

## Hope for the New Year *Lutheran Hour Ministries*

"This month we enter a new year. As we look ahead to see what the future may bring, the prospects appear like they always do: perplexed and uncertain. Inflation continues to impact our wallets and bank accounts. Questions about energy use and the environment leave us scratching our heads. Things on international fronts cause concern, and the persistence of crime plagues our cities and small towns alike.

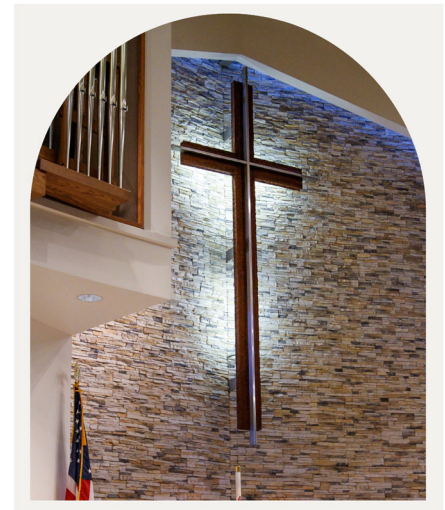
As we look at all these issues, we could feel very hopeless. But God would not have us to feel that way. We need to remember that in spite of our circumstances we have a hope that is great and everlasting. This is because God has sent His Son to live among us. Jesus dwelt in our world with all its heartache and problems, including the one that haunts us all: death.

But the good news is Jesus has overcome the world. His victory over sin, death, and the devil was won for us on the cross. His resurrection from the dead unto eternity is the same resurrection we can know through faith in Him (see Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57). This is the strength we have to face

each day, knowing that Jesus has gone before us. Therefore, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1b-2).

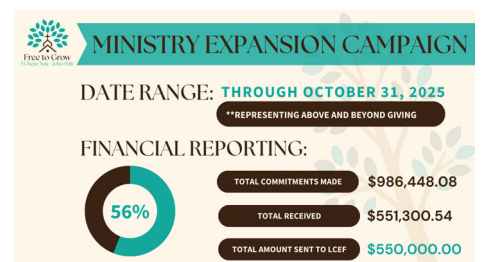
Many were the problems Jesus faced as He trod the heavy road to Calvary. He endured resentment and bitter opposition from the scribes, Pharisees, and religious elders who should have known better. He suffered the daily scorn of those who mocked Him openly and under their breath. And then there was the ultimate humiliation at the hands of lawless men who would do anything to remove Him from the picture by murdering Him. Ironically, in all this, Jesus didn't brush off those who acted with foolishness and hatred. Rather, He understood their predicament clearly and saw them;—*saw us*;—for who we are: "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36b). And He loved us in spite of it all.

Therefore, because Jesus lived among us we have hope for the future. He understands our troubles, worries, weaknesses, and infirmities, and He has overcome them all. Furthermore, He has promised us His caring and sustaining presence in the middle of all the difficulties we may face in this new year."



## 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  
Small Conference Room

 **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  
Emma Teeple, 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 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](http://abidingsavior.com)

Follow us at:



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



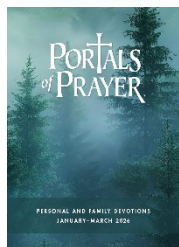
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**CHURCH  
OFFICE  
CLOSED**

Please note, Abiding Savior's Church Office will be closed through January 2<sup>nd</sup> and on January 19<sup>th</sup> (MLK day).

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 January, February, and March 2026 edition of Portals of Prayer is now available. Pick up your copy at either the desk in the Narthex or

in the Gathering Grounds.

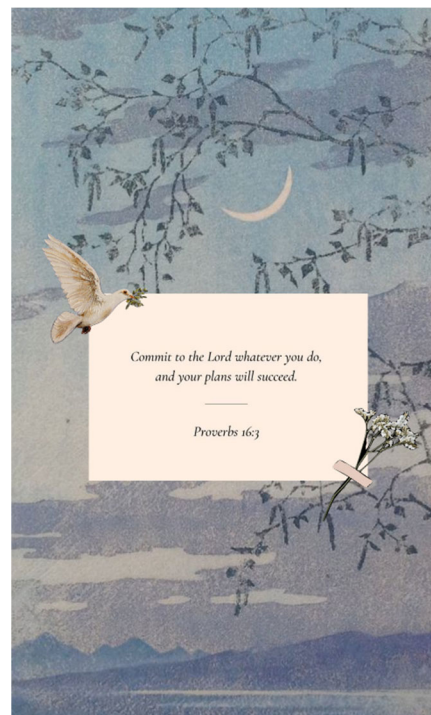


Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends, and congregations.

## Recognition of Elder Jim Ryan



In December, we had the honor of recognizing Elder Jim Ryan for his thirty-seven years of faithful service at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. We offer our deepest gratitude to Jim for his tireless dedication and for always going above and beyond in his care for our congregation. As a true servant-leader, Jim has modeled Christ's love through his ministry, and we remain profoundly grateful for the lasting impact of his work and his heart for the Lord.





# - FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES -

## Soup Donations for January

By: Lori Beniche

South County Outreach has a growing need for soup to help feed the many people in Orange County including families and the elderly. Please bring in canned or packaged soup throughout the month of January to the church.

## Angel Tree

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in Angel Tree. Your generosity was a true blessing, bringing the joy of Christ to AbleLight and many families and children within our community this Christmas. We are so grateful for your spirit of service and the meaningful difference you made.



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. Also, please enclose a recent photo of yourself.

Please contact Jeanne Grovom with any questions at [jeannegrovom@gmail.com](mailto:jeannegrovom@gmail.com). The deadline to apply for a Ladies Guild Scholarship is Sunday, April 5, 2026.

## Soup Donations during January

South County Outreach has a growing need for soup to help feed the many people in Orange County including families and the elderly. Please bring in canned or packaged soup throughout the month of January to the church.



## Ladies Night Out Returns in January!

Join us for our Women's Fellowship Ladies Night Out!

{Monday, January 5}  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
Adult Ed Room

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.

Get ready to play BINGO!  
Bring a friend and enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun.



## - YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES -

### Youth Ministry

By: Alexis Upchurch

'Tis the season for all the wonderful Advent activities that lead us joyfully toward the celebration of the birth of our



Savior, Jesus Christ. This season has been filled with laughter, fellowship, and meaningful moments as we gathered together as a church family.

We kicked things off with our Youth Christmas Party, and what a blast it was! With 32 students in attendance, the room was full of energy and excitement. From classic favorites like Steal the Bow to the hilarious Balloon Snake Relay, the games kept everyone laughing and fully immersed in the Christmas spirit. It was a joyful night of fun, connection, and celebration.



Our Annual Advent Activities following Sunday services were another highlight of the season. The first week brought one of everyone's favorite games... BINGO! There were plenty of winners, fun prizes, and lots of laughter as we enjoyed time together in fellowship.



During the second week, families created 12 Days of Advent Punch Calendars. This special take-home activity was filled not only with treats, but also with daily reflections that helped families focus on the story and significance of Jesus' birth throughout the season.



We wrapped up our Advent celebrations with a Birthday Party for Jesus—woohoo! It was a joyful and meaningful way to honor the true reason for the season and celebrate together as a community.

We are incredibly grateful for our amazing volunteers, youth, and families who make our church such a special place. Thank you for your time, energy, and heart for serving. We pray that you have a blessed Christmas, surrounded by loved ones, and centered on the One who loves us most.



### Upcoming Youth Retreats!

By: Alexis Upchurch

January marks a season of renewed excitement and purpose for our High School and Junior High Ministries as our youth prepare to head off for their winter retreats. Our High School Youth Group will soon journey to Big Bear for the Winter Blast Retreat, where they will enjoy a special time of fellowship alongside seven local Lutheran churches. Later in the month, our Junior High students will gather at Thousand Pines for their own weekend away.

We ask that you keep these young people and our dedicated volunteers in your prayers. May the Lord watch over their travels and open their hearts to be filled with joy, connection, and a deeper understanding of who He has created them to be.



## - MUSIC MINISTRY -

### Christmas Carol Festival

By: Dr. Christian Guebert

The annual Christmas Carol Festival at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church was a joyful afternoon event of congregational carol singing and Christmas and Advent music. Attendees especially enjoy ringing the handbells and handchimes for random ringing sections of the program. This year's theme was *MAGNIFICAT: Magnify His Birth* -- a preparation of our hearts' journeys to the magnified manger, expressed through Mary's song "My soul magnifies the Lord."

We extend our sincere gratitude to the talented participants of the 2025 Christmas Carol Festival. Your contributions made this year's event a remarkable success.



## CONGREGATION MEETING

SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 25

AFTER 10:15 AM  
PRAISE WORSHIP SERVICE



## - SCHOOL MINISTRY -

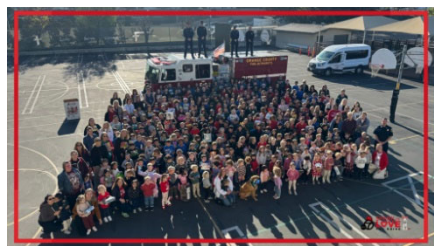


### ASLS Visits Freedom Village

Abiding Savior Lutheran School students in TK and Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, made the trek over to sing for their neighbors at Freedom Village, providing a spirited treat at this special time of the year.

### Spark of Love Service Project

Station 22 firefighters stopped by Abiding Savior in December to pick up toys for Spark of Love! ASLS collected 450 toys! A huge thanks to our generous students - your kindness made the holidays brighter for those in need in our community!



PRESCHOOL (2YO-PK) • ELEMENTARY (TK-6) • JUNIOR HIGH (7 & 8) • INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Join us for our Open House where you will get the opportunity to meet teachers, visit classrooms, and learn about our Christ-centered curriculum and extracurriculars!

**Building Christ-Centered Leaders**

Register to attend at [RSVP.ASLS.SCHOOL](https://RSVP.ASLS.SCHOOL) or scan the QR code.



Enroll by February 16th and receive \$100 off Elementary registration.



Abiding Savior Lutheran School & Preschool



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> New Years Day – Campus Closed	<b>2</b> 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 9:15a – Adult Bible Study	<b>5</b> 8:15a – Church Office Reopens 6p- Women's Fellowship 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>6</b> 6p – Elder Meeting	<b>7</b> 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 5:30p- Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	<b>8</b> 7p- Young Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice	<b>9</b> High School Ministry Retreat 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>10</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>11</b> Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 11:45a-Life Group, Glenn and Debby Amick	<b>12</b> 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 5:30p- Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	<b>15</b> 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice	<b>16</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>17</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>18</b> Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study	<b>19</b> <b>MLK Day – Campus Closed</b> 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 5:30p- Confirmation 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	<b>22</b> 7p- Young Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice	<b>23</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>24</b> 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service
<b>25</b> <b>National Lutheran Schools Week</b> Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 11:15 – Congregation Meeting 5p – High School Ministry	<b>26</b> 6p-Bible Study 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 7:45p-AA	<b>29</b> 6p – Open House 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice	<b>30</b> 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	<b>31</b> Junior High Ministry Retreat 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Praise Worship Service

#### WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SCHEDULE

- In Person Informal Worship | Saturday 5:00 PM | Communion Offered Weekly
- In Person Classic Worship | Sunday 8:00 AM | Communion Offered 1st and 3rd Weeks
- In Person Abiding Praise Worship | Sunday 10:15 AM | Communion Offered 2nd and 4th Weeks
- Live Stream Abiding Praise Worship Via YouTube | Sunday 10:15 AM



**Abiding Savior  
Lutheran Church**

23262 El Toro Road  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

**Return Service Requested  
Time Dated Materials**



**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**

Let's  
Make  
a Joyful  
Noise PSALM 98:4

