

Abiding Light

E-News from Abiding Savior Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América

Florida-Bahamas Synod

All of Our Members, Ministers
The Rev. William H. Knott, Pastor
Roger Suarez, Spanish Minister



Broward-Bahamas Conference

The Rev. Frank Kopania, German Pastor
Ted Carter, Church & Community AIM
Gerry Gruenbaum, AGO, Music Minister



Sundays after Pentecost:
The Season Of the Church

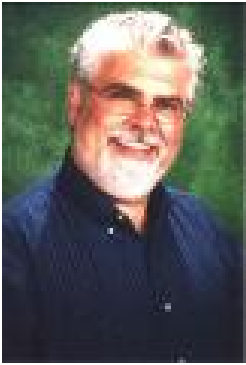
COVERED DISH FELLOWSHIP - EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

Our Lenten covered dish meals were so successful that we decided to do it again. With the leadership of Church and Community Minister Ted Carter we will continue the fellowship practice of a covered dish meal every third Sunday. The covered dish series is in addition to our regular series of feasts throughout the year.

TO SEE OURSELVES: JOIN THE FUN

For an entire year our Leadership Team, Staff, members and friends are invited to participate in the "See Ourselves" project. Directed by Church and Community Minister Ted Carter, we are making an earnest effort to view Abiding Savior Lutheran Church through the eyes of others who may not yet be a part of our faith community. In addition, we are being intentional about learning from other congregations near and far. Don't be surprised by unexpected visitors who may be part of a visiting team. Talk to Ted Carter if you have worshipped elsewhere or would like to be part of a visitation team that goes out to worship in other faith community settings and then returns to share with feedback about their visits.





“Everything Counts!”

As Ted Carter guides us through the “Seeing Ourselves” project, the thought comes to mind of how much we take for granted as we become comfortable and familiar with our surroundings. As a congregation that may be very true of the place we call our church home.

Everything does count. Whether or not it counts to us it will count to others. And, if we really believe what Jesus calls us to be and do in the world all of those yet unknown others are most important in guiding our mission and ministry through the next years.

In some ways we are ahead of the game. In others we might be able to make some meaningful progress. Here’s how you can help us discover some of both: be a part of the **Seeing Ourselves** initiative. Be aware of what is more and what is less helpful as we live our faith life together. Consider what other faith communities do well that seems to impact lives and strengthen spirits.

As we strive through the coming year **To See Ourselves as Others See Us** we should find a lot to celebrate, a lot to change, and a lot about our own faith walk together. Invite a friend to church this Sunday and ask them to share with you their honest reactions to what they find at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. Share those insights and gather some of the same if you have the opportunity to visit faith

communities in other locations. Remember the story about the mustard seed? Sometimes the smallest things grow into having the largest consequences. It’s true in worship, in faith, and in life.

Dawn Winters used to say we were the little church that did things in a big way. Together we will continue to sow seeds and grow the mission and ministry we share in this place as God gives the vision, the endurance, the patience, and the opportunities.

**Now is a good time.
Join us!**

Within the first 10 minutes of being there, **70% of people make up their mind** about whether or not they're coming back to a church... **BEFORE** the pastor ever gets up to preach! George Barna said this in 1994.

Today, guests will make up their mind about Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in the first 4 to 8 minutes.

This means that **FIRST IMPRESSIONS are critical.**

MARIE GILARDON
Media
Work Center
Works



Jason Fuls, Tech Minister for Abiding Savior Church is happy to report that the Marie Gilardon Media Work Center is up and running. The fully functioning production center houses all of the controls and equipment required to produce our Sunday morning worship audio and video. The next step is to prepare to introduce Abiding Savior's worship services to the internet via a live stream on Sunday morning. "If people can't make it to church, we will bring the church to them," explains Jason.

What may have been impractical just a short time ago has become a practical matter and congregations everywhere are providing ac-

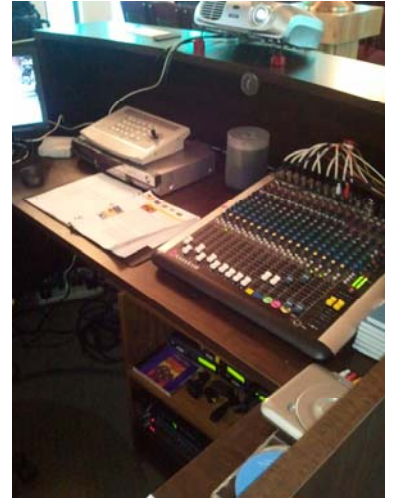
cess to worship for members and visitors literally around the world!

As we prepare for expanding our worship experience, one local change has been the opportunity to experience more media-rich worship elements during the course of the worship service. From video scripture, psalmody, and simple commentary our congregation is learning more and experiencing more of the Gospel in more ways than ever before. For

some, the experience is overwhelming. For others the experience has made worship in the 21st century meaningful and alive.

As we continue to stretch our vision of meaningful worship

solidly based in the Lutheran tradition while embracing the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century and beyond, we are especially mindful of the gift which has made the ongoing transition possible and practical. Marie was a long time member and faithful friend of Abiding Savior Church. The bequest that helped to make possible the media center, welcome station and new welcome monitor was important to the mission and ministry of Abiding Savior Church. The love, care, and commitment that gift represents is equally important and we are all grateful for both.





**Church
and
Community
Ministry:
Challenge
and
Opportunity**

Ted Carter, Church and Community Minister for Abiding Savior Church has experienced some joys and challenges during the past months as he works to keep our own congregation active, discover how other congregations are meeting the challenges of mission and ministry, and reconnect Abiding Savior Church with the community where it has served for almost fifty-five years. A tall order by anyone's measure!

Our own congregation is becoming increasingly active as I work with others who are willing to sacrifice the time and effort to build a new vision for ministry in this place while sustaining the best of what has been for over fifty years. Being "the little church that does things in a big way" takes a lot of work.

"I have visited two congregations other than our own so far and have reports from members and friends of their experiences as well. There are some common experiences surfacing that reflect a lot of today's thinking about what is best about the church and what challenges we face as we move into the next fifty-five years of mission and ministry at Abiding Savior Church," Ted reports.

Through the ***To See Ourselves as Others Do*** initiative Ted has visited First United Congre-

gational Church in Oakland Park and First Lutheran Church, downtown. Both congregations have in common a desire to minister faithfully and worship meaningfully. Both congregations are warm, open, and accepting churches of their denomination. One of the congregations is growing and one has been in decline for several years. My own experience here and in other congregations as well as at Abiding Savior Church is that everyone knows the world has changed radically and everyone knows that in order to minister effectively new ways and means of communicating the unchanging Gospel need to be implemented in congregations everywhere.

The truth is, however, that Lutherans don't like change. And, often, what is change for them may have been really helpful years ago but is already out-of-date. The real truth is that our world is changing more and more rapidly each day.

Running to get ahead barely manages to keep up these days. Together we continually discuss

how this applies to the ministry of Abiding Savior Church. Together we struggle to span generations who hear, think, learn, and experience the world in totally different ways. During this season of discernment, I continue to invite your opinions, observations, and ideas. →



Our community has experienced much the same as the churches have in terms of a sense of unity and community. As we work with our neighborhood associations it is clear that “putting the unity back in community” will require energy, effort, and a commitment that often seems lacking.

Abiding Savior Church, through its Church and Community ministry is working with community leaders to provide the opportunity and energy for real community re-building to happen. This not stretching the church too far, this is putting the church right where it belongs—in the middle of everyday people building every day lives together.



Building the church means building the community means building the church. It's just that simple. Jesus didn't talk to only those he knew or loved. He reached out to all people in every time and place he went. He offered himself up for the sake of the world not for the sake of the few and he offered himself completely.

As our congregation continues to move through fifty-five and on toward sixty years of

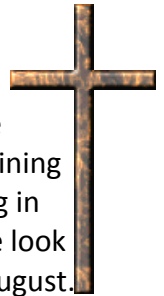
mission and ministry we must embrace the change that surrounds us, the challenges that stand before us, and the commitment that the Gospel demands of us in order to do what we have always simply sought to do in this place: to seek to know and do God's will for our mission and ministry, for this community, and for the faith journey we all share.



Atrium at Rest

The Atrium ministry “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” is on leave during July. Our children will be joining us for some real hands-on learning in worship during this month and we look forward to resuming sessions in August. Meanwhile we are happy to offer special thanks to those who make this unique ministry for young children possible: Barbara Meade, our director; Austin Brown her assistant, and all those who join in supporting the program as substitute teachers and helpers throughout the year.

The purpose of “The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” is to provide the framework experience by which young children can grow into the experience of loving Jesus and knowing that they are loved. Based on the Montessori method, the program is important but the guidance of its leaders is essential.





WORSHIP & MUSIC HELP WANTED!

After a successful first season the ASLC Coir is on break until the first Sunday following Labor Day. We thank the mem-

bers of the choir and Gerry Gruenbaum, Minister of Music, for their wonderful additions to worship during the past season. Plans are already underway for our second season to be bigger and better than last year's. You are invited to add your voice to the choir.

Not a singer? That's OK. You could play an instrument in the Praise Band on New Beginnings Sundays. Jerry, The Drummer, will be leaving soon for Boston and cold winter weather (LOL). We need volunteers to play drums, bass, guitar, keyboard, and help lead the singing as we make a joyful noise every last Sunday of the month.

Plan now to be a part of our Music Ministry this Fall.

SPONSOR / PATRON

Now is the time for patrons and sponsors who will help to make our August Concert Sunday a possibility. Rachel Carter, Soprano, will be presenting her Master's Recital Program from the University of Ohio as a special part of this event-filled day.

You can share in the excitement of making it all happen by sharing a special gift in Sunday's offering designated for Concert Sunday. Patrons for \$50 and Sponsors for \$20 will help support our Music Fund expense. Thank-you!

FREED IN CHRIST TO SERVE

Theme for 2011 Churchwide Assembly

"For freedom Christ has set us free ... only do not use this freedom as an occasion for self-indulgence, but serve one another in love." - Galatians 5:1, 13

"Freed in Christ to Serve" is the theme for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and it is more than just a theme. It expresses the heart of our faith. In Christ we are both bound to be free from the power of sin, death and the devil, and free to be bound to God in faith and to our neighbor in service. The grammatical nuance in "freed" (rather than "free") makes clear that our present status of freedom is God's work and it is already accomplished, as Martin Luther explained in the Small Catechism, "[Christ] has purchased and freed me from all sins."

Once and for all; once "for you"

This freedom won by Christ is a fact of history. This freedom was not won on a battlefield, ordered by a court, argued as an axiom of political philosophy, achieved through self-actualization, granted by God as a reward for righteous living or right teaching. Freedom in Christ happened both once and for all on the cross, and once "for you" in the baptismal dying and rising with Christ. Being "freed in Christ" is God's gift of grace received through faith so that there is no doubt about it. "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

The character of this freedom in Christ is relational. Relationships today often are im-

prisoned by distrust, suspicion, alienation, cynicism, polarization. In contrast, the relational freedom in Christ is trust. In faith we trust Jesus' promise, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciple, and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). Luther called this freedom the "power of faith," the freedom of the "inner person" who is liberated from all the powers that would keep a person separated from God.



In relationship with one another

"Freed in Christ" also means we are in relationship with one another, liberated from the powers that separate us from each other. Faith in Christ actually places us in restored relationship with God and with God's people in Christ.

So, "freed in Christ," Lutheran Christians move very quickly to their neighbors, whom they are "freed to serve." The familiar slogan "free to be me" is too little freedom for Christ's liberated people. Standing together, we are a church that rolls up its sleeves. We experience our liberation in working together for the common good. Our voices and bodies sing freedom most fully and truly when we work to restore the human community to reconciled wholeness.

Living in the covenant

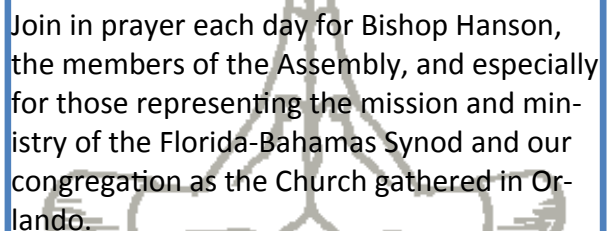
This service is a mark of the life of the baptized. Freed in Christ and living in the covenant God made with us in holy baptism means serving all people, following the example of Jesus and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

When we are freed in Christ to serve, we also serve the very gospel through which freedom in Christ is given. What does it mean that we serve the gospel? In the Affirmation of Baptism, we promise to "proclaim God in Christ through word and deed." That means that you serve the gospel as an everyday evangelist.

Our way of life

Serving the gospel might mean singing "Jesus Loves Me" with a grandchild, extending a hand of friendship to a new neighbor, calling a grieving friend, helping someone in need, seeking reconciliation in the midst of conflict or speaking words of forgiveness. We serve the gospel whenever we share the good news of God's love in Christ for the whole world.

"Freed in Christ to Serve" is our faith and our way of life. It calls for humility and mutual accountability, courage and compassion. It causes us to ask, "Who is my neighbor?" It reminds us that we are freed in Christ to serve.



Join in prayer each day for Bishop Hanson, the members of the Assembly, and especially for those representing the mission and ministry of the Florida-Bahamas Synod and our congregation as the Church gathered in Orlando.

CALENDAR

JULY 2011



Each Sunday: "Heaven is for Real" at 9:00 AM
Worship Celebration at 10:00 AM

- 15 Friday M Robert Grant Johnson
- 17 **Sunday** **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
Third Sunday Covered Dish Dinner: Roast Beef
- 18 Monday B Lorraine Vreeland
- 19 Tuesday B Meghan Scott
B Madelyne Tuttle
- 21 Thursday B Barbara Meade
- 24 **Sunday** **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
- 28 Thursday Johann Sebastian Bach
- 31 **Sunday** **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
Christmas in July

AUGUST 2011

- 04 Thursday M Agnes Mary Petersen
- 07 **Sunday** **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
B Janice Ferrara
- 08 Monday A Buddy & Dorothea Phillips
- 09 Tuesday A Glenn & Anne Deibert
B Kristen Deibert
- 10 Wednesday A Mike & Laura Scott
- 11 Thursday B Chris Suarez

**PLAN AHEAD: KEN MEDEMA at First Congregational Church
Saturday, August 13th at 7:30 PM**

- 14 **Sunday** **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 15 | Monday | Pastor Rosemary Backer's Birthday
Broward County teachers return to Work |
| 18 | Thursday | B Carol Schust |
| 21 | Sunday | Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: Concert Sunday
Rachel Carter, featured artist
Third Sunday Covered Dish Dinner |
| 27 | Saturday | B Gianna Olivia Ophelia Vreeland |
| 28 | Sunday | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost |

A = Anniversary B = Birthday M = In Loving Memory

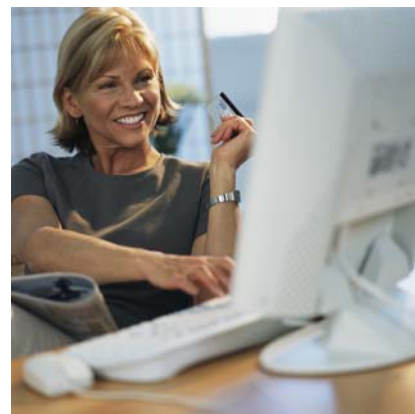
Did we miss your special day? Please let us know so that our calendar can be complete.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. E-mail Calendar Dates to: ASavior@asavior.net

You Asked, We Listened

Many people appreciate the digital edition of our newsletter and it certainly saves paper and cost. Some people, however, for a number of reasons, would rather receive a hard copy (printed edition) of ***"The Abiding Light"*** in the mail rather than picking it up at church. In order to achieve this goal we are happy to announce that beginning in September annual subscriptions to ***"The Abiding Light"*** will be available to anyone who would like to subscribe. In addition to the printed copy received in the mail, each paid subscription will include access to a free digital edition as well.

Annual subscriptions will include the monthly, full color, edition of ***"The Abiding Light"*** in 8½" X 11" saddle-stitched format, including the special December Anniversary edition (***55 This Year!***). If you are interested in receiving further information about cost and delivery for this exciting subscription opportunity contact Pastor Bill or any Leadership Team member. We will be happy to discuss this opportunity with you.



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Sponsor publication of "The Abiding Light." Annual sponsors, that is for the entire year, \$100. Monthly sponsors, your choice, \$20 per month. Honor or remember that special person, occasion. Help provide copies of the newsletter for folks who can't afford a subscription. Or, just play an important role in this special ministry of Abiding Savior Church. Thanks!

NEWS & NOTES

JUST MARRIED!

Michael Daves and Jennifer Loera were united in marriage Thursday, June 23rd, at a beautiful Atlantic beach ceremony in Biscayne Bay on the very spot where Mike proposed one year earlier. Michael was baptized at Abiding Savior Church as a child and now works as an architect in Colorado.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We share the loss of our friends as their loved ones have passed on to God's gift of eternal life:

Lois Albrektsen, 81, of Fort Lauderdale passed away on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. A memorial service was held at First Lutheran Church on Monday, June 27th. Lois' family were among the founders of First Lutheran Church and she served the congregation faithfully and well. We know Lois most recently through her work as a member of the Cluster JET Team of which Abiding Savior Church was also a part.

Gail Kisslan, sister of Rick Nelson, First Lutheran Church, died suddenly. Services were also held at First Lutheran. While we have had the opportunity to know most of Rick's Family, he and wife, Sharon, are also most recently known to us through their participation on the Cluster JET Team of which Abiding Savior Church was also a part. *Is anyone else noticing something significant here?*

The promise of scripture is clear: "If we live, we live unto the Lord. If we die, we die unto the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die we are the Lord's."

BAPTISM

Jason Fuls was received in to the Christian Fellowship of Abiding Savior Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for an Adult. No stranger to the congregation where he serves as our Media Minister, Jason proudly made his choice for faith and life because he finds Abiding Savior Church to be a "calming place." Welcome to our newest brother in Christ!

SEEDS AND WEEDS

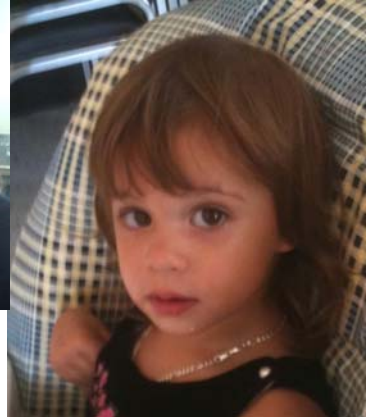
Members and friends of Abiding Savior Church joined in a special project that began on "Seeds and Weeds" Sunday. Following worship on Sunday, July 10th, the congregation was invited to join in planting their own special batch of seeds as they gathered on the patio. Over the course of the following weeks the aspiring sowers will have a chance to observe the results of their seed sowing and to consider the Gospel call to be sowers of seed out in the world. If the "Seeds to Weeds" project sounds familiar it may be because our children did a similar

project in the Atrium earlier this year with Barbara Meade. With a little bit of luck their experience will help the elders succeed in the project taking place now. Only time will tell.



Even though our *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* ministry is enjoying a break in July, members and friends of the congregation recall many of the interesting — fun — and educational projects our young children have shared during the year as Barbara and Austin guide them into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Pictured left, the Good Shepherd and the sheep.

It will be no time at all before we begin our Junior Choir rehearsals. These young ladies are all ready to make a joyful noise, or so it seemed, as they gathered at the piano on a Sunday after lunch.



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See Pastor Bill to Register

