



ABIDING SAVIOR
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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June 26th, 2011

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

††The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession††



The year was 1530. The day, June 25. The location was the imperial city of Augsburg, located in southern Germany. The occasion was a visit by the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, who had summoned representatives of the "protesting" churches to appear and give a defense of their teaching.

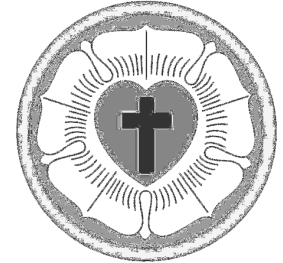
What a contrast to a similar gathering before the emperor in the city of Worms. Nine years earlier, in 1521, Martin Luther was called before the

the emperor not to defend his teachings but to retract them. But in the face of extraordinary pressure, Luther was immovable: "Here I stand. I can do none other."

In 1530 the situation was much different. No longer was it a lowly monk who stood alone in the imposing presence of the emperor. On this occasion, it was the German princes who risked everything to defend the faith.

The gathering in Augsburg in 1530 was a watershed event for Lutheranism, for it provided a forum for a public confession of the faith. "Our churches teach with great unanimity..."-these are the bold and confident words that began the Augsburg Confession. The words of the psalmist took on new meaning: "I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be put to shame" (Ps.119:46). And ever since, the Lutheran Church has recognized the necessity of confessing the true faith.

But why commemorate an event that took place so long ago? Precisely because the true faith still needs to be confessed. The Word of God and its faithful interpretation are under attack from every side. Increasingly our culture tries to convince us that truth is relative and changing.



In the face of such opposition, we can find encouragement from the example of those confessors at Augsburg. They were willing to risk everything rather than deny the truth.

In the early 21st century, circumstances are vastly different than they were on June 25, 1530. Still, the enemy is the same, for Satan continues to plot against Christ and His Church. That's why we set aside June 25, so that we might find encouragement to confess the truth.

***Though Devils all this world should fill
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill
They cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will
He can harm us none.
He judged! The deed is done!
One little word can fell him.***

- A Mighty Fortress is Our God (CW 200:3)

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

WORDS OF WELCOME:

HYMN: p. 45.....Father, We Praise You

THE LITURGY: The Service of Morning Praise, found on p. 45 in the front of the hymnal, Christian Worship.

THE PSALM today is Psalm 46 found on page 84.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS can be found on the insert.

SEASONAL RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.

HYMN: 201.....A Mighty Fortress is Our God

THE SERMON:Matthew 10:32-39

The Cost of Confessing Christ!

HYMN: 277:1 & 4.....God, We Praise You (Te Deum)

THE OFFERING

Visitors: We pass an offering plate during the service so that our worship may include bringing gifts to God. You are our guests and are not expected to give, but you are welcome to participate as your heart leads you to give.

THE KYRIE, P. 50

THE BLESSING, P. 51

HYMN: 293.....God’s Word is Our Great Heritage

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD CONNECTION

MANY THANKS to **Jan Braun** for accompanying us on the computer organ this morning!

MANY THANKS to **Chuey Abrego** for presiding at the Liturgy this morning! Thank You.

COPIES OF THE SERMON are being made each week for those who like to follow along, those who are hard of hearing, and **to take home to give to a friend.** These copies can be found in the entryway to the church. Thank You!!

*****OUR WEEK WITH CHRIST*****		
Today	11:00AM	Friendship Hour
Sunday	9:00AM	Bible Class – Summer with the Catechism
	10:00AM	Divine Worship

Abiding Savior’s Mission:

As men, women, and children redeemed, restored and forgiven by Christ, Abiding Savior Lutheran exists to proclaim Christ to the community of Weslaco and the Rio Grande Valley, using the Gospel in Word and Sacrament by which believers are strengthened in their faith and through which the Holy Spirit creates faith in those who are lost.

Bible Study Opportunities

– Summer with the Catechism –

Sundays at 9:00AM

Get back to the Basics, as well as delve deeper into those questions you always wanted to ask!
This Bible study provides a basic understanding of the bible and Lutheran teaching based on Dr. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism.

Come and Learn the answers to the following:



- ⇒ I’ve tried reading the Bible but struggle to understand it. Why?
- ⇒ Are babies born perfectly innocent?
- ⇒ How often may Christians receive the Lord’s Supper?
- ⇒ And more!



**Abiding Savior's Vacation
Bible School
July 11-15 9-11:30AM**

It's that time again – time to begin preparing for Abiding Savior's Summer Vacation Bible School. This outreach has been one of our main activities as we bring the message of Jesus to the community of Weslaco in keeping with Jesus' words, ***"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*** (Mark 16:15)

Helping us again in our outreach efforts this year is the youth group from Immanuel, Fort Worth. **There will be 17 youth and 2 chaperones coming down to help us this year.** Praise God!



Yet with so many coming, we are in desperate need of donations to cover the cost of food (@\$600) or, if you wish, you could sign up to make/bring a meal for one of the days during the week. (Sign-up Sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall.)

We are also in need of snacks for the children who will be attending the Vacation Bible School.

And, if anyone in the vicinity of Weslaco would like to help with housing – (a house, an RV, etc...) – please speak with Pastor Sauer.

Any help, meal, donation would be greatly appreciated as we reach out to the community with the message of Jesus and His forgiveness.



A E D

You may have thought that this was going to be a vision test. The letters AED stand for **Automated External Defibrillator.**

What's an Automated External Defibrillator? It's a device that is used for heart attack victims BUT also can be used any time CPR is being administered.



The Church Council in its meeting of April 3rd has recorded in the minutes:

"With the many visitors and members of advancing age the possibility, even probability of heart attacks occurring is imminent. More and more public facilities are getting the AED device. It can be employed to save a life. The approximate cost would be near \$2000. The Council felt that the matter should be publicized and that a special fund be started in the manner of the one we had for the parking lot project."

Technically, the AED is designed to be simple to use for the layman. It requires minimal training. Special training will be given to volunteers.

Jeff Weaver has asked that a CPR class be given at the church sometime soon. He is looking for 10 volunteers that are interested in getting their certification.

There will be a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board or you can give your name to Jeff Weaver.



Goal: \$2,000
Received so far:

Abiding Savior Amigos – “Members helping Members”: As a congregation committed to reflecting Christ’s love to one another, Abiding Savior is seeking those with various talents to help out our brothers and sisters in the faith who may sometimes have need of their services.

Do you have a useful skill that you would like to share with other members of Abiding Savior? Are you handy with a hammer or ballpoint pen? All talents are welcome to help with the “Amigos”.

You can sign-up on the sheet provided in the fellowship hall. Any questions, please see Juan Segura. Thank You!

Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Don’t like coffee?!? Can drinks are now available in the fellowship hall refrigerator for the low, low price of 50 pennies a drink. All proceeds go to support the Lutheran Pioneer youth program here at Abiding Savior!

The Ladies Guild is once again collecting **aluminum cans**. The proceeds from the cans collected go to help with various projects, supplies for the kitchen, etc... If you would like to help out in this way, just bring your cans and put them in the enclosed fenced area next to the church. Thank You!

Thrivent Gifting Details

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has now shared the details on how they will give the "Thrivent Choice" dollars to qualifying organizations. Please consider designating all or part of your "Designated Choice Dollars" to Abiding Savior. On the internet go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call your local Thrivent Representative.

Please note that Thrivent now has NO matching or supplemental funds program. They have shifted to this Designated Choice Dollars program instead. Your gift to Abiding Savior helps us to nurture God’s Family with His Word and Reach the Lost for Christ. Thank You!

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(The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession)

O God, Our help in Ages Past!

The First Lesson: 1 Timothy 6:11b-16

The confession of faith that the Church makes under the threat of persecution and martyrdom is based upon the confession of faith that Christ Himself made on our behalf before Pontius Pilate. His confession not only resulted in His death and, therefore, our salvation, but it is also the basis of the Church's confession before the world.

11 ... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you **14** to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 10:32-39

32 “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. **33** But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— **36** a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

37 “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; **38** and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.