

April 2022



NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

### OUR MISSION

Loving, Living and Promoting  
our Faith in Jesus Christ.

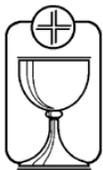
### INSIDE

Message from Pastor  
Church Council  
Anna Circle  
Men's Fellowship  
Birthdays/Anniversaries



### Worship Services

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm  
Good Friday - 7:00 pm  
Easter Sunday - 10:00 am



### Holy Communion

will once again be

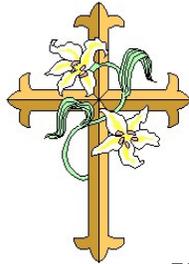
### Celebrated Weekly

Effective April 3

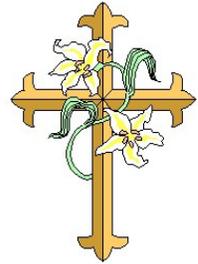
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# Abiding Words

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## Easter Joy



Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



## *A Message from Pastor*

He is risen indeed.

Dear Friends of the Abiding Savior,

He is risen. He is risen indeed.

Many people who think they will switch off like a light when they die are in for a startling awakening. They are not going to power off like an appliance. They are going to discover for themselves that what God has been saying throughout human history has been true all along. Life on earth is an infinitesimally tiny fraction of our eternal existence. The “when you’re dead you’re dead” crowd proclaims that God is dead and so are we. We cease to exist and that is all. The Word of God tells us that our lives are eternal.

An unbeliever said he supposed he was an atheist because he abhorred the thought that he would one day have to answer to someone. Jesus says that people will be resurrected, some to eternal life and some to eternal punishment. It’s a good idea to be sheep, not goats. (Matthew 25)

We live because Jesus Christ lives. Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection. Let your light shine. It’s going to shine forever.

He is risen. He is risen indeed.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

*Pastor Hecht*

# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Lowell Fricker - President

On March 8, the Council voted on and approved a number of items that will benefit us in the future. We are blessed with a Council that recognizes our current needs and desires to use our Mission Statement to drive us towards accomplishing our objectives.



The Council also voted to re-establish Holy Communion every Sunday, beginning April 3, for those who desire communion every week.

Most importantly, the Council approved unanimously a *Vision Statement*, to revitalize Abiding Savior.

### *Vision Statement:*

In the next two years, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church should grow from a membership Church into a discipleship Church, witnessing Christianity to our community and growing disciples for the Lord. Members should become disciples and have a growing Love for the Lord and each other. The Church should be growing in size, finances and in disciples and living as one body in harmony with Christian love for each other and others as they mission throughout our community.

Also, Council approved the following Mission Statement Objectives to help drive us toward our Vision.

1. Bring the Congregation together in love using prayer and sermons and written communication citing God's Word such as in Jesus' great 2nd commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. Matt.22:39
2. Ask members to pray that God bless them and forgive their sins and ask the Holy Spirit to give them peace and joy in their hearts. Ask members to let their light shine with their peace and joy especially when meeting visitors.
3. Strive to have members gain a closer relationship to God, so they love God with all their heart and soul and mind, Jesus' great 1st commandment. Matthew 22:37
4. Encourage members to grow their love for the Lord by daily reading His word, listening to His word and by receiving communion.

5. Remind members to ask God if whatever one is planning to do, is it God's will, and will it please Him?
6. Develop classes to teach witnessing techniques and train members how to effectively use them.
7. Ask members to pray for God to bless Abiding Savior, all our programs and everything we do. That it is in accordance with His will and will please Him. Ask Him to be faithful to us and help us to provide the funds to meet our Church's needs.

In the coming months and years, I see a tremendous opportunity for Abiding Savior to grow again, especially if we come together in love. We have been blessed more than we realize with debt free assets, wonderful members and a man of God for our Pastor.

God bless you all

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## Why Christians Celebrate Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, Christians all over the world will be carrying palms and other branches. That's because it's a celebration of the day Jesus entered Jerusalem before he was crucified and then resurrected, according to the Christian faith.

Christians carry palms on Palm Sunday because according to the Gospels, Jesus' followers covered his path in palm fronds on the day he entered Jerusalem, after the custom of placing palms in the path of a high-ranking person. The palm branch also signified victory in Greco-Roman times, so the waving palms would have resembled a triumphal procession.

Jesus also arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey, which was considered highly symbolic. At the time, a king riding a donkey symbolized peace, while a king on a horse symbolized war -- while Jesus was not technically a king, his followers considered him to be King of Israel.

Palm Sunday is depicted in all four Gospels, which isn't true of all stories about Jesus.

But most of all, Palm Sunday signifies the beginning of the last week of Lent — and the beginning of Holy Week.

## Membership to Discipleship

In the March Newsletter of 2020, Bill Baker wrote an article stating that "We, the church council, would like to change our emphasis from membership to discipleship – to be obedient to what Jesus commanded us to do."

We were unable to follow through with this concept as COVID-19 consumed our lives.

Bob Smith will be submitting several articles in the coming months on this topic.

### Discipleship

#### 1. What is Discipleship?

What is discipleship and what is Jesus calling us to do in Matthew 28:18-20?

Is this a command, or suggestion; does it mean we are just to evangelize and let people find their faith on their own, or does this mean we are to lead others and teach the precepts of the Scriptures and the character of our Lord?

Does it require obedience and action on our part, or are we disciples just by being a Christian and being in church on Sundays?

This passage from Matthew 28:18-20; is called the "Great Commission" This is also the great failure of the church! This is the main call to the church from our Lord and Savior, and is the one thing most church do not do at all! This is the main reason for a church to exist, yet can you name one church that actually teaches the people the basics of faith and moves them deeper into the precepts of His love and Word through all of the seasons of life?

If discipleship is mostly absent from our churches, then most Christians will not understand how to live out their faith. They will not be able to handle problems, witness, share their faith, or grow effectively spiritually, because no one is modeling, or showing them the way!

Some churches do a great job with evangelism, but once the people come in, they are stored in the pews. Where is discipleship? What is it? Is the back door of the church as big as the front door?

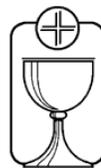
Being a disciple encompasses more than just asking Christ in, and goes far beyond baptism. Our conversion, our acceptance of Christ as Savior, our election, is the beginning, the entrance, into the faith and Christian life. It is not the only act of being a Christian! It would be like joining a club, but venturing into the club. Baptism is initiation and public dedication. It is to be the door through which we go in our walk of faith, as is also our profession and testimony of our faith publicly. It does not stop there! It starts there!

So, what does the average church do about discipleship? In most churches, people are encouraged to accept Christ or make a profession of faith. Then, they are congratulated, put on the membership role, and then quickly forgotten. Sadly the Church has forsaken discipleship, and has left its members to figure out these spiritual growth things on their own. In doing so, it causes many to give up on Christianity, while others become confused, or calloused, or complacent, or they are swept away by false doctrines and cults because they do not know the difference.

We can learn a lot by reading Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 12; and 1 Corinthians 12

Next month we will look at how the Church is called to make Disciples.

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### Holy Communion

Celebrated Weekly

Effective April 3

1st and 3rd Sundays - as currently celebrated.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays - by intinction.

Wafers available on table.

Wine available in chalice.

- Usher will direct you to the communion table in a single file.
- Take a wafer from the table, dip it into the Chalice held by Pastor and eat.

## April Birthdays

- 1 Judy Audley
- 3 John Thomas
- 7 Bill Baker
- 21 Marilyn Purdy
- 27 John Schmidt
- 30 Ariel Ganzy

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## April Anniversaries

- 12 Richard & Mary Hillier
- 27 John & Joan Schmidt

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

### 2022 Financial Report Year-to-date thru February

Budget - \$19,916  
Income - 19,491  
Expenses- 19,249



Purchase a  
**Easter Lily**  
To Decorate our  
Sanctuary  
**\$8.00**

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX

God answers prayers  
because His children ask.



To give a time to reflect on the death of  
Jesus on the Cross

Abiding Savior will host an 8 hour  
**online vigil.**

We will be streaming  
**Friday 9 pm to Saturday 5 am**

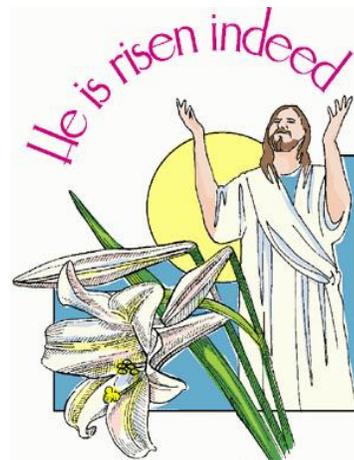
*The stream will contain:*  
Hymns  
Classical pieces from Bach and Mozart  
Bible verses and readings.

Visit our Website  
[abidingsaviourlutheran.net](http://abidingsaviourlutheran.net)

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"Like" Us on Facebook  
The comments section will allow you to join in,  
with a prayer or thought on this solemn time.

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## News from Anna Circle

Debbie Hecht – President

The ladies of Anna Circle will continue to meet by joining the men at their monthly meeting at Schalamar Creek. Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 9 at 8:30am.

I will be scheduling a meeting with the ladies group in the near future to discuss our own fund raisers such as Cookie Sales which was so successful in the past.

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## Men's Fellowship News

The monthly Men's Fellowship/Anna Circle breakfast meeting was held on Saturday, March 12 at 8:30am. A total of 15 were in attendance.

Spaghetti Dinner: The dinner was a success. The 2 seatings, 4:30, 5:30 plus takeout.

The ladies of Anne Circle as co-sponsors also proved to be a key to its success. Thanks again to Marilyn Hausy for the home-made spaghetti sauce.

Income from ticket sales (86) \$860.00  
Net Income less expenses: \$696.17  
(Thanks to Thrivent Financial for their \$250 donation toward expenses)

### Distribution of funds:

Church Contingency Fund	125.00
Angels Care (Project Love)	125.00
Women's Resource Center	125.00
Ukraine Response	125.00

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9, 8:30 am at Schalamar. All men are invited. Bring your significant other.

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ABIDING SAVIOR  
**LIVE**  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Visit our website  
[Abidingsaviorlutheran.net](http://Abidingsaviorlutheran.net)

## Mission in Action!



Angels Care Center  
of Eloise

GOD'S PEOPLE CARING FOR GOD'S  
PEOPLE

There is an "Angels Care Center Box" located in the narthex, where you can place donations.

### Kit-Making Needs

First Aid Kits: Band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, washcloths, Q-tips, cotton balls, small bacterial soap or hand sanitizer, Kleenex, etc

Toiletry Kits: Shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, toothbrush and toothpaste, combs, lotion, hand gel, washcloths, small samples from hotel/motels, dental floss, etc.

Children's "Jesus Kits": Coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, stickers, small books, small containers of Play Doh, toy cars, hair clips,

Miscellaneous: Zip lock bags (snack, quart and gallon sizes)



*Relief for Human Need Worldwide*

Orphan Grain Train is a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church



## In the Lords Service April

<b>Communion Assistants</b>  3 - Katie Bicker 17 - Katie Bicker		<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Lectors</b>  3 - Lowell Fricker 10 - Carolyn Smith 17 - Herta Bardenhagen 24- Angela Ganzy	<b>Ushers</b>  -
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### Altar Flowers-

- 3 - Bill & Karen Reall- God's Blessings  
Open
- 10 - Pat Roberge - In memory of parents (would have been married 75 years)  
Open
- 17 - Ken & Kathy Starkey - In memory of Mother  
Open
- 24- Dave Wiemer - See you when I get back in October  
John Gaylor - In memory of wife Nancy

**Altar Committee-**  
John Bardenhagen  
Bob Buchholz

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>4th Sunday Lent</b> Worship 10:00 Bible Study 8:45 Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Choir Rehear. 5 pm Soup Supper 6:00 <b>Lenten Worship</b> 7:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Men's Fellowship Anna Circle 8:30am Schalamar
<b>10</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship 10:00 Bible Study 8:45 Communion	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Council Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> Choir Rehear. 5 pm	<b>14</b> <b>Maundy Thurs.</b> Worship 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Worship 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> Worship 10:00 Bible Study 8:45 Communion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Choir Rehear. 5 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> Worship 10:00 Bible Study 8:45 Communion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Choir Rehear. 5 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

The Rev. William J. Hecht  
Pastor

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, NALC  
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E-mail: AbidSav1910@gmail.com

Web Site: abidingsaviorlutheran.net

“Like” us on Facebook -Abiding Savior Lutheran  
Church, Winter Haven, FL

### OFFICE HOURS

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

Wednesday 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 am  
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 8:45 am

Holy Communion celebrated weekly

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Loving, Living and Promoting  
our faith in Jesus Christ

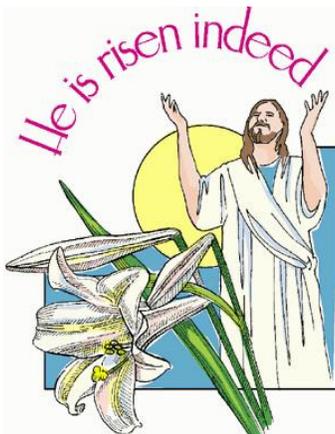


### ABIDING SAVIOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lowell Fricker, President	202-3355
Kathie Youtsler, Vice President	326-9892
Bob Buchholz, Treasurer	294-2807
Lisa Baker, Recording Secretary	299-1265
Jeremy Denslinger, Property	393-5985
Katie Bicker, Worship & Music	224-9427
Cade Bicker, Member-at-Large	299-2803
Judy Black, Member-at-Large	292-9943

CHURCH SECRETARY - Mary Kerns  
OUTREACH MINISTRY - Robert Smith

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



# AbidingWords

## April