



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

February 2025

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Abiding Here for 50 Years

Capital Campaign is a Success



Back in May of 2022, we launched our *Abiding Here for 50 Years* Capital Campaign. With the beginning of the new year, we completed the campaign, and I am happy to announce the campaign was a great success! The goal for the campaign was to raise \$250,000 and we have exceeded that goal raising over \$285,000!

THANK YOU for your generosity as together we care for one of our greatest assets as a congregation, our church building. As a part of this campaign, we have completed and fully funded the following projects:

- A new electronic reader board sign on Red Oak Drive
- Updating and improving our HVAC including a new air conditioning unit for the office area and updated thermostat controls for the entire building
- Updating our fire and smoke detection systems throughout the building
- Filling cracks in our parking lot, sealing the parking lot and restriping the parking spaces
- Power washing and tuckpointing the brick exterior of the building as needed
- New phone system for the offices
- Updating every light in the building including new outside lights that shine on the building at night.
- A 10% benevolence given to organizations and projects outside our walls
- Added to the building reserve fund for future maintenance with any excess funds

What a reason to celebrate as God continues to bless us in our lives and use Abiding Savior and each one of us to bless the lives of others in God's name.

Thank you again for your generosity and the ways you show your love and appreciation to God through generosity, kindness, and acts of service toward others.

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan



ANNUAL MEETING

All members of

Abiding Savior

Lutheran Church

are encouraged

to attend our

Congregational

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9

at 11:30am

Sloppy Joe 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.

Stewardship Corner with Pastor Ryan

Ways to Give to Abiding Savior

Now that we have completed the Abiding Here for 50 Years Capital Campaign, you might wonder what you can do with the money you were sharing with the campaign, or maybe at least part of those funds. There are several ways to make gifts to your congregation.

1. **Cash or Check:** You can make a cash or check gift in the offering plate at worship. This can be done in the offering envelopes provided or simply placed in the offering plate. If you would like credit on your statement for a cash gift, please be sure to use an envelope and provide us with your name. You can also mail your gifts to the church office or drop them off in person during the week.
2. **Electronic Giving:** You can choose to make a gift from your checking account or on your credit card. Your gift can be set up to be given automatically monthly, weekly, or annually. You can also make a one-time electronic gift through our website or by using your phone and the QR code provided in the bulletin each week. (add QR code here)
3. **Stocks, Bonds, IRAs or other Securities:** The church receives several gifts of stocks, IRA's, and other securities throughout the year. This can be a great way to avoid paying taxes on the earnings from your investments while making a gift to Abiding Savior.
4. **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD):** If you are over 70 and a half years old, you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) directly from you IRA as a non-taxable event. You avoid paying any taxes on the distribution and the distribution counts against your RMD
5. **Estate Planning:** It is simple and easy to include the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior in your will, trust, or other estate plans. These gifts will continue to fund the work of God done in and through our congregation for generations to come.

If you would like to set up automatic giving or want more information on how to make a stock gift or an estate gift, please contact Pastor Ryan in the church office at 763-784-5120.



Thank you for your continued generosity!

Tanzania Water Project Update and Tanzania Trip Planned for 2025

Abiding Savior has partnered with St. Paul Partners, the University of Minnesota, and the Village of Makungu, Tanzania, to design and build a freshwater distribution system to bring clean and safe drinking water to over 1,500 people in Makungu. So far, Abiding Savior has raised over \$18,000 for the project! The construction of the project is underway and should be completed soon.

We are planning a trip to visit the water project and our companion congregation, the Makungu Parish, in October of 2025. The trip will include travelling to Makungu for a weekend of worship and learning, a stay in the provincial capital of Iringa, and a safari in the Ruaha Game Park. If you are interested in learning more about the Tanzania trip, please talk to Pastor Ryan.



Mark Your Calendars: Growing Through Loss @ ASLC

Abiding Savior is joining with several area churches to offer an excellent series of grief support called Growing Through Loss. **These sessions will be on Monday evenings, beginning March 31 from 7—9PM right here at Abiding Savior.**

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Adult Education Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who resisted Nazi tyranny during World War II. He was hanged in a Nazi prison camp for his actions and beliefs.

This four-session series will use videos by New York Times best-selling author Eric Metaxas to lead us into discussion and discovery. The series will explore the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today.

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, Feb. 16 - Monday, Feb. 17 @ 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 available in the office. Be sure to turn in your paperwork to the office **ASAP**.

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

Women's Bible Study *The Women of Easter*

This Lenten season prepare your heart for Easter by participating in the Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study. Pastor Marla will lead us as we explore the Easter story through the eyes of three Marys - Mary the sister of Lazarus, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene the first woman to meet the risen Jesus. Come for the faithful discussion, the supportive fellowship and the yummy treats **Thursday mornings at 10:00, February 20 through April 10**. In the weeks leading up to this and following it, we will continue our study of various faith traditions through our series *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*. All women are welcome every week at the Women's Bible Study.



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 9 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!

FAMILY MINISTRY EVENT MINI SERVICE FAIR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

WE'LL WORK ON SOME SIMPLE SERVICE PROJECTS FROM 10:30-11:30 (CHOICES WILL INCLUDE SOME TODDLER/PRESCHOOL-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES), THEN ORDER PIZZA FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO STAY FOR LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A GREAT FAMILY EXPERIENCE.

Register for Bible Camp!

Registration is now open for summer camp!

- **WAPO Youth** (Completed grades 4 - 9)
 - June 15 - 20
- **SEEDS** (Completed grades 1 - 3)
 - June 20-22
- **NEW! WAPO One Day** (Completed grades K - 2)
 - June 18



If these dates don't work for your family, you're welcome to go whenever it works best for you! Camperships/scholarships are available so don't let the cost of camp keep you from attending. Register at <https://events.circuitree.com/campwapo/Registration/>

Wednesday Schedule

- 4:30—6:15pm Dinner served
- Feb. 5: Tator Tot Hotdish
 - Feb. 12: Beef Stew
 - Feb. 19: Scalloped Potatoes
 - Feb. 26: Chow Mein (Chicken & Pork)
- 5:30—6:30pm Adult Education: D. Bonhoeffer
 5:30—6:30pm POWER Up
 6:30—8:00pm Confirmation
 7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir



Sunday School 9:00 - 9:50AM



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.

Coming in February:

February 9 – Children will sing in worship
(children will be called forward to sing at the appropriate time)

Please join us! Invite friends and neighbors!

Families do not need to be members of Abiding Savior to participate in our programs.

You are WELCOME - You are VALUED
You are LOVED - You BELONG

POWER Up! for Kids

A Kid's Program with Faith & Fun!

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

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

We can't wait to welcome you!

Abiding Savior Preschool

I can't believe that it is already that time of year to think ahead to the 2025-2026 school year! Wow! Registration is open and watch out for information on our restructuring for the next school year! I am constantly looking for new and exciting ways to continue to grow our amazing programs! I am hoping to invite an in-house entertainer to our program this month to continue to enrich their learning experiences with us.

Our annual Heggie's Pizza Fundraiser is in full swing! This year Heggie's is offering all their flavors to our fundraiser so there are some exciting new options as well as all of the favorites. Orders will be due the week of February 17th. Please make all checks payable to Abiding Savior Preschool. Pizza orders will be delivered during the morning of March 12th. Please allow some time for me to sort the pizzas into their individual orders. Thank you for your support of this yummy annual fundraiser!

As always thank you for your continued support of our program! We continue to grow and help our children build a strong foundation for a bright future!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director

preschool@abidingsavior.org; 763-784-5326; www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com



February MS/HS Youth Events - Join Us!

Sunday, February 2: Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale

Meet in kitchen at 8:30am to help bake & frost rolls and stay to help sell after church!



Retreat in February – Sunday, February 16 to Monday, February 17

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, WI. Registration materials were mailed and are also available in the church office.

Parent Night Wednesday, February 26, 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!

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God's Work. Our Hands.

Retired Hands: Hearty thanks to Gary Cox who retired from the Building and Grounds Committee after 25 years of service! What a diverse list of projects he's had a hand in accomplishing here. Three cheers and our heartfelt appreciation!

Thanks
GARY C.
for your 25 years
on the
Property Committee!

Giving Tree Update: Your generous response to the Christmas giving tree resulted in \$2,245 of gift cards! We have helped one former and four current CSC families facing difficult situations, hoping to give them a needed boost towards stability. A supply of cards will be kept for future caring opportunities. Please let the office know if you become aware of someone who could use a little help. Thank you for remembering those who need extra love and care.



Delivered: Thanks to the Evensons for dropping off collected hygiene supplies to Edgewood Middle School and mittens to Sunnyside Elementary School. Good job loving our younger neighbors!



Gardeners Needed: It's never too early (well maybe it was in January) to start thinking about our Garden of Grace. The garden needs a few willing folks to adopt a bed for personal use or food shelf fresh vegetables. Fresh air, exercise and companionship guaranteed. You can let Aggie Reiners know if you are interested: bareiners@gmail.com



Blood Drive: Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated blood January 9th. Your gift is truly life giving. Bless you! Next drive is at ASLC in March.



Meals on Wheels Thanks: Warm thanks to the crew that delivered hot meals the week of January 13th. Next opportunity is March 10th. You will be met with smiles and appreciation. Let Fern Fisher or the office know if you're available any day or all week. Thank you.



Silverware for Bridging: If you have accumulated spare silverware, please consider bringing it to church for delivery to Bridging, the organization that helps people set up housekeeping in order to gain housing stability. Items need not be full sets or matching; anything will be appreciated. Thanks for sharing!



Mission Endowment Fund Grant Applications

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Endowment Committee is thrilled to again be awarding grants for mission and ministry in 2025! The Mission Endowment Fund accepts applications from committees, staff, Councilmembers, 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 28, 2025.** 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.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Thrivent Action Teams



Join Us to
Make a Difference
in Our Community

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." 2024 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.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5 and once again, we plan to have/serve Lenten Soup Suppers between services. New this year: Sandra L. and Helen K. will be working in the kitchen each week and are willing to assist any group wanting to serve a dinner as a fundraiser. If you/your group would like to help serve a meal, please let the office know or sign up on the sheet outside the church office!

DATE:	SOUP SUPPER BENEFITING:
March 5	Tanzania Trip
March 12	Tanzania Water Project
March 19	Abiding Savior Preschool
March 26	TBD
April 2	TBD
April 9	TBD
April 17	TBD/Leftovers

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



- Packing 119 boxes, 25704 meals and feeding 70 kids for a year at the Feed My Starving Children service night event on January 15.



- The generosity of those who took ornaments from the *Giving Tree* from which \$2,245 in gift cards and gifts were collected for students and families in need in our community.

Note of Thanks

Dear Abiding Savior —
Thank you so much for your *Giving Tree* donations to Edgewood Middle School. The hats and toiletries are much needed items! He school supplies will come in handy throughout the school year.

—Edgewood Middle School Staff



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February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 JANUARY 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	27 JANUARY 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicistine Service	28 JANUARY 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicistine Service	29 JANUARY 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	30 JANUARY 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	31 JANUARY OFFICE CLOSED	1 Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
2 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale	3 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	4 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	5 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed D. Bonhoeffer 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	6 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 Mini Service Fair Family Ministry Event 10:30 - 11:30 Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
9 ANNUAL MEETING SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Soup Lunch 11:30 ANNUAL MEETING	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting	12 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed D. Bonhoeffer 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 8:45 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	13 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
16 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship with Holy Communion Confirmation Retreat at WAPO (depart @ 1PM)	17 PRESIDENTS DAY 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	18 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	19 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed D. Bonhoeffer 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	20 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
23 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Youth Sunday Worship Service	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Preschool Teddy Bear Band (Mod2) 12:00 Benedicistine Service	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Preschool Teddy Bear Band (Mod2) 12:00 Benedicistine Service	26 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 8:00 Parents' Night 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	27 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	28 OFFICE CLOSED	1 MARCH Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

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Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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. 2: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Feb. 4: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Feb. 5: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
Adult Education: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Feb. 6: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 8: Mini Service Fair Family Ministry Event
- Feb. 9: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship
ANNUAL MEETING (lunch beforehand)
- Feb. 10: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Feb. 11: Caring Visitors Meeting
- Feb. 12: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
Adult Education: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Feb. 13: Men's Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 16: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
- Feb. 16—17: Confirmation Retreat @ WAPO
- Feb. 18: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Council Meeting
- Feb. 19: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
Adult Education: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Feb. 20: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 23: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship—YOUTH SUNDAY
- Feb. 26: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
Adult Education: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Feb. 27: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study

Pastors & Staff

- Ryan Brodin**, Senior Pastor
- Patty Mesenbring**, Dir. of Children's Ministries
- Josh & Alex Ertz**, Youth Directors
- 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
- 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/>.