



Day by Day



Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Once again, the season of Advent and Christmas are upon us. Both seemed to come really fast this year for me. There is so much that needs to be done in these few weeks, I find that it is easy to lose focus. One thing easily overlaps and sometimes even overwhelms the other. I have extra sermons to write, extra services to plan, articles and resources to produce, important meetings with other ministry leaders, and that's just as pastor. Add in the family gatherings, important time spent with Donna, and other opportunities to fellowship with friends and one can see why the holidays are often referred to as "hectic."

During this time of year, all of the doing can interfere with the reason we are doing in the first place, the celebration of Immanuel, God with us. We can lose sight of the love and mercy of God shown in God sending his Son from heaven to earth because earth could never rise to heaven. Immanuel, God with us, is the very thing our broken and sinful world needed then and needs now.

The incarnation of Jesus connects heaven and earth in irrevocable ways. Jesus becoming a part of His own creation bridged heaven and earth and allowed God to work his saving grace in the world to our benefit and eternal life.

As your life gets busy during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I invite you to remember the real focus of these seasons isn't all the doing. It is Immanuel, God with us, in real and saving ways. We have entered into Forty Days of Prayer. These days are a great way to maintain that focus while praying for our church, our school ministry, our youth ministry, our senior ministry, each other, friends, our community and nation. Pray with me Immanuel.

Peace in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Glenn




south county
outreach

Making Christmas Merrier

On Saturday, December 15, we will be providing hot coffee and food to people in our community waiting in line to shop at the South County Outreach Christmas store. We are looking for volunteers that could work anytime between 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to help pass out food and drinks to families as the wait in line.

Please contact Lori Beniche at 949.830.1460 or email lbeniche@abidingsavior.com. Help make the day merrier for your community and we guarantee that you will feel blessed by this experience!



Anticipating and Celebrating the Birth of our Lord

Midweek Advent Worship
at 3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19

Christmas Eve
Christmas FamilyWorship – 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Candlelight Worship – 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Candlelight Worship – 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Communion
Candlelight Worship – 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Christmas Communion Worship – 10:00 a.m.





**ABIDING SAVIOR
Lutheran Church and School**
23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, California 92630
Church 949.830.1460

Church Staff

Reverend Glenn Lucas, Pastor
Kyle Salesky, Youth Director
Chris Vick, IT Specialist
Janet Calhoun, Church Secretary
Robin DeLong-Hanrath, Office Manager
Karen Galas, Accountant
Laura Lyons and Jennifer Kranawetter, Admin Assistants to Pastor
Lori Beniche, Director of Communications
Linda Bo, Editor of Day by Day

Church Officers

Hank Hellfeld, President
Steve Wichmann, Vice President
Erika Volz, Secretary
John Egley, Treasurer
Lynnette Siler, Congregation Liaison

School Staff

School.....949.830.1461
Donna Lucas, School Principal
Yesi Naber, Admissions Director
Keigh Lee Horn, School Secretary
Sharon Fischer, School Secretary
Extended Care.....949.837.4289
Deana Gonzales, Extended Care Director

Preschool Staff

Preschool Center949.837.4292
Pam Howard, Preschool Director

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday | 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

School Office Hours

Monday through Friday | 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

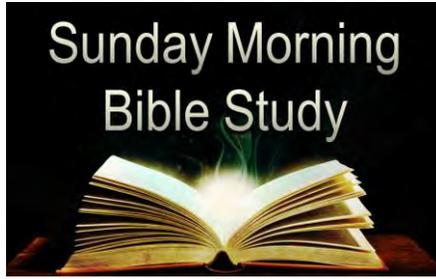
Preschool Office Hours

Monday through Friday | 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit us on our website at
www.abidingsavior.com



[abidingsaviorlakeforest](http://abidingsaviorlakeforest.com)



Sunday Morning Bible Study meets each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the Adult Ed Room. Come and spend some time in the Word of God.



Angus Day Bible Passage

BIBLE PASSAGE — LUKE 2:1-20

— In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him

in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Portals of Prayer



Portals of Prayer is great for personal devotions and can be used to open church meetings or Bible studies. Published quarterly,

authors change each month.

Pick up your copy of Portals of Prayer for October, November, and December months located in the Narthex on the counters next to the mailboxes.



The Ladies Guild Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 7, at noon at the Freedom Village Pavilion Room.

Not many groups can boast of having one of Orange County's best chefs plan our meal, but we can! From start to finish, (that's from salad to dessert) this meal will be nothing like we've had before! And you know the beautiful decorations Freedom Village always supplies.

Soloist Jacob McRee, accompanied by Judy Powell, will entertain us with song, and we'll sing some carols too. The cost is \$22 per person. Please call Jeanne Grovom at 949.413.2936 or email her at jgrovom@cox.net before December 2 to make your reservation for this wonderful holiday event.

Meals & Blessings Christmas Event



The Abiding Savior Meals and Blessings Ministry (M&B) serves the residents and staff of Bethesda homes with a seasonal-themed luncheon and fun activities. Family, friends, and guests are welcome. The next M&B event – Christmas theme with games, singing, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus – will be Sunday, December 9. Set-up begins at 10:00 a.m. with lunch being served about 12:15 p.m.

M&B volunteer and support opportunities include:

- Tables and Chairs Set-Up/Storage Decorating
- Kitchen Assistance
- Craft Preparation
- Activities Assistance
- Meals Service
- Financial Donations or Gifts in Kind

Contact Joni Terens, joni@abt-tax.com or 949.212.1378, to volunteer or for more information.



ASLC Seniors

The Seniors are joining the Ladies Guild for their Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 7 at the Freedom Village Pavilion Room. The cost is

\$22 per person. Please call Jeanne Grovom at 949.413.2936 or email her at jgrovom@cox.net before December 2 to make your reservation for this wonderful holiday event.

Join us in the new year as the ASLC Seniors meet on Thursday, January 3, 2019, in the Adult Education Room. We start with coffee and conversation at 11:30 a.m. and then enjoy a catered lunch. The lunch costs \$9 per person. Please call Vi Flum at 949.859.3512 for reservations. We welcome all ASLC members and friends.



Kyle Salesky, the Director of Family and Youth Ministries, will present information on

our Vacation Bible School at Abiding Savior, and how it has changed and grown during his four years at Abiding Savior. This year, our VBS was filled to capacity within two weeks of registration opening. Come learn more about our VBS and why we are so popular with families in our community, and why kids and parents tell us every year that we are their favorite VBS. What an opportunity to reach out to our community and welcome families to our church!"

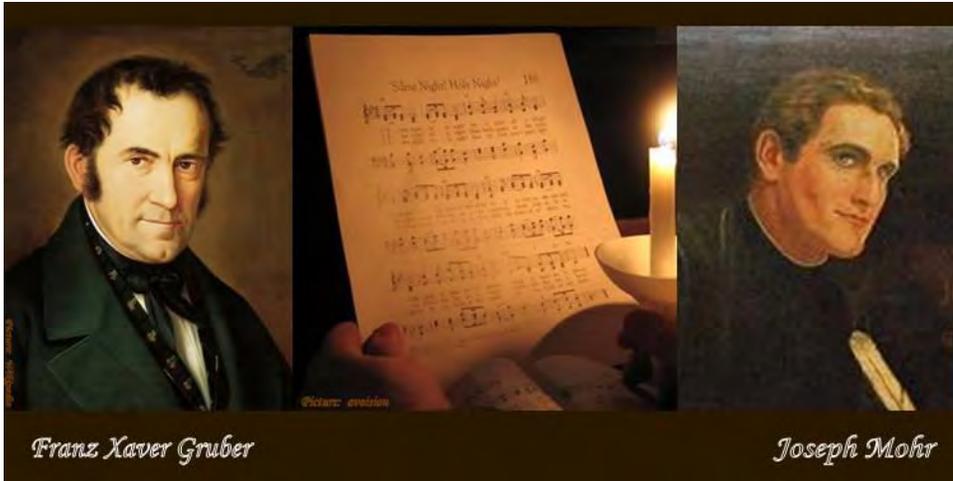


Special Congregational Meeting

The Leadership Board has scheduled a special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to determine how the congregation wants to address the matter of the residence of Pastor and Mrs. Rogers' home in Lake Forest.

Abiding Savior Celebrates the 200th Anniversary of “Silent Night”

Chris Rogers, Choir Director



The classic hymn, “Silent Night” first made its debut on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas chapel in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend states that a poor little church mouse began chewing on the organ bellows of the church rendering it unplayable for the Christmas Eve service. However, this is only legend. The organ was not working properly, so the composers Joseph Mohr and Franz Xaver Gruber decided to premier their new piece with only a guitar accompaniment.

In 1818, Gruber taught in Amsdorf and served as the organist at the parish church in Oberndorf. His friend, Joseph Mohr, the assistant priest at the church, handed Gruber a poem he had written and asked him to set it to music. In a burst of creativity, a melody was composed, and Mohr sang the song in front of the church’s Nativity scene on Christmas Eve in 1818.

When organ builder Carl Mauracher came to repair the defective organ, he learned about the song and became so enchanted with “Silent Night” that he took it to his village some 40 miles away. From there it spread

throughout Austria and Europe by a touring group made up of siblings from the Rainer and Strasser families. The song was first performed in New York City in 1839.

The original text has been translated from the original German into over 140 languages. In 1914, during World War I, the soldiers along the Western Front held a ceasefire in some areas in respect to the Christmas holiday. Members from opposing sides exchanged small gifts and stories, played games, and sang Christmas carols including “Silent Night.”

Today, churches all over the world still celebrate Christmas Eve with the timeless tradition of lighting candles and singing “Silent Night.”

This year **Abiding Savior’s Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m.** will include many arrangements of “Silent Night” using choirs, bells, band, and congregational singing.

Please come and join us as we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of “Silent Night!”

CHURCH DOCTOR
MINISTRIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Please join ASLC Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (come early and enjoy breakfast with us at 8:00 a.m.) as we present the **BREAKTHROUGH READINESS REPORT**. Church Doctor Ministries believe the American church has drifted from where God intends it to be and believe a revival is on the horizon. We also know that not every church is “ready” to be a part of this movement. The purpose of this event is to review results from the recent surveys about the readiness of your church to be a part of this movement. This event is open to anyone who would like to hear the results of that specific survey and hear about the movement Church Doctor Ministries believes God is blessing.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Please join us on Sunday, December 2 at 12:30 p.m. as Church Doctor Ministries reports on the culmination of all questionnaires, interviews and observations of Abiding Savior over the last several weeks.

WE ARE THE REMEDY JOIN US FOR LUNCH

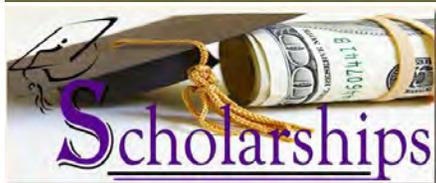
You’ll want to be a part of the remedy by attending this major presentation from our personal church doctor, Alan Chandler on Sunday, December 2. A meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. followed by Dr. Chandler’s presentation and question & answer session.

These Godly benefits will be provided by Church Doctor Ministries and ASLC will provide your lunch and your only co-pay is dessert, so please bring a dessert to share. We’ve completed questionnaires, been interviewed and observed over the last few weeks to bring this all together. You won’t want to miss this!!

ASLC Night at the Theater



Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 21st and join us to see Disney's ALADDIN at the Segerstrom Center in Costa Mesa. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Balcony tickets are just \$25! Rear Orchestra can be purchased for \$45. Tickets are limited and need to be purchased by December 16th. Ticket forms are in the church bulletin or can be picked up in the church and school offices. Don't miss this wonderful Broadway show. These tickets will make someone very happy at Christmas!



The Ladies Guild Scholarship will again be offered for school year 2019-2020. Thanks to the November Boutique for providing money to supplement the scholarship fund. Students who will be studying to enter church careers at LCMS colleges, universities and seminaries and are members of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church are encouraged to apply.

Applications are available in the church office. **The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 3, 2019.**



Abiding Savior is hosting a Wine & Paint Nite on Friday, December 7 to benefit the HSM trip to the LCMS Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this July. Tickets are \$45 and include admission to the event, in our gym, your canvas, paint, and all supplies, as well as instruction by an artist who will teach us to paint a beautiful “beach moonlight” painting. You may feel free to bring your own bottle of wine to sip while you work on your painting and mingle with others. We will provide light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as corkage and glasses for your wine. Only a limited number of tickets are available, so buy them now! Tickets must be purchased at abidingsavior.com/church/wineandpaint or by scanning the QR code below:



Poinsettias



We will have Poinsettias to grace our Sanctuary this Christmas Season. You may purchase

your plant(s) simply place a check in the offering plate specifying, “Poinsettias.” Each plant is \$10. You may pick up your plant after the Christmas Day service.



The 2019 Lutheran Hour Ministries Tournament of Roses Parade float is entitled: ***Joy to the World the Lord is Come!*** This is the message, which the float will be privileged to proclaim to an untold number of persons. It's a project of the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, with the mission to provide a Christian witness and the message of hope in Jesus Christ to the unchurched, who view the float in person or through other media.

Petal Pushers® will decorate Rose Parade floats at the PHOENIX DECORATING COMPANY, 5400 Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, California, 91706.

Adults as well as youth of all skill levels are needed. Detail decorating begins on the 4 Saturdays in December – December 1, 8, 15 and 22. Decorating week is December 26 to 31.

You may register on-line here: <https://volunteer.petalpushers.org/>. Shortly after registration, you will receive a confirmation. Go to: <https://www.petalpushers.org/confirmation.php> to learn what to do before coming.



Elementary School

Donna Lucas,
School Principal



GOD WITH US

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23

This is one of my most favorite Christmas passages. I love the name Immanuel and what it means, God with us. When Jesus came into this world as a baby, it was the greatest evidence of God being with us.

The world throws so many expectations at us during the Christmas season. We have the expectation to have the best Pinterest decorations, the best tree with lots of presents, family gatherings that look like Norman Rockwell paintings and baking dozens of Christmas cookies that create the most awesome aromas. So, what do we do when these Christmas expectations let us down and don't measure up? Our budgets don't support all the latest and greatest toys and presents. We don't have time to decorate our homes to make the next issue of Home and Gardens. Our families fight and don't get along, and don't look anything like that beautiful portrait that hangs on the wall. Children get over tired and over stimulated and melt down. Where does our Christmas love, joy, and peace come from?

The things of this world and human relationships let us down, but Jesus and all His promises are always with us. When our houses are a mess, Immanuel. When Christmas shopping becomes stressful, Immanuel. When family relationships let us down, Immanuel. When the Christmas to do

list gets overwhelming, Immanuel. When our children throw temper tantrums, Immanuel. When ministry stresses overwhelm, Immanuel. When a health crisis attacks us, Immanuel.

Immanuel brings joy, hope, love and peace. He brings forgiveness when we forget the real meaning of Christmas. He brings forgiveness for broken relationships. Immanuel—God with Us!

Prayer: Dear Father, thank you for sending Immanuel into the world to bring forgiveness, hope, joy and peace. During this Advent and Christmas season help us remember Immanuel – God with us. As your servants in ministry, guide us and direct us as we share the message of Immanuel with a world that so desperately needs to hear the message of love, joy, hope, and peace. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

During this Christmas season, please remember the Scholarship Fund in your year-end giving. The Scholarship Fund makes it possible for us to help our families afford a Christian education. Through our school we have had the opportunity to touch and change lives with the Gospel message.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thank you to all who sent in Operation Christmas Child boxes!

Preschool

Pam Howard
Preschool Director



We have an exciting month with many activities planned as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The most exciting one is we are celebrating Jesus' birthday in our classrooms. Our Christmas services are Thursday, December 20, at 11:00 a.m. and Friday, December 21, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as the Preschoolers along with the Junior Kindergarteners and the Kindergarteners tell the story of Jesus' birth. The preschool will be closed from December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019 for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Happy Birthday Jesus!!



We are changing the timing of our Sunday School to better accommodate families who want their children to attend Sunday School but find that the hour before or after church and church make the day too long for their children.

Beginning on Sunday, December 2, we will offer Children's Church during the 10:15 a.m. service after the Children's Message. Children will be dismissed to go to an age appropriate gathering and lesson.



December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8a-AI Anon Parent Focused 9a-Altar Guild Prep 9a-Church Doctor 5p-Contemporary Worship Service
2 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 12p-Church Doctor Lunch & Meeting 5p-Youth Group	3 8:30a-Large Print Center	4 8a-Church Doctor Meeting 8:30a-Large Print Center 7p-Praises Ring	5 9:30a-Sr Bible Study 10:30a-Tai Chi 3:30p-Midweek Advent Service 7p-Midweek Advent Service/Grade 1-3 Program 7p-Youth Group	6 3:15p-Kingdom Kids 7:15p-Chapel Choir 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	7 Noon – Ladies Guild Christmas Lunch 7p-Paint Nite	8 8a-AI Anon Parent Focused 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Contemporary Worship Service
9 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 12p-Meals and Blessings 3p-Meister Singers Christmas Concert 5p-Youth Group	10	11 8:30a-Large Print Center 4:30p-Crean Lutheran Dinner Hour 7p-Praises Ring	12 9:30a-Sr Bible Study 10:30a-Tai Chi 3p-Girl Scout Troop 3123 3:30p-Midweek Advent Service 7p-Midweek Advent Service/Grade 4-6 Program 7p-Youth Group	13 3:15p-Kingdom Kids 6p-Elder's Meeting 7:15p-Chapel Choir 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	14 7p-Crean Lutheran Christmas Concert	15 8a-Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Contemporary Worship Service
16 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 3p-Christmas Concert 5p-Youth Group	17 8:30a-Large Print Center 6:30p-Cub Scout Pack 321	18 8:30a-Large Print Center 6p-Leadership Board Meeting 7p-Praises Ring	19 9:30a-Sr Bible Study 10:30a-Tai Chi 3:30p-Midweek Advent Service 7p-Midweek Advent Service 7p-Youth Group	20 11a-Preschool – JK-K Christmas Service 3:15p-Kingdom Kids 7:15p-Chapel Choir 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	21 9a-Preschool – JK-K Christmas Service	22 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Contemporary Worship Service
23 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 5p-Youth Group	24 Christmas Eve 4:30p-Family Service 6p-Candlelight Service 8p-Candlelight Service 10p-Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10a-Worship Service	26	27 7:30p-Abiding Praise Practice	28	29 8a-AI Anon Parent Focused 9a-Altar Guild Prep 5p-Contemporary Worship Service
Church and School offices closed December 24 through January 1						
30 Worship Schedule- See chart at bottom of Calendar 5p-Youth Group	31 New Year's Eve 5p-Worship Service	<p><i>May the peace and hope of Christ's birth be with you now and in the days ahead...</i></p>				

WORSHIP | COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Traditional - Sunday 8:00 AM

Contemporary - Saturday 5:00 PM | Contemporary Blended Praise - Sunday 10:15 AM

Growing Disciples Studies & Activities - 9:15 AM

Communion Offered 1st and 3rd Weeks

Communion Offered 2nd and 4th Weeks



Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church and School
23262 El Toro Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Materials



Our Angel Tree is in the narthex. Please stop by and pick up a name of someone in our community and help make Christmas a little brighter. We are also providing gifts for our members at the Bethesda homes. If shopping isn't for you, feel free to donate gift cards or checks and we will do the shopping for you!



The Abiding Savior will be holding their 17th annual crèche exhibit before and after the Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 16**, in the adult education room. If you have a nativity display that we may include in our crèche exhibit, we want to hear from you. New, old, large, small, from anywhere in the world, we want to include them all. Please email Lori Beniche at LBeniche@abidingsavior.com for more information.