



Victorious

May 15, 2022

ABIDING LOVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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May 15, 2022**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"We, as a Christian congregation, are committed to reaching out with the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, while living and growing ourselves in God's Word."

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word.

- Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- The Elders request that we observe five minutes of quiet time in the sanctuary prior to the start of each service. Please be seated and use this time to prepare for worship and read through the bulletin announcements.
- We love families! Your children are welcome in our service. Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus. If you would like, there are children's worship bags with lessons, crayons, and books in the back of the church. An usher can assist you. We ask that you return these to the basket after the service.
- If you desire, there is a nursery space set up in the Fellowship Hall where parents may supervise young children when necessary. The service may be heard from this room.
- Please silence your cell phones.

Series Theme: Victorious

To the world he seemed like a defeated man: opposed and killed by his enemies, his followers scattered in fear. Yet three days after Jesus' death he rose victorious from the dead. Nothing would ever be the same. The rest of eternity is now a victory march for the risen Christ. During Easter, we should not think of ourselves as passive observers in Christ's victory. We are more than fans cheering for our favorite athlete! Rather, we are active participants in Christ's triumph. Just as his death was our death, so also his life is our life. Buried with Christ in baptism, our life is now hidden with him on high. The victory is ours, now and forever. Easter is more than a day. It is an entire joyful season. The six solemn weeks of Lent are eclipsed by seven weeks of unbridled joy. These seven weeks correspond to the period of fifty days on the Jewish calendar between Passover and Pentecost. The Church reserves its highest praise for the Easter season. We do not merely watch from the sidelines as Christ marches in victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell. We join in the festal procession!

Theme of the Day:

Selfless Love Marches Victorious Over Self-Glorification

The disciples argued among themselves about who was "greatest" (Luke 22:24). We are not immune from such hubris. Sinful man is entirely self-focused. We often try to prove our goodness by comparing ourselves to others. You see this sense of superiority in the way we prioritize life, typically putting our wants ahead of others. Easter ends this focus on self. Right now, we know we have value, not because of the greatness of our actions, but because of the great things Christ did to save. We also know a resurrection to glory is in our future. Easter helps us avoid the trap of self-glorification and opens our eyes to a more excellent way: selfless love. Christ did not glorify himself, but selflessly did everything for the benefit of others. This week, he promises to be our inexhaustible power supply that we might also put selfless love into practice.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

The Service: Setting Two

(page 172 in the front of the hymnal)

731 Oh, How Good It Is

CW 731



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
 2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -
 3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand to pre -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty. Where the
 joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the
 fer one an - oth - er, for - give as he for - gives. When we



bonds of peace, of ac - cept - ance and love are the
 weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace when we
 live as one we all share in the love of the



fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
 of - fer the bless - ing of be - long - ing.
 Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

Refrain

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,



and with one heart we'll live out his word,



till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come,



for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
 and will forgive us our sins
 and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

510 In Christ Alone

CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died, the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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+The Word+

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Stand

Gospel

John 13:31–35

³¹When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

709 Christ the Vine

CW 709



1 I long to serve my Sav - ior, to seek what's good and right,
 2 There came, with grace un - spar - ing, a vine from heav'n a - bove,
 3 And so I'll serve my Sav - ior with pow'r that he pro - vides,



to trust and nev - er wa - ver, to walk in truth and light.
 its branch - es meant for bear - ing the fruits of self - less love.
 for he, my blest Re - deem - er, with - in my soul a - bides.



But con - duct pure and ho - ly re - quires a pow'r not mine;
 This vine is Christ who of - fered his life up - on a tree;
 The fruit of self - less giv - ing will grow by God's de - sign



a branch is fruit - ful on - ly when an - chored in a vine.
 for all my sin he suf - fered and made a branch of me.
 as I, the branch, keep liv - ing by faith in Christ the vine.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Irish

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Sermon

John 15:1-8

Sermon Theme: “*Jesus is Your Vine*”

- I. Remain in Him
- II. See What God Does Through You

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

(The 8:00am service continues on p. 15 with the Apostles' Creed.)



RITE OF CONFIRMATION *(10:30am)*

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

Profession of Faith

Prayer

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**



Blessing of the Confirmands

+ Abigail Claire Koltz +

Confirmation verse: Matthew 6:26 (NIV)

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

+ Finia Lara Wilsch +

Confirmation verse: Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

“Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged. For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

+ Abigail Annaliese Schmidt +

Confirmation verse: Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV)

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Apostles' Creed (8:00am service. Please see slides.)

CW 181

Prayer of the Church**Offering**

Our offering to the Lord our Savior God flows from hearts of joy and love. The offering is used to support the work of proclaiming the gospel message here and around the world. No one is obligated to join in the offering.

To give an offering electronically, visit our website: www.abiding-love.com/giving and click on "donate."

We ask our members, friends, and those visiting with us today to complete an attendance card located in the seat backs and place it in the offering plate. If your contact information has recently changed, please indicate this so we may update our records.

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are donated by the Wilsch and Koltz families in honor of the confirmation of their daughters.

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
 ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
 chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
 is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
 teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Prayer

Lord's Prayer (8:00am service. Please see slides.)

CW 171

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

868 By Faith

CW 868

1. By faith we see the hand of God
 In the light of creation's grand design
 In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
 Who walk by faith and not by sight

2. By faith our fathers roamed the earth
 With the power of His promise in their hearts
 Of a holy city built by God's own hand
 A place where peace and justice reign

Refrain

We will stand as children of the promise
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
 Till the race is finished and the work is done
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight

3. By faith the prophets saw a day
 When the longed-for Messiah would appear
 With the power to break the chains of sin and death
 And rise triumphant from the grave

Hymn continues next page.

4. By faith the church was called to go
 In the power of the Spirit to the lost
 To deliver captives and to preach good news
 In every corner of the earth *Refrain*

Refrain

We will stand as children of the promise
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
 Till the race is finished and the work is done
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight

5. By faith this mountain shall be moved
 And the power of the gospel shall prevail
 For we know in Christ all things are possible
 For all who call upon His name *Refrain*

Text and music: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
 Music: Keith Getty; Kristyn Getty; Stuart Townend; arr. Ruth N. Coleman, b. 1953

Silent Prayer

The Ushers will dismiss the rows from front to back.

Acknowledgments

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no children's Sunday School on May 22nd or May 29th. Children's Sunday School classes will resume on June 5th.

CAMP SOUTH and YOUTH RALLY REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Youth in grades 4 thru 9 (as of Fall 2022) are invited to attend **Camp South** in Covington, GA (July 25-29). Registration deadline is May 15th.

High School youth are invited to attend the **WELS International Youth Rally** (June 28-July 1) in Knoxville, TN. Registration deadline is May 31st.

See Staff Minister Ben Mahnke if you are interested in attending.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY—LIVE!

Resumes Thursday, June 2nd at 4:00pm

“THE BOOK OF GENESIS: UNDERSTANDING OUR ROOTS”

Our Thursday livestream study has been very popular for members, winter friends, and guests alike. We are in the process of upgrading the equipment for this class. Plans are to re-launch the class on Thursday, June 2nd, 4pm. We will pick up where we left off and finish the Book of Genesis over the summer months.

In the meantime, please use some of our archived Bible study resources on our facebook/youtube pages or on our website. Past series include: 1) A Verse by Verse Walk through Revelation 2) The Lutheran Catechism -- an explanation of the 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Sacraments, and the Lord's Prayer.

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Sunday Mornings at 9:15am
Begins Today!
Led by Pastor Gensmer



The Body of Christ -- Serving One Another

Overview: Abiding Love Lutheran Church exists to reach out with the true gospel of Jesus Christ (outreach), while living and growing ourselves in God's Word (inreach).

Unfortunately, sometimes a church or its members get away from its mission or forget why it does what it does.

These three weeks we will introduce you to ways members can serve one another, explore future opportunities in a growing church, all the while remembering what compels us to service as the body of Christ.

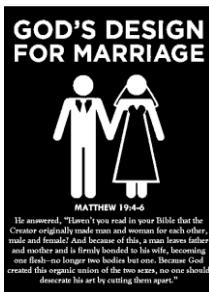
May 15 – Caring for the Sick, Elderly, and Grieving

May 22 – Caring for Our Little Ones (Part 1)

May 29 – Caring for Our Little Ones (Part 2)

UPCOMING ADULT BIBLE STUDY
June 5th – 19th
Led by Pastor Gensmer

Marriage and Gender: God's Plan, Our Witness



Overview: Our Creator designed marriage as a blessing for a man and a woman. We live in a society that instead often looks upon marriage as a human construct to be shaped and fashioned according to our own desires.

The result is a need for God's Church to carry out its role in giving clear witness to truth in a way that glorifies God's name among us, to the world, and for generations to come.

Before considering how we can best give this clear witness, we begin by returning to the truth of Scripture to understand what God does and does not say regarding marriage and genders.

JOIN OUR MONDAY WORSHIP

You may have not been aware or it may have slipped your mind, but we have a Monday evening worship service.

Our Monday service is held at 7pm. It is a shorter, simpler version of Sunday morning. The service is typically 40-45 minutes. Monday worship can be a great option for:

- those busy with work or activities on Sunday morning
- those who prefer smaller groups
- those with young children
- those who don't like getting up in the morning

We want to continue to offer Monday worship year-round, rather than just winter months. This is contingent on seeing that our members (and visitors) want to use it.

So, if you can't make a Sunday, come and try one of our Monday services coming up at 7pm.

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY – Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Paula Bruns hosts an evening Bible Study at her home every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. The group has just begun studying the Book of Romans. Please join us at 5695 Bolla Court in Fort Myers if you are interested. If you would like to know more about the group, please contact Paula at 239-634-1008.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY – Tuesdays at 8:00am

The Men's Breakfast Group will be meeting at **Gregory's Fusion Restaurant**, located at 1242 SW Pine Island Road at 8:00am this Tuesday morning.

WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP – Weds. at 10:45am

The Women's Morning Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday at 10:45am at church. Currently we are studying the book "*Wherever Love May Lead*" by Catherine Duerr. All women are invited to attend.

2022 SUMMER CAMP



June 13-July 29

8:00am-4:00pm Daily

For Children Ages 3-11

\$150/week*

Registration has begun for this year's Summer Camp Program! The children will experience the Bible during fun-filled weeks featuring games, crafts, stories and songs. For more details and registration information, please visit abidinglovepreschool.com online or call the Preschool at 239-984-1443.

*Cost may vary due to 4th of July holiday and Vacation Bible School program week.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20-24; 9:00am-1:00pm

Ages 3-11

During this wet and wild VBS, kids will learn that when you put your trust in Jesus, you can "make waves" because His Spirit will live inside you. Through fun activities, engaging lessons, and God's Word, this VBS helps kids understand how they can share God's love with the people around Him.

This will be held the week of June 20 – 24; 9:00am– 1:00pm; ages 3 – 11 (must be fully potty trained) – there is no cost to members.

Register online: www.abiding-love.com



ABOUT ABIDING LOVE: *Abiding Love Lutheran Church is a congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), with almost 400,000 members in 49 states and missionaries in 23 nations. The WELS is committed to the Scriptures as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and therefore the only guide for faith and life. If you would like to know more about us, or if you're seeking Biblical counseling, give Pastor Gensmer a call at 850-445-1970 or email him at: pastor@abiding-love.com.*