

the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

April 2023

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Musical on Palm Sunday during worship

Musicians of all ages from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, along with musicians and friends from the community will present the musical "Who Is It That You Say I Am?" The presentation does not assume to answer the question for you, it simply asks, and leaves it hanging in your heart for you to draw your own conclusions. Come and celebrate with us. Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday. Come experience the Passion like it was meant just for you.

Easter & Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday 10:00am



Worship begins with a procession of palms, singing of All Glory Laud and Honor, and we will hear the gospel of Jesus entering into Jerusalem as the people shouted, "Hosanna!" The second part of this Palm Sunday service will be the musical, "Who is it That You Say I Am?" writ-

ten by our own Pastor Dave Rogge. A large choir has been assembled to share the moving story of Jesus' passion, resurrection, and deep love for us all.

Maundy Thursday 4:00pm and 6:30pm



Jesus gives us a new commandment (mandatum) to "love one another". He shows this love by stooping to wash the feet of his disciples. We will share together Holy Communion and celebrate with those children who are receiving their first Communion that evening.

At the end of the service we will chant Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" as we strip the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday 4:00pm and 6:30pm



Journey with Jesus toward his crucifixion through the Stations of the Cross as we pray, contemplate, sing, and extinguish the candles and lights as we journey toward Jesus' death on the cross. This service ends with a glimmer of hope as the Christ Candle is returned and shines through the darkness as we anticipate the Easter celebration.

Easter Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am



Alleluia! Christ is risen!! Easter is the celebration we anticipate throughout the season of Lent. Join us for this festive worship featuring our choir and bells as we rejoice at Jesus resurrection and our own victory over sin and death.



Living in God's love,
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
is a welcoming and caring family
that nurtures spiritual growth,
shares our Christian faith,
and serves all creation.

page 2 / growing through loss / thank you Pastor Lisa!

Growing Through Loss Series Begins April 17

Below is a portion of a letter written by a person grieving, printed in the book Life After Loss:

I have experienced a loss that is devastating to me. It will take time, perhaps years, for me to work through the grief I am having because of this loss.

I will cry more than usual for some time. My tears are not a sign of weakness or a lack of hope or faith. They are the symbols of the depth of my loss and the sign that I am recovering.

I may become angry without there seeming to be a reason for it. My emotions are all heightened by the stress of grief. Please be forgiving if I seem irrational at times.

I need your understanding and your presence more than anything else. If you don't know what to say, just touch me or give me a hug to let me know you care. Please don't wait for me to call you. I am often too tired to even think about reaching out for the help I need.

Don't allow me to withdraw from you. I need you more than ever during the next year.

Pray for me only if your prayer is not in order for me to make you feel better. My faith is not an excuse from the process of grief.

If you, by chance, have had an experience of loss that seems anything like mine, please share it with me. You will not make me feel worse.

This loss is the worst thing that could happen to me. But, I will get through it and I will live again. I will not always feel as I do now. I will laugh again.

Thank you for caring about me. Your concern is a gift I will always treasure.

All of our lives are touched by the experience of grief of some kind. We know the pain of loss, of sickness, of death, of separation, of changes in our lives. Grief is hard. We need to know we are not alone in grief.

Abiding Savior is joining with several area churches to offer an excellent series of grief support called Growing Through Loss. These sessions will be on **Monday evenings**, **April 17 through May 22 from 7:00**— **9:00pm here at Abiding Savior**. Each session begins in the Sanctuary with a speaker on an aspect of grief. Then there will be an opportunity to meet in a small group with those experiencing a similar loss (loss of parents, loss of spouse, loss of child, separation or divorce, suicide loss, and transitional loss (empty next, moving, job loss, broken relationship, financial setbacks). The sessions will also be posted on YouTube (search for the GTL North Suburban channel). For more information feel free to speak with Pastor Lisa.

April 17 Grief: A Journey

Linda Cherek — Licensed Therapist, Educator, Consultant and Author

April 24 Caring for a Broken Heart

 ${\it Linda~Cherek-Licensed~Therapist}, {\it Educator}, {\it Consultant~and~Author}$

May 1 Understanding the Characteristics of Grief Paul Johnson — Bereavement Educator

May 8 Families Coping with Grief

Janice Winchester Nadeau, Ph.D.— Licensed Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist

May 15 Out of the Desert: Isolation or Engagement as One Experiences Loss

Bob Bartlett — Marriage and Family Therapist

May 22 Where is God in Our Suffering (includes a service of healing and hope)

Cheryl Bornhorst — Parish Nurse & Rev. David Rogge — Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Pastor Lisa's Retirement and New Role

April 30 is Pastor Lisa's official last day as our Associate Pastor. We cannot thank her enough for all she has meant to Abiding Savior these past 25 years and wish her the best in her retirement. Fortunately, as she enters retirement this is not goodbye. Lisa



and Gary will still be a part of the Abiding Savior community. After taking some time off for the summer, Lisa plans to return as our Pastor for Visitation. She will be working part-time making visits and coordinating pastoral care at Abiding Savior. We are grateful for her caring, wisdom, and leadership these past 25 years and for her continued ministries yet to come.

Mission

Living in God's love, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is a *welcoming* and *caring* family that *nurtures* spiritual growth, *shares* our Christian faith, and *serves* all creation.



April special events / page 3



Women's Gathering Mon., April 10

You are invited to join in on a monthly "meet-up" for the Women of ASLC at Moe's in their main dining room at 5:30pm (come and stay as long as you're able).

The purpose of this meet-up is simply to socialize and get to know our "Pew Sisters" better and may to discuss future activities and gatherings.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Abiding Savior—A place to belong!

Are you (or someone you know) interested in or curious about becoming a member at Abiding Savior? Join us for a new members class on Wednesday April 12 at 5:30pm in the Coffee House to learn more about the ministries of Abiding Savior, what it means to be Lutheran, and get to know one another!

Please contact the church office at 763-784-5120 or speak with one of the pastors if you are interested!

Wednesday Schedule

4:30—6:30pm Dinner served

- Apr. 6: Various Soups + Beef & Barley Soup
- Apr. 12: Chicken Hot Dish
- Apr. 19: Hamburger Gravy & Mashed Potatoes
- · Apr. 26: Goulash

5:00-5:30pm Celebration Ringers

5:30—6:00pm King's Msgrs Choir/POWER Up

6:00—6:30pm WWJD Choir/POWER Up

6:30-7:00pm Wednesday Worship

6:30-8:00pm Confirmation

7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir

Lydia Circle



You're invited to Lydia Circle on **Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00pm!** The Lydia Circle meets in the evening in order to provide access for women with profes-

sional duties during the day. The Bible study is taken from the Gather magazine, an ELCA publication (gather@elca.org or gathermagazine.org).



Hebrews Bible Study Wednesdays April 19, 26 and May 3 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Coffee House



Join Pastor Ryan for this look into the book of Hebrews. Hebrews speaks to a first century church trying to make meaning out of the Scriptures and the death and resurrection of Jesus. Hebrews asserts that Jesus was indeed human, but also divine. Jesus sacri-

fice, the one of himself, never had to be repeated. It was enough for all time. Hebrews addressing the need for faith, especially in the midst of fear and doubt. No previous Bible Study experience necessary, no homework, and no pop quizzes! Come for a time of learning and fellowship. This class can also be available via Zoom if requested.



Mark your calendars now for a night of good food, fellowship and entertainment as the Abiding Savior El Salvador Mission Trip hosts a **Broadway Dinner and Show on Saturday, April 22 at 6pm**. Tickets are \$25 per person which includes a sit down meal followed by a Broadway Review showcasing the talents of members of Abiding Savior and other guests. Tickets are available on Sunday mornings in the Narthex and during the week in the church office. Don't miss this exciting time of fellowship and entertainment supporting the El Salvador Mission Trip. Dinner is at 6:00pm and the show will be at 7:00pm.

page 4/ preschool - spread the word! / youth news

Abiding Savior Preschool

March was a very fast month for preschool! We had several preschool fundraisers this month and I want to say a HUGE thank you for the tremendous sup-



port we received! It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks we will be saying goodbye to these preschoolers for the school year!

Please spread the word about our NEW this fall toddler classroom opening! We are very excited to be offering this option to our community! We will also be offering our mixed age preschool program again this fall! We are incredibly blessed to have the two amazing teachers that we have on board! We are definitely the best neighborhood program in Mounds View!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director preschool@abidingsavior.org







MS/HS Youth News

Cinnamon Roll Sale: Palm Sunday, April 2

Come at 8:30am to bake & stay after church to sell!



Easter Breakfast fundraiser Youth help serve our Easter Breakfast as a fundraiser for

our youth activities! Breakfast will be served 9:00-10:00am. We'll be serving Scrambled Eggs, French Toast Bake, Coffee Cake, Bacon/Sausage, Yogurt/Berries/Granola, Milk/OJ/Coffee.

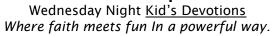
Youth and Families—Help with Easter Breakfast

We need help serving and washing dishes at Easter breakfast! Please email Josh & Alex if you can help!



Watch for exciting events in the months ahead! Alex and Josh have lots of great events for youth planned in the months ahead! Watch for updates!

POWER Up!



If you haven't yet joined us this year, we'd love to welcome you.

Hear God's word, share thoughts and ideas, and have fun creating, playing and exploring.

Highlights in April

April Showers: Celebrate Earth Day!
Let's make rain clouds!





SCHEDULE:

April 5—No POWER UP (Holy Week)

Resume normal schedule after Easter:
5:30-6:00 2nd through 5th grade
6:00-6:30 - 4-year-olds through 1st grade
6:30—Family worship for all in the Fellowship Hall

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children 3 years old (and potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us for Bible stories, songs, crafts and activities from **9:00-9:50** each Sunday.

For Your Calendars:

April 2 (Palm Sunday): Sunday school children sing during 10:00 worship. They are also invited/encouraged to be a part of the musical being presented that morning—we have been practicing with

Pastor Dave during our worship/music time.

April 9 (Easter): NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is no fee for Sunday school, but we do ask that you register your child to ensure we have contact information, and are aware of any allergies/medical concerns. Visit our website or complete a registration form at church. Families do not need to be members of Abiding Savior to become a part of our Sunday school program.



Mark your calendars for VBS! August 7th—11th ~ 9:00—noon Registration opening soon!

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find an easy way to help others/stewardship corner / page 5

Serving Others. God's Work. Our Hands.

<u>Coat Drive</u>: Now's a good time to find clearance prices on winter wear or clean out your own closets. New and gently used WARM winter jackets, especially in school-age children's sizes, will be needed for next October's coat give away. You can drop these off year-round in the social concerns trunk. Thank you for caring about your neighbors.



Quilts: The quilting group has been busy, and their latest gifts of handmade warmth will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief for delivery anywhere in the world as needed. What beautiful offerings of love and hope!



March FoodShare Collection: It's not too late to help fill the shelves at Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. The March campaign runs through April 9, though we'd like to deliver our donations Thursday, April 6. Most needed are pantry basics, pasta and sauces, canned meat/tuna, and personal hygiene items.



<u>Food Shelf Delivery</u>: A quick opportunity to lend a helping hand by loading the collected food at church and dropping it off at Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, next door to Speedway in Mounds View. Thursday, April 6 between 9 and 11 am. Please let the office know if you can help. Thank you.

<u>Growing Through Loss at ASLC</u>: We're hosting the spring 2023 sessions offering information, care, and support for anyone experiencing grief or loss, Mondays beginning April 17 through May 22 from 6:45—9:00pm. You can attend any or all sessions at no cost. For more information see the article on page 2.



<u>Growing Through Loss Volunteers</u>: Each Monday April 17 through May 22, we'll need a few volunteers for registration, hospitality, and light clean up. Please let the office know (or <u>sign up HERE</u>) if you could bring snacks, serve snacks, tidy chairs and tables, or close up the building. Your help will be very appreciated.

<u>Gardeners Needed</u>: It's almost time for planting in our Garden of Grace. If you or your family or group would like to adopt a plot, please let the office know. Your garden bed will receive a sign to identify your good efforts. Thanks to the property committee, water is more accessible this year! You can use the produce you grow in any way you see fit. We hope to see you out in the garden soon.



Stewardship Corner with Pastor Ryan Sharing as an Act of Faith

Have you ever thought about the connection between what you do with your money and your faith? Have you thought about stewardship as much more than simply paying the bills of the church? In his book, Ask, Thank, Tell, pastor Chick Lane writes, "When the Bible talks about stewardship, it almost always talks about the intimate connection between how a person handles financial matters and that person's relationship with God. In the Bible, all stewardship, including financial stewardship, is an intensely spiritual matter."



When we share, we do so not out of obligation or guilt. Sharing our financial resources is not like paying our taxes every April 15th. When we share, we are really trusting that God will continue to provide. We are saying that we have more then enough and we want to share something with our church or other organizations that are doing God's work and God's will in the world. Sharing is an outward sign of our faith and trust in a God of abundance, not a God of scarcity.

I encourage each of us to be sharing generously trusting in our gracious God to continue to provide more than enough for us and the world.

page 6 / sharing God's gifts / upcoming craft fair

February 2023 Financial Highlights						
2023	Monthly	YTD				
INCOME						
Current gifts and giving	50,053	88,045				
Festival giving	175	175				
SUBTOTAL	50.228	88,220				
Other income	2,501	6,799				
TOTAL INCOME	52,729	95,019				
EXPENSES						
TOTAL EXPENSES	54,512	107,880				
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(1,783)	(12,861)				
Benevolence paid	2,327	6,917				

Giving to the Endowment Fund is Simple and Joyful!

When you make or revise your Will or Trust or review your life insurance contracts or retirement funds, please consider Abiding Savior as one of your beneficiaries using the following language:

I bequeath __ % (or \$ ___) of my estate to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church located at 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN, designated for the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

Please talk to Pastor Ryan Brodin if you have questions about making a gift to the Endowment Fund.



Thrivent Action Teams

If you have a qualifying Thrivent policy or investment you are eligible to apply for two Thrivent Action Team Grants up to \$250 each to be used for fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, educational



events, or meals. The application is simple and quick. If you would like to apply for a Thrivent Action Team Grant to benefit one of the ministries of Abiding Savior, please contact the church office.

Mark Your Calendars and Watch Our Website & Facebook For More Information!

Saturday | May 13 | 2023





9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Free Entry Abiding Savior Lutheran Church 8211 Red Oak Drive | Mounds View, MN www.abidingsavior.org www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorle

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Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlc/

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Musical Dress Rehearsal Apr. 1

Apr. 2 PALM SUNDAY

Sunday school & fellowship

Worship with Musical

Apr. 4 Men's Breakfast Bible Study & Cmmt Meetings

Apr. 6: MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship at 4:00 & 6:30

Soup supper between services

GOOD FRIDAY Worship at 4:00 & 6:30 Apr. 7:

Apr. 9: EASTER SUNDAY

Worship with Communion at 8:00 & 10:00

Easter Breakfast between services

Apr. 10: Women's Gathering

Apr. 11: Quilting & Lydia Circle

Apr. 12: New Member Class

Wednesday Night Activities

Apr. 13: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study

Apr. 16: Sunday school & fellowship

Worship

Apr. 17: Growing Through Loss

Apr. 18: Men's Bible Study and Council Meeting

Apr. 19: Wed. Nite Activities and Hebrew Bible Study

Apr. 20: Women's Bible Study

Apr. 22: Broadway Dinner & Show

Apr. 23: NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday school & fellowship Worship with Holy Communion

Apr. 24: Growing Through Loss

Apr. 26: Wednesday Night Activities (last nite of Conf.)

Apr. 28: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study

Apr. 29: Pastor Lisa's last Sunday

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Lisa Richardson Engen, Associate Pastor

Josh & Alex Ertz, Interim Youth Mentors

Patty Mesenbring, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Janelle Schauer, Organist

Mary Larew, Senior & Children's Choir Director

Paul Weller, Bell Choir Director

Katie Brouillard, Office Manager

Connie Clausen, Office Assistant

Trisha Bourassa. Office Assistant

Jen Boog, Preschool Director

Gene Herman, Custodian



Help keep our contact information up-to-date! If you have a new home phone, cell phone or new

address. please call the church ofemail 763.784.5120 fice at or visit http:// abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/update-mycontact-information/.