



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

WORSHIP

It's bad business for society to offer you peace.

Fomenting division, unrest, and anger is better for business – celebrities make endorsements, politicians get reelected and businesses meet quarterly dividends as they all sell you a packaged peace at a comfortable markup.

Yet you are no better, for a purchased peace is no peace at all. It always needs renewal.

Would you like lasting peace?

Peace this world cannot sell or market or make commission off of?

Today God's comforting message of hope and peace is exactly what you need in a world of division, unrest, fear, and worry. 2021 may not be better than 2020, but, God brings you today a peace this world cannot give or take, for free.

CONNECT

Worship Options Live @ 9:15 or 10:30 | Touchless | Socially-distant | Sanitized
Stream @ 10:30 on YouTube or Facebook Live

Sunday School Take home studies for all ages

Small Groups Men, Women, and Teen meet monthly

Daily Devotions 2 minute videos | 1 Scripture verse | God's comfort for today

Social YouTube, Facebook or Instagram

Web abiding-faith.org

CONTACT

Thank you for joining us today!

It was my pleasure to serve you with God's Word.

Please contact me on my cell at 615.692.4343 or
Keith.a.Schleis@gmail.com if I serve you in any way.

May God bless your week!



LENT

Do you remember your New Year's Resolutions?
Are you keeping them? 😬

By February our resolve to grow closer to God may have already grown cold.

Thank God for Lent!

Lent is a special time to renew your faith. For the last 1700 years, Christians have set aside 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter to repent, renew, and return to the LORD.

Lent helps you get back on track with faith instead of worrying about family, finances, & future.



- The **word Lent** comes from the Old English word for spring, lengthen, the time of year when the days grow longer.
- The **color purple** is the ancient color of royalty. This is our King... he wore a crown of thorns and carried a cross for us!
- The **somber mood** is ok. Really! It's ok for Christians to cry, feel overwhelmed, and sit in their suffering. Our culture demands constant happiness and joy... but our lives are anything but.

In Lent we drop our filters and facades by admitting our failures and turning to Christ for help.

Sometimes, God's help seems partial or incomplete. This Lenten season teaches us that to know Christ, and the glory of Heaven, we also must know and share in His sufferings.

HYMN: #765 DAY BY DAY



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
 When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.
 You will hold me ev - er in your hand.



Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
 Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,



Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, love of God, & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

And also with you.

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, in this frightful world You bring us peace that our sins are forgiven, Heaven is our Home, and You provide for us, every day. Strengthen our faith to endure suffering, build up patience in your promises, and teach us to expect future glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

JOB 1

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

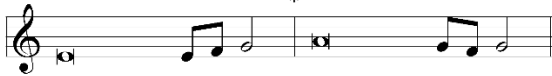
PSALM 73

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

Refrain



Psalm tone



I am always with you, O LORD;*
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. *Refrain*

ROMANS 5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

MARK 8

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

HYMN: #120 WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul! What won - drous love is this, O my soul!
 down, When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down,
 sing; To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
 on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.



What won - drous love is this That caused the Lord of
 When I was sink - ing down Be - neath God's right - eous
 To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for



bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 Am, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 me, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

SERMON: ROMANS 5

We Need Peace With God

Pastor Mark Lenz

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.

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 BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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.

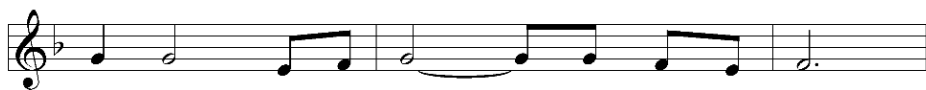
HYMN: #355 TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS



1 Take the world, but give me Je - sus! All its
 2 Take the world, but give me Je - sus, Sweet - est
 3 Take the world, but give me Je - sus! In his



joys are but a name. But his love a - bides for -
 com - fort of my soul. With the Sav - ior watch - ing
 cross my trust shall be Till with clear - er, bright - er



ev - er, Through e - ter - - nal years the same.
 o'er me, I can sing, though thun - ders roll.
 vi - sion Face to face my Lord I see.

Refrain



Oh, the height and depth of mer - cy; Oh, the



length and breadth of love! Oh, the full - ness of re -



demp - tion, Pledge of end - less life a - bove!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

OPPORTUNITIES

BUILD FAITH TODAY: Would you like to join our church family? Pastor Schleis teaches a Faithbuilders class that builds faith through the basic teachings of the Bible. We meet for class around your schedule – evenings, weekends, daytime, etc.

Interested? Text Pastor Schleis @ 615.692.4343 or email Keith.a.Schleis@gmail.com

TAKE HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL: Inside your worship folder is our Sunday School lesson based off of our RESILIENT – Christian Support Group. Adults and teens, please take this lesson home and ponder/pray/praise as you study God’s Word and apply it to your RESILIENT life. ☺

Questions? Text Pastor @ 615.692.4343 or email Keith.a.Schleis@gmail.com

MIDDAY COMMUNION: For our livestreaming and shutin membership, we’ve added a special midday communion service on the 2nd Tuesday of every month beginning @ 10a. This 30 minute, social distant, masked service provides Scripture, Song, and Sacrament in our Sanctuary.

Please contact Pastor Schleis if interested. Thanks!

PARISH NURSE AVAILABLE TODAY: Carrie Feil RN is our Parish Nurse and is available between services and after the 1030 service as health educator, heath counselor, and community liason.

Please speak with Carrie – she’d love to help! You can call/text her also a@ 615.838.6633 or email abfaithnurse@gmail.com

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

Doors of Hope

Empowering women to break the cycle of addiction, homelessness, and incarceration

Can you help provide a meal to women looking to break the cycle of addiction, homelessness, and incarceration?

Signup Sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Kim Irwin for more information.

Shop and Bake: able to shop for all supplies to bake dinner. Prepare 3 lg pans of lasagna (each pan to feed 10-12), 3 bags of salad, 3 loaves of bread and option for dessert.

Deliver: able to deliver dinner to Doors of Hope office located at 428 E Bell Rd in Murfreesboro between 4p-5p on specified date.

Monetary Donation: to pay for supplies to make dinners.

Date	Money	Shop & Bake	Deliver
March 15	X		
April 19	X		
May 17	X		
June 21	X		



Guys, have you earned your burnout badge? Elon Musk and Jack Ma have made famous the 996 lifestyle - working 9a to 9p 6 days a week - saying that no one ever changed the world working 40 hours a week.

While Musk and Ma are extreme, they are men. We think this way.

We think that if we just work a little longer and harder, then we will be successful.

We work harder and longer finding not success but more stress.

Then we feel guilty that we aren't more successful.

It's a vicious cycle. All men need stress relief. What better way to find relief than in the community of Christian brothers where we can be honest about our stresses and find comfort not in working harder, but working less.

Join us for Grill Kings, our men's ministry where with God and good grub we admit our weaknesses, create lasting friendships, and find comfort in grace, not our works.

Saturday March 20 @ 5p

We'll gather at church for social distancing and follow CDC guidelines for food service and handling. Bring \$5 (to cover the meal) and a friend



Consider what Jesus suffered for you:

- Betrayal from his own disciples
- Hypocrisy from religious leaders
- Blatant self-preservation by government

Join us on Wednesday nights in Lent to meditate on our Savior's suffering and death for us:

- **Potluck Meal @ 6p** allows us to gather (well, socially distant) in our Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.
- **Worship @ 645p** is the order of Compline, a quiet meditative service with scripture and song for your soul. Short and sweet.

Date	Worship Theme	Meal Theme
3/3	Peter's Misguided Zeal	Potato Bar (Bring Toppings)
3/10	Caiaphas' Hypocrisy	Italian
3/17	Pilate's Self-Preservation	Hispanic

SUMMER EVENTS FOR TEENS

Camp South

Enjoy God's beautiful creation, develop Christian friendships with 400+ like-minded youth, and grow in your relationship with God at Camp South. Plan on spending a great week this summer with friends, faith, food, and fellowship.

- **What** – Tough Muddler, Zip Line, Inflatables, Group Competitions, Low Ropes Course, Pools, Game Rooms, Bible Studies, 400+ like-minded youth, Basketball/Tennis/Volleyball Courts, Cosmic Bowling, #BlobLife
- **Where** - Georgia FFA/FCCLA Camp in Covington, GA
- **When** – July 26-30
- **How much** - \$295/youth
- **Who** - those entering 4th - 9th grades (as for Fall 2021)



CAMP SOUTH
SOUL SURVIVOR

Amazing Race – Teen Challenge

All high school teens are invited to an unforgettable teen rally with scavenger hunt through Disney's Magic Kingdom, inspiring keynotes, fun at an amazing resort, and a great chance to grow with people at the same point in life's journey.

- **What** – Scavenger Hunt, Teen Rally, Disney's Magic Kingdom, 200+ Christian teens, Bible studies, inspiring keynote presentations, Fireworks show,
- **Where** – Tropical Palms Resort (Kissimmee, FL)
- **When** – June 22-25
- **How much** - \$395/youth
- **Who** - High school teens (9th-12th grades as of Spring 2020 & 9th grade in Fall of 2021)



AMAZING RACE
TEEN CHALLENGE

Next Steps

1. Visit www.southatlanticyouth.com for hype, recap videos, and more info.
2. Talk with Pastor Schleis with your interest. Let's carpool.



**STRESSED?
OVERWHELMED?**

**TEEN NIGHT
SAT APR 17 @ 5P
COMFORT IN CHRIST**

Virtual school and virtual friendships can feel virtually worthless.

- Stressed?
- Overwhelmed?
- Worried about 2021?

Teens, let's get together! **Teen Night is our small group for teens** to put down phones that exhaust us, be honest, and recharge when depleted with faith and friends.

After ping-pong, games, and icebreakers, we'll enjoy some free food than relax around the fire with smores and Scripture.

We can be honest about how are feeling and find comfort in Christ and community. It's ok to be exhausted – just know where to go to recharge.

We'll gather at church for social distancing and follow CDC guidelines for food service and handling.

Join us and bring a friend!

A woman with blonde hair is lying in bed, looking at her smartphone. She is wearing a white sweater and is partially covered by a blue blanket. The text "YOUR NEEDED REST WINGS SAT APR 24 @ 5p" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

YOUR NEEDED REST WINGS SAT APR 24 @ 5p

The average person spends 2 hours and 16 minutes on social media platforms, seeing curated content depicting happy and healthy people who are living “their best life” while you are not.

We live in a society of unrealistic expectations amid an epidemic of exhaustion.

How are you doing?

In a world of filters and fake, we need real people, real honesty, and real hope.

Too many women go through life without a support system of like-minded Christian sisters. Join us for **WINGS, our women’s small group ministry**, to find comfort in Christ and community, not pride and demands.

We’ll meet on Saturday, April 24 from 5p – 7p @ church.

Bring \$5 to cover the cost of food, and a friend.

Our host will provide a delicious meal and after some fellowship/food, we’ll gather for a woman-led Bible study on the issues we face today.

We’ll follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and foodhandling.

2021: EXPANSION

Abiding Faith Lutheran | Smyrna

MORE PEOPLE

We've added 36 new brothers and sisters to our church family in the last 2 years.

We've already added 2 more people to our church this year, with more to come.



MORE STAFF

We're applying to add a Vicar to serve our growing outreach and youth ministries.

We need additional staff to serve our growing church family and reach more people.

MORE ROOM

We've added additional services and seating.

We need to expand our worship space so everyone can gather safely together.



BUILDING MINISTRY

As we develop expansion options with our builder, we've created a Building Ministry Fund for our Sanctuary expansion.

READ MORE @ [BIT.LY/EXPANSION2021](https://bit.ly/expansion2021)

WAYS TO GIVE TO BUILDING MINISTRY FUND

PayPal

Visit
abiding-faith.org/give
and specify your
donation for
Building Ministry Fund



Text amount to
615.490.0996
and specify your
donation for
Building Ministry Fund



Specify amount
in your weekly
offering envelope
\$200 - General
\$100 - Building Ministry
Fund



Write a check and give
it to Ted Ewald,
Treasurer



All donations will be
matched up to 15K.