



Newsletter for September 2021

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Ministry Team Leaders and Contact Information

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All a Matter of Perspective- Pastor Jack

This month is typically one of beginnings. The month begins with Labor Day. I grew up in Michigan, where for a long time it was legislated that school could not begin until after Labor Day. We think of school, Sunday School, Bible studies and other groups that begin a new session this time of year. Here at Abiding Savior we will also offer Confirmation this month, which has been delayed for a variety of reasons. One can only wonder what goes through the minds particularly of our young people at such milestones, especially in light of them being changed or even possibly eliminated.

‘O Ye Jigs and Juleps’ is a wonderful little book of short essays written in 1904 by Virginia Cary Hudson, when she was a ten-year-old student at an Episcopal boarding school. Her thoughts on “Sacraments” and “Etiquette at Church,” excerpted below, reflect a different time, but the point of view is timeless.

“Sacraments are what you do in Church. When you are little somebody carries you in church on a pillow; and you come out a child of God and inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven. They pour water on your head and that’s a sacrament. When you are twelve you walk back in yourself with your best dress and shoes on, and your new prayer book your mother buys you, and you walk up to the Bishop, and he stands up, and you kneel down, and he mashes your head, and you are an Episcopal. Then you are supposed to increase in spirit. Then everybody kisses you and that’s a sacrament. Only I left out the bread and wine. That’s a sacrament, too. I tasted some of the bread in the choir room and it tasted like my goldfish wafers.

“Before I go into the house of the Lord with praise and thanksgiving I lift up mine eyes unto the town clock from whence cometh the time to see if I am late. It is not etiquette to be late. The first thing you do is kneel down and thank the Lord for your mother and your father and your lovely wallpaper. Then you can sit and look around just a little bit. Don’t turn around and look. That is not etiquette.

“Kneel when you pray, stand when you sing, and sit when you listen. Don’t try to drink up all of the wine at the altar rail. That is not etiquette. Leave some for other people. Never punch people in church, or giggle or cross your legs. Crossing your legs is as bad as scratching or walking in front of people or chewing gum or saying damn. Don’t lose your place in the prayer book. Bow for the cross and for the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. When the choir marches back to the Vestry room and the minister calls out goodbye to the Lord until next Sunday, then you can speak to people.

continued

All a Matter of Perspective- Continued

“Etiquette is what you are doing and saying when people are looking and listening. What you are thinking is your business. Thinking is not etiquette. Hallelujah, thine the glory. Revive us again.

“P.S. If you want to stay awake in church, go to bed early Saturday night. After you are confirmed your sponsors in Baptism can’t be blamed for what you do. You are on your own then and if the devil gets you, it is your own fault and serves you just right. Amen and the Lord have mercy.”

This year, 2021, may offer many new perspectives on various aspects of life. One thing we know is constant, and that is God’s love and care for all His children. May we celebrate His consistent love, mercy and grace now and forever.

Worship Update- Pastor Jack

Thank you to all who continue to worship with us at Abiding Savior, whether in-person or online. Scripture encourages us in Hebrews to not give up meeting together. This is an important part of our relationship together in the body of Christ.

We continue to evaluate our Holy Communion procedures. See the Board of Elders article for an update. As we continue to worship together, we ask everyone to commit to proper social distancing when possible. If you are not vaccinated, masks are encouraged. If you have any possible symptoms of a virus (fever, etc.) we ask you to please not attend until it is safe. We continue to provide our online service for those not yet comfortable with in-person gatherings.

We understand an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 and its variants exists in any public place where people are present, whether the grocery store, hair salon, or our church. COVID-19 is a contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and even death. We are doing all we can to respect the wishes and concerns of the CDC and other health agencies and provide a safe environment for our members. We ask your prayers, patience and cooperation as we move forward.

Pastor Jack Mackowiak

Prayer List

Sympathy: Duncan Shewchuk family loss of father; Fran Conrad family, Buddy Theus family; Chad Schulze family; W.O. Adams family, Michelle Rutledge Family, Don Thompson friends and family; Elizabeth Embro's family (Virginia Pagenkopf's mother)

Shut-Ins: Fran Jacobs, Shirley Jackson;

Military

Eric Tappy – Iraq

Casey Dougherty (MP) Annetta

Matthew Gustafson

Martin Hekking – Air Force (Kansas) Karen Nobles grandson

Jason Joseph (Iraq) by Phyllis Leone

Sam Kleinhauer (sniper)

Patrick Nobles (Air Force –Alaska)

Matt Young – Air Force Reserve

Josh Wervy USMC (Nobles grandson)

Pray for our Military: Especially those deployed in combat zones

Continue prayers for:

Covid victims

Missionaries

Pray for young people in college

Pray for Families and victims fleeing war and poverty

Pray for those dealing with disasters: fire; floods, and hurricanes, especially hurricane Ida.

May our Lord comfort them and give them courage.

Pray for our country- our president and our elected officials

Members, Family, and Friends

- **Michelle Buth** (return of ovarian cancer)
- **Lynn Cera** (Parkinson's home care)
- **Jerry Collins** (complications after surgery)
Gillian's grandfather
- **Steve Devapradad** (hosp. critical) by Sara and Gilbert
- **Georganne Eibe** (broken wrist complications)
- **Randy Gill** (mini strokes- home)
- **Andy Hamilton** (pulmonary embolism)
- **Jan Hamiltom** (heart issues)
- **Betty Holland** (fell and broke hip)
- **Sean Law** (severe brain injury) by Mike Brannon
- **Carol McCarthy** (breast cancer)
- **Todd Robel** (aggressive prostate cancer age 61) by Karen Nobles
- **Echard Schadow** (cancer/fell –spinal injury)
- **Herbie Silvius** (very ill) by Jimmy Flateau
- **Bill Stone** (diabetes– prostate radiation) heart issues
- **Jimbo Walsh** (bladder cancer) by Flateaus

May Our Lord continue to watch over and bless Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, bless Pastor Jack as we begin the call for a new pastor.

Names will be kept on the Prayer list for one month unless renewed.

Please call the church 331-4409 or Muriel Young 332-1386

Altar for Sept: April Goddard (chair), Betty Smith, Nancy Strattan, Paula Richert

Altar for Oct. Cindy Brannon (chair), Jan Banks, Karen Herder, Samantha Nuckolls, Liz Torrence

We welcome two new altar workers: Paula Richert and Liz Torrence. We are so blessed.

On October 2 the annual Altar Team organizational meeting will be held at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Giving Together

Some phrases growing in popularity today are “in this together,” “all better together,” and that we are “safe at home, not stuck at home.” These are meant to encourage and uplift our spirits in these challenging days. This is, hopefully, a once in a lifetime experience.

Imagine that you had never heard of the idea of giving to God. Words like “tithe”, “offering” or “charitable contribution” were not yet part of your vocabulary. If you were invited to a community gathering and informed that you were to begin a new practice in which people would walk by you with a special container and you were to put the first chunk of your paycheck, your best jewelry, or your finest clothes into that container, and plan to never see them again, you might really resist!

Fresh off his mountaintop encounter with God, face blazing with the glow that came from being in God’s presence, this is exactly what Moses did! In Exodus 35:4-5, Moses says, “This is what the Lord has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the Lord.” He proceeds to list many and various types of gifts and ways people can help provide for the work of the Lord.

While tithes and offerings had been instituted previously, the instructions Moses had received fresh from the hand of God inspired the people to give. It didn’t make sense, until they understood that God was putting His rules for joyful giving into place, so His children could enjoy the best in life!

Together, all the people brought their offerings. Their hearts were stirred, and their spirits were willing. In putting this law into place, God told Moses what we know today – that even in our giving, God wants to unite our hearts and our gifts in our devotion to Him. Together we provide for the continuing work of God’s Kingdom. Now, more than ever, we need the support of all God’s people, even if from afar and apart. If you have not yet tried our online giving platform, please consider it. Make sure you are current with your tithes and offerings so the work of the Lord here in Gainesville can move forward with boldness and confidence.

Monthly Book Club

This month's book is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. The club meeting will be held on September 28.

The October book will be "The Book of Lost Names" by Kristin Harmel and will be held on October 26.

Contact Georganne Eibe at savygg@yahoo.com to be added to the book email list.

Fellowship Report - Danny Schmitt

Youth

Youth is starting up again! Regular hours will resume Sunday from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Youth Room. Contact Danny Schmitt for Remind messaging.

Pumpkin Patch

The pumpkins are coming! The pumpkins are coming! Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on Saturday, September 25. We will need help with unloading and with shifts throughout the month.

Youth will be expected to take shifts between 4:00-8:00 pm, and volunteers are needed from 11:30am-2:00pm, along with 2:00-4:00 pm.

Ministry Fair

Due to COVID restrictions and protocols, our Ministry Fair has been postponed. We will offer previews of our various ministries during the coming weeks. Watch for descriptions of our ministries and how you can become involved.

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School for children through 5th grade begins on September 12.

Join us in the Family Life Center fellowship hall at 9:45 am or contact Sarah Sain at Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com for an online link for your child.

Sewing for Missions is the 2nd and last Saturday of the month and meets in the library of the Family Life Center. Masks are now optional.

Contact Linda at struck60@gmail.com for more information.

Financial Report

	August Estimates	Year-to-Date
Offerings	\$ 22,082	\$ 169,629
Preschool Income	\$ 5,398	\$ 586,516
Other Income	\$ 0	\$ 2,628
Total Operating Income	<hr/> \$ 27,480	<hr/> \$ 758,772
Total Operating Expenses	<hr/> \$ 121,869	<hr/> \$ 701,451
Net Operating Income	\$ (94,389)	\$ 57,321

* Note that August is a low-income month for offerings and preschool tuition collection. Additionally, there were three payrolls during August which contributed to the large negative operating income.

Reserves are adequate to cover negative cash flow. School year tuition resumes in September.

St. Francis House- Phyllis Leone



ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. FRANCIS HOUSE MINISTRY

On August 25, your St. Francis House Outreach Ministry team provided a delicious dinner with a main course of chicken fried steak (thank you Ralph Toppins) to residents of St. Francis House. A big thank you also to Kimberly Phillips, Karen Nobles, Joni Johnson, Jill Hendrickson, and Becky Hernandez for providing the accompaniments.

It is now time to start preparations for the **Thursday, September 23** meal. Following is a list of what we have and still need:

BBQ from Adam's Rib - *Judy Bates*
Corn on the Cob - *Phyllis Leone*
Tossed Salad - *Karen Nobles*
Cole Slaw -

Hamburger Buns - *Becky Hernandez*
Fresh Fruit -
Dessert -

Please contact me either by email (ChunkyMonkeysNana@gmail.com) or text/phone (352-316-3586) if you would like to provide one of these items.

FYI, October is the last meal to serve is 2021. We will start again in January 2022. I will be working to line up volunteers for main courses for the entire year and build on that for accompanying dishes. Be on the lookout for the opportunity to serve our homeless brothers and sisters in the Gainesville community. I am also hopeful that we will soon be able to return to serving the meals in-person. Please pray for this opportunity and for the health and well-being of the residents of St. Francis House.

Phyllis Leone

"Then the King will say to those on his right. 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

Matthew 25:34-40

We have several group Bible studies; you are welcome to join any of these classes.

Sundays

9:45 am – “Girl Friends” Bible Study meets in the Library of Building 3. This class is led by Linda Struckmeyer and is also available via Zoom. On September 12, a new study of the book of **Hebrews** titled “*Better*” begins.

Contact Linda at 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. On September 12, this group begins studying the Old Testament book of **Daniel**. Contact Chuck_Moss@msn.com for a Zoom link for this class.

9:45 am – Pastor Jack will lead a study of the book of **Ephesians** beginning on September 26th in the Octagon room of Building 3.

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.

Second Tuesday of each Month

“Young at Heart” ladies Bible study meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Building 1 classroom (behind the choir area). The next Young at Heart meeting will be on September 14.

Oktoberfest- Sarah Suter

Volunteers and Vendors needed for Oktoberfest!!!!

Oktoberfest will be held Saturday October 16, 2021 from 10 am-2 pm. Come enjoy some fun and fellowship with German music, German food, local vendors, raffles and MORE!

If you would like to reserve a vendor table or if you are willing to volunteer (kitchen help, set-up and clean-up, ticket sales, etc) please contact Sarah Suter at ssticks1@gmail.com or at 352-262-0765.



Confirmation Class 2021

So why do we do Confirmation? Confirmation instruction was originally homeschooling, intended to be a venture that was primarily the task of the parents of a child. Once a child was considered “ready,” having been instructed by the parents at home with the use of Luther’s Small Catechism, they were brought before the Pastor where they were examined and presented before the congregation as “prepared” for fuller participation in the life of the church, having made profession of a faith that was fully their own.

Over the years, the church has assumed a larger role in assisting the family. The primary responsibility for seeing that the instruction is complete, however, still lies with the parents. That is the true strength of any Confirmation program, the parents and their teaching the truths of our faith by both word and lifestyle. That has been particularly true for this year’s Confirmation Class. Due to Pastor Alan’s illness and all the COVID challenges, this class has been through a variety of methods of instruction. The one constant has been the parents.

We rejoice with them on Sunday, September 12, as they renew their Baptismal vows and move toward a more active and engaged faith. We invite them all to become involved in the life of the church in whatever way they can, based on God’s gifts to them. Our Confirmation Class of 2021 is: Olivia Chiarelli, Jade Lutz, Rachel Morgan, Hannah Spooner, Rylee Williams, and Parker Wilson.

Bible Breakfast

Bible Breakfast is back in full swing, and I know that everyone is enjoying the opportunity for fellowship and good food each Sunday morning. That being said, we are reaching out to everyone to help make the load a little lighter on our Breakfast Ladies by bringing in food items.

Through the end of summer, we will continue with continental breakfast items such as finger sandwiches, fruit and veggies, pastries, etc. After Labor Day, we will return to a hot breakfast. Won’t you please consider bringing your favorite recipe to share with your Abiding Savior friends?

Please call/text Kathy Schmitt at (352-672-2163) or Phyllis Leone (352-316-3586) to let us know what you will bring. In the near future, we will be setting up a rotating monthly schedule for preparing a food item, so be on the lookout for a call from us.

Preschool News - Brenda Arden

We enthusiastically began the 2021-2022 school year at Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool on August 16. Our theme for the school year is “Let Your Light Shine”. This year we have 175 children who have begun their journey here at Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool discovering how we can let our lights shine with our families, friends, school, community, and world. We have been called to share His light and love with others.

During the month of September, we will hear Bible stories about The Flood, Abraham’s Call, Abraham’s Son Isaac is Born, Joseph’s Father and Brothers, and Moses’ Birth. Our themes for September are All About My Family, Fall/Leaves, Apples, and Scarecrows/Farm.

Preschool will be closed on September 6 for Labor Day. Events planned this month are Grandparent’s Day celebrations on September 9 and 10 (modifications being made to send things home due to our grandparents not being able to come to school) and our first Spirit Day on September 14th.

We continuously ask for your prayers as we take reasonable steps for the health and safety of the students, families, and staff at Abiding Savior. We pray that the Lord will use all of us here as His instruments to foster the children’s physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual growth this school year.

Shining His Light,
Brenda Arden
Preschool Director

Concert Series

Save the dates for the concerts you'd like to attend this year! All concerts are **free** and open to the public. Please let us know which ones strike your fancy the most... and don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor!

Themes and Variations - Sunday, September 19, 2021 - 4:00 pm
Works for Euphonium and Piano by Mazur, Hovhaness, and more
Zachary Sullivan, Euphonium & Joshua Mazur, Piano

25th Anniversary Concert - Friday, October 15, 2021 - 7:00 pm
Celebrating 25 years with the Scholz Memorial Pipe Organ
Vince Treadway, Guest Organist

The Messiah Sing-Along - Sunday, November 21, 2021 - 4:00 pm
“The People’s Messiah”: A Holiday event where YOU are the choir!
Joshua L. Mazur, Conductor & Organist - Brian Hargrove, Pianist

The Lights of Epiphany - Sunday, January 9, 2022 - 4:00 pm
Festival Processionals for Epiphany
Joshua L. Mazur, Organist

Diamonds in the Rough - Friday, February 18, 2022 - 7:00 pm
Operatic Favorites and Intimate Moments from the Greatest Composers
Kimberly Hernandez, Mezzo-Soprano - Joshua L. Mazur, Piano

Concordia Univ. Chicago Wind Symphony - March 5, 2022 - 7:00 pm

Death by Aria: an Opera Gala - Sunday, May 1, 2022 - 7:00 pm
Fantastic Arias, Duets, and Trios from Grand Opera
Kimberly Hernandez, Mezzo- Soprano
Hannah J. Mazur, Soprano - Joshua L. Mazur, Tenor

News from the Bench- Joshua Mazur

Music Ministry at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

The Music Ministry is happy to invite those interested in any of the different aspects of music and worship to consider joining us as we prayerfully prepare to return to these beloved activities!

Musical Ensembles & Opportunities

- The Chancel Choir meets 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Wednesday nights, preparing music regularly for worship including service music, anthems, chants, etc. and reports at 7:30 am Sunday mornings to sing as part of the 8:00 am Sunday morning worship service.
- The Praise Team meets Wednesday afternoons from 4:30– 6:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon/ evenings, preparing music regularly for worship including service music, praise anthems, etc. and reports at 10:00 am Sunday morning to play and sing as part of the 10:45 am Sunday morning worship service.
- The Chime Ensemble meets Thursdays (time TBD) and is an excellent place for new musicians to learn the rudiments and fundamentals of music and group music making. The ensemble prepares special music for worship from time to time.
- The Brass Ensemble meets Thursdays (time TBD) and any players of brass instruments (trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, etc.) are welcome to join. The ensemble meets regularly and prepares music as needed for worship and special events.
- Are you a keyboardist (piano, organ, etc.) and interested in playing preludes or voluntaries in worship from time to time? You are invited to express your interest and a list of pieces you would like to offer, and when appropriate (based on season and service content), play during worship as a guest pianist/organist. It is never too soon or too late to contemplate using God's gifts of talent in worship of Him!
- Are you a vocalist but can't participate in choir? There are wonderful ways you can be included as a soloist! Please let us know if you're interested.

Worship Technology/ Logistics Opportunities

- Worship Technology Staff are unpaid staff that manage parts of the audio and video aspects of worship on a regular basis. Two staffers are needed for each of our two Sunday morning worship services: One primarily facilitating and running sound, and the other primarily facilitating and operating our church livestream and archival recordings. If you are interested in being trained and serving in this capacity, please let us know.
- Logistics Staff are unpaid staff that help manage and facilitate needs beyond that of the ordinary worship life of the church. Volunteers are sometimes needed, for example, to move pews and equipment for guest concerts or special events; those who assist in this capacity need to know the ins and outs of our facilities enough to avoid damage to church property and accidental injuries that more informal volunteers might be more vulnerable to. If you are interested in being available as needed to serve in this capacity, please let us know.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Ayla Solinsky 9/1
Kay Hurst 9/3
Kim Prins 9/3
Jeremy Crawford 9/6
Debbie Maxwell 9/7
Michael Brannon 9/8
Janice Hamilton 9/8
Zachery Sain 9/9
Aaron Thomas 9/11
Jamie Dotson 9/14
Jaxon Stiff 9/15
Tracy Mewhinney 9/16
Brad Morgan 9/16
Marilyn Palumbo 9/19
Laura Rorick 9/19
Petra Townsend 9/21
Leonard Young 9/21
Karen Brautcheck 9/24
Andrew Hodgson 9/24
Anabel Suter 9/24
Michael Hein 9/25
Scott Prins 9/26
Alex Moss 9/28
Carla Flateau 9/29
Andy Hamilton 9/29
Charels Moss 9/30
Brittany Sullivan 9/30

Anniversaries

Joe & Sue Andes
9/1
Gilbert & Sara Daniel
9/4
Rod & Carol Prins
9/5
Kathy & John Schmitt
9/29

September Calender

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 8A Worship 9:45 Bible Study 9:45 Confirmation 10:45 Worship 7p Joshua's Bible study	6 5:30p Baton Twirlers	7 5:30P AA 6:30p Capella Nova	8 6p Girl Scout Troop 813 6:30p Choir Practice 7p AA	9	10	11
12 8A Worship 9:45 Bible Study 9:45 Confirmation 10:45 Worship 7p Joshua's Bible study	13 5:30p Baton Twirlers 7p Church Council	14 10a Young at Heart 5:30p AA 6:30p Capella Nova	15 6:30p Choir Practice 7p AA	16	17	18
19 8A Worship 9:45 Bible Study 9:45 Confirmation 10:45 Worship 7p Joshua's Bible study	20 5:30p Baton Twirlers	21 5:30p AA 6:30p Capella Nova 6:30p Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7p Elders meeting	22 6p Girl Scout Troop 813 6:30p Choir Practice 7p AA	23 St Francis	24	25 Sewing for missions
26 8A Worship 9:45 Bible Study 9:45 Confirmation 10:45 Worship 7p Joshua's Bible study	27 5:30p Baton Twirlers	28 5:30P AA 6:30p Capella Nova 6:30p Girl Scout Leader Meeting Book Club Meeting 7P	29 6:30p Choir Practice 7p AA	30		

September Readers and Elders

September Readers

8:00 am 10:45 am

9/5/21	Pete Schmitt	Liz Torrence	Is. 35:5-7 James 2:1-10, 14-18
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9/12/21	Marilyn Palumbo	Ann Stone	Is. 50:4-10 James 3:1-12
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9/19/21	Kris Pagenkopf	Brenda Arden	Jer. 11:18-20 James 3:13-4:10
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9/26/21	Kjerstin Terry	TBA	Num. 11:5-6, 10-16, 24-29 James 5:1-12, 13-20
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Elders of the Month

8:00 am - Chuck Moss

10:45 am - Jimmy Flateau

Help Wanted

Santa Fe High School Cafe has three 5 hour per day positions with full benefits available immediately.

For details, contact Kathy Schmitt at 352-672-2163.

