



**Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church**

December 2022

Day By Day



Angel Tree – Showing Your Generosity

Jesus showed love by means of generosity, and we can extend His love by doing the same. Christmas is traditionally the time of year when many people freely demonstrate generosity. Since Jesus' birth, life and ministry were characterized by giving, His followers should also be known for that trait – but not just in December.

Generosity is part of our identity in Christ and should be our natural response to God's blessings and provisions. Jesus Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The New Testament church demonstrated this when they shared possessions with one another (Acts 2:44-45).

Sometimes we become rather inward-focused in our Christmas giving. We buy gifts for our immediate family and maybe even for extended family or close friends. But what can we do this Christmas to extend generosity beyond our own homes?

In today's passage, Paul mentions the generosity of Macedonian churches that collected an offering to send to the poor

saints in Jerusalem. In a similar way, we might give some of our Christmas spending budget to a family, friends, or neighbors who need; like the 28 families we will help out this year with our Angel Tree. Our Angel Tree is located in the Narthex, so please stop by and pick up the name of someone in our community and help make their Christmas a little brighter. Additionally, we are looking at purchasing gifts for the residents of the Bethesda homes, which you will find on our Angel Tree as well. All gifts are due back by December 11th at our Christmas concert.

You can also give the gift of service, which could be as simple as helping our church out with an event, visiting a nursing home or our shut-ins. And if you have a useful skill (like tax preparation, teaching Sunday School, etc.), you could offer your expertise in that area to help someone.

Giving reminds us that God is the source of all we have, and the most precious gift He's giving us is eternal life. We share that gift with others when we give our time and our money, because generosity reflects the lavish love and grace of God.



Anticipating and Celebrating the Birth of our Lord



Midweek Advent Worship

Mid-week Advent Services
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
December 7, 14, 21



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Family Worship
4:30 PM

Christmas Candlelight Worship
6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 10:00 PM

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Worship
10:15 AM



 **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
Chris Vick, IT Specialist
Janet Calhoun, Church Secretary
Tricia Stroube, HR/Office Manager
Lisa Taylor, Accounting
Laura Lyons and Jennifer Kranawetter, Admin Assistants to Pastors
Lori Beniche, Director of Communications
Linda Bo, Editor of Day by Day

Church Officers

Miguel Campos, 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
Mary Wolfinbarger, Preschool Director

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

School Office Hours

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

Preschool Office Hours

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

Visit us on our website at
abidingsavior.com



abidingsaviorlakeforest



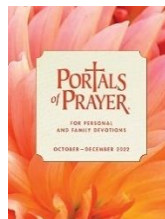
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**CHURCH
OFFICE
CLOSED**

Please note, the Church Office will be closed on the following days: December 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30.

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 October, November, December 2022 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.

**LADIES GUILD
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION**



The Ladies Guild will once again be accepting applications from students studying to enter church careers at LCMS colleges, universities and seminaries, who are members of Abiding Savior

Lutheran Church. All are encouraged to contact the church office for a scholarship application. A letter of recommendation from the Abiding Savior Pastor and a teacher or school administrator who knows you well are required. The deadline for applying for a Ladies Guild Scholarship is March 12, 2023.

Pastor Birner is Turning 100!



Help us honor Pastor Birner with a light luncheon in the gym on Sunday, December 4 after the 10:15 service. If you would like to drop off a birthday card, we have placed a box in the Narthex. The cards will be given to him on December 4. Please join us in honoring Pastor Birner for this milestone event.

Poinsettias for Christmas Worship



To purchase your plant(s) simply place a check in one of the gray baskets specifying, "Poinsettias" on your check. Each plant is \$10. You may pick up your plant after the Christmas Day service.



Chapel Choir sings at some 8:00 AM services and in festival services and events. The choir rehearses from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM in the Music Classroom most Wednesdays from September through May. No audition required. Interested in singing? Please contact Dr. Christian Guebert through the church or school.

Praises Ring is the church handbell ensemble. We play select services each month and have a role in festival services and events. The group rehearses from 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM in the Music Classroom most Tuesdays. No audition required. Interested in ringing? Please contact Dr. Christian Guebert through the church or school.

Concordia Christmas: The Thrill of Hope



Monday, December 5
4:00 PM and 7:30 PM

Bringing tidings of hopefulness and joy, Concordia celebrates Christmas at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Top ensembles from the music department perform festive music with carols old and new.

Tickets will be available from Segerstrom Hall Box Office at www.scfta.org.



Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions are written by multiple authors and follow a weekly template keyed to the three-year lectionary found in the Lutheran Service Book.

Daily Devotions have a schedule for individual days of the week:

- **Sunday** – a hymn from the *Lutheran Service Book*
- **Monday** – the Psalms
- **Tuesday** – the Old Testament text
- **Wednesday** – the New Testament text
- **Thursday** – the Gospel text
- **Friday** – text from **The Lutheran Hour Speaker**
- **Saturday** – a sermon excerpt by a previous Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**

Subscribe to LHM's **Daily Devotions** here: <https://www.lhm.org/newsroom/>.

FREE RESOURCES FOR KIDS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is a dedicated group of supporters and volunteers who are active in ministry domestically and around the world. The ministry of the organization is currently expressed through a wide range of Christ-centered outreach efforts under the name of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). We provide free resources for kids.



GOSPEL ADVENTURES™
IS HEADING TO **INDIA!**

Join us in January 2023 for

GOSPEL ADVENTURES: CELEBRATE INDIA

We look forward to "traveling" to India with you as we
Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Look for more information coming soon!

© GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG

Created in partnership with Group Publishing, a trusted leader in innovative children's ministry resources, Gospel Adventures is a free 5-day curriculum. This program is designed to engage students with educational objectives and interactive resources geared towards expanding their perceptions of global ministry. Visit The [Gospel Adventures](http://The Gospel Adventures website) website to learn more about the program and to register for the next adventure!

Kids Booklets from LHM



These children's booklets (in English and Spanish) are ideal to use for festivals, classrooms, holidays, outreach and more! Give one to a neighbor or friend. Anyone can use these fun and colorful booklets to discuss prayer, how to share their faith, and more – each in a way kids will understand and remember. Full PDF previews are available for each title. [Click on the link](#) to view and download.



Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church

Presents

CHRISTMAS CAROL FESTIVAL

Savior of the Nations, Come

Sunday, December 11th | 3:00 PM

Free admission — offerings accepted

Featuring:

Congregational carol singing and special music by Chapel Choir and soloists, festival chamber orchestra, Praises Ring and Kingdom Ringers handbell ensembles, and Abiding Praise musicians.

LOVE | SERVE | CONNECT

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH | 23262 EL TORO RD. | LAKE FOREST, CA 92630 | ABIDINGSAVIOR.COM

Christmas Concert Dessert Reception



We will have a dessert reception for everyone attending the Christmas concert this year. Please join us in the adult education room after the concert for dessert and fellowship.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

The journey through the book of Genesis continued this month in Sunday School.

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." (Genesis 50:20.) The children learned in the Joseph account that despite the evil plans Joseph's brothers planned for him, God turned the events around to be a blessing for Joseph and his entire family to spare them from starvation during a severe drought that plagued Egypt and the Promised Land. And just like Joseph forgave his brothers for their wrongful actions against him, the children (and all of us) can forgive those who are antagonistic toward us.

Now things get really "heated" up as the children learn of Moses. Like Joseph, Moses grew up in Egypt--in Pharaoh's house--but left and went to Midian and tended sheep. One day he saw a bush that was burning, but not consumed. How could that happen? Could the children duplicate that feat? They

watched as match was lit and came in contact with paper.



The paper was consumed by fire and burned up. The children looked inside the container where the paper was lit to see if it was still burning. Disappointment. All they could see (and smell) were ashes. The burning bush was a message to Moses from God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. The picture below shows the children coloring a picture of a burning bush.



After pleading with Pharaoh several times, he relented and freed the children of Israel from slavery. But it was short-lived as Pharaoh's army tracked down Moses and the children of Israel. Just like a children's animated video depicted, the Israelites were protected by a pillar of cloud during the day, and a pillar of fire during the night. But now the Red Sea lay before them, and the Egyptian army pursuing them from behind. But God provided a way of escape as He parted the Red Sea so the children of Israel could cross over in safety, but when the army tried to cross they were bogged down in the mud. And then God allowed the waters to come back together and drowned all the soldiers and chariots and horses.

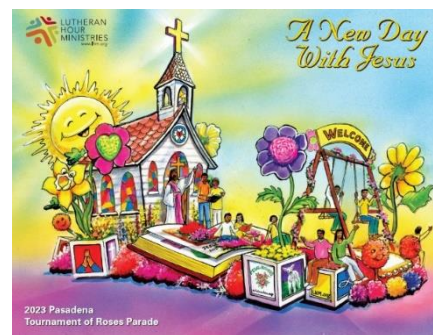
More Genesis events to come next time.



Have you ever wondered what goes into creating the majestic floats you see on television during the annual Tournament of Roses Parade?

Be a part of the Rose Parade. Personally witness the magic unfold, create a lifelong memory, and cross off a "bucket list" item by signing up to decorate floats this December in Pasadena, California.

Join us and help to support and make possible the only Christian float in the Tournament of Roses Parade.



Check out this option to decorate Rose Parade floats:
<https://petalpushers.org/reg>

A Joyful Chance to Serve

Do you like coffee, donuts, and people? The Gathering Grounds is looking for volunteers to serve on Sunday mornings. The Gathering Grounds is open on Sundays from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM and also from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM. It is a wonderful and fun service opportunity.

Please sign up by [clicking here](#). For further information please contact Samantha Fitt at sfitt@abidingsavior.com.

PRESCHOOL

Mary Wolfinbarger
Preschool Director



You are cordially invited to join our students, ages 2-5, who will share the Gospel message of Jesus' birth in worship on Saturday, December 10, at 5:00 PM, followed by a cookie reception.

Do you know anyone who could benefit from our Christ-centered preschool? Please contact the Director, Mary Wolfinbarger, for more information on the center or to schedule an appointment for a tour at (949) 837-4292 or mwolfinbarger@abidingsavior.com. You can also visit our website at www.abidingsavior.com.

Upcoming Dates at Preschool:
10 Preschool Christmas

Program 5:00 PM

19-31 Preschool Closed for
Christmas Break

19-22 Extended Care Christmas
Camp

Elementary School

Donna Lucas,
School Principal



We have some great news! We ran out of Operation Christmas Child boxes to hand out! Way to go Abiding Savior! Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox!

This December, the boxes will be taken to the distribution center by our 8th-grade students and then sent out to bless children in need around the world.

At that time, we will get our final count on how many boxes we filled this year.



Scrip is a gift certificate program that provides a variety of gift cards for purchase. The gift certificates are purchased by the scrip program at a discount and sold to participants at face value. The difference is profit. This profit is split (50/50) between the school 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.



Support us when you
shop this Holiday Season!

When you shop on smile.amazon.com, select Abiding Savior as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to support Abiding Savior!



Gratitude and the Gift of Water

Michael Josephson

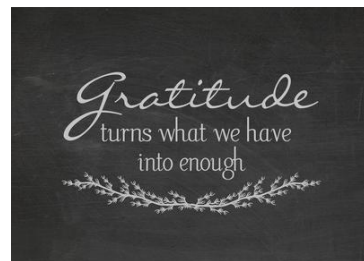
Long ago a young man crossing a desert came upon a spring of cool, crystal-clear water. The water was so delightful that he thought how much his grandfather Saul would love it, so he filled his leather canteen. After a two-day journey he presented the water to Saul, who immediately tasted it with an expression of great pleasure. He lavishly thanked his grandson, who went away with a happy heart.

Another grandson tasted the water and found it awful. The water had become stale because of the old leather container. Puzzled, the boy said, "Grandfather, the water was foul. Why did you pretend to like it?" Saul replied, "I wasn't pretending. It wasn't the water I tasted. I tasted the kindness of the heart that labored two days to bring it to me."

Saul's gracious reaction was itself a generous gift rewarding his grandson's thoughtfulness. And the lesson he taught the second grandson was still another gift: gratitude uplifts both the giver and receiver.

We understand this best when young children give us gifts. Whether it's a ceramic tray or a macaroni bracelet, we love it because we love our children and the idea behind the gift. Because we don't expect the gift to be anything we want, we can truly appreciate the spirit of the giver. Children, on the other hand, tend to value only the thing given.

We have to teach them, by words and example, that the thing given is simply the container for the love it embodies. It's as if each gift has a heart, a piece of the heart of the person who gave it. Gratitude is about appreciating the heart.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 8a-Coffee Shop Thursday Drop-Off 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	2 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	3 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
4 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 11:30a-Pastor Birner Birthday Luncheon 11:30a-Family Christmas Fellowship	5 7p-Elders Bible Study 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	6 5p-Pickleball 7:15p-Praises Ring	7 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6p-Rooted 6p-Midweek Advent Worship 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	8 8a-Coffee Shop Open 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	9 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	10 9a-Altar Guild 9:30a-Christmas Choral Festival Dress Rehearsal 5p-Praise Worship & Preschool Christmas Program
11 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 11:30a-Family Christmas Fellowship 3p-Christmas Carol Festival	12 6p-Cub Scout Pack Holiday Party 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	13 5p-Pickleball 7:15p-Praises Ring	14 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 11:30a-Ladies Guild Meeting 3p-Girl Scout Troop 4613 6p-Midweek Advent worship 7:45p-AA	15 8a-Coffee Shop Open 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	16 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	17 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service 6:30p-Advent by Candlelight
18 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 11:30a-Family Christmas Fellowship	19 7p-Elders Bible Study 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	20 7:15p-Praises Ring	21 9a-Wednesday Bible Study 6m-Midweek Advent Worship 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45pm-AA	22 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	23 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	24 Christmas Eve 9a-Altar Guild Prep 4:30p-Christmas Eve Family Service 6p-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8p-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10p-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 Christmas 10:15a-Christmas Day Worship	26 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	27	28 7:45p-AA	29 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	30 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	31 New Year's Eve 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-New Year's Eve 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 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**

"Family Christmas Fellowship"

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY DURING ADVENT FOR FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP!

11/27 | CHRISTMAS BINGO

12/4 | DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW SCAVENGER HUNT

12/11 | OH CHRISTMAS TREE COOKIE DECORATING

12/18 | JINGLE JANGLE SING ALONG

TIME
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

DONATION
\$5 PER FAMILY, PER WEEK

REGISTER: [FCF.ASLC.CHURCH](https://www.fcf.aslc.church)