



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

March 2024

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Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship at Abiding Savior

What a joy it is to worship together! The music, the messages, the baptisms, the bread and wine, the prayers and the fellowship. The month of March is filled with opportunities for us to offer our praise, worship, and thanks to God. Abiding Savior is planning contemplative, meaningful and festive worship services as we journey together through Lent toward our Easter Celebration.



On Wednesday evenings, March 6, 13 and 20, at 4:00 and 6:30 we will continue our **Wednesday Lenten Worship** series. These half hour services are centered on the theme of "Dressed for Success: A Wardrobe of Faith" based on Colossians 3:12-17. We will explore being clothed in compassion, forgiveness, love, praise, and gratitude. We will also sing together the Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy. And don't forget to come for soup supper served from 4:30 to 6:00.

On **Palm Sunday**, March 24, at 10:00, we will join in the celebration with a palm procession followed by a reading of the Passion of Christ from Luke acted out in vignettes of each event in the passion. This promises to be a moving experience of Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his last days.

During **Holy Week** we will have services at 4:00 and 6:30 on **Maundy Thursday**, March 28, and **Good Friday**, March 29. For Maundy Thursday we will receive Holy Communion and celebrate with those children receiving their First Communion. On Friday we will experience the last hours of Jesus life and remember the sacrifice he made for us on the cross.

Finally, on **Easter Sunday**, March 31, we will join in festive worship at 8:00 and 10:00 as together we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Join us for these powerful and moving worship services during March.

God's blessings and I'll see you in worship!

Pastor Ryan

LENT 2024

Dress for Success:

A WARDROBE OF FAITH

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

4:00—4:45pm

- Lenten worship

4:45—6:15pm

- Lenten soup supper

5:30—6:30pm

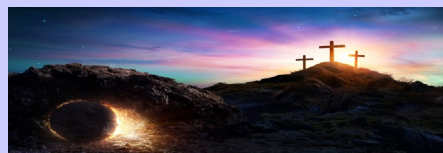
- POWER Up

6:30—7:15pm

- Lenten worship

7:15—8:00pm

- Adult choir



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

- Worship at 10am

Maundy Thursday

- Worship at 4 and 6:30pm
- Lenten Soup Supper between services

Good Friday

- Worship at 4 and 6:30pm

Easter Sunday

- Worship at 8 and 10am
- Easter breakfast between services

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that *nurtures* spiritual growth,
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Stewardship Corner



Jesus is After our Hearts, Not our Wallets!

We have heard it said that money is the root of all evil. Jesus often uses the wealthy as examples of greed, selfishness, and indifference. But Jesus never taught that it was a sin to be wealthy. In fact, Jesus befriended and even depended on people with wealth to fund his ministry and to participate in his building of the kingdom. It is not wealth that is the root of evil, it is actually the heart.

Jesus is after our hearts, not our wallets. Having wealth is not sinful, but what can be sinful is our relationship with that wealth and what we choose to do with that wealth. Do we trust wealth more than God? Do we make our decisions in life based on gaining more wealth or living lives worthy of being called disciples of Jesus? Do we cling to our wealth, unwilling to share with those who do not have enough?

Whether we want to admit it or not, we are wealthy when compared to most of the rest of the world. We have an abundance, more than enough. God does not find us sinful because we have an abundance. But what are we going to do with that abundance? Are we sharing freely and joyfully or are we holding back? Are we funding life changing ministries and community services? Do our hearts trust in God or in the security of our earthly possessions?

Jesus tells us, "Where you treasure is, there your heart will be also." If our hearts are set on wealth, then wealth is what we treasure above all else. If our hearts are set on God, then God is our treasure and we will use our abundance, our wealth, in service to God and neighbor.

With our hearts set on God, may we give joyfully and abundantly from the wealth God has entrusted to us!

You're Invited to the Women's Retreat! April 19 - 21 | Heartwood Conference Center | Trego, WI

I recently took a trip up to Heartwood Conference Center to check out the facilities and finalize arrangements for our Women's Retreat. What a beautiful place! The lakefront and 700-acre wooded grounds transport you to your happy place!



Our group will be the only group on site the weekend of April 19-21, so we will have it all to ourselves. The chef is cooking up some scrumptious meals for us. Rev. Kris Linner, who wrote a book of stories from the perspective of biblical women that was such a hit for the Women's Bible Study, is writing some special stories for us as we explore the theme "Journeys of Faith." Stories are so powerful. As we hear these stories of God at work in and through women it will prompt us to think anew about how God is at work in our own lives.

We will have a comfortable mix of time in group sessions and free time to relax and explore. Some of the things you can do during free time include: hiking, canoeing, kayaking, games, puzzles, reading, walking a labyrinth, doing a service project for Days for Girls, sitting and looking out over the lake, relaxing by the fire, tennis, volleyball, journaling, napping, or whatever you want to do! All of this in the company of Christian friends. If you could use some time away, just for you, to nurture yourself in body and soul, join us!

Register through our church website www.abidingsavior.org or through the church office. The registration fee of \$250 includes room, meals, the retreat program, and equipment for all recreational activities. If you need scholarship help, just check with Pastor Marla. We don't want lack of funding to keep anyone from participating. We will start the retreat with dinner on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 PM and conclude with worship Sunday, April 21 before noon. There will be opportunities to carpool. You are welcome to invite a friend or family member. Let us know ASAP if you plan to attend. The official registration deadline is March 1, but you can still be part of it if you let us know soon. Talk to Lisa Schlotterback or me, Pastor Marla. We hope you'll join us for this time of renewing our spirits together.

Mission

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Lenten 'Soup' Suppers

Wednesdays 4:45—6:15

Served by groups to benefit special causes!

- March 6: Chili—benefiting Women’s Retreat
- March 13: Waffles (Mounds View Lions)—Food Shelf
- March 20: OPEN
- March 28: Potato Leek and Bacon

First Communion Class Sun., Mar. 17 @ 11am-2pm



All fourth-graders and their families are invited to participate in a **first communion class** with Pastor Marla on **Sunday, March 17**. The class begins with lunch in the Fellowship Hall following worship (approximately 11:00) and will conclude by 2:00.

Pastor Marla will use a variety of engaging learning experiences to guide students in their exploration of this sacrament. We are thankful for this wonderful opportunity to prepare these young people for their first Holy Communion, a very special faith milestone.

Any older students who have not received instruction in communion are also invited to participate. **You need not be a member of Abiding Savior to participate** - friends, family members, neighbors are all welcome! **For each student who attends the training at least one parent should also attend.**

Maundy Thursday was the day Jesus first gave Holy Communion to his disciples. Students will have the opportunity to receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at the 6:30 worship service. **Please contact Patty (patty@abidingsavior.org) to RSVP for this class, or if you have questions.**

Blood Drive



The next blood drive at Abiding Savior is **Thursday, March 21** from 1:30—6:30pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and

enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment if you can share the gift of blood.

Lent 2024—Dress for Success: A Wardrobe of Faith

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

In a world filled with turmoil and discord, Lent provides a wonderful opportunity to take some time out for renewal and restoration of harmony. The apostle, Paul, addresses this question in his letter to the Colossians. As followers of Christ, we are to let go of old vices and “clothe” ourselves in virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Living in Christian community provides a place to live in harmony with God and with one another.

- March 6 - Clothed in God’s Love
- March 13 - Clothed in Praise
- March 20 - Clothed in Gratitude
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday
- March 29 - Good Friday



EGG HUNT
SATURDAY **23** MARCH

10:30 - NOON
FELLOWSHIP HALL
AND CHURCH LAWN (WEATHER PERMITTING)

EGG HUNT, CRAFTS, SNACKS & FUN!

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BASKET TO PARTICIPATE



Abiding Savior Preschool - Building a Strong Foundation

I can't believe how fast these few months of 2024 are going! We had a busy month of February with our annual pizza fundraiser, Valentine Day parties as well as all school pictures! I can't wait to see all of their smiling faces once we get the pictures back! Should be an adventure getting the toddlers to sit and smile for the camera!

Both the preschoolers and toddlers are going out almost every day and enjoying this unseasonably warm winter weather that we are having!

Thank you to all who have supported the program once again by purchasing some delicious Heggie's pizza!!! A reminder that pizza pickup day will be Wednesday, March 6. Butterbraids can be ordered through March 3 (grab an order form at church or you can order online at [Select Products | My Fundraising Place](#). Orders will be available on Wed., March 20.

I appreciate the continued support of our wonderful program!

Jen Boog, Director

Preschool@abidingsavior.org

763-784-5326; facebook/AbidingSaviorPreschool



POWER Up! for Kids

- Devotions & Activities with Patty and Jackie
- Music with Mary

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30
Ages: 4yrs—5th grade

— MARCH —

March 6: *Salt of the Earth—
Super Science Fun*

March 13: *No POWER Up
(Spring Break)*

March 20: *Symbols of Holy Week—
Monoprints*

March 27: *No POWER Up
(Holy Week)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Parents are encouraged to enjoy fellowship in the library during this time.

Children 3 years old (and potty-trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us for Bible stories, songs, crafts and other activities.

On the Calendar

March 17: First Communion class for 4th graders following worship (See article on pg. 3)

March 24 (Palm Sunday): Sunday school children process with palms and sing during 10:00 worship

March 31 (Easter): NO Sunday school

Families do not need to be members of Abiding Savior to become a part of our Sunday school program.

You are WELCOME
You are VALUED
You are LOVED
You BELONG

FAMILY MINISTRY:
EVENTS

Egg Hunt!

March 23,
10:30-noon



(More info. on
page 3.)

PARENTS
TOGETHER

March 20, 5:30-6:30 in the Coffee House
After enjoying a soup supper in the Fellowship Hall, parents are invited to come for a chance to meet and get to know other parents here at Abiding Savior and from the community.
Supervision for children provided!

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Middle School and High School Youth News

Cinnamon Roll Sale: Sunday, March 3 — Come at 8:30am to bake & stay after church to sell!



Lenten Services & Soup Suppers — 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. Confirmation students are encouraged to come help serve, bus tables, etc. at Wednesday soup suppers. Come anytime from 4:30— 6:15! Your help is appreciated!

Easter Breakfast Prep: Saturday, March 30 (time TBD) — Come help prep for Easter breakfast!! We need your help. Watch for more details as we get closer to Easter! **And...help at Easter breakfast—Sunday, March 31 from 9:00—10:00.**



God's Work. Our Hands.

Souper Bowl Gratitude: Hearty thanks to all who contributed \$328 to support Meals on Wheels during the Souper Bowl collection. Your generosity is critical to this program providing food and greetings to our neighbors who aren't able to get out much.



Newborn Kits Update: Wow! We asked and you responded with love and bounty. We were hoping to collect supplies for 40 kits for Global Health Ministries but upped it to 45 after your generous reaction. Please have all items returned to church by Sunday, March 17th. We are looking for volunteers to pack the supplies, per Global Health's precise directions, between Lenten services March 20th. Thank you!



March is MN FoodShare Month: February 26th to April 6th 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. Last year Minnesotans donated over 6,000,000 pounds of food and more than \$11,000,000! Just think of the families who were fed. 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. And thanks to Greg and Jacki for offering to deliver.



Garden of Grace Meeting: There will be a short meeting for anyone interested in gardening the plots and/or repairing the raised beds Sunday, March 17th after church in the coffee house. If you have questions or can't attend, contact Aggie Reiners or email her at BAreiners@gmail.com Thank you.



Coat Drive Thanks: A big shout of thanks to the Thursday morning Women's Bible study group who donated money that was used by Ellen Z., along with her discount, to score some band-new clearance rack winter coats for next fall's give-away. What a lovely example of caring for our neighbors! If you're cleaning closets or finding bargains, we collect coats all year.



Social Concerns Trunk: As generous as our congregation is, just a gentle reminder that the social concerns trunk is not a general receptacle for used items. Please, do donate items that are asked for. All else can be given to the thrift store of your choice. Much appreciated!

Delivery Thanks: Thanks to everyone who helped with Meals on Wheels deliveries February 12 - 16. There was even some snow to brighten the way.



Meet Our Church Council



Our 2024 Council members are: Dawson Blanck (Pres.), Karn Anderson Matthews (Vice Pres.), Ben Schnabel (Treas.), Maren Hawkins (Sec.), Annika Bankston, Tonya Cox, Jackie Peterson, Sheryl Rogge, Jim Schlotterback, Micky Sonderman, Julie Zarambo and Ellen Zimmerman. 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

January 2024
Financial Highlights

2024	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	36,976	36,976
Festival giving	---	---
SUBTOTAL	36,976	36,976
Other income	7,357	7,357
TOTAL INCOME	44,333	44,333
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	51,782	51,782
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(7,449)	(7,449)
Benevolence paid	4,981	4,981

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

Dear Abiding Savior family —
Thank you thank you for all the prayers, cards and calls during my recovery from knee surgery. I am so blessed to be part of such a caring congregation. Thank you again. God bless you all.

—Linda Weiner Herman

Thank you all for your many kind words and unfailing support given during my mom's struggle and decline. Thank you, as well, for the heartfelt cards, beautiful flowers, generous memorials, and continued support following her death. As my loving mother, she would no doubt join me in thanking you for caring so much for me. You are a very special family.

—Patty Mesenbring
and the Family of Sharon Anderson

Thank you so very much for the food donation that you gifted to me and my family during the holiday season. Your generous food gifts helped to brighten up our holiday. Thank you again!

With deep gratitude —
— A and family

Thank you for your donation of knitted hats for student needs at Pike Lake Kindergarten Center. Gifts like yours make it possible for the District to provide valuable services and programs for our students.

—Mounds View School Board

Thrivent Members!

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, 2024**, to direct your choice dollars earned in 2023.



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. These grants can be used for brunches, Wednesday night meals, outreach events, service events, special books for Bible studies, etc.

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



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 YOUTH SUN 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service "Tangled" Movie 4-6PM	26	27 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicline Service	28 9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Lenten Service 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15-8:00 Adult Choir	29 FEB 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Jean Bofferding visitation 11:00 Jean Bofferding funeral	2 Chapel reserved Karen Chan - Painting class 9:00 - 1:00
3 COMMUNION INSTALL CNCL/CMTEES	4	5 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	6 9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Lenten Service 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15-8:00 Adult Choir	7 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	8	9 Funeral (outside group) 8am - noon (Sanctuary & Narthex)
10 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale	11 10:00 June Peterson visitation 11:00 June Peterson funeral 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	12 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Lydia Circle	13 9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Lenten Service 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Waffle Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15-8:00 Adult Choir	14 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	15	16
17 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service with Baptism 11:00 1st Comm. Class	18	19 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Council Mtg	20 9:45 Cub Food delivery 4:00 - 4:30 Lenten Service 4:30 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 5:30 - 6:30 Parents Together 6:30 - 7:00 Lenten Service 7:15-8:00 Adult Choir	21 10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 - 6:30 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	22	23 Egg Hunt 10:30am - noon
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	25	26 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicline Service	27 9:45 Cub Food delivery No regular Wed. evening activities 7:00 Adult Choir	28 MAUNDY THURS 9:00 Work Crew 4:00 Maundy Thurs Worship 4:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship	29 GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 Good Friday Worship 6:30 Good Friday Worship	30 9:00 Decorate for Easter Easter breakfast prep - TBD
31 EASTER 8:00 Worship 9:00 Breakfast 10:00 Worship						

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 4987

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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. 3: Sunday school & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
Installation of council & committee members
Cinnamon roll sale
- Mar. 5: Men's breakfast & Bible study
Committee meetings
- Mar. 6: Worship at 4:00 & 6:30 (Soup supper between svc)
POWERUp & Adult choir
- Mar. 7: Women's Bible study
- Mar. 10: Brunch Sunday, Sunday school & Worship
- Mar. 11: Women's gathering at Moe's
- Mar. 12: Lydia circle
- Mar. 13: Worship at 4:00 & 6:30 (Waffle supper between svc)
POWERUp & Adult choir
- Mar. 14: Work crew & Women's Bible study
- Mar. 17: Sunday school & Worship with Holy Communion
First Communion class
- Mar. 19: Men's breakfast & Bible study, Quilting
Council meeting
- Mar. 20: Worship at 4:00&6:30 (Soup supper between svc)
POWERUp & Parents Together (CH)
Adult choir
- Mar. 21: Women's Bible study & Blood Drive
- Mar. 23: Egg Hunt
- Mar. 24: Sunday school & Fellowship
Palm Sunday worship
- Mar. 28: **Maundy Thursday** worship at 4:00 & 6:30
Soup supper between services
- Mar. 29: **Good Friday** worship at 4:00 & 6:30
- Mar. 31: **Easter** worship at 8:00 and 10:00
Easter breakfast served between services

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, 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!