



Hot Cross Buns

The Lutheran Witness

One Triduum tradition deserves particular mention: hot cross buns. These rolls originated in the 14th century or earlier, made by Christians for Good Friday. They are much more than just a children’s rhyme: These treats with their crosses confess the center of the Christian faith. Thus, we encourage you to join with the Christians who have gone before us in using even your foods during Lent to reflect the heart of the season: the cross of Christ!

Ingredients:

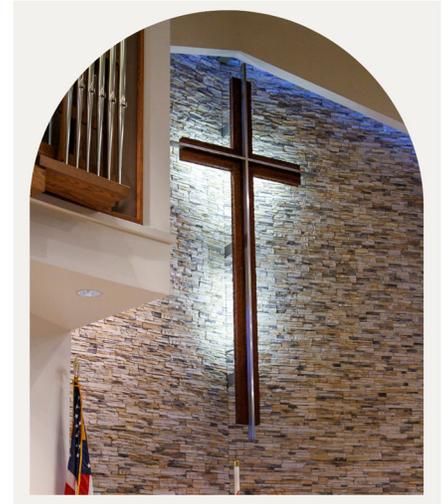
Bun Ingredients

- 1 cup milk, warm
- 2 tsp. instant yeast
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 6 Tbsp. melted butter
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- zest of one orange
- 1 cup raisins
- 3 1/2–4 cups all-purpose flour

- Flour Paste
- 1/3 cup flour
- 2–3 Tbsp. water
- Sugar Glaze
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- Instructions:

Combine the yeast with the warm milk. Add in the sugar, butter, eggs, salt, spices, orange zest and raisins. Begin sifting in the flour and mix until a dough forms. Then add more flour little by little until it is workable without sticking to your hands. Knead for 5 minutes, then cover the dough with a damp towel and allow to rise until doubled. Grease a 9x11-inch dish and divide the dough into 12 pieces. Form each piece into a ball by rolling it toward yourself on the countertop to build tension in the ball. Place each in the dish, cover again, and let them rise until nearly doubled again.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Mix together the flour and water to form a thick paste. Transfer it to a plastic bag, snip the corner off, and pipe a cross design over each bun. Bake at 350°F for 20–30 minutes until the tops are golden brown and the buns are cooked through. Before removing from the oven, microwave equal parts water and sugar for 1–2 minutes until the sugar dissolves in the water. Immediately upon taking the buns out of the oven, pour the sugar water over the buns and allow them to soak up the syrup. Serve and enjoy!



Worship Services

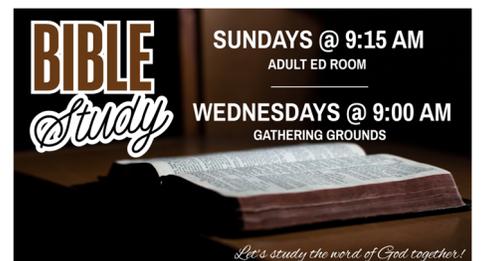
- Saturday 5:00 pm | Informal Worship
- Sunday 8:00 am | Classic Worship
- Sunday 10:15 am | Praise Worship with Children’s Church

Lent



Lent Worship Services

Midweek Wednesdays | 12:30 pm



Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 9:15 am
Adult Education Room

Wednesdays during Lent at 11:00 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 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)



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

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.



New Member Orientation

If you are interested in becoming a member of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, we invite you to an orientation session on Sunday, March 15. We will gather in the Staff Lounge at 11:30 am for a light lunch; childcare will be provided. Please complete this [form](#) to let us know you're coming. We also ask that each adult joining the church complete an [online member application](#). We look forward to seeing you there

Undie Sunday!

This Lenten season we would like to collect new socks and underwear for the Orange County Rescue Mission. Any sizes will be welcome. Their most urgent need now is for women and children.

Please bring in **NEW** packages of socks and underwear to church on Sunday, March 8th as we will collect these items on "Undie Sunday."

Girl Scout Sunday

Undie Sunday is also Girl Scout Sunday! Abiding Savior Girl Scouts will be helping with the service and serving cake on the patio after the 10:15 am service.

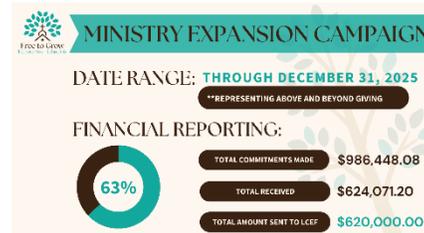


Upcoming Happenings at Abiding Savior

There is a lot coming up at Abiding Savior in the next few months that you may wish to add to your calendar.

- **March 8th** Undie Sunday and Girl Scout Sunday
- **March 29th** Unity Sunday, Palm Sunday Extravaganza
- **April 4th** Easter Egg Hunt
- **April 5th** Easter Sunday
- **April 17th** Abiding Savior Angels Game
- **May 31st** Ministry Fair and Unity Service

You will be hearing a lot more about these events over the next few weeks. So check them out!



Lilies for Easter Worship

Help us decorate our sanctuary! You can reserve a lily for \$12 by placing a check marked "Easter Lily" in any of the gray baskets. Your beautiful plant will be ready for you to take home right after our 10:15 AM service on Easter Sunday.

- FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES -



Take Me Out to the Ballpark!

By: *Lori Beniche*

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 17th and join us for Abiding Savior Night with the Angels. The game begins at 6:30pm against the San Diego Padres. It is also Star Wars weekend so everyone attending will receive a Star Wars Jersey!

Tickets are \$25 and available until Sunday, March 8th. Tickets will be available in church office, the school office and at church on Sundays. Don't miss this opportunity to take your family to the ballpark!



It's VITA Season



Enjoy yourself (it's later than you think) enjoy yourself, while you're still in the pink the years go

by, as quickly as a wink...

Are you of the age that remembers this ditty, which was popular back in the 50's? Not a Christian value, but it certainly applies when it comes to the tax season.

You want to be like the tortoise (in the fable) and finish the race, ie, get your taxes prepared now, and not like the hare who thought there was plenty of time.

Many clients have already had their taxes prepared by your very dedicated IRS-certified VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) team here at ASLC! There are large, new tax deductions—especially for seniors—in the OBBB (One Big Beautiful Bill).

You can be sure that we will include in your return all benefits you are entitled to receive in the "One Big Beautiful Bill!"

And yes, EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit), CAEITC (California Earned Income Tax Credit), and CTC (Child Tax Credit) are available again this tax season, and remember, these are REFUNDS, not deductions, so it is more money for you if you qualify.

Remember this too: We e-file both state and federal returns—absolutely FREE!

REGISTER NOW! Go to the VITA web page on the Church's website: [HTTPS://abidingsavior.com/vita](https://abidingsavior.com/vita) Fill out a form with a few questions, and click "Submit."

You will be emailed the forms required by the IRS; bring the completed forms with you to your appointment, which will be here at church in the adult ed room across the hall from the sanctuary. If you have difficulty registering online you can call the VITA telephone number: 949-830-1001. Hours of Operation are

- Tuesdays, 4:00-6:30 PM
- Saturdays, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Please pick up one of our flyers in the narthex and offer it to someone you know who could greatly benefit from this service.



Women's Fellowship

Join us on Monday, March 2nd, at 6:00 PM for a potluck dinner followed by a special Easter craft! Last names A–L to provide a main dish and M–Z to provide a salad; drinks and dessert will be provided.

If you have dietary restrictions or would rather skip the meal, you are more than welcome to eat beforehand and join us for the craft. Please send your RSVP to Janice at krafter@cox.net by February 28th so we can prepare your materials. We encourage you to bring a friend along for the fun!



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. The deadline to apply for a Ladies Guild Scholarship is Sunday, April 5, 2026.

- FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES -

Wrap-Up Report-2026 Lutheran Hour Ministries Rose Parade Float

By: Nicole Heerlein, External Relations, LHM

January 1, 2026, saw the 137th running of the Tournament of Roses Parade and 75th time the Lutheran Hour Ministries float embarked down Colorado Blvd.

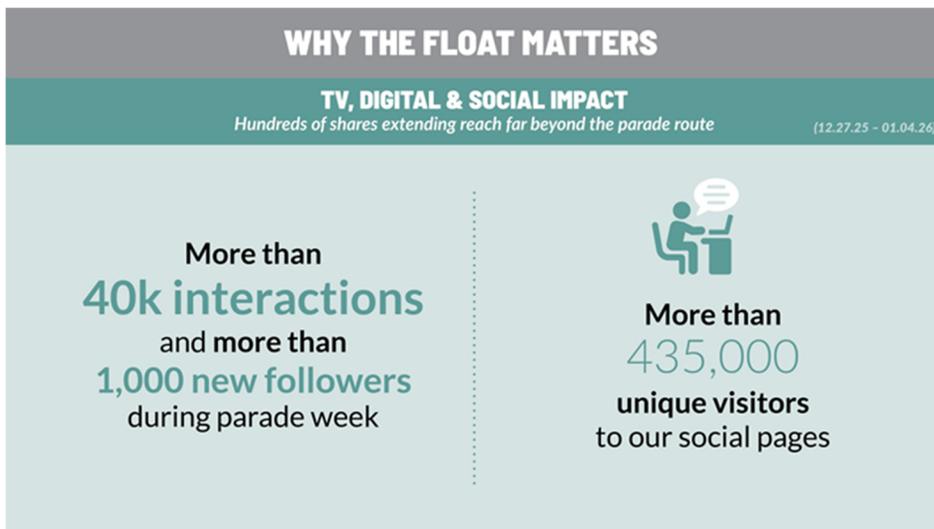
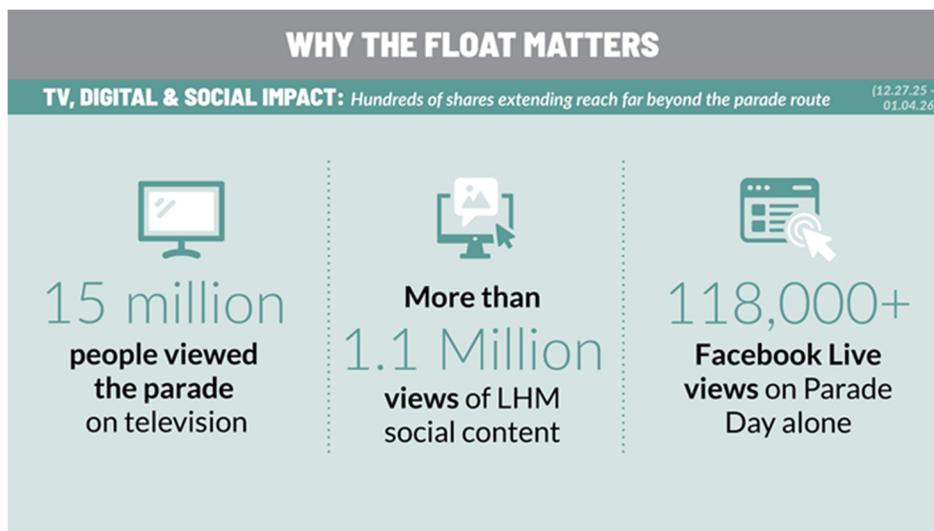
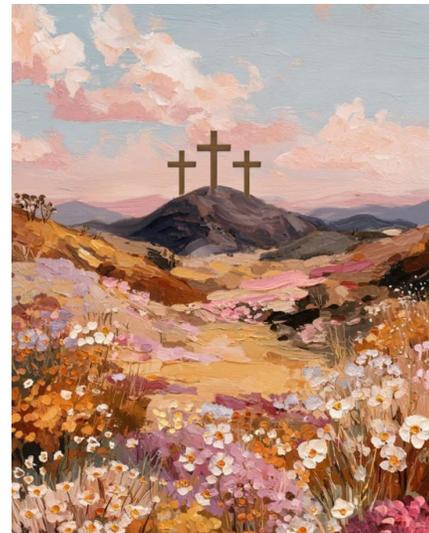
In addition to appearing on television, social media has become the platform in which to "follow along" during decorating week and Parade Day. This diamond anniversary realized extraordinary social media numbers via Lutheran Hour Ministries' Facebook page.

The 15 million number from television viewers is an approximation based on television stations that we know ran coverage of our float. The 1.1 million number is the total number of views of Lutheran Hour Ministries Facebook page posts over the time period of December 27, 2025-January 4, 2026. For comparison, our next highest year of views in the building of this visibility is from the 2025 parade, a year prior. Total views of our Facebook posts was 245K over the week, the highest at that time. The Facebook Live on Parade Day saw 118,000 views on January 1 alone. It surpassed that in the days following.

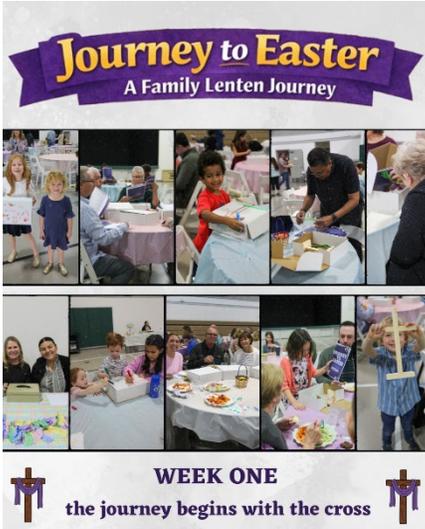
These are the metrics we want to see. The float should be celebrated by LCMS Lutherans as a beacon to the greater Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and knowing Jesus, for all who see and experience it in the parade, on TV, and through Lutheran Hour Ministries' social media platforms.

At the same time, the Lutheran Hour Ministries float is not solely

intended for those who know Jesus. It is for those who have not yet experienced the love of Jesus or have been away from including Jesus in their life. In support of that, a social media comment came on the heels of a commenter who was not thrilled with this year's float (and is in the minority). Another commenter replied, "I'm sure the kids loved this one and if we can get to the kids, maybe they'll bring their parents. To me the float is meant to reach out to those who don't know the Lord."



- YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY -



The Journey to Easter

By: Alexis Upchurch

We have officially launched our Journey to Easter as a church family! More than 75 individuals, couples, and families are participating, and every classroom has received a box to join in as well.

This special take-home experience invites us to reflect more deeply on the moments leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. Together, we are building crosses that tell the powerful story of His sacrifice and the incredible love He demonstrated every step of the way.

On February 22nd, we gathered for our kick-off lunch with over 120 people in attendance. It was a sweet time filled with great food, meaningful conversations, and fellowship around the table. A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers who made this event possible. What a blessing it was to begin this journey together as one church family!



Youth

Our Junior High students had an incredible weekend at Thousand Pines Christian Camp! Through worship, games, and teaching, we focused on an important question: *Who are we following?* Students were challenged and encouraged to continue making Christ the center of their lives.

It wouldn't be camp without some fun and the lip sync battle did not disappoint! They absolutely crushed it. It was refreshing to spend time in the great outdoors, disconnect from distractions, and simply enjoy being together.



Young Adult Ministry

In February, our Young Adults headed up to Big Bear Lake for our winter retreat, where we centered our time around the theme Renewed. Stepping away from everyday responsibilities gave us space to reconnect with God, with one another, and with the beauty of His creation.

With three feet of snow on the ground, plenty of laughter, and meaningful conversations, the weekend was filled with unforgettable memories. We are so grateful for the ways God is continuing to grow and renew this community.



- MUSIC MINISTRY-



Laudamus TOUR 2026

Monday, March 16
7:00 PM
Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church

Admission is free



Concordia
Seminary

Piano / Voice Recital

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
3:00 PM
SANCTUARY
FREE ADMISSION

THE RECITAL WILL SHOWCASE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES OF STUDENTS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF EMILY VALENZUELA AND DR. CHRISTIAN GUEBERT.

Featuring performances of Abiding Savior students:

KARSYN C.
EMMA G.
LILLY G.
EVANGELINE G.
AMELIA H.
HOPE H.
EVIE J.
LILY J.
JOSHUA K.
ADELINE L.
KANO P.
THOMAS S.



Abiding Savior Lutheran School

- SCHOOL MINISTRY-

SAVE THE DATE!
ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL



HOSTED BY PTL:
PARENT MIXER!
SATURDAY, APRIL 25

HOLEY MOLEY
IRVINE SPECTRUM

MINI GOLF • FOOD • DRINKS & SILENT AUCTION

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL PTL PRESENTS

BUBBLE FUN RUN

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF
\$40,000

RAISING FUNDS FOR SHADE AT RECESS

PRIZES

- \$50 - BUBBLE WAND
- \$125 - 3D ANIMAL
- \$250 - THROW & CATCH GAME
- \$500 - BOOK LIGHT
- \$750 - LED DRAWING BOARD
- \$1000 - GRAND PRIZES

ALL PRIZES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

REGISTER

mybooster.com/home/dashboard



REGISTER BY SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH
TO RECEIVE A FREE DRESS PASS!

#ASLSBUBBLERUN26



MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship Schedule- See chart 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 5p- High School Youth Group	2 6p- Women's Fellowship 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	3 4p -VITA	4 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 12:30p-Midweek Lent Service 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	5 7p- Young Adult Bible Study	6 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	7 9a-Altar Guild Prep 9a- VITA 10a-Sew and Sews 5p-Praise Worship Service
8 Undie Sunday Girl Scout Sunday Worship Schedule- See chart 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 11:45a-Life Group, Glenn and Debby Amick	9 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	10 4p -VITA 6p – Elder Meeting	11 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 12:30p-Midweek Lent Service 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	12 7p- Young Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice	13 7p – Concordia Choir Concert 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	14 9a-Altar Guild Prep 9a- VITA 5p-Praise Worship Service
15 Worship Schedule- See chart 9:15a – Adult Bible Study 11:30 New Member Orientation 3p- Voice Piano Recital 5p- High School Youth Group	16 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous 7p – Laudamus Concert	17 4p -VITA	18 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 12:30p-Midweek Lent Service 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	19 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice 7p- Young Adult Bible Study	20 ASLS Fun Run 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	21 9a-Altar Guild Prep 9a- VITA 5p-Praise Worship Service
22 Worship Schedule- See chart 9:15a – Adult Bible Study	23 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	24 4p -VITA	25 8:15a – Parents in Prayer 11a- Bible Study 12:30p – Midweek Lent Service 6p- Jr. High Youth Group 7:45p-AA	26 7:30 p.m.- Abiding Praise Practice	27 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	28 9a-Altar Guild Prep 9a- VITA 5p-Praise Worship Service
29 Palm Sunday 10:15a - Unity Worship Service 1130a- Palm Sunday Extravangza 5p- High School Youth Group	30 7p-Boy Scout Meeting 7:30p-Narcotics Anonymous	31 4p -VITA				

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**

Ash Wednesday & Midweek Lent Services

Ash Wednesday • February 18

- Service - 12:30 PM
- Service - 7:00 PM

Midweek Wednesdays

- Services - 12:30 PM