

The Tie That Binds

Abiding Love Lutheran Church

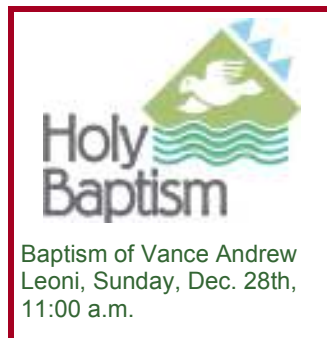


7210 Brush Country Road
Austin, Texas 78749
512-892-4040



HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be served at the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sun., Dec. 21st.



No Sunday School on Dec. 28th!

Love Letter No. 1216

December 17, 2008



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

† † †

The Tie That Binds



“Staff Greeting...”

Dear Friends in Christ:

In the peaceful joys of Christmas,
in the stars that shine above,
in the wonder of the season,
in the gift of God's great love...

May you find hope and promise that will bless you this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year!

Pastor David Fetter

Pastor Lynnae Sorensen

Cindy Kunz

Joan Hokanson

Karron Lewis

Dona Brooks

Laurie Donovan

Sherry Petriella

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas Cantata



You are invited to join in a musical celebration of Christ's birth...

“Good News of Great Joy”

Sunday, December 21st, at the 11:00 a.m.

◆ Presented by our the Abiding Love Choir,
with a special Children's Chorus

◆ Also, our Instrumental Ensemble will be playing

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th

6:00 p.m.—Candles & Carols Worship Service

*8:00 p.m.—Candles & Carols Worship Service
with Mixed Blessings*



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



IN THE HOSPITAL: Tom Thomas, Seton, ICU, Bed A-13
Johnnie Strickland, Seton, Rm. 801

HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL: Floyd Vowell

HOME FROM DAY SURGERY: Alan Matejowsky

HOME FROM EYE SURGERY: Marcy Cornell

DEATHS: Ron Marlow, grandfather of Shelby Atkinson
Daughter & Granddaughter of Audrey & Andy Whitney

PRAYER-REQUESTS:

- ** Craig Hohertz
 - ** Marilyn Segner
 - ** Kay Nicholson
 - ** Sherry Abrahamson
 - ** Travis Koehler
 - ** R.H. Heidemeyer
 - ** Charlie Lunday
 - ** Kris Griffin
 - ** Christian-Charles de Plicque
 - ** Danny & Katy (asked for our prayers via phone)
 - ** Gertrude Eschberger (Betty Matejowsky's mother)
 - ** Thanksgiving at the birth of Ephraim James Essinger (Jesse & Marilyn's great-grandson)
 - ** Dorothy McNorton (friend of the Kiktas)
 - ** James Wisdom (Ann Willman's infant grandson)
 - ** For the family of Elmo Bohmann at his death (Nick Bohmann'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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

- Dec. 22—Hugh Krause, Daneen Machicek, Amy Urban
- Dec. 24—Laura Bost, Kevan Drake, Rose Leoni
- Dec. 25—Diane Albin
- Dec. 26—Madison Lewis
- Dec. 27—Danny Page, Kai Robison
- Dec. 28—Sherri Karley, Paul Schattenberg
- Dec. 30—J.D. Bostick
- Dec. 31—Amanda Kunz
- Jan. 1—Travis Gonzalez, Cheryl Lundberg
- Jan. 2—Kora Renfro, Matt Wyatt
- Jan. 3—Clark Beach
- Jan. 4—Murray Collins, Karron Lewis
- Jan. 6—Di Brophy
- Jan. 8—John Kuntschik, Coleen Thompson, Kelly Wyatt
- Jan. 10—R.H. Heidemeyer



+ WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS +

New members received on Sunday, December 14th!

Gary & Pat Andrews, 5962 Mesa Verde Cir., Austin, TX 78749 394-0980

Sponsor: Diane McGowan
Gary and Pat recently moved from Northwest Austin, where they were members of Peace Lutheran. They have been married for 31 years and have four children. Their oldest son has been in the U.S. Marines for 10 years. Gary is a software engineer by trade, and has worked at IBM for 31 years. Pat has been a volunteer for the LeLeache League Organization for 26 years. They like to dance a lot—Cajun, Zydeco, Country, Swing, and all types of Latin dances. They, also, love to camp and hike, and spend time with nature.

Jared Clarkson, 8510 Selway Dr., Austin 78736 963-3241
Sponsor: Callie Clarkson

Jared is married to Callie (Koenig) Clarkson, who has been a member of Abiding Love a long time. Jared is a teacher in the Wimberley School District. He and Callie have two boys, Taylor & Andrew.

Paul & Heather Leonard, 1716 Woodward St., #112, Austin 78741 590-4835

Sponsors: Erv & Barb Merz
Paul's hometown is Arlington, Texas. He came to Austin in 1995 to attend school, and has been here ever since. He is employed as a network administrator for Telenetwork Inc. He enjoys computers, cooking, and sewing. Heather does not have a hometown as she was a military kid. She came to Austin in 2006 to attend graduate school. She is employed as a research assistant for the University of Texas, and is currently working on a research study in the Del Valle ISD. She enjoys sewing, gardening, knitting, and cooking.

Kyle & Michelle Olson, Children—Andrew, Caroline, Sam & Phillip, 140 Daisy Path, Austin 78737 514-0613

Sponsors: Brent, Sherri, Amber, Rachel, Evan & Braden Karley
They moved to Austin from Connecticut in July of 2006 as a result of Kyle's job transfer within AT&T. Kyle works downtown in an office near the Capitol. Michelle is a physical therapist at St. David's South Austin Hospital. The four kids enjoy running their parents from practices to games all days of the week for T-ball, Soccer, and gymnastics. In our limited free time, we enjoy spending time with friends, exploring Austin, and fantasy football (some members of the family more than others).

Richard & Janet Ryon, & son, Joshua, 2606 Broken Oak, Austin 78745 447-8195

Sponsors: Steve & Reggie Kikta
Janet has worked in medical records at Texas Oncology Cancer Center for the past 8 years. Her hobbies are needlework & scrap-booking. Richard is a real estate broker with Investors Alliance. Joshua will be 10 years old on December 29th.





BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 21ST: "Fourth Sunday in Advent"

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38



BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 28TH: "First Sunday of Christmas"

Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY 4TH: "Second Sunday of Christmas"

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

* + * **STATISTICS** * + *

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH:

Worship - (8:30) + (11:00) = 218 (Total)
*Offerings - \$11,766.03 (Current) + \$1,560.00 (Debt Fund) +
*Other Offerings - \$25.00 (Capital Improvements) +
\$45.00 (Food Pantry) +
\$5.00 (Kairos) +
\$20.00 (Youth Ministry) +
\$142.00 (Music cabinets)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH:

Worship - (8:30) + (11:00) = 244 (Total)
Sunday School - 93
*Offerings - \$8,618.42 (Current) + \$850.00 (Debt Fund) +
*Other Offerings - \$505.00 (Gifts & Memorials) +
\$100.00 (ELCA Hunger) +
\$100.00 (Lutheran World Relief) +
\$5.00 (Kairos) +
\$160.00 (Good Samaritan Fund) +
\$505.00 (Staff Christmas) +
\$345.00 (Amber's Angels)

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

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.

Your Christmas Gift-List



The ministry of Abiding Love Lutheran Church continues to be a great blessing to many. Your love-offerings are expressions of faith that the miracle of Jesus Christ's birth as the World's Savior is the greatest Christmas gift we will ever receive. May your gift-list include a special gift to say "thanks be to God" as we conclude another year of sharing the first Christmas angels "Good News of great joy" that continues to be proclaimed!

Food Pantry



Our greatest need for December is small canned hams and other canned meats. We also need shampoo, tooth paste, pasta, and peanut butter. No stocking stuffers are needed.

We will be open every Monday in December. Some of our volunteers will be gone during the holidays, so we will need some substitutes on Monday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. If you would like to help during this time or join our volunteer team on a regular basis, please contact Diane McGowan, dmcgowan3@austin.rr.com or 892-4416.

Your support, and the work of the many volunteers who have served in the last year is greatly appreciated!

Diane McGowan
Food Pantry Coordinator

Give Back the Blessings!

♥ MEMORIALS:

Amber's Angels

For Rex Medcalf by Annette Smith.

Debt Fund

For Rex Medcalf by Philip Drake & Laurie Donovan.

Food Pantry

For Rex Medcalf by Hazeldean Dumler.

General Fund

For Rex Medcalf by Marian Utpadel, Bill & Kay Nicholson, Nader & Debra Ayoub, Kim & Bob Thonhoff, Diane McGowan, Alan & Betty Matejowsky, Paul & Amelia Mettke.

Gifts & Memorials

For Kenneth Linebarger by Alan & Betty Matejowsky,
For Rex Medcalf by Zolene Curlee, George & Rosa Hatfield,
Verla Cook, Royce & Sherry Abrahamson, Bill & Di Brophy,
Morris & Coleen Thompson, Greta Rymal, B.L. & Marcie Parker,
Lee & Georgia Wood.

For Flora Friedrich by Danny & Cheryl Adrian.

Youth Ministry

For Rex Medcalf by Brad & Charlotte Ballard.

The **Good Samaritan Fund** is low on funds. Your gifts of love would be most appreciated.

We are desperately in need of **plastic grocery bags** for the Food Pantry -- had 66 families on Monday, Dec. 8th, and down to very few bags! You can bring them to the Food Pantry box any Sunday.

Sunday, January 4th

Congregation Council Installation,
and Recognition of outgoing Council members.

Congregation Council Orientation Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

*** **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



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!
 No practices will be held on Dec. 23rd & 30th.



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

December 5, 2008

ELCA Presiding Bishop's 2008 Christmas Message:

"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.'" -- Luke 2:15

Let's go! Now! When angels came to some shepherds with a brilliant message one night long ago, the shepherds had a brilliant idea. Let's go! Let's see what God is doing!

The unknown dangers of the night did not hold them back. Perhaps they knew that some of God's best work is done under the cover of darkness -- the creation of all things, wrestling with Jacob, Israel's escape from slavery.

Or maybe they didn't. Maybe all they needed was the announcement of what God was up to this time. This time God would be conducting a rescue like none before -- saving the whole world, bringing peace and goodwill. Once again it's an undercover operation -- God hidden deep in the flesh and working "under the sign of opposites" (as Martin Luther called it). Arriving as a baby in diapers, God's Son recruited tax collectors and fishermen, social misfits and despised sinners in a rescue mission that culminated in the hidden power of the cross.

What if the shepherds had yawned, "That's interesting, some other time," and remained sitting in the night, in the dirt, in the comfort of predictable hardships and familiar enemies? Would promised joy have found them anyway?

Let's not test that speculation with our lives. Let's go! Let's see what God is doing!

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
 Presiding Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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.

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

Dec. 28-30 - Five youth and 2 sponsors will attend the Sr. High Youth Gathering in Corpus Christi. The theme this year is "Divine Design"!



First Friday Free Movie

January 2nd

Doors open—6:30 p.m.

Movie Begins—7:00 p.m.

Abiding Love Activity Center

"Raising Helen"

Touchstone Pictures, R PG-13

A fun, sweet movie, with real values

Author: bruce-281

"This is a must see movie! The whole family will enjoy it. Kate Hudson is enjoyable to watch. John Corbett was a good leading man for her. Good writing, directing, acting. Joan Cusack makes it a complete sweet dramatic comedy. The kids were well chosen for this; they are all good actors! Abigail Breslin is such a cutie in this. I liked the Pastor being portrayed as a regular guy, a real person, with normal desires, Yet he was still a good pastor, a spiritual leader that could be trusted. This movie reminds us that getting back to the things in life that are important is what makes our lives rich and happy."

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.

Lutheran World Relief Sewing Kits

Our last LWR project for this year is to collect items with fabric for sewing kits and/or to collect only the fabric. Our goal is to get 20 different sets of fabric or kits.



Each year, Lutheran World Relief distributes thousands of sewing kits overseas. Many are used in vocational training programs to teach young men and women sewing skills that they can use to earn an income.

Each sewing kit includes the following items:

- 3 yards of 44/45" or 4 yards of 36" cotton or cotton-blend fabric. No knits/polyester.
- 1 package of 10-15 needles for hand sewing
- 1 spool of matching color of thread
- 1 card of 6 or more 1/2" to 5/8" matching buttons

Or we can send only the sewing fabric of the same amounts as shown above. No other items need to be purchased or donated.

Thank you for opening up your hearts to be caring and sharing people of God. This project is sponsored by the Women of ELCA. Please place all donations in the bottom drawer of the armoire in the Reception area. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Tiedt, WELCA Secretary of Stewardship, at 892-2264.

BULLETIN BOARD

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be mailed on Wed., Jan. 7th. Please get your articles to the Church Office by Mon., Jan. 5th. 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.



- ◆ From Mary Essinger to the people of Abiding Love: "Thank you for your prayer support."
- ◆ From Jamie Villalobos and Angela Renfro to all the children who were in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", and to their parents for supporting the children! Angela and Jamie are really proud of them for all their hard work. To Mary Fetter for directing the children's choir; to Vicki Sutton for being the Narrator; to Laurie Donovan for playing the piano; to the men upstairs for the lights, sound, and projector; to the Sunday School teachers for helping fit costumes, practicing parts and songs; to the Parish Fellowship Board for the goodie bags for the children and for hosting, setting up, and cleaning up for the party. Everyone's time and efforts are greatly appreciated. We pray that all of you will continue to show and spread the love this Christmas season and through the new year to come!
- ◆ From the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal for our recent monetary gift.
- ◆ From Frances Wogenstahl for the Christmas Carolers on Saturday, Dec. 13th, and to Mary Santos for giving her the Christmas Story Book made by the 4th & 5th Grade Youth.
- ◆ To Bob von Bieberstein for his frequent work in maintaining our church lawn and grounds.
- ◆ To everyone who responded so generously to the "Amber's Angels" project for the children who spend Christmas at the Dell Children's Hospital of Austin. Thank you to Amber Karley for bringing this to our attention on behalf of her friend, Amberlyn Fett (see the website— www.ambers-angels.org).
- ◆ To the Mixed Blessings for their musical leadership at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Dec. 14th.
- ◆ To Bill Hatcher for his flute accompaniment with our Choir anthem on Dec. 14th.
- ◆ To the Hartzler, Krabbenhoft, Roberts, Johnson, Albin, Hokanson, Santos, and Sump families for leading the Advent Candle Lighting Ceremonies on the four Sundays in Advent.
- ◆ To our "Alleluia Children's Choir" for singing the "Light the Candle" Advent songs at the four 11:00 a.m. Worship Services in Advent.
- ◆ To Pat Hohertz and B.L. & Marcie Parker for arranging to have the carpet cleaned in the Activity Center!
- ◆ To our four Women's Circles for once again making the annual Advent Brunch a wonderful event.
- ◆ To the teachers in our Children's Center for the beautiful Nativity and other lighted Christmas decorations.
- ◆ To everyone who served at the Funeral Service and Reception/Brunch for Rex Medcalf on Dec. 10th.
- ◆ To Tom Hokanson for coordinating the "Give Back the Blessings Ceremony & Celebration" on Dec. 12th honoring all who have served our community through Christian Service Board projects in 2008.

Thank You Notes continued:

- ◆ From the Properties Board to all that worked at Saturday's Workday: Paul Atkinson, J.D. Bostick, Brad Ballard, Laurie Donovan, Pat & Margaret Dove and their grandchildren, Riley & McKenna. Special thanks to Chris and Sam Randall for help with painting the porch at the Children's Center; and to Pat & Margaret Dove for providing the lunch.
- ◆ From Pat Dove: "I would like to thank all that supported the Properties Board and me during my term as director. Merry and Blessed Christmas to all! Yours in Christ, Pat Dove"
- ◆ From C. B. Slaughter, Jr., Col USAF Ret, "I would like to thank one your staff members for the undivided attention he provided me immediately prior to the services for Lt Col Rex Medcalf on Dec. 10th. I had a mishap outside the church and was bleeding somewhat and this gentleman took care of me in the most professional manner, and I'm grateful. Secondly, I am enclosing a check payable to the church due to exceptional services provided to Col. Medcalf."

Special Thanks!

Thank you to the Middle School Youth for sharing their faith through the telling of the birth of Christ at the Live Nativity on Sunday, December 7th (Emma Albin, Sara Pavey, Sam Collins, Kyle Huddleston, Ben Collins, Bethany Sump, Kyle Dalley, Evan Karley, Kalea Heidemeyer, Sarah Chiang, Kendra Dalley, and Kelsey Hollien). Also, to Sr. High Youth members, Josh Escobedo, Katherine Albin and Tim Sump, for stepping in at the last minute as needed.

Special thanks to our adult support - Dale Sump, Steve Kikta, Erv Merz, Dana and Marian Hollien, Brent Karley, Kristin and Karl Dalley, Karen and Trey Huddleston and Elizabeth Collins for each of their contributions in the setup of the backdrops, hauling wood/hay, and providing lighting, sound, live animals, publicity flyers, hot cocoa and cider. But, most of all, we thank the Holy Spirit for the call and the inspiration to begin again this beautiful tradition at Abiding Love. God's special love at Abiding Love was shared with many in our community - Praise the Lord!

Jeri Lyn Sump
Middle School Youth Sponsor



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.

Global Mission Event
Ethiopia
Jan. 4th, 3:00-5:00 PM
Activity Center



Abiding Love welcomes Pastor Lynnae's Ethiopian Family as they share of their culture. Come enjoy Ethiopian Coffee, Music, Pictures from last summers trip, Native Clothing, a Story of Faith, and information about Water to Thrive, a charitable organization that builds wells in Ethiopia. The Middle School Youth of ALL will lead this project!

