



# the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

December 2022

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## Peace on Earth!

In Luke Chapter 2 we find the birth of Jesus, the original Christmas story. After Jesus' birth, as the shepherds were watching their flocks outside of Bethlehem, the angels appeared announced to the shepherds the birth of the Messiah, by proclaiming: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



**Saturday,  
December 24th**

**2:00pm & 3:30pm**  
Family friendly services  
with live animals

**10:30pm**  
Candlelight  
and Holy Communion

**Sunday,  
December 25th**  
**10:00am**

*Have a blessed  
Christmas!*

Christmas is the season of peace, and we could all use more peace in our lives. Peace is a powerful and wonderful word that means friendship and harmony with others. Peace means the absence of hostility and violence. Peace is void of conflict and provides a freedom from fear between individuals and groups.

Our world is deeply lacking this peace. War is raging in the Ukraine, inflation seems out of control, divisions within our country, our communities, even our families are growing deeper. In the midst of this dark season, we are in need of good news, in need of hope, in need of encouragement, in need of peace.

This Christmas season I hope that you are able to find peace in the midst of the world's chaos and the busyness of our own lives. May you find peace in the words of a familiar Christmas hymn, the laughter of a child, the kind words of a Christmas card, or the birth of Jesus, God with us, Emmanuel.

You are invited this Christmas Eve and Day to find peace through spending time with God in worship at Abiding Savior. As we gather to hear the Christmas story, sing the familiar hymns, and hear the good news of Jesus birth proclaimed, we cannot help but to find peace, the peace of God which passes all understanding.

May you and your loved ones find peace this Christmas knowing that you are loved, freed, and forgiven children of God. I'll see you in worship.

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Ryan*



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.

## Stewardship Corner - Finishing Strong in 2022!

2022 has been both a great year for giving at Abiding Savior, and also a not so great year. The great news is that we completed our *Abiding Here for 50 Years Capital Campaign* and it was very successful, even surpassing our goal for the campaign. Thanks you for your generosity!



The not so good news is when we look at our giving toward the annual operating fund. Here, at the end of October, we were almost \$100,000 behind! We are behind because the congregation has been slow to bounce back after Covid. The church is fully staffed and our programs are up and running, but our numbers are not what they were before Covid. We are working to foster participation and growth and our future looks bright.

Together we can work to we can close the gap in our budget. December is traditionally a time of great generosity. Through our continued, and even increased generosity, we will end the year strong. Ending 2022 strong means that we are also starting 2023 in a good place. This will allow us to continuing moving forward with the work God has called us to do together as a congregation.

Thank you in advance for your generosity as together we live in God's love!

## El Salvador Mission Trip Planned: August 1 - 6, 2023

You are invited to participate in an intergenerational mission trip to El Salvador August 1-6, 2023. We have the opportunity to partner with Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Chicago and Pastor's Kristian and Anna-Kari Johnson, who have deep relationships and years of experience travelling to El Salvador. In El Salvador we will be the guests of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador and Pastors Matias and Martina Bonilla. The trip will be both participating in active ministry as well as learning about the culture and people of El Salvador. Some mission opportunities on this trip are to:

- Share God's love with children
- Give medical/dental care
- Visit rural congregations serving resettled refugees
- Build homes and churches
- Participate in a United Nations peace process
- Help rural families without electricity get solar light
- Deliver medical supplies, computers, and donations



The cost of the trip, before fundraising, is approximately \$1800 per person including airfare, accommodations, meals and transportation. The trip is led by Pastor Ryan Brodin of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and Deacon Brad Mills of Cross of Glory and Atonement Lutheran Churches. There will be an informational Meeting at Abiding Savior after worship on Wednesday, January 11, with a non-refundable deposit of \$250 due by Wednesday, January 18. For more information please contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120 or email [pastor-ryan@abidingsavior.org](mailto:pastor-ryan@abidingsavior.org) or stop by the church office to pick up a brochure.

## Abiding Savior - Moving Forward



The Church Council at Abiding Savior is working reimagining the future of our congregation by beginning a post-Covid strategic plan. Covid shook up all of our lives as well as our church. As we re-emerge from the pandemic it is time to assess our current ministries, staffing, outreach, and programming. This is especially true with the departure of Deacon Brad Mills who had been working with our youth. This can be a scary time for the church and our society as the familiar is shifting, but this is also an exciting time, an opportunity to think outside the box as we move forward toward the work of God we are called to do in our homes, our church, our community and out into God's world. Together we can take a deep breath as we listen for the call of the Holy Spirit leading and guiding our congregation. Pray for this process and for our congregation and your congregation will continue to pray for you and your family as together we live in God's love.

### Mission

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**Santa (and Fire Trucks)  
Coming to Abiding Savior  
Tuesday, December 6th @ 6:40pm**

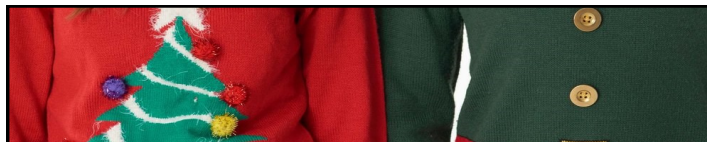
You're invited to come watch the SLP-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department's Santa Parade in the Abiding Savior parking lot! Hot chocolate, treats, fire pits provided. Ring a non-perishable food item to donate!



**Cookie Making for  
El Salvador Trip Bake Sale**

**When:** Friday, December 16th (5-9pm)  
Saturday, December 17th (8am-noon)  
**What:** Come make Christmas cookies to help raise funds for the El Salvador Mission Trip  
**Where:** The kitchen at Abiding Savior  
**Who:** Anyone is welcome to come help!

*Look for information in the days ahead on how you can place an order for Christmas Cookies!*



**CONFIRMATION/HS YOUTH GROUP  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Ugly Sweater and White Elephant Gift Exchange**

**Wednesday, December 14th  
7:00 - 8:00pm  
Fellowship Hall**

Wear a Christmas sweater or costume and bring a \$5 or less value white elephant gift wrapped up for our fun Christmas celebration for confirmation and youth! Food provided!



**Christmas Eve  
2:00, 3:30 and 10:30pm  
Christmas Day at 10:00am**

Our Christmas Eve afternoon services will be at 2:00 and 3:30 (along with the animals!). We hope lots of families are able to attend together. You are also invited to the candlelight service at 10:30pm.

On Sunday, December 25th we will gather for worship to hear lessons and sing Christmas carols celebrating the birth of Jesus. Please note that the Christmas Day service will NOT be livestreamed on Facebook

All are welcome!

**Christmas  
CAROLING**

**Wednesday, December 21st  
5:15pm**

Join us as we share the joy of Christmas with those who are home bound in the neighborhood and the Senior Buildings in the area.

Meet at church at 5:15pm on Wed., Dec. 21st and we will carpool and organize into groups. We will also need drivers for this event. Choir members will be done before practice starts. This is great for family fellowship time or earning confirmation service hours! Please talk to Pastor Lisa if you have questions or plan to attend.

**Wednesday Night Schedule**

4:30—6:30pm	Dinner served Dec. 7: Tator Tot Hot Dish Dec. 14: Tacos (last meal for 2022)
5:00—5:30pm	Celebration Ringers (grades 3-12)
5:30—6:00pm	King's Msgrs Choir (3yrs-1st grd)
5:30—6:00pm	POWER Up (grades 2-5)
6:00—6:30pm	WWJD Choir (grades 2-5)
6:00—6:30pm	POWER Up (4yrs - 1st grade)
6:30—7:00pm	Wednesday Worship
6:30—8:00pm	Confirmation
6:30—8:00pm	High School Youth Group
7:00—8:00pm	Adult Choir

## Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals

Just a reminder—rehearsals are as follows:

- **Saturday, 12/3, 9:30-11:00:**  
Grades 2-5 and anyone with a costumed or speaking part
- **Saturday, 12/10, 9:30-11:00:** All children
- **Saturday, 12/17, 9:30-11:00:** All Children

The program will be **Sunday, December 18** during worship.



## 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.

### Coming Up:

**All Month:** Sunday school families are invited to join our congregation's efforts to provide scholarships to school children in Tanzania. Special collection banks will be located in each classroom.

### December 18

No Sunday school.

The Children's Christmas program will be presented during our 10:00 worship.

### December 25 and January 1

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 to become a part of our Sunday school program.*



## Children's Christmas Program One Night In Bethlehem

**Sunday, December 18**  
during the 10:00 worship service.

**Brunch follows in the Fellowship Hall**

*Thank you for helping us celebrate this beautiful season!*



## POWER Up! Wednesday Night Kid's Devotions

*Where faith meets fun in a powerful way.*

### Coming Up:

**December 14**

All ages of POWER Up and choir will meet together at 5:30 in the 2nd Sunday school mod for our last session of 2022. Enjoy Christmas stories and songs, and fun! Wear your jammies, bring a stuffed friend if you'd like, and get ready for a cozy evening.

**\* NO POWER Up December 21 & 28 \***

### Schedule:

5:30-6:00 2nd through 5th grade  
6:00-6:30 - 4-year-olds through 1st grade  
6:30-7:00—Family Worship for all

*- 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 -

## 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.

## Life Long Learning

Abiding Savior offers many opportunities for adults to grow in their faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in these circles of fellowship.

**Women's Bible Study**—Join your sisters in Christ every Thursday morning at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall! You'll be refreshed after a morning of fellowship, prayer, Bible study led by Pastor Lisa (and great treats)! Bible Study is also livestreamed on Facebook.

**Men's Breakfast & Bible Study**—Men's Bible Study, led by Pastor Ryan, will be meeting on **Tuesdays, December 6th and 20th** at 8:30 in the morning in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and a light breakfast will be available. This Bible study is non-threatening, enjoyable, and informative. Come and join us!

**Lydia Circle**—Looking for an evening study and fellowship option? Our Lydia Circle meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at church! **The next meeting is Tuesday, December 13th at 6:00pm.**

## God's Work. Our Hands. Helping Others.

### Giving Tree

The Christmas giving tree is back! We're hoping to brighten Christmas for Irondale students, Quincy House, Tanzania scholarships, the Community Support Center, Mounds View Police food boxes for neighbors, and local families needing a boost. Join in the caring by choosing an ornament and returning the requested gift or gift card for distribution no later than December 19th, the sooner the better. Thank you for remembering those in need of some TLC.



### Quincy House

Our congregation via the Wednesday supper kitchen crew is serving 40 meals a week to our neighbors at Quincy House. This provides a family-style meal for at-risk high school students in Quincy's safe, nurturing environment. Think of the many good memories and bonding that can take place over a shared meal. This is a lovely gift indeed.



### Are You a Good Listener?

The Community Support Center is looking for caring individuals to encourage folks going through the CSC's intake program to prevent eviction. The CSC asks the hard questions, and the Listener supports the participant as they open up about the troubles they are facing. All meetings take place via Zoom, you are never alone with a participant, and you have an option to continue with the participant should they choose to go on with the long-term support and education the CSC offers. Meetings take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and emails request if Listeners are available. If interested, talk to Lynn Isaacson or call the CSC at 651-387-8050. Thank you for your interest in the welfare of our neighbors.



### Thank You Kitchen/Dish Crew!

November was a very busy month for meals here: Wednesday night suppers, Quincy House meals, Election Dinner, Brunch, Thanksgiving Pie Social, and a number of funerals. Sincere thanks to everyone who planned, shopped, cooked, served, bussed dishes, washed dishes, and did the laundry. It's great to be able to share meals but be sure to thank our dedicated members for making it possible.

*thank you*

**Time to Get Involved** If you've been meaning to be more involved in church activities after the Covid lull, now's the time! There are committees, formal and not-so-formal, that are looking for your skills, any amount of time you wish to share, and your hands to do God's work. Please let the office know what you might be interested in and they can point you in the direction of people who would welcome you with open arms. The more the merrier, many hands make light work - it's all true. Join us.

**GET INVOLVED!**

October 2022  
Financial Highlights

2022	Monthly	YTD
<b>INCOME</b>		
Current gifts and giving	34,187	360,592
Festival giving	-	16,936
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>34,187</b>	<b>377,528</b>
Other income	3,952	50,923
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>38,139</b>	<b>428,451</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>52,642</b>	<b>537,533</b>
<b>NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(14,503)</b>	<b>(109,082)</b>
Benevolence paid	3,395	36,439

Preschool News!



I really can't believe that we are approaching the end of 2022! Where did the time go! November has been a busy month for the preschool! We had our preschool bake sale at the beginning of the month which was hugely successful! We also ended our Wreath Fundraiser which had another successful year! Thank you for your support with both fundraisers! It really does mean a lot to us to have your support of our little program!



We also had a visit from Creature Features! They brought a variety of animals to show our preschoolers! It was so exciting to watch some of their faces light up! It was a lot of fun and educational, too!

Parents were also given the opportunity to meet one on one with Miss Neva for our Fall Conferences. All the kiddos are doing such an amazing job with their day to day work!

It has been a very busy and a very quick month! Thank you for supporting our preschool! We may be small, but we are mighty! I will continue to do my best to grow our program!

*Jen Boog, Preschool Director*  
preschool@abidingsavior.org

Tanzania Scholarships

To all who have contributed to the Tanzania Scholarship fund, thank you! If you are interested in making a donation, they are accepted at any time. Simply put "Tanzania Scholarship" in the memo line.

Thrivent Choice Dollars  
Thrivent Action Teams

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.

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.



ENDOWMENT FUND

Mission

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27 NOV (1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT)</b> 10:00 (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL) Worship Service (also via Facebook)	<b>28 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>29 NOVEMBER</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Mtg  Church Basement Ladies 11:00 Lunch 11:45 Depart for Show	<b>30 NOVEMBER</b> 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp/WWJD 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	<b>1</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Jubilation Rngrs	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:30 - 11:00 (2nd-5th graders & costumed/speaking parts)
<b>4 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (also via Facebook)  3-5pm Girl Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Mtg  6:40 Santa Parade	<b>7</b> 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp/WWJD 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	<b>8</b> 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Jubilation Rngrs	<b>9</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>10</b> Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:30 - 11:00 (all children)
<b>11 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (also via Facebook)  Cinnamon Roll Sale	<b>12</b>  5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	<b>13</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg  6:00 Lydia Circle	<b>14 Last Night of Wed Activities</b> 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp/WWJD 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	<b>15</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Jubilation Rngrs	<b>16</b> OFFICE CLOSED  Cookie Making Fundraiser 5 - 9pm	<b>17</b> Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:30 - 11:00 (all children)  Cookie Making Fundraiser 8am - noon 'ish
<b>18 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> 10:00 Children's Christmas Program during (also via Facebook) 11:00 Brunch	<b>19</b>  5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	<b>20</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg  6:30 Council Mtg	<b>21</b> 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp/WWJD 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	<b>22</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study  7:00 Jubilation Rngrs	<b>23</b> OFFICE CLOSED  6:30 Men's Faith and A Pint	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 2:00 & 3:30 Family Friendly Worship with live animals 10:30 - Candlelight Service
<b>25 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 10:00 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Worship Service (will <u>not</u> be posted on Facebook)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 Benedictine Srvc	<b>28</b> 5:15 Christmas Caroling 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Abiding Savior Lutheran Church**  
8211 Red Oak Drive  
Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

Phone: 763.784.5120  
Email: [office@abidingsavior.org](mailto:office@abidingsavior.org)  
Website: [www.abidingsavior.org](http://www.abidingsavior.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlc/>

Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 4987

## December Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 22 Number 12 Date 2022



If you want to go paperless,  
call the Church office at 763.784.5120  
or email us at [office@abidingsavior.org](mailto:office@abidingsavior.org).

Reduce waste.  
Reduce mailing costs.  
Receive information faster!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Events in December

- Dec. 1: Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Dec. 3: Children's Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 4: 2nd Sunday in Advent  
Sunday School & Family Fellowship  
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 6: Men's Bible Study  
Committee Meetings
- Dec. 7: Wednesday Evening Programming
- Dec. 8: Work Crew  
Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Dec. 10: Children's Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 11: 3rd Sunday in Advent  
Sunday School & Family Fellowship  
Worship followed by Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Dec. 12: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Dec. 13: Lydia Circle
- Dec. 14: Wednesday Evening Programming (Last one for '22)
- Dec. 15: Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Dec. 16: Cookie Making for Christmas Cookie Bake Sale
- Dec. 17: Cookie Making for Christmas Cookie Bake Sale  
Children's Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 18: 4th Sunday in Advent  
No Sunday School  
Children's Christmas Program during Worship  
Brunch
- Dec. 19: Preschool Christmas Program
- Dec. 20: Men's Bible Study and Quilting  
Council Meeting
- Dec. 21: Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 23: Men's Faith & A Pint Outing—Torg Brewery
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 2:00, 3:30 and 10:30pm
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day - Worship at 10am

### Pastors & Staff

- Ryan Brodin**, Senior Pastor
- Lisa Richardson Engen**, Associate Pastor
- Patty Mesenbring**, Dir. of Children's Ministries
- Janelle Schauer**, Organist
- Mary Larew**, Vocal Choir Director
- Paul Weller**, Bell Choir Director
- Katie Brouillard**, Office Manager
- Connie Clausen**, Office Assistant
- Trisha Bourassa**, Office Assistant
- Jennifer 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/> so we can update our records. Thanks!