



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

January 2025

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Abiding Savior 2025: God Goes With Us!

The new year is a time for reflecting on what has happened in the year that has passed. It is also a time of hoping and planning for what is to come. As a congregation, we can look back at so many ways God has been at work in and through Abiding Savior.



Some of the highlights of 2024 include the completion of our Abiding Here for 50 Years Capital Campaign, partnering to bring clean sustainable water to the village of Makungu, Tanzania, celebrating Pastor Marla's interim ministry with us and beginning a search for a new Associate Pastor. We had over 70 kids at VBS and over 300 at our Trunk or Treat. We continue to serve thousands of meals from our kitchen, provide scholarships in Tanzania, partner with CPY and Quincy House, and we celebrated my 15 years of service at Abiding Savior (Thank you). God is at work here!

As we look to the coming year, we see that God is calling us to keep on reaching out with love. We will offer life changing worship services. Growing faith in our youth and children is a top priority. We will hopefully conclude our search for a new associate pastor. We plan to send a group to visit our companion congregation in Makungu, Tanzania. We will make hundreds of visits to the sick and homebound and offer thousands of prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. We will find new ways to partner and bring God's love to others in our community and beyond. How exciting to think about what God has in store for us in 2025!

As we head into 2025 and, as we live together in God's love, we know that God goes with us. As Pastor Lisa would so often share during the blessing at the end of worship: *As you go on your way, may Christ go with you. May Christ go before you to show you the way. May Christ go behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over, within you to give you peace. Amen.*

Praying for a blessed 2025 for you and your family and for your church family at Abiding Savior.

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan



Connecting with your church council

President

Dawson Blanck

Vice President

Karn Matthews

Treasurer

Ben Schnabel

Secretary

Maren Hawkins

Members

Annika Bankston

Tanya Cox

Jackie Peterson

Sheryl Rogge

Jim Schlotterback

Micky Sonderman

Julie Zarambo

Ellen Zimmerman

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

To view Church Council Meeting Minutes: Visit: <http://abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/council-meeting-minutes/> (Password: ASLCCouncil)

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

Intentional and Regular 2025 Giving through Automatic Withdrawal

As we begin a new year, we start to make goals and maybe even “new year resolutions” for 2025. These goals and resolutions can be helpful to making the year a success and changing our habits for the better. The beginning of the year is also a great time to plan ahead for your charitable giving for the year.

Pastor Charles Lane in his book, *Ask, Thank, Tell*, writes that one of the characteristics of a biblical giver is that they give intentionally. An intentional giver has a strategy for their sharing. They make generosity a part of their overall financial plan and then they live out that plan of sharing throughout the year. A biblical giver does not share only when they feel like sharing, and they don't only share out of whatever is left over at the end of the month. They stick to their plan sharing intentionally and regularly.

As we enter into the new year, I encourage you to have a plan for your sharing and to execute that plan this year. One easy way to ensure that our giving is regular and intentional is to set up an automatic giving plan where your sharing with Abiding Savior is automatically given through electronic funds transfer every month. This intentional giving will help keep you on track in your sharing for the year and will ensure that Abiding Savior receives your gift whether you are in worship, at the cabin, or on the beaches of Florida. If you are interested in signing up for this service, please contact the church office.



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, 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 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.

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Meeting - Sun., February 9 @ 11:30AM

ANNUAL MEETING

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 2025 proposed budget will be presented. Come before the meeting for a meal with proceeds benefiting the Makungu Water Project.

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2024 Committee Reports for Annual Meeting



We will soon be preparing materials for the Annual Meeting which will be held on February 9. All committees should submit a Year End report to Katie, our Office Manager (office@abidingsavior.org) by January 10.



Women's Gathering Mon., Jan. 13

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 13 (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.

Blood Drive



Join us **Thurs., Jan. 9** 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.

FMSC Packing Event Wednesday, January 15



Abiding Savior has reserved 85 spots to pack food at Feed My Starving Children on **Wednesday, January 15**. 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. Absolutely NO experience necessary. Come and experience the joy of sharing!

Thursday Bible Study – Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith



Have you ever wondered what other Christians believe? Why are there so many different flavors of Lutheran? How does the Pentecostal Church compare with the Lutheran Church, or the Baptist Church, or the Catholic Church? What do Seventh Day Adventist, Mormons or Christian Scientists believe? How do you have a good discussion with a Jehovah's Witness at your door? As fellow Christians we have much in common, but we often fail to understand one another. We are curious about others who worship the God of Abraham through the Jewish and Muslim traditions. Where do we differ and where can

we find common ground? Do our prayers all go to the same place? And what about those who faithfully practice world religions unrelated to Christianity, like Buddhists or Hindus? Worshiping idols or believing in reincarnation are very different from our experience. Is one wrong and the other right, or might there be differing ways to be faithful? We will consider these and many more questions as part of the Thursday morning Women's Bible Study led by Pastor Marla.

Each week we'll reflect on different faith traditions, noting similarities and differences with the Lutheran faith. We'll ask questions about how these differences came to be and what they mean for us today. We'll explore the challenges of living in a pluralistic country - where people of many faiths and no faith live side-by-side, and we'll consider how we honor one another's beliefs while being faithful to our own understanding of God. We will occasionally welcome guest speakers from other faith traditions and will also take some field trips to visit other places of worship and learn first-hand about an interesting mix of beliefs and practices. Join us **Thursdays at 10AM** as we explore a wide range of faith traditions in a setting of fellowship and mutual support. Enjoy the delicious treats, prayer, music and supportive community that the Women's Bible Study provides. We hope to see you there.

Wednesday Schedule

- 4:30—6:15pm Dinner served
 - Jan. 8: Spaghetti
 - Jan. 15: Meatloaf
 - Jan. 22: Chicken ala King
 - Jan. 29: Turkey Dinner
- 5:30—6:30pm POWER Up
- 6:30—8:00pm Confirmation
- 7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir

Children's Time/Sunday School Changes

Thank you to parents for the feedback regarding our first semester of Sunday school. I've either gotten email responses or spoken to everyone, and I'm appreciative of your thoughts and the time you took to share them.

Beginning January 5th, we will return to our previous Sunday school format, meeting from 9:00-9:50 and including music/worship in each session.

Worship services will still include Children's Time during the sermon. Although this time will no longer be our worship/music component for our Sunday children's programming, it will potentially include music on an occasional basis.

We hope this change will enhance the quality of the time we spend with the children and are excited to welcome everyone back in January. **See you January 5th at 9AM!**
—Patty



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

— **JANUARY** —
Jan. 8: First Session of 2025

We can't wait to welcome you!

Abiding Savior Preschool

The first half of our school year has flown by! The kiddos have been busy making friends, learning all sorts of things, and spent a lot of time practicing for their annual Christmas program which was held just before Christmas break. The program was just about the cutest thing ever! We also offered a Scholastic Book Fair for the first time which was a lot of fun. We hope to make this an annual event.



As we move forward with our year, we have our school pictures coming up in February and we hope to have a couple of special inhouse guests to enrich the students' learning experiences as well!

February is right around the corner and that is when enrollment opens for the 2025-2026 school year! Please pass the word along if you know of anyone that is looking for either a preschool or toddler program!

As always thank you for your continued support of our program which is ever growing and changing!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org
763-784-5326

facebook.com/AbidingSaviorPreschool/
www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com



January Youth Events

Happy 2025 to all our youth! Here are a few special things going on in January — join us!

Sunday, January 5: Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale



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

Wednesday, January 15: Confirmation Service Nite *Feed My Starving Children*

Confirmation students, high school youth, families and friends are invited to come help volunteer at Feed My Starving Children! We will pack food from 7:00PM to 8:30PM. *Parents: Please note this 'end' time if you won't be going along so you can pick up your kids at FMSC around 8:45PM.* All ages are welcome (under 12 must be supervised by an adult). Please sign up outside the church office. Absolutely NO experience necessary. Come and experience the joy of sharing!



Sunday, January 19: Evening Youth Worship 3rd Sundays at 5:30PM

The youth of Abiding Savior help lead an exciting worship opportunity for people of all ages! Members of our youth program help lead a relaxed, contemporary worship service in the evening followed by dinner and fellowship. Come take part!



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

Bob's Bells Bring Bounty: Three cheers for Bob Wirtz, a singing bell ringer for the Salvation Army since 2007. He has raised over \$8,000! Bob likes to help others and is happy when people join in the singing. Give Bob a "Thanks" when you see him or let him inspire you to find a way to make a positive difference.



Giving Tree: Warmest thanks for your generous response to the Christmas giving tree! We have brightened Christmas for numerous neighbors, groups, and friends, young and old. 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. You are amazing!



Food Shelf Delivery Driver: Thank you Arne Espeseth for offering to drive food from church to Ralph Reeder. We love our volunteers and appreciate their time and efforts!



Gardeners Needed: It's never too early to start thinking about our Garden of Grace. Maybe you're getting seed catalogues already. 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: December's rescheduled drive is Thursday, January 9 here at church. Please donate if you can. Thank you donors and volunteers for this special gift.



Meals on Wheels Delivery Help Needed: Help deliver hot meals the week of January 13 or March 10. A little driving adventure with good aromas in your car, some exercise, and appreciative recipients. 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 better than none. Thanks for sharing!



join in **Join In:** Did you make a resolution to be more involved in 2024 and not get there? Bump that resolution into 2025 and join in! We have committees, teams, crews, odd jobs, and any number of ways that your involvement would be greatly appreciated. Let the office know what you're interested in or talk to the volunteers who keep things running smoothly. Big thanks!

May the New Year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path, and fills your heart with hope and strength throughout the year ahead.

Mark Your Calendars—Growing Through Loss

All of our lives are touched by the experience of grief of some kind. We know the pain of loss, of sickness, of death, of separation, of changes in our lives. Grief is hard. We need to know we are not alone in grief. 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.** Each session begins with a speaker on an aspect of grief. Then there will be an opportunity to meet in a small group with those experiencing a similar loss (loss of parents, loss of spouse, loss of child, separation or divorce, suicide loss, and transitional loss (empty nest, moving, job loss, broken relationship, financial setbacks). Mark your calendars and help spread the word. More details will follow in upcoming Vinebranches.

November 2024
Financial Highlights

2024	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	41,630	434,415
Festival giving	310	16,267
SUBTOTAL	41,940	450,682
Other income	9,813	73,711
TOTAL INCOME	51,753	524,393
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	46,137	539,537
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	5,616	(15,144)
Benevolence paid	3,692	39,404

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." 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.



- 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 our youth to go on a trip to the BWCA this summer. Thanks to all the bakers!!!

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

Notes of Thanks

Dear Abiding Savior Endowment Fund Committee— Thank you again for your generosity toward Humble Walk's summer programming. We had such a great summer thanks to your care, generosity and support!
—Humble Walk Lutheran Church

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time, talents, and financial gifts to the mission and ministry of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. You are a blessing and are appreciated!



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January

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 DECEMBER (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL) 10:00 Worship Service	30 DECEMBER	31 DECEMBER NEW YEARS EVE	1 NEW YEARS DAY HAPPY 2025!! OFFICE CLOSED	2 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	3 OFFICE CLOSED Un-decorating the church	4 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
5 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale	6	7 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	8 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	9 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 – 6:30PM 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
12 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Brunch	13 MLS ON WHLS	14 MLS ON WHLS 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting	15 MLS ON WHLS 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 – Wed. Night Supper 5:30 – 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 – 8:45 FMSC Outing 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir	16 MLS ON WHLS 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	17 MLS ON WHLS OFFICE CLOSED	18 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
19 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 5:30 Youth Led Worship	20 OFFICE CLOSED MLK JR DAY	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	22 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	23 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
26 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	27	28 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	29 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 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1 FEB Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
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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 January

- Jan. 1: Happy New Year - Blessings to you in 2025!
- Jan. 3: "Un-decorating" the Church
- Jan. 5: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Jan. 7: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Jan. 8: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Jan. 9: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
Blood Drive (1:30—6:30)
- Jan. 12: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship and Brunch following
- Jan. 13-17: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Jan. 13: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Jan. 15: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
Service Night at FMSC
- Jan. 16: Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 19: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
Youth-led Evening Worship and Dinner
- Jan. 20: MLK Day (OFFICE CLOSED)
- Jan. 21: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Council Meeting
- Jan. 22: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Jan. 23: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 26: Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship
- Jan. 29: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Jan. 30: 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/>.