



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

January 2023

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Hope in the New Year

As we enter into 2023, we do so with hope. Hope is an often used, but not always understood word. Sometimes we use the word hope like a wish saying to ourselves or others, "I hope this works out" even when we don't have a plan or a clue what we are doing. Often, we find that this kind of hope is not a very good strategy in life.



Sometimes we are more optimistic in our hope. We refuse to believe that something bad can happen and we always look on the bright side of life. This kind of hope is a utopian hope. But this kind of hope often ignores the reality that some parts of life just and not very pleasant.

The Bible talks a lot about hope, especially the hope we have through our faith in God. Hope that we will live forever with God in heaven. This hope is a transcendent hope. This hope is not a wish or having a sunny outlook on life. This hope is with us always, especially during the rough parts of life.

As we enter into 2023, we are filled with this transcendent hope. We know that this church belongs to God and God has a mission for our congregation and for each one of us. We know that God is journeying with us as we worship and grow in faith, as we baptize, marry and grieve the loss of loved ones. And God is sending us out to this community and beyond with the love of God.

Our hope comes through our faith in God and our love of Jesus. This hope keeps us looking forward, keeps us engaged in God's world, and leads us into the future God imagines for our congregation and our lives.

May you daily experience this hope as together we live in God's love creating an amazing 2023!

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan



ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME INTERIM YOUTH MENTORS

Josh & Alex Ertz



It is with great joy that we introduce to you Alex and Josh Ertz as our Interim Youth Mentors at Abiding Savior. As we discern together as a congregation where we God is calling us, Josh and Alex have agreed to take over the programming and the relationship building for our youth ministry. Alex and Josh have been very active as volunteers with our youth program over the years. They are not only familiar to the youth, but also familiar to all of you as members of our worship band, Reigning Grace. **Please see page 4 of this month's Vinebranch for a word of introduction from Josh and Alex!**

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 - New Year's Resolution of Sharing

January is a time to make resolutions (and sometimes break them as well!). A time for us to establish better patterns and practices in our lives. That might include eating better, exercising more, or changing habits we do not want in our lives.



This month we can make resolutions about our finances as well. We can resolve to save more, to spend less, and to be more generous. We would all like to be more generous, and one way we can accomplish that goal is by being intentional in our giving. We can make a plan, a resolution, and we can stick to that plan. Just as we will not improve our health if we make excuses instead of exercising, we will not improve our generosity if we are making excuses about why we cannot give instead of not practicing generosity by sharing boldly.

I encourage you to make a plan for your giving and to stick to that plan. Share from what you have at the beginning of the month, not from what is left over at the end. Do not let the myth of scarcity keep you from sharing. We have more than enough in our lives. Instead, joyfully and faithfully make your gifts trusting in the abundance of God. By following a plan, we can become the generous givers we aspire to be!

El Salvador Mission Trip Planned August 1-6, 2023

You are invited to participate in an intergenerational mission trip to El Salvador August 1-6, 2023. We have the opportunity to partner with Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Chicago and Pastor's Kristian and Anna-Kari Johnson, who have deep relationships and years of experience travelling to El Salvador. In El Salvador we will be the guests of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador and Pastors Matias and Martina Bonilla. The trip will be both participating in active ministry as well as learning about the culture and people of El Salvador. Some mission opportunities on this trip are to:

- Share God's Love with Children
- Give Medical/Dental Care (nurses, doctors, and dentists/hygienists encouraged)
- Visit rural congregations serving resettled refugees
- Build homes and churches
- Help rural families without electricity get solar light
- Deliver medical supplies, computers, and donations



The cost of the trip, before fundraising, is approximately \$1800 per person including airfare, accommodations, meals and transportation and we hope to that cost significantly through fundraising. The trip is led by Pastor Ryan Brodin of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and Deacon Brad Mills of Cross of Glory and Atonement Lutheran Churches. **There will be an informational Meeting at Abiding Savior at 7:00 in the Coffee House following the 6:30 worship service on Wednesday, January 11**, with a non-refundable deposit of \$250 due by Wednesday, January 18. For more information, please contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120 or email pastorryan@abidingsavior.org or stop by the church office to pick up a brochure.

2022 Committee Reports for Annual Meeting



We will soon be preparing materials for the Annual Meeting which will be held on February 12. All committees should submit a Year End report to Katie (office@abidingsavior.org) by January 15.

We realize many committees/groups did not meet consistently in 2022 but a report summarizing any items from the year is still needed. Thank you!

Wednesday Schedule

- 4:30—6:30pm Dinner served
- Jan. 4: Goulash
 - Jan. 11: Chicken ala King over Biscuits
 - Jan. 18: Beef Stroganoff
 - Jan. 25: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham
- 5:00—5:30pm Celebration Ringers
5:30—6:00pm King's Msgrs Choir/POWER Up
6:00—6:30pm WWJD Choir/POWER Up
6:30—7:00pm Wednesday Worship
6:30—8:00pm Confirmation
7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir

Mission

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Women's Gathering Mon., Jan. 9

You are invited to join in on a monthly "meet-up" for the Women of ASLC at Moe's in their main dining room at 5:30pm on January 9 (come for 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.

You're invited to Lydia Circle



You're invited to Lydia Circle on **Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00pm!** 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).

El Salvador Mission Trip Meeting: Wed., Jan. 11 @ 7pm

Meals on Wheels January 16—20



We will be delivering
Meals on Wheels
Mon., Jan. 16 — Fri., Jan. 20



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

FMSC Packing Event Wednesday, January 18



Abiding Savior has reserved 85 spots to pack food at Feed My Starving Children on **Wednesday, January 18.** We will pack food from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. All ages are welcome (under 12 must be supervised by an adult). Please sign up outside the church office. We look forward to a fun evening!

Blood Drive



Join us **Thurs., Jan. 19 from 1:30pm—6:30pm** for our blood drive! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment. If you are available to help check people in or serve treats to donors, please let the office know.



CHILI COOK-OFF 11:00am—noon Sunday, January 22

Do you have a special chili or soup you would love for others to try? Ever wonder how your chili or soup compares with others? You are invited to make a batch of your chili or soup and bring it to our Abiding Savior Chili cook-off on Sunday, January 22 after church. All proceeds will benefit our El Salvador mission trip.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars!
Annual Meeting
11:30am on Sunday,
February 12, 2023

All members of Abiding Savior are invited and encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting. The Annual Reports will be reviewed, any current elections will take place, and the 2023 proposed budget will be presented.

Come before the Annual Meeting for a meal with proceeds benefiting the El Salvador mission trip.

Each chili and soup will be available for tasting. Those attending the event after worship will make a donation toward the mission trip and will be given the opportunity to sample the chilis and soups and judge the chili/soup cook off winner. There will be more than enough chili and soup available to make a meal out of attending this event. Sour cream, cheese, crackers and drinks will also be available.

Sign up [HERE](#) or on the board outside the church office to bring your favorite chili or soup. ... or plan to attend to sample each type and vote on your favorite. The suggested donation is \$6/per person or \$30/family for all you can eat chili and soup. First, second, and third place awards will be given. We look forward to this fun event!



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. *Thank you to all volunteers, children and their families whose efforts made our Children's Christmas Program another beautiful worship experience.*

COMING UP:

- **January 1: No Sunday school**
- **Please make sure to join us on January 8 as our Sunday school year resumes!**

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.

Abiding Savior Preschool



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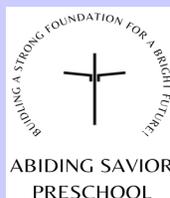
I can't believe how incredibly fast this school year is going! We have had an exciting first half of our preschool year.

We closed out 2022 with a fantastic Christmas program that included the children singing their praises! Miss Neva also celebrated Jesus' Birthday with the kiddos the last two days of preschool before Christmas break. Everyone had so much fun and the children did so well singing for their parents, family and friends!

Looking ahead to the new year we will be starting our preschool registration in February for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year! Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful preschool program! It would be amazing to fill both classrooms with lots of laughter, fun and academics! And, if you know someone who didn't enroll in preschool this fall, it's never too late to enroll for this year. There are still spots available!

As always thank you for your continued support of our program!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org
763-784-5326
facebook.com/AbidingSaviorPreschool/



POWER Up!

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

Coming Up:

January 4: POWER Up resumes

January 18: Families with children 5 years of age and older are invited to join the confirmation students at Feed My Starving Children. Sign up [HERE](#) if interested!

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.

Welcome Josh & Alex!

As mentioned on the front page of the Vinebranch, we are excited to welcome Josh and Alex Ertz as Abiding Savior's Interim Youth Mentors. Here is a word of introduction from Josh and Alex:

We are both long-time members of Abiding Savior and have been members of the Reigning Grace Worship Band for several years, which is actually how we met. We both grew up being very active in the youth program at our churches, Alex at Abiding Savior and Josh at St. Philip's in Fridley where Pastor Ryan was his Confirmation Mentor. The relationships we formed as youth with our peers and our youth leaders have meant so much to us throughout our lives. Some of our fondest memories are from participating in church activities when we were younger.

We have carried our love for youth programs into adulthood through volunteering. Alex was a small group leader for confirmation and we both have chaperoned many trips including to the Boundary Waters, the Ox Lake High School Retreat, and the most recent trip out to the Black Hills. We value the relationships we have formed with the youth and their families, and we look forward to growing those relationships.

In this interim time, we will continue hosting youth events. We look forward to seeing how the youth and family ministry programs transform in the coming years and we hope to provide valuable feedback to help shape the future direction of the program. In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to have a lot of fun and creating meaningful experiences together!

Mission

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

Giving Tree - Thank you all for your generous response to the Christmas giving tree! We have brightened Christmas for numerous neighbors, groups, and friends, young and old. Thank you for remembering those in need of some extra love and care. You are amazing!



Food Baskets of Hope - All meals, desserts, and snacks for four people for a week were packed and delivered to three local families struggling to make ends meet. Super-shopper Dawn worked her magic to stretch our giving budget so we can let neighbors know they are not forgotten. Thank you!

Shop with a Cop - Thank you for donating to Mounds View's Shop with a Cop program with gift cards. What a great way for children to spend time getting to know their local officers.

Food Shelf Courtesy - When bringing food to church for donation to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, please make sure packages are unopened and food is not beyond the "Use By" date. All food dates are checked before being dropped off and again at the food shelf. Expired items are thrown away and create unnecessary work for volunteers. Thank you for this simple courtesy.



Growing Through Loss Coming to ASLC - For anyone experiencing grief or loss, the spring 2023 sessions offering information, care, and support will be held Mondays beginning April 17th at ASLC. You can attend any or all sessions at no cost. Look for brochures or check online for details. A few volunteers will be needed for registration and serving snacks.



Growing Through Loss
Grief Support Series

Gardeners Needed - It's never too early to start planning for our Garden of Grace. 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!



Kitchen Help - Our congregation excels at sharing meals and the brunch, Wednesday supper, and funeral kitchen crews can always use a helping hand. If you could be "on call" to fill in when we are short-handed, please let the office or kitchen crew know. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!



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 2023! 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 \$7,300 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, 2023. 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 2022
Financial Highlights

2022	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	39,140	399,732
Festival giving	1,868	18,804
SUBTOTAL	41,008	418,536
Other income	9,312	60,235
TOTAL INCOME	50,320	478,771
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	54,285	591,818
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(3,965)	(113,047)
Benevolence paid	3,935	40,374

**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.

 **Offering Envelopes**
As of the printing of the Vinebranch, our 2023 offering envelopes have not yet arrived. We will send notification when they are ready to pick up at church.

**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



- A fun outing to the Church Basement Ladies production of "Plowin' Thru".
- Joining with our community in the church parking lot to watch the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department's Santa Parade.
- A beautiful telling of Christ's birth by our Sunday school children at during their Christmas Program.
- Yummy cookie trays to enjoy over Christmas made as a fundraiser for the upcoming El Salvador Mission trip. Thanks to all the bakers!!!
- Jesus, born in a manger, God's gift to the entire world.

Mission

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 COMMUNION Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee mtg	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 6:00 - 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 Facebook)	OFFICE CLOSED	
8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Brunch 3-5:00 Girl Scouts	9 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Lydia Circle	11 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 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir 7:00 El Salvador Trip Info Meeting	12 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook)	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion (worship also via Facebook Live)	16 MEALS ON WHEELS OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Jr Day)	17 MEALS ON WHEELS	18 MEALS ON WHEELS	19 MEALS ON WHEELS 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook) BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 - 6:30	20 MEALS ON WHEELS	21
22 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (worship also via Facebook Live) 11:00 Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser	23	24 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	25 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 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Conf. Service Nite 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	26 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook)	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (worship also via Facebook Live)	30	31 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	1 FEB. 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 6:00 - 7:00 Reigning Grace 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation & YGrip 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	2 FEB. 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook)	3 FEB. 6:30 Men's Faith and a Pint outing	4 FEB.

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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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

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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 January

- Jan. 1: Happy New Year - Blessings to you in 2023!
Worship with Holy Communion
- Jan. 3: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Jan. 4: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 2 for info)
- Jan. 5: Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 6: Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Worship
Brunch
- Jan. 9: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Jan. 10: Lydia Circle
- Jan. 11: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 2 for info)
- Jan. 12: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 15: Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
- Jan. 16-20: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Jan. 17: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Council Meeting
- Jan. 18: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 2 for info)
- Jan. 19: Women's Bible Study
Blood Drive (1:30—6:30)
- Jan. 22: Sunday School, Family Fellowship & Worship
Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser for El Salvador Trip
- Jan. 25: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 2 for info)
- Jan. 26: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 27: Men's Faith & A Pint Outing
- Jan. 29: Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Worship
- Jan. 31: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Lisa Richardson Engen, Associate Pastor

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/>.