

Christ the King Sunday

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

November 21, 2021

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Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

Prelude ~ 8:30am Come, Thou Almighty King ~ 10:30am Adult Choir: Jubilate Deo

Welcome and Announcements ~ Today we welcome Rick Penn as Lay Worship Leader, Damian Santabene and Penny Gresh as Lay Distributors and Sheryl Williams as organist. Judi Pacileo has a Temple Talk to share with us. Thank you for leading us in worship and music today!

Stewardship: A Disciple's Path: Repetition of the hymn "We Are an Offering" and the traditional offering prayer spoken during worship services this month - along with the inspiring reading in our stewardship mailings - has allowed us the opportunity to focus on what it means to be faithful stewards/disciples of Jesus. We have had time to prayerfully meditate on the connection between stewardship, offering and discipleship. Today is a day of celebration in the life of Abiding Hope because today we remember that each and every one of us is called by God to be a faithful steward. Stewards care for and manage all that God creates and shares with us. Stewards joyfully give from all aspects of their lives. Today we make our commitments, our promises, to be God's faithful stewards together in this place with all of our minds and all of our hearts.

Temple Talk ~ Judi Pacileo

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. **Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ~ *He is Exalted*

VERSE



He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on _ high, _ I will praise _ Him.



He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise His name! _

CHORUS



He is the Lord, _ for - ev - er His truth shall reign. Heav - en and



earth _ re - joice in His ho - ly name. _



He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high! _

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord



God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



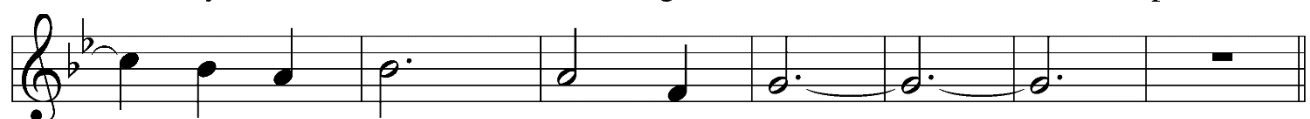
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo - ple on earth.



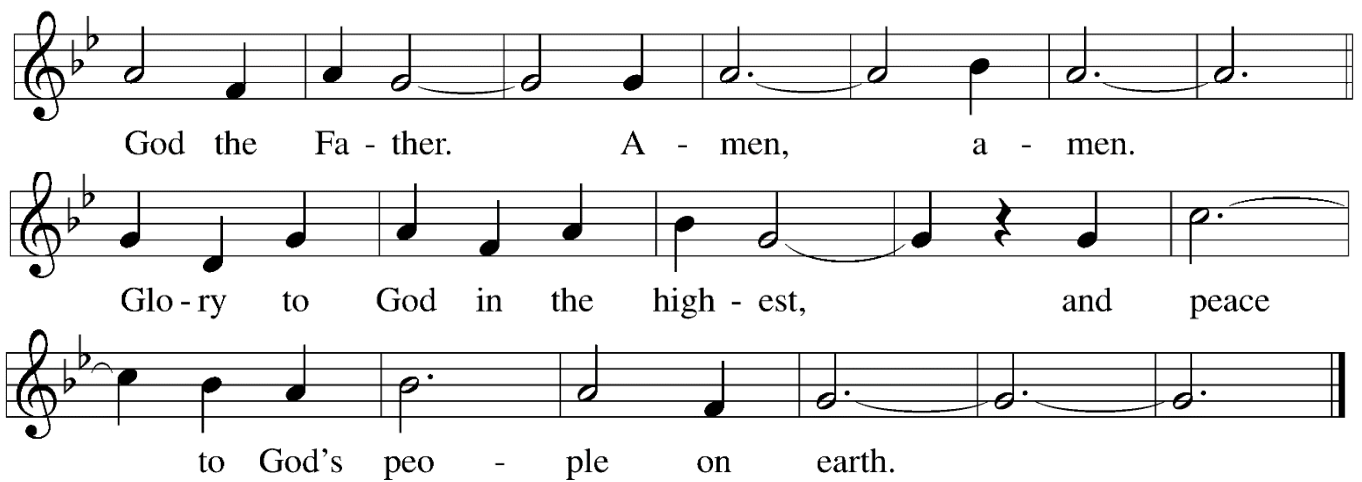
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus



Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



Prayer of the Day

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

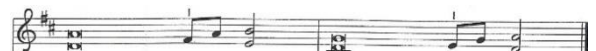
¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 93

Sung Responsively

Tone 1



¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and ¹ armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- ¹ not be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has ¹ been established;**
you are from ¹ everlasting.

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted ¹ up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their ¹ pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers ¹ of the sea,**
mightier is the LORD who ¹ dwells on high.

⁵**Your testimonies are ¹ very sure,**
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- ¹ evermore.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 18:33-37

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

[³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

The gospel Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ~ ELW 430 *Rejoice, for Christ is King*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. *A brief silence.*

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts (*pause*). Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly greets each other from their pew space, then is seated

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 692 We Are an Offering

The assembly stands.

Commitment Sunday Litany

Gracious God, you have made a world for us and given us incomparable gifts: air and water, family and friends, your steadfast love and forgiveness, and your son Jesus the Christ. For all the gifts and wonders you have bestowed on us...

We thank you and worship you with renewed gratitude.

O God, you created us to love one another as Christ has loved us. We are concerned about all your children, those who live near us, and those who live far away. We are eager to participate in the work of the whole church and to further the ministry, mission, and service of this congregation, Abiding Hope.

We are called to be your stewards. We thoughtfully, prayerfully, and faithfully dedicate our lives and resources as a witness to the good news of Christ. Today we joyfully respond to your grace with our hearts and hands and voices.

We are confident in your love and care for us.

We gladly dedicate our whole lives, our time, our talents, and our financial resources to our gracious God.

O God, throughout the ages you have challenged your people to step out in faith and follow you. You have put purpose and direction in our lives.

We have set our feet on this disciples' path. Be our guide. Whisper in our ears when we need to make decisions. Hold us up if we start to stumble. May your Holy Spirit lead us in joyful song and fill us with eager anticipation. You are our vision, O God; lead us on our journey. Amen.

Prayers of Distribution

(At this service of worship, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council, received instruction, and were appointed by our synodical bishop. They serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.)

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

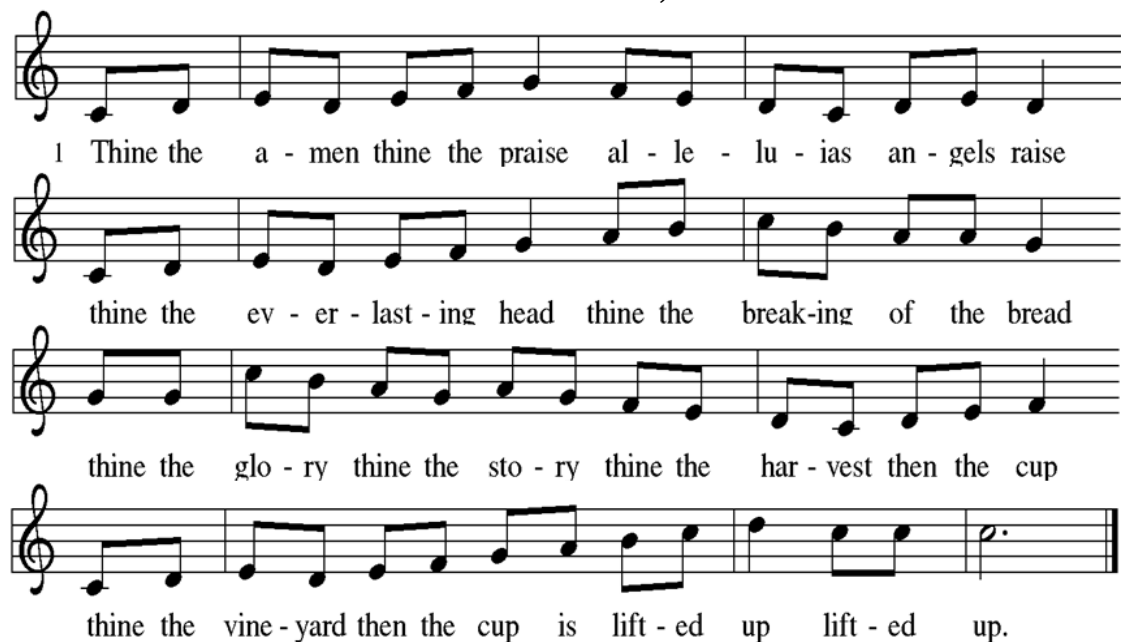
Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Elements

Communion Hymn ~ ELW 838 *Beautiful Savior*

Post Communion Canticle ~ *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise*



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.

The assembly stands

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ ELW 434 *Jesus Shall Reign* v.1,2,5

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

GOSPEL MESSAGE - What Kind of Kingdom?

Some have interpreted Jesus' statement "My kingdom is not from this world" (John 18:36) to mean that Jesus promises good things only in some distant future, as if we need not worry about justice or poverty in this life. However, in his actions and teachings throughout his life, Jesus clearly cared very much about the here and now of this world.

In the Lord's prayer, we say, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven." We are praying for God's will in this world, the only home and society we know. But what does it look like for God's will to be done on earth?

Jesus disappointed his followers, who expected a revolutionary leader. In generation after generation, revolutions come and go. Those who were on the bottom get to be on the top for a spell. Inevitably, we have the same old concentration of power in high places, insiders versus outsiders, the haves and the have-nots. The names and titles change, but the system does not.

By the typical standards of a political revolution, Jesus' execution meant he was a total failure. But he embodied a different kind of power, testifying to a truth larger and deeper and ultimately stronger than any revolution. In his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus jammed up the whole system that keeps cycling back around to perpetuate violence, retribution, inequality, and exclusion.

Through Jesus, the kingdom of God breaks in amid the old kingdoms that rise and fall, bringing a new reign of love, forgiveness, and peace. As a beloved community that longs to break free from old cycles of worldly power, we continue to pray for God's kingdom to come, for renewal that is deeper and more lasting than any political movement. And we continue to work for a world where all of God's children and God's creation are treated with respect, justice, and love.

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Parish Notes ~ November 21, 2021

Please pray for: Cheryl Petrone, Irene Owens, Jack Milne (father) & friends of Michele Milne, Pastor Gesler, Al & Carol. Nick, the grandson of Bill & Sharron Sontheimer. Pastor Washill, John & Jacque Holmberg, Judi Pacileo, Joe Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger, Teresa Burgess. *Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.*

Vacation: Pastor Karen will be on vacation from November 14 through November 22. If you need emergency pastoral care, please call **Pastor Kim Hirsch of Lamb of God, at 814-825-8830.**

Fall/Winter Schedule for In-Person Worship: Sunday service is offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a.** The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then posted to the AHLC web page. **Please check parish notes for Sundays that worship may have a different time.**

Adult Choir: Wednesday evening @ 6:00p. **NO practice on November 24th**

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30a-3:30a Wednesday 9:30a-12:30p

Budget Requests: Today, the 2022 Committee/Ministry/Mission budget requests are due to John Holmberg. The request can be returned to John in the Holmberg mailbox in the Heritage Room, or treasurerabidinghope@gmail.com. If you have any question, please call John at 814-864-3797.

Deadline for newsletter articles is tomorrow, **November 22.** Questions..call Nancy Cunning at 814-833-3109

Christmas Poinsettias Deadline to place your order/payment in the offering plate is **Sunday, November 28** or to the office by **Tuesday, November 30, 3:00p.** Christmas donations to the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry may be placed in the offering plate by **Sunday December 12** or returned to the office by **Monday December 13, 3:00p.**

Senior Fellowship Luncheon. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, December 1, 12:00noon.** Bring your "bagged" lunch and enjoy a Christmas musical program with **Pr. Karen and Sheryl Williams....** AND **Judi Pacileo** has volunteered to help everyone make Christmas table favors to be used at Niagara Village.

Hymns: The ELW & WOV hymnals have been returned to the pews for your use.

Only the hymn #'s and titles will be listed in the bulletin. Music and words for hymns from other sources will continue to be printed.

Bishop Lozano, Pastor Gesler, Pastor Washill: Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards and notes, which can be the medicine one needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong. They'll be forwarded on several times. Boxes are in the narthex.

Cody's Wheels of Hope. With donations received, new bicycles and other wheeled toys are given to children with life threatening illnesses. CWOH is raffling off a Gift Card Basket on November 22nd. It will contain cards for several area businesses worth at least \$1300. Tickets are \$2.00 each. If you would like to get in on the fun see Cindy Filson on Sunday mornings. You can also write to cindy@cwoh.org or call at 814 460-8228. Also, the website for Cody's Wheels has a PayPal button you can use to pay for tickets

Missing any plates or bowls in your home kitchen? They may be at church! Unmarked items are on the coat rack near the church office. Please take your items home with you. After Thanksgiving the Items will be donated.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for worship, a sign-up form is on the table in the narthex. The costs of the flowers remain the same as before, **\$20.00 per arrangement**. Please **return your request and payment one week ahead** of your chosen Sunday.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

October Income:	\$ 9,160.94	Year to Date Income:	\$112,582.15
October Expenses:	\$10,161.83	Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 84,742.27
October Difference:	-\$ 1,000.89	Year to Date Difference:	\$ 27,839.88
Year to Date Budget:		\$121,197	

Blessed are you, O God, Maker of all things. We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us Ourselves, Our time, Our possessions - Signs of your gracious love. Use us and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

If you have not yet returned your 2022 Estimate of Giving/Pledge Card, please mail it to the church office soon. Thank you.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, please contact John or Jacque Holmberg. We have information about Action Teams and Choice Dollars!





ADVENT FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th
Following 9:00am Worship
Join your Abiding Hope Family for:
Breakfast
Caroling
Decorating the Church

*If anyone would like to donate a breakfast casserole and/or baked goods,
Please contact Jacque Holmberg 814-490-4470 / jholmberg@roadrunner.com*

Bethesda "Wishes Come True" Giving Tree 2021



Again this year Abiding Hope is assisting in bringing Christmas to over 80 young people who may never have experienced what we consider a traditional family celebration. The goal is to provide a warm, caring, and memorable Christmas holiday to these kids. If you care to help, review the list of gift options below and choose items you would like to purchase and bring them to the church, unwrapped, and in a gift bag, by the **December 6th deadline**. The items received will be sorted and given to Bethesda's children at their Annual Christmas Party based on the child's Wish List, clothing size and needs. Bethesda helps kids from birth to age 23, boys and girls, so any gifts are appreciated. Walmart, Target and Amazon Gift Cards in any amount are a preferred and welcome gift. Having gift cards on hand, allows Bethesda to purchase any additional presents as the need arises.

The young people that are in Bethesda's care have traveled a troubled road. Few of them are from traditional families that most of us take for granted. We cannot change their past and we leave it to the great folks at Bethesda to help them create a better future. But what we can do is keep both the staff and clients in our prayers and make their Christmas season a whole lot brighter through our generosity.

Thank you for your support.

Bethesda Christmas Wish List

Miscellaneous Gifts

- Sequin Pillows
- Comforter Sets
- Stuffed Animals

Beauty Products for Girls & Teens

- Lip Gloss & Lipstick
- Face Wash & Soaps
- Cologne
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Nail Polish
- Make-up
- Curling Irons

Clothing for Teen Girls Ladies S, M, L & XL

- Bras & Underwear
- Socks
- Pajamas
- Hoodies & Tops

For Young Men

- Men's Body Spray
- Old Spice Cologne

Footwear for Teen Girls Ladies Sizes 6-9

- Slippers
- Tennis Shoes
- Boots

Crafting Supplies

- Acrylic Paint Sets
- Paintbrushes & Paints
- Drawing Paper & Sketch Books
- Craft sets
- Jewelry kits

Tech Stuff

- Ear Buds
- Headphones
- Movies
- MP3 Players
- Music CDs

Men's Hoodies—all sizes

Gift Cards - any amount—

Walmart, Target, Amazon

Toys, Books, Games, Cards & Legos

**Deadline for gifts to
Abiding Hope
Monday, Dec 6th**

