

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

## Together in Christ

**Stephanie Harmon**

As believers, we are not meant to walk our life journey alone. Instead, we are called into community, into a shared life of faith where we find encouragement, accountability, and a deeper understanding of God's love through our connection with one another. This can happen in many places - in church, bible study, or life group, your neighborhood, a walking club, and more.

The early church serves as an example to us. The book of Acts paints a beautiful picture of believers: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* Acts 2:42 NIV. Their togetherness wasn't just a social gathering with food, it was a spiritual lifeline, a source of strength in times of trouble. Together, they were a powerful witness to the transforming power of life with Jesus.

Why is this fellowship so critical for us today?

### Encouragement and Support:

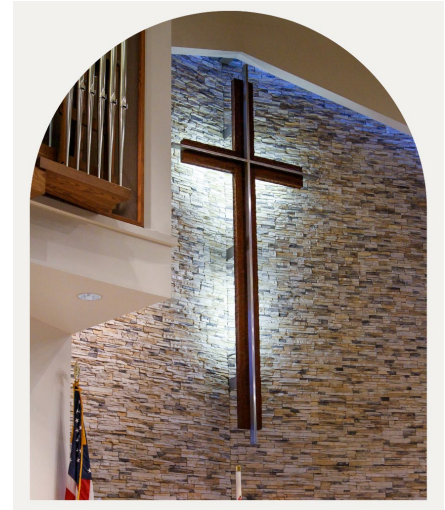
Let's be real, this life is plain hard. We face trials, insecurities, and temptations all day long. But together in fellowship, we find the comfort of shoulders to lean on, voices that speak truth, and encouraging words. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* We are instructed to build one another up and to remind each other of God's promises and the hope we have in Christ.

**Accountability:** While encouragement lifts us, accountability can help us stay the course. Several church friends continually remind me to trust in God's plan, not my own. Their gentle reminders help me refocus my eyes on Jesus, and I hope to provide them the same. In fellowship, we have relationships that can challenge us, offer words of wisdom, and hold us accountable. This isn't about judgment, but about a loving desire to see each other grow in Christ's love.

### Shared Joy and Sadness:

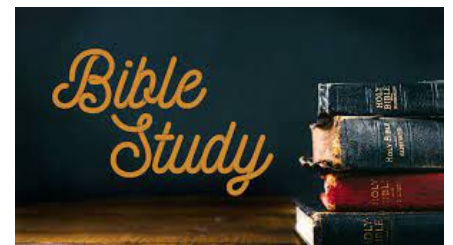
Gathering together and sharing our joy is uplifting. At the same time, gathering together in a time of need can be a source of comfort. Sharing life experiences deepens our bonds and serves as an important reminder - we are not alone in our faith walk. Knowing that others are praying and supporting us reminds us of the love of Christ.

*Article continued on next page*



## Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm | Informal Worship  
Sunday 8:00 am | Classic Worship  
Sunday 10:15 am | Praise Worship  
with Children's Church



## Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:00 am  
Sundays 9:15 am  
Adult Education Room



*"Children are a gift from the Lord;  
they are a reward from him."*

*Psalms 127:3 NLT*

 **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 Director  
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 Care** ..... 949.837.4289  
Deana Hicks, Extended Care Director

## Preschool Staff

**Preschool Center** ..... 949.837.4292  
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**

## Together In Christ Continued

**A Powerful Witness:** Our unity as believers is a powerful testament to the world. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one, *"that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* John 17:21 NIV. A reminder I often give my children, which serves as a reminder to myself, acts of kindness can serve as a witness to God's light in us. Our acts of fellowship become a living example of God's grace.

Cultivating fellowship requires intentionality. It means making time for one another, opening our hearts and homes, and actively seeking ways to connect and serve alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ. It might involve participating in small groups, volunteering together, sharing meals, or simply taking the time to check in and pray for one another.

I love the book "Holy Hygge" by Jamie Erickson, which offers some fun fellowship ideas for all ages:

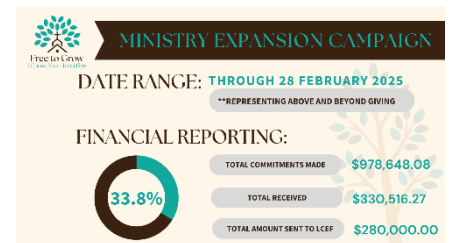
- Write a sidewalk message in chalk of hope and kindness
- Host a chili cook-off night (great practice for Abiding Savior's chili cook-off!)
- Deliver simple "May Day" baskets filled with small, edible gifts and an encouraging note
- Using a dry erase marker, write a mirror message of encouragement for your family or guests.
- Join a volunteer opportunity; we have lots of options here at Abiding Savior!
- Start a book club where you gather together and converse over the topic.

In a world that emphasizes individualism, we are thankful for the beautiful blessing of Christian fellowship. Let us be intentional in building strong, supportive

communities where we encourage one another, hold each other accountable, share our joys and sorrows, and together, be witnesses to a world in need.



## Free To Grow: Financial Reporting



## National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, is National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity to lift up our communities, leaders, and nation, seeking guidance, strength, protection, and unity through prayer. It's an opportunity to pause, reflect, and intercede for the well-being and future of the country!





# - FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES -



## Abiding Savior Life Groups

Imagine a smaller community where you can explore your faith, build meaningful relationships, and find support for your journey with Christ. Life Groups provide just that! You'll experience:

- Growth in your faith through relevant materials.
- A safe and confidential environment to share and connect with others.
- Personal development to better face life's challenges with a Christ-centered perspective.
- A rewarding use of your time.
- The freedom to learn and grow at your own speed.
- Individual attention and the chance to both give and receive support.
- Stronger bonds and a sense of belonging with fellow members.
- Rich opportunities for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and serving together.

Please see the contacts below if you want to connect with someone about a Life Group:

-Glenn Amick:

amick.glenn@gmail.com

-Debby Amick:

debbyamick@yahoo.com

-Alexis Upchurch:

aupchurch@abidingsavior.com

-Aaron Lucas:

aaron.lucas@psd-lcms.org

-Laura Siegert:

lrsgrt@gmail.com



## Women's Fellowship

Celebrate Cinco De Mayo with Ladies Night Out on **Monday, May 5th from 6:00-7:30 pm!** Let's make it festive with a Mexican Fair for potluck: A-L main dish, M-Z salad. Don't miss out on the fun with an exciting white elephant BINGO night! White elephant gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped, your choice.

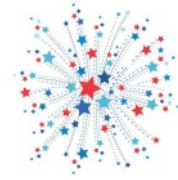
## Make May Spicier!

Everyone likes to add a little spice to their cooking. So do the clients of South County Outreach. However, few people ever add spices to their food donation list. Salt, pepper, seasonings, hot sauce, onion powder, garlic...almost anything you would use, we would like to donate to South County Outreach during May. This is our "Make May Spicier" for the clients of South County Outreach.

Please leave your donations in the barrels in the narthex. Thank you for making a difference for our neighbors and friends this May!



## Time To Celebrate!



It was a banner year for VITA, the free income tax service here at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church!

We served well over 200 clients and am pleased to report that the number of Abiding members has increased.

Practically everyone expressed their overwhelming gratitude and appreciation for providing our free service. This is evidenced, in writing, by surveys recorded by a sample of our clients.

Of greater importance was witnessing to these folks as disciples of Christ through intangible service as well as tangible. Examples: One client requested prayer on behalf of her son, who is plagued with mental disabilities that requires being institutionalized in restoration facilities; a prayer for him was brought before the altar the following Sunday. Another client reported that her husband was hospitalized due to a heart attack; a prayer was offered on the husband's behalf; on a follow-up telecon with the client, she reported that a ventilator, in which he was connected, had been removed.

On another positive note, the number of volunteers who were non-members of Abiding Savior slightly exceeded the member volunteers (considering the volunteers who performed hands-on preparation, review, and scheduling clients for the final steps of the entire cycle).

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will resume next year, "If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise!"

## - YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY -

**May 2025**

*Alexis Upchurch*

We praise singing "Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" We celebrated the joyous entry of our savior Jesus with our Palm Sunday Extravaganza on April 13th! With 250 people in attendance we joined together for a time of celebration and fellowship as we kicked off Holy Week.

The kids had a blast running around the field, bouncing in the palm tree bounce house, and visiting the petting zoo with bunnies, chickens, sheep, and goats. They also enjoyed rides on a miniature horse, got cool face paint and temporary tattoos, and made their own palm leaf crafts. We all enjoyed a tasty meal together, and we're so thankful for our volunteers who made this all happen and made it so enjoyable for everyone who was there.

We celebrate our Savior Jesus and the way that He brings people together. We are so grateful for this special time of fellowship between all generations. We celebrate the community that we have here at Abiding Savior and we celebrate all the ways God provides for us each and every day.



### **VBS – True North**

*Alexis Upchurch*

Join us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

Note: All VBS participants must be entering TK in the fall to ensure they are fully potty trained and mature enough to participate in the VBS experience.

**Registration Opens:** May 1st

**Cost:** \$40 per child (non-refundable)

**Eligible Grades:** Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade

**Important Note:** Registration fills up fast, so early sign-up is encouraged. Sign up today at: [vbs.aslc.church](http://vbs.aslc.church)





## - PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL MINISTRY -

### An Eggscellent Time in Preschool

Did you know that Abiding Savior's Preschool has three chickens? Meet Mary, Esther, and Priscilla! Mary and Esther are silkies, while Priscilla is a Golden Spitzhauben, and they were named after special women in the Bible.

The chickens have blessed the Preschool with many eggs, which have been used for baking and science projects such as making a birthday cake for Jesus' birthday, celebrating Dr. Seuss week with green eggs and ham, and the process of composting. Preschool students can bring fruit or vegetable scraps and feed the chickens! The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class even got to visit the chickens and their coop for science class. The children love watching and learning about them.

Mary, Esther, and Priscilla are an amazing addition to the Preschool!

*"So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:21*



### You're Invited! A Volunteer Appreciation Chapel

We warmly invite all School and Church volunteers to join us for a special Volunteer Appreciation Chapel, a time for reflection and heartfelt thanks for all that you do! Please join us on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at 8:15 am in the Sanctuary.





— ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL —  
PRESENTS

# FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



**MAY 22**

You're invited to see the amazing artistic talents of our students and to celebrate their creativity.

The event will feature the following performances by our talented students:

**5:00 PM**  
"GOD'S GUIDING LIGHT" CONCERT | GRADES 1-2 | LOCATION CHURCH

**5:45 PM**  
CONCERT | AFTER-SCHOOL CHOIR | LOCATION CHURCH

**6:10 PM**  
DANCE PERFORMANCE | SHOWTIME DANCE | LOCATION GYM

**6:50PM**  
HANDBELLS | LOCATION GYM

**7:00 PM**  
"ESTHER-ORDINARY FAITH" | GRADES 3-5 | LOCATION GYM

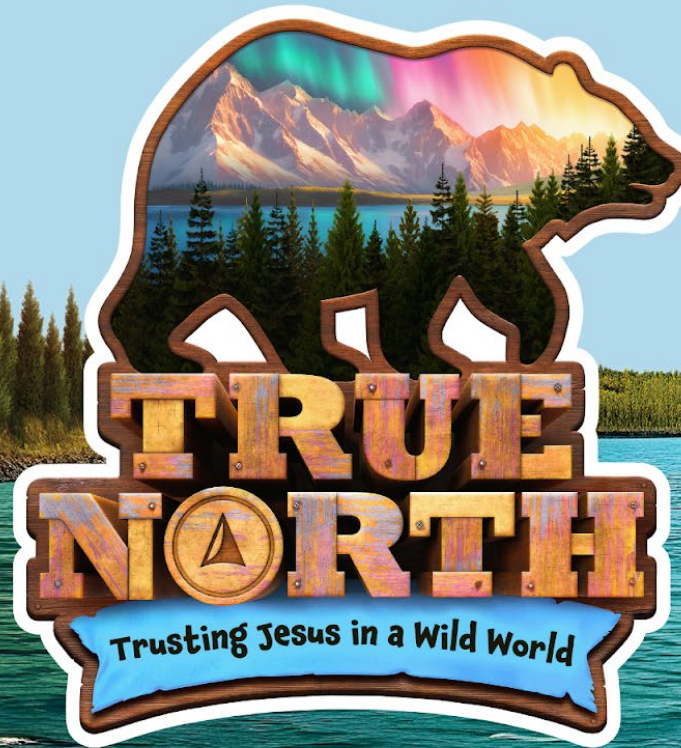
**FREE ADMISSION**

PRE-ORDER CHICK-FIL-A MEAL AVAILABLE  
RETURN ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL  
OFFICE BY MONDAY, MAY 19TH.



# VBS 2025

## August 4th-8th



**sign up  
today!**

## REGISTRATION OPENS

## MAY 1ST, 2025

**[vbs.aslc.church](http://vbs.aslc.church)**





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> National Day of Prayer 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 6:30p-Abiding Praise Practice 7p-Young Adults Ministry	<b>2</b> 6:30a- Muffins with Mom 12- Red Cross Blood Drive 6-Angels Game 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>3</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 10a-Sew and Sews 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>4</b> Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 5p- High School Youth Group	<b>5</b> 5:30p- Young Adult Women's Bible Study 6p-Women's Fellowship Night 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>6</b> 5p-Pickleball	<b>7</b> 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a -Wednesday Bible Study 6p-Jr. High Youth Group 6:45p-Confirmation 7:45p-AA	<b>8</b> 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adults Ministry 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	<b>9</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous 6- Girl Scout Cookie Awards	<b>10</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>11</b> Mother's Day Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 11:45a-Life Group, Glenn and Debby Amick	<b>12</b> 6p-Bible Study 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>13</b> 4p- Daisy Girl Scout Meeting 5p-Pickleball 6p- Elder Meeting	<b>14</b> 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a- Wednesday Bible Study 7:45p-AA	<b>15</b> 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	<b>16</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>17</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>18</b> Confirmation Sunday Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar	<b>19</b> 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>20</b> 5p-Pickleball	<b>21</b> 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	<b>22</b> 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 5-Spring Festival 7p-Young Adults Ministry 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	<b>23</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>24</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>25</b> Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar	<b>26</b> Memorial Day – Abiding Savior Closed 6p-Bible Study 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>27</b> 5p-Pickleball	<b>28</b> 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 8:15a- Volunteer Appreciation Chapel 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	<b>29</b> 8a-Gathering Grounds Fellowship 8:15a-Parents in Prayer Group 9a-Wednesday Bible Study	<b>30</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>31</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service

#### **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 YouTube – Sunday 10:15 AM

*Communion Offered Weekly*

*Communion Offered 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Weeks*

*Communion Offered 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Weeks*



**Abiding Savior  
Lutheran Church**

23262 El Toro Road  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

**Return Service Requested  
Time Dated Materials**

