



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

December 2024

in this issue

Tanzania Trip Info Meeting	2
Special Events	3
Children's Activities	4
Financial Update	6
December Calendar	7



Christmas Program

**Sunday,
December 15
10:00am**

Followed by brunch

**Christmas Eve
Worship**

**Tuesday,
December 24**

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

10:00pm
Candlelight
and Holy Communion

*NOTE: There will be no
worship services on
Christmas Day.*

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! That is what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to live among us, to teach us a new way of love and caring, and to change our relationship with God forever. Jesus not only lived among us, but Jesus eventually died on the cross for your sake and mine. And through that sacrifice, our sins are taken away and through Jesus' resurrection, we too receive the gift of life everlasting. And it all began with the birth of Jesus. Emmanuel! God with us!



And so we celebrate and we share the joy and the love of Christmas with our family, our friends, our neighbors, and others in our community and beyond. You are invited to worship here at Abiding Savior this Christmas Eve. The service times are listed below. In worship we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, hear the good news of the Christmas story, sing the familiar hymns, remember Christmases that are past as we sing Silent Night, and be sent forth with the proclamation, "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!"

I hope to see you in worship, and I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan Brodin

*joy
to the
world*

THANK YOU, PASTOR RYAN!

On November 17, our congregation celebrated Pastor Ryan's 15 years of dedicated service to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church! We would like to thank Pastor Ryan for all the ways he has helped this church community thrive and for the love he has poured into our mission since 2009. We are blessed beyond words by his dedication and faith. Here's to many more years of growing, sharing, and serving together in God's love. May God continue to bless him abundantly in every way. Thank you, 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.

Help Us Finish '24 Strong

Thank you for your generosity this year!

As we approach the final weeks of 2024, the Council would like to provide an update on our congregation's financial position.

As of the end of October, we have received \$472,640 in offerings this year—thank you for your continued support! Our expenses through October have totaled \$493,400 resulting in a current deficit of \$20,760. Both the Council and staff have remained diligent, bringing our spending in under budget.

As we close out 2024, we ask that you prayerfully consider your giving toward the work God is doing in and through Abiding Savior. Through all of us sharing generously, we can more that close this gap setting up a solid foundation for ministry in 2025 and the years to come.

Makungu Water Project

Abiding Savior is blessed to be participating in bringing fresh, clean, and sustainable drinking water to the 1,500 inhabitants of the village of Makungu, Tanzania. Abiding Savior is a partner congregation to the Makungu Parish. We are working with the University of Minnesota School of Engineering and St. Paul Partners to make this water project a reality. Our goal is to raise \$18,000 toward this project that will dramatically improve the health of the people of Makungu and change their lives for the better. You are invited to make a donation toward this worthy project in the yellow envelopes found in the Narthex and the church Office, online, or in the offering plate at any worship service. How exciting to be a part of this life changing water project!

Tanzania Trip Info. Mtg. Sun., Dec. 8 @ 11am

Abiding Savior is exploring taking a trip to Tanzania in the summer of 2025. This trip would be a chance to dedicate the water project in Makungu, build relationships between our Abiding Savior and the Makungu Parish, and learn more about our brothers and sisters in Tanzania. This trip would also include a two-day safari in the Ruaha National Game Park. We will discuss the possible itinerary for the trip, dates, costs of the trip, and fundraising opportunities. If you are interested in travelling to Tanzania, please join us in the Coffee House after worship on Sunday, December 8!

Coming Together in God's Love

Friends, we have just experienced one of the most divisive presidential elections in our history. Many in our families, congregation, community and nation are ecstatic about the election results. An almost equal number of people are devastated and are feeling hopeless, angry, sad, confused, or all of these feelings wrapped up together. It is in divisive times like this that we most need to come together as a community of faith, set aside our differences, and continue on the path God has set before us.

Regardless of the results of the election, and regardless of the varying political views of the members of our church, Abiding Savior has the same calling from God today as it has had for the past 85 years: To put our faith into action by loving God and loving and serving our neighbors.

In the midst of a changing and sometimes chaotic world, we remember to put our faith and our trust in God alone, to whom this world and everything and everyone in this world belongs. Our God is a God of love, reconciliation, hope, and peace.

Moving forward, we will continue to gather for worship and Bible study, we will pass faith along to our children and youth, we will visit the sick and lonely, we will reach out to those in our community and beyond working to see and meet the needs of others and sharing the love of God with the world. We will continue to journey with one another through the rough parts of life and rejoice with one another in life's celebrations and accomplishments. And as it says, in the Lutheran Confirmation service, we will continue, "...to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

As we continue to live together in God's love, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church remains a welcoming and caring family that nurtures spiritual growth, shares our Christian faith, and serves all creation.

May God continue to hold us in God's hands as individuals, as a congregation, and a nation.

Mission

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**Santa (and Fire Trucks)
Coming to Abiding Savior
Tuesday, December 3 @ 6:30pm**

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. Bring non-perishable food items to donate!



**CONFIRMATION/HS YOUTH GROUP
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Ugly Sweater and White Elephant Gift Exchange
Wednesday, December 18
6:30 - 8:00pm**

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!



**Cookie Making for
MS/HS Youth Bake Sale**

When: Friday, December 20 (4-10pm or earlier than 4:00 if you're free!)
Saturday, December 21 (8-11am)

What: Come make Christmas cookies to help raise funds for the Youth (to use for a BWCA trip this summer!)

Who: Anyone is welcome to come help! We need lots of hands!

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

WANTED: USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!

Our December usher team is looking for additional help for the 2:00 and 3:30 Christmas Eve worship services. If you are available to help or if you have questions, please speak with Mark Pothen or Mark Radtke.



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH
9AM - 3PM**

**CHRISTMAS
MAKER'S MARKET**

- HANDMADE GIFTS, CRAFTS, TREATS, BAKED GOODS
- LOCAL CRAFTERS AND VENDORS
- CONCESSIONS | ALL DAY!
- BLAINE CHAMBER CHOIR PERFORMANCE | 10:30-11:00
- PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH SANTA!
- CHILDREN'S CRAFT PROJECT
- ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



**ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
8211 RED OAK DRIVE | MOUNDS VIEW**

*Special Advent Lessons & Carols Sunday
December 22 at 10am*

This service will feature the Advent Choir, scriptures, readings, and many talented special musicians. Come and hear the stories leading up to the birth of Jesus and share in the hopeful expectation of the coming of Jesus.



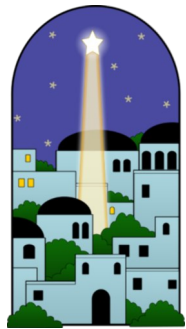
*Christmas
WORSHIP SCHEDULE*

**Christmas Eve Worship
2:00pm, 3:30pm and 10:00pm**

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

Wednesday Night Schedule

- 4:30—6:15pm Dinner served
- Dec. 4: Pizza Casserole
- Dec. 11: Chicken Tetrazzini
- Dec. 18: Hamburger Gravy & Mashed Potatoes
- Next Dinner: January 8, 2025*
- 5:30—6:30pm POWER Up (12/18 last night in '24)
- 6:30—8:00pm Confirmation (12/18 last night in '24)
- 7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir



One Night in Bethlehem A Christmas Program Presented by the Children and Youth of Abiding Savior

All children and youth are invited to participate in our annual Christmas program, which will be presented on Sunday, December 15 during worship. Rehearsals are as follows:

- **Saturday, November 30 – 9:30-11:00**
 - Grades 2 and older
- **Saturday, December 7 – 9:30-11:00**
 - All children and youth
- **Saturday, December 14 – 9:30-11:00**
 - All children and youth

** We ask that you come to at least two rehearsals if possible. **

Children will also practice songs on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. If you are a youth older than 5th grade who is interested in a speaking part and/or singing with us, please contact Patty Mesenbring or sign up on the Children’s & Family Ministry bulletin board. Anyone interested in providing special prelude music (piano, instrumental, vocal) is also encouraged to sign up.

COME AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR SAVIOR!

Lydia Circle Update

Lydia Circle met on October 8, 2024 with Pastor Lisa Engen, retired, as our guest for this event. The purpose of our gathering was to celebrate the history of the worship and service of Lydia Circle as well as the other two circles that have been a part of ASLC. The history of women’s groups go back many years, even to before the congregation of Spring Lake Park Lutheran was established. In the history remembrance written for our 75th anniversary there are frequent references to the women’s groups meeting to foster the growth of this religious community as well as being generous and supporting in many ways throughout the life of this congregation.

Lydia Circle has been the only circle for a number of years and because of the decline in membership,, Lydia Circle will no longer be meeting. The money in Lydia Circle’s account will be donated to Abiding Savior Preschool.

We wish to say thank you and blessings to all who have been a part of Lydia Circle (and any of the other circles). and thank the congregation for supporting this ministry through the years!



SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S TIME

We are excited to welcome all **3-year-olds (by 9/1/24 and potty-trained) through 5th-graders** to join us for Bible stories, music, crafts and activities each Sunday morning.

- **9:30-9:55:** Classroom time. Parents can enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the library before collecting children to attend 10:00 worship.
- **Following the children's sermon,** children are invited to join Patty to walk to the chapel for music/worship time led by Barb Wolter. They will be escorted back to the sanctuary during the Hymn of the Day.

December Classroom Session Schedule

- Dec. 1:** No Session (Thanksgiving Break)
- Dec. 8:** Regular session
- Dec. 15:** Warm-up and costuming for Christmas Program
- Dec. 22 & 29:** No Session (Holiday Break)

**Please join us!
Invite friends and neighbors!**

You are WELCOME You are VALUED
You are LOVED You BELONG

POWER Up! for Kids

A Kid’s Program FULL of Faith & Fun
Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30
Ages: 4yrs—5th grade

- **Bible Devotions • Crafts**
- **Games • Activities**
- **Musical Exploration and Expression**

**December 18: Last session of 2024—
Come for holiday fun!**

We can’t wait to welcome you!

Mission

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Notes of Thanks

I wish to say thank you to everyone for the recognition of my fifteen years of service to Abiding Savior. It was truly a humbling day for me, and a great celebration for the congregation. Your kindness was overwhelming to me, Kendra and my children. It is truly a privilege to journey with you. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day happen. To Katie and Connie in the office, the ladies in the kitchen, and to the Council. Thank you for the cards and gifts and words of thanks. They are all deeply meaningful. —Pastor Ryan

Thank you Abiding Savior for continuing to raise up your young people in faith. May God continue to bless your ministry. Peace be with you! —Del and Clarinda Schnabel (Tait's grandparents)

On behalf of our entire family, thank you for the prayers, cards, and words of care and concern upon the sudden passing of my dad, Chuck Arndt. We are blessed to be surrounded by friends in this special community of faith through all of life's journeys. —Connie Clausen, Andy, Adam, Aaron, Ryan & Rachel

God's Work. Our Hands. Helping Others.

Giving Tree: The Christmas giving tree is back! We're hoping to add Christmas cheer for neighbors, students, and local families needing a boost. Join in the caring by choosing an ornament and returning the requested gift for distribution no later than December 22, the sooner the better. Thank you for remembering those in need of some TLC!

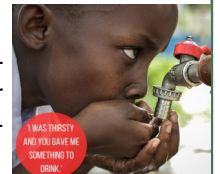


Bread Crew Thanks: Warm and hearty thanks for our faithful Wednesday morning bread distribution volunteers: Barb, Bob, Chris, Dawn, Debby, Fern, Marlene, Mick and Richard. This outreach is possible because you make it happen. Hugs of appreciation to you!

Thank You Kitchen/Dish Crew! November was a very busy month for meals here: Wednesday night suppers, Election Dinner, Brunch, Thanksgiving Pie Social, and a funeral. Sincere thanks to everyone who planned, shopped, cooked, served, bussed dishes, washed dishes, and did the laundry. We are so fortunate to share meals and fellowship but be sure to thank our dedicated volunteers for making it possible. Better yet, come and join the crew. Free, on-the-job training.

thank
you

Makungu, Tanzania: Our friends in Makungu have clean water! Can you imagine the difference this makes in their lives? Visiting Makungu is planned for August 2025. Stay tuned for more information. Meanwhile, we continue to provide 12 scholarships for students' secondary education.



Meals on Wheels: The week of November 18 was our last run of this year, but do not worry - we will have plenty of opportunities next year. This is an easy way to brighten someone's day. Deliver meals, with or without a partner, during the early lunch hours. Routes start at Unity Hospital and run mainly in the Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Spring Lake Park areas. Let Fern Fisher or the office know if you can help in any way, full route or fill in as needed.

Blood Drive: We will NOT be having a blood drive in December. Our next blood drive will be January 9, 2025. Please plan to donate if you can! Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for this special gift!



Coat Drive Coordinator Needed: The fall coat drive and give away is looking for someone to coordinate future events. Christ the King is willing to host, but a person (or two) is needed to email reminders to participating churches, update and email posters, host a zoom meeting or two, coordinate with the church for set up and clean up, etc. The retiring coordinator is very willing to provide materials and information. Please let Lynn Isaacson know if you are interested in this opportunity.

GET
INVOLVED!

October 2024
Financial Highlights

2024	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	31,967	392,785
Festival giving	-	15,957
SUBTOTAL	31,967	408,742
Other income	7,364	63,898
TOTAL INCOME	39,331	472,640
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	45,073	493,400
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(5,742)	(20,760)
Benevolence paid	3,692	35,712

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. Please consider supporting this important ministry!

Thrivent Action Teams Deadline December 31

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. If you have not already applied for your grants, it is not too late!

Unused grant applications will expire on December 31. 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.

Preschool News!



The teachers and children are getting ready for our annual Christmas Program which will be on Dec. 16 at 6pm in the sanctuary. Our program will include both our preschoolers and our toddlers! It is sure to be bursting with cuteness! It is open to everyone so if you want a dose of adorable that night please feel free to come and check it out!

Our first annual Scholastic Book Fair will be open for sales on Saturday, Dec. 7 during the craft fair, Dec. 8th before and after church, Dec. 9-13 during regular preschool hours which is 9am-12pm, Dec. 11 during Wednesday activities, Dec. 15 at the church's annual Christmas program and finally on Dec. 16 before and after church. What great timing for a book fair! Books are fantastic Christmas presents for all ages!

If you ordered an Abiding Savior T-shirt they will be available for pickup the week of Dec. 16 and as always thank you for your continued support of our program!



Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org
763-784-5326

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.



Mission

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December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY 1st Sunday in Advent 9:00 Dec. 22 Special Choir Practice 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion and Baptism 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale Koons in FH	2	3 8:30 Men's Break- fast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings 6:30 Santa Parade (in parking lot)	4 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	5 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	6 OFFICE CLOSED Craft Fair Set Up	7 Holiday Craft Fair 9:00-3:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:30 - 11:00 (Grades 2-5 and narrators)
8 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 Dec. 22 Special Choir Practice 9:30 Children's Time and Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Tanzania Trip Informational Mtg	9 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	10 10:00 Staff Meeting	11 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	12 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:30 - 11:00
15 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 Dec. 22 Special Choir Practice 9:30 Program Prep and Fellowship 10:00 Children's Christmas Program during Wor- ship Service 11:00 Brunch	16 Preschool Christmas Program 6:00	17 8:30 Men's Break- fast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	18 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Conf EOY Party 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	19 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	20 OFFICE CLOSED Cookie Making Fundraiser 4-10pm	21 Cookie Making Fundraiser 8 - 11am
22 COMMUNION SUNDAY 4th Sunday in Advent 9:00 Dec. 22 Special Choir Practice 10:00 Advent Lessons & Carols Special Music Worship Service with Holy Communion	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 2:00 & 3:30 Family Friendly Wor- ship with live animals 10:00 Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 1st SUN AFTER XMAS 10:00 Worship Service	30	31	1 JANUARY OFFICE CLOSED	2 JANUARY OFFICE CLOSED	3 JANUARY OFFICE CLOSED	4 JANUARY

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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

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If you want to go paperless,
call the Church office at 763.784.5120
or email us at office@abidingsavior.org.

Reduce waste.
Reduce mailing costs.
Receive information faster!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in December

- Dec. 1: 1st Sunday in Advent
Children's Time/Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Dec. 3: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Committee Meetings
Santa Parade viewing at Church
- Dec. 4: Wednesday Evening Programming
- Dec. 5: Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Dec. 7: Christmas Market (Craft Fair-Music-Family Activity)
Children's Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 8: 2nd Sunday in Advent
Children's Time/Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Worship
Summer 2025 Tanzania Trip Informational Meeting
- Dec. 9: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Dec. 11: Wednesday Evening Programming
- Dec. 12: Work Crew
Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Dec. 14: Children's Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 15: 3rd Sunday in Advent (No Sunday School)
Children's Christmas Program during Worship
Brunch
- Dec. 17: Men's Bible Study, Quilting and Council Meeting
- Dec. 18: Wednesday Evening Programming (*last one for '24*)
- Dec. 20: Cookie Making for Christmas Cookie Bake Sale
- Dec. 21: Cookie Making for Christmas Cookie Bake Sale
- Dec. 22: Advent Lessons & Carols Worship with Communion
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 2:00, 3:30 and 10:00pm
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day (Office closed through 12/27)
- Dec. 29: Worship at 10:00am
- Dec. 31—Jan. 1: Office Closed

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Josh & Alex Ertz, Youth Mentors

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!