



# Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Gainesville, Florida

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

8:00 am

**Pastor:** Rev. Jack Mackowiak



# Announcements and Reminders

## The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

## Sunday Adult Bible Studies.

9:45 am – “Girl Friends” Bible Study meets in the Library of Building 3. This class is led by Linda Struckmeyer, Debbie Hill, and Karen Brautcheck and is also available via Zoom. Join us for a study of the book of **Hebrews** titled “*Better*”. Contact Linda at [struck60@gmail.com](mailto:struck60@gmail.com) for a Zoom link.

9:45 am – Study the Bible “*One Book at a Time*” with Chuck Moss in the Building 1 classroom. This group is studying the Old Testament book of **Daniel**. Contact [Chuck\\_Moss@msn.com](mailto:Chuck_Moss@msn.com) for a Zoom link for this class.

9:45 am – Pastor Jack leads a study of the book of **Ephesians**. This class meets in the Octagon room in the FLC.

**Monday 7:00 pm** - A study of the book of **Colossians** is led by Joshua Mazur via Zoom. For the Zoom link, contact [Jmazur@abidingsavior.info](mailto:Jmazur@abidingsavior.info).

**Sunday School for children through 5th grade continues!** Join us in the Family Life Center fellowship hall at 9:45 or contact Sarah Sain at [Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com) for an online link for your child.

**Parents and Tots Sunday School** for preschoolers led by Susan Moss in the nursery at 10:00 am.

**Note:** There will be no Sunday Bible Studies on 12/26.

**Children's Activity Bulletins** are available on the welcome table in the Narthex.

**Christmas Celebration** (aka Madrigal Dinner) on December 19 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$10 and for sale after each service and in the church office.

**The 2021 Star Tree gifts** need to be put under the tree in the narthex **today** to be given to the children in time for Christmas.

**Midweek Advent Service** - This Wednesday, December 15 at 7 pm.

**Youth Progressive Dinner** beginning at 4 pm on Dec. 18. This is an event for our youth and their guests. We begin at church.

**Order poinsettias for the Christmas season** in memory or honor of someone special in your life. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed. The last day to order will be December 19, the cost for each poinsettia is \$8. You can take yours home after the 8:00 pm service on December 24.

Order forms can be found on the table in the narthex.

**2022 Offering Envelopes** are on a table in the narthex. If you had envelopes during 2021, your box is labeled. If you did not have envelopes in 2021, and would like a box for 2022, sign your name on the clipboard beside the envelope boxes and we will get a box to you before 2022.

**2022 Flower Chart** is up on the narthex wall near the church office. Dates are still available to sponsor altar flowers. The cost is \$40. You may place a check in the offering plate with "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.

**Advent Devotion Books** from Lutheran Hour ministries are on the welcome table in the narthex.

**New Member Class, Sundays 2pm.** This class is for those who would like to know more about what Lutheran Christians believe and/or are interested in joining Abiding Savior. Contact Pastor Jack or the church office if you have any questions. Childcare is available on request.

**Send Your Newsletter Articles** to [office@abidingsavior.info](mailto:office@abidingsavior.info) by the 25th of the month.

## THE CALL PROCESS – A Primer, part 6

If after prayerful consideration our Pastor leaves, we begin the process of asking God for a new Pastor. Normally, the departing Pastor will have nothing to do with deciding on the vacancy Pastor or with suggesting names of possible persons to become the next Pastor.

This is also a “divine call.” That means God is somehow involved in this process and it is not just some sort of business transaction. Some congregations struggle with that balance between the business world and the church. We must avoid that confusion of elements and seek to maintain an appropriate balance.

The search process usually begins by giving thanks to God for the ministry that has gone on until now, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in leading their Pastor elsewhere, and telling the congregation that it is time for someone new to begin. The congregation should also express the confidence that God is wise enough and helpful enough to get the right person to the right congregation if they will go to the trouble of praying and thinking hard about what is right and wise to do.

Members of the congregation have the right to nominate Pastors for their call list. While there are many capable seminaries and other educational institutions, Abiding Savior, as a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, agrees to call only Pastors who are graduates of one of our LC-MS seminaries. All nominations from the congregation are sent to the District President for his input before any vote can occur. The District President will take any congregation nominations and add to them others which he feels appropriate based on the congregation’s Pastor profile. He will then send data regarding the nominees to the congregation.

The congregation will establish a Call Committee to consider this data when it is received. There are many ways a Call Committee can be established. This is usually specified in the church constitution. At Abiding Savior, the Call Committee is appointed by the Church Council. Their task is to review the list of nominees and provide recommendations to a Voters Meeting. This should be done in a timely way by the Call Committee. This is also done with a certain confidentiality. While the Call Committee’s progress can be shared with the congregation, any particular information on nominees remains confidential to the Call Committee and is not to be shared.

The ultimate task of the Call Committee is to gather whatever information they need to bring good recommendations to the voters. They will prayerfully review the information provided about each nominee. They will use whatever avenues seem appropriate to sort through the list of nominees. This may include personal interviews and other contact with nominees that will help the Call Committee come to a decision. The voters need to trust the work of the Call Committee as they investigate each nominee. That is why the committee was selected, to do this work in the name of and with the blessing of the congregation. All voting members should also make every attempt to be part of this process as they may be asked. This will be a new Pastor for all the people.

More to come...

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PREPERATION

**Prelude**

*Adventus* - Johann Pachelbel

**Welcome and Announcements**

### Hymn of Invocation: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

**[P]** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**[C]** Amen

## Confession And Absolution

**P** Through the prophet Zephaniah the Lord tells His people to rejoice and not fear, because He is in our midst.

**C** **We confess that we have too often let the problems of this world distract us from God's protection and blessings. We have not recognized His presence among us. We repent and ask God to restore us to more confident faith and rejoicing.**

**P** In urging us to rejoice and offer our prayers with thanksgiving, Paul promises that God's peace will guard our hearts and minds.

**C** **We confess that we have been anxious about many things. Our prayers have not been offered confidently. We repent of all our sin and ask God to protect us so that both our thoughts and our emotions may reflect the peace that He provides.**

**P** Jesus proclaimed John the Baptist as the promised messenger to prepare His way.

**C** **We confess that we have failed to tell others about our Lord's victory over physical and spiritual sickness, and even death itself. We repent and ask God to open doors of opportunity so that we may be His messengers in our day.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**P** Rejoice! I will say it again. Rejoice! Our heavenly Father has sent His Son, who has conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil. By His death He has paid for all our sins. God stands ready to hear every prayer and to meet our needs on every level so that rejoicing may abound. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Lighting Of The Advent Wreath

**P** As Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air.

**C** **We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us.**

**P** For some it is still a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives.

**C** **Help us have the joy that does not depend upon earthly happiness but upon You.**

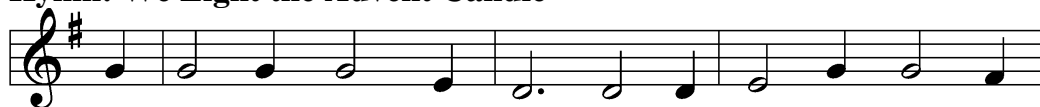
**P** We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness.

**C** **With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.**



## Hymn: We Light the Advent Candle

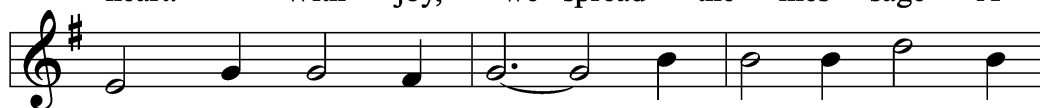
sts. 1-3



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to  
 2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for  
 3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful



come. With hope, we trust the prom - ise That  
 rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has  
 heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage— A



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our  
 come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all  
 bless - ing to im - part. Our joy is nev - er



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fa - vor. We  
 know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing. We  
 end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing. We



wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!  
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!  
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

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## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Salutation And Prayer Of The Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray...Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Old Testament Reading***Zephaniah 3:14–20*

- <sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.
- <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.
- <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.
- <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- <sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.
- <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Epistle

*Philippians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 3:7–18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>7</sup>[John] said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

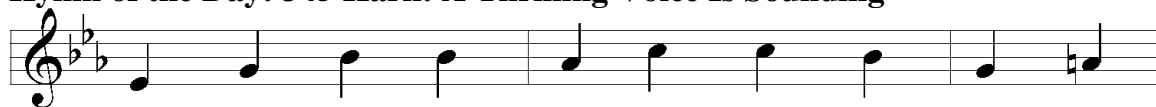
**☩** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

## Hymn of the Day: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Christmas is Here...Expect a Savior (Luke 3:7-18)*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

**[P]** Blessed be our God,

**[C]** Who comes to set us free and raise us up to new hope.

**[P]** The prophets have long declared that God is coming,

**C To turn back our enemies and rescue us from all that would harm or destroy.**

**P** This God comes with promised mercy,

**C Recalling the covenant He made with Abraham to save us all.**

**P** The light of God is shining on us all to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

**C Here we meet the living Christ in bread and wine.**

**P** Thanks and praise are due to You, Father almighty, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your coming.

Having seen His glory, now we wait with Christians of all time for the day when He will come again as Judge and King, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS – Holy, Holy, Holy

**Lo, the heav’nly host rejoices:**

**“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”**

**Lo, God’s people join their voices:**

**“God of hosts, by all adored,**

**Heav’n and earth proclaim Your glory,**

**Sing Your praise with one accord!”**

**Blest is He who now draws near us**

**In the name of God the King!**

**Blest is He who comes to cheer us.**

**Let our welcome joyful ring:**

**“Hail, Hosanna! Hallelujah!”**

**Highest praises echoing.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** He who is coming has come. We welcome Him with thankful hearts. He who has come is coming. We wait for Him with fervent faith. God, help us to see how, in Christ, You are intimately acquainted with the realities of life in this broken world and in our broken lives. Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **Lord’s Prayer**

**C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;**

give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Words of Our Lord**

### **Pax Domini**

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you always  
**C** Amen.

### **Agnus Dei**

O Lamb of God You take away  
The sin of all, have mercy, Lord, we pray!  
O Lamb of God You take away  
The sin of all, have mercy, Lord, we pray!  
O Lamb of God our faith increase,  
And grant us now Your gift of peace!

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

*Stand*

## **The Dismissal**

## **Nunc Dimittis – Song of Simeon**

**Thank the Lord, His praises voicing  
For His promised faithfulness!  
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing,  
Tell His love, His name confess,  
For He leads us, with thanksgiving,  
In the paths of righteousness.**

**At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant  
Go in peace, for with my eyes  
I have seen Your bright salvation,  
Israel's Light, begin to rise  
As the Glory of the nations,  
Leading on to Paradise!**

## **Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray...Loving God, You shatter our expectations with Your outrageous love for us. In this sacrament You renew, restore and reconcile us as the Body of Christ. Work in us today, that we might open ourselves to You and receive Your grace and mercy anew. Send us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of the risen Christ, in whose name we pray.

**C** Amen.

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn to Depart: 349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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## Postlude

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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# ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting Jesus to People's Hearts*  
*The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

## Serving Today

*Pastor: Rev. Jack Mackowiak*  
*Director of Music Ministry: Joshua Mazur*

8:00 AM 10:45 AM

*Acolyte: Volunteer Acolyte: Volunteer*

*Elder of the Month: Derek Sain Elder of the Month: Fred Townsend*

*Reader: Marilyn Palumbo Reader: Dustin Banks*

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS (December 19)

*First Reading - Micah 5:2-5*

*Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10*

*Gospel Reading - Luke 1:39-45*



*Today's altar flowers are  
provided by Joshua Mazur in  
memory of his parents.*



## Last Week's Attendance

8:00am: 64

10:45am: 52

Total: 116

## Last Week's Offerings

Offerings: \$ 5,034

Building: \$ 50

## 2021 Year to Date

Avg. Attendance: 93

Total Offerings: \$ 242,962

Avg. Weekly: \$ 4,954

Building: \$ 9,849

## Birthdays

Haylen Dean 12/12

Michael Arden 12/12

Kelly Farah 12/14

Danny Mandeville 12/16

Emily Tappy 12/17

Natalie Petruska 12/17

## Anniversaries

Ed & Georganne Eibe 12/14

9700 W. Newberry Rd. Gainesville, FL 32606

[www.abidingsavior.info](http://www.abidingsavior.info) – [office@abidingsavior.info](mailto:office@abidingsavior.info) – 352-331-4409

If you would like to place an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin, please contact the office or email them to [Office@abidingsavior.info](mailto:Office@abidingsavior.info) no later than Wednesday mornings. Send your newsletter articles by the 25th of each month.