

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Welcome to my second news email during this unique time in our world. These news emails have two goals: To communicate what's going on and to provide encouragement.

DEVOTION

1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, **encourage the fainthearted**, help the weak, be patient with them all.

Although the entire verse is helpful and wise, I want you to focus on those three words: encourage... the... fainthearted. Let's break that down a bit:

- Encourage-- Do what you can to comfort someone. And, it's an imperative-- do this!
- Fainthearted-- Another way of saying this Greek term is discouraged.

So, encourage the discouraged. Yes, it's a bit Captain Obviousish. However, it's an important word for us today. May you encourage the discouraged with the love of Jesus today!

Questions:

- Who is someone you know that is discouraged today?
- How could you encourage that person?
- How could you share God's Word to encourage them?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, there are many around us who are discouraged. In fact, it can discourage us just thinking about all the needs around us. Help us to know how we can encourage someone today, and give us the courage to follow your prompting. And, thank you in advance for sending people to encourage us when we are discouraged. In Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

WORSHIP UPDATES

- Our next service is tomorrow (Wednesday, March 25). Preservice music begins at 6:30, and worship begins at 6:42. Since I am unavailable tomorrow night (I will be officiating the graveside service for my Bonus Dad) our Principal, Brian Ryherd will be leading worship tomorrow night. Brian has experience leading

worship and preaching when needed. If you've heard his School Chapel messages or attended his Bible Studies, you know you will hear God's Word actively preached and Jesus proclaimed. Please join us tomorrow night!

- Sunday's live streaming service begins at 9:30. Pre-service music will begin at 9:30. Musically, we will be led by both an organist and our praise band. I will be leading the service.
- We are trying to help with flattening the curve and provide the best possible worship experience for all. Thus, we are limiting the amount of people in the building while live streaming the service. This week we are experimenting with recording the music for both Wednesday and Sunday.
- We know many had challenges connecting to last Sunday's service. We've made adjustments that should help with that challenge.

COMMUNION

- After having numerous conversations among Abiding Savior leadership, other LCMS pastors who are in states with a stay at home order and receiving direction from our Synod, we are unable to offer communion at this time.
- This is disappointing for all of us because the Lord's Supper is an integral part of our life as a follower of Jesus. The sacraments (baptism and communion) are two of the means of grace, in which God gives us forgiveness, life and salvation won by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- So, until we can offer communion again, we will focus on the other means of grace: God's Word. We are committed to sharing the Word of God in as many ways during this stay at home order.

CONTACTING MEMBERS

- We praise God for the nearly 20 members that are reaching out to our member families. These calls will begin soon.
- So, why are we making these calls?:
 - To purposely reach out to every family during this very uncertain and unusual time.
 - To bring the love, hope and encouragement that Jesus Christ brings.
 - To allow those we call a chance to share what is going on in their life.
 - To discover the needs in our congregation.
- If we don't have your current phone number, please email it to our Julie Schmid at jschmid@abidingsaviorlutheran.org so we can have it in our database.

WEBSITE

- Our website will house all of our communications during this period. Please check it out at <https://www.knowthesavior.org/>

SCHOOL AUCTION

- Our auction, scheduled for this Friday, is postponed until the Fall. In the meantime, please head to Facebook and bid on some items. We will have various weekly auctions going forward. <https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlutherschool/>

EASTER

- Many are wondering what we will do for Easter worship this year. We are praying fervently that we will be able to worship as we normally do at Abiding Savior as a faith family.
- If we are unable to do so, our Elders are in ongoing discussions about how to best provide worship for all.

A huge THANK YOU to all our staff, leaders and volunteers for your patience, leadership and flexibility during this time.

In Christ's hope,

Pastor David

--

David McBurney

Lead Pastor

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

To Know Christ...To Make Him Known

314-714-1270