



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

March 2023

in this issue

Be a Part of the Musical	2
Special Events	3
Youth News	4
God's Work. Our Hands.	5
Words of Thanks	6
March Calendar	7

There is a Time for Everything

"There is a time for everything and a season for every purpose under heaven." ~Ecclesiastes 3:1



After being called to Abiding Savior to serve as Pastor for Congregational Life and Outreach my first sermon included the following prayer: *"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures by which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good*

courage not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord."

That was twenty-five years ago and what a wonderful journey it has been! Now I sense God calling me to move to a new season in my life, that of retirement this spring. It has not been an easy decision but it is time for me to step away from full time ministry, slow down, breathe, and practice better self-care of my body, mind, and spirit.

I look forward to spending more time with my husband, Gary, who has been so very patient with my demanding schedule these past three and a half years of marriage. We plan to do some traveling and more fully enjoy day to day life together. Also, I am a grandma of 9 children under age 10 and Gary has three grandchildren as well. We plan to spend more time being there and cheering for them during these busy years that go by so quickly. We will continue to live one block from church. Abiding Savior will still be our church home and we will continue to be part of the congregation. I will have to get used to the view from the back pews where Gary has sat all these years!

I can't begin to tell you how thankful I am for the honor and privilege of sharing life with you as a pastor at Abiding Savior. We have walked together through all that life brings: joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, and simply ordinary day to day life across all generations. Through sharing these experiences you have taught me what it means to live in faith and trust in God's steadfast love and grace giving us a future of hope.

After a period of several months off I may be open to a limited part-time pastoral care role at Abiding Savior. On Sunday, March 26th, I have been told there will be a gathering to celebrate my twenty-five plus years of service at Abiding Savior. I will be participating in Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services then close out my full-time responsibilities by the end of April. I leave with this scripture that was in my first Annual Report from 1998:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." ~Philippians 1:3-6

Join us for a brunch honoring Pastor Lisa on Sunday, March 26
Details on page 3!



WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

- 4:00—4:45pm
 - Lenten Worship
- 4:45—6:15pm
 - Lenten Soup Supper
- 5:00—5:30pm
 - Celebration Ringers
- 5:30—6:00pm
 - King's Messengers Choir
- 5:30—6:00pm
 - POWER Up
- 6:00—6:25pm
 - WWJD Choir
- 6:00—6:25pm
 - POWER Up
- 6:30—7:15pm
 - Lenten Worship
- 7:15—8:00pm
 - Adult Choir

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

Pastor Ryan Brodin



The Importance of Continued Generosity through Church Transitions

Abiding Savior has been blessed to have long tenures for their staff, especially their pastors. This is my 14th year at Abiding Savior, Deacon Brad had been on staff for ten years, and Pastor Lisa is retiring after serving here for 25 years! This is a testament to caring environment here in this congregation.

Our congregation is entering a time of transition or the first time in a long while. Change and transition are natural in the life of a congregation, but they can also cause some feelings of uneasiness. Although they will be missed, Deacon Brad leaving and Pastor Lisa retiring and moving into a new role provide Abiding Savior with an opportunity to reflect on who we are as a congregation and what staffing needs we have moving into the future God has in store for us.

As the Church Council contemplates where God is calling us, some of the decisions that will be made, especially about staffing, will be dependent not just on our calling but on the resources available to the congregation. In other words, as a church we need to continue being generous through this time of transition so that we have an abundance of resources to hire and staff according to the mission God is calling us to live out in this community and beyond.

We are a healthy and vibrant congregation full of God's love and caring. Your continued generosity is needed and greatly appreciated as together we look to the future living in God's love.

Share Your Voices in the Musical!

YOU are invited to join an important tradition at Abiding Savior: presenting the musical, "Who Is It That You Say I Am," written by Pastor David Rogge. Musicians of all ages from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, along with musicians and friends from the community will present the musical "Who Is It That You Say I Am?" Palm Sunday, April 2. The one hour musical will be presented for personal pondering through music, motion, dance and cameo scenes of the disciples. You will find yourself involved in the betrayal of Jesus, in the crowd at the crucifixion and at the tomb with the joy of the resurrection.

Most rehearsals will take place on Sundays (after church) & Wednesdays (after the 6:30pm service) in March:

- Wednesday, March 15; Sunday, March 19; Wednesday, March 22; Sunday, March 26; and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, April 1.

Those who are interested in participating in any capacity should sign up outside the office and/or email Abiding Savior's Choir Director, Mary Larew - mary@abidingsavior.org. Many people who aren't currently in choir have already signed up to participate. We hope you sign up, too!

"Who Is It That You Say I Am" is the question that reverberates in all human hearts. The presentation does not assume to answer the question for you, it simply asks, and leaves it hanging in your heart for you to draw your own conclusions. Come and celebrate with us. Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday. Come experience the Passion like it was meant just for you.



The Augustana Choir, from Rock Island, Illinois, will present a concert at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29th**. We are truly blessed to have this top notch Lutheran Choir performing in our Sanctuary. Under the direction of Jon Hurty, this 52 voice choir will sing a diverse selection of traditional and contemporary choral works. The Augustana Choir tours nationally and internationally and has been invited to sing at many state and regional conventions. The Mounds View High School Choir, under the direction of Sarah Waller, will be joining the Augustana Choir for this performance.

As hosts for this exciting concert, we are asked to provide overnight host homes for the Augustana Choir members. If you are willing to host two to four (or more) of the students, please let the church office know. Hosting requires providing a place to sleep, breakfast, and bringing the students back to the church on Thursday morning. Please contact Pastor Ryan if you have any questions.

Mission

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.

Lenten 'Soup' Suppers

Wednesdays 4:45—6:15

Served by groups to benefit special causes!

- March 1: Chicken Taco Soup—benefiting Preschool
- March 8: Chicken Wild Rice—benefiting WAPO
- March 15 TBD—benefiting El Salvador Mission Trip
- March 22: Waffles (Mounds View Lions)—Food Shelf
- March 29: Spaghetti—Augustana Choir Concert

First Communion Class Sun., Mar. 5 @ 9:00-9:50am



Pastor Lisa will lead a First Communion class for **fourth grade students and their parents, or another significant adult**, on March 5 during the Sunday school hour, 9:00-9:50 a.m. Although in previous years the class was usually held on or closer to

Palm Sunday, this year we had to consider Spring Break dates and the fact that some participants may be involved in the musical to be presented on Palm Sunday.

Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6.

An email regarding this class was sent to families in mid-February. If you have a child who should be attending this class but have not received this information, please contact Patty Mesenbring (patty@abidingsavior.org) or phone the church office. You may also [email Patty](#) with any questions.

Note: Older students who have not yet taken this class are invited and encouraged to attend. Please [contact Patty](#).



RETIREMENT BRUNCH
HONORING

Pastor Lisa

March 26, 2023
following worship

Please come and show your appreciation of Pastor Lisa and her years of ministry to all of us at Abiding Savior!

Lent 2023

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Mid-Week Lenten Services
Wednesdays 4:00 at 6:30pm*

Our theme for these Wednesday services is "Who Do You Say That I Am?" This is the question that Jesus asked Peter and it is a question for all of us to contemplate as we journey through the Season of Lent. Who is Jesus to us and how does knowing Jesus change the way we live our lives? Join us this Lent as we explore that question and journey together toward our Easter celebration.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 1 | Jesus the Good Shepherd |
| March 8 | Jesus the Light of the World |
| March 15 | Jesus the True Vine |
| March 22 | Christ the King |
| March 29 | Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life
(4:00 service only) |

*No 6:30 service on Wednesday, March 29, due to the Augustana Choir Concert.

Meals on Wheels



We will be delivering
Meals on Wheels

Mon., March 13 — Fri., March 17

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



Heggies Pizza & Butter Braid

Help support our preschool!
Order forms available in the church bulletin or by
contacting preschool@abidingsavior.org.

Blood Drive—March 16

1:30– 6:30pm Sign up now @ redcrossblood.org



**AUGUSTANA
CHOIR**

Wednesday, March 29
7PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
(see information on pg. 2 for more information)

Abiding Savior Preschool - Building a Strong Foundation

February has been a busy month for our program! We had our Valentine's Day parties on February 13 and 14 which is always a big hit with the preschoolers! They handed out treats to their friends and even sang a couple of songs for their parents at the end of the day!

We also had school pictures taken and all the kids brought huge smiles to school that day! It is always fun to see how they interact with the photographer and how the photographers are able to catch their best smiles!

Preschool hosted an Open House for new and existing families to come out and explore our classroom and to register for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year! *Please help us spread the word about fall registration!*

We began our Heggies Pizza & Butter Braid Fundraisers this month as well! Order forms are available in the in Narthex, you can email preschool@abidingsavior.org or message me on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AbidingSaviorPreschool/) to place an order. Pizza orders are due March 6 and will be delivered March 23. Butter Braid orders are due March 12 and will be delivered March 29.

It has been a busy month for preschool! Lots of fun things were packed into a few short weeks! Thank you so much for your continued support of our preschool program!



Jen Boog, Director

Preschool@abidingsavior.org; 763-784-5326; facebook/AbidingSaviorPreschool

POWER Up! Wednesday Night Kid's Devotions

Where faith meets fun in a powerful way.

If you haven't yet joined us this year, we'd love to welcome you.

*Hear God's word, share thoughts and ideas,
and have fun creating, playing and exploring.*

Note: The POWER Up session for the younger children will be shortened during Lent to allow families time to transition to the evening worship service.



****March 15—No POWER UP (spring break) ****

5:30-6:00 2nd through 5th grade

6:00-6:25- 4-year-olds through 1st grade

6:30—Lenten Worship Service (sanctuary)



*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.*

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.

For Your Calendars:

March 5: First Communion Class for 4th grade students in the Coffee House
(see separate article on pg 3)

March 12: Sunday school children sing during 10:00 worship.

There is no fee for Sunday school, but we ask that you [register your child](#) to ensure we have contact information, and are aware of any allergies/medical concerns.

Middle School and High School Youth News

MS/HS Lock-In: Friday, March 10—Saturday, March 11

Abiding Savior Youth will be having a Middle and High School Lock-In on Friday, March 10 to Saturday, March 11. Drop off at 6:30 Friday Night and Pick Up between 9 and 10 AM on Saturday. We will have dinner, breakfast, and snacks available as well as plenty of games and activities! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help make breakfast, feel free to contact Alex and Josh

Cinnamon Roll Sale: Sunday, March 5

Come at 8:30am to bake & stay after church to sell!

Lenten Services—Remember there is no Confirmation during Lent, but youth should be attending Lenten services each Wednesday at either 4 or 6:30pm with their mentor.



Mission

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.

Meet Our Church Council

Our 2023 Council members are:

Dawson Blanck (Pres.), Karn Anderson Matthews (Vice Pres.), Ben Schnabel (Treas.), Maren Hawkins (Sec.), Annika Bankston, Tonya Cox, Ryan Gunderson, Jim Schlottback, Micky Sonderman and Julie Zarambo. Thank you to your service to our congregation!!

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



God's Work. Our Hands.

Souper Bowl Gratitude: Thanks to all who contributed. \$245 dollars was raised for Meals on Wheels on Super Bowl Sunday. The excess of Super Bowl Sunday is a good time to remember our fellow beings who are in need. Your caring donation makes a difference!



Meals on Wheels Delivery: Our church's next week to deliver Meals on Wheels from Unity Hospital is March 13 - 17. Please talk to Fern Fisher or the office if you are interested in learning more about helping.



Blood Drive March 16: The next blood drive at Abiding Savior is Thursday, March 16 from 1:30—6:30pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit red-crossblood.org and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment if you can share the gift of blood.



Earthquake Response: Our congregation is making a contribution for Turkey-Syria earthquake relief through the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response. They have a very informative website, if you'd like to know more about their work or would also like to donate. Please pray for the thousands of people affected by the earthquakes and aftershocks, shattering families, homes, and daily life.



March is MN FoodShare Month: February 27 to April 9 is this year's FoodShare collection period. Please consider bringing groceries to church or making a designated offering to boost the stocks at our local food shelf. Minnesotans made more than 5,500,000 visits to food shelves in 2022, according to Hunger Solutions. Seniors are among the fastest growing populations seeking assistance. Most needed are flour, sugar, oil, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and sauce, canned tuna and chicken, baby food, personal hygiene items, and laundry detergent. Thank you for sharing!



Growing Through Loss at ASLC: For anyone experiencing grief or loss, the spring 2023 sessions of offering information, care, and support will be held Mondays beginning April 17 through May 22 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. Please let the office know if you are interested in helping.



Gardeners Needed: It's almost time for planting in our Garden of Grace. If you or your family or group would like to claim a plot, please let the office know. Thanks to the property committee, water is more accessible this year! You can use the produce you grow in any way you see fit. We hope to see you out in the garden soon.



Broadway Dinner and Show—Saturday, April 22

Mark your calendars now for a night of good food, fellowship and entertainment as the Abiding Savior El Salvador Mission Trip hosts a Broadway Dinner and Show. Tickets are \$25 per person which includes a sit down meal followed by a Broadway Review showcasing the talents of members of Abiding Savior and other guests. Tickets will go on sale starting Sunday, March 19. Don't miss this night of fun supporting a great cause!



Thrivent Members!

Thrivent Choice®
Making generosity easy

thrivent® [Donate or Direct →](#)

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 have until **March 31, 2023**, to direct your choice dollars earned in 2022.



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

Thank you to everyone
who volunteers
of their time and talents
at Abiding Savior!
You are appreciated!



Endowment Fund Gifts

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.

Speak with Pastor Ryan if you have questions about giving to the Endowment Fund!



ENDOWMENT FUND

Words of Thanks

Thank you to all who helped make the service for Bob so beautiful and to all who worked so hard on the wonderful luncheon. I'm so blessed to have such a faithful church family. With love—
—Mae Malmquist

Thank you so very much. My kids and I so appreciate your gift of kindness. Bless you all!
—Recipient of Mission Outreach Christmas basket

Thank you so much for the donation of wonderful knit winter wear and school supplies. They come in handy these cold winter days and students needing extra supplies. We appreciate it!
—Edgewood Middle School

I want to express our sincere gratitude for your donation to Impact Services (Meals on Wheels). You are helping to bring much needed nutrition and independence to seniors and people with disabilities in our community! This act of kindness will always be appreciated. You should see the gratefulness and joy on the faces of our neighbors when volunteers stop by with a friendly hello and hot meal.
—Donna Hemmer, Exec. Dir.

Thank you so much for your gift to Ralph Reeder. Our shelves and coolers are once again replenished with a large variety of nutritional foods and we are ready to meet the needs of the thousands of individuals that visit our food shelf each month. —Lisa Baker @ Ralph Reeder

A heartfelt thanks to all who sent so many cards and gave memorials when my mother, Shirley Strand, passed way. I am truly blessed to have so many friends who are like family to me at ASLC. Love—
—Gloria Pettis

Love and thanks to our ASLC family for your many kindnesses following the death of our daughter, Ellie. From cards and gifts, feeding a crowd, help with the service and parking, to your many prayers and hugs - every gesture has been appreciated.
—David & Lynn Isaacson

Once again, I found myself at your church, this time for Ellie Isaacson Kahut's beautiful Celebration of Life service. And, once again, I was touched by the inspiring outpouring of service and support by members of your church. Your gracious hospitality warmed the building. "Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters ... Share with the Saints in their needs; pursue hospitality." Romans 12:10,13
—Anne Bechtold

March

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1 MAR	2 MAR	3 MAR	4 MAR
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (worship also via Facebook Live)		8:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	4:00 – 4:30 Lenten Service 4:45 – 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp/WWJD 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15 – 8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship First Communion Class 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion (worship also via Facebook Live)		8:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	4:00 – 4:30 Lenten Service 4:45 – 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp/WWJD 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15 – 8:00 Adult Choir	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (worship also via Facebook Live) 11:00 Brunch	13 Meals on Wheels 5:30 Women's Outing at Moes	9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Lydia Circle	4:00 – 4:30 Lenten Service 4:45 – 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp/WWJD 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15 – 8:00 Musical Rehearsal	10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 -6:30	OFFICE CLOSED	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Musical Rehearsal		8:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Mtg	4:00 – 4:30 Lenten Service 4:45 – 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp/WWJD 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15 – 8:00 Musical Rehearsal	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 APR
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (worship also via Facebook Live) 11:00 PASTOR LISA'S RETIREMENT BRUNCH	10:00 Piano tuning	10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	4:00 – 4:30 Lenten Service 4:45 – 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00 - 5:30 Celebration Ringers 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUP/King's Msgr 6:00 - 6:25 PowerUp/WWJD 7:00 Augustana Choir Concert	10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	Musical Dress Rehearsal Time TBD

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
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 4987

March Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 23 Number 03 Date 2023



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 March

- Mar. 1: Worship at 4:00 & 6:30 (Soup supper between srvc)
POWERUp, Kids' choirs & Adult choir
- Mar. 2: Women's Bible study
- Mar. 5: Sunday school & First Communion Class
Worship with Holy Communion
- Mar. 7: Men's breakfast & Bible study
Committee meetings
- Mar. 8: Worship at 4:00 & 6:30 (Soup supper between srvc)
POWERUp, Kids' choirs & Adult choir
- Mar. 9: Work crew & Women's Bible study
- Mar. 12: Brunch Sunday, Sunday school & Worship
- Mar. 13: Women's gathering at Moe's
- Mar. 14: Lydia circle
- Mar. 15: Worship at 4:00 & 6:30 (Soup supper between srvc)
POWERUp, Kids' choirs & Adult choir
- Mar. 16: Women's Bible study
- Mar. 19: Sunday school & Worship with Holy Communion
- Mar. 21: Men's breakfast & Bible study, Quilting
Council meeting
- Mar. 22: Worship at 4:00&6:30 (Waffle supper between srvc)
POWERUp, Kids' choirs & Adult choir
- Mar. 23: Work crew & Women's Bible study
- Mar. 26: Sunday school & Worship
Brunch honoring Pastor Lisa
- Mar. 29: Worship at 4:00
POWERUp, Kids' choirs & Supper
Augustana Choir Concert at 7pm (no 6:30 worship)
- Mar. 30: Women's Bible study

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Lisa Richardson Engen, Associate Pastor

Josh & Alex Ertz, Interim Youth Mentors

Patty Mesenbring, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Janelle Schauer, Organist

Mary Larew, Adult & 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/>. Thanks!