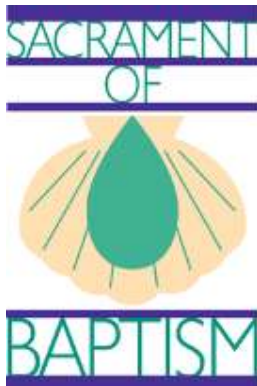


The Tie That Binds

Abiding Love Lutheran Church



7210 Brush Country Road
Austin, Texas 78749



Conner & Grant Rowell and Evan Logan will be baptized on Sunday, November 11th, at 11:00 a.m.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be Wednesday, Nov. 22nd at 7:30 p.m.



Holy Communion will be served at both worship services on Nov. 18th, and at the 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service on Nov. 25th.

Love Letter No. 1187

November 7, 2007



Abiding Love Lutheran Church

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: John Austin
(Home: 263-7889)
E-mail: jaustin1@austin.rr.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 & Kindergarten — 2nd Story, Room 206
1st & 2nd Grade — 2nd Story, Room 205
3rd, 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 "Study on Hosea" — Library (Worship Ctr.)
Adult "Your Bible! The Study Begins"—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: Tammy Santos

Youth Coordinator: Janea Escobedo
E-mail: allcyouth@austin.rr.com

Webmaster: George Glaser
E-mail: gglaser@austin.rr.com

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

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

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

† † †

The Tie That Binds



Do You Know “A Saint”?



Dear Friends in Christ,

To answer this question, take a look in a mirror. Who do you see? — “Saint (your name...)!” You are looking at a forgiven sinner; a baptized child of God.

Last Sunday we celebrated “All Saints’ Sunday”. On the church calendar, All Saints’ Day was November 1st. I have been reflecting on our worship services. I read through the prayer-cards you brought forward in thanksgiving to God for those saints who have gone on to heaven, and those living saints who are a blessing to you now on earth.

Often we think of saints as a relatively small number of very special, holy people. And, certainly they are. But, as a “holy catholic church” we believe in “the communion of saints”. That’s you and me.

As Pastor Lynnae expressed in her sermon on Sunday, saints are “blessed” people, but blessed does not necessarily mean blessed as the world often defines “blessings”. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor”!

I believe we in this country are a blessed people. But, these blessings can become a curse if we love things more than people, or even God. I believe that a saint desires to love and serve God above all else!

I believe that there is a battle going on for “America’s soul”, and with Election Day on Tuesday, November 6th, it’s not between the left and the right. It’s a battle deep within each person’s heart and mind.

James Patterson and Peter Kim have written a book titled The Day America Told the Truth. In it they report some results of research survey questions like:

“What are you willing to do for 10 million dollars (\$10,000,000.00)?”

- 25% would abandon their entire family
- 25% would abandon their church
- 23% would become prostitutes for a week or more
- 16% would give up their American citizenship
- 16% would leave their spouses
- 10% would withhold testimony and let a murderer go free
- 7% would kill a stranger
- 3% would put their children up for adoption

A saint’s life is not dominated by “things”.

Secondly, a saint is not focused on himself or herself, but on God and others:

That’s why Jesus said that we can be blessed even when we’re persecuted because we’re not obsessed with the approval of others. I am convinced that the more I think about whether I am happy or not, the more miserable I am! The more I “forget” myself, the more fulfilling life becomes!

Thirdly, a saint leaves the world a better place:

I am reminded of a book written in 1996 that disturbed me enough to get my attention!

Seventeen-year-old Ian Bedloe, the central character in Anne Tyler’s novel Saint Maybe, in a time of personal crisis, blurts out to his older brother Dan that he thinks Dan’s wife, Lucy is having an affair. His shocked brother responds by committing suicide. Lucy then takes her own life. A profoundly guilty Ian receives spiritual guidance from Reverend Emmett of the storefront Church of the Second Chance. Pastor Emmett suggests to Ian that to make amends for his wrongdoing, he should drop out of college and raise his brother’s children. It is his burden to bear, his penance for the tragedies he has brought about. And because he sees these children as his penance, Ian becomes bitter.

The novel follow Ian Bedloe’s journey from bitter resignation to an awakening sense of joy and thankfulness over all the blessings these children have brought into his life. The obligations of caring for the children

Continued in the next column

From Pastor Lynnae—

In the end it all seems to come down to the First Commandment.

Have you ever thought about that? It’s true! When you strip everything down, peel it all back, what’s left is – having no other gods. Some people make work a sort of god. You know they spend more hours in their office than in their home. More time is spent with co-workers than with family members. Meals are on the go because there is no time to actually cook, sit down and enjoy a real meal. But then some people make play into a kind of god. Play becomes so important that they plan their off hours around “the game” or the “the bike trail”. They only work to make money to buy the toys that they insure for more than they offer to health care or charities. In the end it all seems to come back to the First Commandment. “You should have no other gods before the Lord your God.”

It is so very difficult to always put God first. Family, fun, and work are often first because it just seems to be the way of the world. I offer these steps to keeping God first.

1. Start each day by asking God to help you keep your priorities in check.
2. Slow down at meal time in order to listen to God or at least contemplate your days activities so that there are fewer agenda items.
3. Evaluate and plan at the end of the day – with God. Don’t just fall into bed exhausted. Sit in a quiet place and talk to God about how the day went and how you want tomorrow to be better.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

- Nov. 11—Brooks Frederick, Barbara Merz
- Nov. 12—Jacob Hartzler, Paul Mettke
- Nov. 13—Diana Hohmann, Maria Roberts
- Nov. 14—Eddy Ronshausen
- Nov. 15—Emma Albin
- Nov. 16—Karen Huddleston
- Nov. 17—Michele Thompson
- Nov. 18—Marcia (Jakubowsky) Johnston, Brooke Marak, Jason Meier, Sarah Prehn
- Nov. 19—Cheryl Henry
- Nov. 20—Ed White
- Nov. 21—Ken Albin, Danny Haverlah
- Nov. 22—Sylvia Davis
- Nov. 24—Hugh Heflin, Trey Huddleston, Alan Matejowsky, William Metz
- Nov. 25—Dana Broddrick
- Nov. 26—Ben Collins, Janis Livingston
- Nov. 27—Audrey Huddleston
- Nov. 28—Polly Miller, Clyde Sutton
- Nov. 30—Don Kirkham, Jamie Villalobos
- Dec. 1—Kristine Anthony, Jay Urban



Continued from 1st column:

have not changed; only Ian’s perspective has changed. The burden has become a blessing. The novel ends with Ian joyfully holding his own newborn child. Ian had forgotten himself and gotten into the lives of his children. Now he was ready to make his contribution to the world, the contribution of a loving parent.

Do you know a saint? I do, because I know you! It’s a great blessing of our Lutheran theology to know that as Martin Luther has said: “We are at the same time both saint and sinner” (*simul justus et peccator*)! It is a joy to know God’s blessing as we live in this tension.

—Pastor David Fetter †

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

HOME FROM EYE SURGERY: Gloria Kizer

EYE SURGERY: Erika Shane (Nov. 21st)

DEATH: Eugene Hollingsworth, nephew of B.L. & Marcie Parker, cousin of Macilynn Parker League

PRAYER-REQUESTS:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| ** Marilyn Segner | ** Gene Zimmermann |
| ** Margaret Vowell | ** Murray Collins |
| ** John England | ** Charlie Lunday |
| ** Denise Alaimo | ** Andy Whitney |
| ** Sylvia Davis | ** Dr. August Wenzel |
| ** Amber Karley | ** Tom Thomas |
| ** Edna Graeber | ** Meagan Prehn |
| ** Carolyn Johnson | ** Nik Schappe |
| ** Blake Johnson | |
| ** Deloris Wilson (Rose Leoni's sister) | |
| ** Laneta Nielson (friend of Del Prescott) | |
| ** Richard Moore (nephew of John & Joyce Kuntschik) | |
| ** Jaylyn Cole Vrana, born on Oct. 28 at 2lbs., 2 oz. (Parents: Laci & Brandon Vrana. Great-grandparents: Billye & Dave Trostel) | |
| ** Shirley Fetter (Pastor Fetter's sister) | |
| ** Auburn Traycik (Lisa Beach's sister) | |
| ** Kenneth Almquist (Diane Albin's father) | |
| ** Helen Cordell (friend of Bobbie Sawtelle) | |
| ** Amber Bogan (daughter of Denise Schultz's co-worker) | |
| ** Drake Hardee (Lisa Beach's friend's son) | |
| ** Herbert Frels (Lori Frels' father) | |
| ** David Cosner (friend of the Kikta family) | |
| ** Jeff Byers (friend of Gil & Tracy Yetter) | |
| ** Marlene Quintara (cousin of Gisela Armstrong) | |
| ** Nicholas Thompson & parents, Trent & Sonji (friends of Mike & Holly Leoni) | |
| ** Clayton Matthys (Lloyd's brother) | |
| ** Jim West (Mary Fetter's nephew) | |
| ** Dawn Hudgens (Erv & Barb Merz's daughter) | |
| ** Dennis & Clarie Strenthe Broste as they travel to Costa Rica for a week's visit in the "Companion Synod Program" with the Lutheran Church in Costa Rica. | |
| ** Brad Haas as he serves with the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. | |
| ** Prayers of safety for the following: | |
| ** LCpl Matt Hohertz serving in Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps | |
| ** Staff Sgt. Paul Buaas (son of Monte Jane Buaas) who is serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army Reserves. | |
| ** Sgt. Adrian Edmundson serving in Iraq with the Texas National Guard Reserves. | |
| ** SGT Christy Williams (U.S. Army) & daughter, Zoe | |
| ** 2nd Lt. Melanie Meier (USAF) | |
| ** MSgt Michael Eichler (USAF) | |
| ** Frank Castro, USAF in South Korea | |
| ** Chris Glaser serving in Iraq with a M.A.S.H. unit | |
| ** For all those in the military services overseas. | |



Marriage

Marcilynn Parker and Ronald League were married on Saturday, October 13th. Pastor Fetter officiated the ceremony. Marcilynn is the daughter of B.L. & Marcie Parker. "Congratulations, Marcilynn and Ron! May God bless you with many happy years together!"



Marriage

Eileen Sandles and Clint Wilson were married on Friday, October 26th. Pastor Fetter officiated the ceremony. "Congratulations, Eileen and Clint! May God bless you with many happy years together!"



Marriage

Shelley Honigschmidt and Robert Champagne were married on Friday, Nov. 2nd. Pastor Lynnae officiated the ceremony. "Congratulations, Shelley and Robert!"



Christmas Pageant
Helpers Needed

Do you love working with children? Do you love the story of Christmas? Then do I have great news for you. We are currently seeking volunteers (adults, as well as older students) to help out with this year's Christmas Play. If you are interested, please contact Paige Abbott 266-9817 or pgabbott@juno.com



Sunday, November 18th
Activity Center
All Congregation Lunch
12:30 p.m.

Soup and Salad will be provided.
Please bring fruit, fruit salad or pies to share.

Annual Congregation Meeting
1:30 p.m.

Please read over the meeting Agenda, the Ballot, and the proposed amendment to the Constitution, all included in this newsletter.

Annual Reports, will be available on Sunday, Nov. 11th.
Please pick up a copy to read about the many ways Abiding Love has been blessed this past year!



Annual Meeting

REDISCOVERING HANDEL'S MESSIAH
An article from the April 1993 Deep Cove Crier

Handel's Greatest Moment

The Messiah was first performed in Dublin in 1742, and immediately won huge popular success. In order to have room enough for the people, a request was sent far and wide, asking, "The favour of the Ladies not to come with hoops this day to the Music Hall in Fishamble Street. The Gentlemen are desired to come without their swords." This is how the Dublin Newspaper reported the event: "...The best Judges allowed it to be the most finished work of Musick. Words are wanting to express the exquisite Delight it afforded to the admiring crowded Audience. The Sublime, the Grand, and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestic, and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear..." Handel could have made a financial killing from the Messiah, but instead he designated that all the proceeds would go to charities.

Everyone is invited to a four part adult Sunday School Class led by Pastor Lynnae in the Activity Center beginning Sunday, Nov. 11th, 9:45 a.m.

A study of Handel's Messiah. We are going to study the texts that Handel used in his famous oratorio and how his musical genius interpreted the story of Salvation. You don't need to read music! We will study the scripture passages and listen to the music to grasp Handel's great imagination.



PEOPLE continued:



BIRTH: Diana Michele Villanueva was born on November 3rd. Her parents are Marisela & Robert Villanueva. Marisela is the custodian who cleans our church. "We thank God for this precious gift of new life!"

Christian-Charles de Plicque of Finland has been in the hospital again for over two months. He asks for your continued prayers and would welcome your emails at: shalom.ahimma@pp.inet.fi

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH:

Worship - 68 (8:30) + 177 (11:00) = 245 (Total)

Sunday School - 89

*Offerings - \$4,328.87 (Current) + \$630.00 (Debt Fund) +

*Other Offerings - \$30.00 (Gifts & Memorials)

\$250.00 (Good Samaritan) +

\$10.00 (Kairos) +

\$25.00 (Sr. High Mission Trip) +

\$25.00 (Carnival)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH:

Worship - 82 (8:30) + 90 (11:00) = 172 (Total)

Sunday School - 81

*Offerings - \$9,581.80 (Current) + \$620.00 (Debt Fund) +

*Other Offerings - \$50.00 (Building Fund)

\$505.00 (Food Pantry) +

\$25.00 (WELCA) +

\$20.00 (Good Samaritan Fund)

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

♥ MEMORIALS:Gifts & Memorials Fund

For Mrs. Lucille Biegler by Lee & Georgia Wood.

Good Samaritan Fund

For Alice Jackson by B.L. & Marcie Parker.

♥ SPECIAL GIFT:

For Youth Group Trips in honor of Logan Davis and his Eagle Scout Award by Annette Smith.

**BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 11TH:
"Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost"**

Job 19:23-27a

Psalms 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

Let the rivers CLAP their hands, let the mountains SING together for joy. Psalm 98:8

CLAP
their hands,
let the
mountains
SING
together
for joy.

Psalm 98:8

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalms 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

**BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 25TH:
"Christ the King Sunday"**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Note: Please check your November Abiding Love Calendar for activities and events happening this month. Thanks!

NOVEMBER SERVING LIST**SERVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH:**

Flowers—Ashton, Merz

Greeters—George & Rosa Hatfield (8:30) +

Richard & Susan Heidemeyer (11:00)

Acolytes—Nikki Sawtelle (8:30) + Ben Collins (11:00)

Council Assistant—Mary Fetter

SERVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH:

Flowers—McGowan, Shane

Greeters—Marvin & Drenda Haddock (8:30) +

Joe & Neilynn Hébert (11:00)

Acolytes—Emma Albin (8:30) + Kyle Ayoub (11:00)

Tray Holders—Jonathan Mettke (8:30) + Holly Ayoub (11:00)

Council Assistant—Erv Merz

SERVING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH:

Flowers—OPEN

Greeters—Cheryl Henry (8:30) +

Neil & Judy Haverlah (11:00)

Acolytes—Timothy Sump (8:30) + Elizabeth Escobedo (11:00)

Council Assistant—Pat Dove

Coffee Service for November is the Hannah Circle.

Reminders: Property Workday is Saturday, Nov. 17th, 8:00 a.m. to Noon

The South Travis County Thrivent Chapter Election Meeting and Barbeque is Sat., Nov. 10th, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

† **MISSION STATEMENT:** Growing in the Holy Spirit to serve God and celebrate the love Jesus Christ has for all people. †

The Food Pantry Needs You!

In October, which had 5 Mondays, the Food Pantry served **230 households which represent 865 individuals**. Of those served, **54 households were new** to our Food Pantry. The Christian Service Board is expecting this number to increase due to the upcoming holiday season. It has been challenging to keep the shelves fully stocked so these families can be served adequately. We thank all those who contributed non-perishable goods at the Halloween carnival and on the **FIRST SUNDAY /FOOD PANTRY** on Sunday, November 5. **Because we are concerned about the increasing numbers, we ask that you consider bringing some additional donations during the holiday months.** Our Food Pantry cart is always ready to accept donations of non-perishable goods at any time and of course, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. (**Checks** can be made out to **"Abiding Love Lutheran Church"** with **"Food Pantry"** on the by-line.) The Food Pantry needs **cereal, canned meats (like tuna or chicken), canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned soups, spaghetti, canned pasta sauce, dry pinto beans, rice, and peanut butter.** **Children's books** are still being collected. We thank all of you, in advance, for the extra help during this time. Our Food Pantry has touched many people with special needs and it has become a well known outreach for our community.

Food Pantry Kudos from Pastor Lynnae:

Recently while visiting with clients at the Food Pantry I met a young woman named Wendy. Last year she broke her neck in a car accident. She told me that she didn't know what she would have done if it had not been for her neighbors here at the Abiding Love Food Pantry. She thanked me and that made me feel guilty because I really don't do anything but walk around and talk with them while the many volunteers work so very hard! So, I wanted to pass on Wendy's thanks and ask you to remember her in your prayers. Thanks to all of you who donate food, time and energies to helping our neighbors. Way to go Food Pantry!