



# Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Gainesville, Florida

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 24, 2023

# Announcements and Reminders

## Communion Statement

In accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we believe and confess that in this Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the forms of bread and wine. Our gathering at the Table of the Lord is not a mere symbolic eating and drinking. Receiving the body and blood of Christ together at this Holy Table is confessing that we who here receive this Sacrament share this common belief. Such celebration of the Sacrament carries two pastoral concerns:

- That all communicants understand what God is giving to us in His Supper. The New Testament speaks of grave harm that will come upon anyone who does not “discern the Lord’s body” (1 Corinthians 11:29). We desire that you receive this gift to your good and never to your harm.
- Each one should be able to examine themselves and recognize their sin and need for God’s grace, lest we contradict Christ by sin against Him and sin against His people. In this Sacrament we are most fully at one with Christ and with one another, and so we should come to this Table at peace with Him and at peace with all our sisters and brothers.

Because communion at the table of our Lord is such a confession of common faith, worshippers who have a different understanding, or who hold a differing confession of faith, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament should first speak with an Elder or the Pastor before communing.

For those with health concerns, gluten-free wafers are available on request and non-alcoholic wine is available in the center cups of each communion tray. Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest at the communion rail.

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**Bible studies will not be held this Sunday, but will resume on January 7 at 9:45 a.m.**

**Pastor Glover’s Class:** Pastor Glover’s class will meet in the fellowship hall in building 3. The study of the book of *Revelation* will continue.

**Girl Friends Bible Study:** This Bible study meets in the Library between services. Contact Linda at [struck60@gmail.com](mailto:struck60@gmail.com) or Debbie Hill at [debbiehill@me.com](mailto:debbiehill@me.com) for more information. Girlfriends Sunday School class will study the Women of Christmas in December.

**Study the Bible One Book at a Time:** Study with Chuck Moss in the Building 1 classroom. This group will continue with a study of studying the book of *John*. Contact [Chuck\\_Moss@msn.com](mailto:Chuck_Moss@msn.com) for more information.

**Parents and Tots Sunday School** will meet in the Youth room of Building 3 starting again January 7, 2024.

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**Christmas Eve Divine Services** will be held at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be one service Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m.

**One Divine Service** on the morning December 31 at 10:45 a.m. with no breakfast or Bible Study.

**The Music Ministry seeks new/beginner singers** who want to learn to sing and become musically literate. The Schola Cantorum will be the premiere place for new and developing singers (ages 14 and up), so no experience is necessary. The Schola will meet at a time mutually doable for those who are interested. Please scan the QR code to sign up today! Class starts in January.



**A Congregational Meeting** will be held on January 14 at 12:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend as the mid-fiscal year business report and plans for the upcoming year will be presented. A luncheon will be provided.

**Young at Heart** Ladies Bible Study meets this Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Building One Classroom. Karen Nobles will lead the study titled “Questions”.

**Book Club:** The next meeting will be on January 30 on the book “*The Book of Lost Friends*” by Lisa Wingate. Virginia Pagenkopf will be the hostess.

**Youth** meets every Sunday evening from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. If you or your child is interested in joining Youth activities, contact Danny Schmitt at [Youth@abidingsavior.info](mailto:Youth@abidingsavior.info) or by phone at (352) 514-2371

# + Fourth Sunday in Advent +

## The Advent Wreath

*Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming, is richly symbolized in the tradition of the Advent wreath. The circular wreath, an emblem of eternity, is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. The four candles on the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent, and one is lit each Sunday as a progressive testament to the light of God coming into the world.*

*The fourth and final candle is the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love. It symbolizes the love and message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." As we light the Angel Candle, may the love that the angels proclaimed infuse our beings, guiding us to live in peace with one another, just as it guided the magi to the newborn King.*

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

*Stand*

## Hymn of Invocation: 387 Joy to the World

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

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

**C** Amen.

## + Confession and Absolution +

## Exhortation

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

## Confession of Sins

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## + Service of the Word +

## Introit

*Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;\*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.\*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber;\*

and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them;\*

and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

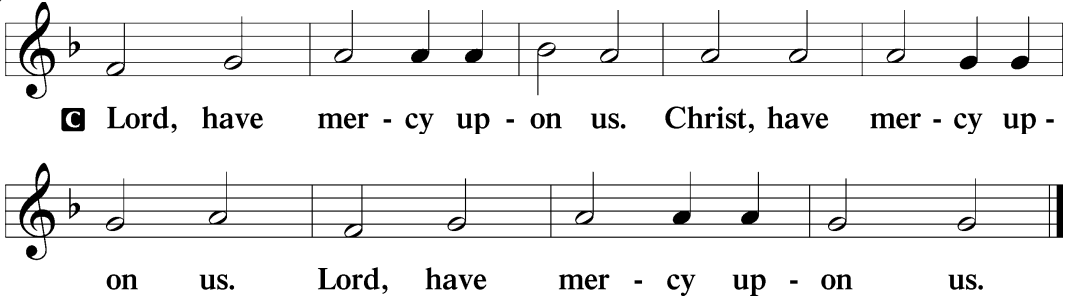
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;\*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

- C** Thanks be to God.

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

*Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the

preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept

secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings

has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to

bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore

through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26–38*

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

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



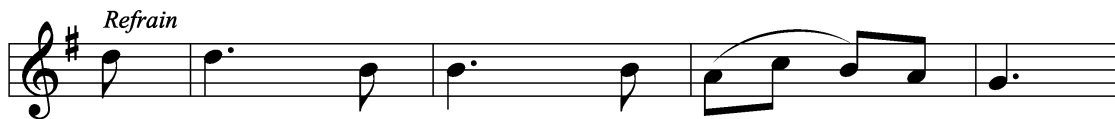
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
 6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
 by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
 hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.



*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## Sermon

### Votum

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

### Offertory

*Psalm 51:10–12*



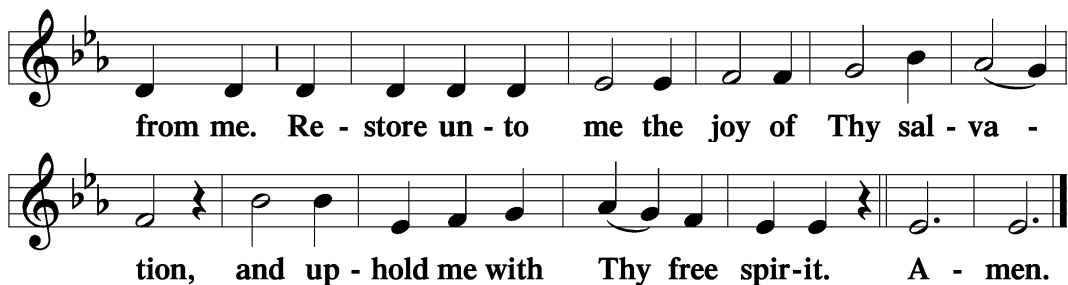
**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



*Sit*

## Gathering of Offerings & Prayer Requests Voluntary

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

### + Service of the Sacrament +

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

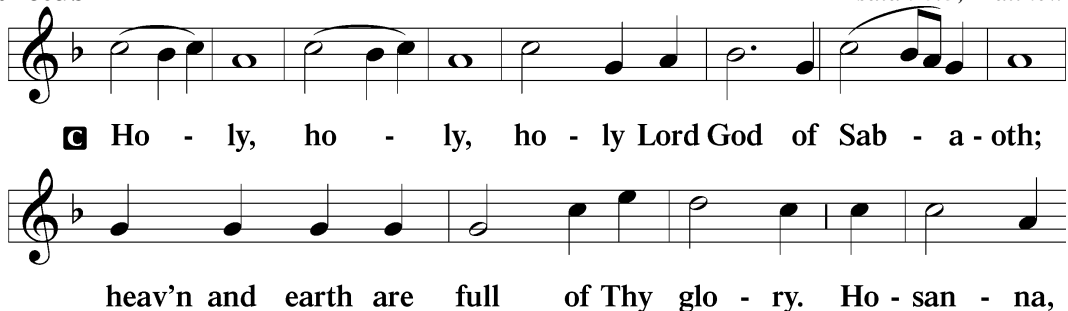
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** It is meet and right so to do.

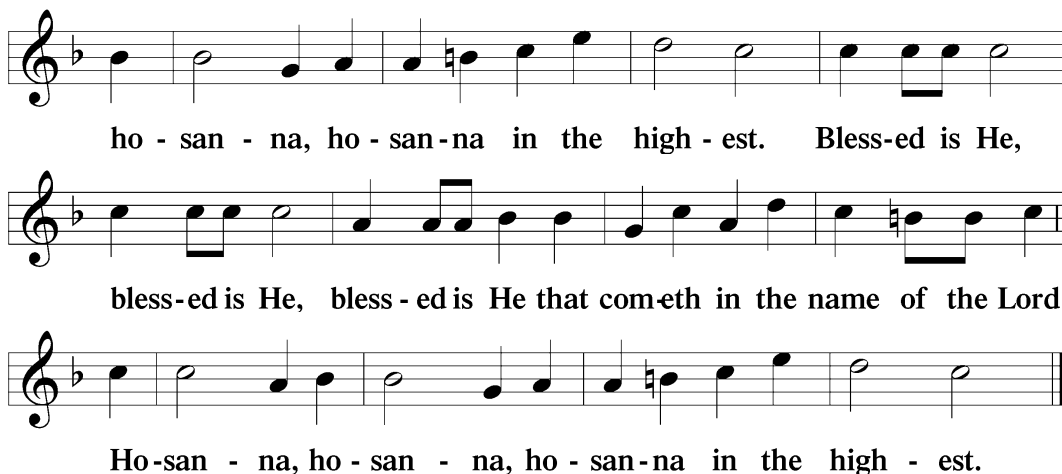
## Proper Preface

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*





## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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

*Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei: 962 Agnus Dei — I

*John 1:29 {1}; 1 Corinthians 5:7 {2}*

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a -  
way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
God, You take a - way the sin of the world; grant us Your  
peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

Text: Traditional; tr. International Consultation on English Texts, alt.

Tune: Paul D. Weber, 1949

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*Sit*

## Distribution

## The Dismissal


**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us

through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen, amen, amen.

## Hymn to Depart: 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

## Acknowledgments

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# ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting Hearts to Jesus  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

*Rev. Graham B. Glover, Senior Pastor  
Joshua L. Mazur, Director of Music Ministry*

8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.

*Elder of the month: Mike Brannon Elder of the month: Michael Arden*

*Reader: Ann Stone*

## **Last Week's Attendance**

8:00 a.m.: 73

10:45 a.m.: 72

**Total: 145**

## **Last Week's Offering:**

Total: \$ 8,027

Building Fund: \$ 197

## **Fiscal Year-to-Date**

*(7/1/23-12/17/23)*

Average attendance: 131

Total offering: \$ 167,980

Avg. weekly offering: \$ 6,719

Total Building Fund: \$ 6,235\*

*\*Note: Balance includes donations  
to Safety & Security fund*

## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

*December 31: First Sunday After Christmas*

*First Reading: Isaiah 30:8-17*

*Second Reading: Romans 8:31-39*

*Gospel: Luke 12:35-40*



*Today's altar flowers  
are provided by  
Charles & Susan  
Moss in celebration of  
their anniversary.*



## **Birthdays**

Jamie Williams 12/24

Muriel Young 12/25

Ralph Toppins 12/27

Greg Claus 12/30

Karen Herder 12/30

## **Anniversaries**

Charles & Susan Moss 12/28

Daniel & Jessica Schmitt 12/29



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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.