



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

June 2024

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God be with You!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor over the past year. It has been such a comfortable and natural fit, serving this congregation. I'm truly grateful for the way you welcomed me into your midst. Your hospitality made me feel appreciated from the very start. I have enjoyed getting to know you through your participation in the lively Bible studies, meaningful worship, personal visits, committee meetings, and women's retreat.



Throughout this time, I've seen you live into your name. Our heavenly savior is clearly abiding here! I see it in the many ways people volunteer their time and gifts in support of this ministry. I see it in the dedicated staff doing their work with a sense of mission and calling, with skill and expertise. I see it in Pastor Ryan's confident and faithful leadership of this ministry. I see it in the joyful music that comes from many gifted musicians blending together harmoniously in service of the ministry. I see it in dedicated cooks who nurture people in body and soul through their delicious home cooked meals. I see it in a work crew that devotedly cares for the building and grounds. I see it in the way that children and youth are nurtured and treasured, and the way elders are respected and valued, and the mutual care for everyone in between! I see it in the way you reach out to neighbors near and far in Christian love and care providing for physical and spiritual needs. I'm glad we have reenergized the Caring Visitors to expand the caring ministry.

There is a very positive energy in this congregation that fuels loving relationships and passion for service. There is a creative way of engaging with the surrounding community that meets people where they are at, and welcomes them in. The future for Abiding Savior looks bright as the faithful people of Abiding Savior continue worshipping and serving God in love and faithfulness.

In April our family was blessed with a new grandson, Hartley James Woodruff. Grandma duty calls me to care for him along with our other grandson, Beckham, when our daughter returns to work in July. So, I will be concluding my time as interim associate pastor at the end of June. Those of you who are grandparents can appreciate what a privilege and joy it is to spend time with grandkids. Those of you who are parents can appreciate how helpful it is to have grandparents involved in the lives of your children. I feel that God is calling me to devote my time to being a grandma.

I trust that you will soon call your new associate pastor. It is great that the congregation has made the commitment to financially support this position at ¾ time with benefits. That helps open the way for the person to come. I will continue praying for just the right pastor to answer your call.

It's hard to say "good-bye." So, it helped when I learned what "good-bye" really means. It is a contraction for "God be with you." When God is with you, we know that everything will ultimately be okay. For Christians, good-bye is not a final farewell, it's "So long, see you later!" So, as we say our good-byes at the end of the month, know that we're offering one another a blessing "God be with you till we meet again!"

In Christ's service— *Pastor Marla*

Graduate Recognition Sun., June 9 10:00am



Please join us on **Sunday, June 9** at 10:00am as we celebrate our 2024 ASLC high school and college graduates! They will be recognized during the church service and everyone is invited to a cake reception in their honor following the service!

**Living in God's love,
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Special Congregational Meeting | May 5, 2024

Abiding Savior held a special congregational meeting on Sunday, May 5, to discuss the possibility of increasing the new Associate Pastor position from half-time to three-quarter-time. The St. Paul Area Synod has informed us that there is little to no interest from potential candidates for a half-time position, but the Synod believes there will be more interest in a three-quarter-time position. Also, the Church Council believes that increasing the Associate Pastor to three-quarter-time will not only attract a larger pool of candidates, but also help us better grow into the congregation our strategic plan envisions as we ensure the success and growth of our ministries both within and outside our church walls.

Therefore the following motion was unanimously passed at the meeting:

- To increase the 2024 budget by a total of up to \$8,333.33 (4 months) and the 2025 budget by a total of \$25,000.00 to allow for the possibility of calling a new Associate Pastor at $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

The full minutes from this meeting are posted on the Abiding Savior website. If you have any questions or concerns about this meeting or the call process, please reach out to Congregational President Dawson Blanck, Call Committee Co-Chairs Brea Schultes and Sandra LaCroix, or Pastor Ryan Brodin.

Celebrating Our Grads Sunday, June 9 | 10AM Worship

Congratulations to all our graduates!
Those we know of include:

High School: Makena Bakeberg, Gavin Bourassa, Anna Brodin, Luke Brodin, Delaney Flint, Carson Christie, Jo Johnson, Lucy Lee, Maria Miller, Olivia Pearson, Payge Saunders and Conner Schwientek.

College: Adam Clausen and Sophia Hanson



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has been in conversation with the St. Paul Area Synod about finding available candidates for our Associate Pastor position. Now that Abiding Savior is open to calling a three-quarter time pastor, we are hopeful that we will be receiving the names of shortly and can begin the interview process. We will continue to keep you updated.

What is Stewardship?

There are many ways that people in the church define the word "stewardship". My favorite definition of stewardship is simply what we do with God has entrusted to us. There are all kinds of different stewardship that can fall under that definition. It could mean that we are called to be good caretakers of the planet that God has entrusted to us. It could mean that we are called as individuals to share the financial resources and material wealth God has entrusted to us. It can also mean the volunteering of our own personal time and out talents that God has entrusted to us.

Stewardship is not only a personal practice but can be practiced by groups of people as well. Communities, cities, state, countries, even the whole human race are called to be good stewards. Good stewardship for these groups of people can mean using the resources entrusted to them wisely and for the common good. In a community that can mean following a budget and making necessary repairs to infrastructure.

Stewardship applies to churches as well. As leaders at the church, we are called to be good stewards of the financial resources placed in the offering plate. As a congregation we are called to be good stewards of our beautiful building that God has entrusted to us. And we are called to use that building for worship, fellowship and faith formation, but also to welcome others to use our building for meetings and for service in the community.

May God bless us as we look to be good stewards in our lives, our community, and our church as we choose to wisely use and share the resources God has entrusted to us.

Mission

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Summer Worship Indoors & Outdoors

Summer is here! Like last year, year we plan to alternate 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).

We hope this gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy the different settings for worship and helps make it easier for those helping with set up/distribution. Invite a friend or neighbor and see you at worship!



Donuts for Dads Father's Day Celebration Sunday, June 16

On Father's Day, **Sunday, June 16**, we will be having donuts and coffee following the 10:00am indoor worship service. Join us in honoring and celebrating the important men in our lives as we enjoy a treat and good fellowship.





**Have Faith!
Community VBS
August 5-9, 2024
9:00-noon**

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.

Plus, yummy snacks and the most awesome volunteers you'll ever meet!

[Register online](https://www.abidingsavior.org) at [abidingsavior.org](https://www.abidingsavior.org).
This is a **free program for all**.

**VBS Volunteers
and Donations**

Please watch for opportunities to volunteer or donate supplies for our VBS program, which is offered free of charge to the community.

Sign-up sheets will soon be posted in the narthex, along with a list of needed supplies.

Excited to volunteer and don't want to wait to sign up? You can also contact Patty directly: patty@abidingsavior.org

Thank you

Thank you to all of our Sunday School and POWER Up families for your participation and support this past school year. We hope to see you for summer worship, family events and VBS, and we look forward to being together again in September!

Abiding Savior Preschool A Great School Year and Filling Up for Next Year!

Another year of school has wrapped up and is now only a memory. A lot of laughs and friendships were made throughout the year. We welcomed toddlers into our program for the first time and it was a huge success! What a great addition to our preschool family!

Looking forward to Fall 2024 we are still accepting enrollment in both classes, however, spots are filling up fast! We are currently full in the preschool classroom on Tuesday and Thursday mornings! Very limited spots open on Wednesday! Our toddler program has only 4 spots left! I have one family on a preschool waiting list which has never happened in my history with the program!

Please continue to spread the word about our program and most definitely check out our new website at www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com!

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

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



Summer Fun - MS/HS Youth!

June Middle & High School Youth Events

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

- **June 12: Bike Ride to Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop**
- **June 14: Outdoor Movie Night on Brad's Pad (movie starts at dusk)**
- **June 26: Mini Golf at Lilli Putt**
*Sign-up to follow



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, sign-ups, 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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God's Work. Your Hands. Helping Others.

Meals on Wheels

We're delivering again in early June. If you're interested in future deliveries, our schedule is July 29-August 2, September 23-27, November 18-22. Let Fern Fisher or the office know if you'd like to ride along with someone to check it out. Not sure about a regular route? Fill-in and substitute drivers are welcome and needed.



CSC Walk

Mark your calendars for the annual Community Support Center's Walk for Your Neighbors July 28th at Silverview Park in Mounds View. It's a great mixer with lots of walkers from lots of churches raising funds to support neighbors seeking long-term solutions to difficult financial situations.



The Community Support Center
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Printer Cartridges

Drop off empty printer ink cartridges in the office and Dawn will turn them in for store credits. She's always on the lookout for good deals for our Irondale student friends and this is one way to keep prices down. In April and May, funds from the old ink cartridges were put toward purchasing 10 high-school-age appropriate backpacks. The remaining \$7.50 cost for the backpacks was covered by the Irondale Fund.

Garden of Grace

All beds have been spoken for, a few have been repaired, planting is happening! Thanks to everyone involved, including CPY who will let young gardeners try out their green thumbs. Watch and see what miraculous things happen in our own backyard.



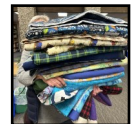
Thanks!

Heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who keep things happening at church during our busy school-year schedule! Enjoy a summer break and know your work is appreciated and vital to the life of our congregation.



More Quilts

Our small but mighty group of quilters have more quilts ready for delivery, this time to Bridging. Bridging helps families needing assistance with household set-up. What a caring gift to have a handmade quilt!



Coat Drive

The annual drive and October give-away is on the calendar for October 19th. If you see good deals on warm coats at garage sales, we'll happily collect them now in the social concerns trunk. Working zippers are a must and school age children's sizes are most picked over every year. Thank you for remembering our neighbors!



Bring in Your Old Ink Cartridges

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.



Old Glasses/Contacts

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!



April 2024
Financial Highlights

2024	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	35,608	160,227
Festival giving	1,045	15,388
SUBTOTAL	36,653	175,615
Other income	6,641	24,352
TOTAL INCOME	43,294	199,967
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,481	207,606
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(9,187)	(7,639)
Benevolence paid	3,051	13,787

**Women's Bible Study
"Singing Our Faith"**

Music is the language of the soul. Throughout June the Women's Bible Study will be singing and discussing the meaning of beloved hymns and songs. There will be a mix of guest musicians joining us:

- June 6: Pastor Jim Woodruff - favorite Bible Camp songs
- June 13: Randy Amborn - Gospel and Spirituals
- June 20: The Old Guys Play the Blues - Folk and Blues tunes
- June 27: Lisa Schlotterback - Top Favorite Hymns from the Women's Bible Study

We'll be exploring the rich stories behind many of our favorite hymns and worship songs, noting the deeper meaning they evoke. We'll spend time in scripture and reflect on how it shapes our worship music, life, and faith. We'll learn the real-life events, tribulations, and triumphs, that inspired the composers to put their stories to song. We'll share our stories of how this inspiring music speaks to us. And of course we'll sing! Do you need a little uplift? Come join the warm and welcoming fellowship of the Women's Bible Study. We meet Thursdays at 10AM.

**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.

Wanted: Office Help!



Do you like to help with odd jobs, answer phones, etc.? Our office staff could use some assistance, especially during staff meetings and when only one person is in the office (mornings, Mondays—Thursdays are most needed). If you are interested or have questions, please let Katie or one of the pastors know! Thanks, in advance, for your help!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 MAY	27 MAY	28 MAY	29 MAY	30 MAY	31 MAY	1
10:00 Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED Happy Memorial Day!	10:00 Staff Mtg	9:30 Cub Foods delivery	10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	
2 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion	3 MLS ON WHEELS	4 MLS ON WHEELS 10:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Committee Meetings	5 MLS ON WHEELS 9:30 Cub Foods delivery	6 MLS ON WHEELS 10:00 Women's Bible Study	7 MLS ON WHEELS	8
9 GRADUATION SUNDAY 10:00 Outdoor Worship Service (weather permitting)	10 CPY @ CHURCH 11AM-6PM 5:30 Women's Gathering	11 CPY @ CHURCH 11AM-6PM 10:00 Staff Mtg	12 CPY @ CHURCH 11AM-6PM 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 6:00 Bike Ride to Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop	13 CPY @ CHURCH 11AM-6PM	14	15
16 FATHER'S DAY 10:00 Worship with Communion SEEDS Camp at WAPO Youth Camp at WAPO	17 CPY 11AM-6PM Youth Camp at WAPO	18 CPY 11AM-6PM 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Council Meeting Youth Camp at WAPO	19 CPY 11AM-6PM 9:30 Cub Foods delivery Youth Camp at WAPO	20 CPY 11AM-6PM 10:00 Women's Bible Study Youth Camp at WAPO	21 OFFICE CLOSED SEEDS Camp at WAPO Outdoor Movie Night on Brad's Pad Movie starts at dusk	22 SEEDS Camp at WAPO
23 10:00 Outdoor Worship Serv ice (weather permitting)	24 CPY 11AM-6PM	25 CPY 11AM-6PM 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 Benedicistine Service	26 CPY 11AM-6PM 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 10:00 Gloria Peterson Visitation 11:00 Gloria Peterson Funeral 6:00 Mini Golf at Lilli Putt	27 CPY 11AM-6PM 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	28	29 OFFICE CLOSED
30 PASTOR MARLA'S LAST SUNDAY 10:00 Outdoor Worship Service (weather permitting) 11:00 Reception for Pastor Marla						

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Website: www.abidingsavior.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlc/>

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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 June

- June 2: Indoor Worship with Holy Communion
- June 3—7: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- June 4: Committee Meetings
- June 6: Bible Study
- June 9: Graduation Sunday
Outdoor Worship
- June 10: Women's Gathering
- June 12: Bike Ride to Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop
- June 13: Work Crew
Bible Study
- June 14: SEEDS at Camp WAPO
Outdoor Movie Night on Brad's Pad
- June 16: Father's Day w/ Coffee and Donuts
Indoor Worship with Holy Communion
- June 16-21: Youth Camp at WAPO
- June 18: Council Meeting
- June 20: Bible Study
- June 23: Outdoor Worship
- June 25: Quilting & Benedictine Service
- June 26: Gloria Peterson Visitation and Funeral
Mini Golf at Lilli Putt
- June 27: Work Crew
Bible Study
- June 30: Outdoor Worship
Reception for Pastor Marla's Last Day

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!