

The Tie That Binds

Abiding Love Lutheran Church



7210 Brush Country Road
Austin, Texas 78749
512.892.4040



Holy Communion will be served at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, January 11th, and at both Worship Services on Sunday, January 18th.



The Financial Peace University class by Dave Ramsey now has enrolled 41 people, 23 households. There is still time to join if you do it by Sunday! Contact Philip Drake, 731-5706, or philip.drake@gmail.com for help. You can also join and purchase your kit at <http://www.DaveRamsey.com>

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year

Love Letter No. 1217

January 7, 2009



Abiding Love Lutheran Church

Sr. Pastor: M. David Fetter, Jr.
(Office: 892-4040/Home: 892-3925)
(Office hours: T, W, TH, F—10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)
E-mail: dfetter@austin.rr.com

Associate Pastor: Lynnae Sorensen
(Office: 892-4040/Home: 899-2870)
E-mail: lsorensen@austin.rr.com

President: Diane Albin
(Home: 301-9059)
E-mail: Diane_Albin@gwot.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:30 a.m. - **WORSHIP** (Sanctuary)
8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — **NURSERY** (3 years & under)
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.—**Coffee/Fellowship** (Reception Area)
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.—**SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Opening in the Sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. — all ages
2 & 3 Years Old — 2nd Story, Room 207
Pre-K— Nursery in Worship Center
Kindergarten & 1st Grade — 2nd Story, Room 205
2nd & 3rd Grade — 2nd Story, Room 206
4th & 5th Grade — 2nd Story, Room 202
Middle School— 2nd Story, M.S. Youth Room 204
Sr. High — 2nd Story, Sr. High Youth Room 203
Adult "Bible Boosters" — Classroom 1&2 (Worship Ctr.)
Adult "Book of Faith Study" — Activity Center
11:00 a.m.—**WORSHIP** (Sanctuary)

† † †

STAFF:

Office Administrator: Cindy Kunz
(Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.)
Phone: 892-4040
E-mail: abidinglove@austin.rr.com
Fax: 892-4456

Business Assistant: Joan Hokanson
E-mail: jhokanson@austin.rr.com

Music Director: Karron Lewis

Pianist: Dona Brooks

Assistant Pianist: Laurie Donovan

Nursery Supervisor: Sherry Petriella

Webmaster: Tom Hokanson
E-mail: thokanson@sbcglobal.net

Abiding Love Lutheran Church web site address:
www.abidinglove.org

Children's Center Director: Donna Easty
(Center Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
Phone: 892-2777

Our Children's Center web site address:
www.main.org/allcdc

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The Tie That Binds



A New Year's Resolution



Dear Friends in Christ,

On New Year's Day I was reading in my Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide. The meditation was titled "Finding Time" and was written by Jennifer Bruner, an elementary school special education teacher in Michigan:

"One day while sitting in my dentist's waiting room, I looked around for something to read to pass the time. As I started to grab a magazine, I noticed a Bible sitting next to the stack. I picked it up and opened to the Book of James. I immediately felt the stress and tensions of my day lift as I read:

'My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.'

It is a daily challenge to find time to read the Bible and pray. Yet I spend much leisure time reading books or magazines that promise to help me find happiness and improve my life. From this waiting-room experience, I realized that maybe it does not have to be so hard to find time to read the Bible. If I spend less time on other reading material, I find plenty of time in the day for God's word. The Bible is filled with all the information I need for improving my life and finding not temporary but eternal happiness. Living by its guidance will improve my earthly life and prepare me for eternal life in heaven. My goal is to read the Bible and seek God with all of my heart and with as much passion as I pursue other things in my life."

In 2007 the churchwide assembly of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) voted to embrace an initiative called Book of Faith. The bold vision of this five-year initiative is: "That the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word."

I propose that you and I make this vision a "New Year's Resolution for 2009". Pastor Lynnae has been leading a Sunday School Class (9:45-10:45 a.m.) in the Activity Center based on the book, Opening the Book of Faith. There are other opportunities at Abiding Love for you to join with others in conversation as you open the Scriptures together.

The Bible is the written and living Word of God that speaks to us. It creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Jesus, the center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us new life in Christ. As the Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries, this forms us as God's people of faith. As we live out our calling as the people of God, we are renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit!

No other book can do what the Bible does for our lives. It is a powerful book. As Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Mark 13:31)

May you have a "Bible-Blessed Happy New Year"!

—Pastor David Fetter

Personal finance problems are the number one cause of stress in the workplace. Attend **Financial Peace University** beginning Jan. 18, 6:00-8:15 PM /Activity Center.

Journal Writing



From Pastor Lynnae

Spiritual Tool Box

This month for our "Spiritual Tool Box" we take a look at *journal writing*. Keeping a written record of your spiritual thoughts can help you to enter into a more disciplined approach to your Bible study, prayer life and meditation. It doesn't really have to be like the old horror days of the teenage diaries! Instead, you can have a notebook where you write down what you are praying for, what you are reading and what stands out in that reading, or maybe what you are learning and giving thanks for. This can be a wonderful expression of your life that you can save and review for years to come.

Some people keep a "Go to Hell Journal" (I know pastors shouldn't say that!, but it is an honest feeling that real people have and despite what others say, Pastors are real people too!). This kind of journal can be used as a way of working on anger management and personal development. First you write down

*What happened, then

*How you felt (physically and emotionally), and finally

*Evaluate who you were really mad at.

I've found that I'm usually really mad at myself. After a while you start to recognize the 'triggers' that can set you off and you can learn to stop the reaction.

This year, try keeping a spiritual journal. You don't have to commit to a year, maybe just a month and see how it goes.

Writing is healing!

2009 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Installed on Sunday, January 4th at both worship services.

- PRESIDENT: Diane Albin
- *VICE-PRESIDENT: Joel Lehman
- *SECRETARY: Barbara Tiedt
- *TREASURER: Jeri Lyn Sump
- *WORSHIP LIFE & RELATED MINISTRIES BD. DIR.: Jill Feary
- *STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE BOARD DIRECTOR: Bill Nicholson
- *CHURCH PROPERTIES BOARD DIRECTOR: Paul Atkinson
- *CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD DIRECTOR: Denise Tharp
- MEMBERSHIP CARE BOARD DIRECTOR: Margaret Dove
- YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BD. DIR.: Marian Hollien
- EVANGELISM & OUTREACH BOARD DIRECTOR: Steve Kikta
- CHRISTIAN SERVICE BOARD DIRECTOR: Tom Hokanson
- *PARISH FELLOWSHIP BOARD DIRECTOR: Shirley Lifsey
- *CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES BD DIR.: Laurie Donovan

[* New]

OUTGOING CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Recognized on Sunday, January 4th, at both worship services.

- Bob Thonhoff Vice-President
- Karan Heidemann Secretary
- Sheila Koehler Treasurer
- J.D. Bostick Worship Life & Related Min. Bd. Dir.
- Erv Merz Stewardship & Finance Board Director
- Pat Dove Church Properties Board Director
- Tammy Santos Christian Education Board Director
- Dolly Atkinson Parish Fellowship Board Director
- Mary Fetter Children's Outreach Ministries Board Dir.

"Well done good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21)!

..PEOPLE.....PEOPLE.....PEOPLE..



HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL: Johnnie Strickland

HOME FROM DAY SURGERY: Pat Hohertz

DEATHS: Tom Thomas, husband of Sammie Thomas, father of Michael & Matthew
Chris Christianson (age 102), uncle of Sherri Karley
Theo Lindig, uncle of Joan Hokanson

PRAYER-REQUESTS:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ** Craig Hohertz | ** Ann & Charlie Lunday |
| ** Marilyn Segner | ** Kris Griffin |
| ** Kay Nicholson | ** Harley Fetterman |
| ** Sherry Abrahamson | ** Taylor Lunday |
| ** Travis Koehler | ** Blake Johnson |
| ** Marcy Cornell | ** Ande Brophy |
| ** B.L. Parker | ** Amber Karley |
| ** Alan Matejowsky | ** Edna Graeber |
| ** Brooks Frederick | ** Meagan Prehn |
| ** R.H. Heidemeyer | ** Christian-Charles de Plicque |
- ** Ty Roehfanz (19 month old grandson of Joel & Audrey Lehman)
 ** Harlan Luedecke (Pete's brother)
 ** Susie Brown (Dale Sump's neice)
 ** Charles Donovan (Laurie Donovan's father)
 ** Amberlyn Fett (friend of Amber Karley)
 ** Jody Lindig (Joan Hokanson's sister-in-law)
 ** Megan Hulsey (Joan Hokanson's great-niece)
 ** Edna Behrens (Craig Hohertz's great aunt)
 ** The family & friends of Pastor Al Cope at his death.
 ** Gertrude Eschberger (Betty Matejowsky's mother)
 ** Dorothy McNorton (friend of the Kiktas)
 ** Floyd Vowell (Donald's father)
 ** Dorothy Eckert (Tricia Slovacek's mother)
 ** Erline Sommerfeld (Karan Heidemann's mother)
 ** Dana Ehlinger (Peggy Suggs' sister)
 ** Judy Kelley (Joyce Kuntschik's daughter)
 ** Seth Burnett (Ann Willman's grandson)
 ** Leah, David & Baby Boy Wood
 ** Joan Curry (Jodie Roberts' grandmother)
 ** Jim West (Mary Fetter's nephew)
 ** Kenneth & Dorothy Almquist (Diane Albin's parents)
 ** Harold & Dorothy Albin (Ken's parents)
 ** Denise Verquez (Tracy Yetter's sister)
 ** Caed Hollingsworth (B.L. & Marcie Parker's great-great nephew)
 ** David Cosner (friend of the Kikta, Ayoub & Tharp families)
 ** Walt Fuchs (Kenneth's brother)
 ** Dawn Hudgens (Erv & Barb Merz's daughter)

Prayers of safety for the following:

- ** Sgt. Christy Kikta & daughter, Zoe, with the U.S. Army
- ** Cpl Matt Hohertz with the Marines at Camp Lejuene, NC
- ** 2nd Lt. Melanie Meier with the Air Force
- ** MSgt Michael Eichler with the Air Force
- ** Chris Glaser serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army
- ** Bruce Dumler, who will be working in Kuwait for a year (Hazeldean's son)
- ** For all those in the military services overseas.



Vance Andrew Leoni was baptized on Sunday, Dec. 28th at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Parents are Michael & Holly Leoni; and sister, Katherine Leoni. Grandparents: Ron & Rose Leoni; Pastor David & Mary Fetter. Sponsors: Rhonda Ivers; Alex & Jamie Villalobos. *"We celebrate with Vance at his baptism!"*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

- Jan. 11—Janice Duncan, Jonathan Jones
- Jan. 12—Erik Atwell, Mason Tate
- Jan. 14—Jason Ford, Beth Freeborn
- Jan. 16—Hal Schultz
- Jan. 18—Macey Roberts
- Jan. 22—Kaleb Haverlah
- Jan. 23—Pat Hohertz, Michael Leoni
- Jan. 24—Dana Hollien, Kristin Marak, Pastor Lynnae Sorensen, Kimberlee Sump



Annual Garage Sale



Mark your calendars and start saving goods for the annual garage sale on April 4. This year the sale will be a joint project of WELCA and the youth groups. Watch the newsletter for more information.

Lutheran World Relief Projects

The Abiding Love Quilters met Tuesday, Jan. 6 to work on LWR quilts. Next month we will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 3, Even if you cannot sew, but you can use scissors or an iron, we need your help: please join us. **If you cannot come, but would like us to make up a kit of squares to sew together to make a quilt top, please contact Diane McGowan, 892-4416.**

Our Faith and the Poverty Issue

Saturday, January 17, 2009

9:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
200 West Anderson Lane, Austin

Fee: \$25.00 (includes lunch)

See bulletin board in Church Office hallway for registration forms.

You are invited to an evening with **Walter Wangerin Jr.**, noted author and speaker. He will share perspectives on life and theology in a **free public lecture:**

Wednesday, January 21, 7 p.m.

Texas Lutheran University

Jackson Auditorium

For more information: 830.372.8020 or www.tlu.edu

Association of Lutheran Older Adults is sponsoring:

Senior Fest 2009

February 7, 2009

Christ Lutheran Church

510 Luther Drive

Georgetown, Texas 78628

Keynote speaker: Dr. Paul Maier, Professor of Ancient History, Western Michigan University

Theme: Christianity: The First Three Centuries—Exploring the parallels between the early Christian church and today's world. Workshops too!

Mark you calendar!

Congratulations to our College Graduates!

Kristin Alaimo graduated from The University of Texas Austin on Sat., December 6, 2008, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Textiles & Apparels, Retail Merchandising. Kristin is the daughter of Denise Alaimo and the late Brian Alaimo. *"Congratulations, Kristin! We are proud of you!"*

Sarah Prehn graduated from Texas A&M University College Station on Friday, December 12th, with a Bachelor of Science Agricultural Economics. Sarah is the daughter of Karen & Trey Huddleston and Mike Prehn. *"Congratulations, Sarah! We are proud of you!"*



**BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY 11TH:
"Baptism of Our Lord"**

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

**BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY 18TH:
"Second Sunday after Epiphany"**



Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

♥ MEMORIALS:

Debt Fund

For Tom Thomas by Annette Smith & Family.
For Elmo Bohmann by Annette Smith.

Food Pantry

For Tom Thomas by Patricia Hohertz.

General Fund

For Tom Thomas by Tom & Joan Hokanson, Bob & Kim Thonhoff.
For Elmo Bohmann by Joel & Audrey Lehman, Bob & Kim Thonhoff.
For Rex Medcalf by Joel & Audrey Lehman, Bill & Nan Hatcher,
Ron & Cindy Kunz.

Gifts & Memorials

For C.P. & Margaret Sanders by Kay Martin.
For Royce G. Pritsch by Paul, Amelia & Jonathan Mettke.
For Elmo Bohmann by Lee & Georgia Wood.
For Y.F. Miller by Mike & Liz Miller.
For Rex Medcalf by Col. & Mrs C. B. Slaughter, Kathy Eckstein, Arlon
& Marilyn Bindseil.

Good Samaritan

For Theo Lindig by Tom & Joan Hokanson.
For Tom Thomas by Bill & Di Brophy, Patricia Hohertz.
For Rex Medcalf by Tom & Joan Hokanson.

Music Cabinets

For Shawn Arrington by J.D. & Karron Lewis.
For Harvey Eckhardt by J.D. & Karron Lewis.
For Joe Rymal by J.D. & Karron Lewis.
For Audrey Boezinger by J.D. & Karron Lewis.

♥ SPECIAL GIFT:

Food Pantry

In honor of Erika Shane for her Christmas kindness by Rosa Hatfield.

*** † * STATISTICS * † ***

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST:

Worship - 74 (8:30) + 265 (11:00) = 339 (Total)
Sunday School - 95
*Offerings - \$10,458.00 (Current) + \$455.00 (Debt Fund) +
*Other Offerings - \$170.00 (Gifts & Memorials) +
\$75.00 (Capital Improvements) +
\$30.00 (Food Pantry) +
\$5.00 (Kairos) +
\$2,325.00 (Staff Christmas) +
\$50.00 (Good Samaritan Fund)
\$65.00 (Amber's Angels)

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH:

Worship - 186 (6:00) + 181 (11:00) = 367 (Total)
*Offerings - \$4385.20 (Current) + \$50.00 (Debt Fund) +
*Other Offerings - \$20.00 (Gifts & Memorials)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH:

Worship - 48 (8:30) + 93 (11:00) = 141 (Total)
No Sunday School
*Offerings - \$15,766.75 (Current) + \$730.00 (Debt Fund) +
*Other Offerings - \$40.00 (Food Pantry) +
\$5.00 (Kairos) +
\$210.00 (Staff Christmas)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH:

Worship - 82 (8:30) + 119 (11:00) = 201 (Total)
Sunday School - 83
*Offerings - \$8,719.90 (Current) + \$840.00 (Debt Fund) +
*Other Offerings - \$1,070.00 (Gifts & Memorials) +
\$300.00 (Food Pantry) +
\$505.00 (Good Samaritan Fund) +
\$478.25 (Water to Thrive)

*NOTE: These offerings include those given through Simply Giving.

"Thank you for your loving support of the Lord's work!"



Financial Peace University

Imagine what the People of God could do for the Kingdom of God if they were debt free. Attend Financial Peace University beginning Jan. 18, 6:00 – 8:15 PM/ Activity Center.

Food Pantry



Thank you to the congregation for the support of the Food Pantry. Any help is greatly appreciated.

In December we served 231 households with 791 individuals. More than one-fourth of the individuals were new to our pantry so we can expect even more participation in 2009. We continue to need volunteers. If you would like to come on a regular basis or serve as a substitute, please call Diane McGowan, 892-4416.

There is always a need for protein items like tuna or other canned meat, cereal, and peanut butter. Clients really appreciate the shampoo and toothpaste.

Diane McGowan
Food Pantry Coordinator

Give Back the Blessings!

***** NEW PRICES for Equal Exchange *****

Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project

**Mind Body Soul & Breakfast Blend
Drip or Whole Bean Coffee
\$5.65 per bag**

**Toffee Caramel Drip Coffee
\$5.90 per bag**

**Decaf Coffee
Drip or Whole Bean
\$6.65 per bag**

**Cocoa
\$4.20**

**Chocolate Bars
\$2.50 per bar**

**Tea
\$2.50**



Make checks payable to: Abiding Love



4



Abiding Love Alleluia Children's Choir
 Wednesday afternoons
 4:30--5:30 p.m.
 3 year olds through 5th grade (two classes)
 Join us to sing a song of LOVE!
 For more information call: 892-4040
 All children are welcome to join anytime!

Middle School Youth Group



We will meet this Sunday, Jan. 11th from 6-8 pm (after Confirmation) in the upstairs common area for Youth Group. We will be celebrating all of our service efforts in 2008 and starting off the New Year with an evening of food and fun games. Bring a snack to share.

**Senior High Youth Group
 "The R.O.C.K."
 (Reliers on Christ the King)**

Chili Cook-Off

The Chili Cook-Off is Saturday January 31st.

"Souper Bowl of Caring"

On Sunday, February 1st, the Senior High youth will be celebrating Super Bowl Sunday in a "Souper" way. The R.O.C.K. will be collecting non-perishable boxed and canned food items for the Food Pantry as part of a nationwide effort to fight hunger known as the "Souper Bowl of Caring". So, don't fumble this opportunity to help! Let's kick hunger through the goalposts! Blitz our baskets with food!

Dear Marty,

How can God give me such a good life and really dupe some people? I mean like the people in poor countries?

*Signed,
 Blessed*



Dear Blessed,

What a 'good life' is may be questionable, but I think you mean good health, running water and a nice house to live in. I don't really know what God was thinking when creating the world as it is but I do know that God loves everyone and wants everyone to know the love and goodness of Jesus. Maybe a better question is to ask what does God expect me to do about the unfair things going on in the world? God loves justice and asks us to work to make the world fair. There are many place where you can help to do this. Your church is one of those places! Get involved! Help!

Signed,
 Blessed to be a blessing Martin

News from our Southwestern Texas Synod

From Bishop Ray Tiemann

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for all who have spoken to me about your concerns about the Conference of Bishops trip to the Holy Land on January 5-15. With the situation in Gaza and the turmoil there, significant conversation has been taking place among the Conference, with Bishop Hanson and churchwide staff, Bishop Younan of the Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land, government officials, etc. Basically, it has been left as a personal decision for each bishop about whether to make this trip or look at a later visit.

Debbie and I have talked a lot to other bishops and spouses and prayed about this for the last several days. In the end, we have decided to continue to make the trip. We feel it is important for us to accompany our Lutheran brothers and sisters during this time, as well as having conversation with Israeli, Jordanian, and Muslim leaders. Please know that security will be tight and that aspects of our itinerary will be changed if there is any indication of danger. We may not get to meet with certain leaders because of the conflict, but we hope to have conversations with others that are available.

I ask that you remember those who will be making this journey in your prayers, asking for safety in travel and while in the Holy Land. More importantly, pray that those who are working toward a cease-fire and for leaders in Israel and Hamas to place "peace" first. For all those who have died or been injured already in the conflict, place them in the hands of God who will strengthen and comfort them.

God's peace to you in the New Year, and may the witness of each of us reveal the grace of God!

Bishop Ray Tiemann

BULLETIN BOARD

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be mailed on Wed., Jan. 21st. Please get your articles to the Church Office by Mon., Jan. 19th. Articles may be sent via e-mail to abidinglove@austin.rr.com or to jhokanson@austin.rr.com, brought by the office on a CD or hand-written. Thank you notes or short announcements may be called in to Joan or Cindy, 892-4040.



- ◆ To the Congregation: Thank you for your wonderful gifts, both financial and otherwise during this holiday season! I am so blessed to be a part of the work and ministry of Abiding Love! Thank you again, Pastor Lynnae.
- ◆ Thanks to the Evangelism Board, especially Steve Kikta, Denise Alaimo, Diane McGowan and Philip Drake, and the Middle School Youth for all their work and support for the "Global Mission - focus on Ethiopia" event!
- ◆ Thanks to "Santa" for the telescope!
- ◆ Thanks to Philip Drake for putting the projector together for the First Friday Free movie event! Thanks to Steve and Reggie for the hot dogs and popcorn (the Milk Duds too!)
- ◆ To Kim Thonhoff for lending a movie for First Friday Free Movie Night!
- ◆ From Marcy Cornell: "To the carolers for the "Great Joy" they gave me singing my special Christmas carols. Also, thanks to the 4th & 5th graders and their sponsor, Sergio Escobedo, for the beautiful handmade Christmas story book. I am so blessed by my Abiding Love family."
- ◆ To Kora Renfro for asking for gifts of Food Pantry items for her birthday, and for delivering them with her mother and grandmother on Food Pantry Day!
- ◆ From Middle School Youth to all who have made donations to the "Water to Thrive" program that we introduced on Sunday, Jan. 4th. We will continue to take donations and provide information to the congregation regarding this ongoing effort to provide Ethiopia with clean water.
- ◆ From Foundation for the Homeless Inc.: "Thank you for your generous monetary gift and Thrivent matching funds. FFH exists to work along-side the people in our community who suffer trauma of homelessness and poverty... We are deeply grateful for your participation with us in this work."
- ◆ From Brooks & Ruth Frederick for the Christmas caroling. They really enjoyed it!
- ◆ To everyone who participated in the Christmas Caroling on Dec. 13th, especially the drivers, the 4th & 5th Grade Youth Group for the Christmas Story books they made, and the Parish Fellowship Board for the delicious " Soup Supper + Plus".
- ◆ To our Choirs, Instrumental Ensemble, Pianists, Directors, Narrators for the wonderful Christmas Music Celebration on Sunday, December 21st.
- ◆ To J.D. Bostick for his beautiful violin solos on Sun., Dec. 21st.
- ◆ From Pastor Fetter for the most generous and loving monetary Christmas gift presented at the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, and for all the other gifts, cards, and expressions of love. "It's ALL about love!" Jesus loves you, and so do I!

continued in next column

5

Thank You Notes continued:

- ◆ To the Mixed Blessings for their musical leadership on Sun., Dec. 28th.
- ◆ To everyone who served at the two Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services, especially the Mixed Blessings for their musical leadership at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ To Nader & Debra Ayoub for serving as sponsors at the Sr. High Youth Gathering at CorpusChristi, Dec. 28-30. Youth attending were: Holly Ayoub, Kyle Ayoub, Austin Rabb, Wade Belew, and Tito Avisia.
- ◆ To everyone who contributed to the "Water to Thrive" special offering to build water wells in Ethiopia.
- ◆ To the Middle School Youth Group, and the Evangelism Outreach Board for sponsoring the "Water to Thrive" emphasis and the Ethiopian Global Mission Event on Sun., Jan. 4th.
- ◆ To Karron Lewis for her beautiful solos at our worship services on Sun., Jan. 4th.
- ◆ To Tim Sump and family for donating a movable basketball hoop.
- ◆ To all volunteers/ministers who have served on Boards, Committees, as Officers of Organizations, and in other capacities during 2008. Special thanks to the following outgoing/outstanding members of our Congregation Council: Bob Thonhoff, Karan Heidemann, Sheila Koehler, J.D. Bostick, Erv Merz, Pat Dove, Tammy Santos, Dolly Atkinson & Mary Fetter.
- ◆ To everyone who helped serve at Tom Thomas' Funeral Service on Jan. 7th, and to the Membership Care Board for providing the food and fellowship reception.
- ◆ From Joan Hokanson to the Congregation for the generous staff Christmas gift and other special gifts. Thank you for your love and support all year long, but especially your friendship.



Personal finance problems are the number one cause of stress in the workplace. Attend **Financial Peace University** beginning Jan. 18, 6:00-8:15 PM /Activity Center.

ABIDING LOVE VISION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Vision Statement

Growing together in God's love and sharing that love with our community.

Mission Statement...

Core Values

The people of Abiding Love Lutheran Church will serve God and others by:

- Establishing a strong, unique, and focused ministry by giving joyfully and freely to the Lord;
- Inviting, welcoming, accepting and encouraging others by showing respect and love for all;
- Fostering fellowship among members by building Christian relationships;
- Striving to learn and equip themselves by being grounded and strengthened in faith through Christian education;
- Nurturing children and youth towards responsible, confirmed membership;
- Demonstrating love through actions;
- Being excited for Jesus; and
- Praying frequently.





* * SERVING IN JANUARY * *

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

ACOLYTES:

4—Emma Albin
11—Alex Santos
18—Kelsey Hollien
25—Sara Pavey

Josh Escobedo
Evan Karley
Matthew Perry
Nikki Sawtelle

TRAY HOLDERS:

4—Bethany Sump
18—Stacy Ballard

Elizabeth Escobedo
Rachel Karley

GREETERS:

4
11—Zolene Curlee
18—Hazeldean Dumler
25—Ron & Janice Duncan

Monte Jane Buaas
Bruce & Cindy Atwell
Karl & Kristin Dalley
Elizabeth Davis

FLOWERS:

4—Lewis
11—Suggs
18—OPEN
25—Ballard, Nicholson

ALTAR GUILD:

8:30 a.m.—Hazeldean Dumler & Amelia Mettke
11:00 a.m.—Janice Duncan & Elaine Schultz

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

8:30 a.m.—Jeri Lyn Sump (4th); Vera Kirkham (11th & 25th); Paul Mettke (18th)
11:00 a.m.—Denise Alaimo (4th); Sue Milam (11th & 18th); Audrey Lehman (25th)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

8:30 a.m.—Hazeldean Dumler (4th); Jan Haas (18th)
11:00 a.m.—Janea Escobedo (4th); Charlie & Ann Lunday, Helen Page (11th);
Lenore Moltz (18th); Irene Chiang, Elizabeth Collins,
Hal Schultz (25th)

USHERS:

8:30 a.m.—Lloyd & Karin Matthys & Verla Cook (4th, 18th, 25th); Peggy Suggs (11th)
11:00 a.m.—Gary Andrews; Peggy Suggs (11th)

COFFEE SERVERS:

Naomi Circle

CHOIR:

8:30 a.m.—11th & 25th 11:00 a.m.—18th