



# the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

January 2021

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## Free Hot Meals (to go)!

Abiding Savior is thrilled to be using our kitchen again to feed those with food insecurity in our community! The church has secured grants from the Suburban Ramsey Emergency Coalition and ELCA World Hunger as well as donations from individuals to fund the dinners so they can be offered to the public free of charge.



## ANNUAL MEETING

All members of  
Abiding Savior  
Lutheran Church  
are encouraged  
to attend our  
**Congregational  
Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 31st**  
**at 11:30am**  
(See page 3  
for more details)

Volunteers at Abiding Savior will prepare a hot meal every Wednesday beginning on January 13th. The hot meals will be individually packaged for distribution at church to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in our community. Those who wish to receive a meal will sign up ahead of time on the church website and the meals will be brought out to them in the parking lot.

This meal only happens because of generosity of time and resources. Volunteers will be needed every week to plan the menu, do the shopping, prepare the meal, serve the meal, bring the meals out to cars, deliver meals to shut ins, and clean up the kitchen. All of this will be done following strict social distancing guidelines. Watch for an email with a sign-up sheet for volunteering or call the church office if you are interested.

During this time of the pandemic there is a real need for a hot meal program in our community. This free hot meal program is a natural fit for our congregation as we use our kitchen once again to feed others experiencing food insecurity in our community.

As we live together in God's love, we also live together through this pandemic. This hot meal is one way we are being called as a congregation to love and serve others. We thank God for the opportunity and privilege to continue our participation in the mission of God during this pandemic and beyond.

God's blessings!

*Pastor Ryan*

**FREE HOT  
MEALS**

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

Pastor Ryan Brodin

### Living in God's Love: Generosity in a Time of Pandemic

In talking to people in our congregation, it is interesting how the pandemic affects people differently. Some in our congregation and community have lost their jobs, they have gotten sick from COVID-19, they are struggling. Others have shared that they are feeling blessed. They still have their jobs and income, they are healthy, and they are not taking that health or that income for granted.

I often remind people that in life there are times to give and times to receive. We receive when we are hurting or down on our luck. We give when we are able to share and to make a difference. During this pandemic, if you are in a position to share and make a difference, it is more important than ever that you let your generosity flow. Many people are hurting in our community and our world. Abiding Savior continues to do great work to bring hope to those in need of good news. Many organizations in our community are working daily to serve the hungry, lonely, sick, or homeless. These organizations rely on donations given out of love for God and neighbor.

We are called by God to share what God has entrusted to us with others who might not have enough. This was true before the pandemic, and it is especially true during this time of crisis. As we share abundantly, we experience the joy of sharing, a joy that can never be felt by keeping to ourselves. Keep loving. Keep caring. Keep sharing as together we live in God's love and as together we love one another through this pandemic.



## Suspension of In-Person Worship Extended Through Sunday, January 17th, 2021

Due to the recent surge in COVID-19 in our area and out of abundant love for our neighbor, the Congregational Council has voted to extend the suspension of in-person worship through the January 17th worship service.

They will re-evaluate moving back to in-person worship or continuing worshipping exclusively online at the next Council meeting on January 19th. The Council will update the congregation on their decision after this meeting. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we navigate this pandemic together!



## 2020 Committee Reports Due for Annual Meeting



We will soon be preparing materials for the Annual Meeting which will be held on January 31st. All committees should submit a Year End report to Katie ([office@abidingsavior.org](mailto:office@abidingsavior.org)) by **January 15th**.

We realize many committees/groups were not able to meet much in 2020 but a report summarizing any items from the year is still needed. Thank you!

### Mission

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## Communion and Prayer Offered

For those who are interested in receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, we plan to offer the opportunity to take communion in the Narthex of church on:

- **Wednesday, January 6th from 10:30-11:30am**
- **Wednesday, January 20th from 6:00-7:00pm**

One of the pastors will be there with you to pray for you or a loved one and to celebrate communion with individuals, families, or groups of whoever is present on a rolling basis. Please bring your mask. Communion will be done socially distanced, and with sanitary precautions in place to avoid the risk of spreading COVID-19. All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

### Tuesday Night Adult Forums

#### *Hope in a New Year: A Study of Hope and Stories of Hope in the Bible*

**Online Tuesdays, Jan. 12th — Feb. 9th**

*hope* 6:30-7:30pm *hope*

Join Pastor Ryan, Pastor Lisa, and Deacon Brad as they teach about hope and share stories of hope found in the Bible. Hope is believing in things to come, especially the hope that comes through our faith in God. This winter is the perfect time to remind ourselves of the hope we have as Christians. Hope that no matter what, we are God's children and God has good things planned for us in the future. Hope that even in hard times, God will lead us and God will provide us with what we need. This class will be done via ZOOM with teaching and sharing. Watch your email or the church website for information about how to participate in this class online. Classes will be recorded for access at a later time as well. No prior knowledge of the Bible necessary! Join us for this informative class!

**Adult  
Forum**

## Blood Drive



Join us **Tues., Jan. 5th from 1:30pm—6:30pm** for our blood drive! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

or visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment. Masks are required!

## Meals on Wheels



We will be delivering  
**Meals on Wheels**  
**January 18th—22nd**



*If you are available to help*

any day from approx. 11am—1pm,  
please let Fern Fisher know (763-786-1044).



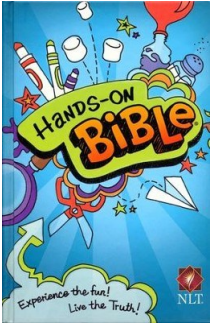
### Get some fresh air and exercise! Volunteer to help snow blow/ shovel sidewalks at church

We are looking for some volunteers to help snow blow/shovel the church sidewalk this winter! Team up with a friend or family member and sign up! We are hoping to have 3—4 volunteers each month so the work effort can be spread across multiple people. To sign up call the office or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548ACAA2EA1FF2-20202021>  
**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HELPING!**

## Abiding Savior Lutheran Church 2020 Annual Meeting 11:30am on Sunday, January 31, 2021

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting for Abiding Savior will take place on January 31, 2021, at 11:30am. If we are worshipping in person, we will also meet in person for this meeting. However, due to our commitment to keeping everyone healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic, we may choose to extend the suspension on in-person worship through January 31st. If we are not worshipping in person, we will move our Annual Meeting to an online interactive format. Watch your emails and other church announcements for more details about the Annual Meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Ryan at [pastor-ryan@abidingsavior.org](mailto:pastor-ryan@abidingsavior.org).



### 1st Grade Bibles

Bibles were presented to 1st grade students during one of our September outdoor worship services.

If you were not able to attend and your child still needs a Bible, please contact

Patty: [patty@abidingsavior.org](mailto:patty@abidingsavior.org)

## Middle School and High School Youth News

**Confirmation Resumes Online**  
**Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30pm**



Confirmation for all 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders will start up again on Wednesday, January 13th. We will be meeting online for this next unit of classes meeting through February 3rd. Watch your email for ZOOM call information and other important updates. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces again soon!

### Youth Communications

Wondering how to stay in the loop about what is going on? Make sure you're getting info through the following (and if you aren't let Brad know!)

1. **FACEBOOK:** Check out the Abiding Savior Facebook page for events
2. **EMAIL:** Church emails (make sure to give us your email and ask to be put on the constant contact list)
3. **TEXT:** Remind texts (send a text to 81010 with the message @8211redoak if you haven't signed up yet).



### Tanzania Scholarship Fund

If you would like to help children receive an education, consider contributing to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund. In Tanzania there is no funding for children to continue their education past primary school when children are about 11 years old. The yearly cost to attend secondary school is \$650 and for most families in Makungu, that's more than a whole family would earn in an entire year.

To support this effort, you may write a check for any amount to Abiding Savior with "Tanzania scholarship" in the memo line.



## Children's Ministry

### Sunday School

Video lessons (15-20 minutes) are available each Sunday morning on YouTube any time after 8:00 a.m. Downloadable materials (discussion questions, coloring sheets, etc.) and links to videos are emailed to registered families and are also accessible via our [website](https://www.abidingsavior.org).

### POWER Up

**Younger children** are invited to join Patty for a prerecorded video devotion on YouTube each Wednesday evening, any time after 5:00. Links to the videos and any downloadable materials are emailed to registered families and are also accessible via our [website](https://www.abidingsavior.org).

**Older children** meet with Patty and choir director Andy via Zoom for devotions, sharing, and music.

Because each child differs in their response to and level of participation in online video gatherings, we have not put exact age ranges on the two groups.

Please use your best judgement to choose which option is most appropriate for your child.

**To ensure that we have necessary contact information for you, please visit our website to register for these programs.**

Peace to you all,  
Patty

## Abiding Savior Preschool Getting ready for Fall 2021!

As you may know, Abiding Savior Preschool suspended classes this school year due to the health and safety of our staff, students and families. However, we are getting ready for the 2021-2022 school year in the hope the COVID-19 pandemic will be over. Watch for information about Fall Registration and help spread the word about our preschool!

### Mission

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## God's Work. Our Hands. Resolutions to Help Others.

Did you make a resolution to get more involved? Do you feel like sharing some love with others? Until we are able to resume normal activities, you might:

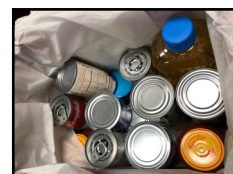
- **Pray** for others; sign up to receive the emailed prayer chain.
- **Write** a note or send a card to someone in need of comfort or warm wishes.
- **Pick up** groceries for someone.
- **Befriend** someone new in your neighborhood.
- **Listen** to someone's story.
- **Call** a friend you haven't seen in a while.
- **Smile** at everyone you see.
- **Shovel** snow for someone.
- **Lend a helping hand** to someone in need of a little assistance.
- **Wear** a mask and get vaccinated so you and others stay well.



## Mission Outreach Committee Spreads Cheer at Irondale

Abiding Savior's Mission Outreach committee members have spread cheer and showed others that our congregation cares about them! Before Christmas, they packaged up and delivered meals for 8 deserving Irondale students and their families. Each student received a 10-12 lb. ham, 2 bags of potatoes and onions, a bag of apples, 3 doz. eggs, 32 boxed items and 22 canned items. These food items were intended to provide a full Christmas dinner for a family of 5 as well as 5 full days of breakfast, lunch and dinner. As a result of some savvy shopping, the committee was able to provide all of this for just \$60 per student.

Thank you to the special people on the Mission Outreach Committee for your efforts and for sharing joy with others!



## Mission Endowment Fund Grant Applications Available

The Endowment Committee is thrilled to again be awarding grants for mission and ministry in 2021! 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 \$5,000 available for distribution.

Grant Applications are available by contacting the church office and **must be received by February 28th**. 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 information contact Pastor Ryan Brodin.

### November 2020 Financial Highlights

2020	Monthly	YTD
<b>INCOME</b>		
Current gifts and giving	40,022	426,351
Festival giving	3,623	22,673
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>43,645</b>	<b>449,024</b>
Other income	2,578	38,732
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>46,223</b>	<b>487,756</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>46,319</b>	<b>494,738</b>
<b>NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(96)</b>	<b>(6,982)</b>
Benevolence paid	3,983	34,819

## 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

If you are a Thrivent member, check to see if you receive Thrivent Choice dollars. If so, you are able to direct where your Thrivent Choice dollars will go each year. You can direct yours to Abiding Savior. It's easy! Just log in to [www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com) or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice®." You have the power to recommend where Thrivent Financial gives back!



## Words of Thanks

Heartfelt thanks to you, our Abiding Savior Family, for all of the prayers, cards and calls during this difficult time for our family. It gave us strength and peace knowing your prayers have been with us. We are so blessed with the support of God, friends and family. **"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you."** (Philippians 1:3)

—Amy and Stan Haugen and Family



Thank you to all the children and families who took part in the Children's Christmas Program. Even a very short video can take much time and effort to make, and we are so grateful to you for sharing your gifts to bring us the beautiful story of Jesus' birth.

A special thanks, as well, to Choir Director Andy Pokel for his talent and patience in editing the video.

A very special thank you to the talented people who shared of their time and talents to create Abiding Savior's new JOY sign, donated Christmas trees, and also beautifully decorated both outside and inside for our community to enjoy during the Christmas season.



### Mission

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## 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 Online Worship Service Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM  Blood Drive 1:30 – 6:30  6:30 Committee meetings (as needed)	10:30-11:30 Communion & Prayer  NO POWER UP/CONFIRMATION	10:00 Women's Bible Study (Facebook)  7:00 Jubilation Ringers		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 Online Worship Service Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM  6:30 Online Adult Forum: Hope in a New Year	4:30–5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 5:30 POWER Up! Online/Via ZOOM 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation via ZOOM 7:00 – 8:00 HS Youth Group	9:00 Work Crew (TBD)  10:00 Women's Bible Study (Facebook)  7:00 Jubilation Ringers	COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE FOR ANNUAL MEETING	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 Online Worship Service Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM  6:30 Online Adult Forum: Hope in a New Year 6:30 Council Meeting via ZOOM	4:30–5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 5:30 POWER Up! Online/Via ZOOM 6:00 - 7:00 Communion & Prayer 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation via ZOOM 7:00 – 8:00 HS Youth Group	10:00 Women's Bible Study (Facebook)  7:00 Jubilation Ringers		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 Worship Service (TBD) (worship always available via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM  6:30 Online Adult Forum: Hope in a New Year	4:30–5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 5:30 POWER Up! Online/Via ZOOM 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation via ZOOM 7:00 – 8:00 HS Youth Group	9:00 Work Crew (TBD)  10:00 Women's Bible Study (Facebook) 7:00 Jubilation Ringers		
31	1 FEBRUARY	2 FEBRUARY	3 FEBRUARY	4 FEBRUARY	5 FEBRUARY	6 FEBRUARY
10:00 Worship Service (TBD) (worship always available via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online) <b>11:30 ANNUAL MEETING</b>		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM  6:30 Online Adult Forum: Hope in a New Year 6:30 Committee meetings (as needed)	4:30–5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 5:30 POWER Up! Online/Via ZOOM 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation via ZOOM 7:00 – 8:00 HS Youth Group	10:00 Women's Bible Study (Facebook)  7:00Jubilation Ringers		

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

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

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

## January Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 21 Number 01 Date 2021



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

Reduce waste.  
Reduce mailing costs.  
Receive information faster!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Events in January

- Jan. 1: Happy New Year - Blessings to you in 2021!
- Jan. 3: Epiphany Sunday - Online Worship  
Online Sunday school
- Jan. 5: Blood Drive (1:30—6:30pm)
- Jan. 6: Communion and Prayers (10:30—11:30 ~ Narthex)
- Jan. 7: Bible Study (online)
- Jan. 10: Online Worship and Online Sunday school
- Jan. 12: Online Adult Forum: *Hope in a New Year*
- Jan. 13: POWERUp (online)  
Confirmation resumes  
Wednesday Night Meal to Go
- Jan. 14: Bible Study (online)
- Jan. 17: Online Worship and Online Sunday school
- Jan. 18—22: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Jan. 19: Online Adult Forum: *Hope in a New Year*  
Council Meeting via Zoom
- Jan. 20: POWERUp (online) & Confirmation  
Communion and Prayers (6:00—7:00pm ~ Narthex)  
Wednesday Night Meal to Go
- Jan. 21: Bible Study (online)
- Jan. 24: Worship (TBD if in-person)  
Online Sunday school
- Jan. 26: Online Adult Forum: *Hope in a New Year*
- Jan. 27: POWERUp (online) & Confirmation  
Wednesday Night Meal to Go
- Jan. 28: Bible Study (online)
- Jan. 31: Congregational Annual Meeting—11:30am

### 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  
**Andy Pokel**, Senior & Children's Choir Director  
**Paul Weller**, Bell Choir Director  
**Janet Wilcox**, Parish Nurse  
**Katie Brouillard**, Office Manager  
**Amy Haugen**, Office Assistant  
**Connie Clausen**, Office Assistant  
**Tracy Nicholls**, Preschool Director  
**Steven Hill**, Custodian

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/>.