

ALLELUIA



CHRIST  
IS  
RISEN

# ABIDING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH | Ocala, FL

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May 21, 2017

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! May the Word of God that you hear this morning fill your heart with joy and strengthen your faith in Jesus as your only Lord and Savior.

If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate during the collection or hand it to an usher following the service. We'd like the opportunity to thank you for joining us and to invite you back again. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you would like more information about Abiding Hope, please feel free to speak with Pastor Rathje or any one of the members after the worship service this morning. You may also call Pastor Rathje at (352) 445-8366 or email at [cjrathje@gmail.com](mailto:cjrathje@gmail.com).

## **THE SEASON OF EASTER**

Because Jesus lives we know that our sins have all been paid for and our eternal salvation won. We can live our lives here on this earth with the confidence that our living Lord is always with us and that someday he will take us to be with him in the never-ending joy of heaven. For the seven weeks of Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Christ until the season reaches its climax on the 50th day, Pentecost.

## **OUR THEME FOR TODAY**

*He lives to call me to live for him.* This Sunday's lessons expand on a truth touched on last Sunday and teach us that love for our risen Lord means obedience to his commands. Filled with thankfulness for the salvation that God has so fully and freely provided in Christ and empowered by his Holy Spirit, whom we received in Baptism, we strive to faithfully put to use all God's gifts for the good of his kingdom. The Prayer of the Day sets the tone: "Put your Spirit in us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good."

# DIVINE SERVICE II

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*Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus. Thus Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and confessions, the liturgy points to Jesus as the Savior of all.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Baptized in Water* | **297**

## INVOCATION<sup>1</sup>

**M** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION

**M** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C** Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

## **ABSOLUTION<sup>2</sup>**

**M** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY<sup>3</sup>**

*Mark 10:47*

*Kyrie*

**M** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**M** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C** Christ, have mercy.

**M** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**M** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C** Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> "The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners" (*The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?*). See John 20:21-23.

<sup>3</sup> *Kyrie* is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

# GLORY BE TO GOD<sup>4</sup>

Luke 2:14

*Gloria in Excelsis*



1 All glo - ry be to God on high! Your  
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring, For  
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray. You  
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone; The



name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy; We  
your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King, For  
take all hu - man sin a - way. Have  
Fath - er's glo - ry you made known. We



praise you for your peace and grace, Your  
all, O Fath - er, you have done Through  
mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer; From  
by your Spir - it sing a - gain: "All



fav - or toward our fal - len race.  
Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.  
God's right hand, your mer - cy share.  
glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

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<sup>4</sup> Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

## SALUTATION<sup>5</sup>

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Let us pray.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## FIRST LESSON

*Acts 17:22-31*

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

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<sup>5</sup> This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section and the Sacrament section of the service.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 66

**M** Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

**C** Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard.

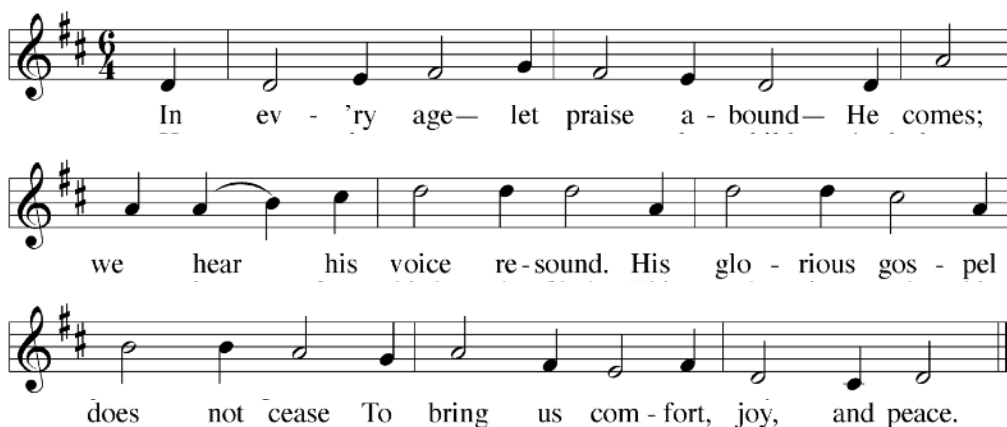
**M** He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

**C** Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

**M** If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

**C** but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

**M C** At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.



In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— He comes;  
we hear his voice re-sound. His glo - rious gos - pel  
does not cease To bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

## SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:13-18

<sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup>Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

<sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

## VERSE OF THE DAY



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the

mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL<sup>6</sup>

John 14:15-21

**M** The Gospel according to John chapter 14:

**C** **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

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<sup>6</sup> The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.



**M** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak* | **561**

## SERMON

*Acts 17:22-31*

# MAKE KNOWN THE UNKNOWN GOD

## NICENE CREED<sup>7</sup>

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

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<sup>7</sup> *Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.*

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*This is a moment in our worship when members and friends of Abiding Hope respond to God's good news of salvation with gifts to support his saving work. If you are a guest with us today, you are welcome to participate, but please do not feel obligated. We are simply grateful that you have joined us for worship.*

*If this is one of the first few times you have joined us for worship and you haven't yet had the opportunity to sign a visitor card, please take a moment to do so. You may place the card in the offering plate as it is passed or hand it to an usher following the service.*

**Welcome to Abiding Hope!**

Name (if): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of other churches? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you apply:

Looking for a church  
 Willingness to serve  
 Willingness to support  
 Willingness to give  
 Willingness to witness  
 Willingness to be baptized

I would appreciate a personal visit from the pastor  
 I would appreciate a personal visit from the pastor

<http://www.abidinghope.org>

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

# THE SACRAMENT



*In the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ along with bread and wine. In this communion God gives us forgiveness that we can touch and taste. It's the same forgiveness that the pastor pronounces to you at the beginning of the service. You are forgiven!*

*The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are perfectly united in everything that we believe and do!" We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, but we are eager to establish it. Thus we ask that those guests, who are not members of a WELS or ELS congregation, only observe the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the Sacrament in the future.*

## **PREFACE<sup>8</sup>**

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**M** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is good and right so to do.**

**M** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

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<sup>8</sup> *The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.*

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY<sup>9</sup>

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

## Sanctus



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In  
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and  
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And  
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.  
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

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<sup>9</sup> Sanctus means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING<sup>10</sup>**

**M** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C** Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

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<sup>10</sup> *Jesus took bread and gave thanks (Matthew 26:26).*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION<sup>11</sup>

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my  $\text{✝}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD<sup>12</sup>

John 1:29

*Angus Dei*

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. The first staff is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major, and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The second staff continues the melody for the second line: 'sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The third staff is in 4/4 time, key of D major, and contains the melody for the third line: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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<sup>11</sup> As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

**DISTRIBUTION** <sup>13</sup>




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<sup>13</sup> The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.

## SONG OF THANKS



1 How can I thank you, Lord, For all your lov - ing -  
4 Grant that your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways



kind - ness, That you have pa - tient - ly Borne  
giv - en Lest I should fall a - gain And



with me in my blind - ness! When dead in man - y  
lose the way to heav - en. Grant that he give me



sins And tres - pass - es I lay, I kin - dled,  
strength In my in - fir - mi - ty; May he re -



ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.  
new my heart To serve you will - ing - ly.

**M** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## **BLESSING**<sup>14</sup>

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**M** 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.

**C** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower* | **476**

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<sup>14</sup> *The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **NEW BIBLE BASICS SESSION BEGINS JUNE 5TH**

A new Bible Basics session will begin on June 5th, and will continue meeting on Monday evenings. If you are interested in joining this Bible study, please sign the sheet in the church hallway. Bible Basics is well suited for anyone—whether you're new to the Christian faith, looking to review what you have already learned, or somewhere in between—all are welcome.

## **ASCENSION DAY SERVICE AT ZION MAY 25TH**

We once again have the opportunity to celebrate the ascension of our Lord with a joint worship service together with our brothers and sisters from Zion Lutheran Church in Gainesville. This year the service will be held at Zion, beginning at 6:30pm, this coming Thursday, May 25th. All are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity for fellowship and growth in faith through the life-saving Word of God. Zion is located at 1700 NW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32605.

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUNE 4TH**

On Sunday, June 4th, following the worship service, the Abiding Hope Ladies guild will be hosting an ice cream social. Make plans to stick around and enjoy this tasty opportunity for fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **LWMS CONVENTION**

The 54th annual convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) will be held in Orlando from June 22nd - 25th. The convention is a wonderful opportunity to gather together with other mission-minded WELS women for worship, fellowship, and learning about missions at home and around the world. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to attend a convention so close to home. For more information and to register go to [LWMS.org](http://LWMS.org).



## **SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY OFFERING**

Please note that on May 28th, following the worship service, we will be collecting a special offering to support the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG). The LMSG offers spiritual counseling, Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome counseling and many other important programs for chaplains, military personnel, veterans, and their families. Donations will be collected in the fellowship area in an old ammo can manned by one of our congregation's veterans. Checks should be made out to "LMSG." Thank you for prayerfully considering supporting this important ministry.

## **SERVING US THIS WEEK**

Ushers.....Don Wolff & Rick Wildman  
Church Cleaners .....Bob & Donna Noel

## **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please keep the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers and don't forget to keep Pastor Rathje updated on the condition of your friends and loved ones so that the congregation can continue to offer up appropriate prayers on their behalf.

- Michael Parnaselci: For help finding medical care and restoration to good health
- Penny Doyle: Friend of Brian Miller; thanks and continued recover following successful colon cancer surgery
- Denise: Friend of Judy Kasten; for recovery following hysterectomy
- Billie, Bailey, & Damian: Friends of Judy Kasten; for recovery after car accident
- Greyson: 3 yr old heart transplant recipient; body rejecting transplant
- Steve Schroeder: Rathje family friend; severely injured in helicopter crash
- Shirley Bromley: Continued recovery following surgery
- Don & Adair Rowe's niece Amy: Cancer treatment
- Wayne Styx: Ongoing cancer treatment
- Donna Wall: Continued recovery from knee replacement and successful back pain treatment
- Dave & Kathy Edwards and Family: For good health and blessing upon their family
- Becky Neuman: Continued rehab after car accident and surgery
- Jerry Healy: Donna Noel's brother-in-law; terminal cancer

- Dan Fisher: Friend and neighbor of Bob and Donna Noel; for restoration to good health
- Merle Reints: Treatment for bone marrow cancer
- Ardelle Aschenbrenner: Continued recovery after back surgery
- Dennis Deike: continuing to struggle with dizziness and shortness of breath
- Judy Neuman: For restoration to good health
- Mrs. Reyes: Friend of Brian Miller; on waiting list for lung transplant
- Donna Noel's sister Pat; suffering from blood disorder

## COMING UP THIS WEEK AT ABIDING HOPE

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible study Children's Sunday school
	10:15am	Communion service
	11:30am	Fellowship & refreshments
THURSDAY	6:30pm	Ascension Day service at Zion in Gainesville
SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible study Children's Sunday school
	10:15am	Worship service
	11:30am	Fellowship & refreshments



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