



December 2022 Newsletter

*Connecting Hearts
to Jesus*

Online at

www.AbidingSavior.info

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Prayer List

Members, Family, and Friends

- Dawn Barlow (stroke, controlling husband) age 40, Karen Nobles' niece
- David Buth (stroke rehab)
- Gary Bock (pancreatic cancer) Linda Struckmeyer's cousin
- Michelle Buth (return of ovarian cancer)
- Jerry Cox (heart failure/Covid) by Kimberly Phillips
- Judy Dabrey (diabetic retinopathy) by Susie Buth
- Hans Farber (advanced Parkinson's) by Carol (caregiver)
- Randy Gill (granular sarcoidosis/heart problems)
- Laurie Grubb (possible stroke) Linda Struckmeyer's sister
- Caelen Gorman (age 13, heart transplant) by Debbie Hill
- Anne Holdrege (twisted bowel surgery recovery) Kathryn Lerch's mom
- Julia Kohlberg (stage 4 cancer/chemo) by Kathy Schmitt (sister-in-law)
- Georgina Lacy (Chemo) Paula Richert's sister
- Desi Nuckolls (early Alzheimer's) Mark Nuckolls' dad
- Graysen Riehl (head banging, age 2) Carla's grandson
- Katie Robel (learning problems, age 9) by Karen Nobles
- Todd Robel (aggressive prostate cancer age 61/also heart) by Karen Nobles
- Eckhard Schadow (health issues)
- Herbie Silvious (very ill) by Jimmy Flateau
- Bill Stone (diabetes and heart issues)
- Anne Stone (back - CAT scan, shots for pain)
- Dylielah Taylor (leg and back pain)
- Jeff Sawnsen (detached retina) Paula Richert's son-in-law
- Jimbo Walsh (bladder cancer) by Flateau

continued

Praises: Yasmar Bonneville (cancer free)

Shut-Ins: Fran Jacobs, Shirley Jackson, Kay Hurst, Ruthann Hodgson

Military

Casey Dougherty (MP) Annetta

Martin Hekking – Air Force
(Kansas) Karen Nobles' grandson

Sam Kleinhauser (sniper) Now Home

Patrick Nobles (Air Force –Alaska)

Matt Young – Air Force Reserve

Josh Wervy USMC
(Karen Nobles' grandson)

Pray for our Military, especially those
deployed in combat zones

Continue prayers for:

Covid victims

Missionaries

Young people in college

Families and victims fleeing war
(Afghanistan) and poverty

Those dealing with disasters: fire, floods,
hurricanes, and tornadoes

Hurricane Ian victims

Our country, our president and our elected
officials

The people of Ukraine

*May Our Lord continue to watch
over and bless Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church.*

*Names will be kept on the Prayer list for one month unless renewed.
Please call the church 352-331-4409 or
Muriel Young 352-332-1386*

Altar Care

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

Altar for January: Cindy Brannon (chair), Jan Banks, Karen Herder, Samantha Nuckolls

Praise God! - Pastor Glover

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
(Luke 2:15-20)

What does it take for you to praise God? Something good to happen to you or your loved ones? Maybe you praise God every day when you turn to Him in prayer? Perhaps when a prayer is answered you cry out in praise to the One who answered your request?

After being led to Bethlehem to see the newborn Jesus, the shepherds praised God for "all they had heard and seen." And why wouldn't they? I mean, they were among the first to behold the promised Messiah – the Savior of the world! They got to see, with their very eyes, the Son of God. If there ever was a reason to praise God, this must be it!

As we enter the season of Advent, all of us have reason to praise God. We praise Him for making us. We praise Him for sending His Son into the world. We praise Him for providing for us. We praise Him for forgiving us. We praise Him for saving us. We praise Him when our prayers are answered and even when they are not, knowing that the King of Kings will never forsake us.

But in this season of Advent, we also praise Him because, like the shepherds, we too have seen Jesus. We see Him each week at the Divine Service when our sins are absolved in Holy Absolution. We see Him as we kneel before Him at the altar and receive into our mouths His very Body and Blood. We see Him when His Word is read and proclaimed from the lectern and pulpit. And we see Him when people are brought to the waters of Holy Baptism. Like the shepherds, we, too, will see Him when He returns. Indeed, all the world will see Him at His Second Advent, glorifying and praising Him.

So, praise God with me my friends. Praise Him for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will yet do. Praise Him for all you have heard and seen. Praise Him as we continue to prepare for His return.

Your unworthy servant,
Pastor Glover

Financial Report

	November Estimated	Year-to-Date Estimated
Offerings	\$ 27,000	300,000
Preschool Income	\$ 94,000	960,000
Other Income	\$ 2,000	34,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 123,000	1,294,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 114,000	1,207,000
Net Operating Income	\$ 9,000	87,000

Services during the Christmas Season

Advent Services will be on December 7 & 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services will be on Saturday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

We will have one service on **Christmas day**, Sunday, December 25, at 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies will not meet on this Sunday.

There will also be one service **New Years day**, Sunday, January 1, at 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies will not be meet this Sunday.

Help Decorate the Church!

Help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season! Join us on Saturday, December 3, starting at 8:30 a.m. There's a job for everyone to do.

Home Visits

If you know of someone who desires Pastor Glover to visit with them in their home or at the hospital, to include bringing Holy Communion to them, please contact Pastor Glover at PastorG@abidingsavior.info or call (352) 331-4409.

Monthly Book Club

If you would like to serve as hostess/discussion leader for any upcoming meetings or want to be added to the email list, contact Georganne Eibe at savygg@yahoo.com.

December will not have a book club meeting due to the holiday season.

Lutheran World Relief Sewing

Join us this year on the second and last Saturday of the month, meeting in the library of the Family Life Center at 10:00 a.m. LWR sewing will not meet in December, resuming in January on the 14th. The group is sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

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

Adult Bible Study

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

9:45 a.m. – Join Pastor Glover on Sunday mornings during the Bible Study hour in the Fellowship Hall for an in-depth discussion on the Augsburg Confession. Presented to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, on June 25, 1530, the Augsburg Confession is the first confession of faith by the Lutheran reformers. This statement of faith set the stage for what we know as Lutheranism today.

9:45 a.m. – “Girl Friends” Bible Study remains on hold for the next few weeks. Attendees are encouraged to go to Pastor’s Bible Study.

9:45 a.m. – Study the Bible with Chuck Moss in the Building One classroom. The Bible study is currently using the book *Summary of Christian Doctrine*.

Contact Chuck_Moss@msn.com for a Zoom link for this class.

Young at Heart Ladies Bible Study meets the second Tuesday of the month in Building One. The next meeting will be December 13 at 10:00 a.m. Annetta Coleman will lead the study of “His Faithfulness to All Generations”.

Bible Breakfast

Bible Breakfast is always looking for new volunteers! If you feel so inclined, you can sign up to bring items to help support our Bible Breakfast. The sign-up board is located adjacent to the drink counter. You can also call/text Kathy Schmitt at (352) 672-2163 to let her know what you can bring.

King's Kids is Sundays from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Children ages 4-10 are invited to participate in this weekly Sunday event. There will be organized activity time, a Bible lesson time and free play to help our pre-youth age children develop friendships with other Abiding Savior children while learning more about Jesus. A meal will be served at 4:30 and parents are invited too. For more information, see Elizabeth Torrence or Susan Moss.

Parents and Tots Sunday School is on a break for the month of December. The class will resume meeting on January 8.

Youth Sunday Nights

The Youth Progressive Dinner is on December 18. Sunday night welcomes all students in 6 - 12 grade. We also love to have our college-aged kids there to assist Danny and Jess with youth nights. We meet in the big room in the FLC Sunday nights from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Christmas Celebration Dinner



A Christmas Celebration Dinner will be hosted at Abiding Savior Saturday, December 17. The Youth will be performing "*A Christmas to Believe In*" at the dinner. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the performance begins at 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free but an RSVP is necessary. To RSVP, contact the church office at office@abidingsavior.info or sign your name on the clipboard in the narthex.

King & Country



Join our Youth on Sunday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. for a live streamed concert of *King & Country: A Drummer Boy Christmas*. Bring your favorite Christmas treats to share for this event!



Cookies for First Responders

Help with baking and delivering Christmas cookies!

Please have your cookies to the church kitchen on December 24, no later than 7:00 p.m. for plating. If you would prefer to donate cookie dough, please bring it to the church office by Sunday, December 18.

We will be delivering the cookies on Sunday, December 25. Please let us know if you can help with deliveries on Christmas day.

December Blood Drive

The LifeSouth Blood Mobile will be at Abiding Savior on December 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Bread of the Mighty Food Drive

Thank you to all who helped contribute to this year's Bread of the Mighty Food Drive! All the contributions made through the church and preschool resulted in a donation of 515 pounds of food.

WOMEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 11TH @ 5:00-7:00pm FLC Fellowship Hall

Table Host and Guest RSVP by December 7th

**Hord'oeuvres will be provided
by First Lutheran Church**

**Table Hosts will provide desserts and
festive table decorations**

Let Susan Moss know by December 7 if you would like to attend. Contact Susan for more information at smoss@abidingsavior.info.

Star Tree

The much anticipated Star Tree is located in the narthex. We will be buying gifts for 20 students from Mebane Middle School. Instructions are near the tree. The last date to bring in gifts will be Sunday, December 11.

St. Francis House - Phyllis Leone



Abiding Savior's outreach dinner for St. Francis House will resume on Thursday, January 26. See the January newsletter for details.

New Wine: an Evening of Praise



The Praise Band performed an intimate program of music called “New Wine” on Friday, November 18, in the choir room., which was redressed into a living room setting for the occasion. From left to right, Ron & Carol Wilson, Dustin Banks, Randy Coleman, Joshua & Hannah Mazur, Ralph & Colleen Toppins, Zachary Sain, and Michael & Brenda Arden



This time of year, it's common for us to look back on the year and reflect. Was it a good year? A bad one? What might come to mind for some of us are the people or things we have had to go without this year. For me personally, the death of two of my students within the same month has left me with a crippling grief that often rips me from sleep and rears its head many a morning as I wonder how I can be a shining light to my students as we all grieve this terrible loss. The news of war in Ukraine earlier this Spring has many of us wondering how can good prevail amidst such evil? Many people on the west coast of our state have had their entire homes and belongings taken from them during the terrible storm this Fall. It's during these dark times that it seems as though all hope is lost. This is, of course, farthest from the truth! God loved us so much that He gave us a most precious gift-His son Jesus and through Him, salvation. Thanks be to God for the assurance that the toils of this life on earth are only temporary, and that what awaits us in Heaven is more perfect and grand than we could ever imagine. What an amazing truth to keep at the forefront of our minds during the times when we feel like there is no hope!

As this hope shines in our hearts, ASLC has always sought to share this truth with the members of our community.

Sometimes, sharing the Good News means directly talking to someone about Jesus and inviting them to church. Other times, and more commonly, it's as simple as giving someone something to eat. Members of our congregation have prepared and served monthly meals to the residents at St. Francis House. We have assembled sandwiches and distributed them downtown. We have collected hundreds of pounds of food for Bread of the Mighty, and we packed 42,000 meals during the Meals of Hope food packing event in May.

There are times when we share the Good News by serving those in need with dignity and care. Over the summer, our congregation gathered supplies to support Phil's Friends, an organization that provides cancer patients with blankets, books, and hygiene supplies during their treatment. In the month of October, we gathered two heaping hampers full of new socks to donate to GRACE Marketplace for their residents. A pair of new socks may seem trivial to us, but it makes all the difference on a cold night spent outside.

Sometimes we share the Good News by being there for someone in a crisis. As a congregation, we raised funds to donate to Lutheran Disaster Relief Efforts, to help out during the aftermath of Hurricane Ian this past September.

And sometimes, we share the Good News by putting a smile on the faces of children in our community. Our congregation enthusiastically supported the Back to School drive in August, providing school supplies for many children to begin the school year on a successful note.

continued

Outreach - Hannah Mazur (*continued*)

Our beloved Star Tree is up and ready for gifts to be delivered to make some children's Christmas morning a special one.

When I reflect on Outreach & Evangelism at ASLC in 2022, my heart is full of gratitude for having seen the Holy Spirit work mercy in us and work mercy to others by our hands. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation with a heart for helping our community. In the book of John, Jesus says that all will know we are His disciples by the love that we have for one another. (John 13:35) I am honored to serve this congregation as the leader for Outreach & Evangelism, and I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us in 2023!

Historian Wanted...

Have you ever wondered who Abiding Savior's first president was? Do you know when we started our Oktoberfest celebration? Did you know that First Lutheran is the mother church of Abiding Savior? How many pastors have served at Abiding Savior? The answers to these questions and much more interesting information can be found in the history of Abiding Savior written in conjunction with our 25th anniversary celebration. This history will soon be included on the church's web page.

We have covered our first 25 years, but what has happened since, what will our future hold, and how will those who come after us know about it? Funny you should ask! To that end, the Church Council would like to find someone to serve as Abiding Savior's official historian. This person would be responsible for documenting church events through narrative and photos in a digital scrapbook. Of course, the historian would not need to attend every function, but would encourage event participants to take photos and submit them for inclusion in the scrapbook.

If the idea of creating a record of memories for your current and future parishioners appeals to you, please contact Phyllis Leone via email (ChunkyMonkeysNana@gmail.com) or phone/text (352-316-3586).

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is the fund we use at Abiding Savior to directly assist our community and the needs of individuals. You can contribute to this fund directly or by donating grocery or gas cards that are given to individuals who come by our church seeking help.

The Bradford High School Scarlet Singers, led by Hannah Mazur, present “Home for the Holidays” a concert of holiday songs. The concert will be held on Thursday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. at Abiding Savior Lutheran church. Free & Open to the public.

Trustee Report

The Trustee Team is seeking volunteers. There is a lot of work to be done around the church and preschool, such as weeding, refreshing mulch, trimming branches, and keeping the campus looking fresh. If you are interested and willing to help this team, contact John Schmitt at (352) 514-0478.

Organ Crawl



Members of the Central Florida chapter of the American Guild of Organists visited Abiding Savior on Saturday, November 19, to see the Scholtz Memorial Organ.

Scholastic Book Fair

During the week of December 5-9, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open Monday-Wednesday from 8:00-9:30, 11:30-1:30, and 2:30-3:30 and Thursday-Friday 8:00-9:30, 10:00-11:30, and 11:30-1:30 in the Church Nursery of the Church building. The Book Fair will also be open on Sunday, December 4 and 11 from 9:15-10:30. Abiding Savior is looking for volunteers to work the cash register and help those who are purchasing books.

Please click on the link below, review the available slots, and click on the button to sign up. Thank you for considering being a volunteer and helping with our Book Fair! Take care.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAFAD29A2FDC61-abiding5>



The Abiding Savior Preschool students have been practicing and preparing songs of praise of Jesus' birth for our Christmas Pageants. The Christmas Pageants will be shared with our Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool and Church families at 9:30AM and 10:45AM on Thursday, December 8 and Friday, December 9. Singing is a special way to spread the good news of Jesus' birth. "Joy to the World, the Lord has come!"

The preschool families have been living generously as "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 during the month of November. We collected many nonperishable food items for the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank! The generosity shared by the preschool families is a blessing from God.

During the month of December, the preschoolers will enjoy celebrating Jesus' birthday. December Bible stories will include Jesus is Born, The Angel's Announcement to the Shepherds, and The Wise Men Find Jesus. The season of Advent begins on November 27. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for Jesus' birth at Christmas time. The Advent wreath reminds us of God's never-ending love. During the upcoming weeks we will remember the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from Jesus.

The preschool will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair the week of December 5-9. The Book Fair will be open Monday-Wednesday from 8:00-9:30, 11:30-1:30, and 2:30-3:30 and Thursday-Friday from 8:00-9:30, 10:00-11:30, and 11:30-1:30 in the Church Nursery. The Book Fair will also be open Sundays, December 4 and 11, from 9:15-10:30. **You can also shop online at the following link:** <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/abidingsaviorpreschool> The preschool receives a portion of the proceeds to buy new books for the classrooms and the library.

Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool students, staff, and families wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year filled with the hope, peace, joy and love from our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Praising the Creator,
Brenda Arden
Preschool Director

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Julie Thomas 12/1
Rachel Morgan 12/2
Chris Solinsky 12/5
Parker Hutson 12/7
Jim Annis 12/8
Ed Eibe 12/11
Michael Arden 12/12
Kelly Farah 12/14
Danny Mandeville 12/16
Natalie Petruska 12/17
Judy Bates 12/20
Paul Schubring 12/21
Jamie Williams 12/24
Muriel Young 12/24
Ralph Toppins 12/27
Greg Claus 12/30
Karen Herder 12/30
Ashley Gouthro 12/31
Daniel Schmitt 12/31
Kristina Mandeville 12/31

Anniversaries

Brad & Sandra Morgan 12/5
Chris & Amy Solinsky 12/5
Terry & Deb Armey 12/9
Ed & Georganne Eibe 12/14
Greg & Maria Claus 12/22
Charles & Susan Moss 12/28
Daniel & Jessica Schmitt 12/29

December Calender

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30p AA Meeting	3
4 8&10:45a Worship 9:15a Bible Breakfast 9:45 Bible Study 7p Youth	5 2p Wind Ensemble 6p Baton Twirlers	6 5p AA Meeting 7p Capella	7 5p Praise Team Practice 6:30p Chancel Choir 7p AA Meeting 7p Mid-week Advent	8	9 7:30p AA Meeting	10
11 8&10:45a Worship 9a Blood Drive 9:15a Bible Breakfast 9:45 Bible Study 4p Youth	12 2p Wind Ensemble 6p Baton Twirlers	13 10a Young at Heart 5p AA Meeting	14 5p Praise Team Practice 7p AA Meeting 6:30p Chancel Choir	15 Home for the Holidays Concert 7p	16 7:30p AA Meeting	17
18 Noisy Offering 8&10:45a Worship 9:15a Bible Breakfast 9:45 Bible Study	19 2p Wind Ensemble	20 5p AA Meeting 6p Elders Mtg 6:30p Girl Scout Leaders mtg	21 7p AA Meeting	22	23 5p Young Life 7:30p AA Meeting	24 4p Christmas Eve Service 7p Christmas Eve Service
25 11a Christmas Day Service	26	27 5p AA Meeting 7p Girlscout Leader Meeting	28 7p AA Meeting	29	30	31
1 11a New Years Day Service						

December Readers, Elders, Acolytes and Flowers

Readers	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Readings
12/4/22	Paul Mandeville	Brenda Arden	Is. 11:1-10 Rom. 15:4-13
12/11/22	Kris Pagenkopf	Ann Stone	Is. 35:1-10 James 5:7-11
12/18/22	Phyllis Leone	Ralph Toppins	Is. 7:10-17 Rom. 1:1-7
12/25/22	Chris Annis		Is. 52:7-10 Heb. 1:1-6

If you are interested in volunteering to read, email office@abidingsavior.info and let us know what Sundays you are available.

Elders of the Month

8:00 a.m. - Mike Brannon

10:45 a.m. - Jimmy Flateau

Flowers

December 4 - Mackenzie

December 11 - Mazur

December 18 -

December 25 - Leone

Choose a date on the flower chart next to the church office and write your name and dedication if so desired. Flowers are \$40 for a pair.

Ministry Team Leaders and Contact Information

Officers

<i>President</i>	Phyllis Leone	Chunkymonkeysnana@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Dustin Banks	DustineBanks@yahoo.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Sarah Sain	Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ann Stone	Anna@flstones.com

Elders

Derek Sain, <i>Chair</i>	Sain.derek@gmail.com
Michael Arden	Mikearden1973@gmail.com
Mike Brannon	Mbrannon01@yahoo.com
Jimmy Fleteau	Jmfjr@hughes.net
Chuck Moss	Chuck_moss@msn.com
Fred Townsend	F.send@outlook.com

Ministry Teams

<i>Christian Education</i>	Elizabeth Torrence	Eliztorren@gmail.com
<i>Christian Fellowship</i>	Danny Schmitt	Youth@abidingsavior.info
<i>Outreach & Evangelism</i>	Hannah Mazur	Hannahjmazur@gmail.com
<i>Trustees</i>	John Schmitt	Schmittjohna@aol.com

Administrative Staff

<i>Pastor</i>	Graham B. Glover	PastorG@abidingsavior.info
<i>Director, Music & Digital Ministries</i>	Joshua L. Mazur, M.M.	Jmazur@abidingsavior.info
<i>Preschool Director</i>	Brenda Arden	Barden@abidingsavior.info
<i>Church Admin.</i>	Susan Moss	Smoss@abidingsavior.info
<i>Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	Jessica Schmitt	Jessica@abidingsavior.info
<i>Communications Coord.</i>	Anna Moss	Anna@abidingsavior.info
<i>Financial Assistant & AV Tech</i>	Andrew Hodgson	Andrew@abidingsavior.info



