



Letting Your Leaves Fall

Rachel Wojo, Dayspring Magazine

"Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form*

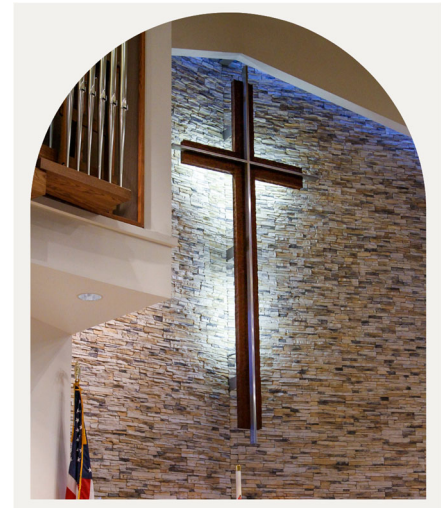
of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- By reading God's Word.
- By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh, how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we're not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV)."

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God."



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

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



 **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-
John Parent, 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 3:30 PM

School Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Preschool Office Hours

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

Visit us at abidingsavior.com

Follow us at:



[abidingsaviorlakeforest](https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlakeforest)

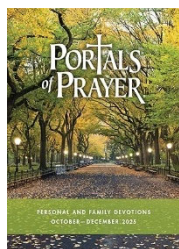


[abidingsavior](https://www.instagram.com/abidingsavior) | [aslc_youth](https://www.instagram.com/aslc_youth)
[aslc_youngadults](https://www.instagram.com/aslc_youngadults) | [aslc_preschool](https://www.instagram.com/aslc_preschool)

Love | Serve | Connect

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 October, November, and December 2025 edition of Portals of Prayer is now available. Pick up your copy at either the desk in the

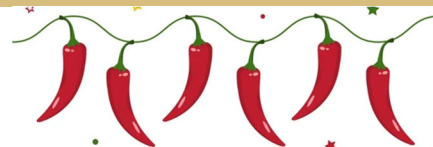
Narthex or in the Gathering Grounds.



Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 12th! Cards are available in the narthex if you would like to write a note to Pastor Lucas. Please leave them in the box and we will present them to him at church.



October is Church Worker Appreciation Month. With this same gratitude, we thank the 14,647 faithful church workers who serve our Synod with the word and mercy of Christ. Throughout October, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.



The Chili Cook Off Winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Chili Cookoff this year. Here are the 2025 winners:

GOLDEN LADDLE

Suzanne Luetjen
"Charlie Brown Chili"

SILVER SPOON

Krystel Georgos
"Black Belt Chili"

BRONZE BOWL

Anne Lange
"Mom's Award Winning Chili"



Veterans Day Video

If you served in the military and have pictures both past and present, we would like to include them in a video we are planning for Veterans' Day. If your picture was in last year's video, there is no need to resubmit it. All new pictures need to be received by Sunday, October 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Beniche at Beniche@abidingsavior.com

- FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH MINISTRY -



Trunk or Treat

It is time to celebrate Trunk or Treat at Abiding Savior. This year we will hold Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25th. We would like you to decorate your car and pass out candy to eager trick-or-treaters. The event runs from 6:00-7:30 pm in our back parking lot this year. Just bring your car and your candy, and come fellowship with all of us. Sign up on the church patio during October so that we can save you a space.

Trivia Night is Back!

Our 4th annual Trivia Night will be back on Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 and go on sale starting on Sunday, October 19th. Tickets will also be available in the church office and the school office during the week. Dinner, silent auction, and trivia...don't miss this great event!



Advent By Candlelight

Mark your calendars for Advent by Candlelight on Saturday, December 6th in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful evening of reflection and fellowship as we prepare for Advent. Contact Janice Trumbauer at krafter@cox.net if you're interested in being a table hostess.



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship

Attention ladies! Join us for our Women's Fellowship Ladies Night Out! We will resume on Monday, October 6, in the Adult Ed Room from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

It's a potluck, so please bring a main dish if your last name starts with A-L, or a salad if your last name starts with M-Z. We will provide drinks and dessert.

Our first evening will feature a fun game of BUNCO. If you're not familiar with how to play, don't worry—we'll teach you!

Ladies Guild Scholarship

Ladies Guild is accepting applications from students studying to enter church careers at LCMS colleges, universities, and seminaries who are members of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. Please 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 is required. Please enclose a recent photo of yourself. The deadline to apply for a Ladies Guild Scholarship is **Sunday, April 5, 2026**.

For any questions, please contact Jeanne Grovom at jeannegrovom@gmail.com



- YOUTH MINISTRY -



Youth Group is Back

Junior High Youth Group is back! We kicked off with an amazing night of worship, games, and teaching — and welcomed 27 students! As the group grows, we're looking for more leaders who are passionate about middle schoolers. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00–7:30 PM — contact Alexis at aupchurch@abidingsavior.com to get involved.

Our high schoolers had a fantastic bowling night on September 7th! Nine students joined us, and it was a lot of fun! We're excited to see what this year holds for high school ministry.



Thank You CU Serves!

Thanks to a great partnership with Concordia Serves, our gym has a new, bright coat of white paint! The transformation is amazing. We're also grateful for our young adult volunteers and school parents, Kim R., who helped make this project a success.

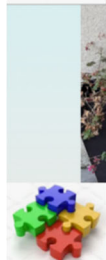
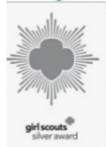
Young Adults – Dutch Blitz, Blizzards, and Brainpower!

Our Young Adults group has been out and about! We had a blast at our annual Dutch Blitz and Blizzards night, which is exactly what it sounds like: a whole lot of fun with the Dutch Blitz card game and plenty of Dairy Queen Blizzards. We also had our first women's young adult fellowship event. We had a wonderful time hanging out at a coffee shop in Orange. The Young Adult group came together for a Trivia Night in Laguna. We may not have won, but we had a great time!



Children's Church

The start of the year in children's church has been so much fun, and it's all thanks to our incredible volunteers! Your service has made these first few weeks a huge success. We're so grateful for your support and are excited to welcome more people to the team. If you're interested in serving with us, please reach out to Alexis Upchurch at aupchurch@abidingsavior.com



PUZZLE EXCHANGE - GS SILVER AWARD PROJECT

The Little Free Library outside ASLS church entrance is back and got a make over. And it comes with a

FREE PUZZLE EXCHANGE!

It works the same way as the library but with PUZZLES!

Take one, Bring one!

Elodie Diamond, Girl Scouts Troop 4613 and 2025 Abiding Savior Graduate, built the puzzle exchange for her Girl Scout Cadette Silver Award. Elodie loves puzzles. She hopes that you enjoy the Puzzle Exchange.

The Puzzle Exchange is registered with The Puzzle Republic (<https://thepuzzlerepublic.com>)

Girls Scouts build courage, confidence, and character.

- SCHOOL MINISTRY -

ASLS Service Projects

This year, Abiding Savior Lutheran School will work together as one body to focus on our "Hearts of Service." The students will focus on one service project each month:

ASLS SERVICE PROJECTS

FALL 2025

SEPTEMBER 	NEGU The Jessie Rees Foundation supports kids with cancer by spreading joy and the message to Never Ever Give Up School Service Project: Compassion Change & care cards
OCTOBER 	THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES Abiding Savior works to collect and provide thanksgiving meals to families in need School Service Project: Classes bring Thanksgiving food items
NOVEMBER 	OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Operation Christmas Child delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need worldwide, sharing joy and God's love School Service Project: fill and bring OCC boxes
DECEMBER 	SPARK OF LOVE Spark of Love collects and distributes holiday toys to children in need School Service Project: Spark of love toy drive

Parent Education Night

GUIDING KIDS TOWARD A HEALTHY IDENTITY

Join us for a powerful Virtual Parent Night with **Dr. Nancy Nguyen** from Concordia University Irvine's Townsend Institute. In a world pulling kids in every direction, Dr. Nguyen will guide parents through the crucial journey of identity formation—equipping you to nurture your child's self-worth, values, and faith from a biblically grounded perspective. Don't miss this opportunity to anchor your parenting in truth and grace.

JOIN US AT 7PM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Guest Speaker
Nancy Hiếu Nguyễn, PhD., LMFT is an assistant professor in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling department at Concordia University Irvine. She researches and teaches about counseling youth and their families. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and has a virtual private practice in Orange County California, that focuses on providing culturally responsive treatment to youth, couples and families.

VIRTUAL EVENT



SCAN TO REGISTER



SEEDS
seedstherapy.org




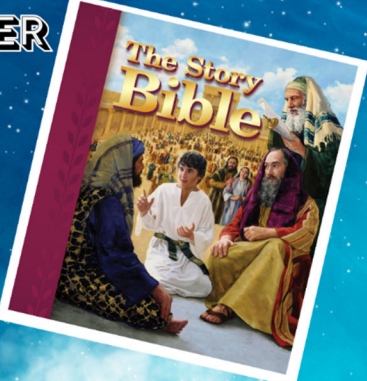

- PRESCHOOL MINISTRY -

"ADOPT" A PRESCHOOLER

Prayerfully consider "adopting" a preschool family starting with purchasing "The Story Bible" for their home for new families and "Little Visits at Bedtime" or "This I Know" for returning families.

Each week the family will receive a newsletter via email letting them know what Bible story we are working on at school and offer extension activities to do at home.

We would ask that you keep this family in your prayers.



- MUSIC MINISTRY -

PERFORM WITH
CHRISTIAN GUEBERT

Director of Music, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church (Lake Forest, CA);
Artistic Director, Velocity Handbell Ensemble (Oakland, CA)

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF HIS OWN INSCRIPTIONS

MAY 9, 2026
STERN AUDITORIUM / PERELMAN STAGE AT
CARNEGIE HALL

WWW.MIDAMERICA-MUSIC.COM

MAP
MIDAMERICA
PRODUCTIONS



Congratulations, Dr. Guebert!

NEXT MAY, DR. GUEBERT WILL PERFORM AT ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS AND PRESTIGIOUS CONCERT VENUES, CARNEGIE HALL IN NEW YORK CITY.

HIS ORIGINAL COMPOSITION, "INSCRIPTIONS," WILL BE PERFORMED BY A FULL CHOIR, A SINFONIETTA, AND A HANDBELL ENSEMBLE.

THIS IS A TREMENDOUS HONOR AND A TESTAMENT TO HIS GOD-GIVEN TALENT AND DEDICATION.

WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD TO HAVE SUCH A GIFTED AND ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN LEADING OUR MUSIC MINISTRIES!

The American Guild of Organists

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church will host the following event of the Orange County Chapter of The American Guild of Organists:

EDUCATION DAY

Saturday, October 11, 2025

- 9:45 am—10:45 am
LAURA PARKER: Alexander Technique - hints on how to avoid painful practice and learn how to build confidence in performance
- 11:00 am—12:30 am
DR. CHRISTOPH BULL: suggestions for works and registering on small organs, plus master class
- 12:30 pm—1:00 pm Lunch is \$10.
- Registration (non-AGO member) \$8 (AGO member free)

Please contact Jennifer Puhl puhls@aol.com with any questions.

The Orange County Chapter of **The American Guild of Organists** Presents

EDUCATION DAY Saturday October 11, 2025

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
23262 El Toro Rd, Lake Forest

9:45 am -10:45 am LAURA PARKER: Alexander Technique -
hints on how to avoid painful practice and learn how to build confidence in performance

11:00 am—12:30 am - CHRISTOPH BULL: suggestions for
works and registering on small organs plus master class

12:30 pm—1:00 pm Lunch \$10 (assorted sandwiches, veggies, chips, cookies)





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 9a- Bible Study 5:30p-Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group	2 7p- Young Adult Bible Study	3 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	4 9a-Altar Guild Prep 10-Altar Guild Meeting 10a-Sew and Sews 5p-Praise Worship Service
5 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 5p- High School Youth Group 5p-Mother Son Event	6 6p-Women's Fellowship 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	7 5p-Pickleball 6p – Elder Meeting 7p- Parent Education Night	8 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 9a- Bible Study 5:30p-Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	9 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	10 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	11 9a-Altar Guild Prep 9a-Flu Shot Clinic 9:45a-American Guild of Organists 5p-Praise Worship Service
12 Pastor Appreciation Sunday Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 10a- Flu Shot Clinic 11:45a-Life Group, Glenn and Debby Amick	13 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	14 5p-Pickleball	15 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 9a- Bible Study 5:30p-Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	16 7p- Young Adult Bible Study 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	17 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	18 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
19 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 5p- High School Youth Group	20 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	21 5p-Pickleball	22 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 9a- Bible Study 5:30p-Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	23 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	24 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	25 9a-Altar Guild Prep 6p- Trunk or Treat
26 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study	27 6p-Bible Study 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	28 5p-Pickleball	29 6p- Jr. High Youth Group	30 7p- Young Adult Bible Study	31	



**Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church**

23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

**Return Service Requested
Time Dated Materials**



**Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church**



Health Ministry

FLU SHOT CLINICS*

**| SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | ADULT ED ROOM**

**| SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM | HEALTH ROOM**

**Ages 9 to 18 require parental presence.*

Senior Dose available.

Shots are free. No insurance info necessary.

