



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

May 2025

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MUSIC SUNDAY & LUTHERAN LUAU



**SUNDAY
MAY 18**



Worship at 10AM Lutheran Luau/Potluck at 11AM

Our annual Lutheran Luau will feature pulled pork, BBQ sauce, buns, lemonade, coffee and water (all provided).

The "potluck" will be the side dishes.

We ask that everyone please bring a dish to share.

A-L: Fruit

M-Z: Salads

**(or anything else
you'd like to bring)**

**Cake will be provided
in honor of**

**Ina Mae G.'s 97th birthday
and
Jackson M.'s First Communion.**

All are welcome to eat even if you aren't able to bring anything to share. A free will offering will be gladly welcomed to help cover the cost of the pork, buns and drinks.

Special Congregation Meeting Called for Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 11:15AM

Dear Abiding Savior Family,

On behalf of the Congregational Council and the Call Committee, I am honored to announce a Special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 11:15AM, for the purpose of extending a Letter of Call to the recommended candidate for the role of Associate Pastor.

SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
FOR THE PURPOSE OF
EXTENDING A LETTER OF CALL
TO THE RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE
FOR THE ROLE OF
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
SUNDAY, MAY 4 - 11:15AM

At our April 15 Council meeting, the Call Committee brought forth a candidate they unanimously approved for recommendation as our next Associate Pastor. The Council was also unanimous in their approval of the recommendation. This marks a joyful and significant moment in our 14-month call process, and we are thrilled to be at the point of sharing this candidate with the congregation, with the intention of extending a call to our final candidate. More information about the candidate is available inside this newsletter on page 2.

I would like to thank the dedicated and committed ASLC Call Committee, which includes Co-Chairs Ellen Zimmerman and Sandy LaCroix, along with Brea Schultes, Megan Sangren, Kathie Anderson, Ellie Wolter Neumann, and myself, Dawson Blanck. It has been an honor to serve alongside such a faithful and prayerful group throughout this meaningful journey, on behalf of the entire congregation.

As we journey through 2025, we are filled with gratitude for God's faithfulness and excited about all that is unfolding. We are in the final steps of our search for a new Associate Pastor, and we look forward—with hope and anticipation—to what lies ahead, trusting that the good Lord is guiding us both now and into the future.

If you should have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the members of the Call Committee, as we prepare for this special congregation meeting.

In faith and anticipation,

Dawson N. Blanck

President, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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is a *welcoming* and *caring* family
that *nurtures* spiritual growth,
shares our Christian faith, and *serves* all creation.**

Meet Our Associate Pastor Candidate: Pastor “K”

We are excited to introduce Pastor K*, our recommended candidate for Associate Pastor. Pastor K is a recent graduate of Luther Seminary, and this would be her first call, as she is not yet ordained. She holds undergraduate degrees in History and Political Science from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Currently serving as a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at a suburban church in the Twin Cities area, Pastor K lives in Cottage Grove, MN.

Her passion for pastoral care, building relationships, and community connection shines through in all she does. While her primary background is in youth and family ministry, she also has a deep appreciation for senior ministry and visitation. Pastor K embraces traditional worship but is also open to exploring new styles and ideas. Her preaching style seeks to connect Scripture with everyday life—using personal stories, approachable language, and a love for the simplicity and meaning of worship.

The Call Committee found Pastor K to be engaging, authentic, deeply faithful, and a true fit for the heart and needs of our congregation. We are eager for you to get to know her and look forward to seeing you on May 4 at 11:15 AM for this important next step in our journey together.

*Due to the confidentiality of a call process, we are unable to share the name of the candidate before the May 4 meeting.

Tanzania Trip Sign-Up Deadline May 14

We are planning a trip October 12-24, 2025, to visit the water project and our companion congregation, the Makungu Parish. The trip will include travelling to Makungu for a weekend of worship and learning, a stay in the provincial capital of Iringa, and a safari in the Ruaha Game Park. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$4,000 per person before fundraising. The deadline to sign up for the trip and make a \$500 deposit is Wednesday May 14.

Attention Young Adults: Funding available for young adults ages 16 - 35 who are traveling with their congregational delegations to visit companions in Tanzania. Through the St. Paul Area Synod Planting Hope Campaign, funds are available for up to 50% of travel costs. For more information visit: <https://spas-elca.org/young-adult-travel/>. We will also be having a fundraiser through Malmberg's Garden Center from Sun., May 4—Sat., May 10. 10% of your purchase will go toward the trip!

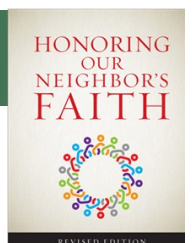
If you are interested in learning more about the trip, please talk to Pastor Ryan!



Women's Bible Study—May 2025

Most of us have interacted with Salvation Army volunteers at Christmas time as they are ringing bells at those red donation buckets. But have you wondered what else the Salvation Army does, or what the members of the Salvation Army believe? How about Assemblies of God? Stories abound about speaking in tongues and other charismatic gifts, but how is the Pentecostal faith similar to and different from Lutheran? You likely know that Jesus was born to a Jewish family and raised in the Jewish tradition, serving as a Jewish rabbi. But what do you know about the Jewish faith today? The Muslim faith is in the news a lot – often with negative associations linked to terrorism, jihad and sharia law. But did you know that peace is at the heart of the Islamic faith? During the month of May, the Women's Bible Study will be concluding its series, Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith, by focusing on these four faith traditions: May 1—Assemblies of God/Pentecostal; May 8—Salvation Army; May 15—Judaism; May 22—Off for Memorial Day weekend; May 29—Islam.

You are invited to attend – Thursday mornings at 10. Whether you have attended any of the previous Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith sessions doesn't matter. Each week is complete in itself. Are you curious? Come and partake in the food, fellowship and lively discussion. You are welcome!



Mission

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Wednesday Nite Schedule

Note: Children/Youth Activities end May 7

- 4:30—6:15PM Dinner served
5/7: Hamburger Gravy and Potatoes
5/14: Tacos (last Wed. dinner until fall)
- 5:30—6:30PM POWER Up (ends May 7)
- 6:30—8:00PM Confirmation (ends May 7)
- 7:00—8:00PM Adult Choir (ends May 14)

Growing Through Loss Grief Support Series

All of our lives are touched by the experience of grief of some kind. We know the pain of loss, of sickness, of death, of separation, of changes in our lives. Grief is hard. We need to know we are not alone in grief. Abiding Savior joins with several area churches to offer an excellent series of grief support called Growing Through Loss. These sessions will be on Monday evenings through May 19* from 7:00— 9:00pm here at Abiding Savior! All are welcome—help spread the word!

Registration: 6:45 - 7:00PM

Speaker: 7:00 - 7:45PM

Small Groups: 8:00 - 9:00PM

- May 5 Grief and the Family**
Janice Winchester-Nadeau, Ph.D.
- *May 12 Getting a Grip on Grief**
Maggie Bauer
- *May 19 Service of Comfort and Healing**
Pastor Lisa Engen, Pastor Elaine Silpala and Pastor Dave Rogge

*Rescheduled due to canceled 4/28 session

Blood Drive - May 15

Join us **Thurs., May 15 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.

First Communion Invite

Jackson Matthews will be receiving his first communion on Sunday May 18. Karn and Steve invite you to enjoy cake in Jackson's honor following worship that day and to a celebration at Kathie & Keith Anderson's home (8370 Sunnyside Road) following the Lutheran Luau.

2025 High School Graduates: Apply for an ASLC Scholarship

Graduating seniors: stop by the office to pick up an application or access the scholarship at: abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/senior-scholarships. Applications are due Sunday, June 1! Mark your calendars for **Graduation Sunday, June 22!**

Spring Craft Fair & Petting Zoo

Saturday - May 10th, 2025



Saturday
May 10th, 2025

Craft Fair
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Petting Zoo
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
8211 Red Oak Drive | Mounds View, MN

abidingsavior.org
For More Information

Proceeds go towards our BWCA Youth Trip



EVERYONE WELCOME!
Free Entry to the Craft Fair and Petting Zoo. Donations welcome! 15+ Crafters & Vendors, Concessions, Kid's Craft Project, Petting Zoo & more!!



New Member Class

If you or someone you know is considering joining Abiding Savior, our next New member class will be **Wednesday, May 14, 5:30PM to 7:30PM** in the Coffee House. Come early and enjoy a time of fellowship at our Wednesday Evening Supper served 4:30 to 6:00. We will welcome our new members in worship on Sunday, June 8. Contact Pastor Ryan or the church office if you are interested in joining or have any questions. We would love to see you there!

"The Lord is my shepherd..."

MUSIC SUNDAY

May 18

10AM worship



Followed by a
Lutheran luau lunch

There will be a short-term choir opportunity for Music Sunday. We will meet at 8:45AM Sundays starting April 28 to prepare "All We Like Sheep" from the Messiah.



Sunday School 9:00 - 9:50AM



It's hard to believe that another Sunday school year is coming to an end. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care—it's a privilege to serve all of our families.

Coming in May:
May 11: Last Sunday school session
Children sing during 10:00 worship.

Please join us! Invite friends and neighbors!

- You are WELCOME -
- You are VALUED -
- You are LOVED -
- You BELONG -

POWER Up! for Kids

Ages: 4yrs—5th grade

- Bible Devotions • Crafts
- Games • Activities
- Musical Exploration and Expression

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:25

We'll be winding up our program year with a last session of POWER Up on May 7. Plan on a party, some outside fun if the weather permits, and an ice cream treat.

Thank you for spending your Wednesday evenings with us!

Patty, Jackie and Linda



Abiding Savior Preschool

We are wrapping up another hugely successful year! We already have 27 children enrolled across our 3 classes for next school year!

We are ending our school with a bang! We're having a company called Kidokinetics come in and do an hour-long PE enrichment class with our preschoolers. We also are blessed to have Lions Kidsight come in and test the eyes of both our toddlers and preschoolers. Finally, our Preschool graduation and last day will be on May 21. Wow, did this year fly by!

Thank you for your support throughout the year with purchasing wreaths and pizzas for our fundraisers! They were both tremendously successful. We are looking forward to an exciting new addition to our playground—a new fence and additional area for all of our kids to play in. Thank you for those who have donated toward this and for the Endowment and Benevolence Funds we've received that are helping to pay for part of the project, enabling this large improvement to happen!

I am very excited about our next school year! Thank you for your continued support!

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



Community VBS 2025

July 28-August 1
9:00-Noon



Welcoming ages 3 (potty-trained) through those entering 5th grade this fall!

Music - Stories - Games - Crafts - Friends - Fun

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

A **FREE** program for all.

MS/HS Youth Events Join Us!

Sun., May 4:

- Last cinnamon roll sale before summer



Sun., May 18 @ 5:30PM:

- Last youth led worship before summer



Wed., May 21 @ 6:30-8PM:

- Zero Gravity



Fri., June 6 @ 6:30PM—Sat., Jun 7 @ 10:30AM

- Summer lock-in



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New Prayer Shawl Opportunity



Prayer shawls are a visible sign to the recipient that says “We are praying for you. You are cared for. We are thinking of you.” They are a ‘visible hug’! Abiding Savior’s Prayer Shawl Ministry is a vibrant part of our outreach. Shawls have traditionally been knit or crocheted. They are made with prayers, blessed at the altar, and distributed by our pastors, volunteer visitors and you—when you know someone who will benefit from one. These shawls can be found in the prayer shawl cupboard in the library area. There are also note cards made by a member of our congregation to give with the shawls that give a little explanation about the ministry. The shawls and cards are here for anyone to give.

We are excited to announce a NEW aspect to this ministry! On Palm Sunday, as part of our intergenerational service event, several fleece prayer shawls and blankets were made. These were made BY our youth, FOR our youth. They are displayed on the ladder in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a shawl as needed for children and youth that you may know.

Prayer Shawl Yarn Available - Help Yourself!



Abiding Savior has been gifted a HUGE amount of acrylic yard! (Please note that at this time, we cannot accommodate any further yarn donations.) Some of the yard is in a tote in the library by the Prayer Shawl cupboard. One ball of most of the yarn will complete a knitted or crocheted shawl. There are also several “yarn kits”, knitting needle sets, and patterns available. Shawls can be made in any pattern and nearly any size. Feel free to take a ball or kit of yarn to create something for a charitable cause—be it our Prayer Shawl Ministry or a hat or mitten drive. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sheryl Rogge or Janelle Schauer.

God’s Work. Our Hands.

Meals on Wheels: We’re up to bat again the week of **May 5 – 9**. Pick up at Unity Hospital, follow detailed delivery route plan, greet folks with a smile and a meal – your help is so appreciated! Please consider giving this outreach a try. Our next opportunity is the week of June 30th.



Blood Drive: Our next blood drive will happen on **May 15** here at Abiding Savior. Sign up to donate blood or volunteer to help. The need for this gift is constant. Thank you.



Garden of Grace: One bed hasn’t been claimed yet. Please let Aggie Reiners know if you’d like to get in on the growing this season. Fresh air, exercise, and companionship included with your vegetables.



Kitchen Bundles for Bridging: Wow and thank you for your generous response to our Lenten project! On Palm Sunday a lovely group made multiple trips through the assembly line, and we had 100 kitchen bundles ready for delivery in no time. (We’d been hoping for 40 – 50 bundles!) Thanks to Maren and Megan for your time and efforts spearheading this collection and to the Evensons for delivering. Great need, great response, and blessings all around!



Growing Through Loss Continues at ASLC: The last two grief and loss support group meetings take place here on Mondays, May 5 and 12. A large group presentation is followed by small group discussion. If you can help with food, registration, sound or clean up, let the office know. Extra thanks to Dave Rogge for sharing his fabulous gift of music each week!



Quilts for Bridging: Thank you to our dedicated quilters for the fabulous quilts for Bridging. How special it is to have a handmade quilt, to know someone cares about you. A true gift of love!

Overall Thanks and Gratitude: As we head towards summer, heartfelt thanks to all who have volunteered or given of their time, talents, or resources during the last year to make outreach happen. Together we can reach out to shine some light and love, near and far, where our fellow humans need to know they are cared for. God bless and guide our efforts and those we touch.



Abiding Savior Mission Endowment Fund 2025 Grant Recipients

In 2025, the Abiding Savior Mission Endowment Fund was able to fund grants totaling \$9,391. \$7,970 from the regular Endowment Fund, and \$1,421 from the Bonnie Kay Christiansen Fund to be used for education or children. There were eleven separate grant requests totaling \$31,000 for 2025. Here are the grants awarded for 2025:

• Garden of Grace at ASLC	Refurbish garden beds	\$500
• ASLC Preschool	Outdoor Toddler Play Area	\$2000
• ASLC Scholarships	Scholarships for 2025 Grads	\$1000
• CSC	Sponsor Spring Luncheon	\$1000
• CPY	Summer Transportation Needs	\$1500
• Growing Through Loss	A/V stipend and treats	\$91
• Shobi's Table	Operating Fund	\$1500
• Quincy House	Programming Support	\$1200
• Humble Walk	Humble Walk Community Fair	\$600

Giving to the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is Simple and Joyful! You are encouraged to make a gift to Abiding Savior through your estate planning. 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.

March 2025 Financial Highlights

2025	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	50,226	126,739
Festival giving	5,199	5,199
SUBTOTAL	55,425	131,938
Other income	5,890	39,658
TOTAL INCOME	61,314	171,596
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	51,014	169,328
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	10,300	2,268
Benevolence paid*	2,419	27,992

*Includes \$18,000 for Makungu Water Project

It's that easy! If you have any questions or need help planning your gift to the Endowment, please talk to Pastor Ryan Brodin 763) 784-5120 x2004.



ENDOWMENT FUND

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone who participated in, donated to, and helped coordinate our Palm Sunday church-wide Service Event! We packed/made:

- 100+ kitchen bundles for Bridging
- 100 breakfast-to-go bags for Hope 4 Youth
- 50 first-aid kits for Hope 4 Youth
- 20+ tie blankets for youth prayer shawls
- Many cards and bags for Meals on Wheels and Wednesday meal delivery
- materials available for baptismal blankets and adult prayer shawls



Thank you to all who participated in our "Watch the Lamb" Palm Sunday drama, and all who made our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services so meaningful!

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May

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 APRIL	28 APRIL	29 APRIL	30 APRIL	1	2	3
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	Growing Through Loss 6:45 – 9pm	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 POWER Up 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Service for Carolyn Ekfritz 2pm Visitation 3pm Funeral
4 COMMUNION SUN.	5 MLS ON WHLS	6 MLS ON WHLS	7 MLS ON WHLS	8 MLS ON WHLS	9 MLS ON WHLS	10
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion & 4 th Graders receive First Communion 11:00 Cinnamon Rolls 11:00 FH reserved	Growing Through Loss 6:45 – 9pm	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Committee Meetings	Kidokinetics (Preschool) in MOD 2 - Morning 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 POWER Up 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED Craff Fair Set Up 4 – 7PM	CRAFT FAIR 9AM – 3PM Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
11 MOTHER'S DAY	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	11:00 Carl Kacures visitation 12:00 Carl Kacures funeral 5:30 Women's Gathering Growing Through Loss 6:45 – 9pm	10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting 2:00 Paul Peterson burial at Ft. Snelling	9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 New Member Class 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir Tanzania Trip Registration Deadline	10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 – 6:30 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
18 MUSIC SUNDAY	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Lutheran Luau 5:30 Youth Led Worship	Growing Through Loss 6:45 – 9pm	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Mtg	Preschool Graduation Sanctuary&Fellowship Hall 9:30 Cub Foods delivery MS/HS Youth Outing to Zero Gravity	9:00 Work Crew NO Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31
10:00 Worship	OFFICE CLOSED	10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	9:30 Cub Foods delivery	10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	Spring Clean Up 9AM Janelle – Sanct. 3-5PM

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/>

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May Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 25 Number 05 Date 2025



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or email us at office@abidingsavior.org.

Reduce waste.
Reduce mailing costs.
Receive information faster!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in May

- May 1: Women's Bible study
- May 4: Sunday school & fellowship
Worship & 4th graders receive First Communion
Cinnamon roll sale
Special congregational meeting
- May 5-9: Meals on Wheels delivery
- May 5: Growing Through Loss
- May 6: Men's breakfast & Bible study
- May 7: Wednesday night activities
Last night of POWER Up and confirmation
- May 8: Work crew, Women's Bible study
- May 10: Craft fair (9am- 3pm)
- May 11: Mother's Day
Sunday school, fellowship & worship
- May 12: Women's gathering at Moe's
Growing Through Loss
- May 13: Caring Visitors meeting
- May 14: Wednesday night supper, New member class
Adult choir
- May 15: Women's Bible study; Blood drive
- May 18: Music Sunday
Lutheran Luau
- May 19: Growing Through Loss
- May 20: Men's breakfast and Bible study, Council mtg.
- May 21: Preschool graduation
- May 22: Work crew
- May 25: Worship
- May 29: Women's Bible study
- May 31: Spring clean up

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Patty Mesenbring, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Josh & Alex Ertz, Youth Directors

Janelle Schauer, Organist

Mary Larew, Vocal 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/>.