

## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BURGERS AND DOGS!** On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by Burgers & Dogs in the Pavilion. Food and beverages will be provided. Please join us for worship, food, fellowship, and fun! Please sign up in the lobby or call 724-425-9700 if you plan to attend!

**CHRISTIANITY 101 – “Discovering Church Membership” – will be held on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** This class is required if you wish to become a member of ALC. However, if you attend the class, you are not required to become a member. Please sign up in the lobby if you plan to attend.

**ALC WOMEN NEW STUDY: ROMANS – GOOD NEWS CHANGES EVERYTHING:** In this 6-session DVD Study of Romans, Melissa Spoelstra challenges women to explore the truths found in the book of Romans that will reframe the bad news and remind us of our hope for the future. Beginning August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>, all women ages 12 and up are welcome to attend either on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in Room 10. Please sign up in the lobby or use the online form posted here: <https://www.myabundantlife.org/womens-ministry/>

**MOVE-UP DAY FOR ALL CHILDREN'S CLASSES WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup>.** Please be sure that your children advance to their appropriate grades for the start of the fall curriculum.

**TEACHERS, HELPERS & NURSERY WORKERS** are needed during either Sunday service or on Wednesday Family Night. We use a rotating schedule between teachers based on their availability. All children's ministry volunteers must complete the background clearance forms (found in the information booth) or submit your already existing clearances to our office if you have them. Please sign-up in the lobby.

**WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT** - Join us every Wednesday for a mid-week spiritual refill! The service starts at 6:15 p.m. with music and singing followed by a mini sermon to get you through the rest of the week. There are classes for children grades 1 – 8. Senior High students (Grades 9 – 12) meet for youth group after the music portion of the worship service has ended.

**AUTHENTIC MANHOOD MEN'S MINISTRY IS HELD ON MONDAYS AT 6:30 p.m. at ALC-** This weekly gathering equips men with an inspiring, God-centered vision of what it means to be a man in the upside-down culture in which we are living. Each week, we discuss and identify the issues that are at the core of every man's existence. Men, please bring a friend with you. You and he will be glad that you did!



**Sunday, August 23, 2020 A.D.**

Prayer Chain: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Cindy Dawson Home: 724-564-5893 Cell: 724-208-5437  
Email: [prayerchain@myabundantlife.org](mailto:prayerchain@myabundantlife.org)  
Church Office: (724) 425-9700

**Abundant Life Church** exists to exalt Jesus (**worship**), to teach the Bible (**grow**), to share the gospel (**reach**), to love one another (**connect**), and to serve the Lord (**serve**).

## A SINGULAR VOICE

***“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”***

*John 10:27*

The world has almost always been a noisy place, but now more so than ever. We have access to a multitude of voices every minute of every day – through radio and TV, Internet and social media, and more. The public discussion has grown drastically larger and louder in our time. We’re virtually bombarded with opinions and noise.

Some of these voices are easily recognizable, and we instantly know whether to listen to them or not. Some are more subtle; they blend into the background, come from a distance, or bubble up from questions and confusion in our own minds. Some are nice to us, and others are downright rude. But all of them compete for our attention.

Jesus gave us a profound illustration about shepherds and their sheep. Sheep may hear other shepherds calling out, but they have learned to recognize the voice of the one who guides them. They don’t just follow any shepherd; they follow theirs. They may hear other voices, but they don’t really hear them. They are tuned in to the distinctives of their master’s call. When they hear it, they follow wherever he is leading.

Our goal is to be uniquely tuned in to a singular voice. We can do that because the Shepherd said He knows us – individually. He has taken time to communicate with us, learn our inclinations and characteristics, and appreciate us individually. We are drawn to Him because of that, and His voice resonates more deeply with us than any other. Because He cares for us, we care what He says. We know He’s watching out for us. Our interests are best served by His will.

Ask God to fine-tune your hearing to His voice alone. You’ll hear a multitude of other sounds, but they won’t resonate with you like His voice will. They are just noise. Let Him draw you into a learning process that will connect you with His heart and open your ears to hear. Know even before you ask that this is possible. In fact, it’s promised. The Shepherd could not possibly leave you in silence. His voice is waiting to be heard.

*Taken from Indeed devotional 8/20/2020*

## SELF-AWARENESS

***“Come to Me.”*** Matthew 11:28

God intends for us to live a well-rounded life in Christ Jesus, but there are times when that life is attacked from the outside. Then we tend to fall back into self-examination, a habit that we thought was gone. Self-awareness is the first thing that will upset the completeness of our life in God, and self-awareness continually produces a sense of struggling and turmoil in our lives. Self-awareness is not sin, and it can be produced by nervous emotions or by suddenly being dropped into a totally new set of circumstances. Yet it is never God’s will that we should be anything less than absolutely complete in Him. Anything that disturbs our rest in Him must be rectified at once, and it is not rectified by being ignored but only by coming to Jesus Christ. If we will come to Him, asking Him to produce Christ-awareness in us, He will always do it, until we fully learn to abide in Him.

Never allow anything that divides or destroys the oneness of your life with Christ to remain in your life without facing it. Beware of allowing the influence of your friends or your circumstances to divide your life. This only serves to sap your strength and slow your spiritual growth. Beware of anything that can split your oneness with Him, causing you to see yourself as separate from Him. Nothing is as important as staying right spiritually. And the only solution is a very simple one— “Come to Me....” The intellectual, moral, and spiritual depth of our reality as a person is tested and measured by these words. Yet in every detail of our lives where we are found not to be real, we would rather dispute the findings than come to Jesus.

*by Oswald Chambers My Utmost for His Highest Aug. 19*

## We are called to be Different

***“The church’s mission in the world is absolutely dependent on its being different from the world.”***

*~ Jim Wallis*