

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

PRELUDE	(11:00) "I Wanna Sing"
CALL TO WORSHIP	
WELCOME	
SONG OF CELEBRATION	(8:30) "O Hear, My People" (11:00) "We Believe"
GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	"All Praise to God for Word and Words"
THE READINGS	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	"I Love to Tell the Story"
THE GOSPEL	
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	
SERMON & REFLECTION	
SONG OF THE DAY	(8:30) "There is a Balm in Gilead" #614 (11:00) "Amazing Grace"
PROFESSION OF FAITH	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	
SPECIAL MUSIC	(8:30) "Down to the River/Listen to Your Children" (11:00) "Me On Your Mind"
OFFERING PRAYER	
COMMUNION	
(8:30) "God Bless the Hands" "Now the Silence" #460	(11:00) "In Christ Alone" "There is a Redeemer"
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
BLESSING	
SENDING SONG	(8:30) "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" #596 (11:00) "Lord Be Glorified"
MISSION AND PEACE	"Go in Peace"
POSTLUDE	(11:00) "We are Marching"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all, you write your gospel on our hearts and invite us to live from there. May our lives reflect the ongoing revelation of your grace and goodness for all the world to see. Amen.

GENESIS 32:22-32

<sup>22</sup> The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.<sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.<sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.<sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.<sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

PSALM 40

<sup>3</sup> God has put a new song in my mouth — Praise to our God; many will hear it and will trust in the Lord.<sup>4</sup> Blessed are the ones who make the Lord their trust, and do not respect the proud, nor turn aside to lies.  
<sup>5</sup> **Many, O Lord my God, are your wonderful works which you have done; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.**  
<sup>9</sup> I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, you yourself know.  
<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your lovingkindness and your truth from the great assembly.**

ACTS 22:3-21

<sup>3</sup> "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today.<sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison,<sup>5</sup> as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there in order to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.<sup>6</sup> "While I was on my way and

ACTS 22:3-21 (cont.)

approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me.<sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' <sup>8</sup> I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' Then he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.'<sup>9</sup> Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.<sup>10</sup> I asked, 'What am I to do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.'<sup>11</sup> Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.<sup>12</sup> "A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there,<sup>13</sup> came to me; and standing beside me, he said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight!' In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him.<sup>14</sup> Then he said, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice;<sup>15</sup> for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard.<sup>16</sup> And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.'<sup>17</sup> "After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance<sup>18</sup> and saw Jesus saying to me, 'Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'<sup>19</sup> And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.<sup>20</sup> And while the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing by, approving and keeping the coats of those who killed him.'<sup>21</sup> Then he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

MARK 8:34-9:1

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."<sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."<sup>9:1</sup> And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

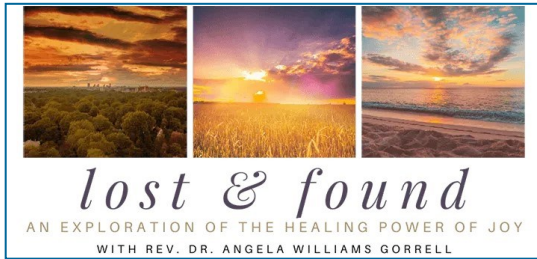
TELL YOUR STORY!

As part of "The Power of Story" worship series, we're inviting YOU to Tell Your Story. Pick up a canvas board in the Narthex: paint, draw, color, paste, glue, be creative! ALL ages and abilities are invited to participate.  
*Leave your completed projects in the narthex by October 1.*

OFFICE AND COMMUNICATIONS  
ADMINISTRATOR POSITION AVAILABLE

This summer our Office and Communications Administrator Dawn Wetzel announced she will be moving on at year's end. Our practice at Abiding Love is to make staff positions available to qualified people in the church and to their Referrals. You or qualified people you recommend are invited to provide a cover letter and credentials expressing your interest in the position. This position is full-time, onsite and involves a range of administrative and communications roles. Compensation package includes a competitive salary, retirement contribution, health insurance stipend, paid vacation and medical leave. Please direct communications to Pr. Brad Highum, [bhighum@abidinglove.org](mailto:bhighum@abidinglove.org).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 10AM TO 3 PM  
AT ABIDING LOVE



The cost is \$65 for the day's event and includes lunch.  
Use code **AL20** at checkout for a **\$20 discount**.  
To learn more and purchase tickets, visit [eremos.org](https://eremos.org).

SERVING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Flowers in the worship space are given to the glory of God by Dolly & Paul Atkinson in remembrance of Ed Vrana's birthday and in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Brad Highum  
Acolyte:(8:30) Jonah Gysan (11:00) Cali Taylor  
Altar Guild: (8:30) Billye Trostel, Georgia Wood (11:00)  
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Margaret Dove (11:00) Sue Milam  
Children's Message: Tyler Parks  
Communion Assistant: (8:30) Rosa Hatfield (11:00) Elizabeth Taylor  
Lector: (8:30) Pat Dove (11:00) Nan Hatcher  
Ushers: (8:30) Willie Haas, Marvin Haddock, Gerald Segner  
Morris Thompson (11:00) John Berkeland, TJ Shoaf  
Tech: Jan Haas, George Glaser  
Music: Gus Sterneman, Sanctuary Choir, Mixed Blessings  
Guest Pianist: Xiaoyi Lin

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 am Worship w/Communion  
9:45 am Faith Formation  
11:00 am Worship w/Communion  
4:00 pm OWLS (AC)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

11:00 am ALLC Food Pantry  
3:30 pm CC After School (L)  
5:00 pm Bread For All  
7:00 pm AA (HS Room)  
7:00 pm Troop 555 (AC)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

10:00 am Lifetime Learning: Dance (AC)  
10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study  
3:30 pm CC After School (L)  
7:00 pm Alanon (C)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

10:00 am Hannah Bible Study (C)  
10:00 am Lifetime Learning: Estate Planning (AC)  
10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)  
1:00 pm Sew Bees (C)  
3:30 pm CC After School (L)  
6:00 pm Music Rehearsals  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10:00 am Chapel  
10:00 am Quilters (UC)  
3:30 pm CC After School (L)  
6:00 pm Alanon (L)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

1:00 pm Bunco  
3:30 pm CC After School (L)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

5:00 pm Yoga Workshop (AC)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:30 am Worship w/Communion  
9:45 am Faith Formation  
11:00 am Worship w/Communion  
12:30 pm Small Group Training (AC)  
6:00 pm ASCI Diversity Band Rehearsal (AC)

ABIDING LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



The Gospel of  
Your Life!

*"To be a person,"* said the Danish writer Isak Dineson, *"is to have a story to tell."* And to be a Christian is to experience our story illuminated by the revelation of God in Christ. You have a story that is uniquely your own, even as it is informed and framed by your faith. It is, in itself, a "gospel." It is the "good news" as it has been experienced by you in your journey. It is the Gospel of Your Life, and it is the greatest gift of faith you have to offer the world.

CONNECT WITH ABIDING LOVE

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