

# ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONNECTING JESUS TO PEOPLES' HEARTS

Church Telephone: 352 - 331 - 4409

Preschool Telephone: 352 - 331 - 7770

Online at [www.AbidingSavior.info](http://www.AbidingSavior.info)

## NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2021

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## MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

	<u>Officers</u>	
<b>President</b>	Phyllis Leone	chunkymonkeysnana@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Mike Brannon	Mbrannon01@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Natalie Petruska	4nataliejean@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Stone	anna@flstones.com
	<u>Elders</u>	
	Dave Buth	Davidbuth129@yahoo.com
	Chuck Moss	chuck_moss@msn.com
	Todd Williams	todd@forrentgainesville.com
	Jimmy Flateau	jmfjr@hughes.net
	Hal Lerch	haroldlerch@gmail.com
	Fred Townsend	f.send@outlook.com
	Derek Sain	sain.derek@gmail.com
	<u>Ministry Teams</u>	
<b>Christian Education</b>	Sarah Suter	ssticks1@gmail.com
- <i>Sunday School</i>	Sarah Suter/Derek Sain	ssticks1@gmail.com/sain.derek@gmail.com
- <i>Preschool</i>	Sarah Suter	ssticks1@gmail.com
<b>Christian Fellowship</b>	Danny Schmitt	youth@abidingsavior.info
- <i>Family Life</i>	Danny Schmitt	youth@abidingsavior.info
- <i>Women's Ministry</i>	Linda Struckmeyer	Struck60@gmail.com
- <i>Men's Ministry</i>	Pastor Alan Struckmeyer	pastora@abidingsavior.info
- <i>Youth</i>	Danny & Jessica Schmitt	youth@abidingsavior.info
<b>Outreach &amp; Evangelism</b>	Hannah Mazur	hannahjmazur@gmail.com
<b>Trustee</b>	John Schmitt	schmittjohna@aol.com
<b>Elders</b>	Derek Sain	Sain.derek@gmail.com
	<u>Administrative Staff</u>	
<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Alan Struckmeyer	pastora@abidingsavior.info
<b>Director, Music &amp; Digital Ministries</b>	Joshua L. Mazur, M.M.	jmazur@abidingsavior.info

Church Administrator	Susan Moss	smoss@abidingsavior.info
Preschool Director	Brenda Arden	barden@abidingsavior.info
Preschool Admin. Asst.	Jessica Schmitt	jessica@abidingsavior.info

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALAN

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I continue to appreciate your prayers, cards, and support as I continue my rehabilitation. They are like one big continuous Valentine.

The plan is to continue rehab from my stroke at-home starting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The ministry of Abiding Savior continues to move forward with the efforts of all God's people. We ask for the Lord's guidance as we enter a new phase of ministry and consider the call for an intentional interim pastor.

We remember to love each other sacrificially as Christ has loved us. May God's love and peace fill your hearts and minds.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Alan

### PORTALS OF PRAYER

January-March Portals of Prayer are available on the welcome table in the narthex. Feel free to pick them up at the church anytime! The church office is open daily Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 3:00pm and from 8:00 am to noon on Friday.

Lenten Devotionals from Lutheran Hour Ministries will be made available on the welcome table in time for Ash Wednesday. Contact the church office if you would like a copy emailed as a PDF.

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

On Feb. 17th, there will be communion services and imposition of ashes at 12:15pm and at 7:00pm. Pastor Glover will be our guest pastor.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Readers Needed: If you would like to participate as a reader during worship services, please let Susan know (331-4409 or [smoss@abidingsavior.info](mailto:smoss@abidingsavior.info))  
Readings are provided ahead of time so you can become familiar with them before the appointed Sunday.

## MEDITATION TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS - MIKE HEIN

A very special thanks to Ian Sailors for completion of his Eagle Scout project. With the help of other members of Boy Scout Troop 432 and their parents he constructed a bridge/boardwalk across the drainage stream just before the Y in the trail of the original loop. Now we don't have to step on two concrete blocks to keep our feet dry when there is water in the streambed! As soon as the lumber has time to dry out and there is a warm dry day I will paint the bridge/boardwalk to match the other bridges.

The other three bridges have been sprayed with bleach to remove the mold and mildew. They almost look brand new again. Take some time during the cool spring weather to walk the trail and see the improvements.





## PRESCHOOL NEWS - BRENDA ARDEN, DIRECTOR

January at Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool was an exciting month of Winter, Hibernation, Dinosaur fun, and celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. Our themes during the month of February are Space, Valentine's Day, Community Helpers, and Transportation. February Bible stories include Jesus Calms the Storm, Jesus Blesses the Children, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and The Widow's Mite.

It is February and that usually means that it is time for our 23rd Annual Pie Supper. This year's event has been moved to March 12-16 due to COVID concerns and other logistics. We will NOT be hosting a spaghetti dinner and the best desserts in town. HOWEVER, we will be having an online silent auction for the 23rd Annual "Pie Supper" with themed baskets created by the PTA and amazing handmade "tug at your heart strings" classroom projects made by our very own Abiding Savior students and teachers. The funds raised this year will go towards playground improvements and classroom curriculum needs. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information. Thank you for your support.

We started registration in January, and we have approximately 157 children already enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. We will have ongoing registration until we reach capacity. Registration packets are available in the preschool office or may be downloaded from our website. Spots fill up quickly, so share the news about our awesome preschool! We will also begin summer camp registration during the month of March. We will be open for at least eight weeks in the summer from June 7<sup>th</sup>- July 30<sup>th</sup>. We will have lots of fun things planned to go along with our weekly themes, so do not miss out on this great opportunity! Call the preschool office for more information at 352-331-7770.

Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool will be hosting Parent/Teacher Conferences on Friday, February 12 from 8:00-1:00. The parent/teacher conferences will help us to continue to build our parent/school partnerships and share information regarding student growth during the school year. We are thankful for the blessing of connecting Jesus to people's hearts at our preschool.

In His Hands,  
Brenda Arden  
Preschool Director

## ALTAR CARE

### Altar Care for February:

Phyllis Leone (chair), Annetta Coleman, Candi Steinway, Kay Hurst

### Altar Care for March:

Bette Pring (chair), Carla Flateau, Gabi Hein, Jan Hamilton

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - SARAH SUTER

**Sunday School Kits** related to the Gospel each week will be available for the children on the welcome table. If you would like one of these kits you can RSVP to [office@abidingsavior.info](mailto:office@abidingsavior.info) with your family name, service time and how many you need. We will only make as many as have RSVPs.

## OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM REPORT - HANNAH MAZUR

This spring, we have some unique opportunities to partner with our community and preschool to connect Jesus to people's hearts as we serve Him and further His kingdom here on earth. More details to follow.

## ST. FRANCIS HOUSE MINISTRY - PHYLLIS LEONE



The St. Francis House Ministry for 2021 got underway with a delicious dinner meal provided on Thursday, January 28. A great big “thank you” to all who prepared food items.

January marked the first month that the new online sign-up spreadsheet was used. I encourage everyone to use this method to volunteer. You can locate the spreadsheet by going to the church's web site ([abidingsavior.info](http://abidingsavior.info)) then: 1) select the “Ministries” tab; 2) using the pull-down menu, choose “St. Francis House Meals”; and 3) select “Take Me To The Signup!” at the bottom of the page. You will see that you can sign up for the current month or any month for the rest of 2021. Thanks to Joshua for creating this tool. However, if you prefer, you can still contact me directly by email ([chunkymonkeysnana@gmail.com](mailto:chunkymonkeysnana@gmail.com)) or phone/text (352-316-3586).

I am making a heartfelt request for people to sign up to prepare the main course. For the past year, that chore has been handled by a very few and they

cannot continue to shoulder that burden. If you would like to do this but are unsure how to cook for 40, give me a call and I can guide you.

The dates for the remainder of 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month) are:

February 25	March 25	April 22
May 27	June 24	July 22
August 26	September 23	October 28

Please know how much the residents of St. Francis House appreciate the efforts of Abiding Savior. I am looking forward to the day we can resume serving the meals in person and visiting with the SFH residents.

### SEWING FOR MISSIONS

Sewing for Missions is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Saturday of the month. We will spread out into the fellowship hall. Gloves will be provided. Please wear your masks. Contact Linda at [struck60@gmail.com](mailto:struck60@gmail.com) for more information.

### REMEMBERING A MODERN MARTYR - JOSHUA MAZUR

I find myself on this day, January 27 (which is Auschwitz Liberation Day) thinking about Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a young pastor in Berlin, Germany. He was an outspoken opponent of Nazism and member of the Confessing Church (the Confessing Church was a movement within German Protestantism during Nazi Germany that arose in opposition to government-sponsored efforts to unify all Protestant churches into a single pro-Nazi German Evangelical Church).

In 1943, Bonhoeffer was arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned, tortured, and interrogated. In 1945, as the war was ending, Hitler issued special orders for Bonhoeffer to be executed. In a concentration camp at Flossenburg, only days before the American liberation of the POW camp, he was hanged. His last words were, "This is the end but for me the beginning of life."

It is commonly asked how someone could possibly believe in God after the Holocaust. When asked this question, a prominent Rabbi, Saul Prombaum, answered, "The Holocaust makes faith in God difficult, but it makes faith in man impossible." True, it may frustrate our human understanding when horrible things befall us.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells a parable of two house builders. The one man (whom Jesus calls a fool) builds on sand. The other (whom Jesus calls wise) builds on rock. Then come the storms and the rains and the winds. The house on rock stands, while the house on sand falls; and “great was the fall.”

The gift of faith in our God, which is the rock on which we stand (1 Samuel 2:2) and on which we build our house (Matthew 7:24-27), is a gift given freely to us (Ephesians 2:8). Through the Grace of God which is ours is indeed given to us out of His great mercy (Ephesian 2:4-7) it was not bought for us cheaply; It came at the high cost of the broken body and shed blood of Christ himself on the cross (Hebrews 12:3-5)

*Bonhoeffer wrote, "Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.*

*Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."*

It is glorious to consider that it is possible to confess our Faith even unto death; Humbling to know that such Faith is not our doing but the working of the Holy Spirit. From Him, To Him, Through Him, is everything! To God be the glory, forever and ever!

## KITTY NEEDS A HOME



Warm and loving home for a sweet little kitty named “Bean” (I sometimes call her Beanie Weanie). Bean is about 7 months old. She is a petite, short-haired cat; very sweet but a little shy. She has been spayed and has recently received a vet exam. It would take just a little loving to bring her out of her shell. She has been getting along well with my dog, Boomer.

If interested, call or text Phyllis Leone (352-316-3586) or Irina McDonald (305-439-9348).

## TRUSTEE REPORT - JOHN SCHMITT

In January, a double gate was installed for the building 2 playground in order to facilitate maintenance and mulch moving. Mulch was added to both the playground and the tricycle trail flower bed on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. Other minor repairs and some patching and painting were completed during January.

Plans for spring include arranging for a work day for sprucing up the grounds and trimming trees. Bids for cleaning the roofs are also being sought.

If anyone notices a need for maintenance or repair, or would like to volunteer with the trustees, contact John Schmitt.

## FELLOWSHIP REPORT - DANNY SCHMITT

**Family life** - We have resumed a limited, outdoor only, fellowship opportunity after early service each Sunday. Coffee and snacks are provided. Other events remain on pause to guard the health and safety of all. However, we are encouraged that Abiding Savior members continue attending online worship and checking in on the well-being of each other via phone and email.

**Young Adults** (20s & 30s post high school) - If you are interested in participating with a group for fellowship and Bible study, contact Danny at [dangator1@gmail.com](mailto:dangator1@gmail.com)

**Young Married Couples** (20s, 30s, 40s) - Let Danny or the church office know if you are interested in participating in a newly forming group.

**Youth** - Youth are met-in person on 1/31. Every other Sunday will be in-person at church while the opposite Sundays will be via ZOOM. Contact Danny at [Youth@abidingsavior.info](mailto:Youth@abidingsavior.info) for more information.

### ELDERS' REPORT - DEREK SAIN

We continue to keep Pastor Alan in our prayers as he battles his glioblastoma and related health complications. During the month of February, Pastor Graham Glover and Pastor Ron Biel will continue assisting Abiding Savior by leading our weekly worship services. We are so very thankful for their willingness to serve.

**Confirmation classes** will continue through Spring 2021. Class meets in the FLC between services and will be led by the guest pastor for that week.

**Lent Services:** Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm & 7:00pm. Mid-week services will be available online each Wednesday.

February's Elders of the Month are Derek Sain & Todd Williams.

### MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Feb. 23rd at 7:00pm. The book will be "*A Land Remembered*" by Patrick D. Smith. Muriel Young will be our hostess.

Get ready for March by reading "*Small Island: A Novel*" by Andrea Levy. The March Zoom book club meeting will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

- **Girl Friends' Bible Study** meets at 9:30am via zoom for now. Email Linda Struckmeyer at [struck60@gmail.com](mailto:struck60@gmail.com) if you would like to receive a link to this class.
- **Chuck Moss** leads a zoom Bible Study on the book of First Samuel at 9:45am each Sunday. Email [chuck\\_moss@msn.com](mailto:chuck_moss@msn.com) if you would like to have a link to this class.
- **Joshua Mazur** hosts an Adult Bible Study on the book of Psalms which meets via zoom at 7:00 pm on Sunday. For a link to the zoom class, please email [JMazur@abidingsavior.info](mailto:JMazur@abidingsavior.info)

## FINANCE REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2021

	<u>January Estimates</u>
Offerings	\$ 22,500
Preschool Income	\$ 63,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 85,500</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 74,000</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,500</b>

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

Austin Struckmeyer 2/1	Thomas Dougherty 2/17
Grady Spooner 2/3	Loren Struckmeyer 2/17
Judith Newell 2/4	Camden Fissenden 2/18
Claudia Thomas 2/4	Linda Struckmeyer 2/18
Anna Moss 2/8	Dean Brown 2/19
Gary Smith 2/8	Priscilla Townsend 2/19
Michael Androlevich 2/11	Kerry Pett 2/21
Allison Fissenden 2/11	Nancy Strattan 2/22
Paul Moore 2/12	Kammy Hooper 2/24
Pete Schmitt 2/12	Joe Andes 2/27
Ann Stone 2/13	Taylor Stiff 2/27

## Anniversaries

Mike & Gabi Hein 2/10  
Mike & Cindy Brannon 2/11  
Ralph & Colleen Toppins 2/14

If your birthday or anniversary is not included in the newsletter, please let the church office know so we can update the lists.

### CURRENT PRAYER LIST

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

Shut-Ins: Fran Jacobs, Bill Evans

Sympathy: Family of Dan Nobles; Family of Nancy Aaron (Marj Evans sister); Family of Becky Mazur (Joshua's mom); Therheimer family (by the Schmitt family); Matt Worley family (by Phyllis Leone); Family of Helen Hahn; family of Mowin Myers

### Members & Family

1. Stephen Jesudason - recovering from heart blockage & treatment for kidney failure.
2. **Swett family** in Michigan (exposed to Covid)
3. Capt. Morbeck Summer (hosp. Covid & pneumonia - very serious) by JoAnn Petersen
4. **Steve Devaprasad** (hosp. critical condition)- Sarah & Gilbert Daniels
5. Sean Law (severe brain injury) - Mike Brannon
6. **John Bath** (shot in chest) Susan Mandeville's cousin
7. Eckhard Schadow - incurable cancer
8. **Pastor Alan** - brain cancer
9. June Amadio (Asst. living) Hannah's grandmother
10. **Leonard Atwater** (open heart surgery) Annetta Coleman's brother
11. Michelle Buth (praises for cancer in remission)
12. **Lynn Cera** (Parkinson's home care)
13. Bill Evans (health issues)

14. **Stephen Forguson** (regain faith) by Jan Hamilton
15. Carla Flateau (nerve impingement on spine)
16. Jimmy Flateau (headaches-neurologist)
17. **John Furey** (healing) by Colleen Toppins
18. Merle Gill - (hospice care)
19. Randy Gill (stroke but home now)
20. **Linda Goddard** (lung cancer - radiation)
21. Ron Green (lesion on lung) Ginger Morgan's father
22. **Andy Hamilton** (Parkinson's)
23. Jan Hamilton (pray doctor can bring sight back in one eye & heart issues)
24. **Beth Harland** (Immune system problems)
25. Leon Hekking (newborn ALD) Nobles grandson
26. **Betty Holland** (health issues)
27. Bob Knittel (probable cancer) Jeff's dad
28. **Phyllis Knuth** (John's aunt) esophageal cancer
29. Evan Leone (allergies/ADHD)
30. **Jimmy Leone** (neck/spine surgery)
31. Pam Leone (fractured foot & arm injury)
32. **Amy Nobles** (thyroid cancer in remission) Karen and Dan's daughter-in-law
33. Tim Melvin (COPD & CHF heart attack) Georganne's brother
34. **Greg Miller-House** (cancer)
35. Janet Palfey (mastectomy and lymph nodes) Linda's cousin
36. **Kathy Pine** (cancer) by Debbie Rhoads
37. Carol Prins (back fractures)
38. **Todd Robel** (aggressive prostate cancer; broken limbs) by Karen Nobles
39. Jennifer Scott (cancer - double mastectomy) Mike and Cindy's niece
40. **Pamela Spalin** (stage 4 brain cancer) S. Mandeville's cousin
41. Annika Spaberg (health issues) Chiarelli's niece
42. **Bill Stone** (diabetes/health - prostate radiation)
43. Carol Stroehlen (cancer is back) infusions - Charlene's mom
44. **Kendall Tormey** (pregnancy complications) Megan Knittel's sister
45. Bob Wilber (Shand's Vista) Carla's stepdad worsening dementia
46. **Doris Wilber** (a-fib) Carla's mother
47. Debbie Zoerler (cancer -chemo) by Robert Pagano

## General Petitions

- Pray for Covid 19 victims.
- Pray for young people in college.
- Pray for Families and victims fleeing war and poverty.
- Pray for those dealing with disasters: fires, floods & hurricanes. May our Lord comfort them and give them courage.
- Pray for our country- our president and our elected officials

## Military

*Especially those deployed in combat zones*

**Eric Tappy** - Iraq

Casey Dougherty (MP) by Annetta

**Rachel Dougherty** by Annetta

Eric Eibe

Jack Furey CSM Retired Colleen Toppin's Dad - doing well

**Matthew Gustafson**

Jason Joseph (Alaska) by Phyllis Leone

**Sam Kleinhauer** (sniper)

Patrick Nobles (Air Force - Alaska)

**Matt Young** - Air Force Reserve home from Turkey

Nathan Underwood - San Diego, CA

**Josh Wervy** USMC (Nobles grandson) Japan

James A. Zoerler - 3rd deployment by Robt. Pagano

## Friends of ASLC

**Bolin family** adoption process

Lauren Brasington (auto immune pain)

**Vivian Bueker** (major heart issues) by Pastor Alan

Jack Buth (stroke) by Mandeville

**Aaron Caraway** (cancer) hospice by Rhoads

Rhet Cooper (3yr. old - cancer) by Jessica Schmitt.

**Aundrea Corbet** (health issues)

Theresa Ferguson (cancer/hospice) by Carla

**Pat Gaylord** (cancer-hospice care) by the Rhoads

Merle Gill - NFRH heart failure (by Carla)

**Charlie Hill** (3 yr. old. Needs liver trans.) by Amy Solinsky

June Hood (throat cancer) by Inez

**Cathy Jennings** (brain tumor not responding)  
Lavonne Lumsden (hospice care) by April  
**Mary Lynch** (open heart surgery) by Jan Hamilton  
Mike Malardi (brain cancer - shunt) by Len Young  
**John Martin** (fell-broke back/crushed ribs, etc) by J. Flateau  
Ashley Martinez-Malo (pregnant/breash cancer) by Schmitts  
**Rhonda Matheny** (tonsil cancer)  
Bryan McCarthy (colon cancer-kidney failure) by Jan and Andy Hamilton  
**Carol McCarthy** (breast cancer)  
Frank Neece (Feb. brain surgery) by wife Trish  
**Benny Nettles** (spine surgery) by the Rhoads  
Angie Newman (hip replacement) by R. Chiarelli  
**Judith Newson** (healing) by Colleen  
Richard Olson (cancer treatments) by the Rhoads  
**Paula Pennekamp** (breast cancer - chemo for 5 mo.)  
Marilyn Rabin (dialysis and health issues)  
**Dawn Sandvig** (stem cell - lupus)  
John Scott (Covid 19 serious) by Muriel  
**Tom Scott** (shoulder replacement)  
Steve Smittle (in hospital for several weeks - mersa etc.)  
**Loni Sheets** (heart)  
Wendy Thomas (cancer) by Flateaus  
**Brent Toeller** (prostate surgery) by John Knuth  
Kevin Tredinick (quadriplegic (seriously ill)  
**Jimbo Walsh** (bladder cancer) by Flateaus  
Diane Ward (full of cancer - weeks to live)  
**Eric Werner** (failing health) by Annetta Coleman  
Joanne Wofford (stage 4 cancer)

*May Our Lord continue to watch over and bless Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Pastor Alan and our congregation leaders. Sustain us all and bring us back together stronger than ever.*