

the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

April 2024

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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.

Tanzania Water Project

Abiding Savior is privileged to have a companion congregation in Makungu, Tanzania. Makungu is a village of about 1,000 people up in the mountains of the Iringa Region of Tanzania. The people there live mostly as subsistence farmers growing what they eat. The village has a primary school, a clinic, and a Lutheran Church. What Makungu does not have is access to clean drinking water.



Currently the village gets their water from a ground source that is down the hill from the village. That means that the women and the children have to walk down, fill their drinking water containers, and carry their drinking water back up the hill usually on their heads. This water retrieval takes hours out of their day when children could be studying and the women working. What is worse, the water they are drinking is filled with e-coli and other harmful bacteria.

Through a partnership between a clean water non-profit called St. Paul Partners and the University of Minnesota School of Engineering, five engineering students visited Makungu this past January where they studied the village and designed a clean water plan for the village. The cost estimate for this project is about \$33,500.



St. Paul Partners has staff in Iringa to coordinate the construction of the plan the students created. The village of Makungu provides the majority of the labor and Abiding Savior is asked to help fund the clean water project.

Through this partnership between the U of M, St. Paul Partners, Abiding Savior, and the Village of Makungu, we will make clean water a reality for the village, and it will be literally life changing for the people of Makungu. The students who travelled to Makungu and their advisor will be with us at Abiding Savior on Sunday, April 28, to present an Adult Education hour at 9:00 AM in the Coffee House and to share briefly during the 10:00 AM worship service.

How exciting to be a part of this life changing and lifesaving project in Makungu. Come to the Adult Forum and worship on April 28 to learn more. Our worship that day will be highlighting our partnership with the Makungu Parish not just concerning this water project, but also the secondary school scholarships, prayers, and relationships.

See you in worship!

-Pastor Ryan



page 2 / call committee update / intergenerational choir

Mission Endowment Fund Sunday — April 7

The Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior is pleased to again be awarding grants for 2024. The Endowment Fund has grown to \$202,824 as of the end of 2023 and this year there is \$8,620 available to grant out to organizations and projects inside and outside the walls of Abiding Savior. Join us in worship on Sunday, April 7, at 10:00 AM to learn more about the impact of the Endowment Fund and how you can make a lasting gift through your estate planning that will help to fund the work of God done in and through Abiding Savior for generations to come.



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has had two meetings. At the first meeting on February 21, the committee met with Assistant to the Bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod, Deacon Krista Lind. She gave us an overview of the work ahead of us. As a committee, confidentiality is stressed. The tasks we are currently working on are:

- 1. Complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)
- 2. Compile interview questions
- 3. Interview candidates



We elected Sandy LaCroix and Brea Schultes as co-chairs of the Call Committee. We also elected Kathie Anderson, Megan Sangren and Christina Larson-Dickson as Communication chairs.

Our second meeting was on March 6. The committee edited the rough draft of the MSP. As a group, we went through multiple choice questions clarifying ho we are as a congregation, and discussed the type of candidate we are hoping to interview.

Our next meeting will be on April 10. We will be discussing how our community has been challenged by change and will create interview questions.

Join us for a Music Sunday Intergenerational Choir Opportunity

Singers of all ages - kids, teens, and adults - are invited to sing pieces in a special choir for Music Sunday, May 5. Note the special date for this year's Music Sunday.

We will sing John Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth," as well as another favorite or two! Singers are asked to attend at least 3 rehearsals. Rehearsals will be:

- Wednesday, April 10: 7-8:00pm
 Sunday, April 14: 8:45-9:30am
 Wednesday, April 17: 5:30-6:30pm
 Wednesday, April 24: 7-8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 1: 6-6:30pm and 7-8:00pm

We hope to sing with you then!



Women's Gathering

You are invited to join in on a monthly "meet-up" for the Women of ASLC at Moe's in their main dining room on Monday April 8 at 5:30pm (come and stay as long as you're able).

Lydia Circle



You're invited to Lydia Circle on Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30! The Lydia Circle meets in the evening in order to provide

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

Mission

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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 3 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—6:15pm Dinner served

• Apr. 3: Meat Loaf & Mashed Potatoes

• Apr. 10: Spaghetti

• Apr. 17: Chicken Ala King

• Apr. 24: Beef Stroganoff

5:30—6:30pm POWER Up

6:30-7:00pm Wednesday Worship

6:30—8:00pm Confirmation 7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir

Gregorian Singers Concert April 20, 2024 at 4pm Abiding Savior Sanctuary

The Gregorian Singers is coming to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church! Please join The Gregorian Singers for a sprightly spring concert in honor of Earth Day: Creatures Great and Small. We're excited to bring you music about ants, crocodiles, birds, fireflies, salamanders, an annoying fly, a tortoise, dogs, bugs, and small children. This is a concert for all ages; children and adults are welcome.

There will be two premieres on this program, Liam Moore's Luciérnagas, and Monte Mason's Wynken, Blynken and Nod. Other pieces include charming works by William Byrd, Patricia Hurlbutt, Thomas Ravenscroft, and Clement Jannequin.

Abiding Savior's very own Mary Larew is one of the sopranos in The Gregorian Singers.

Suggested donation - \$20 adults, \$10 students, \$0 children under 12

To learn more about The Gregorian Singers, visit: www.thegregoriansingers.org

Growing Through Loss Begins April 8

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 8 through May 13 from 7:00—9:00pm at Christ the King LC in New Brighton. Each session begins 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).

Apr. 8: The Conundrum of Absences & Presences

Ted Bowman—Trainer, Consultant, Educator
and Author

Apr. 15: Thankfulness in the Midst of Grief & Growing

Ted Bowman—Trainer, Consultant, Educator

Apr. 22: Families Coping with Grief

Janice Winchester Nadeau, Ph.D.— Licensed

Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist

Apr. 29: The Dimensions of Multiple Loss

Jason Kemp—Social work professional with business & public admin. graduate degrees

May 6: Recalibrating Your Life After Loss

Jill Johnson, MBA—President and Founder,
Johnson Consulting Services

May 13: Prayer and Healing Service

Pastor Sarah Anderson—Christ the King LC

RIDE-ROLL-REPEAT Then have a sweet treat!

Sunday, April 28 1:00-2:30

Bring your wheels (bikes, trikes, scooters, skate-boards) and hit the Abiding Savior parking lot for some outdoor fun. Lawn toys and sidewalk chalk will also be available. ICE CREAM TREATS & POPSICLES, TOO!

*Cold/rainy weather backup: Bingo in Fellowship Hall

page 4/ Sunday school service day / parents together

Abiding Savior Preschool - Building a Strong Foundation

We are almost done with our school year which is hard to believe! We have had such a busy, but fun year! In April we'll be having a fire truck visit which is always such a huge hit with the kiddos! They will be able to look in the truck as well as see some of the fireman's equipment! The preschoolers and toddlers will have a blast!

We are still accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year; however, we are already full on a couple of the days! It is AMAZING to be able to say that! Our toddler room is quickly filling up again, which is another exciting aspect of our program! To register or to learn more about our program,

please visit our **new website** at www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com.

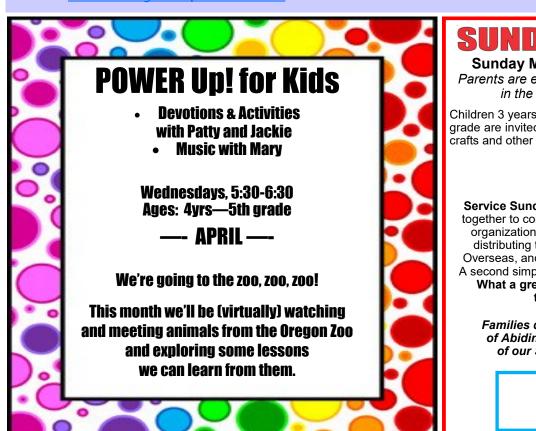
Thank you for your continued support of our program! It is very much appreciated by all of us associated with the preschool!

Jen Boog, Director

Preschool@abidingsavior.org

763-784-5326; facebook/AbidingSaviorPreschool

Website: www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Qualified, caring tea

Sunday Mornings, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Parents are encouraged to enjoy fellowship in the library during this time.

Children 3 years old (and potty-trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us for Bible stories, songs, crafts and other activities.

On the Calendar

April 14:

Service Sunday Session—Children will work together to color pictures for Color-A-Smile, an organization that strives to spread cheer by distributing the pictures to Seniors, Troops Overseas, and anyone who could use a smile. A second simple project is in the works, as well.

What a great morning to bring a friend to Sunday school!

Families do not need to be members of Abiding Savior to become a part of our Sunday school program.

You are WELCOME You are VALUED You are LOVED You BELONG



Ride Roll Repeat

Sunday, April 28 1:00—2:30

(More information on page 3)

PARENTS TOGETHER

April 24, 5:30-6:30 in the Youth Room

After enjoying a soup supper in the Fellowship Hall, parents are invited to come for a chance to meet and get to know other parents here at Abiding Savior and from the community.

Supervision for children provided!

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craft fair / serving others / the holy spirit adult ed / page 5

Middle School and High School Youth News

Confirmation Updates — In April we will again be meeting regularly for Confirmation on Wednesday evenings beginning with worship at 6:30 as we continue our journey through the Old Testament.

Youth Gathering Craft Fair — Mark your calendars for a Youth Gathering Craft Fair on Saturday, May 11 (just in time for Mother's Day)! All vendor registrations and concession stand profits will go toward the Youth Gathering trip. Come shop for your mom, wife, mother-figure, daughter and support an important cause! Crafter/Vendor registration information can be found HERE or by contacting Katie at office@abidingsavior.org.



God's Work. Our Hands.

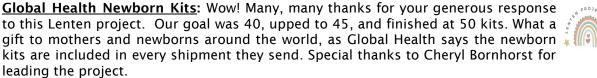
Irondale Food Pantry: Our last delivery of this school year included backpacks, snacks, hygiene items, Tshirts, and leggings. Students experiencing financial, personal, or family difficulties can receive some needed supplies and support thanks to a generous Irondale alumnus and Dawn G's super-shopper coupon and sales expertise. Good job caring for our high school friends!

Quilts Delivered: Thanks to our quilting group, colorful, warm quilts were delivered to Bridging MN. Bridging helps supply basic home furnishings to people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty into independent living situations. How nice to have a handmade quilt to wrap up in.

Meals on Wheels: Our next delivery week is April 8-12. If interested in helping during any of our meals roughly once-every-eight-weeks delivery schedule, please let Fern Fisher or the office know. We can use substitute drivers, pairs/couples, individuals, ride along to see how it works - just about any form of help is welcome. Thank you for considering this important outreach opportunity.



March FoodShare: Thanks to everyone who contributed or helped with our food collection for Ralph Reeded Food Shelf during March. They have been offering food assistance since 1982. Think of all the families and individuals that have received needed nutrition during these 42 years!





Adult Christian Ed Opportunity Starting April 10

The Holy Spirit: Getting to Know that Comforting, Inspiring, Unpredictable Third Member of the Trinity Wednesdays, April 10 - May 1 | 5:30 - 6:30PM in the Coffee House | Led by Pastor Marla



Each time we say the Apostle's Creed we say we believe in the Holy Spirit. But just what do believe about the Holy Spirit? Who is the Holy Spirit? Jesus said that it was better that he leave so that the Spirit could come, but wasn't the Spirit there from the time of creation? Jesus promised to send us the Comforter and Advocate, but that wild Spirit that came with a rush of a violent wind and rested on the disciples' heads as tongues of fire doesn't sound very comforting! What does the Bible have to say about the Holy Spirit? What does the Lutheran Church have to

say about the Holy Spirit? Some churches seem to have more focus on the Holy Spirit - what do Lutherans believe about the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit affect our lives individually and as a Christian community? What is the Spirit's role in our faith and prayer life? What are spiritual gifts? How can we recognize the Spirit at work, or can we? We'll delve into these questions and more as we do a deep dive into the Holy Spirit. Come with your questions, curiosity and eagerness to learn more.

page 6 / choice dollars & action team grants / thank yous

February 2024 Financial Highlights								
2024	Monthly	YTD						
INCOME								
Current gifts and giving	47,810	84,786						
Festival giving	2,206	2,206						
SUBTOTAL	50,016	86,992						
Other income	3,076	10,433						
TOTAL INCOME	53,092	97,425						
EXPENSES								
TOTAL EXPENSES	50,106	101,782						
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	2,986	(4,357)						
Benevolence paid	2,483	7,464						

Consider Endowment Fund Gifts

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.

Speak with Pastor Ryan if you have questions about giving to the Endowment Fund!



Thrivent Members!

If you are a Thrivent member, you may receive Thrivent Choice dollars that you are able to direct to Abiding Savior each year. Directing your choice dollars is easy. Just log in to www.Thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."



You can also apply for **two Thrivent Action Team Grants** up to \$250 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. These grants can be used for brunches, Wednesday night meals, outreach events, service events, special books for Bible studies, etc.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers of their time and talents at Abiding Savior! You are appreciated!



Words of Thanks

Thank you everyone who sent cards and prayed for me. I'm slowly getting better. I hope to come back to church soon. God bless you all!

—Betty Boen

Thank you for supporting Abiding Savior Preschool's Heggies Pizza and Butter Braid fundraisers as well as giving so generously at the Lenten Soup Supper we hosted. Your ongoing financial support, prayers, and help in spreading the word about our amazing preschool and toddler room mean so much. Together we are helping to build a strong foundation for our children's futures!

—Abiding Savior Preschool Staff and Committee

Thank you for your 106 pound donation to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf and Community Resource Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and supports the increasing needs of our neighbors who are food insecure and struggling to make ends meet. Last year alone, we distributed nearly one million pounds of food to our participants! Thank you for your continued support in the fight against hunger!

—Lisa Baker, Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Director

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Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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

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Apr. 2: Men's breakfast & Bible study Committee meetings

Apr. 3: Wednesday evening activities (schedule on pg. 3)
New Member Class

Apr. 4: Women's Bible study Apr. 7: Endowment Sunday

Sunday school & Worship w/ Communion & Baptism

Apr. 8 - 12: Meals on Wheels delivery Apr. 8: Women's gathering at Moe's

Apr. 9: Lydia circle

Apr. 10: Wednesday evening activities (schedule on pg. 3) Adult Ed: *The Holy Spirit*

Apr. 11: Work crew & Women's Bible study

Apr. 14: New Member Sunday with Brunch Sunday school, Worship w/ Caring Visitors Commiss

Apr. 16: Men's breakfast & Bible study, Quilting Council meeting

Apr. 17: Wednesday evening activities (schedule on pg. 3) Adult Ed: *The Holy Spirit*

Apr. 18: Women's Bible study

Apr. 19 - 21: Women's Retreat at Heartwood Conf. Center

Apr. 21: Sunday school & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
All God's Creatures Gregorian Singers Concert

Apr. 24: Wednesday evening activities (schedule on pg. 3) Adult Ed: *The Holy Spirit &* Parents Together

Apr. 25: Work crew & Women's Bible study

Apr. 28: Tanzania Sunday with Adult Ed Sunday school, Fellowship & Worship Ride, Roll, Repeat Family Ministry event

Apr. 30: Men's breakfast & Bible study

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Marla Amborn, Interim Pastor

Josh & Alex Ertz, Interim Youth Mentors

Patty Mesenbring, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Janelle Schauer, Organist

Mary Larew, Adult & 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

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

new email address, please call the church office at 763.784.5120 or visit http://abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/update-my-contact-information/. Thanks!