



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

July 2023

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Capital Campaign Updates

We are now entering the second year of our two-year *Abiding Here for 50 Years* Capital Campaign. So far we have raised over \$243,144 to make necessary improvements to our building. Thank you for your generosity!



Here are some updates on the Capital Campaign projects:

- New electronic reader board sign on Red Oak Drive: **DONE**. The new sign is up and working and looks amazing! This is the most visible of all of the projects in the capital campaign and gives our church an updated look while getting our information out to the community
- Updating our lights: **DONE**. Every light in the building has been updated with new LED bulbs including the outside lights that shine on the building at night. If you haven't driven by the church after dark, you should come check out these new accent lights around the outside of the Sanctuary.
- Filling cracks, sealing, and restriping the parking lot: **DONE**. The parking lot is one of our greatest and most expensive assets as a congregation. It is important that we be good stewards of this resource.
- Updated Fire Warning System: **DONE**. The City of Mounds View informed us that we needed to update our fire warning system in the building to communicate directly with the fire department if we have a fire emergency.
- Updates to our HVAC system. **IN PROGRESS**. We are updating all of our thermostats and entire HVAC system from 1973 technology to 2023 technology. This will help our HVAC system to run more efficiently. As a part of this project we also replaced the air conditioning unit to the office and Coffee House area that had not been working for over two years. This HVAC upgrade is the most expensive and least visible project in the capital campaign.
- Brick clean up and repair: **SCHEDULED**. This Fall the exterior of our building will be cleaned, the expansion joints replaced, and any repairs to broken bricks and mortar will be repaired.



Thank you again for your generosity as together we are good stewards of the church building God has entrusted to us.

Blessings to you!

Pastor Ryan Brodin



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Stewardship Corner

Where Are My Offering Envelopes?

That is a good question that we have been asking for the past seven months! Last winter our envelopes were shipped to the wrong location and never arrived at Abiding Savior. We expected the company to get us our envelopes, but it appears they are not able to do so. There will be no “official” offering envelopes for 2023.

That being said, you can still make your gifts to the congregation in several different ways:

1. We have printed temporary offering envelopes that are available at every worship service. You can place your offering in the envelope and write your name on the outside. NO ENVELOPE NUMBER IS NEEDED! With just your name we can be sure to track your giving appropriately for your annual statement.
2. We will have bundles of the temporary envelopes available that you can take home with you to mail in your offering or prepare your offering at home before coming to church.
3. Electronic giving is a great way to share! 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.
4. 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.

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

Thank you for your continued generosity!



Men's Fishing Trip | September 22-24 | NEW location!

Mark your calendars now for the Fourteenth Annual Men's Fishing Trip to be held Friday, September 22 to Sunday September 24. This year we will be going to Camp Hiawatha on the Shores of Deer Lake just north of Grand Rapids, MN. Invite your friends and neighbors, sons and sons-in-law for a weekend of fishing and fellowship. The cost, including housing and all of our meals while at camp, bait, and gas for our boats and cars is only \$170 per person. We will be bringing our own boats to use over the weekend so if you have a boat, bring it along. If you don't have a boat, don't worry, others will share! Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Pastor Ryan leads this trip and offers evening devotions and Sunday morning worship. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120 or pastor-ryan@bidingsavior.org.

El Salvador Mission Trip Items Donation

Fifteen people from Abiding Savior are going on the El Salvador Mission Trip. They are planning to take with them small items that are donated by the congregation to be distributed and used by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in El Salvador in their work with the people. We are asking for small items that will pack easily into the personal baggage of the participants to be brought to El Salvador. Donations of cash are always the best donation. We will bring that money directly to El Salvador where it will be used where it is needed most. Please bring your donated items to the box located outside the Sanctuary in the Narthex.

Items they are seeking for donation are: toothbrushes and toothpaste, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, acetophenone, multi-vitamins, Band-aids, antibiotic ointment, thermometers, children's vitamins, pencils, scissors, calculators, pencil sharpeners, deflated soccer balls and pumps, hard candy, small toys, pens, other medical supplies, and cash donations.

Mission

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Summer Worship Indoors & Outdoors

This year we're alternating Sundays worshipping both outside and inside.

- On Communion Sundays (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month), we will worship inside.
- On non-communion Sundays (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month), we will worship outside (weather permitting).

MS/HS Youth Group July Events

Wednesdays 6:30-8pm

- July 5: No activity (4th of July)
- July 12: Water wars @ church
- July 19: Bike ride to Blue Sun Soda Shop
- July 26: Swimming at Long Lake Beach

FREE! **FAMILY MINISTRY EVENT** **SUNDAY, JULY 16, NOON - 2PM**

ARNDING SAVIOR CITY PARK SPLASH PAD
We've rented a pavilion nearby and will be firing up a grill with hot dogs and other yummy picnic-type foods. Invite friends or neighbors and enjoy some summer fun!
www.abidingsavior.org



Root beer Floats Sunday, July 23 following worship

On Sunday, July 23, we are having a root beer (& orange soda) float social following the 10:00am worship service. Worship that day will be outside, weather permitting. Join us as we enjoy a tasty summer treat and fellowship.

Abiding Savior Preschool Half Day Preschool & NEW Toddler Room

Please help spread the word about our preschool to neighbors, friends and family! Registration is available online <http://abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/preschool/>

Meals on Wheels Delivery



We will be delivering
Meals on Wheels

Wed., July 5 — Fri., July 7

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

Future weeks: Aug. 28—Sept. 1, Oct. 23—27, Dec. 18—22



Women's Gathering Mon., July 10

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 (come and stay 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.

Walk a Mile For Our Neighbors Sunday, July 30 | 9am-1pm



Grab a friend, your dog, your neighbor or your grandkids and take a walk in the park **Sunday, July 30 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Silver View Park in Mounds View (County I and Silver Lake Road)** to help support the Community Support

Center! *You do not need to raise money or get pledges, but donations are welcome and encouraged, and door prizes will be offered.*

This is a great opportunity to join other local churches to support the CSC. The Walk is CSC's only major fundraiser for the year for CSC's work with neighbors facing eviction and homelessness. Good exercise, good company, and a good cause - join in!



Our El Salvador Mission Trip participants will be gone July 31—August 7. Please keep them in your prayers!



Come to the Twins Game!

Tuesday, August 29—Twins vs. Cleveland Guardians
\$40 for a ticket, tailgating meal before the game & snacks for the game (or \$55 with coach bus ride to/from the game). Sign up at church (payment due when you sign up).

DO GOOD ☺ Come to Abiding Savior's Community VBS 2023! August 7-11, 9:00-noon ☺ DO GOOD

All children ages 3 (and potty-trained) through those entering 5th grade in the fall are invited to a week of Bible stories, music, games, crafts - it will be packed with fun!

[Register online](#), or in the church office. This is a **free program**, with donations gratefully accepted.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
[Contact Patty Mesenbring](#)

Trust in the LORD and DO GOOD.
Psalm 37:3

Abiding Savior Preschool Help Spread the Word!



We are moving through summer and can't wait to welcome our preschoolers back in the fall! We miss them!

Please help spread the word about our program! Our NEW toddler program is filling up fast! We are so excited for our new toddler teacher and all the fun things she will be doing in her programming this next school year! We are also very excited that our preschool teacher will be returning, because all the kids and families just love her! We may be small, but we are mighty!

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

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

Summer Fun - MS/HS Youth!

July Middle & High School Youth Events

All events are Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 PM and free unless specifically noted. Please speak with Alex/Josh if cost is an issue. And...parents are welcome!

- July 5: No activity (4th of July)
- July 12: Water wars at church
- July 19: Bike ride to Blue Sun
- July 26: Swimming at Long Lake Beach



DO GOOD ☺ Looking for an opportunity to DO GOOD? VBS Help Needed ☺ DO GOOD

Guides & Helpers

Guides and their helpers greet and supervise their group as they arrive each morning, then accompany them to the morning's opening gathering in the sanctuary. Afterwards, they lead them to each activity, supervising and offering assistance to children during those activities.

Activity Center Leaders and Helpers

Leaders and helpers are needed for Crafts and Games. Supplies are provided for each center leader, as well as a day-to-day manual explaining activities.

Photographer(s)

Snap candid photos as you roam around the morning's activities. These **photos** are compiled into PowerPoint presentations for each morning, as well as for Friday's family program and the Sunday service. If you're handy with PowerPoint, feel free to create slide shows. If not, you can provide the photos to our staff.

Floater

We often have volunteers who are unable to attend all mornings. Volunteers who are willing to step in and cover open volunteer slots as needed are very valuable.

CONTACT PATTY MESENBRING
(patty@abidingsavior.org)
IF YOU'RE AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER
AND WANT TO HELP DO GOOD!

Sign Up For "Remind"

Keep Up-to-Date on Youth Activities!

Text: @8211redoak
To: 81010

Remind allows you to receive Text and/or E-mail notifications for all of our youth events, volunteer/fundraising opportunities, and any important updates regarding the youth program! Parents and Students are welcome to join as long as you have a cell phone number and/or e-mail address! Remind also allows you to reply directly to our messages if you have any questions or need to reach Alex/Josh!

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Women's Bible Study *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

When
Bad Things
Happen to
Good People

THE INSPIRATIONAL #1 BESTSELLER
OVER 4 MILLION COPIES SOLD

HAROLD S.
KUSHNER

Did you ever wonder why bad things happen to good people? It's a question most of us ask from time to time as we look around the world and see things that just don't seem fair. The women's Bible study group will be exploring this question in more depth this summer as we read and discuss the classic book by Rabbi Harold Kushner.

Rabbi Kushner's son, Aaron, was born with a debilitating illness that caused much suffering and resulted in Aaron's death at age 14. This personal experience of family suffering, combined with Rabbi Kushner's pastoral role in accompanying people in his congregation through many life challenges, prompted him to delve into the question of where God is at when bad things happen to good people. He looks to Old Testament scriptures, prayer, and his relationship with God to guide his consideration of this difficult life reality.

Abiding Savior secured a Thrivent Action Team grant for purchasing the books and a generous individual will be covering the rest. Any women in the congregation who would like to participate in this study are welcome. The Women's Bible Study group meets each week on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to about 11:30 in our church Coffee House, led by Pastor Marla. We'll be studying this book starting July 13 through the end of August. Copies of the book will be available for people to pick up prior to that in the church office. The chapters are short. It's an easy read. It helps to read it, but you can participate even if you don't read the book since the questions it addresses are common to all of us and our discussion will draw heavily on our own life experiences. We hope you'll join us!

God's Work. Your Hands. Helping Others.

CSC Walk — Mark your calendar for the CSC Walk for Our Neighbors to be held July 30, 2023, at Silver View Park in Mounds View from 9 am to 1 pm, raising funds for the Community Support Center's work to prevent homelessness. We'll be hosting a station along the route and will be looking for volunteers to make it a fun day of community and fundraising. Lace up your tennies, grab a water bottle and a friend and join neighbors for a walk in the park. Can't make it to the walk? All donations received in July will automatically enter the donor in the door prize drawing for the three \$100 Visa gift cards. Mail to: Community Support Center, 1600 Silver Lake Road NW, New Brighton, MN 55112. Thank you!



The Community Support Center
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Coat Collection — We'll be collecting WARM winter coats for the October giveaway all summer and fall. If you're cleaning closets or garage sale shopping, consider donating some warm wear for our neighbors. Gently used, working zippers, school-age children sizes most needed. NEW hats only. Thank you!

School Supplies — If you run across some good back-to-school bargains, we will coordinate with Edgewood, Sunnyside, and Pinewood to distribute what is collected at church. Thank you for thinking of our young friends in the area.



Bring in Your Old Ink Cartridges

Old Glasses/Contacts

Do you have empty/used ink cartridges at home or your place of work? If so, place them in a bag/baggie and bring them in to the office's Coupon bin. They'll be turned in to raise funds that will be used for Irondale's fall school supplies.

Have you gotten a new eyeglass or contact subscription and have old glasses/contacts you no longer use? Or, old hearing aids? Bring them in to church for those in need!



LAWN-MOWING
TEAM

Get some fresh air and exercise! Help mow at church this summer!

We are still looking for some volunteers to help mow the church lawn this **July—October!** Team up with a friend or family member and sign up (either for the month, a particular week, or as a sub.) To sign up call the office or click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548acaa2ea1ff2-20232#/>

May 2023
Financial Highlights

2023	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	34,920	216,706
Festival giving	820	11,468
SUBTOTAL	35,740	228,174
Other income	8,026	22,131
TOTAL INCOME	43,766	250,305
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	55,470	274,419
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(11,704)	(24,114)
Benevolence paid	5,830	18,085

Notes of Thanks

Dear Church Family—
Our heartfelt thank you for your care, generosity, and support for the Irondale scholarship fundraiser in our daughter Ellie's name. Your group and individual efforts in preparing fun and varied auction baskets, your help and donations, your smiling presence at the event, and your continued care for us has been a blessing, needed and appreciated more than we can express. More than \$25,000 was raised on June 10th (final numbers not yet available), providing a very solid foundation for the fund. Warmest thanks!
—David & Lynn Isaacson

The Augustana Choir, John Hurty, and Augustana College extend a sincere thank you for being such excellent hosts for the choir when they performed in your sanctuary during their 2023 tour.

Thanks to those who have donated over 33 pounds of paper bags to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf! Amazing! A special thanks to those who have brought in used ink cartridges, too! We've been able to purchase 2 new backpacks already with some that have been received so far! Dawn, our coupon queen, brings in a particular amount each month to qualify for the gift cards!

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. Thank you!



ENDOWMENT FUND

Thrivent Choice Dollars & Thrivent Action Teams

If you are a Thrivent member, you may receive Thrivent Choice dollars that you are able to direct to Abiding Savior each year. Directing your choice dollars is easy. Just log in to www.Thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."



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.

Looking for Irondale Clothes



Have your kids outgrown their Irondale clothing? We are looking to collect gently used Irondale High School clothing to be made available to students in need next fall.

If you have any items to donate, please drop them off in the church office.

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Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

8211 Red Oak Drive
Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

Phone: 763.784.5120

Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Go Paperless

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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 July

- July 2: Indoor Worship with Holy Communion
July 4: Happy Independence Day!
OFFICE CLOSED
July 5—7: Meals on Wheels Delivery
July 5: OFFICE CLOSED (4th of July holiday)
July 9: Outdoor Worship
July 10: Women's Gathering
July 12: MS/HS Youth Group—Water Wars @ church
July 13: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
July 16: Indoor Worship with Holy Communion
Family Ministry Picnic @ MV Splash Pad
July 18: Quilting
Council Meeting
July 19: MS/HS Youth Group—Bike ride to Blue Sun
July 20: Bible Study
July 23: Outdoor Worship
Root beer Float Fellowship
July 26: MS/HS Youth Group—Swim @ Long Lake
July 27: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
July 30: Outdoor Worship
CSC Walk for Our Neighbors (9am-1pm)
July 31 - August 7: El Salvador Mission Trip

Pastors & Staff

- Ryan Brodin**, Senior Pastor
Marla Amborn, Interim Pastor
Josh & Alex Ertz, Interim Youth Mentors
Patty Mesenbring, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Janelle Schauer, Organist
Mary Larew, Vocal Choirs Director
Paul Weller, Bell Choirs 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/> so we can update our records. Thanks!