

# ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Living in God's amazing grace



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

Changing of the Greens on Sunday, January 10th at noon.

The Abiding Presence office staff would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and best wishes in the new year



## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Friday, February 5th for the Kurt Ketelsen Habitat Birthday Build/ Lasagna supper and game night (to benefit Guatemala Build).



### Christmas Worship Schedule

December 13—8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Services - Lessons & Carols

December 24—4:00 PM—Christmas Eve Service and Children's Program

December 24—10:00 PM—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 27—One Service at 9:30 AM—Christmas Hymn Sing

## DECEMBER 12, Saturday — Progressive Dinner 2009

Rotating from house to house for appetizers, main course and desert make for a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas and end the year with church fellowship. The food is superb and by the time you get to the **end of your journey you are ready for a long winter's nap.** Sign-up in the Narthex through December 6.



2010 FLOWER CHART - is now available in the narthex. The flowers come from Design Works Florist and cost \$25. Sign up now for your special dates. Any questions, see Laura Sneary.

NEED A GOOD READ?- The Abiding Presence Book Corner is open for business. We have brought some books out of their hiding places so that all can borrow them for as long as you wish. If you have a good book that you would like to share (appropriate, of course!), we welcome your donation.

Richard Schroeder, Pastor  
pastor@abidingpresence.org  
Cell (517) 404-0709

Peace starts with a smile!

Office Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm  
Monday—Thursday  
(248) 651-6550  
office@abidingpresence.org

## From Pastor Dick



Dear friends in Christ,

As Christmas approaches, I have been reflecting on the place of Jesus in all of our busyness and preparations. What if Black Friday was not a part of our vocabulary? What if we were not concerned with who is coming to dinner or travel plans? What if our actions and conversations were focused on Jesus becoming a more meaningful part of our lives?

Think about how this could change our outlook. If we were to spend more time in prayer and reflection on the gift of grace from God, we would be far more hopeful. Who among us would not welcome a more hope-filled life? With more hope in our lives, we would experience less fear and fewer doubts. These are some experiences we would all welcome!

More hope, less fear, and fewer doubts! These are all fully assured marks of **Christian discipleship that God's gift of a savior draws us into. Let's joyfully celebrate Jesus' birth with gifts of love and compassion, friendship and hope to others.**

Pastor Dick

Wed. Dec. 9 – Christmas Party with Beautiful Savior, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Annex (old parsonage) at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 5631 Adams Rd, Bloomfield Hills MI.

Fri. Dec. 11 – No school in Rochester! Save the date to go **downtown and see the lights. More details coming...**

Jan. 29-31 – Save the date! Ski trip planned.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

### Mary Circle

For Mary Circle, December brings the annual Souper Supper on December 8 beginning at 6:30pm at the home of Diane Ingamells. A festive meal of homemade soup starts the evening. After clearing the dishes, an assembly line is set up to pack decorative jars with ingredients for either homemade soup or a batch of cookies. One of each of these jars is donated with the Christmas baskets that Abiding Presence contributes to Neighborhood House. To RSVP for this event contact Diane at 248-652-3097 or [ingamellsd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ingamellsd@sbcglobal.net).

In addition, Mary Circle is packing two of these Christmas baskets. Donations of food for the baskets may be brought to the supper at Diane's or to church by December 13. Contact Liz Bevier for a list of these items.

Also, Mary Circle is extending it's regular support of Haven by participating in the Gift Give-away program. NEW UNWRAPPED gifts for children and families may be brought to Diane's or the church by December 13. Suggested items are toys, games, clothes, coats, shoes and teen gifts. Opportunities are available to help in the sorting and distribution of these items. Monetary gifts are appreciated. as well.

For more information regarding all of these activities, contact Liz Bevier at 248-651-3714 or [buster371@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buster371@sbcglobal.net).



*Women's Ministries*

As 2010 begins, the regular monthly meeting for Mary Circle is January 12 at 7:30pm in the church lounge. The topic is "Prayer for Haiti" in our study Passport to Prayer.

## Caring for Others

There are several opportunities in the near future for members of Abiding Presence to help the less fortunate in our community. We are collecting food for the Thrivent/ Gleaners food drive and then we will take this food to Pontiac.

On December 5th, we need members to help sort cans for the Thrivent/Gleaners food drive. Shifts are from 9-12 and 1-4. A free lunch will be provided at noon. Children are welcome to help sort cans as long as they come with an adult.

Also, we are also providing 22 food baskets to those in need at Christmas through Neighborhood House. We need members to purchase the food for the basket and deliver it before December 15th. If it is not possible for you to deliver it, other arrangements can be made. A suggested list of items to put in the basket will be provided. We also need \$30.00 gift cards to put in these baskets.

Our committee continues to sell Fair Trade coffee, hot chocolate, tea and CHOCOLATE. They make great stocking stuffers and help farmers get a fair trade for their product. Information concerning all of these opportunities are on the Caring for Others bulletin board in the Narthex.

## LSSM

### GIVE A GIFT CARD TO LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Buy a gift card from Meijer, Target, Wal-Mart, Kmart and other retailers and donate the card to LSSM. We will give these \$25, \$50, or \$100 cards to people in need. The recipient may be a homeless person living in our Wayne county Family Center, or a refugee, a person with a disability, a teen in foster care, a senior, or a child in an after-school program. Your gift will enable those in need to celebrate Christmas. Picture a mom dad going to the store, happy to **buy their children Christmas gifts they couldn't otherwise afford!** Send gift cards to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, Attention Sonia Bankston, 8132 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit 48214.

### CONCERT WITH JOHN TESH JANUARY 29 CELEBRATES LUTHERAN SOCIAL **SERVICES' 75th ANNIVERSARY**

Join us for a concert with celebrated Christian musician John Tesh and optional VIP reception at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road in Northville. You can attend a VIP reception and silent auction, with preferred seating, starting at 6:00 PM for \$75 per person or the concert only at 8:00 PM for \$35 per person. For ticket information, contact Anita Jones by email at [ajone@lssm.org](mailto:ajone@lssm.org) or 313-823-7983.

## Our Financial Status – Your Opportunity

As you can all see in our Sunday Bulletin, we have not yet gained ground on the Budget issue I brought forward to you earlier this year. The good news is that we have not slid further away from the giving that we expected and committed for in our annual budget. We as good stewards however, need to make up for the loss that occurred earlier in the year. We really missed some giving in the months of February, March, April and then some again in June. This accounts for a deficit of \$19,300, very nearly the amount that we have stayed behind in our General Offering.

What is our best way to catch up? Several proposals can offer some help toward this catch up plan. The first is simple. If you can look at those months and see that in fact you went away for a weekend, and did not remember to send in your offering, even though Abiding Presence ministries continued on, please consider making up that offering now. If you are not sure, but certainly want to help, consider adding an additional week of giving to a regular week, even using a second envelope if this helps you.

If every giving unit provides for this drive – in an extra offering or a special gift, we can wipe out this deficit and proceed into the new year with our ministries fully funded and prepared to **answer God's call.**

For those that like targets, a special gift of \$125 more each giving unit, (some of us can give more, some less) even spread over the rest of the year will accomplish this goal. Please provide for the success of the ministries of Abiding Presence.

**Thank you for "Sharing the abundant life with others" through our Church.**

Charlie Martin  
Board President

## *Snippets from Preschool*

The holiday season is upon us. What a wonderful time to spend with children! It all started with a Halloween party with little princesses, spidermen, pirates, and sports players. Within a month our little pilgrims, Indians, and turkeys (yes, turkeys!) all sat down together to thank God for all they have and to feast in celebration. Only a few weeks after this we will be having our Christmas programs. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM our precious angels will be **gracing the altar raising adorable voices in song. We're never quite certain what will happen. We've had defectors. We've had loud potty announcements. We've had tears and we've had laughter.** No matter what happens, these little ones are highly entertaining!

The holidays may be taking center stage, but a whole lot of learning is going on also. In November the focus was on fire safety. Fire lady Nancy came to preschool to talk to us about 911; stop, drop, and roll; and fire drills. We then visited her at the fire station to check out the fire trucks and the ambulance. They sure have a lot of cool tools on them! As December begins we will focus on some favorite stories such as Where the Wild Things Are and The Gingerbread Boy. That Gingerbread Boy escapes from the oven and runs all over our school with the children in hot pursuit! The Kindergarteners are focusing on the letter, H, Honey Horse and the letter I, Inny Inchworm, who does a whole lot of measuring! In addition all our extracurricular activities are in full swing. These include Spanish with Miss Lyndsay, afternoon enrichment with Miss Lyndsay, story time with Pastor, and guest reader with parents. We are very busy and loving it!

In September, Miss Michelle attended the Baker College Preschool Conference and, in November, Miss Karen attended the Community Sharing for Healthy Caring Preschool Conference in Howell. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, we presented what we had learned to our staff at an in service in accordance with Michigan state regulations. Topics included effective communication, music, kindergarten readiness, sensory dysfunction, and conflict resolution. We look forward to putting our newfound skills to work in our classrooms.

Parents of preschoolers-to-be, our initial registration for 2010-2011 is January 13<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 AM. This registration is for families who have previously had children in our preschool AND for all member of the Abiding Presence congregation. In addition, the registration fee is also waived for congregation members. Please feel free to visit us at any time!

Merry Christmas!

Miss Karen and Miss Michelle



Dear AP Congregation,

Thank you for making this year so much fun for the choir. We have really enjoyed singing each Sunday and look forward to bringing more new music to worship. We hope you have been enjoying the selections and look forward to the upcoming holiday season with great anticipation.

As I stated in earlier newsletters, we are always looking for more members in both the adult choir and the Praise team. Please feel free to join the adult choir on Wednesdays at 7:30 in the music room for rehearsals or come join the praise team at 10:00am Sunday morning. We are still having the bring a friend to choir events as they were stated in the September newsletter. The adult choir time is the last Wednesday of the month and the Praise Team time is the first Sunday of each month. There is no commitment whatsoever. Please just come and join us for some food, singing and a great deal of fun!

Finally, our holiday season is here. We have our Tuesday Musicale performance on December 6th at 7:00pm and lessons and carols is taking place on December 13th. Please come join us at rehearsals as we prepare for our big days.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to seeing and greeting all of you again on Sunday. Take care and God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Sean Galloway



## THRIVENT NEWS

Enrich your life by helping others

**If you're one of the 76 million baby boomers approaching retirement, you've probably given** some thought to what you will do in the next phase of your life.

Most boomers are enjoying better health and are far more active than retirees of the past. If this sounds like you, consider contributing your time, energy and expertise to one of the many volunteer organizations in your community.

Congregations, non-profit organizations and civic groups are just a few places that offer meaningful opportunities to those willing to serve.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans also offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities through its chapters. These opportunities give Thrivent Financial members and other Lutherans the chance to join together to meet individual and community needs.

**So, next time you're thinking about retirement, think about your strengths, passions and special gifts.** Then think about how rewarding it would be to share them. For instance, if you like building things or helping others, you might want to participate in a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity project. In 2007, there were more than 350 such projects in which Thrivent Financial members worked alongside families in need to build their homes.

For more information about Thrivent Financial volunteer opportunities, contact Elizabeth Kaniarz, CFP®, FIC, Financial Consultant at (248) 227-3419 or visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Pontiac continues to host a Food Pantry on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8:00-10:00 a.m. With the assistance of food and donations from generous individuals, our ELCA Cluster, and neighbor churches in the community, food has continued to be distributed to over 300 people, each month.

In the past, the members of Good Samaritan were able to fill the volunteer spots to distribute the food on the given Saturdays. Now, due to the growing needs of the community, we need more help. If you are willing to spend a Saturday morning assisting during the upcoming 2010 year, please call our office at 248-335-9881. A training session will be provided, and help will always be available. The Pantry is located at Good Samaritan church at 517 W. Walton Blvd. (between Silver Lake and Telegraph Rd)

Thank you,  
Wendy Kane  
Office Administrator  
Good Samaritan Lutheran Church

## December '09 - January '10 Birthdays & Anniversaries

|                  |       |                   |              |                     |      |                   |      |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Bob Baker        | 12/01 | Matthew Reuther   | 12/16        | Sissel Amundsen     | 1/4  | Alyssa Trethewey  | 1/18 |
| Vera Martin      | 12/01 | Sue Wing          | 12/16        | Nils Arndt          | 1/4  | Beth McBride      | 1/19 |
| Robert Rudolf    | 12/01 | Collin Kilpatrick | 12/17        | Bonnie Karas        | 1/4  | Kurt Simko        | 1/19 |
| Rainer Rudolf    | 12/02 | Alan Lindstrom    | 12/17        | Matthew Mulligan    | 1/5  | Andrew Leslie     | 1/20 |
| Ray Cummings     | 12/03 | Katie Marsh       | 12/18        | Cady Pozolo         | 1/5  | Alexander Hunstad | 1/21 |
| Todd Hargrave    | 12/03 | Nick Long         | 12/19        | Elaine Uhlig        | 1/5  | Tyler Bevier      | 1/22 |
| Scott McKinney   | 12/03 | Trevor Frerichs   | 12/20        | Marilyn Jenkins     | 1/8  | Ava Hanley        | 1/22 |
| Kent Hoffman     | 12/04 | Victoria Minton   | 12/20        | Matt Trethewey      | 1/9  | Brook Handler     | 1/24 |
| Kristin Newer    | 12/06 | Bob Bevier        | 12/21        | Daniel Crusoe       | 1/10 | John Birmingham   | 1/26 |
| Mary Travsky     | 12/07 | Jared Bevier      | 12/21        | Cheryl Ogonowski    | 1/10 | Gary Ogonowski    | 1/26 |
| Brian Chupailo   | 12/08 | Janet Trethewey   | 12/21        | Dane George         | 1/11 | Victoria Richards | 1/26 |
| Christopher Cobb | 12/08 | Scott Spresney    | 12/22        | Jochem Wolschendorf | 1/11 | Elyse Seaman      | 1/26 |
| Darrel Dinger    | 12/10 | Lauren Burt       | 12/23        | Anne Wolschendorf   | 1/11 | Nancy Hoppesch    | 1/27 |
| Conor Quigley    | 12/11 | Ryland Watters    | 12/27        | Mark Rudolf         | 1/14 | Lesla Reynolds    | 1/28 |
| Liz Bevier       | 12/13 | Dave Wing         | 12/29        | Lindsay Russell     | 1/15 | Tomy Czaplicki    | 1/30 |
| Christa Munn     | 12/13 | Marilyn Rydquist  | 12/30        | Bodie Therkildsen   | 1/15 | Amy Lindstrom     | 1/31 |
| Susan Ball       | 12/14 | Emma Garlick      | 12/31        | Karen Hollenback    | 1/16 | Jerry Page        | 1/31 |
| Daniel Hillmer   | 12/14 | <b>Al Travsky</b> | <b>12/31</b> | Aaron Ries          | 1/17 |                   |      |
| Kathryn Mueller  | 12/16 |                   |              |                     |      |                   |      |

| HOUSEHOLD                 | DATE OF ANNIVERSARY | YEARS CELEBRATING |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Rick & Janet McBride      | 12/17/1988          | 21                |
| Edward & Mary Pearsall    | 12/18/1981          | 28                |
| Bill & Judy Kruckeberg    | 12/19/1952          | 57                |
| John & Kim Birmingham     | 12/19/1992          | 17                |
| Chris & Connie Gullen     | 12/22/2006          | 3                 |
| Doug & Diane Ingamells    | 12/22/1967          | 42                |
| Darrel & Loraine Dinger   | 12/28/1956          | 53                |
| Mark & Monica Ellis       | 12/28/1974          | 35                |
| Mark & Janice Uhlig       | 01/22/2000          | 9                 |
| Paul & Diane Jenkins      | 01/25/1986          | 23                |
| Richard & Kristine Mullen | 01/30/1993          | 16                |



**READINGS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER '09-JANUARY '10**

| DATE        | CHURCH YEAR DAY | FIRST READING                              | PSALM                                      | SECOND READING     | GOSPEL                  |
|-------------|-----------------|--|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| December 6  | 2 Advent        | Malachi 3:1-4<br><i>Or</i><br>Baruch 5:1-9 | Luke 1:68-79                               | Philippians 1:3-11 | Luke 3:1-6              |
| December 13 | 3 Advent        | Zephaniah 3:14-20                          | Isaiah 12:2-6                              | Philippians 4:4-7  | Luke 3:7-18             |
| December 20 | 4 Advent        | Micah 5:2-5a                               | Luke 1:46b-55<br><i>Or</i><br>Psalm 80:1-7 | Hebrews 10:5-10    | Luke 1:39-45<br>[46-55] |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve   | Isaiah 9:2-7                               | Psalm 96                                   | Titus 2:11-14      | Luke 2:1-14<br>[15-20]  |
| December 27 | 1 Christmas     | 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26                       | Psalm 148                                  | Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 2:41-52            |

| DATE       | CHURCH YEAR DAY     | FIRST READING                                   | PSALM           | SECOND READING          | GOSPEL              |
|------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| January 3  | 2 Christmas         | Jeremiah 31:7-14<br><i>Or</i><br>Sirach 24:1-12 | Psalm 147:12-20 | Ephesians 1:3-14        | John 1:[1-9] 10-18  |
| January 10 | Baptism of Our Lord | Isaiah 43:1-7                                   | Psalm 29        | Acts 8:14-17            | Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 |
| January 17 | 2 Epiphany          | Isaiah 62:1-5                                   | Psalm 36:5-10   | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11   | John 2:1-11         |
| January 24 | 3 Epiphany          | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10                       | Psalm 19        | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a | Luke 4:14-21        |
| January 31 | 4 Epiphany          | Jeremiah 1:4-10                                 | Psalm 71:1-6    | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13   | Luke 4:21-30        |



## 2009 Congregation Board

### President

Charlie Martin

### Vice President

Gary Clark

### Treasurer

Karl Geisler

### Secretary:

Gary Berwick\*

### Members at Large (3):

Gary Clark  
Terri Finch  
Barb Nelson Worth

### Pastor:

Dick Schroeder

### Director of Operations:

Janet McBride

### Preschool Representative:

Kristin Newer

\*Non-voting Members

### Key Ministry

### Coordinators:

### Encountering God In

#### Worship:

Sandy Altemann &  
Cathy Evans

### Living the Word of God

Charlie Martin &  
Jennifer Graessle

### Sharing our Faith with

#### Others:

Mike Kilpatrick &  
Chuck Russell

### Caring for Others in

#### Need:

Bob Bevier

## Fund Balance Report October 2009

| <b>FUND BALANCES</b>                          | <b>Balance<br/>1/1/2009</b> | <b>Y T D<br/>Receipts</b> | <b>Y T D<br/>Disb.</b> | <b>Balance<br/>10/31/2009</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General Fund & Preschool                      | 75,407                      | 468,494                   | 493,491                | 50,410                        |
| Memorial                                      | 10,078                      | 825                       | 3,857                  | 7,046                         |
| WELCA ( Mary Circle)                          | 1,334                       | 40                        | 200                    | 1,174                         |
| Pastor's Discretionary                        | 0                           | 0                         | 0                      | -                             |
| Pass Thru Accounts (net received - disbursed) | 6,023                       | 5,950                     |                        | 11,973                        |
| <b>Total Fund Balances</b>                    | <b>92,842</b>               | <b>475,309</b>            | <b>497,548</b>         | <b>70,603</b>                 |
| <b>General Fund Receipts to date</b>          | <b>248,812</b>              |                           | <b>Budget</b>          | <b>275,650</b>                |
| <b>Capital Fund Receipts to date</b>          | <b>58,594</b>               |                           | <b>Budget</b>          | <b>59,700</b>                 |



**ABIDING PRESENCE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1550 Walton Blvd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America, Sister Congregation  
with Balangdalalu Lutheran Church,  
Katesh, Tanzania

Phone: 248-651-6550

Fax: 248-651-8312

Website: [www.abidingpresence.org](http://www.abidingpresence.org)

**VISION:**

A COMMUNITY CENTERED IN CHRIST

**MISSION:**

SHARING THE ABUNDANT LIFE WITH  
OTHERS

**AP Staff**

**Pastor**

Richard Schroeder

Email: [pastor@abidingpresence.org](mailto:pastor@abidingpresence.org)

**Director of Operations**

Janet McBride

Email: [jmcbride@abidingpresence.org](mailto:jmcbride@abidingpresence.org)

**Organist**

Carolyn Smith

Email: [csmith\\_88@msn.com](mailto:csmith_88@msn.com)

**Adult Choir Director**

Sean Galloway

Email: [choir@abidingpresence.org](mailto:choir@abidingpresence.org)

**Administrative Assistant**

Jean Grande

Email: [jgrande@abidingpresence.org](mailto:jgrande@abidingpresence.org)

**Bulletin & Announcement Prep**

Carolyn Berwick

Email: [bulletin@abidingpresence.org](mailto:bulletin@abidingpresence.org)

**Finance**

Karl Geisler

Email: [finance@abidingpresence.org](mailto:finance@abidingpresence.org)

**Questions for the office?**

Email: [office@abidingpresence.org](mailto:office@abidingpresence.org)

**Worship Schedule**

8:30am Traditional Worship  
9:45am Sunday School All Ages  
11:00am Contemporary Worship

Input deadline is the **15th** of the month.

Please send your articles to  
[office@abidingpresence.org](mailto:office@abidingpresence.org)