

November 2020



NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION

Loving, Living and Promoting
our Faith in Jesus Christ.

INSIDE

Message from Pastor
Church Council
Anna Circle
Birthdays/Anniversaries



Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service
Wed. 7:00 pm

Abiding Words

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WHY IS ALL SAINTS' DAY SUCH A SPECIAL EVENT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH?

The traditional date for the observance of All Saints' Day is November 1. This year it falls on the first Sunday in November.

All Saints' Day is a very special festival, one that enriches the worship lives of all who observe it. It is a day on which we are edified by the lives of the saints of ancient times. We recall the faithful men and women of both Testaments of the Bible and praise God for their examples.

In addition to the saints of Scripture, the church's nearly 2,000-year history is full of the stories of faithful Christians, some well known (like Augustine or Luther), but the vast majority known only to God. We commemorate these holy ones as well. However, we also remember the saints of the less distant past.

Many congregations memorialize those parishioners who were called to be with the Lord in recent years, particularly in the last year. An All Saints' Day worship service can therefore be an especially personal celebration as each one of us recalls the loved ones, friends, and mentors now living in heaven whose faith in Christ inspired us and gave us joy.

Finally, on this day we glorify God not just for the faithfulness of the saints, but most of all for His faithfulness to the saints. All Saints' Day can be seen as the summation of the great church festivals and seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost because it reminds us that it is only by the perfect life and saving death of Jesus Christ that Christians are made saints in the sight of the God.





A Message from Pastor

Happy Election Day

Dear Friends of The Abiding Savior,

It's election time. No matter what happens, remember this. Someone elected you. God chose you to be His own people. God loves you so much that He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to give a His life for you on the cross.

Due to sin, our "poll numbers" are dismally low. Jesus Christ gives us His perfect righteousness, by God's grace, as a free unearned and undeserved gift. Our sin is removed and Christ's righteousness is imputed to our account in the eyes of God. Our sins are removed as far as the East is from the West and remembered no more.

Happy Election Day. You are a God's elect.

Things may be a mess here on earth but everything is fine in Heaven. Because of sin, our poll numbers were zero percent. By God's grace in Jesus Christ, God bumps us up to a perfect 100%. That 100% is Jesus Christ's righteousness, not our own. Through Jesus Christ you have been declared the winner.

Yours in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Hecht

Christ the King Sunday

November 22

Christ the King Sunday is celebrated on the last Sunday of ordinary time (last Sunday after Pentecost), before the beginning of Advent that starts the new Church Year.

As the last Sunday of the Christian Church Year, Christ the King Sunday is the climax and conclusion of the Church's liturgical journey through the life of Christ and the Gospel message. Its purpose is to celebrate the coming reign of Christ as King of the Earth and his completion of the renewed creation that marks the fullness of the Kingdom of God. That hope is born from the entire life of Christ and his teachings that have been celebrated in the seasons of the Church Year during the past twelve months. In celebrating the Reign of Christ the King, this Sunday also provides an appropriate bridge to the new Church Year that begins the following Sunday on the first Sunday of Advent with an emphasis on hope and expectation, the longing for the coming of the Kingdom of God amid the darkness of a sinful world.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Brandy Bittman

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a month we had in October! Thank you all for your patience as we performed the necessary sanitizing procedures in the sanctuary. I joined Abiding Savior after the existing sanctuary was built so it was very interesting for me to attend a Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and feel the sense of spiritual intimacy. It was a really cool experience!

Big thanks to everyone who made it possible: Pastor for his quick adaptation to our new altar (not to mention showing up that first Sunday when we had to cancel service), John and Katie for setting up the altar and maintaining it for the month, Lois and the choir for being flexible with the practice and performing locations changing from week to week, Mary for being the point person through it all, Cindy and Jeremy for doing a goliath size portion of the physical work, and especially Bob Buchholz, who balanced taking care of his wife during her critical need when we needed him most. There are also the anonymous donors who helped make the financial part of this plan work. You know who you are and we thank you for your generous gifts. Last but not least, thank you to the Abiding Savior congregation that continues to put their faith in the council to make the best decisions for the health and safety of everyone.

Now for New Business: It is that time of the year when Nominations for Church Council Members, for the coming year, has to be addressed. We will be searching to replace 1 or 2 outgoing members. If you are interested in serving, kindly contact David Weigel or myself.

Following is an update on the mask ordinance. The Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce reported that the Winter Haven mask ordinance has expired as of October 15. This means the government can't force a business to make masks mandatory for all its patrons. However, the Abiding Savior Council has decided that for the health and safety of our beloved congregation, we are going to continue with our mask policy.

Wishing you Peace and Joy,

News from Anna Circle

Marilyn Hausy - President

Anna Circle held its regular monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9:30 am.

We opened the meeting with a prayer from our work book Proverbs 31 Women in the Book of Ruth. We all thought it was very appropriate for our times. We had no minutes from our previous meeting as that meeting was a social get together to get us started. It was a unanimous decision to sponsor Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child

is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization whose mission it is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Needed for the project:

Shoe boxes filled with items for a child.
Also needed are empty shoe boxes

This year we cannot include candy, toothpaste, or any item that is liquid or toys that contain liquids.

The National Collection Date November 8-15

All filled boxes that you would like to donate need to be at the church by

Sunday, November 15

Please include \$9.00 with each box for shipping costs and Bible related material that is added to each box.

If the Congregation wishes to help out but can't put together a box themselves, Anna Circle can help. With a donation of more than the \$9.00, the addition moneys will be used to purchase the small items for extra boxes. We will do the shopping and fill the boxes for you.

Any questions? Contact Marilyn Hausy at mhausy@gmail.com

WE ARE SMALL BUT WE ARE MIGHTY

November Birthdays

- 2 Rose Care
- 3 Dean Purdy
- 5 Dori Rivera
- 9 William Stein
- 10 Gloria Sweimler
- 13 Chris Hazelwood
Donald Juelich
- 17 Dennis Dreibelbis
- 27 Suzanne Monzon
- 29 Jennifer Warren

November Anniversaries

- 13 Bob & Aracely Buchholz

Did we miss your Birthday or Anniversary?
Help us to update our records by contacting
the office: 294-2829



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, Nov. 25
7:00 pm

Men's Fellowship News

The monthly Men's Fellowship breakfast meetings have been suspended due to social distancing concerns. We hope it won't be too long before we can get together again.

Deadline for December Newsletter

Kindly submit items by Nov. 20 to:
John Bardenhagen.
E-mail: johnbardsr@gmail.com



We are called as God's stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns as his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.

You will be receiving a Stewardship letter which will include:

- Time & Talent Form
- Commitment Card for 2021
- Step-Up Chart
- Financial Statement

Please take this opportunity to see where you can be of service with your time & talents.

On the subject of managing our financial responsibilities, kindly use the Step-Up Chart as a guide for making your financial commitment.

We ask that you submit the Time & Talent Form and Commitment Card on

Commitment Sunday, November 8.



2020 Financial Report Year-to-date thru September

Budget -	\$109,494
Income -	110,497
Expenses -	114,030

Jesus Is Not Colorblind

by Bob Smith

Continued from September Newsletter

4. To be colorblind is to be blind to injustice

God is just. This doesn't mean he's only committed to justly judging those who perpetrate injustice (though he is); it also means he's aware of those who suffer injustice. He is present with them in their pain. In passages such as Psalm 146 and Amos 5:21–24, it seems God even grants special favor to those society mistreats.

As people created in his image, we are to reflect the same qualities. Of course, millions of Christians take this call seriously, which is why so many are committed to fighting injustices such as sex trafficking, abortion, and issues related to homelessness. This is good. But it's not good enough.

Because if we are colorblind, we will by definition be incapable of seeing injustice everywhere it resides. We won't notice that certain groups are policed, tried, or incarcerated differently than others; nor will we see the correlation between skin tone and which neighborhoods, businesses, and people our banks, real-estate agencies, or governments strategically invest and disinvest in; nor will we note the discrepancies in public education and employment opportunities that result. Seeing disparities between racial groups requires us to actually see color.

5. To be colorblind is to be unable to fight injustice

Once a race-based injustice is recognized, it requires a solution that is correspondingly race-based. Only color-conscious strategies—not colorblind strategies—can successfully address color-based inequities.

Only color-conscious strategies—not colorblind strategies—can successfully address color-based inequities.

This is certainly the model we see in Acts 6:1–7. Though the categories of race as we know them hadn't yet been invented, the early church ran into a related issue that provides insight into how Christians might handle contemporary racial injustice. The division was based on the cultural categories of Hebraic Jews and

Hellenistic Jews. Hellenistic Jews observed that while the Hebraic widows were receiving the necessary financial support from the church, the Hellenistic widows were not. They were being neglected despite the fact that Hellenistic Jews contributed to the church just like Hebraic Jews.

The apostles didn't respond to this injustice with a culture-blind (or, for our purposes, colorblind) solution. They appointed seven Spirit-filled men to ensure both groups received equitable resources. And yet they didn't randomly select just *any* Spirit-filled men. They intentionally chose seven Spirit-filled men who were also *Hellenistic*. Without question, there were Spirit-filled Hebraic Jews who could have fulfilled the job requirement. Yet the apostles chose to confront the injustice from a color-conscious perspective. They did this to bring justice where there was injustice, ensuring not only that Hellenistic widows would receive the same support as the Hebraic widows, but also that the Hellenistic community as a whole would have power and influence within the church.

To be continued next month

Sanitizing the Church

The Covid-19 Pandemic caused us to close the church for 3 months. (April thru June) During that period with no activity in the building we developed mold.

Through the effects of Jeremy, who is very knowledgeable on the subject, the building has been sanitized.

1. The air conditioning and heating ducts have been professionally sanitized. Cost \$2,250.
2. Jeremy sanitized the rugs and upholstery saving us thousands of dollars.

Supplies: Cost \$869.

Total Cost: \$3,119.

The sanctuary is now open. Once again, work behind the scenes made it all possible:

- ◆ Wipe down all the hymnals & bibles. 500+
- ◆ Move all the Altar Accessories to the fellowship hall and back to the sanctuary.
- ◆ Repair and hang the 'Angels' back in place. Abiding Savior is never short of people doing God's work.

Witnessing ♦ Part 1

By Bill Baker

For the last 2 months of this year, I wanted to discuss Paul's Gospel presentation method found in (1 Corin. 2:1b-2) - "proclaiming to you the testimony of God (Gospel)" not "with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified". (This is but a part of our Lord's Jesus's command given in Matthew 28:19 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nation".) We are commanded to share the Gospel but sadly only less than 5% of Christians do. Part of the reason is that most feel they do not have words or wisdom to share God's good news. So, in this article and the next, I want to share some words that are not lofty in speech or require in depth theological wisdom, but words that every Christian can use to proclaim God's truth of His salvation by believing in His son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is taken from Bill Bright's Four Spiritual Laws. God used Bill Bright to start a ministry that focuses on sharing the Gospel and to make disciples. I will focus on the first part in this 2 part article with the sharing of the gospel. Bill Bright, along with Billy Graham and D.L. Moody found that effective witnessing occurs (as Paul noted above) with the power of simplicity. Another similar concept that I learned in business was the KISS principle - "Keep it Simple, Stupid". These men focused on Jesus Christ through the use of just a few very fundamental truths or what Bill Bright called the "Four Spiritual Laws". You can share these same basic truths using the KISS principle with everyone you meet.

The first spiritual law: "God loves you and created you to know Him personally. He has a wonderful plan for your life". Most people yearn to know that God loves them and wants to have a personal relationship with them. In a world that is full of hate and broken relationships, this is the best news to share and lead with when sharing the Gospel. The God that created us, loves us, wants to be involved in our lives, and has a wonderful plan for us. As Christians, we know this to be true, so let us be bold and share this truth in love to those that have yet to hear such good news.

The second spiritual law: "People are sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him

personally or experience His love." God is holy and being holy, He has standards that He can not waiver on. Thus sin is any thinking or activity that is contrary to the character of God and the boundaries He has established. A great chasm separates us from Him even though we try to establish a personal relationship through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy or religion. Such work efforts inevitably fail. This is the toughest part for the listener to hear, but it is essential that he understands his separation from God.

In the next newsletter, I will discuss the last 2 spiritual laws and how God bridged the chasm that separates us from Him. The solution was sent to us in the form of a baby that was placed in a manger that we will celebrate next month during the advent season. Until then, have a blessed Thanksgiving. Always, to God be the glory!

To be continued next month

The Season of Advent



begins on
Sunday, November 29
with Mid-Week
Worship Services
beginning Wed., Dec. 2

We can use your help.

The cost for sanitizing the church totaled \$3,119. You can help defray the cost with a donation to the 'Sanitizing Fund.'

Envelopes are located in the narthex.



IN THE LORD'S SERVICE November



Communion Assistants 1 - Brandy Bittman 15 - Brandy Bittman				
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Altar Flowers-

- 1 - Brandy Bittman - In honor of November birthdays
Open
- 8 - Bardenhagen - In memory of John's sister, Joan & parents
Open
- 15 - Buchholz - Celebrating 49th anniversary
Gloria Sweimler - In memory of Art
- 22 - Open
Open
- 29 - Open
Open

Sunday School-

Altar Committee
John Bardenhagen

Church Lockup

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 All Saints Sun. Worship 10:00 Communion	2	3	4 Choir Rehear. 5pm	5	6	7
8 23rd Sun. Pentecost Worship 10:00 <i>Commitment Sunday</i>	9	10 Council Mtg. 7pm	11 Choir Rehear. 5pm	12	13	14
15 24th Sun. Pentecost Worship 10:00 Communion	16	17	18 Choir Rehear. 5pm	19	20	21 Anna Circle -9:30
22 Christ the King Worship 10:00	23	24	25 Choir Rehear. 5pm Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 pm	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 1st Sunday Advent Worship 10:00	30					

The Rev. William J. Hecht
Pastor

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, NALC
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E-mail: AbidSav1910@gmail.com
Web Site: abidingsaviorlutheran.net

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. Tues. Thurs. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL – 10:00 am

Holy Communion celebrated weekly

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Loving, Living and Promoting
our Faith in Jesus Christ.

ABIDING SAVIOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Weigel, President	517-285-1848
Brandy Bittman, Vice President	407-761-1044
Bob Buchholz, Treasurer	294-2807
Mary Kerns, Financial Secretary	874-4459
Bill Baker, Recording Secretary	299-1265
Kathie Youtsler, Worship & Music	326-9892
Katie Bicker, Worship & Music	224-9427
Bob DeHaven, Member-at-Large	297-5637
Suzanne Monzon, Member-at-Large	678-548-0300

CHURCH SECRETARY - Mary Kerns
OUTREACH MINISTRY - Bob Smith

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
1910 Havendale Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL 33881-1235



AbidingWords
November