



September 18, 2022

ABIDING LOVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

3205 S. Chiquita Blvd., Cape Coral, Florida 33914

Staff Minister Mr. Ben Mahnke + church office-239-984-1441

www.abiding-love.com

www.abidinglovepreschool.com

Email: info@abiding-love.com

preschool@abiding-love.com

September 18, 2022 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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, *including our youngest children!* 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: Hard Truth

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. If you expect Jesus to use these final teaching opportunities to share happy thoughts, you don’t know him well. With a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even if we do not want to hear them. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he challenges conventional wisdom. He reverses the normal and natural order of things. This should not surprise us, considering this Teacher’s life and work are the opposite of what one would expect.

When the truth is hard to hear, the first temptation is to deny it. We cannot do that with Jesus’ teaching, for he never lies. When the truth is hard to hear, the second temptation is to simply ignore it. To do that with Jesus is to court eternal death. Thus, Jesus’ words contain an urgent warning: Listen! Take to heart what Jesus says! For his Word, though it contains hard truth, gives eternal life.

Theme of the Day:

Serve God with Money; You Can’t Serve God and Money

There are more than 2300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. And that evil foe knows how successful his efforts with money can be. Money provides us with a false comfort and a sense of security. It serves as a source of pride. It serves as a wonderful tool for a favorite pastime: justifying ourselves in our own eyes and the eyes of others. Jesus knows that serving money makes it impossible to serve God. The human heart is not big enough for both. As a result, Jesus does all he can to expose the futility of serving money. He also helps us see that the only one truly worth serving is our gracious, loving God. When we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of money being a lord to serve, it becomes a resource for serving the Lord. This is the hard truth. There is no way for us to serve both God and money. But we can serve God with our money.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

The Service: Setting Two

(page 172 in the front of the hymnal)

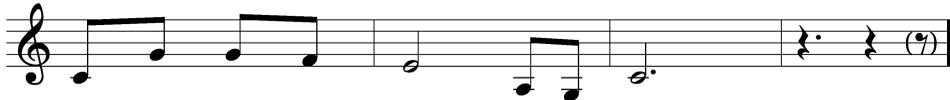
753 My Worth Is Not in What I Own CW 753 sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–5



1 My worth is not in what I own, not
 2 My worth is not in skill or name, in
 3 As sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,



in the strength of flesh and bone, but in the
 win or lose, in pride or shame, but in the
 youth, and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e -



cost - ly wounds of love at the cross. v. 2
 blood of Christ that flowed at the cross. *Refrain*
 ter - nal calls to us at the cross. v. 4

Refrain



I re-joyce in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,



well-spring of my soul. I will trust in him, no oth - er; my



soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

4 I will not boast in wealth or might,
 or human wisdom's fleeting light.
 But I will boast in knowing Christ
 at the cross. (Refrain)

5 Two wonders here that I confess:
 my worth and my unworthiness.
 My value fixed—my ransom paid
 at the cross. (Refrain)

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974
 Tune: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Text and tune: © 2014 Getty Music Publishing and Makeway Music, admin. MusicServices.org. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

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.

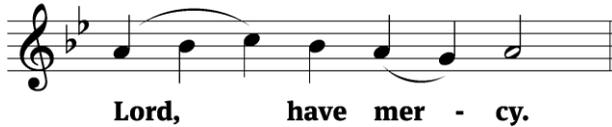
Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen
 Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

+The Word+

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; 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**Ecclesiastes 5:10–20**

¹⁰Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.

¹¹As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

¹²The sleep of a laborer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.

¹³I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
¹⁴or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.
¹⁵Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.
They take nothing from their toil
that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶This too is a grievous evil:
As everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?
¹⁷All their days they eat in darkness,
with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰They seldom

reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17–19

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

748 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

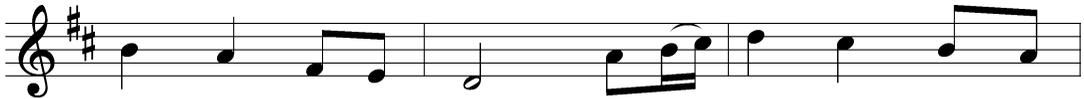
CW 748



1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly give to God our all, our
 2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, by the gift of Christ, his
 3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice for the sake of Christ, your



best: ser - vice heart - y, thor - ough, hon - est, with a
 Son, what great good - ness he has shown us, what high
 Son; lo, our hope a - bides now on - ly in the



liv - ing love im - pressed. All our du - ty, all our
 mar - vels he has done! Let us to him prompt - ly,
 right - eous - ness he won. Bless and save us, help and



striv - ing, all our time to him be - long; praise him,
 free - ly, yield our bod - ies and our souls, thank - ful
 guide us, watch to com - fort and re - store, till in



then, with true de - vo - tion, come be - fore him with a song.
 that his love pro - tects us, that his wis - dom all con - trols.
 heav'n we rest re - joic - ing, prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–1872

Tune: adapt. William Bradbury, 1816–1868; Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 16:1-13

*Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch***Theme: “Christians Are Called to Be Wise Money Managers”**

- I. Understanding that money is not a god but belongs to our eternal and loving God.
- II. Viewing money as an undeserved trust from God, who gives forgiveness and life.
- III. Being found faithful with small things, while being entrusted with greater things.
- IV. Using money as a tool for preparing themselves and others for eternal happiness.

¹Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶“ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own

kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering & Attendance

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."

Attendance: 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 Kevin Beichler in memory of his nephew, Julian Servello.



750 We Give Thee but Thine Own

CW 750



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, abr.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

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.

752 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

CW 752



1 Gra - cious God, you send great bless - ings new each
 2 By your Word you formed cre - a - tion filled with
 3 In his earth - ly life, our Sav - ior knew the
 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing bear the



morn - ing all our days. For your mer - cies
 crea - tures large and small; as we tend that
 care of faith - ful friends; may our deeds of
 im - print of your grace; with the Son and



nev - er end - ing, for your love we of - fer praise.
 end - less trea - sure may our care en - cir - cle all.
 ded - i - ca - tion of - fer love that nev - er ends.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, praise be yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain

Lord, we pray that we, your peo - ple who your



gifts un - num - bered claim, through the shar - ing



of your bless - ings may bring glo - ry to your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946

Tune: ed. William Moore; Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1825

Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

Tune: Public domain

Silent Prayer

WELS Connection Video

The Ushers will dismiss the rows from front to back.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

WELCOME GUEST PASTOR HERB HUHNERKOCH

Once again, we give thanks and a warm welcome to Pastor Herb Huhnerkoch (*pronounced “Hunnercook”*) who is a retired ELS pastor, although he graduated from the WELS Seminary in Mequon, WI. Pastor Huhnerkoch’s first call was to Cutler Ridge Lutheran Church in Miami, FL where he served for 8 years. He then served in southern California for 4 years; Lake Havasu City, AZ for 10 years; and Kissimmee, FL for 20 years. Pastor Huhnerkoch and his wife, Barb, have two sons, Ryan and Jesse. The Huhnerkochs currently live in Fort Myers.

LAST WEEK AT ABIDING LOVE:

ATTENDANCE 9/11: 8:00am: 49 10:30am: 72 **Total:** 121

Bible Class: 17

Sunday School: 6

THIS WEEK AT ABIDING LOVE:

USHERS: 8:00am Kevin & Wendy Beichler; Ben Mahnke
10:30am Lenny Cannova; Bonnie Landis; Stebbins Family

ACCOMPANIST: Jack Lehnhardt

POWER POINT: 8:00am Jay & Stacey Devlin **Next:** Jay & Stacey Devlin
10:30am Serena Kasai-Hazekamp **Next:**

LIVESTREAM: 10:30am Aaron Rys **Next:** Aaron Rys

NURSERY: Chris Karnuth

ALTAR GUILD: 8:00am Deb Messner
(9/11 & 9/25) 10:30am Deb Nelson; Nicky Shelton

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--|
| TODAY | 11:45am | OPEN FORUM |
| Tues., Sept. 20 | 8:00am | Men's Fellowship Breakfast at House of Omelets on Pine Island Road |
| | 5:30pm | Preschool Board Meeting |
| | 6:30pm | Women's Evening Bible Study at the home of Paula Bruns—1 st & 2 nd Peter |
| Wed., Sept. 21 | 8:30am | Preschool Chapel |
| | 10:45am | Women's Bible Study |
| Sun., Sept. 25 | 11:45am | Call Meeting |
| Sat., Oct. 1 | 10:30am | Ladies' New Member Brunch |
| Sun., Nov. 13 | 11:45am | Voters' Meeting |

VACANCY

We are currently in a vacancy situation and are utilizing guest pastors to lead our worship services. We are following the WELS Call Process as we search for our new pastor. Please keep our church, our called workers, and our church leaders in your prayers. We will try to keep everyone informed as to our progress during this time of transition. If you are not a member and would like to be included in our email communications, please indicate this on your attendance card.

CALL MEETING – Sunday, September 25th at 11:45am

Our next Call Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 25th following the 10:30 worship service. Pastor Mielke will once again be leading our Call Meeting. A light lunch will be served.

TODAY'S ADULT BIBLE CLASS – 9:15am

Join us for today's Adult Bible Class led by Rod Busch at 9:15am in the Church Sanctuary. In today's class we will be studying the words "*Patience*" and "*Endurance*" as they are used in the Bible. We hope you will join us!

LIVESTREAM TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN YOU!

Ready to take that next step in developing your tech skills? We invite you to learn how we Livestream our worship services. We are in need of a few more people to become involved in this very important ministry team. Please see Ben Mahnke or Aaron Rys if you are interested. Or contact the church office—239-984-1441 or info@abiding-love.com.



**JOIN US
FOR AN OPEN FORUM
TODAY at 11:45am**

All members are encouraged to join us for our Open Forum TODAY following the 10:30am worship service. We will be discussing current and future plans for our church and preschool ministries. Please plan to join us. Light refreshments will be served.



**New Member Ladies' Brunch
Saturday, October 1
10:30am-12:30pm**

Special Event: The Circle of Abiding Love is sponsoring a New Member Ladies' Brunch for all new members who have joined since 2018 on Saturday, October 1st from 10:30am-12:30pm. Please join us for fellowship, food, fun, and a chance to get to know our newest members! If you would like to bring a dish for the brunch, there is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the narthex.



**SAVE THE DATE
ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**

Sunday, December 4th at 5:30pm

This year's Advent by Candlelight will be held on Sunday, December 4th at 5:30pm in the Church Sanctuary. You won't want to miss this opportunity to prepare your heart for the Advent Season. Reservations will be available around the first week in November. Please add this date to your calendar.

Want to ensure that you have a seat for this year's Advent by Candlelight? Become a table hostess and we will reserve a chair for you! Hostesses provide table settings for 8-10 people, holiday table decorations, candles, and a dessert. You may also serve as a co-hostess if you prefer. It's lots of fun and requires only a few hours of preparation. Call 239-984-1441 to become a hostess.

**ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING
November 13th at 11:45am**

Please mark your calendars! Our annual Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th following the 10:30 worship service (at approximately 11:45am). We will be approving our annual budget for the church and hold an election of Council members for the 2023-24 term.

2023 Annual Budgets Due

All Abiding Love Committees doing business on behalf of the church are asked to submit their 2023 budget proposals to Treasurer, Rich Karnuth by October 16, 2022. These figures will be included in our proposed 2023 Budget which will be presented for approval at our Voters' Meeting on November 13, 2022.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST – Tuesdays at 8:00am

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group meets every Tuesday morning at 8:00am at the House of Omelets, located at 900 SW Pine Island Rd #122 in Cape Coral. We hope you can join us.

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 is studying the Books of 1st and 2nd Peter. 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.

WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP—Wed. at 10:45

The Women's Morning Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday at 10:45am at church, *except the first Wednesday of the month when they meet at 10:00am*. Currently we are studying the book "Wherever Love May Lead" by Catherine Duerr. All women are invited to attend. Please contact Sheryl Pierson if you have any questions. 239-464-1740 or jspierson1945@gmail.com

Call Process Update

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

We are in the process of calling the next Pastor of Abiding Love and we are excited as God leads us along this path.

- On September 14th we received a telephone call and a letter from Pastor Steven Saatkamp informing us that he was declining our Call to serve as our Pastor. Copies of Pastor Saatkamp’s letter are available at the Welcome Center for your review.
- We have scheduled our third Call Meeting for Sunday, September 25th following the 10:30am worship service (approximately 11:45am). All members are encouraged to attend. Pastor Mielke will be leading our Call Meeting. *A light lunch will be served.*

As we move through the Call Process, please feel free to reach out to Church Council members with any questions or concerns.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kevin Beichler, President | president@abiding-love.com |
| Michael Wu, Vice President | mwu@abiding-love.com |
| Rich Karnuth, Treasurer | treasurer@abiding-love.com |
| Rod Busch, Secretary | rodneybusch3@gmail.com |
| Bob Kalsto, Head Elder | rjkalsto@centurylink.net |
| Merl Widup, Property & Maintenance | grounds@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 Staff Minister Ben Mahnke a call at 239-984-1441 or email him at bmahnke@abiding-love.com.*