

AUGUST 2023

Abiding Words



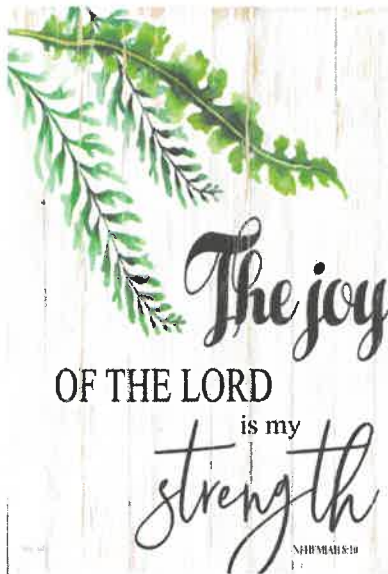
NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION

Loving, Living and Promoting
our Faith in Jesus Christ.

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A Message from Pastor Gail Sherin

V.B.S. A Walk of Faith

By the time you get this Newsletter, our week of Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) will have just come to a close. It was a walk of faith and fun for both the children in our community that attended, and the members of our congregation who prayed for and shared God's love for them with Bible stories, games, craft activities, and tasty fun food. Our V.B.S. theme was Moses and the Great Escape. It told the story of Moses from the time of his birth to his receiving the Ten Commandments from God. We learned about how God protected baby Moses and how He can protect us too. In the story about Moses and the burning bush, we learned about how God can speak to us in many ways. In studying the 10 plagues of Egypt and Passover, we discovered how strong and powerful our God is. When we heard about how God saved the Hebrew people from Pharaoh's army, we learned to trust in God when we are afraid. After hearing about how Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, we then learned about the birth of another baby, named Jesus. We learned that Jesus came to fulfill God's laws and commandments because we aren't perfect and make mistakes. We all need a Savior. So, God, our Father sent us His Son, Jesus, to reconcile (fix) our relationship with God, through His sinless life, death, and resurrection, making us His beloved children. Oh, yes, it also lets us go to heaven when we die!

Walking With You In Faith,

Pastor Gail

Voice of the Martyrs Prayer Calendar

Please continue to lift up your
prayers for persecuted Christians
and their families in restricted
hostile countries worldwide.
August calendar on page 6.

Where there are Christians There will be Martyrs

Remembrance of those departed before Us



Statue of Bartholomew
at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in Rome
by Pierre Le Gros the Younger

Bartholomew, the Apostle

1 A.D. – 69/70 A.D.

Bartholomew, the Apostle is mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The list in John does not include him but rather Nathanael. These two are often assumed to be the same person. Except for his name on these lists of the Twelve, little is known. After the Resurrection, some traditions record him as serving as a missionary in Mesopotamia and Parthia, as well as Lycaonia and Ethiopia in other accounts. Popular traditions say that Bartholomew preached the Gospel in India and then went to Greater Armenia. The most prominent tradition has it that Apostle Bartholomew was executed in Albanopolis in Armenia. According to popular hagiography, the apostle was flayed alive and beheaded. In art, Bartholomew is pictured holding a flaying knife to indicate the manner in which he was killed.

- Excerpt from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2023

Mary Magdalene The Apostle to the Apostles



Noli me tangere (c. 1512) by Titian

The gospels report Mary Magdalene as one of the women of Galilee who followed Jesus. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial. When she went back to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint Jesus' body, she was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared. She returned to the disciples with the news and has been called "the apostle to the apostles" for her proclamation of the resurrection. In art, because John's gospel describes Mary as weeping at the tomb, she is often portrayed with red eyes. Some iconographic traditions depict her standing by the tomb and holding a bright red egg, a symbol of the resurrection.

- Excerpt from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2023

Where the Word becomes flesh...

Noli me tangere ('touch me not') is the Latin version of a phrase spoken, according to John 20:17 by Jesus to Mary Magdalene when she recognized him after his resurrection from the tomb.

Our Giving Corner

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes – 2023

Six-month donation schedule is:

May: toothbrushes

June: bars of soap, washcloths

July: brushes and combs

August: schools supplies

September: one WOW toy

October: We will reassess what we have, what we may still need, and let everyone know.

Collection boxes are located in narthex.

What's In a Word?

Agape – from Ancient Greek. In Christianity agape is the highest form of love, charity, and the love of God for man and of man for God. Also, agape extends to the love of one's fellow human beings.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

8/11 – Lisa and Bill Baker

8/29 – Richard and Carolyn Smith

8/29 – William and Bonnie Burton

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE POP TAB PROGRAM

Save your METALLIC TABS and deposit in the plastic tub in the narthex. Revenue from tabs make up for the donations that families cannot provide. No family is turned away on the inability to pay. Tabs will be delivered to an area Ronald McDonald House Charities.

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.

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: All sizes of zip lock bags.

ABIDING FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We will continue with our Wednesday luncheon at Schalamar at 11:00am, August 9. Our regular Breakfast/Meetings will resume in September, the second Saturday at 8:30am.



At our 4th of July Covered Dish Celebration, we collected 52 cans of soup and \$20 in cash. *Angels Care* expressed their appreciation for the donations.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The next scheduled meeting is August 8, 6:00 PM. For a complete electronic copy of Council Minutes, email abidsav1910@gmail.com.



ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

Sunday morning adult classes will resume in September. More information forthcoming.

Pastor's Tuesday Bible Study will resume on Tuesdays in October. Our next book is "**Our Father – a Study of the Lord's Prayer**" by Becky Harling. Available for order on internet at Christianbook.com.

MORNING JOLT

After Sunday service, enjoy discussions and fellowship of agape, joy, giving, and a strong cup of coffee too!

We don't have to worry if our faith is strong enough because God pours His strength into each of us.



GIVING AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP (Excerpts from NALC Stewardship Bible Study) Submitted by David Weigel

How have you experienced giving as an act of worship? Do you think of your offering as a "love offering"?

What is worship? Many books have been written about it, so how can we hope to cover it adequately here? A simple definition of worship could be "the act of adoring God." Going beyond a definition, descriptions of worship could go on and on. We can label it liturgical, contemporary, and so on, but form is not the essence of worship. If one form helps you express your adoration for God is better than another, then that style is right for you.

Maybe a good question to ask is, "When we leave worship, do we feel uplifted? Do we feel like we've been in the presence of the Lord?" Wouldn't it be wonderful if we left worship with a sense of exultation at having been in the presence of our Holy God? Wouldn't it be great for us to feel a sense of forgiveness? Wouldn't it be great for us to leave thinking, "I adore God more than ever and am so grateful for the salvation our Lord has brought to us?"

Have you ever stopped to look at what our Lutheran liturgy does? We often begin our worship with a brief order of confession and forgiveness. Then we may progress to singing a hymn of praise. We prepare our hearts for what's next – the opportunity to receive his Word. These are all about preparing our hearts to receive and take heart in the reading of God's Word. Following the reading may come the preaching of the Word. After being touched by the preaching of God's Word, in whatever form it takes, and in response to all that's gone before, we make confession of our faith in the words of a creed. To this point, the liturgy has been confession and hearing from God. Following the creed is our first really overt act: the offering, Giving is our act of worship that responds to all that has gone before it. Then come the prayers and, finally the Holy Sacrament. (Continued on page 5)



(continued from page 4)

Regardless of the style, the fluidity of the service is all about preparing our hearts and hearing God's voice. Giving in worship is an act acknowledging all that God is doing in our hearts and lives. Giving is always a love response – not to the sermon, but to the Gospel. We give because we love Jesus. We give generously and sacrificially because we want to show our love (*agape*) for our Lord. Read Mark 12:42-44.

Dr. Mark Allen Powell, in his 2006 book *Giving to God*, he notes that in the Old Testament, people brought their sacrificial offerings to the altar and laid them there. He writes: "The offering is an act of worship, an instance in which we are invited to give up something that we value – our money – as a sacrifice to God." He continues: "On a simple, practical level, I find it easier to sing hymns and not really mean them than it is to part with my money and not really mean it" (p. 12).

St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come." In this single verse we can glean that:

- Giving is an act of worship – Sunday worship had already begun.
- Giving is systematic – we give whenever we worship.
- Giving is proportionate to income – we give as we have prospered.
- Giving is planned in advance – so contributions need not be made at the last minute.

God wants all of us – our whole being, God wants our hearts. We give because giving is an intrinsic need. Giving expresses, or demonstrates, our love for God. It acknowledges that we love Jesus: "I need to give." We all need to give. It's part and parcel of Whose we are.

We give generously and sacrificially because we want to show our love for Him. I once heard about a pastor in Philadelphia that noted the offerings had fallen short of the congregation's needs. On receiving the offering plates from the ushers, he rather audaciously turned, faced the altar and prayed, "Well, God, this is what we think of you." What a wake-up call!

Worship giving, first-fruit giving, is not designated. You give. The early Hebrews put their sacrificial gifts on the altar, and in some cases, set them on fire. They would never have presumed to tell God what to do with the gifts they gave. Worship giving is both duty (obedience and obligation) and delight (joy). Joyful giving of our time, talents and treasure to God is then an expression of our love for our Lord. Giving is the act of adoring our God.



ALTAR FLOWER CHART is located in the narthex.

Sign up to "Say it with Flowers."

August Birthdays:

8/1 – John Gaylor
8/3 – James Pergande
8/8 – Kathryn Garcia
8/9 – Jean Thomas
8/10 - Joy Walberg
8/15 – Clark Conley
8/18 – Aracely Buchholtz
8/22 – Angela Ganzy
8/23 – Ron Zeller
8/26 - Katie Bicker
8/31 – Kevin Miller

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>MARTYRS PRAYER CALENDAR AUGUST</p>		<p>1 VIETNAM Pray that front-line workers will have the necessary tools and training for ministry.</p>	<p>2 NEPAL Pray that Christians involved in political change will keep the kingdom of God foremost.</p>	<p>3 COMOROS Pray for non-Western missionaries working to proclaim the gospel.</p>	<p>4 MOZAMBIQUE Pray that displaced Christians who receive audio Bibles will be encouraged by God's Word.</p>	<p>5 OMAN Pray that local believers will live boldly for Christ despite the cost.</p>
<p>6 IRAQ Pray that Christians will remain faithful and withstand threats under daily oppression.</p>	<p>7 CHINA Pray for the successful distribution of Bibles in every part of China.</p>	<p>8 AZERBAIJAN Pray that church leaders will build up believers to be bold in faith.</p>	<p>9 ERITREA Pray that Christian radio broadcasts will encourage believers and draw others to Christ.</p>	<p>10 NORTH KOREA Pray that government workers who receive Bibles will come to faith in Christ.</p>	<p>11 QATAR Pray that the expatriate community will find creative ways to share Christ's love.</p>	<p>12 TURKMENISTAN Pray that the government will legally recognize the Turkmen-language Bible.</p>
<p>13 SAUDI ARABIA Pray that Christians who feel isolated will be encouraged in their walk with Christ.</p>	<p>14 NIGER Pray for the protection of believers living in areas where Islamists often attack Christians.</p>	<p>15 TUNISIA Pray for local evangelists who are following up on social media contacts.</p>	<p>16 LIBYA Pray that the gospel will advance despite an unstable political situation.</p>	<p>17 YEMEN Pray that discipleship training courses will effectively develop new readers.</p>	<p>18 TAJIKISTAN Pray that Christians meeting for worship will be undetected by potential persecutors.</p>	<p>19 EGYPT Pray for emerging leaders attending a summer apologetics school.</p>
<p>20 MAURITANIA Pray that believers will boldly gather for worship, fellowship and discipleship.</p>	<p>21 MALDIVES Pray for creative approaches to ministry in this hard-to-reach country.</p>	<p>22 INDONESIA Pray for the courage of Christians who have seen other believers killed.</p>	<p>23 PAKISTAN Pray for the bold witness of Shakeel, who came to faith in Christ after reading the Bible.</p>	<p>24 CUBA Pray that pastors who are detained for dissenting will convey boldness, love and truth.</p>	<p>25 UGANDA Pray for Christians confronted with encroaching Islamization.</p>	<p>26 ISRAEL Pray that residents of Jerusalem will seek the Prince of Peace.</p>
<p>27 AFGHANISTAN Pray for creative means of providing Christian resources to Afghan believers.</p>	<p>28 ETHIOPIA Pray that the 20,000 kids who will receive their first children's Bible this year will encounter Christ.</p>	<p>29 KYRGYZSTAN Pray for more Bible distributions to those who have no access to God's Word.</p>	<p>30 IRAN Pray for Abid, an Afghan refugee in Iran who is curious about God's Word.</p>	<p>31 MEXICO Pray for the protection of new believers when they gather for fellowship and worship.</p>		

Communion Assistants	Altar Committee	Greeters	Lectors	Ushers and Lock Up
6 - Katie Bicker 20 - Katie Bicker	Lisa Baker John Bardenhagen Bob Buchholz Len Unger	Denice Gaudette Doris King Pat Roberge	6 - Kathy Davidson 13 - Carolyn Smith 20 - Angela Ganzy 27 - Kathryn Garcia	John Bardenhagen Bob Buchholz Otto Kohler Kevin Sherin LOCK UP: Cade Bicker

ALTAR FLOWERS:

AUGUST 2023

- 6 - Kathryn Garcia - Remembering my mother, Mildred
- 13 - Bill and Lisa Baker - Celebration of our Anniversary
- 20 - Bob Buchholtz- Honor of Anacely's Birthday
Cade Bicker - Honor of Beth's Birthday
- 27 - Dave Wiemer - Bless All
Cade Bicker - Honor of Katie's Birthday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:00 Holy Communion	7	8 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	9 11am Fellowship luncheon at Schalamar Choir Rehear. 5 pm	10	11	12
13 11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:00	14	15	16 Choir Rehear. 5 pm	17	18	19
20 12th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:00 Holy Communion	21	22	23 Choir Rehear. 5 pm	24	25	26
27 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:00	28	29	30 Choir Rehear. 5pm	31		

The Reverend Gail Sherin
Pastor
In office Sunday and Tuesday
Call to schedule appointment

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, NALC
1910 Havendale Blvd. NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
Phone: 863-294-2829 Fax: 863-299-4193
E-mail: AbidSav1910@gmail.com
WEB Site: www.abidingsaviorlutheran.net
WEBMASTER: Cynthia Kerns,
cindy_k@hotmail.com

QUESTIONS OR IDEAS for Newsletter article?
Call the Church Office on Monday, Tuesday or
Friday 863-294-2829. Thank you, *Kathryn
Garcia*

*Please like us on Facebook, share with
friends and family, and add posts to other
social media, Instagram and or Twitter.*

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



Abiding Words
AUGUST 2023

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Loving, Living and Promoting
our faith in Jesus Christ



ABIDING SAVIOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bill Baker, President	299-1265
Kathie Youtsler, Vice President	326-9892
Bob Buchholz, Treasurer	294-2807
Len Unger, Property	258-0370
David Weigel, Stewardship	517-285-1848
Lisa Baker, Recording Secretary	299-1265
Katie Bicker, Worship & Music	224-9427
Cade Bicker, Member-at-Large	299-2803
Judy Black, Member-at-Large	292-9943

OUTREACH MINISTRY – Robert Smith

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – 8:45 AM
Holy Communion celebrated First and Third
Sundays