



Abiding Faith Lutheran is a gathering of people growing in generosity, discipleship, and outreach.

HYMN: #379 AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,

That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures. He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've

once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and por - tion be
grace has brought me safe thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise

Was blind but now I see.
As long as life en - dures.
And grace will lead me home.
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.
Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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.

**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.**

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 the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Christ, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:



Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
“All glo - ry be to God!” A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we gather for your comfort, your hope, your purpose in this frightful world. Calm our hearts and open our minds to hear your Word. Teach us daily to let go of fear and hold on to you, through your Son Jesus Christ, our LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

JOEL 3

¹² "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. ¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!"

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

PSALM 18

Verses are sung responsively. Refrain sung in unison after musical introduction to the refrain.

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and by deliverer;

my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;

he rescued me from my powerful enemy.

He brought me out into a spacious place;

he rescued me because he delighted in me. Refrain

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;

my God turns my darkness into light.

You save the humble*

but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

You give me your shield of victory,

and your right hand sustains me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain**

1 PETER 4

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.² As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.⁴ They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Alleluia.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the

mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

MATTHEW 13

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸ " 'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

HYMN: #417 I'M BUT A STRANGER HERE



1 I'm but a stran - ger here; Heav'n is my home.
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home.
3 There at my Sav - ior's side— Heav'n is my home—
4 There - fore I mur - mur not; Heav'n is my home.



Earth is a des - ert drear; Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pil - grim - age; Heav'n is my home.
I shall be glo - ri - fied; Heav'n is my home.
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home.



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand.
And time's wild, win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best,
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand.



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land; Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last; Heav'n is my home.
And there I, too, shall rest; Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land; Heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35.
Tune: HEAVEN IS MY HOME (64 64 6664) Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900.

SERMON: MATTHEW 13

No more pain!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND OFFERING

- **Text2Give** Text the amount to 615-490-0996
- **PayPal** Visit abiding-faith.org/give
- **Swipe Debit/Credit Card** Login to iPad near Coffee with PIN 1041
- **EFT** Set up recurring withdrawals from your bank. Contact Ted Ewald, Treasurer

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.

LORD'S SUPPER

We prepare to receive a heavenly meal called the **Lord's Supper**. Depending on your preparation (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), this Meal can either bring forgiveness or judgment to you. We invite members of Abiding Faith or other WELS and ELS congregations to eat and drink. Other guests are asked to speak with Pastor Schleis before eating/drinking so you can be properly prepared. Thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the LORD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who has called us to be his own and to live under him in his kingdom and serve him. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

LORD'S 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.

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Day	Usher 915	Usher 1030	Music 915	Music 1030	Fellowship	Mevo	Clean
8/2	Harter, J Nasgovitz	Irwin Young, R	Feil	Cobb	Young Young	Harter	Bass Blumreich
8/9	Nicolosi Saucedo	Barrs Cobb	McFadden	Cobb		Harter	
8/16	Schabel Timmerman	Cox Feil	Feil	Cobb		Harter	Gonzales Schleis
8/23	Wilson Woodward	Gonzales Hildenbrand	McFadden	Cobb		Harter	
8/30	Booth Brown	Kendrick Leiby	Feil	Cobb		Harter	Booth Leiby

Birthdays		
1	Jim Davis	Jeff DeGennaro
3	Beverly Barrs	
4	Jacob Cobb	Kenley Mitchell
6	Ted Ewald	
7	Travis Esberger	
7	Dylan Kendrick	

FREE STUFF

Who likes free stuff? You do!!! Visit the table today for:

- **Faith Resources** like daily devotionals, prayers for pandemics, WELS Forward in Christ, our national church body's monthly magazine, and more.
- **Coffee Mugs and Pens** to share with your family and friends. One guy joined our church after drinking coffee out of a free mug for about a year. A gentle reminder we are here to serve ☺ when your coffee is finished, of course.
- **Church Library** with a bunch of different resources. Take what you want, and return when you are done. Donations welcome, if you have resources you'd like to share.



OPPORTUNITIES

LIVESTREAM: Thanks for your comments and encouragements on our new Livestream setup. It's been a great blessing to offer worship to our brothers and sisters and guests through Facebook and YouTube Live @ 10:30a. If you are willing to serve on our Livestream team that controls our Mevo camcorder via tablet, please contact Pastor Schleis.

MINISTRY SUPPORT UPDATE: Thank you for your generous support of our ministry. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure allow us to fulfill God's mission and vision for us

Honor the LORD with all your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Needed	Received	Difference	Weekly Need
\$98,128.20	\$119,052.51	+\$20,924.31	\$3270.94

PASTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION: During July and August, I'll be taking continuing education classes with our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary via Zoom. I'm grateful for our family's support to grow in my faith and skills to serve you best with God's Word. Thanks!

You can learn more about these classes (called Summer Quarter) and our Seminary @ www.wls.wels.net.

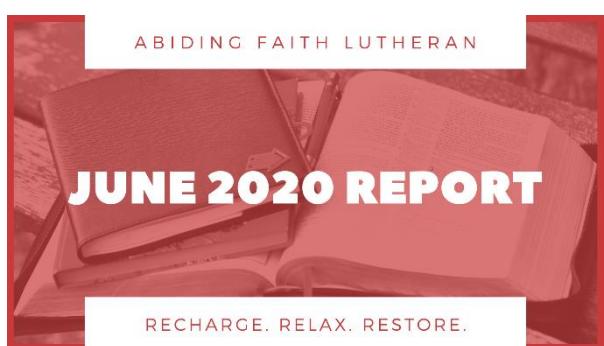
JUNE REPORT

Read our Report to learn more about:

- 11 new members in 2020
- Financial status
- Ministry plans

June 2020 Reports available:

1. Online Flipbook @ bit.ly/June2020Report
2. PDF on Facebook @ facebook.com/abidingfaithsmyrna
3. Print copies in Fellowship Hall



LISTENING SESSION

2020 has been unprecedented.

Our ministry has changed drastically.

How can we best serve you and our community?

Share your voice at our **Listening Session on Sunday, August 2nd @ 11:35a**. We want to hear from our family on these topics, and more:

- When should Sunday School resume?
- Grill Kings / WINGS / Resilient?
- Should we have Fall Festival?
- How can we best serve you?
- How can you best be put into service?
- Should we repaint the Fellowship Hall?

Share your voice as we plan our ministry for 2020.

COUNSELING

In addition to private, pastoral counseling, our congregation has partnered with Christian Family Solutions to provide confidential, Christian counseling using secure, online video technology with men and women of our fellowship.



Visit www.christianfamilysolutions.org to learn more regarding the providers and options. We currently have multiple members using this service at discounted rates through the congregation.

Contact Pastor Schleis for more details.



MTSU has 21K students.

How can we reach them with the Gospel?

Would you join me for a virtual livestream conference to learn strategies to being our Campus Ministry at MTSU? I've participated in these conferences before and have a passion for Campus Ministry, and would love your ideas and support.

As we celebrate 100 years of WELS Campus Ministry, we are looking forward to providing the latest updates from the WELS Campus Ministry committee along with presentations about using technology to effectively connect with your students and congregations. The event will conclude with a live Q&A that will answer your questions. You won't want to miss this event!

The event will be filled with spiritual encouragement, tips, suggestions, and ideas to make the campus ministry in your corner of the world more engaging.

Visit wels.net/events/virtual-campus-ministry-conference for more information.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

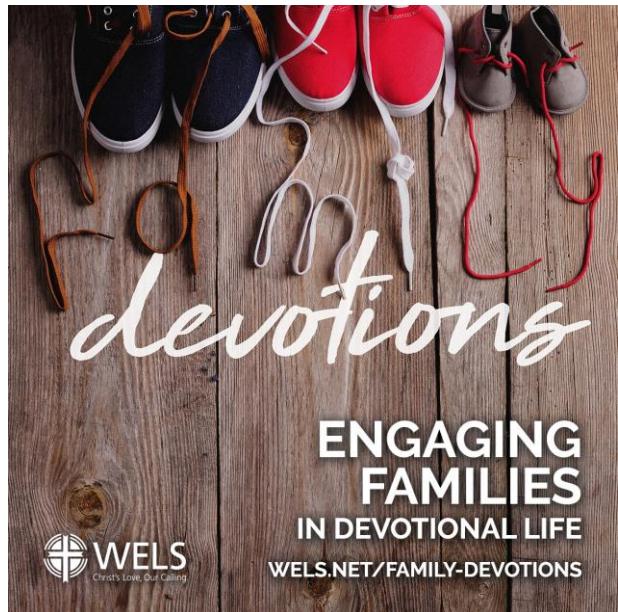
Get your family into God's Word during the week!

WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use.

Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken.

Downloadable printable versions are also available.

Find the family devotions at
wels.net/family-devotions



PARISH NURSE NEXT WEEK

Carrie Feil, our Parish Nurse, will offer her FREE advice and counsel next Sunday (8/9) between services and after second service.

The Parish Nurse program is a FREE resource to all members of Abiding Faith.

She serves as a health educator, health counselor, and community liaison.

She can be reached at abfaithnurse@gmail.com



GROW

There are two kinds of Christians:

- Growing
- Shrinking

Which one are you?

We are planted on this earth to grow in faith, not shrivel and die.



Join us for our final Faithbuilders class to continue our growth together in the field of service
He's planted us in.

Join us Monday night @ 7p on July 27th either (1) in person or (2) online via Zoom for Lesson 8 of our Faithbuilders class.

Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/8947675033>

Student Guide: https://bit.ly/Lesson9_Faithbuilders

BARNABAS MINISTRY

Would you like prayer? Support?

Our Barnabas Ministry wants to encourage, support, and pray for you... in good times and bad.

Contact Hope Gray, Barnabas Ministry Coordinator, to receive prayer and encouragement for yourself or someone else.

Thanks!



READY TO SERVE

In these frightening times of social isolation and pandemic, I'm ready to serve you with:

- **Daily Devotions** of 2 minutes of Christ's comfort in an engaging format through our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).
- **Counseling and Encouragement** with Pastor Schleis. Call or text 615.692.4343 to set something up through video chat or in person.
- **Prayers in times of sickness and pandemic** - a resource of scriptures and historic prayers in extraordinary times. Print copies available in Fellowship Hall or [download PDF here](#).
- **Bible studies** online focusing on *Stories They Didn't Teach You in Sunday School*. Extraordinary, unfamiliar stories of grace for extraordinary, unfamiliar times. Visit our [YouTube](#) or [Podcast](#)



READY TO SERVE

Pastor Keith Schleis

Text/Call @ 615.692.4343

Google Duo or FaceTime

NEED CARE OR PRAYER?

- **Care** offered with donations of toilet paper, personal items, assistance to grocery store, etc through the volunteerism of our church family. Text Pastor Schleis @ 615.692.4343 with your needs and we'll respond as fast as we can.
- **Prayer** offered through our prayer chain. Email Pastor Schleis @ Keith.a.Schleis@gmail.com your prayer request and our Prayer Team will lift you up in prayer.

WANT TO SERVE?

- There are lots of opportunities in this moment for us to outreach and be the light and salt of this world as Jesus made us. Email Pastor Schleis @ Keith.a.Schleis@gmail.com with your interests and skills.

Lies We Believe: You Can Do It All... AKA A Balanced Life

Lies we believe:

- You can do it all
- Live a balanced life
- You are in control

Life is a lot like playing Jenga. We think we are going to win, and then the whole thing comes crashing down.

We've learned from painful experience, especially during Covid-19, that you can't do it all.

- What should we do, then, about all these competing priorities?
- What's first, second, third?
- What can be dropped?

Join us Sunday 8/9 for a simple message of Jesus' purpose in a world of lies.

Worship Options:

- **Live @ 9:15 or 10:30**
 - **Stream @ 10:30 on YouTube or Facebook**