keep the family in your prayers.



## Update on Thomas Michael Kelling

Thomas Michael  
Kelling will turn one  
year old on March  
1!!!

Thank all of you SO  
MUCH for your  
prayers and support  
as we journey through this miracle!



As a celebration of his first year of life, two  
successful open-heart surgeries, and a  
mountain of answered prayers, we would like  
to invite you to join us on **March 10** to share  
breakfast with Thomas Michael and his  
family. Matthew, Aislinn, and Felicity will be  
with us starting at 9:00 am that Sunday  
morning at the church, and we ask that all of  
you join us to meet and share some time with  
God's gift to us.

YOUR presence is the only gift needed!

Michael and Donna

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## PHONE DIRECTORY APP!!

If you haven't filled out your Consent Form and  
want to use the Phone Directory App, it's not  
too late. Fill out a form, return it to the church  
office, and we will send you instructions to  
access the app. If you have questions, please  
contact Jan Kelm, 979-251-4066,  
jankelm61@gmail.com.

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**Congregational Reports are still available.  
Pick up your copy from the Welcome Table  
or request one from the Church Office.**

## MAKE IT / TAKE IT RETURNS Wednesday, March 6th at 10:00 am

This time we are  
requesting you  
make a vegetable  
soup with frozen  
mixed vegetables.  
Drop off your soups  
on Wednesday,  
March 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a recipe on the Welcome  
Table if you need a guide.



We will package the soups that same day at  
10:00 am. If you are able, please help us  
package the soups.

The packaged soups will be stored in the  
freezer and available for anyone to take to  
someone in need. Please contact Kathleen  
Insley or Lottie Tegeler if you have any  
questions.

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## Committee Chairs

The admin is updating the list of Committee  
Representatives and officers for 2024. As you  
appoint officers for the year, please let the Church  
Office know. Thanks for your help.

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## Volunteers Needed for The Outreach Committee

Please contact Marilyn Watts if you are interested  
in being part of this vital ministry!

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## Upcoming NALC Events

- April 20th:** Texas Region Ladies Gathering. Hosted by  
our Saviour's Lutheran in Three Rivers
- July 1 - 4th:** Continental Youth Gathering for youth ages  
12-18 at St John's Lutheran in Boerne.
- July 23 -25:** Texas Region Gathering for mainly  
congregation members will be at Cedarbrake Retreat  
Center in Belton
- August 9<sup>th</sup>:** NALC Convocation--This is virtual  
Please pass the word to everyone!  
Michael & Pat Dittrich

**Lectionary Readings for This Sunday:**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 19  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Gospel Reading: John 2:13-25

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**Our Servants This Sunday, March 3**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Roger Hibbs  
\*Reader: Jon Hill  
\*Greeters: **Preston & Melody Perry**  
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Roger Hibbs  
\*Audio/Video: Lois & **Bill Rankin**  
Ushers: Mike Swenson & Lottie Tegeler  
Little Lambs: Michael Kelling  
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson  
Altar Guild: Mike & Patti Swenson  
ERT: Tom Insley

**Our Servants the Following Sunday, March 10**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Pastor: Rev. Cody Mills  
Musician: Debbie Heidemann  
Lay Minister: Susie Seidel  
\*Reader: Wade Seidel  
\*Greeters: **Darlene Etzel & Betty Dove**  
Communion: Rev. Cody Mills & Susie Seidel  
\*Audio/Video: Charlotte Smith & Gary Crocker  
Ushers: Berrie Etzel & Robert Mikeska  
Little Lambs: Rev. Cody Mills  
Sunday School: Cathy Johnson  
Altar Guild: Mike & Patti Swenson  
ERT: Robert Mikeska

*\* Greeters and A/V Sound/Tech (no PowerPoint) are needed for the following Wednesday Lenten Service. (This is a change from the Servant Schedule)*

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**Servants: If you are unable to serve, please find a replacement and let the Church Office know. Thank you.**

*Thank You*

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

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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.

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**Prayer Concerns Within Our Church Family\***

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Herman Aschenbeck   | Tom Insley        |
| Mike Johnson        | Barbara Lighter   |
| Ronnie Lueckemeyer  | Wade Mills        |
| Penkert Family      | John Porter       |
| Ray & Ethel Sanders | Stanley Schneider |
| Judy Weatherly      | Patsy Wegner      |

**Prayer Concerns Beyond Our Church Family\***

Alisa Breese                      John Jensen  
Matthew, Aislinn & Thomas Kelling  
Family of Jase Lackey              Lucreacia  
Kim Sauer                      Donna Stump  
Friends of Rita Werner              Lincoln Tiemann  
National and local government leaders  
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.

## March 2024

| Sun                                                                                                                                                              | Mon                       | Tue                                                                                                  | Wed                                                                                                                                     | Thu                                                               | Fri                                                                | Sat                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>25</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible<br>Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am                                                     | <b>26</b>                 | <b>27</b>                                                                                            | <b>28</b><br>Lenten Meal<br>5:15 pm<br>Lenten Service<br>6:00 pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00 pm                                           | <b>29</b>                                                         | <b>March 1</b>                                                     | <b>2</b><br>Men's Breakfast @<br>Smitty's 8:30 am                                                |
| <b>3</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible<br>Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am                                                      | <b>4</b>                  | <b>5</b><br>Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Worship Committee<br>5:30 pm       | <b>6</b><br>Make It/Take It<br>10:00 am<br>Lenten Meal<br>5:15 pm<br>Lenten Service<br>6:00 pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00 pm<br>Roy Kelm | <b>7</b><br>Trail Life 6:30<br>pm<br>LilaJan Hibbs                | <b>8</b><br>Doris Penkert<br>Funeral 10:30<br>am<br>Alicia Willard | <b>9</b>                                                                                         |
| <b>10</b><br>Celebration Breakfast<br>with Thomas Kelling 9am<br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible<br>Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am | <b>11</b><br>Mike Johnson | <b>12</b><br>Raising Arrows<br>Homeschool<br>Gathering 10:00 am<br>Outreach<br>Committee 5:30 pm     | <b>13</b><br>Lenten Meal<br>5:15 pm<br>Lenten Service<br>6:00 pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00 pm                                           | <b>14</b><br>Dwayne Muske                                         | <b>15</b><br>Gerry Hartstack<br>John & Dottie<br>Schaar            | <b>16</b>                                                                                        |
| <b>17</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible<br>Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am<br>John & Marilyn Watts                             | <b>18</b>                 | <b>19</b><br>Journey Together<br>Ladies Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Church Council<br>Meeting 5:45 pm | <b>20</b><br>Lenten Meal<br>5:15 pm<br>Lenten Service<br>6:00 pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00 pm<br>Roger Hibbs                            | <b>21</b><br>NALC Ladies'<br>Bible Study 1:30<br>pm<br>Betty Dove | <b>22</b>                                                          | <b>23</b><br>Victoria Perry                                                                      |
| <b>24 Palm Sunday</b><br>Coffee & Connection<br>9:00 am<br>Adult & Children's Bible<br>Study 9:00 am<br>Worship 10:00 am                                         | <b>25</b>                 | <b>26</b>                                                                                            | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>28</b><br>Maundy<br>Thursday<br>Service 6:00 pm                | <b>29</b><br>Good Friday<br>Service 6:00<br>pm<br>Blaine Bosse     | <b>30</b><br>Red = Adult's Birthday<br>Blue = Child's Birthday<br>Green = Wedding<br>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](http://abidingword.org).  
 Link on the Home page or click on "Worship" > then "Livestream" -  
<https://www.abidingword.org/live-stream>

## Happy Birthday

**Roy Kelm, March 6**  
**LilaJan Hibbs, March 7**

If you have any announcements, articles, pictures, prayer requests, 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.