



**January 1, 2023**

**ABIDING LOVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

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

Interim Pastor – Rev. Mark S. Voss – 303-808-0611 (cell)

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

[www.abiding-love.com](http://www.abiding-love.com)

[www.abidinglovepreschool.com](http://www.abidinglovepreschool.com)

Church email: [info@abiding-love.com](mailto:info@abiding-love.com)

Preschool email: [preschool@abiding-love.com](mailto:preschool@abiding-love.com)

January 1, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## 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 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 entryway of the church. An usher can assist you. We ask that you return these to the basket after the service.
- **Information:** We ask all our members and visitors to please complete a yellow information card located in the seat backs. These will be collected by the ushers during the offering.
- **Please silence your cell phones.**

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE  
NEW YEAR WORSHIP 2023  
THREE MOUNTAINS

## Pastor's Welcome

### Opening Prayer

**All:** Almighty God, you alone are constant and unchanging. You have safely brought us through the changes of time to the end of one year, the beginning of another. We humbly ask you to forgive the sins of the past year. We pray for grace and renewed zeal to faithfully do your will during the New Year. Be with us and guide us through the saving work of your Spirit. Amen.

### Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

CW 332



1 Let us all with glad-some voice praise the God of heav - en,  
 2 To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sad - ness,  
 3 We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a won - der?  
 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, bless us and be near us.



who, to bid our hearts re - jice, his own Son has giv - en.  
 that with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in glad-ness.  
 There-fore praise God ev - er - more here on earth and yon - der.  
 Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; German, 17th cent  
 Tune: Ander Theil Des Dreszdenischen GesangBuchs, Dresden, 1632, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Invocation and Opening Verses

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place,

**C: in all generations.**

P: Teach us to number our days.

**C: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

## **Confession**

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**ALL: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
 For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
 For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
 For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
 You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
 O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **Lord Have Mercy**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C: Amen.**

## **+ NEW YEAR LESSONS +**

**Old Testament**

Psalm 121

**Look to the mountains for help**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

<sup>4</sup>indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
<sup>8</sup>the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

## **Gospel**

Luke 13:6-9

### **A Lesson from a fig tree**

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup>“ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

P: The Gospel of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Children’s Sermon**

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 soon bears us all away;  
 we fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 still be our guard while troubles last  
 and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.  
 Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

**Rev. Mark S. Voss**

**Theme: “Three Mountains”**

## Mt. Sinai

Exodus 20:18–19

<sup>18</sup>When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance  
<sup>19</sup>and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

## Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361 sts. Ref-1

*Refrain*



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

*Refrain*

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain  
 Tune: African American spiritual  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Mt. Calvary

John 19:17–19

<sup>17</sup>Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup>Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

## Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361 sts. Ref, 2

*Refrain*



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth



rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain  
 Tune: African American spiritual  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Mt. Zion

Hebrews 12:22–24

<sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361 sts. Ref, 3

*Refrain*



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*Refrain*

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain  
 Tune: African American spiritual  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Offering and Information Cards

*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](http://www.abiding-love.com/giving) and click on "donate."*

*Information: We ask our members, friends, and those visiting with us today to complete an information 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.*

## + The Sacrament +

*Dear visiting friends,*

*Abiding Love joins in the historic practice of the Christian Church regarding "close" communion. What this means is that our pastor takes his responsibility to spiritually care for each soul in our congregation very compassionately and seriously. We want those coming to the Lord's table to do so to their spiritual benefit and not harm. We also want the oneness expressed in receiving Holy Communion to be genuine and not contrived.*

*Since this is what we believe, we respectfully ask, if you are not a member of a sister church in WELS or ELS, that you refrain from joining us at communion today. We truly want you to participate in communion with us, but we ask that you give Pastor Mark Voss an opportunity to privately speak with you about it first. Thank you!*

### **Preface**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P:** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Words of Institution**

## **Distribution and Quiet Meditation**

# Thanksgiving

## Blessing

### Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CW 930



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;  
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
 I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort  
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
 glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.  
 Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

Tune: Public domain

## Silent Prayer

*The Ushers will dismiss the rows from front to back.*

**LAST WEEK AT ABIDING LOVE:**

**ATTENDANCE:** Christmas Eve 4:00pm: 114 7:00pm: 98 Total: 212  
 Christmas Day 10:00am: 96

**SERVING THIS WEEK:**

**Ushers: 10:00** Dan Rys; Erv Stiemke; Ryan Schlomer; Sheryl Pierson;  
 Lois Crusan

**Accompanist:** Robert Lozen

**PowerPoint: 10:00** Pete Larson **Next:** The Devlins (8:00)

**Livestream: 10:00** Aaron Rys **Next:** Aaron Rys (10:30)

**Altar Guild-Jan: 8:00** Val Widup  
 10:30 Nicky Shelton

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Jan. 2-6** VPK & Preschool Closed

**Tues. Jan. 3** 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast at House of  
 Omelets on Pine Island Road  
 10:30am Elders' Meeting  
 6:30pm Women's Evening Bible Study at the  
 home of Paula Bruns — Book of James

**Sun. Jan. 8** 8:00am Worship  
 10:30am Worship

**Wed. Jan. 11** 7:00pm **CALL MEETING**

## **2023 Giving Envelopes**

Giving envelopes for 2023 are available this morning in the Narthex. Please take yours home with you today. We understand that not everyone uses giving envelopes as many choose to donate online or choose to give monthly, quarterly or annually. If you have not been assigned giving envelopes and would like them, please see Wendy or Nicky in the church office or contact them by email or phone call -- [info@abiding-love.com](mailto:info@abiding-love.com); 239-984-1441, or simply let one of our ushers know today after services.

## **THE CIRCLE MEETING – Wed., January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**

The next meeting of The Circle will be held on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am after the Women's Bible Study group meets. All women of the church, as well as visitors, are welcome to attend.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP –Wednesday Mornings**

The Women's Morning Bible Study Group will meet again on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Multipurpose Room. We will bring our next Bible Study *What's Big Starts Small* by Mike Novotny, pastor of The CORE (Appleton, WI) who also serves as the lead speaker for *Time of Grace*, a global media ministry. All women are invited to attend. Please contact Sheryl Pierson if you have any questions—239-464-1740 or [jspierson1945@gmail.com](mailto:jspierson1945@gmail.com).

## **EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP—Tues. 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 James. 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 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 Road #122 in Cape Coral. We hope you can join us.



## CALL MEETING UPDATE

### NEW DATE -- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>—7:00pm

We are currently in a vacancy pastor situation. We are following the WELS Call Process as we search for our new pastor. We need to postpone our next call meeting, previously scheduled for January 8th. A list of new 2023 candidates will not be available until January 11th. We have decided to hold our next call meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00pm in order to be first in line for these new candidates. We are asking our members to make every effort to attend this important Call Meeting. All voices will be heard.



**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 Voss a call at 303-808-0611 or email him at: [markvoss35@gmail.com](mailto:markvoss35@gmail.com).*