



Trust in God's Promises

Faith isn't a passive belief. It's an active confidence that stirs within our soul—an unwavering trust in God's promises and a firm conviction about His trustworthiness. When we're surrounded by uncertainty, our faith guides us and illuminates the path.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen." Those words can be viewed as an encouraging invitation to dwell in trust, which steadies the heart and anchors the soul. They are also a reminder that our hope rests in a loving and sovereign God.

In times of trials and challenges, faith becomes our refuge, whispering, "Don't be afraid, for God is with you." It motivates us to step out in obedience, even if doing so seems impossible. And it empowers us to face adversity with courage, knowing that God is working all things together for our good.

The Lord calls us to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) and surrender our doubts and fears to Him. He wants us to believe His promises, even when circumstances seem bleak; trusting in Him lets us see beyond the visible to the

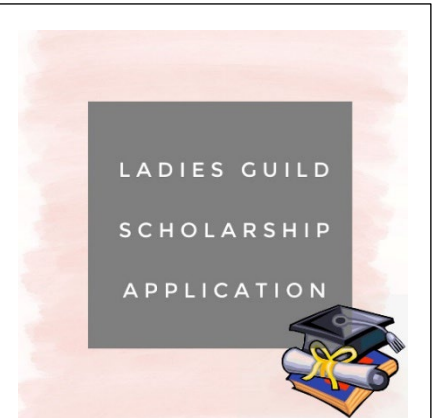
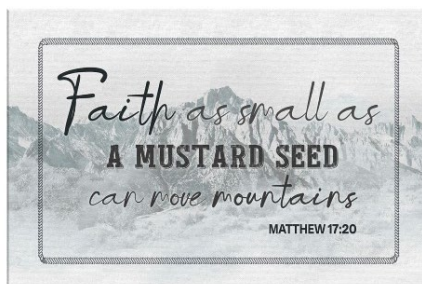
eternal. Then we will find strength, peace, and the presence of our loving God guiding us every step of the way.

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus tells the disciples, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

All of us should be encouraged by these words. Do you hear the power in them? Remember, a tiny seed of faith can unleash extraordinary possibilities. What matters is not the size of our faith but the object of it—namely, the One who created heaven and earth and holds all things in His hands. In the presence of our omnipotent God, no obstacle is insurmountable and no challenge too great.

When towering adversity confronts us, there might be a temptation to doubt and fret. But at such times we can choose to trust in God's sovereignty. It helps to find scriptures like Jeremiah 32:17 and to lean into those truths. We can also ask the Lord to give us grace and make faith arise within us.

Keep in mind that God is always on our side, and that means we have no reason to fear (Psalms 118:6). So, in times of uncertainty, let your mustard-seed faith blossom into bold prayers and courageous action!




Abiding Savior Ladies Guild wants to do its part to help train and encourage young people to enter church careers.

All students studying to enter church careers at LCMS colleges, universities and seminaries and are members of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church are encouraged to pick up an application from the church office for the Ladies Guild Scholarship for the school year 2024-25.

A letter of recommendation from Pastor Lucas and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or school administrator who knows you well is also required.

The deadline for returning applications to the church office is March 4, 2024. Please contact Jeanne Grovom at jgrovom@cox.net or at (949) 413-2936 for any questions.



 **Abiding Savior Lutheran
Church, School & Preschool**
23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, California 92630
Church: 949.830.1460

Church Staff

Reverend Glenn Lucas, Senior Pastor
Dr. Christian Guebert, Director of Music
Tricia Stroube, HR and Office Manager
Alexis Wood, Christian Education Intern
Chris Vick, IT Specialist
Janet Calhoun, Church Secretary
Lisa Taylor, Accounting
Laura Lyons, Member Coordinator
Stephanie Harmon, Business Administrator
Lori Beniche, Director of Communications
Linda Bo, Editor of Day by Day

Church Officers

Jonathon Harmon, President
Daniel Carrillo, Vice President
Sara Helmreich, Secretary
Abigail Wichmann, Treasurer
Erica Volz, Congregation Liaison

School Staff

School949.830.1461
Donna Lucas, School Principal
Yesi Naber, Admissions Director
Keigh Lee Horn, School Secretary
Marika Parent, School Secretary
Extended Care949.837.4289
Deana Hicks, Extended Care Director

Preschool Staff

Preschool Center949.837.4292
Celeste Cisna, Preschool Director

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:15 AM to 4:00 PM

School Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Preschool Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Visit us on our website at
abidingsavior.com



abidingsaviorlakeforest



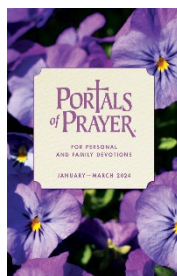
abidingsavior

**CHURCH
OFFICE
CLOSED**

Please note, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 1 (New Year's Day) and Monday, January 15 (MLK Day).

If you have a pastoral emergency when the church office is not open, you can call **661.505.8152** to be connected to the pastor's emergency line. In particular, we ask you to notify the church office if you or anyone in your family is hospitalized.

Portals of Prayer



The January, February, March 2024 edition of Portals of Prayer is now available. Pick up your copy at either the desk in the Narthex or in the Gathering Grounds. Portals of Prayer is great for personal devotions and can be used to open church meetings or Bible studies.



Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home.

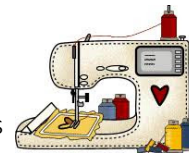
Seasonal Devotions for are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Looking for a Christian community to be a part of and meet some new people? Contact DCE intern Alexis Wood to get more information on Bible studies, fellowship, and recreational activities! She can be reached at: awood@abidingsavior.com

Sew 'n Sews

Join the Sew 'n Sews, Saturday, January 6, upstairs in Room E125. We meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you like to sew or want to learn how, you should plan on joining us. For more information contact Janice Trumbauer at krafter@cox.net or call (949) 609-9766.



Please join us for four January/February 2024 Life Group Gatherings. Food will be provided for the first meeting! The gatherings will be on Sundays after 10:15 a.m. Worship (approximately 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) in the Small Conference Room on the following Sundays: January 14, 21 and February 4 and 11. Meet folks that may be new to you! Please RSVP to Lou Marting at (818) 404-6447 cell or loumarting@hotmail.com.

Angel Tree

Lori Beniche

A big thank you to everyone that participated in our Angel Tree. You have made a big difference by helping so many families with kids this Christmas. We provided over 260 gifts to families in our area.



While Christmas brought us face-to-face with Jesus as fully human—a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger—the Sundays in Epiphany (Greek: to reveal) leave little doubt that we are looking at Jesus who is fully divine—the Son of God. If Christmas celebrates the fact that the Father gave his only begotten Son to the world, then Epiphany is the unwrapping of this gift. Today we have been called to see Jesus as the Light of the World and as true God. The themes of light and revelation to the nations are dominant during the season of Epiphany.

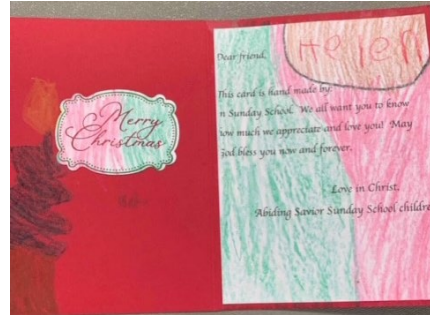
The Festival of Epiphany is always on January 6th, even if that isn't a Sunday. It is the second-oldest festival of the Christian church (only Easter is an older observance).

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, we always observe the Baptism of our Lord, and on the last Sunday of the season—before Ash Wednesday—we always read about Jesus' Transfiguration. These two occasions bracket the season of Epiphany because they most clearly reveal who Jesus is: the divine Son of God.

ASLC Ladies Guild

Sheila Grossman

ASLC Ladies Guild ended 2023 on a heavenly note. We mailed Christmas greetings to our homebound members created by our faithful Sunday School students.



And we will begin 2024 just as heavenly with our Preschool Prayer Partner Tea in January. If you would like to be involved with our heavenly pursuits, come to our meeting on Wednesday, January 31 at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Sheila Grossman at: aslc.sheila.grossman@gmail.com.

Advent by Candlelight

Janice Trumbauer

Advent by Candlelight was a huge success. We had over 70 women participate in a joyful evening with a devotion about the reason for the season. Tables were decorated with a flare and the food was delicious. We are already looking forward to next year's Advent by Candlelight which will be held on Saturday, December 7.



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study



Between services at 9:15 a.m. we are enjoying an overview of the Letters that Paul wrote that are included in the New Testament. We hear from local people who are mentioned in these letters as they may have been affected by Paul's ministry. This is a study where each lesson is complete and does not have a dependence on the previous lessons. This means you can join us at any time! We do invite you to open yourself up to a greater understanding of the successes and problems of the first century Christians and how this understanding might impact your life in a positive way. Please join us!



We have all heard about Jonah and the whale. But Jonah's story is much more than that. It is about compassion, God's mercy and forgiveness. How it was experienced in Jonah's story, but also how we can apply this to our lives today as Christians.

Join us on Wednesday mornings in Gathering Grounds at 9:00 a.m.



TAXES FILED FREE VITA

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" Well, we just celebrated that wonderful time of the year, and now we are about to celebrate the next wonderful time of the year...Tax Season! Okay, Christmas time is much more celebratory since we celebrate Christ's birth. But there is something to celebrate this tax season because we have great news



to announce. The City of Lake Forest has been gracious to include an

announcement of our free income tax service on the City's website, which you will be able to view beginning this January. If it is God's will, several new souls will learn about—and use—our service and be exposed to ASLC for the first time.

As usual, members of the church are eligible to take advantage of this free service without some of the few requirements that others have to follow.

Beginning January 2, you can go to the church's website to register online at:

<https://abidingsavior.com/vita/>

In lieu of online registration, a phone number will be listed to call and leave contact information.

First appointments begin on January 30; clients can register for date/time of desired appointment, subject to review.

Beginning January 30, the service will operate as follows:

Tuesdays: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pray that many lost souls will take advantage of this program and tell your friends about this good news!

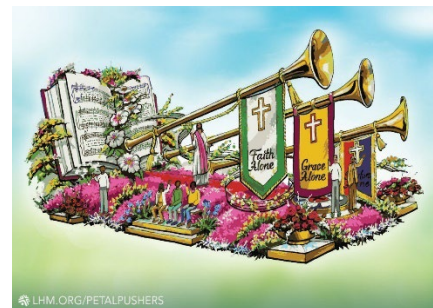


The 135th Tournament of Roses Parade will be held on January 1, 2024, in Pasadena, California, under the theme of "Celebrating a World of Music." The iconic annual parade, beginning at 8:00 a.m., will feature marching bands from throughout the United States, high-stepping equestrian units, and dozens of majestic floral floats.

Psalms 98 calls forth a universal song of victory proclaimed with voices, lyre, trumpets, and horns. This is the song of God's victory, which He has achieved through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The people of God sing a new song—a song of hope, joy, and praise.

The 2024 LHM float, "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord," marks the 73rd time LHM has participated in the parade and features three heralding trumpets proceeding from a hymn book. Hanging from the trumpets are banners featuring the great mantra of the Lutheran Reformation, which is God's plan of salvation: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone. Salvation is a gift (grace) from God given to all of

those who believe (faith) that Christ's death and resurrection is for you (Ephesians 2:4-9).



The LHM float invites viewers to meet-or meet anew-the Source of hope and joy that cannot be taken away by anything that the world throws at you. Come, see, hear, and experience God's goodness.

Riders on this year's float include Jeff Craig-Meyer, LHM's president of United States Ministries; Monta "Boom" Ekwani Denow, director of LHM-Thailand; Eden Keefe, the new president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML); and pastors and laypeople from throughout Southern California.

As a self-funded project of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee and the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, the LHM float is the only Christian float in the annual parade. The float carries on a mission to provide a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere, from the 5.5-mile parade route in Pasadena to televisions and computers around the world. There are several television channels, streaming outlets, and social media platforms televising the 2024 parade. Check your local listings for the best viewing options.

To learn more about the LHM float, volunteer opportunities, or ways to support this project, visit lhm.org/petalpushers.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School was not "Out to Lunch" during December, instead, the children hopefully attended the family event—with parents—each Sunday between services.

Lord willing, classes will resume this month, with anticipation of receiving many students, and teaching them Bible stories, arts and crafts, and witnessing stories via visual media.

To everyone with children and without, please consider assisting Sunday School in a role and schedule of your choosing. The pay is out of this world (heavenly blessings as you bless the children).

New Sunday School Format

Mary Wolfinbarger
Minister of Education

This January, Sunday School will be from 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and designed with your family in mind, including:

- A new class for parents to enjoy fellowship and learn new tools to support faith development in the home.
- "Mommy/Daddy and Me" parent participation Sunday School for parents with children ages 0-3.
- Preschool - kindergarten class for those ages 3-5 who are potty-trained.
- 1st - 2nd grade class.
- 3rd - 5th grade class.
- Opportunities for junior high and high school students to assist in classrooms.
- Our traditional adult Sunday School.

Please contact Sharon Simon at ssimon@abidingsavior.com for more information or if you would like to assist in teaching in any of the classes.

ASLS Visits Freedom Village

Abiding Savior Lutheran School Kindergarten and First Grade students provide spirited and inspirational Christmas Carols at Freedom Village Retirement Community on December 11th. They received a warm reception from the residents.



Youth Ministry at Abiding Savior

Club 56 and JHM Youth Group weekly meetings will resume on Wednesday, January 10. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Alexis Wood at awood@abidingsavior.com.

Follow our Instagram @ASLC_youth for updates and check out all things Youth Ministry on our LinkTree:

www.linktr.ee/aslcyouth

It takes a village to run a Youth Ministry and we need you! Volunteers are the heart and soul of our ministry, playing a pivotal role in creating a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment for our young members. Whether you have experience working with youth or are simply enthusiastic about

making a positive impact, your contributions will be invaluable. Please contact Alexis Wood at awood@abidingsavior.com if you are interested.

Spark of Love Service Project

Station 22 firefighters stopped by Abiding Savior in December to pick up toys for Spark of Love! Huge thanks to our generous students - your kindness made the holidays brighter for those in need in our community!



Elementary School

Donna Lucas,
School Principal



We hope that you had a joyous and restful break! School will resume on Thursday, January 4, 2024.

This January, we welcome our new Student Success Center Teacher Rebekah Symank.



My name is Rebekah Symank, and I am so excited to be part of Abiding Savior's team of teachers! I graduated from Concordia University Irvine in May 2023 with a degree in education and an emphasis in Lutheran teaching and Special Education. I felt the call to serve in special education during my Junior year.

During my time as an undergrad, I worked in student leadership through campus ministry and competed in speech and debate to advocate for mental health awareness, person-first language, and foster care reform.

I also developed a love of music which I continue through Concordia's Master Chorale and Abiding Praise. I firmly believe that every student has unique talents which can be realized through education and support and cannot wait to welcome my students to my classroom.

I live with my husband John in Lake Forest and spend my spare time cooking, knitting, and reading.

Abiding Savior Lutheran School & Preschool
PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

OPEN HOUSE

2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 | 6PM - 7PM

STEAM
AM/PM EXTENDED CARE
RESOURCE SUPPORT SERVICES
AWARD WINNING EDUCATORS
PRESCHOOL AGES 2-6
POTTY TRAINING NOT REQUIRED

RSVP @ RSVP.ASL.SCHOOL | ABIDINGSAVIOR.COM | ABIDE IN JESUS

Dear Abiding Savior Families,

Word of mouth is a powerful force, and we're incredibly grateful for the wonderful community that surrounds Abiding Savior. Your enthusiasm and support have been instrumental in helping families discover the exceptional education we offer in a Christian environment.

As we gear up for the 2024/2025 academic school year, we invite you to continue spreading the word about Abiding Savior. Our upcoming admissions events in January and February are perfect opportunities for prospective families to explore our campus and learn more about the unique educational experience we provide.

PROSPECTIVE FAMILY ADMISSION EVENTS:

January 25: Open House | PS - 8th grade

February 21: Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Information Night

We encourage our students to take this chance to invite a friend to the Open House, providing them with a firsthand look at why we all love Abiding Savior. And here's an exciting incentive: if you bring a friend, you'll be entered into a Registration Fee raffle, with a chance to win a
FREE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR!
(domestic students only).

To extend an invitation to your friends, simply provide their email to Mrs. Yesi Naber, our Admissions Director, at ynaber@abidingsavior.com, and we'll ensure they receive an invitation to one of our admissions events.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community and for helping us share the Abiding Savior experience far and wide. Your support is invaluable!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	2 8-Church Office Reopens 5p-Pickleball	3 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 7:45p-AA	4 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 7p-Young Adults Ministry 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	5 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	6 9a-Altar Guild Prep 10a-Sew and Sews 5p-Praise Worship Service
7 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar	8 3p-Girl Scout Meetings 6p-Women's Fellowship Night 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	9 5p-Pickleball	10 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-5/6 & 7/8 grade Youth Group 6p-Confirmation 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	11 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adults Ministry 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	12 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	13 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
14 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 11:45a-Life Group, Glenn and Debby Amick	15 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	16 5p-Pickleball	17 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-5/6 & 7/8 grade Youth Group 6p-Confirmation 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	18 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adults Ministry 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	19 6:30a-Donuts with Dad 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	20 9a-Altar Guild Prep 1p-Girl Scout Cupcake Wars 5p-Praise Worship Service
21 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar	22 3p-Girl Scout Meetings 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	23 5p-Pickleball	24 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-5/6 & 7/8 grade Youth Group 6p-Confirmation 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	25 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 6p-New Family Open House 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adults Ministry 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	26 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	27 8a-VITA Income Tax Prep 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
28 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar	29 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	30 3p-VITA Income Tax Prep 5p-Pickleball	31 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-5/6 & 7/8 grade Youth Group 6p-Confirmation 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA			

WORSHIP | COMMUNION SCHEDULE

In Person Informal Worship – Saturday 5:00 PM

In Person Classic Worship – Sunday 8:00 AM

In Person Abiding Praise Worship – Sunday 10:15 AM

Live Stream Abiding Praise Worship Via You Tube – Sunday 10:15 AM

Communion Offered Weekly

Communion Offered 1st and 3rd Weeks

Communion Offered 2nd and 4th Weeks



Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Materials



— Gospel Adventures — **GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG**

Gospel Adventures is a free, five-day curriculum for grade school- and middle school-aged youth. Watch videos each day that open kids' eyes to another place on the globe! Use the printable curriculum to walk children through the experience of meeting kids just like them from another part of the world. Play games, do crafts, and taste snacks of this new culture. Sing about God's love and discuss the God sightings you see throughout the week.



— Gospel Adventures Show — **GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG/SHOW**

The **Gospel Adventures Show** is a weekly audio program that takes young listeners on a Bible journey with hosts, Ben and Noah, to learn valuable biblical lessons from some of the most-loved Bible characters. Each 30-minute episode has a theme, Bible verse, Bible story, interactive activity, and a story from a kid. Find the episodes wherever you listen to podcasts or on the Gospel Adventures website.

