



Advent: A Sacred Journey to Christmas

The sacred journey of Advent will reach its culmination as we approach the celebration of Christ's birth. Each week will unveil a divine gift: the burning hope that lights our path, the gentle peace that calms our hearts, the radiant joy that lifts our spirits, and the transformative power of love.

Like candles on our Advent wreath, these gifts illuminate our path to Bethlehem. Hope comes first, reminding us that God's promises never fail – the same hope that sustained generations awaiting the Messiah now sustains us in our daily walk. Peace follows, offering tranquility amid life's storms, just as angels would proclaim "Peace on Earth" on that holy night. Joy bursts forth echoing the shepherds' exultation at the good news of Christ's birth.

Now we contemplate love – that extraordinary force that transforms our hearts, expands our capacity for giving, and deepens our connection to both God and neighbor. Love moves us beyond ourselves, inspiring generosity and selflessness we never thought possible. Yet we face a beautiful paradox: How do we love a God we cannot physically see, hear, or touch?

The answer lies in the perfect example of Jesus Christ. From the moment of His humble birth in Bethlehem to His glorious ascension, Jesus demonstrated an unparalleled love for the Father through complete obedience. Every breath, every word, every action aligned perfectly with God's divine will. The intimacy between Father and Son was so profound that Jesus not only understood God's desires but found pure joy in fulfilling them, as prophesied in Psalm 40:7-8 and lived out in John 6:38.

This Advent season calls us to embrace all these gifts: to live in hope, cultivate peace, radiate joy, and deepen our love. Our journey begins with drawing near to God – through devoted study of His Word, through quiet moments of prayer, through actively listening for His gentle whispers in our hearts. But knowledge alone isn't enough. True faith, as Jesus showed us, must be lived out in faithful action.

Consider the magnitude of God's love for humanity: so vast it prompted the Creator of the universe to send His only Son as a vulnerable infant; so deep it led Christ to sacrifice Himself for our redemption; so endless it continues to pour out upon us day after day. This love stands ready to transform us, to fill every empty space in our hearts, to overflow into our relationships with others.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth, let us marvel at these incomprehensible gifts. God's greatest desire is to lavish His boundless love upon His children, to fill us with unshakeable hope, to grant us perfect peace, and to make

our joy complete. The challenge for us isn't in seeking these gifts – they're already abundantly present. Rather, our call is simply to open our hearts, to receive them fully, and to let them reshape our lives.



Midweek Advent Worship

Midweek Advent Services
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
December 4, 11, 18



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Family Worship
4:00 PM

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

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Worship
10:00 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
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
Linda Bo, 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



Please note, the Church Office will be closed on the following days: December 26, 27, 30 and 31.

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 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.



Christmas is a special time for giving. It also is a joy to receive! Become an angel to a person in need this Christmas. Just stop by our Angel Tree in narthex and pick up a name of someone in our community and help make Christmas a little brighter. If shopping isn't for you, feel free to donate gift cards or checks and we will do the shopping for you!

All unwrapped gifts need to be returned to Abiding Savior by Sunday, December 15.

LWML Mites
Lutheran Women's
Missionary League



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 in the Narthex by both entrances. Place your Mite Box in an obvious place so you can "feed" it. Return your filled Mite Box to the large box in the Narthex 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 Jesus' love here and throughout the world.

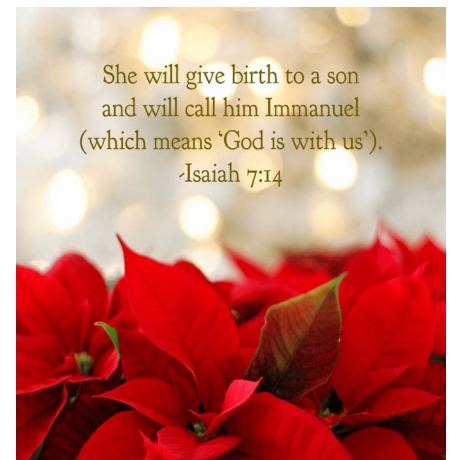
Poinsettias for Christmas Worship



Every year we decorate our sanctuary to celebrate the Christmas Season. Poinsettias are a big part of that decoration and really add to the beauty.

If you would like to help by purchasing a poinsettia, simply place a check specifying "Poinsettias" on the memo line in one of the gray baskets. Each poinsettia is \$10.

You will be able to take the poinsettia home after the 10:15 service on Christmas Day.



She will give birth to a son
and will call him Immanuel
(which means 'God is with us').
-Isaiah 7:14

Flower Calendar



The 2025 Flower Calendar is available if you would like to sign up to provide flowers to beautify the sanctuary. This is a special way to remember a friend, celebrate an anniversary, or special occasion. It is posted next to the current flower calendar.



Saturday, December 15
4:00 PM and 7:30 PM

Celebrate the Christmas season with the voices and instruments of Concordia University Irvine. Concordia's annual Christmas concert tradition returns to the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Concordia's critically acclaimed choirs, handbells, and orchestra celebrate the season of hope and the birth of the world's long-awaited Savior! This year showcases more than 200 performers from eight vocal and instrumental performing ensembles under the masterful direction of Dr. Michael Busch, Dr. Jeff Held, Dr. Clarissa Shan, and Alex Guebert. Enjoy festive carols and Christmas favorites, old and new. Concordia's Christmas concerts are a highlight of the holiday season, so get your tickets today!

Tickets are available for purchase from the Segerstrom Hall Box Office at:

scfta.org/events/2024/concordia-christmas.



Decorate 2025 Rose Parade Floats

Come and join the Petal Pushers® in decorating 2025 Rose Parade Floats. **Everyone 13 and older is WELCOME!**

To register to help decorate the floats, please click on the link below:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation/2/secure/114774748068/false#/invitation>

The theme of the 2025 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade is **Best Day Ever!** and the theme Lutheran Hour Ministries Float is **Behold! Jesus the Savior is Born.**



Volunteers of all skill levels and ages are needed. For those joining us for the very first time or seasoned veterans, there are dozens of jobs to do!

You might ... cut flower petals, glue on dried materials of all shapes and sizes or add the fresh flowers.

BRINGING CHRIST TO THE NATIONS —AND THE NATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Food Pantry Donations Needed

Help us make a difference, donate to our food pantry!

- Applesauce containers
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Instant rice
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Cereal
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta noodles
- Oatmeal
- Cup of Noodles
- Peanut butter
- Strawberry jelly

Donations can be placed in the bins in the church Narthex or brought by the church office during business hours.

Thank you for your continued support!

Free To Grow Ministry Expansion Campaign

Stay informed about our Free To Grow Ministry Expansion Campaign. Our newsletter will provide updates and invite you to join us on this journey of faith and growth. May we see His hand at work in us to bear fruit for those we serve and expand our ministry. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

[Free To Grow Newsletter Vol. 2](#)

Help Abiding Savior be Free to Grow as you grow out of your sneakers! We are collecting new and used sneakers throughout the year to support our Ministry Expansion Campaign. You can click [here](#) for more details.





YOU'RE INVITED!
3rd Annual
CHRISTMAS
Tree Lighting



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
7:00 PM | IN THE COURTYARD

HOT CHOCOLATE & CANDY CANE FOR ALL!
DANCE PERFORMANCE BY SHOWTIME DANCE!
CHEERLEADERS WILL LEAD THE COUNTDOWN!

Let's celebrate together!

Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church

LOVE | SERVE | CONNECT

FAMILY ADVENT
ACTIVITIES



DECEMBER 1ST

DIY Advent
Calendars

DECEMBER 8TH

Ornament
Decorating

DECEMBER 15TH

Cookie
decorating
& Bingo

DECEMBER 22ND

Family
minute-to-win-it
games

EVERY SUNDAY IN THE GYM
FOLLOWING THE 10:15 SERVICE

LUNCH PROVIDED
PHOTO BOOTH

RSVP BY NOV 29TH -->



Join us as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season together! Our Family Advent Activities are designed to bring families closer to Christ and each other through four special Sunday gatherings filled with creativity, fun, and fellowship.

All families are welcome! These activities offer wonderful opportunities to build community, create lasting memories, and celebrate the true meaning of the season together.

If you have any questions, please contact Alexis Upchurch, DCE, at aupchurch@abiding-savior.com.

Join us for one Sunday or all four - each gathering promises to be a special time of fellowship and celebration as we prepare our hearts for Christmas!

4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL FESTIVAL

"Joy and Light"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 3:00PM



Join us for an inspiring afternoon festival filled with the joyous sounds of Christmas music and carol singing. Experience uplifting performances by the Festival Chapel Choir, Orchestra, Soloists, Praises Ring Handbells, Kingdom Ringers Student Handbells, Abiding Praise musicians, and narration.



FREE ADMISSION; OFFERINGS ENCOURAGED AND WILL OFFSET MUSIC EVENT COSTS.

Finding Your Way Home This Holiday Season

As winter's chill settles in and holiday lights begin to twinkle, many of us feel a deep yearning to find our way "home" – not just to a physical place, but to a spiritual destination God has prepared for us. Like the Star of Bethlehem that guided the wise men, God provides beacons of light to direct our paths during this sacred season.

Following Divine Signs

Sometimes we find ourselves wandering through life's challenges, much like the Israelites in the wilderness. Yet God's promise remains steadfast: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

During this holiday season, God may be calling you home through:

- A persistent thought that won't leave your mind
- An unexpected encounter that changes your perspective
- A moment of clarity during prayer
- A burden lifted from your heart
- The gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit

Opening Your Heart to God's Direction

The journey home isn't always about physical movement – it's about spiritual alignment. This season, take time to:

- Quiet your mind in prayer and meditation
- Listen for God's whispers in moments of stillness
- Trust in His timing, even when the path seems unclear
- Embrace the community of believers around you
- Look for divine appointments in daily encounters

Your Personal Journey

Remember that God's plan for each of us is uniquely crafted. Your path home may look different from others', but it is no less sacred. This holiday season, instead of asking "Where am I going?" try asking "Where is God leading me?"

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember that the greatest homecoming story ever told began in a humble manger. Your journey home – whether to renewed faith, deeper purpose, or stronger community – is part of God's perfect plan for your life.

May this season bring you closer to the destination He has prepared for you, and may you find peace in knowing that He guides every step of your way home.



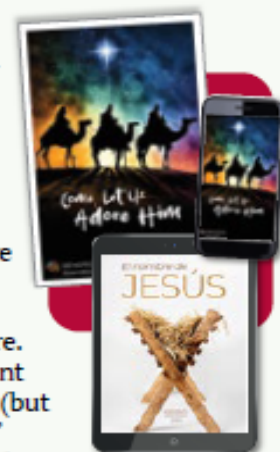
The Christmas message is timeless. Beyond all the seasonal trappings, the Gift of God's Son rises above it all. This year to honor Jesus' birth, LHM's Advent devotions in English and Spanish pay homage to the King of kings. In *Come, Let Us Adore Him*, Dr. Kari Vo takes us through the Christmas narrative, shedding light on God's hand at work in our salvation. In *El nombre de Jesús* ("The Name of Jesus"), multiple authors speak to the One who holds the Name above all names.

Enjoying LHM's seasonal and **Daily Devotions** is easy. "What my family does is set aside a certain time each day to pray and read. It doesn't have to be super-long," Vo says. "Some people, like me, do better with a time later in the day, when they're awake and alert. I have a certain chair where there's a bit of quiet and privacy, and I do my devotional reading and praying there. The rest of my family chooses different places where they feel comfortable (but won't fall asleep or get distracted)."

Advent devotions make wonderful passalongs to those in need of some good news in 2024. You can email a message to a friend, print out a few to pass around at your church or Bible study, or even enclose a favorite in a Christmas card. Perhaps the words from Vo's opening devotion will be what a loved one needs to hear:

"I love how John begins his Gospel—first the great cosmic sweep of "in the beginning," with the One God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who has always been and always will be. This is the God who made heaven and earth, and all things in them, including us. ... Who could ever dream of a God who would give His own life for the people He made, to redeem them from evil? But Jesus did. And then He rose from the dead, never to die again—and He shares that everlasting life with everyone who trusts in Him." Now that is some good news indeed!

The authors for *El nombre de Jesús* are Dr. Héctor Hoppe, Mrs. Abigail Ramirez, Deaconess Erica Dona Jofre, Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez, and Deaconess Perla Rodriguez. Both versions will run from Sunday, December 1, 2024, through Epiphany on Monday, January 6, 2025. You can find them at lhm.org/advent and paraelcamino.com/adviento. ♦





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday in Advent Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture 11:15a-Family Advent Activities	2 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	3 8:30a-Large Print 5p-Pickleball	4 8:30a-Large Print 9a-Bible Study 6p-Jr. High Youth Group 6p-Midweek Advent Grade 1-2 Christmas Program 7p-Christmas Tree Lighting 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	5 8:30a-Large Print 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adult Bible Study	6 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	7 9a-Altar Guild Prep 10a-Sew and Sews 5p-Praise Worship Service 6p-Advent by Candlelight
8 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 11:15a-Family Advent Activities 3p-Christmas Carol Festival 5p-High School Youth Group	9 6p-Cub Scouts 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	10 8:30a-Large Print 5p-Pickleball 6p-Elders Meeting	11 8:30a-Large Print 9a-Bible Study 6p-Jr. High Youth Group 6p-Midweek Advent Grade 3-5 Christmas Program 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	12 8:30a-Large Print 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adult Bible Study 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	13 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	14 9a-Altar Guild 5p-Praise Worship Service 5p-Preschool Christmas Program
15 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture 11:15a-Family Advent Activities	16 8:30a-Large Print 6p-Cub Scouts 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	17 8:30a-Large Print 5p-Pickleball	18 8:30a-Large Print 9a-Bible Study 6p-Jr. High Youth Group 6p-Midweek Advent TK-K Christmas Program 7:30p-Chapel Choir 7:45p-AA	19 8:30a-Large Print 6:30p-Praises Ring 7p-Young Adult Bible Study 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	20 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	21 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
22 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture 11:15a-Family Advent Activities	23 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	24 Christmas Eve 4:00p-Christmas Eve Family Service 6p-Candlelight Service 8p-Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00a-Christmas Day Service 7:45p-AA	26 8:30a-Large Print 7p-Young Adult Bible Study 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	27 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	28 9a-Altar Guild Prep
29 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 10:30a-Praise and Nurture	30 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	31				

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**



 **Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS

Advent by Candlelight

— **THE CHRISTMAS GUEST** —

Join us for an evening of reflection

7 | SATURDAY
AT 6 PM -
DECEMBER 8:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Dinner, Fun, Fellowship, Carols, Games & Devotion

POTLUCK SIGN UP BEGINS OCTOBER 19TH & END NOVEMBER 24TH

Sign up at:
ADVENT.ASLC.CHURCH

Scan me:

