



A Simple Command

The words above from Jesus are some of His final ones spoken to the disciples before His Death on the cross. Jesus gave this command on love while knowing Judas would betray him and soon would be disowned by Peter. While Jesus and His friends were likely feeling anxious, scared, and angry, He chose to speak about love - and not just any love, He provided us with a specific command. A simple task, love another as we have been loved.

Jesus displayed many examples of love throughout his life on earth. His love was shown through His actions and in the way He lived. He served others and did so with a humble attitude. This can be seen in John 13 when Jesus washed His disciples' feet.

Jesus' love was not selective, as He spent time with those who were considered outcasts by society. This can be seen in Luke 19, when Jesus empathizes with Zacchaeus, a tax collector, who was looked down upon by others.

True love is not solely based on attraction or our emotions. True love is an action. 1 John 3:18 says, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in

truth." Jesus showed us what perfect love looks like.

Let's be honest. It is not always easy to love one another with a humble attitude or to love the outcast. We can lose ourselves in our sinful nature, and it is easier to criticize each other or blame our circumstances. It sounds simple to "love," but it can feel hard, especially when we're trying to muster up more love on our own.

We cannot love the perfect way Jesus did on our own, and thankfully, He invites us to be with Him and loved by Him. What a gift! Through His love, we can pour out of our hearts onto others. Time spent with Jesus changes our hearts.

Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." While we were undeserving, God showed love to us. Therefore, we are to go out into the world and show love to others.

There are ways we can show love to others in our daily lives. We can take time out of our hectic schedules to support one another. We can lend a hand to someone in need. We can pray for one another. Acts of true love don't have to be extravagant - they can be as simple as encouraging words or listening.

This February, let us be reminded of Christ's perfect love and the importance of showing love to each other. Remember that true love is selfless and sacrificial. Ultimately, when we show this kind of love to others, we point them to Christ.




Children's Church Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars for the start of Children's Church, launching on February 23rd! This special program invites children from Pre-K through 2nd grade to briefly worship in the music room following the children's message. They will then return to the sanctuary during the offering. This initiative allows our young ones to participate in an engaging lesson and activity tailored to help them connect with the themes of the sermon.

We're seeking volunteers to help make this program a success! If you're interested in serving, please reach out to Alexis Upchurch at aupchurch@abidingsavior.com.



 **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 Upchurch, Director of Family Ministry
Chris Vick, IT Specialist
Janet Calhoun, Church Secretary
Lisa Taylor, Accounting
Laura Lyons, Member Coordinator
Stephanie Harmon, Business Administrator
Lori Beniche, Director of Communications
Stephanie Harmon, Editor of Day by Day

Church Officers

Jonathon Harmon, President
Daniel Carrillo, Vice President
Sara Helmreich, Secretary
Lynda Jacobs, Treasurer
Erica Volz, Congregation Liaison

School Staff

School.....949.830.1461
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 | aslc_youth

Love | Serve | Connect

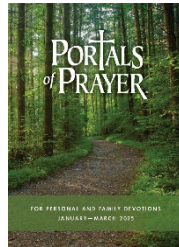


Our office will be closed on
Monday, February 17, 2025
for
PRESIDENTS DAY

Please note, that the Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 17th for Presidents Day.

If you have a pastoral emergency when the church office is not open, you can call **661.309.3527** 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 2025 edition of Portals of Prayer is now available. Pick up your copy at either the desk in the Narthex or in

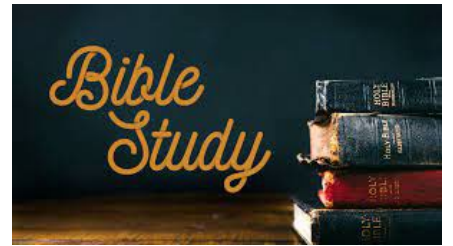
the Gathering Grounds. Portals of Prayer is great for personal devotions and can be used to open church meetings or Bible studies.



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.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study



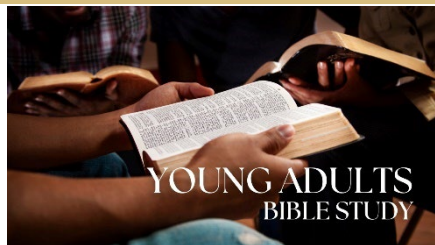
Sunday morning adult bible study meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Adult Education room. We are going through a new series entitled "Break the Huddle" by former NFL star Jim Brown. This study is based on the book of James.

Join us as we explore how God is guiding us in our lives. Together, we will "huddle" in the church, where we will receive calls to break the huddle and carry out the "play." We would love for you to join us!

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study



Join us on Wednesdays for Bible Study! We will be meeting at 9:00 am in Gathering Grounds.



Young Adults Ministry

Alexis Upchurch

The Young Adults group is diving into the ROOTED Bible study, an enriching journey of spiritual growth and connection. This study will continue through the end of May, offering participants a chance to explore their faith, build lasting relationships, and engage in group discussions that spark spiritual growth. Beyond the study, the group will also enjoy activities and fellowship outings, fostering a well-rounded and supportive community experience.

Young Adults Ministry meets bi-weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Please email aupchurch@abidingsavior.com with any questions.



Blessing Our Community: Food Pantry Update

Laura Lyons

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did

we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ Matthew 25:35-39

It’s been another busy year at Abiding Savior’s food pantry. Over the ten years I’ve been on our staff, the names and faces have changed, but the need is always there. People affected by job loss or cuts in hours, unexpected illness, or living on a fixed income come to Abiding Savior, where we live the words of Matthew 25:35, handing out bags of groceries to meet the needs of those that come through our doors.

Our food pantry in 2024 (through November 30th) has served thirty-one new clients and eighteen returning clients. Ten of those were homeless food packs and hygiene kits; the remainder were groceries provided to individuals and families that have housing. Each of those families receives two to four bags of groceries, depending on how many people are in the household. The returning clients visited a total of forty-eight times during the year. By December 31st, I expect us to again top 100 total visits for our pantry.

Over the last two to three years, we’ve seen a lot more senior clients. Since the COVID pandemic, we’ve seen fewer homeless, but more families looking for groceries.

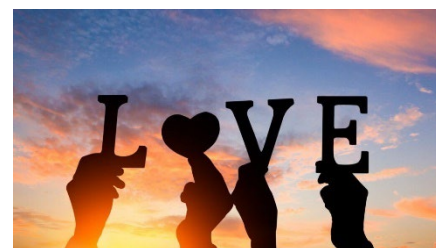
As I prepared the tally, some of the individual stories jumped out at me, some from my memories of their visits, some from my notes detailed in the spreadsheet. The previously homeless client came in last spring for a pantry food box because they’d gotten housing. The clients whose need began with the pandemic, driven by job losses, illness, and reduced hours have gradually stopped coming as they

got back on their feet. The family of Ukrainian refugees newly arrived in the US. The quirks and special requests – the client whose wife loves applesauce, the one whose kid loves ramen noodles, the one that always wistfully asks if we have coffee available. In each notation on my spreadsheet are the human stories behind the statistics.

What is even more amazing is that is just ONE aspect of our congregation’s servant’s heart. From preparing taxes through VITA, holding the Great Giveaway every year, Operation Christmas Child, Thanksgiving food boxes, Angel Tree, and Spark of Love, our church, school, and preschool never fails to come through when there is a need. Ten extra families for Angel Tree last year? No problem! Pantry running low on food? Not for long! The school PTL collected food during their Fall Carnival this year for our Thanksgiving meal boxes and allowed us to serve ten additional families. Large Print prepares Bibles and copies of the Lutheran hymnal for people in prisons. Each month they prepare several hundred copies of Today’s Light, a large print devotional, that goes to a large mailing of people throughout the US.

When the need is inside our church, school or preschool families, I have seen how we all come together in amazing ways to care for those in our midst when there are challenges to be met.

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.’ Matthew 25:40



Free To Grow In Our Spiritual Faith Walk: Prayer Event

Experience a prayer event that focuses on your personal faith journey with an emphasis on growing your relationship with Jesus through Spiritual Disciplines. This is an excellent opportunity to prepare for your Lenten journey. A soup supper will be provided.

February 19, 2025

4:00-7:00 p.m.

In the Church Sanctuary

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry

Alexis Upchurch

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they prepare for a transformative experience at Forest Home Christian Camp, February 7th-9th. This retreat is a time for our young people to deepen their faith, enjoy the great outdoors, and connect with one another in a Christ-centered environment. Your prayers for safe travel, spiritual growth, and lasting impact are greatly appreciated as they embark on this weekend retreat.



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship presents; An "Attitude of Gratitude" retreat day for women on March 22nd, so mark your calendars! Registration will begin soon, watch for an email.

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Free to Grow
I Chose You - John 15:16

PRAYER WALK

FEBRUARY 19, 2025
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
CHURCH SANCTUARY

Experience a prayer event that focuses on your personal faith journey with an emphasis on growing your relationship with Jesus through Spiritual Disciplines.

This is an excellent opportunity to prepare for your Lenten journey!

Join us and come warm up with a hearty soup supper!

Thank you for joining us in our mission and ministry!

abidingsavior.com/church/free-to-grow

Abiding Savior Lutheran Preschool

WE ARE Hiring

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Full and Part-Time positions available

JOIN OUR AWARD WINNING PRESCHOOL!

For more information please contact us:
preschool@abidingsavior.com
949-837-4292

Free to Grow, John 15:16

Free To Grow: February Highlights

John T. Egley, Campaign Director

Our Free To Grow ministry expansion campaign is well underway and we have successfully raised commitments for additional funds, representing above regular giving, that will help the church significantly pay down the principal on its outstanding mortgage. It is exciting to see God’s people at Abiding Savior come together and be united in the common goal of expanding our ministry and putting the church in a better financial position for future generations. If you have not already submitted a pledge card, we encourage you to do so, even if the pledge is not a monetary commitment at this time.

We want to make sure that everyone in the congregation participates in and supports this ministry expansion campaign in whatever way the Holy Spirit moves you in your daily walk with Christ.

Please prayerfully consider the ways that you can contribute and make that commitment known by filling out the commitment card available in the narthex or online. Periodic updates will be made to the congregation as additional pledges are made and funds are received.

We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us at Abiding Savior!



Tax season at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is now open! Be on the lookout for your required tax documents in the mail this month. As a member of ASLC, the ASLC VITA tax team will be offering you a waiver on certain requirements that the general public otherwise must meet. Sign up now to get the date and time of your choosing. Please see the details below for more information.

Please see our website at <https://www.abidingsavior.com/vita>

Please answer all the questions on the form. You will be contacted by a scheduler to set up your date and time. You will then be sent an email to confirm your appointment. There will be attachments to the email for you to fill out and bring to your appointment. Carefully note the list of tax documents you will need to bring with you.

The hours of operation will be Tuesdays 4:00 PM-6:30 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM-11:30 AM beginning January 28th.

For a “simple” return you may wait for it to be completed as long as volunteers are available.

Please note that your income cannot exceed around \$67,000 to qualify for free tax preparation.

The Abiding Savior team offers you a friendly, caring atmosphere and you can expect 100% accuracy on your return. We abide by ADA guidelines. Our team is certified by the IRS to prepare your returns.

If unable to register online you may call 949-830-1001 and leave a message.

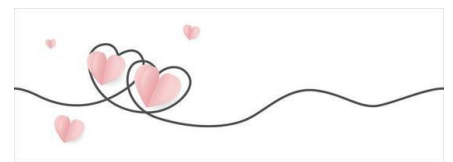


Upcoming Events at Abiding Savior!

Lots of exciting things are happening at Abiding Savior in the next few months! Don't miss out!

- February 2nd Rooted Begins
- February 18th TK / Kinder Information Night
- February 19th Prayer Walk
- February 23rd Children’s Church begins
- March 5th Ash Wednesday
- March 9th Undie Sunday
- March 22nd Women’s Retreat
- March 30th Ministry Fair and Unity Service
- April 19th Easter Egg Hunt
- April 20th Easter
- May 2nd Abiding Savior Angels Game

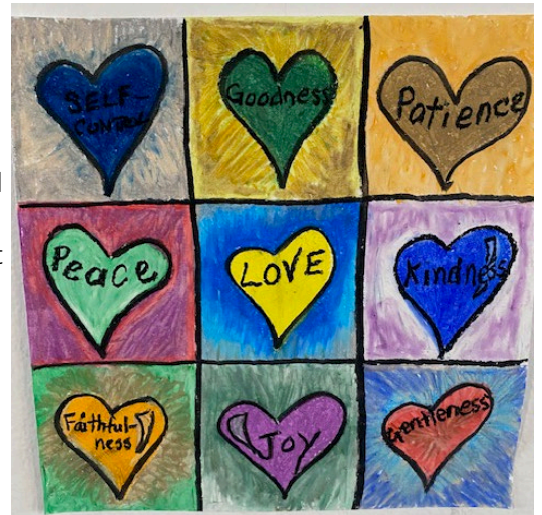
Get ready to hear more about these exciting events soon! Don't miss out!





We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

In January, Abiding Savior Lutheran School students and staff celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week with spirit dress days and Fruit of the Spirit posters throughout the campus. We love our Lutheran School!



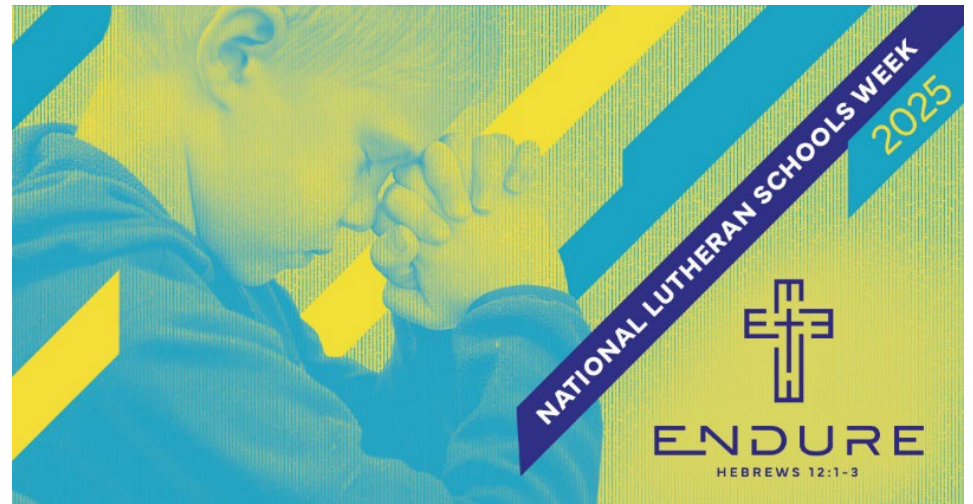
Preschool

Celeste Cisna, Preschool Director

We are so excited to announce that the Preschool 24th ANNUAL TRIKE-A-THON will be held on February 7th!

Each Preschool child will have the opportunity to ride a tricycle and see how many laps they can complete!

This year we will be raising money for a shade structure for our playground, with a goal of \$10,000. Checks or cash donations for the Preschool Trike-A-Thon may be submitted to the church office. Your support is greatly appreciated.



National Lutheran Schools Week 2025

National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9a-Altar Guild 9a – VITA income tax prep 10a – Sew and Sews 5p-Praise Worship service
2 Worship Schedule – see chart at bottom of calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture 11:30 - Rooted 5p – High School Youth Group	3 6p- Women's Fellowship 7p-Boy Scout meeting 7:30p-Narcotics anonymous	4 8:30a – Large Print 4p – VITA income tax prep 5p-Pickleball	5 8:30a – Large Print 9a – Bible Study 6p-Jr High Youth group 6:30p - Confirmation 7:30p – Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	6 8:30a – Large Print 6:30p – Praises Ring	7 8:45a - Preschool Trike-A-Thon 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	8 9a-Altar Guild 9a – VITA income tax prep 5p-Praise Worship service 6p – Father-Daughter Dance
9 Worship Schedule – see chart at bottom of calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture	10 8:30a – Large Print 7p-Boy Scout meeting 7:30p-Narcotics anonymous	11 8:30a – Large Print 4p – VITA income tax prep 5p-Pickleball 6p – Elders meeting	12 8:30a – Large Print 9a – Bible Study 6:30p - Confirmation 7:30p – Chapel choir 7:45p-AA	13 8:30a – Large Print 6:30p – Praises Ring 7p – Young Adult Bible Study 7:30p-Abiding Praise	14 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	15 9a-Altar Guild 9a – VITA income tax prep 5p-Praise Worship service
16 Worship Schedule – see chart at bottom of calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture	17 MLK DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7p-Boy Scout meeting 7:30p-Narcotics anonymous	18 8:30a – Large Print 4p - VITA income tax preparation 5p-Pickleball 6p – TK-K information night	19 8:30a – Large Print 9a – Bible Study 4p – Free to grow prayer event 6p-Jr High Youth group 6:30p - Confirmation 7:30p – Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	20 8:30a – Large Print 6:30p- Praises Ring 7:30p-Abiding Praise	21 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	22 9a-Altar Guild 9a – VITA income tax preparation 5p-Praise Worship service
23 Worship Schedule – see chart at bottom of calendar 10:15a – Children's Church starts 10:30a-Praise and Nurture 6p – High School Youth Group	24 7p-Boy Scout meeting 7:30p-Narcotics anonymous	25 8:30a – Large Print 4p - VITA income tax preparation 5p-Pickleball	26 8:30a – Large Print 9a – Bible Study 6p-Jr High Youth group 7:30p – Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	27 8:30a – Large Print 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p – Young Adult Bible Study 7:30p-Abiding Praise	28 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	

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**

**Join us
for
Children's
Church**

**who: pre-k through
2nd grade**

**What: Bible activity
and lesson**

where: music room

**WHEN: 10:15AM SERVICE
DURING THE SERMON
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 23RD**

**QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER?
CONTACT: ALEXIS UPCHURCH
AUPCHURCH@ABIDINGSAVIOR.COM**