



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

February 2022

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A Welcoming and Caring Family

The mission statement of Abiding Savior is: *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.* This mission statement is one that we actually live out in what we do as a church.



Psalms Bible Study Wednesdays in February 5:30-6:30pm

Join Pastor Ryan, Pastor Lisa and Deacon Brad as they explore the Book of Psalms. Psalms is filled with words of trust, thanks, lament, and praise for God. This Bible study will explore the different types of psalms and how they still speak to us today. Whether you are new to the Psalms or have studied them for years, you are invited to join this class and learn more!

The Bible Study will be held both in person (in the Coffee House) and on Zoom. Come early to enjoy Wednesday night suppers! The Bible study will be recorded and available to view later on the Abiding Savior website.

Meeting ID: 828 8700 4920
Passcode: 605593
By Phone: 1-312-626-6799

**Living in God's love,
Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church
is a *welcoming*
and *caring* family
that *nurtures*
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Abiding Savior has many strengths. We have wonderful worship, great education opportunities, a strong children's and youth ministry, and great food! One of the greatest strengths of our congregation is found right in the mission statement. We are most certainly a welcoming and caring family of faith. We are not judgmental, we are forgiving. We are not exclusive, we are inclusive.

Even after being a part of this church for thirteen years, I continue to be amazed at the welcoming and caring I see in this place. I see this church welcome back with open arms members that we have not seen for many months or years. Visitors often mention to me how comfortable the people here made them feel. When someone is in need, the congregation surrounds them with love and prayers and if needed, meals and gift cards and whatever else will help meet the need.

Not only is Abiding Savior welcoming and caring, this congregation does so in a very genuine way. When we ask, "how are you?", it is not just to be polite, it is because we really want to know. We support each other in tough times. We celebrate together our accomplishments and milestones.

Jesus teaches in Matthew, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Keep welcoming. Keep caring. Keep sharing love through words of kindness, prayers and generosity. This loving, sharing, caring and welcoming show that we are living as disciples of Jesus.

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan



Stewardship Corner

Pastor Ryan Brodin



Sharing to Make a Difference Continues

Back in October of 2021 at the end of the *Sharing to Make a Difference* Fall Stewardship Campaign, everyone who chose to participate was given \$5.00 to share. After they shared, they were asked to hang a card on the Giving Tree at church telling others where they shared, why they chose to share there, and how sharing made them feel. We will be sharing some of those stories over the next few months. Here are a few of those stories of sharing:

I used the money to buy ingredients for to make a meal for a group of teachers. Sharing my time and money was a way to demonstrate sharing. Feeding people let's them know you care about them and appreciate them. Sharing is living out God's love for all of us. God makes our own hearts grow when we give to others.



I put the money into the Salvation Army kettle. IT felt good to be a "conduit" of this \$5.00 to pass along to those in need. Everything I "have" is not really "mine", but is given to e to use wisely in this life and a huge part of that is sharing with others in gratitude to God for my life and salvation.

We put our \$5.00 (plus \$15.00 of our own) into the globe offering at church for our Companion Congregation in Tanzania. We knew that this \$20.00 can go a long ways there. It felt good to make a small gift knowing that it would have a big impact. As Christians, it is our job to take care of one another sharing what we have been blessed with by God.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Applications Available

Apply for a Grant

The Endowment Committee is thrilled to again be awarding grants for mission and ministry in 2022! The Mission Endowment Fund accepts applications from committees, staff, Council members, ministries of Abiding Savior, individual church members, and community non-profit organizations. This year there will be over \$7,000 available for distribution!

Grant Applications are available in the church office or by contacting the office if you would prefer an electronic copy of the application. Applications must be received by February 28, 2022. The application process is simple. Criteria for grant funding is explained further on the application form. If you have a new ministry idea or know of a worthy organization, please consider applying for a grant from Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior.

As the Mission Endowment Fund grows, the Endowment will be able award more and more grants to be used in sharing God's love in the world. If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider including the Abiding Savior Endowment in your estate planning. This can be done in a variety of ways including life insurance and IRA beneficiary designations, annuities, and simple language added to your will. All gifts, big or small, are appreciated and will be used to further the work of God done in the world. For more info contact Pastor Ryan Brodin.

Meals on Wheels 2022 Schedule

February 14—18
April 11—15
June 6—10
August 1—5
September 26—30
November 21—23
January 16—20, 2023

If you are available to help any of these days from approx. 11am—1pm, please let Fern Fisher know (763-786-1044).

College Addresses



Parents of college students: Please send your student's updated college address to the office so we can send them notes of encouragement periodically from their home congregation. Addresses can be [sent to the office](#). THANKS!

Mission

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Lydia Circle Tues., Feb. 8th—6pm



You're invited to Lydia Circle! 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).

Souper Bowl Sunday



February 13th is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please consider a donation of your spare change and dollars to help ease hunger right in our community.

Collection will take place in the Narthex after worship. Thank you for caring for your neighbors!

Women's Gathering Mon., Feb. 14th



You are invited to join in on a monthly "meet-up" for the Women of ASLC at Moe's (Hwy 10, Mounds View) in their main dining room at 5:30pm (come whenever you can 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.

Register for Bible Camp!

- SEEDS (2nd - 3rd grade): June 17 - 19
- WAPO Youth (4th - 8th grade): June 19 - 24
- Ox Lake Roots (Grades 7-12) : June 19 - 24

If these dates don't work for your family, you're welcome to go whenever it works best for you!



To register: <http://lwlbc.com/abidingsavior>

WINTER FUN Family Event Sat., Feb. 19—1-2:30pm



Bundle up and come to the backyard for outdoor winter fun. Depending on snow conditions, possible activities include:

- Build a snow person,
- Create a snow sculpture or castle (pails and shovels aren't just for the beach)
- Explore snow painting
- Play a winter version of "Ships Across the Ocean" - with icebergs!

When you need a warm-up or just a break, pop inside for hot chocolate, coffee and cookies.

Confirmation Retreat

Sun., Feb. 20th - Mon., Feb. 21st
Camp WAPO

All Confirmation students and High Schoolers are invited to our Confirmation Retreat!

Registration materials were mailed to Confirmation families in early January and are also available [on our website](#).

Be sure to turn in your paperwork to the office **ASAP**.

It will be an awesome weekend growing in faith and having fun together!



Wednesday Schedule

4:30—6:30pm Dinner served

- Feb. 2: Pork Loin
- Feb. 9: Chicken Hot Dish
- Feb. 16: Pizza Casserole
- Feb. 22: Loaded Baked Potatoes

5:00—5:30pm Celebration Ringers

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

6:00—6:30pm WWJD Choir/POWER Up

6:00—7:00pm Reigning Grace

6:30—7:00pm Wednesday Worship

6:30—8:00pm Confirmation

6:30—8:00pm High School Youth Grp

7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir

BRING a FRIEND



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:

February 13:

Sunday school children sing during 10:00 worship.

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.

**You are WELCOME.
You are VALUED. You are LOVED.**

Abiding Savior Preschool

The preschoolers have adjusted back into the routine of school very quickly after their Christmas break! They hit the ground running and have been learning all sorts of things! One of them being Miss Neva's bible verse for the month which was: "*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*" -Psalm 56:3

A couple of the special days that the preschoolers participated in were National Popcorn Day on January 19th and National Opposite Day on January 25th! The kids had a blast! The preschoolers also went camping during the month of January.....in the classroom of course! They had fun playing in the tent, sitting around a "campfire" and they also were seen going "fishing"! Who says you have to wait until summer to go camping!

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is right around the corner! If your family is interested or you know a family that is looking for a wonderful preschool please look no further! We have a wonderful program and there are some new and exciting things happening on the horizon for Abiding Savior Preschool.

Thank you for your continued support of our program!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org

ENROLL NOW



POWER Up!

Wednesday Night Kid's Devotions
Where faith meets fun In a powerful way.

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.

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

Middle School/High School Youth News

Cinnamon Rolls

Sun., Feb. 20

Come before church to help bake and stay after to help sell!



Confirmation Retreat

Sun., Feb. 20 - Mon., Feb. 21

See pg. 3 of the Vinebranch for more information!



Youth Choir

Practice Wednesday evenings in February

As part of the Youth Sunday service, we'll be having a Youth Choir. All MS/HS youth are encouraged to participate! Mary Larew will be leading practices after Confirmation each Wednesday in February (Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23) from 8-8:30pm. Please try to attend at least 2 practices to sing on Youth Sunday!



Youth Sunday

Sun., Feb. 27

If you/your youth would like to play an instrument, sing in the youth choir, act in a skit, or read scripture, please contact Deacon Brad at brad@abidingsavior.org.



Help collect socks/undies

See pg. 6 of the Vinebranch for *Fill the Drawer* info!

Lent begins March 2—Find a MENTOR

Reminder that all Confirmation students should find a mentor for worship in Lent.



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God's Work. Our Hands.

Souper Bowl Sunday: As in years past, we will think of more than football on February 13th and remember those who are hungry. Please look for the collection bowls in the narthex after worship and donate to help alleviate hunger in our area. The generosity of our congregation is always a delight to behold. Thank you.



Shop with a Cop Update: Thanks to everyone who donated through the giving tree. Officer Erickson reported what a great experience for officers to deliver joy in the form of Christmas trees, boxes of food, clothing, and gifts to local families. Happy hearts all around when caring and kindness are shared.



Giving Tree Thanks: Thank you for all the generous donations of gift cards on the Giving Tree. They were delivered to several families experiencing difficult times. They were all very thankful for the thoughtfulness and needed help during a difficult time in their lives. Through your kindness and love, they were reminded and reassured of God's love and care in times of need.

Sale Host or Hostess Needed: The fall bake and craft sale was a great success, but there are enough items left that a spring sale could happen if a volunteer or two is willing to coordinate such an event. Proceeds support non-traditional outreach opportunities and are judiciously used. Please let the office know if you'd like to help in this way.



Gardeners Needed: It's never too early to start planning for our Garden of Grace and fresh produce for the food shelf. After a semi-rest year in 2021, the garden needs a few willing souls to plan, plant, water, weed and harvest fresh vegetables for the food shelf. This is a labor of love that can easily be broken into doable pieces that fit nearly anyone's skills and schedule. Please consider how you can help and let the office know. Thank you!



Get Involved: There are so many opportunities for you to be an active member, reaping the benefits of involvement, companionship, giving, and caring: committees, Sunday morning help, kitchen help, shoveling, gardening, Meals on Wheels – just to name a few! Many, many tasks require no meetings. Look at our calendar and see all that takes place and find your niche. If you're not sure, ask the office to point you to right person. See you soon!



Lifelong Learning—February 2022 Adult Forum

Join us in the Coffee House from 9:00-9:55am, Sunday, February 27th!

Sun., Feb. 27 The Life of Village Lutheran Churches in Tanzania
By Rev. Nordphrey Mlangali, Doctoral Student at Luther Seminary and pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania



Pastor Nordphrey Mlangali will share with us about the life of the Lutheran Church in Tanzanian villages, like our companion congregation in Makungu. He will share what drives or motivates people in villages to love church, especially compared to people who live in big cities. In the villages, worship services last 3-6 hours, but people in villages never complain. In big cities in Tanzania, people are willing to listen to long sermons or sit through long worship services. In order to go to the church, many people in the villages have to walk long distances and are happy to spend all day in the village celebrating the "Lord's Day."

Pastor Nordphrey will discuss what we can learn from these village churches. He will draw comparisons with Jesus and his teaching mostly in small village. He will share some of the history of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania including how early Christian missionaries focused the villages and not the cities. He will also discuss more differences between the village churches in Tanzania and the city churches.

December 2021
Financial Highlights

2021	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	60,331	540,815
Festival giving	11,738	28,528
SUBTOTAL	72,069	569,343
Other income	9,473	59,694
TOTAL INCOME	81,542	629,037
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	62,255	591,456
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	19,287	37,581
Benevolence paid	5,692	51,317

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 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.



**"Fill The Drawer"
With New Socks & Undies**

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering is excited to announce our partnership with The Drawer, <https://www.thedrawer.org/>, a non-profit in the Twin Cities area that provides new socks and underwear to those in need. Our campaign called, Fill The Drawer is an opportunity for Abiding Savior to partner with the Gathering in beginning to collect new socks and underwear over the coming months. The goal for the campaign is to raise 300,000 pairs of new socks and underwear to donate at the Gathering.



Please bring clean and new socks/underwear and drop off at the Abiding Savior donation box in Narthex. To learn about The Drawer and the partnership with the Youth Gathering, visit: <https://youtu.be/VHWjUt-IYY>

God's Perfect Timing

A mother had called Irondale to see if there was any help to celebrate her son's Golden birthday on December 16th. We had just started the birthday bag ministry on the 15th. The parents had both been out of work for 3 weeks with COVID-19. Their son received a birthday bag for his Golden birthday. God's timing is wonderful!

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February

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 JAN	31 JAN	1	2	3	4	5
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion (worship also via Facebook) 11:00 Chili fundraiser 11:30 ANNUAL MTG	Dean Holmquist funeral Visitation (10:00) Funeral (11:00)	8:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee mtgs.	4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:30 Psalms Bible Study 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Face-book)		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion (worship also available via Facebook)		10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Lydia Circle	4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:30 Psalms Bible Study 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Face-book)		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SOUPER BOWL 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service (worship also available via Facebook) 11:00 Brunch	MEALS ON WHEELS 5:30 Women's Gathering-Moe's	MEALS ON WHLS 8:30 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Mtg	MEALS ON WHEELS 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:30 Psalms Bible Study 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	MEALS ON WHEELS 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Face-book)	MLS ON WHLS	Winter Fun Family Event 1 - 2:30
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion (worship also via Facebook) Confirmation Retreat at WAPO		10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicfine Service	4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:30 Psalms Bible Study 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 ConfifParents Nite 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Face-book)		
27	28	1 MAR	2 MAR	3 MAR	4 MAR	5 MAR
9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service (worship also available via Facebook)	Confirmation Retreat at WAPO	8:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	ASH WEDNESDAY 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 6:30 - 7:00 Reigning Grace	10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Face-book)		

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Email: office@abidingsavior.org

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

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

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Go Paperless

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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 February

- Feb. 1: Men's Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Feb. 2: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3)
Psalms Bible Study
- Feb. 3: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 6: Sunday School
Worship with Holy Communion
- Feb. 8: Lydia Circle
- Feb. 9: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3)
Psalms Bible Study
- Feb. 10: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 13: Sunday School
Worship (Souper Bowl Sunday)
Brunch
- Feb. 14—18: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Feb. 14: Women's Gathering
- Feb. 15: Men's Bible Study, Quilting, Council Meeting
- Feb. 16: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3)
Psalms Bible Study
- Feb. 17: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 19: Winter Fun Family Event (1—2:30pm)
- Feb. 20: Sunday School
Worship with Holy Communion
- Feb. 20—21: Confirmation Retreat at WAPO
- Feb. 23: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3)
Psalms Bible Study
- Feb. 24: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 27: Adult Education
Sunday School
Worship

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Lisa Richardson Engen, Associate Pastor

Brad Mills, Deacon & Director of Youth Ministries

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

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/>.