



BULLETIN BOARD

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be mailed on Wed., Nov. 28th. Please get your articles to the church office by Mon., Nov. 26th. Note: Because of the Thanksgiving holidays, there will be three weeks before the next newsletter is published. Articles may be sent via e-mail to abidinglove@austin.rr.com or to jhokanson@austin.rr.com, brought by the office on a diskette, CD or handwritten. Thank you notes or short announcements may be called in to Joan or Cindy, 892-4040.

- From Marilyn Segner: "A warm thank you to all of Abiding Love for your continued prayers, caring cards, hospital visits, rides to the doctor, supportive phone calls, and food that was brought to our home. Also, thank you to Pastor Fetter and Pastor Lynnae for their love, support, prayers, and visits. Our Abiding Love Church Family is such a blessing to me and my family while I cope with this illness."
From the Christian Service Board to all those who supported the Nov. 4th FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTY with monetary donations and non-perishable goods. As our numbers increase significantly, the extra contributions are very much appreciated!
From the Christian Service Board to all who volunteered and supported the Halloween Carnival. Your kind hearted spirits and warm welcome was quite an outreach to our community. Our Board appreciates your participation in this outreach hosted by our Youth & Children's Ministry Board. Also, thanks to those who brought non-perishable items for our Food Pantry at the Halloween carnival. We collected 3 large boxes of food which helped fill the shelves during this busy time of year!
From Kim Thonhoff to Joan Hokanson, Cindy Kunz, Cindy Atwell, Denise Alaimo, and Diane McGowan for helping to coordinate the responsibilities involved with the carnival ticket booths. Your directions and support were very helpful.
From the Christian Service Board to all who have communicated with our adopted Seminary Student, Caleb Crainer. We hope that the support will continue during this holiday period. It's hard to be in Austin, Texas, during this season when your family is in Kansas. So, phone calls and cards are very appreciated. Abiding Love is Caleb's adopted home in Austin and we thank you for your support. Note: Caleb attended our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Nov. 4th.
From the Christian Service Board to those who continue to volunteer at the Food Pantry each Monday, especially during this busy time. We also thank Diane McGowan for her continued leadership with this service project.
From the Christian Service Board to those who organized the WELCA Homespun Auction, those who donated the fabulous auction items, and those who participated in the silent bidding. The Food Pantry and many of our service projects benefit from the proceeds from this auction. We appreciate the support!
From the Christian Service Board to those who have chosen an Angel (Foster Child) to sponsor through the Lutheran Social Service Christmas Angel Tree Project. We know that the 25 children being sponsored by Abiding Love will have a great Christmas surprise. Thanks also to Diane McGowan and Kim Thonhoff for coordinating the LSS project. We appreciate the time spent communicating with LSS and the Congregation.
From the Christian Service Board to the OWLS Koinonia group for donating HEB gift cards to the Lutheran Social Service Angel Tree project. The gift cards will be used by the families who will host Christmas celebrations for their LSS foster children.
From Kim Thonhoff to Kay Martin for representing our congregation at the Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless (RCAH) quarterly meeting on Mon., Nov. 5. She helped select the organizations that will receive 2008 grants from the RCAH.
From Kim Thonhoff to those members of the Christian Service and Membership Care Boards for volunteering to serve at the LSS Christmas Angel Tree display and the "Pillows for Soldiers" display this month! Your time is greatly appreciated!



Silent Auction Update

Thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction and raffle. Over \$2000 was raised. Thank you to all who helped make the Silent Auction a success: The many people who donated the items; The ALL quilters who worked many hours to create items; the Hannah Circle for planning and preparing the delicious food; the Ruth, Sarah, and Naomi Circles for providing food and for providing members to help with the set up on Saturday— Mary Fetter, Cindy Atwell, Betty Matejowsky, Lenore Moltz, Kay Nicholson, and all who helped to clean up.
Monte Jane Buaas won Irene's quilt; Rex Medcalf won the second prize; and Cheryl Henry won the third prize quilt.
Diane McGowan will be available Sun., Nov. 11th, after early service and before late service in the Narthex to distribute items to people who were not present to pick up their goods and pay.

Lutheran World Relief "Fair Trade" Items

The Christian Service Board has received LWR Fair Trade items and the baskets in the workroom are now fully stocked with tea, coffee, and CHOCOLATE bars! The "Fair Trade" price of the chocolate bars has increased to \$2.25 per bar and the hot chocolate is now \$4.20 per can. The coffee prices have not increased. So, stop by the church workroom and make your purchases now before our stock runs low! We work on the honor system. A price list and an envelope are by the LWR items to collect money for your purchases. Thanks for your support of this "Fair Trade" project.

ABIDING LOVE VISION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Vision Statement

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



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.

Additional LSS Christmas Angel Tree Needs



Lutheran Social Services is beginning a **new project** this year to help their **foster families as a whole**. These families give so much of their time, energy, and love to these special children and don't always have quick access to the essentials they need. LSS is aware that not every person may be able to sponsor a specific child through our Angel Tree Project, but would like to **encourage groups of people to come together in the spirit of the holidays to provide one necessary item**. LSS would like to additionally offer the ability to donate new or very gently used items to our families. The following list of suggestions has been created through input from the foster parents:

- Cribs
- Diapers/pull ups of various sizes
- Car seats – rear facing infant, toddler seats, booster seats
- Toddler beds
- Swing sets
- Bunk beds
- Play pens/baby gates
- HEB/Walmart gift card

The OWLS Koinonia group has decided to work together to provide some HEB gift cards. If you have a group that would like to meet one of the needs listed above, please contact Kim Thonhoff (282-4480) or Diane McGowan (892-4416) to get additional information or to get contact information for the LSS Christmas Angel Tree coordinators. These "Gifts of Love" should be given **on or before Sunday, November 25**, unless alternate arrangements have been made through the LSS Christmas Angel Tree coordinators. Thanks for considering this additional form of support during the holidays!

Don't Forget Our Adopted Son During the Holidays!

The Christian Service Board would like to remind you that our congregation has committed to the Adoption of a Seminary Student, Caleb Crainer, who attends the Lutheran Seminary of the Southwest here in Austin, Texas. Caleb is from Kansas and most of his family resides there. So, during this holiday season, please remember to contact Caleb by mail, by phone, or in person. Caleb's address is **3206-A Tom Green, Austin, Texas 78705**. Caleb's phone number is listed on his "Secret Pal Wish List." The "**Secret Pal**" sign up sheet along with Caleb's "**Wish List**" is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church workroom. We still need "**Secret Pals**" for 2008. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact **Pastor Lynnae (892-4040) or Kim Thonhoff (282-4480)**. Let's all work together to show Caleb, our adopted son, where "Love Abides" during this holiday season. The Christian Service Board thanks you for your support of this outreach project!



The Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless (RCAH) Update

The RCAH is a coalition formed by 114 churches that choose to divert their City of Austin drainage fees to fund this organization. Abiding Love does participate in this coalition and does help fund the organization with its drainage fees. On October 29 and 30, the RCAH Board interviewed organizations who were applying for 2008 funding from the RCAH. The coalition has a budget of over \$500,000.00 which is disbursed every year to fund grants to organizations that support the homeless. Some funds are used for administrative costs (only 1 paid employee) and balanced reserves but most of the money is disbursed in grants with monthly allocations to very active community organizations. On Monday, November 5, at the RCAH quarterly meeting, these organizations were granted continued funding for the 2008 year: A New Entry, Caritas, Casa Marianella, Community Partnership for the Homeless, Front Steps, Life-works, Mary House Catholic Worker, Texas Reach Out, and Vin Care Services. New 2008 grants were given to the Abundant Life Network, Caritas, Casa Marianella, Community Partnership for the Homeless, Salvation Army- Cold Weather Shelter, Salvation Army Passages and Texas Reach Out. A total of \$465,141.00 was allocated for these 2008 grants. What a positive impact Abiding Love has made to the "homeless community" by their willingness to divert drainage fees to the RCAH. When faith organizations work together, amazing things can and do happen!



Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

On Sunday, November 18, at 4:00 p.m., the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration will be held at the Quarries located at 11600 N. Mopac Expressway. Each year we invite members of all faiths to participate in the ceremony and community dinner. We urge participating congregations to bring food that can be shared by others. Please do not prepare anything with *pork*.

We invite all faith leaders to participate in our procession. Please RSVP to Simone Talma Flowers if you would like to process. In addition, congregations and other organizations may contact us to set up an info table (first come, first served basis). Please call (512) 386-9145 or email aaim@aaimaustin.org if your organization would like to set up a table or provide volunteers for the event.

If you would like to learn more about the activities listed above or view the other AAIMS activities in November, please visit the AAIMS evoice newsletter at evoice@aaimaustin.org.

New Caritas Project: "My Place In Kind"

Tamara Landry Bell, Faith Coordinator of Caritas, has contacted us to share about a new program which provides housing for homeless men. To request a brochure about this new project you can contact Tamara Landry Bell at tbell@caritasofaustin.org. Or, you can call her at 512-479-4610, Ext 224 or 512-646-1277.

The new project is called "My Place In Kind." This is a great opportunity to be a part of something at its inception. The Service Project ideas are only one facet. If anyone in our faith community is interested in working with clients in these new programs, please contact Tamara soon and she'll share more of the exciting details.

"Pillows for Soldiers"



In the Narthex, the Christian Service Board has set up a display table to gather cards and letters for those serving in the military from our congregation. Also, we are asking each of you to sign the pillows

with the special fabric pens provided. We will collect cards, letters, and signatures through next Sunday, November 18. On Monday, November 19, the pillows along with the cards and letters will be mailed to those from our congregation serving in the military. We are hoping this special "Gift of Love" will arrive in time for Christmas! If you forgot your cards or letters, you still have time to write them to **Paul Buaas, Michael Eichler, Adrian Edmundson, Matthew Hohertz, Melanie Meier, and Christy Williams**.

It is our hope that there will be many communications traveling with the pillows for the holidays! Also, in order to help defray the cost of the pillows and the mailing expenses, a free will offering is being collected at the display table. (Checks can be made out to "Abiding Love Lutheran Church" with "Pillows for Soldiers" on the byline.) Tax deduction forms are available if needed to document your gift. Thanks!

Proposal for an Amendment to the Constitution of Abiding Love Lutheran Church

In the course of examining candidates for letters of call to serve as Directors of the Administrative Boards, the Nominating Committee realized that prime candidates were not eligible to be elected by the Congregation of Abiding Love. These folks are ones who would provide a clear vision, experience, and continuity for the boards. These candidates are the current directors themselves. Our proposal will allow for a Board Director to be eligible to serve a second term if the Nominating Committee desires to deliver them a letter of call and they accept it. Under this proposal, a board director will not automatically be extended a letter of call, but will simply be eligible as a member of the Nominating Committee's candidate pool for the board directorship.

The Nominating Committee recognized that there are clear benefits to asking a content and successful director to continue on in the same capacity. There will be a previously unknown level of continuity. Oftentimes, there is a transitional period when changing directors, sometimes several months, even up to a year. Perhaps there are a different set of goals, or the incoming director may be unfamiliar with the requirements of the job at hand. In other instances, the incoming director must recruit a fresh set of board members. This proposal will eliminate most of the transitional headaches for some boards. Under this proposal, a director may be asked to continue their successful ways for an extra term allowing them to continue pursuing the goals they have set forth. In the estimation of the Nominating Committee, this would only be a positive impact on the Abiding Love family.

The following changes are hereby proposed:

Chapter 12.02 states that "The Directors of the Administrative Boards shall be elected by the congregation by written ballot to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected. At each annual meeting, the congregation shall elect one-half (1/2) of the directors. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than one (1) full term consecutively. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship on the Sunday they assume office."

This will be re-written beginning with the third sentence to read "*Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) full terms consecutively. Elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship on the Sunday they assume office.*"

If approved by the members of Abiding Love Lutheran Church at the November, 2007 annual meeting, these changes will be effective 120 days after it is submitted to the synod by the Secretary of this congregation.

This proposal is respectfully submitted by: Jeff Roberts, Debra Ayoub, Patricia Hohertz, J.D. Lewis, Jeri Lyn Sump, Allison Shugart, Diane McGowan, Patricia Koch, Craig Hohertz, Laurie Hohertz, Emily Hohertz, John Urban, Laurie Donovan, Barbara Tiedt, Annette Smith.

Note: The Congregation Council has approved this for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, November 18, 2007, 1:30 p.m.

Thank You Notes

- ◆ From Kim Thonhoff to Hal Schultz for helping to coordinate the "Pillows for Soldiers" project. We would also like to thank the Membership Care Board for their support of the project with Board funds and volunteers. Your help is a blessing!
- ◆ To J.D. Bostick (violin) and Bill Hatcher (flute) for their beautiful special music "The Church's One Foundation" at both worship services on Sunday, October 28th.
- ◆ To the Mixed Blessings for their musical leadership at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on October 28th.
- ◆ To Philip Drake for his guitar accompaniment of the "Now the Feast and Celebration Holy Communion Liturgy" at the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service on Nov. 4th, and to Craig Hohertz at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service; also, to Karron Lewis for her assistance.
- ◆ To Lloyd & Karin Matthys for the donation of 3 cut glass drink dispensers for the Activity Center kitchen.
- ◆ To Gloria & Kurt Rech for the donation of 4 servers, and two matching microwaves and ovens for the Activity Center kitchen.
- ◆ To Kenneth Eichler for endless hours helping/overseeing the installation of the stoves and microwaves in the Activity Center.
- ◆ To Morris Thompson for your time and talents in adjusting, removing and redoing our kitchen cabinets in the Activity Center.
- ◆ To Paul Atkinson for all the time put into the electrical service to our new microwaves in the Activity Center.
- ◆ From Dolly Atkinson to all the Parish Fellowship board members who went comparison shopping for the Activity Center stoves and microwaves.

Caritas Turkey Trot

For many, Thanksgiving is a day for giving thanks, football, and filling up on turkey. But for more than 9,500 people, it is another way of showing support for Caritas and the clients they serve. This Austin tradition takes place every year on Thanksgiving morning with individuals from all over the city stepping up to the challenge of a five-mile run/walk to raise awareness and dollars for the programs and services offered at Caritas of Austin. For the past 15 years, Mike Haggerty, owner of ThunderCloud Subs has partnered with Caritas of Austin to create a pre-Thanksgiving tradition. The 2006 Turkey Trot raised over \$100,000 with all proceeds benefiting Caritas of Austin. This year's race promises to be just as unforgettable and worthwhile for those up to the challenge. For more information regarding the race, please visit www.caritasofaustin.org or www.thundercloud.com. Gobble! Gobble!

WELCA Thank Offering Food Pantry Collection

On **Sunday, November 18**, WELCA will be hosting its traditional Thank Offering church services. During both the early and late service, time will be set aside for the Women of our Congregation to present their "**Gifts of Love**" as a **Thanksgiving offering**. In addition to the monetary gifts given, the Christian Service Board will also be **collecting non-perishable items for our Food Pantry**. As announced previously, we decided to host two additional food drives (Halloween Carnival & Thank Offering Services) during the holiday season to help the Food Pantry adequately serve the increasing numbers of those being supported during the holiday season.

On Sunday, November 18, there will be baskets on the altar steps to collect the non-perishable offerings. 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**. We continue to collect **children's books**, also. We thank WELCA, in advance, for their kind and generous support of this much needed Food Drive!

The Power of the Cross Festival 2007

On November 17, at Auditorium Shores, there will be musical groups and speakers sharing about the "Power of the Cross." Twenty-one bands (rock, fusion, hip-hop, rap, and praise) will be participating in this unique celebration. To find out how you can volunteer, participate, or attend, please visit info@crossfestival.org. The festival should be a very uplifting, spiritual event!





AGENDA

Annual Meeting Of The Congregation

Sunday, November 18, 2007, 1:30 p.m.



1. Call to Order – John Austin
2. Adoption of Agenda – John Austin
3. Appointments of Parliamentarian & Tellers – John Austin
4. Registration of Voting (Confirmed) Members – Karan Heidemann
5. Opening Worship - Pastor Fetter and Dona Brooks
5. Review & Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2006 Annual Meeting and December 17, 2006 Special Meeting of the Congregation – John Austin
7. Report of Nominating Committee – Jeff Roberts
7. Proposed Amendment to the Constitution – Jeff Roberts & John Austin
7. Recommendation of three Lay Delegates (2 females & 1 male) to attend the 2008 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly, May 31-June 1 (Saturday/Sunday), at Texas Lutheran University, Seguin– John Austin
10. Ballot & Election – John Austin
11. Review of “Future Capital Improvement Projects Priority List” and Past Presidents Committee Report – John Urban & John Austin
12. Annual Reports of Staff, Officers, Boards, Committees & Finances - Highlights/ Comment - John Austin
13. Presentation & Approval of 2008 Congregational Program Budget – Erv Merz, Director of Stewardship and Finance Board
14. Presentation & Approval of 2008 Children’s Center Budget – Mary Fetter, Director of Children’s Outreach Ministries Board
15. Election results, & motion to destroy ballots – John Austin
16. Motion for adjournment – John Austin
17. Closing Prayer - Pastor Lynnae

(Note: All “Confirmed members” are “voting members”.)

VISION STATEMENT: Growing together in God’s love and sharing that love with our community.

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

2008-2009 LEADERSHIP BALLOT
Annual Congregational Meeting, November 18, 2007

2007 Nominating Committee: Debra Ayoub, Pat Hohertz, J.D. Lewis, Jeff Roberts, Jeri Lyn Sump

(Note: Officers and Board Directors are two-year terms.)

PRESIDENT

Diane Albin

TREASURER

Sheila Koehler

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD DIRECTOR

Tammy Santos (1 year term)

CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES BOARD DIRECTOR

Mary Fetter (1 year term)

EVANGELISM & OUTREACH BOARD DIRECTOR

Steve Kikta

PARISH FELLOWSHIP BOARD DIRECTOR

OPEN

MEMBERSHIP CARE BOARD DIRECTOR

Margaret Dove

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BOARD DIRECTOR

OPEN

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BOARD DIRECTOR

Marian Hollien

2008 NOMINATING COMMITTEE (five to be elected for one-year term)

Monica Lunday

Kurt Rech

Hal Schultz

OPEN

OPEN