



Day By Day

EXPANDING THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

We have a family friend—I'll call her Beth. She lives in our neighborhood, is a single woman, has a demanding profession, and a dog named Lucy. Lucy the dog is significant because she has become a bridge between our households. Since Beth's job keeps her away from home for long stretches of time, my children have volunteered to be Lucy's regular pet sitters. The dog has become a member of our extended household, and with her, Beth, too.

Last fall, my wife Amy and I were driving home from an event. I asked her, "Whose name did you write down?" "Beth," she said. "Me too," I replied. The event was an outreach workshop hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries. The presenter challenged us to write the name of one person. He asked us, "Who is someone you see regularly, with whom you're already having face-to-face conversations, but doesn't have a relationship with Jesus?"

Our friend Beth was raised in the church but doesn't presently gather with the church to share Life in Jesus. She *knows of* Jesus, but isn't seeking to *know* Him, to follow Him, entrusting her entire life to Him. Why should this bother us? Beth is overly generous in paying our kids to play with her dog. She bakes us treats to show her gratitude. You couldn't ask for a better neighbor. Why should we be concerned about how she relates to a Jewish man born twenty centuries ago? Because we are convinced that

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is not just a ticket to get a happy *after*-life. To know Him—trusting and following Him—that's True Life, starting now. Everything else is a hellish half-life terminating in death. Without Jesus, that death will be eternal hell. To seek Life without Jesus would be like wanting a marriage without a spouse, an adoption without a child, a household without people in it. Yes, it matters to us how Beth relates to Jesus. We care about her. What could be more important for her well-being?

The person presenting at that LHM outreach workshop wasn't trying to get us to "sell" Jesus. He wasn't sending us to push Jesus as an insurance policy—buy it and forget it, the "cost" being only a restatement of fact: "He died to save me from my sins." We aren't on a Jesus-marketing campaign. We are sent to expand the household of God.

LHM's *Households of Faith* resources have challenged me to think more holistically about my personal outreach efforts. God is using me, not simply as an individual, but as a member of a household located in a neighborhood. Within our household, I am responsible for helping my family see Jesus everywhere. And that He's for everyone. We do this by devoting time to tell Bible stories, sing hymns, and pray. We do this by having spiritual conversations about the joys and pains of life. We do this, practicing hospitality—inviting others to become members of our extended household.

Shortly after our conversation in the car, Amy and I were chatting with Beth in our living room, like we often do. Beth brought over cookies to thank us for taking care of Lucy. It was nearly bedtime for the kids, so Amy invited Beth to join our nightly devotions. Beth stayed. And I think she even remembered most of the words to the Lord's Prayer.



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour



A Volunteer's Prayer

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer:
For the chance to serve again this year;
To give of myself in some small way
To those not blessed as I each day.

My thanks for health of mind and soul
To aid me ever toward my goal;
For eyes to see the good in all,
A hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great
Learning to love – forgetting to hate;
For ears to hear and heart to care
When someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true,
With energy plenty the task to do;
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,
Is to serve you better, day by day.



Abiding Savior

Lutheran Church and School
23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, California 92630
Church: 949.830.1460

Church Staff

Reverend Glenn Lucas, Senior Pastor
Kyle Salesky, Family/Youth Ministries Director
Chris Vick, IT Specialist
Janet Calhoun, Church Secretary
Robin DeLong-Hanrath, HR/Office Manager
Karen Galas, Accountant
Laura Lyons and Jennifer Kranawetter, Admin Assistants to Pastors
Lori Beniche, Director of Communications
Linda Bo, Editor of Day by Day

Church Officers

Steve Wichmann, President
Miguel Campos, Vice President
Patricia Stroube, Secretary
John Egley, Treasurer
Erica Volz, Congregation Liaison

School Staff

School..... 949.830.1461
Donna Lucas, School Principal
Yesi Naber, Admissions Director
Keigh Lee Horn, School Secretary
Samantha Fitt, School Secretary
Extended Care..... 949.837.4289
Deana Hicks, Extended Care Director

Preschool Staff

Preschool Center..... 949.837.4292
Mary Wolfinbarger, Preschool Director

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

School Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Preschool Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit us on our website at
www.abidingsavior.com



abidingsaviorlakeforest



LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

By Jim Ryan

On August 21, 1980, a group of 40 members of Abiding Savior, under the leadership of Doris Schmidt, began a small ministry in the Narthex of the old Sanctuary. This ministry was to work under the guidance of The Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. based in Yucaipa, CA to produce braille Bibles and other devotional materials for the blind. Officially they became Lutheran Braille Workers Work Center #135. For the next 34 years, they met several times a week for three to four hours at a time, feeding the press, perforating the pages, binding the books and packaging them to send around the world. In those 34 years, thousands of dedicated hours produced thousands of braille Bibles and other devotional materials to help folks to "see" the word of God.

In February 2014, Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. was closing our work center and asked if we would be interested in keeping the center opened by changing over to a large print ministry. This was a no brainer and we then became Large Print Work Center #135. We purchased a printer capable of large print and heavy output. Since then, we have been producing large print NIV Bibles to be shipped to numerous countries around the world. Also, we produce 284 copies of a monthly devotional called "Today's Light" that is shipped throughout the U.S.

In February of 2019, we embarked on yet another ministry. Producing large print Bibles for those in prison and other correctional type institutions. We added to our trusty printer a special machine capable of binding these Bibles with a cloth binding using a high heat process.

Since beginning this new ministry in our Work Center, the need for Prison Bibles has grown significantly. Our friends in Yucaipa tell us that almost every time a Bible is sent to a prisoner, there are at least two or three requests are received from other prisoners in the same facility requesting a Bible as well. There is a great need for these Prison Bibles especially since there is a lack of eyeglasses available for those confined. One Chaplain shared that when these Bibles made it into the library, the number of incidents among the prisoners dropped significantly.

Since taking on this additional ministry, the workload on our printer has become extensive. Over three million two hundred thousand pages have been printed and there is a concern for its life expectancy. We are currently in the process of doing research for a replacement and the costs involved. If you have a heart for this ministry, your support would be greatly appreciated. If you provide support, please indicate your donation is to support Abiding Savior Large Print Work Center #135.

ANGEL TREE

By Lori Beniche

A big thank you to everyone that participated in our Angel Tree this Christmas. We were able to help so many individuals and families all because of YOU! Thank you for making Christmas brighter for everyone.



A Reimagined New Year's Celebration

by CHAD FIX

Due to restrictions put in place because of COVID-19, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade will not be part of New Year's Day festivities on Jan. 1, 2021 for the first time since 1945. Enjoyed by millions around the world each year, the annual parade has previously been cancelled only three times since its inception in 1891—the wartime years of 1942, 1943, and 1945.

As a result of this year's postponement, the 2022 parade will feature all elements planned for 2021 under the theme of "Dream. Believe. Achieve.", including the Lutheran Hour Ministries float entry, "Jesus Teaches." The LHM float is the only Christian float in each year's parade and carries on a mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere, from along the parade route to televisions worldwide.

In place of this year's parade, The Tournament of Roses will host a two-hour television special during their normally scheduled parade time (8 a.m. Pacific Time) on New Year's Day 2021. The Petal Pushers, a group of up to 5,000 volunteers who decorate the LHM float and as many as nine others each year, are hoping to be included in a segment on volunteering and have provided a video to be used by the networks. You should also check your email inbox and LHM's social media platforms around New Year's as we celebrate the LHM float's 70-year tradition of sharing Christ through the Rose Parade.

The LHM float is a self-funded project of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee and the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. The committee's ongoing work is funded primarily by generous donations from Christian friends and multiple fundraising activities and is not included in the operating budget of Lutheran Hour Ministries. To learn more about supporting this effort, as well as upcoming volunteer opportunities and merchandise available through their online store, visit petalpushers.org. †

The LHM float is the only Christian float in each year's parade and carries on a mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere ...



The church office will be closed
December 24 through January 3.
The office reopens January 4, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY



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.

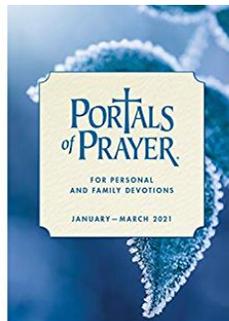
In particular, we ask you to notify the church office if you or anyone in your family is hospitalized.



Mite Boxes are used to further God's kingdom through the mission grants. Its name comes from the lesson of the widow's mite.

Mite Boxes are available from the church office. Place your Mite Box in an obvious place so you can "feed" it. Return your filled Mite Box to the church office and exchange it for an empty box and start filling again!

As we continue to support Mite Box projects, may God bless our efforts to spread the good news.



Portals of Prayer is great for personal devotions and can be used to open church meetings or Bible studies. Published quarterly, authors change each month.

The January, February, March 2021 edition of Portals of Prayer has arrived. Pick up your copy from the church office during office hours during the week.



Abiding Savior's Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spam, Peanut Butter, Jelly,
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Rice, Dried Beans, Ramen, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Pancake Mix (only add water).

There is a bin in the Narthex where you can put your donation as you come to church. You may also drop off your donation to the church office during the week.

Thank you for helping those in need in our community. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Kranawetter or Laura Lyons at 949.830.1460.

ROCK OF AGING



Rock of Aging will meet on **Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.** on Zoom. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving in this ministry. This small group is dedicated to visiting the elderly shut-ins that are not able to make it to church on a regular basis. We let those that have served the church for many years (but cannot participate the way they once did) know that they are still a part of our church family and they are loved.



Scholarships from the Ladies Guild Scholarship Fund for the school year 2021-2022 will be available for member students studying for church related careers at LCMS colleges or Universities. Applications can be picked up in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Grovom at jgrovom@cox.net. **Application for the scholarship deadline is March 7, 2021.**

BRINGING CHRIST TO THE NATIONS

By Lou Marting

Kurt and Sue Fuqua say that a Southern California Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries Conference, which included a presentation by Pastor Nader Hanna, changed their lives.

The conference inspired them to ask what they could do to help

In November 2020 they gathered with Pastor Nader at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Cypress, CA, and included over 20 individuals – new Christians, those becoming Christians and longtime Christians. Represented were individuals from Iraq, Egypt, Somalia, Kenya, Turkey, and Algeria. Pastor Nader Hanna, from Egypt, led the study, which taught the group about the thankfulness of one healed leper, who had a faith that made him well.

The celebratory evening was topped off with a wonderful meal.

The plan is to continue doing this on a weekly basis once restrictions from COVID-19 are over. To God be the Glory!



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.

PRESCHOOL

Mary Wolfinbarger
Preschool Director



Happy New Year and Blessed Epiphany!

This month we have the opportunity to celebrate our Lutheran School where each year we are able to teach His love and forgiveness and share His light with the children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week provides our network of nearly 2,300 LCMS preschools, elementary schools, and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in Lutheran schools. 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. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from our Christ-centered developmentally appropriate program, please have them contact our Admissions Director, Yesi Naber, for more information on the center or to schedule an appointment for a tour, at 949.830.1460 x 2113 or ynaber@abidingsavior.com. You can also visit our website at www.abidingsavior.com.

Upcoming January dates include:
18 MLK Day – NO School or Extended Care
25-29 National Lutheran Schools Week
28 School Information Evening Online

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Donna Lucas,
School Principal



Students Let Their Lights Shine



Even amidst the pandemic our students let their lights shine this Christmas. Our students led Advent Services and the last Christmas Chapel, they shared the Christmas story through word and song.



They demonstrated hearts of service by collecting over 510 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We collected 230 toys for Spark of Love. We raised over \$500 for Angel Tree through our chapel offerings.

KEEP YOUR FORK: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

By Michael Josephson

As the American journalist Sydney Harris put it, "A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past; he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future." Thus, told that there will be a light at the end of the tunnel, the pessimist agrees, but assumes it will be coming from an onrushing train. I run into plenty of pessimists and they are rarely happy.

I think Samuel Johnson had it right when he observed that hope is itself a species of happiness. So, if we to be happy it only makes sense to discipline ourselves to choose our attitudes, to think positively and to be hopeful.

There's a story about a woman I've named Tilly, who lived into her nineties as a positive thinker. When she died, her family found explicit instructions for her funeral. She was to be dressed in her finest dinner clothing with a fork in her right hand. When anyone asked about the fork, which most did, the pastor was instructed to hand them an envelope containing the following note from Tilly:

"I'm glad you asked about the fork. I've attended hundreds of dinners. I noted that just when the dishes and flatware for the main course were being cleared, someone would always say, 'Keep your fork.' I loved that part because I knew that I needed my fork because of dessert, the best part of dinner, was coming. So, the fork in my hand is to remind you that I know and want you to believe: the best is yet to come."



Scrip is a gift certificate program that provides a variety of gift cards for families to purchase. The gift certificates are purchased by the Abiding Savior scrip program at a discount and sold to participants at face value. The difference is profit. This profit is split (50/50) between the preschool and the family purchasing the scrip. We use these funds for non-budgeted items, and families will receive a tuition credit for the following school year.

GOSPEL ADVENTURES

THAILAND TREK

for God so loves the world



TAKE A THAILAND TREK Without Leaving Your Home or School!

by MEGAN MCDANIEL

For 2021, *Gospel Adventures* is heading on a *Thailand Trek* with the country's national symbol, the elephant. Just like *Passport to Peru* and *Go Mongolia*, *Gospel Adventures: Thailand Trek* will be a free resource available to Christian schools, churches, homeschools, and individuals across the United States, filled with fun activities and an interactive website.

Gospel Adventures gives kids, and even some adults, an inside look into the day-to-day lives of people like them around the world through music, videos, and fun characters. Children can see, through the engaging videos, that there are children who share the same faith as them who are located all around the world.

Not only do participants get to see how people live and work in other countries, but they get to see God's work in action with examples of how they can share the Gospel with people in these areas through prayer and designated chapel offerings.

As a way to support children's ministry around the world, schools and churches can choose to collect donations through chapel offerings or change drives. These donations will go toward LHM's Global Kids Fund that supports ministries that are similar to the one they saw during the *Gospel Adventures* program.

Since 2012, these activities have led to more than \$200,000 being donated to LHM's Global

Kids Fund. Gifts given to the Global Kids Fund during *Thailand Trek* will go directly toward LHM's ministry work in Thailand. Every year for the holidays, including Christmas, National Children's Day, and Valentine's Day, **LHM-Thailand** conducts school outreach programs that reach between 3,000 and 5,000 children in schools throughout Thailand. During these events, LHM-Thailand staff shares the

Good News with students and teachers who have not yet heard the saving Gospel message. In addition, each student who attends the event receives a gift package filled with LHM children's bilingual booklets, a Bible story coloring book with a crayon or colored pencil, LHM mementos, and a sweet treat or cookie. A gift of \$5 will provide a special gift package to one child.

Donations can be made online at lhm.org/give (and selecting Global Kids Fund from the dropdown menu) or mailed to the LHM office in St. Louis, MO.

Are you interested in using *Gospel Adventures* in your church or school, or even at home with your kids or grandkids? Visit gospeladventures.org to register, or to download the sample containing the Day 1

curriculum to see what this program is all about. The full week of curriculum will be available in January 2021. We look forward to going on a *Thailand Trek* with you, beginning in 2021! †

Megan McDaniel reports on the impact of LHM's ministry work around the world.

DID YOU KNOW:

- "Thailand" means land of the free
- About 70 million people live in Thailand today
- There are more than 60 languages spoken in Thailand
- Thailand has 1,430 islands
- Some areas can get up to 15 feet of rain
- The elephant is the national symbol
- Houses are built on stilts, five or six feet off the ground
- Nearly 40 million tourists visit Thailand each year
- Thailand does not have an official religion

... they get to see God's work in action.

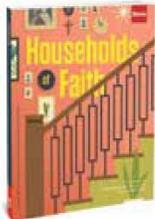
Toolkit of Resources to Build a Spiritually Vibrant Home

Lutheran Hour Ministries is developing an extensive library of resources for the home that will be included in the *Households of Faith* Kit beginning in March. The contents of the kit are valued at \$65 but will be available for

\$37 at lhm.org/households. In addition to *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* book, several additional resources will be included in the kit. Check out the materials below (each item will also be sold separately):

HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH KIT

Households of Faith Monograph



How Christians order their days and connect with relatives and housemates is a critical aspect of spiritual growth.

Households of Faith presents a vivid portrait of the domestic lives of U.S. practicing Christians. In addition to all-new research and data visualizations, *Households of Faith* provides vital principles to strengthen followers of Christ, their homes and, ultimately, the family of God.

Households of Faith Small Group Study DVD



This four-session video study explores the research in the *Households of Faith* monograph and helps you apply it to your household. It details three habits that LHM's Barna-based research found were active in spiritually vibrant households. These households

- 1) apply spiritual disciplines;
- 2) extend hospitality; and
- 3) engage in spiritual conversations.

The Vibrant Conversations Deck



Not only can these cards be used to play your favorite card games, but *The Vibrant Conversations Deck* contains 52 great questions in four categories: applying spiritual disciplines, extending hospitality, engaging in spiritual conversations, and food and fun. You can use these cards to spark spiritual conversations around your own table, in the car, or wherever your household is gathered together.

The Household Magnet



This notepad magnet says, "As for me and my household we will ..." followed by plenty of space for your household members to identify and record areas of focus. (For example, "In February we will invite 10 people over for a meal.") This magnet can live on your refrigerator as a reminder of your household's vibrant next step as you work together to nurture faith within your home.

30 Days of Household Devotions Booklet



This booklet contains 30 different devotions written by Dr. Kari Vo, LHM's theological writer. They can be used consecutively as a month of devotions or occasionally per time and topic. An introduction gives tips on doing devotions in your home and additional information is provided on accessing devotions online.

Booklets for PARENTS:

Helping Your Child Have a Relationship with God, Helping Your Child Grow Through Faith Conversations, Helping Your Child Welcome Others



Parents have high hopes for their children's faith, but don't always know how to get them there. These booklets help parents

- nurture their child's relationship with God by exploring how to partner with God using two practical rhythms that will help their child learn how to pray to God and understand His Word;
- grow their child's faith through spiritual conversations by discovering how to use Jesus' methods and cover Jesus' topics in conversations in their everyday lives; and
- develop strategies to encourage their children to be hospitable toward others. Supporting Bible passages and vast experience from the author working with children give parents numerous tools and resources to utilize.

Booklets for CHILDREN:

Learning to Pray, Welcome, The Bible Tells Me So



These booklets are geared towards pre-school to third-grade children. The booklets will encourage children to

- spend time with God in prayer;
- learn, through words and pictures, how important it is to be welcoming to others—just as God has invited and received us into His kingdom "home"; and
- read several key Bible verses that speak to God's love, His mercy, His forgiveness, and His words of guidance as a reminder to look to the Bible for learning how to live their lives for God.

Get Started Today by Taking an LHM Learn Course!

LHM Learn offers three FREE courses based on the *Households of Faith* research:

Me and My Household: Explore the concept of households in the Bible and in our culture today. This course will equip you to map your whole household and consider just how vibrant it is.

Building a Vibrant Household: Explore spiritually vibrant households and the three characteristics revealed by research that any household can nurture. It will equip you to evaluate your own household's vibrancy and to take the next steps in building a more vibrant household.

Open Doors: The Art of Hospitality: Take a deeper dive into the vibrancy characteristic of Christian hospitality. Learn what the Bible says about welcoming the stranger and join us in the Open Door Challenge.

Check out lhm.org/learn today to get started on one of these FREE courses. They each offer self-paced learning, time for self-reflection and journaling, easy access on any digital device, and so much more! †

Chad Fix oversees the corporate communications of LHM.





Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church and School
23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Materials

GIVING OPTIONS

We are honored that you want to give to support our mission and ministry. Please select the method(s) that works best for you.

TEXT TO GIVE 844-374-6845

Type dollar amount, one space, and then "Church"
(example: \$100 Church, then hit send)



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You may use an e-check, debit card, or credit card for a single gift or automatic recurring gifts.

GIVE+ APP

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Get the app from the Apple or Google store. Follow the directions to set up your giving and select Abiding Savior in Lake Forest.



BY MAIL

Check, cash, or money order to:

23262 El Toro RD
Lake Forest CA 92630



Abiding Savior
Lutheran School



Athletics

RECYCLE



SODA BOTTLES & CANS

Proceeds will benefit
Abiding Savior School's
Athletic Program!

