



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

March 2021

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Thanksgiving for the Cross

God our creator, in the death of your Son, you reveal your love for the whole creation. Sealed with the sign of the cross, you have claimed us as your children in holy baptism. In these Forty Days, lead us in our journey by the light of the holy cross until we come to the joy of Easter's Fifty Days. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen



One of the bedtime rituals when my children were growing up was to mark them on the forehead with the sign of the cross and remind them of their baptism, "Peace be with you. You are God's precious child. Jesus loves you." One night as I was tucking Andy in bed he asked, "Can you see the cross on my

head?" I said I could see it. He then went to the mirror and stretched on his tiptoes so he could see. After a long while he came back to bed and said, "I can see the cross on my head, too". Then he looked at my forehead and said, "I can see the cross on your head, too." And he traced it and gave me a blessing, "You are God's child too, Mommy." Some moments like that are etched in our minds forever. It is a tradition that is now carried on with my grandchildren and their families. I was recently tucking Leif and Lazarus into bed and they marked my head with the sign of the cross saying, "Peace be with you Grandma Lisa, child of God!"

You are invited to Lenten Worship this month! Our services will include a visit from a biblical character who will share their perspective as a witness to Jesus. These characters will bring us back in time to experience what Jesus meant to those closest to him during his life, ministry, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Join us as we hear these powerful testimonies that remind us who Jesus was and what Jesus continues to mean for us today.

- Mar. 3: Peter—Deacon Brad
- Mar. 10: Mary, Mother of Jesus—Pastor Lisa
- Mar. 17: Judas—Ben Schnabel
- Mar. 24: Mary Magdalene—Allison Brodin

Worship will be at 6:30pm via [Facebook Live](#). You may also attend in-person worship ([sign up required](#)). See the article on page 2 for more information.

The season of Lent, this journey in our lives together, is about seeing the cross of Christ. In the cross, we see the depth of God's love for us in Jesus who lays down his life for us sinners. We are marked with the sign of the cross as a reminder of who we are as children of God. Our lives and our future are shaped by the power of the Gospel. In this season of Lent, our eyes are turned to Jesus who laid aside his life to give us life. We see Jesus' heart. As our eyes are turned from being preoccupied with ourselves, Jesus changes our hearts and creates a new heart within us. From the cross, through Jesus' forgiveness, grace and love, we are joined together as God's family. Only God can create a new heart within us.

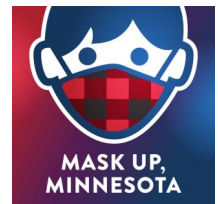
The theme for this year's Lenten services is "In the Cross of Christ I Glory". As we gather for worship online and in-person we will hear monologues from people who followed Jesus to the cross. I can see the sign of the cross on your forehead, too, for you are marked with the cross of Christ forever. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Pastor Lisa

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.

Abiding Savior Open for In-Person Worship

At its meeting on Tuesday, February 16, the Church Council at Abiding Savior approved a recommendation from the Abiding Savior Reopening Task Force returning to in person worship. All Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services are now open to in-person worshippers in addition to being streamed online through Facebook Live. At these worship services strict COVID compliance will be followed including mask wearing, social distancing, assigned seating areas in the pews, and a 125 maximum occupancy in the Sanctuary for worship services. The decision to reopen for in-person worship was made using the current COVID-19 data which shows the number of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths has been steadily declining. If the numbers start to trend in the opposite direction, we will adjust our policies accordingly. Our reopening guidelines meet with Governor Tim Walz executive order for occupancy at public events.



Although no one is discouraged from attending in-person worship, we encourage those who are content with online worship to continue worshipping in that way in order to keep our in-person worship numbers within a safe range. One factor in deciding to reopen for in-person worship was to allow those who do not have adequate access to the internet to be able to join in the worship experience of their congregation. Please click [HERE](#) to sign-up and reserve your spot for Sunday or Wednesday worship. If you don't have access to the internet, you may also call the church office to reserve your spot.

At this time the Council is not recommending resuming in-person Bible study, Sunday school, Confirmation, or other church meetings attended by more than ten people. They will revisit this decision monthly and make recommendations based upon the best data available concerning COVID-19 in our area and the needs of the people of the congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Ryan via email at pastorryan@abidingsavior.org.

Thank you for your understanding as together we navigate this pandemic living in God's love!

Stewardship Corner Pastor Ryan Brodin



Generosity Begets Generosity

As many of you know our Free Hot Meals program on Wednesday evenings has been going on for over a month now. Through financial donations and hours of volunteering, this program has been a success serving over 100 meals a week out of the kitchen at Abiding Savior free of charge to anyone who needs a hot meal in our community. Thank you to everyone who has shared to make this program happen!

Some of those free hot meals have been delivered to people living in senior apartments in the area who cannot get out on their own. Sometimes these seniors can go weeks without having a good homecooked hot meal. Although we do not ask for or encourage any kind of payment or donation for the meals, some of these seniors were so excited that we were doing this program for them and for families and others in our community, they wanted to give back to help the program continue. Without ever asking, and out of the kindness of their hearts, we have received over \$600 in donations for the Free Hot Meals program from these seniors.

I thought this was a lovely story to share about how generosity begets generosity. Abiding Savior had a calling from God to feed others in God's name. When there is a need and a calling, God will help provide the resources of money and match that with the resources of competent volunteers to make something amazing happen. We are blessed to be a blessing with each one of those meals served and those receiving the meals are filled with gratitude toward God leading to joyful generosity. Keep sharing of yourself and your resources as together we live in God's love!

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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, March 3rd from 10:30-11:30am
- Wednesday, March 17th from 5:00-6:00pm

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!

Blood Drive



Join us **Thurs., Mar. 4th** from **1:30pm—6:30pm** for our blood drive! Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment. Masks are required!

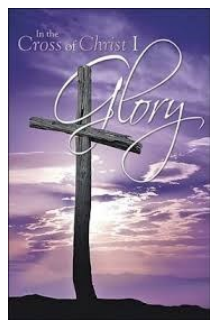
Meals on Wheels



We will be delivering **Meals on Wheels** **March 15th—19th**



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



Lent 2021 In the Cross of Christ I Glory!

Mid-Week Lenten Services
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Online or in-person
([registration required for in-person worship](#))

FILL A BAG FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD SHELVE



Respond to food insecurity in our community by filling a grocery bag with much needed food and household items for Ralph Reeder.

- Granola Bars (without nuts)
- Kid-Friendly Crackers
- Mayonnaise
- Salad Dressing
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Tuna
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Cups
- Pudding Cups
- Hamburger Helper/Tuna Helper
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Toilet Paper and Kleenex
- Deodorant/Anti-Perspirant
- Laundry Detergent/Cleaning Supplies
- Dishwasher Soap/Tabs
- Baby Wipes
- \$10.00 Grocery Gift Cards for Easter Hams



Donations can be dropped off at church

Easter Fun on Zoom!

Join Patty on
Saturday, March 27th
11:00 - noon

- Listen to spring stories
 - Play a game
 - Sing a silly song
- Learn to draw a bunny

You will find the Zoom link on the church website.



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](#).

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](#).

Older children meet with Patty 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.

*Watch for upcoming information about a [First Communion class](#).

Middle School and High School Youth News

Confirmation Schedule for March



Mid-Week Lenten Services with your Mentor

Throughout Lent, all 6th through 8th graders are expected to attend our Wednesday Lenten services (or watch online) and discuss the service with your Mentor using the Lenten Worship Discussion Sheets. The Discussion sheets are available on the church website under [Confirmation Resources](#). Regular Wednesday night classes will begin again after Easter.

Support the 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.



We are currently able to help support about 5 students in secondary school. We met some of them on our Mission Trip to Tanzania and they shared their deepest thanks "Asante sana!".

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

Abiding Savior Preschool Getting ready for Fall 2021!



Preschool registration has begun for the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to welcome back existing students as well as new families with a new flexible schedule that will fit each family's busy lifestyle. Spread the word! Registration is available online.



We are selling Butter Braids for our spring fundraiser! New this year: You can order [online](#) (or by visiting www.abidingsavior.org for the link). Order forms will also be available in your bulletin in the Narthex at church.

Grief Support Series—Spring 2021

Growing Through Loss is a series that provides an opportunity for individuals to obtain information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues. This spring's series will be held here at Abiding Savior, Tuesday evenings from 6:45-9:00pm. The sessions will also be posted online. For more information, call Nancy Jahnke at 763-755-5335 or feel free to speak with Pastor Lisa.

- Apr. 6 Understanding Grief and Loss
- Apr. 13 Emotions and Self Care While Grieving
- Apr. 20 Coping with Grief: A Personal Story
- Apr. 27 Grief as a Family Affair
- May 4 Complicated and Cumulative Grief
- May 11 Where is God in Our Suffering



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God's work. Our hands.

March is Food Share Month

We will be collecting donations of money and food for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf during March through April 8th. Demand for food assistance has been high during the pandemic. Please label monetary donations or drop off food items in the shopping cart at church. Please be sure food is not past the "Use By" date. Thank you for continuing to care about our neighbors.



Meals on Wheels

Abiding Savior provides delivery drivers for Meals on Wheels one week every nine weeks. Our next turn is March 15-19. Here's what is involved: Pick up meals (separate hot and cold portions) for one of several routes at Unity Hospital at 11:30. Delivery routes are in the Fridley-Columbia Heights area and may have five to ten stops. The time involved is 60-90 minutes. Please call Fern Fisher if you can help. Thank you for considering this opportunity to be our hands doing God's work.



Save the Date and Cross Your Fingers

The Community Support Center is hoping to Walk A Mile For Our Neighbors this July 25th at Silver View Park in Mounds View, pending safe conditions for outdoor events can be met by then. Because the Sing for Your Neighbors concert and Spring Luncheon are not possible this year, the Walk will be the major source of fundraising for the year for the CSC's work with neighbors facing eviction and homelessness. Please keep these families in your prayers and stay tuned for more information.

Wednesday Meals to Go

Thank you to the volunteers who are making hot meals to go on Wednesdays. Our cooks, waitstaff and dishwashers, runners and meal delivery people are the embodiment of God's work, our hands. [Sign up online](#) by noon Monday to pick up a hot meal between 4:30 and 5:30 Wednesday.

12th Annual Roy Andermann Memorial Men's Fishing Trip June 25-27



Mark your calendars now for the Twelfth Annual Men's Fishing Trip to be held on June 25-27th at Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp in Spicer, MN, on the shores of Green Lake. Invite your friends and neighbors, sons and sons-in-law for a weekend of fishing and fellowship. We will leave Friday morning and be back Sunday evening. The cost, including housing in hotel style rooms each with their own bathroom, all of our meals while at camp, bait, and gas for our boats and cars will be \$200 per person. As of now the camps policy due to

COVID requires that we each have our own individual rooms unless you are staying with someone in your family. If the camp rules change due to changing data on the COVID 19 virus, we may be allowed to share rooms and also share the costs of the room. 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.



We're thinking positive and hoping to have our craft sale this coming November! Even if you "think" you're not a crafter, you could surprise yourself! If you are finding yourself home a lot these days, start thinking about what you could do to make our sale great! Even the smallest project would be awesome! If you have access to the internet, just look at JoAnn, Michael's, Pinterest, or any other craft-type website for ideas. You might even find ideas using what you already have on hand at home!!! So, start thinking and doing!!! It would be fun to make this craft sale the best ever!!! If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Quarberg.

January 2021
Financial Highlights

2021	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	40,561	40,561
Festival giving	—	—
SUBTOTAL	40,561	40,561
Other income	2,912	2,912
TOTAL INCOME	43,473	43,473
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	46,162	46,162
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(2,689)	(2,689)
Benevolence paid	4,831	4,831

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



Our 2021 Council members are: Gary P. Engen (Pres.), Dawson Blanck (VP), Annika Bankston (Treas.), Ron Huesman (Sec.), Bill Delfs, Karen Mills, Marilyn Quarberg, Lisa Schlotterback, Ben Schnabel, Matt Schwartz, Lori Wagner, and Bob Wirtz.

To view the Church Council Meeting Minutes, please visit: <http://abdingsavior.org/OutreachPro/council-meeting-minutes/> with PASSWORD: **ASLCCouncil**

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 or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice®." You have the power to recommend where Thrivent Financial gives back!



FREE HOT MEALS AVAILABLE

Abiding Savior is excited about continuing our Wednesday Hot Meals To Go program. This program is available for anyone in our congregation or community experiencing food insecurity or who could benefit from a home cooked hot meal. You must register ahead of time for a meal by calling the church or signing up via [SignUpGenius](http://SignUpGenius.com).

Meals are free of charge and can be picked up in the parking lot of Abiding Savior between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. Meals will be brought out to your vehicle.

The meals are all home cooked in the kitchen at Abiding Savior and include a side dish and veggie.

Words of Thanks

Dear members of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church—

Thank you so much for your generous donation. Requests for food and other services have reached record levels in our area as we continue to help those who have been impacted from the long lasting effects of the pandemic. Your critical support ensures that all of our neighbors in need have access to nutritious food and support services to help them get back on their feet. Thank you again for joining us in the fight against hunger.

—Ralph Reeder Food Shelf

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEBRUARY 28	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00 Worship Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)	10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM 6:30 Committee meetings (as needed)	10:30 – 11:30 Communion & Prayers 4:30 – 5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 6:30 Lenten Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live)	10:00 Women's Bible Study (via Facebook Live)			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 Worship Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)	10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM	4:30 – 5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 6:30 Lenten Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live)	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (via Facebook Live)			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 Worship Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)	MEALS ON WHEELS	10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM 6:30 Council Meeting via ZOOM	MEALS ON WHEELS	MEALS ON WHEELS	MEALS ON WHEELS	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 Worship Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM	4:30 – 5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.) 5:00 – 6:00 Communion & Prayers 6:30 Lenten Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live)	10:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (via Facebook Live)		Easter Fun on Zoom with Patty 11:00 - noon
28	29	30	31	1 APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY	2 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY	3 APRIL
10:00 Worship Service (in-person or online via Facebook Live) Sunday School (pre-recorded session online)		10:00 Staff Meeting via ZOOM	4:30 – 5:30 Meal to Go (sign up req.)	10:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (via Facebook Live)		
				6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship (in-person or online via Facebook Live)	6:30 Good Friday Worship (in-person or online via Facebook Live)	

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
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Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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 March

- Mar. 2: Committee Meetings (as needed)
- Mar. 3: Communion and Prayers (10:30—11:30 ~ Narthex)
Wednesday Night Meal to Go
POWERUP (online)
Lenten Worship (in-person or online)
- Mar. 4: Bible Study (online)
Blood Drive (1:30—6:30pm)
- Mar. 7: Worship (in-person or online)
Sunday school (online)
- Mar. 10: Wednesday Night Meal to Go
POWERUP (online)
Lenten Worship (in-person or online)
- Mar. 11: Work Crew & Bible Study (online)
- Mar. 14: Worship (in-person or online)
Sunday school (online)
- Mar. 16: Council Meeting via Zoom
- Mar. 17: Wednesday Night Meal to Go
Lenten Worship (in-person or online)
- Mar. 18: Bible Study (online)
- Mar. 21: Worship (in-person or online)
Sunday school (online)
- Mar. 24: Wednesday Night Meal to Go
Lenten Worship (in-person or online)
- Mar. 25: Work Crew & Bible Study (online)
- Mar. 27: Easter Fun on Zoom (11:00—noon)
- Mar. 28: Palm Sunday Worship (in-person or online)
Sunday school (online)

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
Paul Weller, Bell Choir Director
Katie Brouillard, Office Manager
Amy Haugen, Office Assistant
Connie Clausen, Office Assistant
Steven Hill, 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://www.abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/update-my-contact-information/> so we can update our records. Thanks!