



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

February 2024

in this issue

Lent 2024—Wardrobe of Faith	2
Special Events	3
Supporting Our Youth	4
Sharing Our Resources	6
February Calendar	7

Annual Meeting and Call Committee

It is with great anticipation that the Congregational Council announces the Annual Meeting of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, February 11, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We know that the business, or governance, side of the church is not always the most exciting, but it is terribly important. As Lutherans we believe that the congregation belongs to all of its members, not to any small group of people or any pastor. As such, it is terribly important to exercise your power! You are invited to participate in the life of your congregation.

At the Annual Meeting we will conduct the business of the church. These items of business will include elections of Council members and committee members, review of the 2023 financial statements, approval of the 2024 budget, as well as written reports from our staff and committees. There will be opportunity for discussion questions and debate as together we discern where God is leading us in 2024.

As a part of this Annual Meeting, we are also excited to announce that we will be having a special election for a Call Committee to begin the process of calling a new Associate Pastor. The Call Committee will be responsible for completing a Ministry Site Profile about Abiding Savior, listening to the congregation about what they are looking for in a new Associate Pastor, interviewing candidates for the position and ultimately making a recommendation to the congregation on who to call as our next pastor at Abiding Savior. How exciting to be a part of such an important decision in shaping the future of our church!



CALL COMMITTEE
ABIDING SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Call Committee will consist of seven members and will be elected through nominations from the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor. If you are interested in serving on the Call Committee or would like to nominate someone for the call committee, please contact Congregational Vice-President Karn Matthews at Karn.matthews2004@gmail.com.

The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a soup and sandwich luncheon hosted by our youth attending the national ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. All proceeds from the soup sandwich luncheon will support their trip.

See you on February 11!

Your Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Council

ANNUAL MEETING

All members of
Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church
are encouraged
to attend our

**Congregational
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 11
at 11:30am**

Soup & sandwich lunch
served before the meeting!

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.

LENT 2024—Dress for Success: A Wardrobe of Faith

In a world filled with turmoil and discord, Lent provides a wonderful opportunity to take some time out for renewal and restoration of harmony. For our mid-week Lenten worship services, we will use the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer liturgy and reflect on a passage from Colossians 3:12-17. Through Jesus, we have been chosen and set apart as God's redeemed. What does it mean to live as God's people in the world? The apostle, Paul, addresses this question in his letter to the Colossians. As followers of Christ, we are to let go of old vices and "clothe" ourselves in virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Living in Christian community provides a place to live in harmony with God and with one another.

Lenten Schedule:

- February 14 - Ash Wednesday worship with imposition of ashes
- February 21 - Clothed in Compassion
- February 28 - Clothed in Forgiveness
- March 6 - Clothed in God's Love
- March 13 - Clothed in Praise
- March 20 - Clothed in Gratitude
- March 24 - Palm Sunday
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday worship
- March 29 - Good Friday worship
- March 31 - Easter worship



Midweek Lenten services will be at 4:00 and 6:30 PM with soup suppers from 4:45 to 6:00. Easter Sunday we will worship at 8:00 and 10:00 AM with Easter breakfast at 9:00. Join us each week to refuel yourself in body and soul.

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 2024! The Mission Endowment Fund accepts applications from committees, staff, Council members, ministries of Abiding Savior, individual church members, and community non-profit organizations.

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 29, 2024. The application process is simple and 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 information [contact Pastor Ryan. Brodin.](#)

Tree of Sharing



The *Tree of Sharing* is a way for volunteer opportunities at Abiding Savior to be posted and for you to be able to find places to volunteer. The

Tree of Sharing is located in the Narthex Area outside the Sanctuary and on the tree will be little tags with volunteer opportunities for you and your family. You are invited to look over the many volunteer opportunities and to choose how you want to share your talents. Each volunteer opportunity on the tree has two separate tags stapled together. One tag has a description of the volunteer opportunity and the contact person for that volunteer opportunity. The second tag has a place for you to fill in your name and contact information and that second tag can be placed in the jar provided by the tree. You are encouraged to visit the tree, check out the volunteer opportunities, and choose how you will joyfully share your time and talents at Abiding Savior.

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday



February 11 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!

Wednesdays During Lent

4:00—4:45pm: Lenten Worship
 4:45—6:15pm: Lenten Soup Supper
 5:30—6:30pm: POWER Up
 6:30—7:15pm: Lenten Worship
 7:15—8:00pm: Adult Choir

Register for Bible Camp!

- SEEDS (2nd - 3rd grade): June 14-16
- WAPO Youth (4th - 8th grade): June 16 - 21

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



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!
 To register <http://lwlbc.com/abidingsavior>

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, Feb. 18 - Monday, Feb. 19
Camp WAPO

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

Registration materials were mailed to Confirmation families in mid-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!



Super Bowl SUB SANDWICH Fundraiser

FULL SUB | 10"
\$8.00
HALF SUB | 5"
\$4.50



TURKEY, HAM OR ROAST BEEF
PICK UP ON SUNDAY, FEB. 11TH

All proceeds will go to the youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! Please fill out the order form on the back of this sheet. All orders due by Wednesday, February 7th. Thank you!

FAMILY MINISTRY: EVENTS



Disney's "Tangled"
Sunday, February 25 4:00-6:00 in the Youth Room
Popcorn (of course!) with pizza during intermission

PARENTS TOGETHER

February 28 | 5:30-6:30 | Coffee House

Come to the first of what are planned to be regular monthly parent gatherings for a chance to meet and get to know other parents here at Abiding Savior and from the community.

Supervision for children during this time will be provided as follows:

- Under 4 years: Childcare available in the nursery
- Ages 4 years through 5th grade: POWER Up program in Mod 1
- Middle School: Join Alex and Josh in the Youth Room

Abiding Savior Preschool

I can't believe that we are in 2024 already! This year is going by so fast! February is a busy month for preschool! We are having our school pictures taken which will be such a fun day having both the preschoolers and toddlers this year. We are so grateful for what our program is growing into. We'll be having our annual Heggie's Pizza Fundraiser. All orders are due on or before February 20th so that I can get them entered and turned into Heggie's for a March 6th delivery date. I would like to thank everyone in advance for your support with this fundraiser. It is always a huge success so I am hopeful that this year will be the same!

We are moving through this school year at lightening speed which also means registration for the 2024-2025 school year will start in February. If you know of anyone that is interested in the preschool class and/or the toddler class, please encourage them to reach out! I am hopeful that we will have another strong enrollment year.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org

ENROLL NOW



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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:

February 11:

Sunday school children sing during 10:00 worship.

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

POWER Up! for Kids

- Devotions & Activities with Patty and Jackie
- Music with Mary

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30
Ages: 4yrs—5th grade

— FEBRUARY —

February 7: Culture Exploration—Dragon Windsock
February 14: Love Is...—Heart Art
February 21: Be a Conductor—Super Science Fun
February 28: Kids' Cosmic Yoga—"Encanto"

MS/HS Youth Events & Ways to Support Our Youth!

ELCA Youth Gathering Q&A Session—Thursday, February 1 @ 6:30 PM in the Youth Room

Come learn more about the ELCA Youth Gathering which will be in New Orleans, July 16—20, 2024! We hope to have a large group of youth attend this life-changing event!



Cinnamon Roll Baking and Selling—Sunday, February 4

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

ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraisers

Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale - February 11 (look for order forms and more details in upcoming bulletins)

- On Saturday, February 10, youth help prep Annual Meeting meal, sub sandwiches, and soup.
- On Sunday, February 11, youth help distribute sub sandwiches and serve Annual Meeting meal

Valentines Flower Sale (look for order forms and more details in upcoming bulletins)

- On Tuesday, February 13, youth help prep flower arrangements

Lenten Soup Supper—Wednesday, February 14

- Youth—Serve Soup Supper and Distribute Flower orders



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.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Super Bowl Collection: Once again on Super Bowl Sunday, an over-the-top day of food, friends, and football, we will collect food money for those with less. Your generosity never ceases to amaze us when we make this annual appeal!

March FoodShare: Get ready - March is FoodShare month and we will help Ralph Reeder Food Shelf restock their shelves. They accept all non-perishable boxed and canned items, cleaning supplies, hygiene, personal care (including trial sizes), paper products, baby foods, diapers, wipes, garden produce, pet food, and cash.

March FoodShare Driver Needed: Would you be able to drop off collected food at Ralph Reeder twice in March? (They're located next to Speedway in Mounds View.) Please let the office know if you could help in this way. Thank you!

Gardeners Needed: The Garden of Grace needs some reviving and wood replacement on the raised beds. Are you handy and willing to help with this? Please let the office know.

Christmas Gift Cards: Once again, thank you for your generous response to the giving tree. The cards are used in food boxes, at Irondale, for neighbors needing a hand, and as needs arise.

Lenten Project: We'll be collecting the supplies used by Global Health Ministries to make Newborn Kits. These are sent overseas to help new mothers care for and clothe babies, and to encourage pre- and postnatal care. We've set a goal of 40 kits. Please look for flyers with the details!

Women's Retreat | Apr. 19-21

Stories are so powerful. They draw us in as we learn about the lives and experiences of people that are similar to our own, yet each one is unique. Our women's retreat will focus on stories of women of faith - women from the Bible, women in our world, and our own stories as well. As we hear these stories of God at work in and through women it will prompt us to think anew about how God is at work in our own lives. Throughout the weekend there will also be free time to enjoy the natural beauty and amenities at Heartwood Conference Center in Trego, Wisconsin. There will be time for playing games, doing puzzles, going for walks, sitting by the fire, enjoying time with friends and even taking a nap if you want a little snooze! There will also be time set aside for service projects and worship.

Pastor Marla is working with a small group to plan the retreat. If you'd like to be part of that planning team or if you have suggestions about the retreat let Pastor Marla know. The cost for the weekend will be \$250 per person for meals and double occupancy rooms. We are planning to serve Lenten soup supper on March 6 as a fund raiser to help defray costs. We'd welcome your participation in preparing and serving this meal. If you would like scholarship assistance, let Pastor Marla know.

Save the dates April 19-21. If you think you might be interested in participating, please let Lisa Schlotterback know so we can get a rough count. There are forms available in the narthex to indicate your interest or you can let the office know. March 1 is the deadline to let us know for sure if you plan to attend and to make a deposit. So, plan to come and be part of it!

Confirmation Students/Families News

Retreat in February - Sunday, February 18 to Monday, February 19

This retreat is for all sixth, seventh and eighth graders and is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships between the kids and with the other caring adults on the trip. The retreat is held at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, Wisconsin. Registration materials were sent home and are also available in the church office.

Meet with a Mentor during Lent

Each Confirmation student is asked to choose a Mentor and to attend Wednesday Lenten services in person or online with their Mentor. There will be guided discussion sheets that they must complete and turn in each week. This has proven to be a wonderful experience for the students and their Mentors.

Parent Night - Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 to 8:00

Parents join your child or children for Wednesday Night Worship followed by Parents Night. At Parents Night we will not only have important information to share, but we will also have some spirited family discussions!

Confirmation
RETREAT

MENTOR

Parent Night

Stewardship Corner with Pastor Ryan

Stewardship as Sharing both our Resources and our Time and Talents

When we think of stewardship, we usually think of money. Sometimes stewardship has a negative connotation, especially in churches where there is a constant “ask” for more money. Stewardship is actually a wonderful word. It simply means what we do with God has entrusted to us. Certainly God has entrusted us with many blessings, some of them material. We are certainly called to share from our abundance to further God’s kingdom and to help our neighbors in need.



But God also created us and gave us life. Our very lives belong to God. And in creating us, God gave us all gifts to share with others for the common good. Stewardship is about sharing those gifts, about volunteering and loving our neighbors as well as about sharing our financial resources. Note that this is not an either/or situation where either I give money or I volunteer. It is a both/and situation where we are called by God to share abundantly of our resources and our time and talents.

I encourage you to experience to joy of sharing, the joy of being good stewards of what God has entrusted to you. You can share your resources anytime by making a financial donation to the church or other organization. You can volunteer by visiting our Tree of Sharing in the Narthex to find a volunteer opportunity in our congregation or talk to one of the pastors.

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

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.” 2023 Thrivent Choice dollars must be directed to Abiding Savior no later than March 31 or they will expire.

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.

Meals on Wheels Schedule

- February 12—16
- April 8—12
- June 3—7
- July 29—August 2
- September 23—27
- November 18—22

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

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.

February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 JAN	29 JAN	30 JAN	31 JAN	1	2	3
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service		10:00 Staff Meeting 2-4:00 Caring Visitors Training	9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed Hour 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Youth Gathering Meeting 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Huesman's in Coffee House 1 - 5PM
4 COMMUNION	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 2-4:00 Caring Visitors Training 6:30 Committee Meetings	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 2-4:00 Caring Visitors Training 6:30 Committee Meetings	9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed Hour 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Conf. Parent's Night 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	9:30 Gloria Johnson visitation 10:30 Gloria Johnson funeral	Youth Prep Sub Sandwich and Soup
11 ANNUAL MTG	12 MIs on Whis	13 Meals on Wheels	14 ASH WEDNESDAY	15 Meals on Wheels	16 Meals on Wheels	17
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Annual Meeting	5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Lydia Circle TBD Youth Prep Flowers	9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Ash Wednesday Svc 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Ash Wednesday Svc 7:15 - 8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	
18 COMMUNION	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service CONFIRMATION RETREAT AT WAPO	CONFIRMATION RETREAT AT WAPO	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Lenten Service 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15-8:00 Adult Choir	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	
25 YOUTH SUN	26	27	28	29 FEB	1 MAR	2 MAR
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 'Tangled' Movie & Pizza 4-6:00		10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicifine Service	9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Lenten Service 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Parent's Together CH 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15-8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

8211 Red Oak Drive

Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

Phone: 763.784.5120

Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

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

February Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 24 Number 02 Date 2024



Go Paperless

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 February

- Feb. 1: Women's Bible Study, Youth Gathering Mtg.
- Feb. 4: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Feb. 6: Men's Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Feb. 7: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg. 3)
- Feb. 8: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 9: Gloria Johnson Visitation & Funeral
- Feb. 11: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship (Souper Bowl Sunday)
Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser
ANNUAL MEETING
- Feb. 12: Women's Gathering
- Feb. 13: Lydia Circle
- Feb. 14: ASH WEDNESDAY—Worship at 4pm & 6:30pm
Lenten Soup Suppers begin 4:45—6:15
- Feb. 15: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 18: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
- Feb. 18—19: Confirmation Retreat at WAPO
- Feb. 20: Quilting and Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Council Meeting
- Feb. 21: Lenten Worship
Wednesday Night Activities (see pg. 3)
- Feb. 22: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 25: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship, 'Tangled' Movie at 4pm
- Feb. 28: Lenten Worship & Wednesday Night Activities

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, 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/>.