



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

November 2024

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Makungu Tanzania Water Project



Abiding Savior has a deep connection to our companion congregation in Makungu, Tanzania. We have visited Makungu, supported their ministries, and received life giving prayers and blessing from their congregation. There are about 1,500 people who live in Makungu and most of them attend the Lutheran Church. The village has a primary school with over 400 students and a dispensary (small clinic).

However, Makungu does not have clean water. The women and children spend hours every day carrying the water they need from a surface water spring that is riddled with both coliforms and E coli. Providing clean water has the potential to greatly improve many lives in Makungu.

Without having to collect the contaminated water daily the students would have more time for students to attend primary school and the women in the village would have more time to tend to business and farming and to take strides toward equality with the men. Also, waterborne diseases, which are the 3rd most frequent cause of illness in the village, would be greatly reduced or eliminated. In partnership with the University of Minnesota School of Engineering (who designed the water system), St. Paul Partners (who will do the drilling and supervise the construction), the Village of Makungu (who will provide the in-kind labor to build the water system) and Abiding Savior we will forever change the lives of the people of Makungu forever by providing sustainable clean drinking water for generations to come.

You are invited to be a part of this water project by making a donation to help make the project a reality. The total cost of this water project is \$37,000. Abiding Savior has committed to providing at least half of this funding. **Right now, you have the opportunity to have your gift doubled** as two generous members of the congregation have graciously agreed to match the first \$3000 in gifts received from the congregation. If you would like to contribute, please do so by placing your gift in the offering plate, bringing it to the church office, or making a donation online. Special envelopes will be available in the church office.

What a joy for Abiding Savior to be a part of this exciting water project in Makungu. Together, we are joyfully and abundantly sharing the love of God to others.

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan



Join us for an
Election Night
SMORGASBORD
Tues., Nov. 5th
4:30—7:00pm
Tickets on sale
now!



THANKSGIVING
 EVE SERVICE
Wed., Nov. 27th
6:30pm
followed by
a pie social

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.

My Generosity Journey Stewardship Campaign



MY GENEROSITY JOURNEY

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

We have had a tremendous response to our fall stewardship campaign My Generosity Journey. THANK YOU to who have already returned your pledge cards for 2025. If you have not already done so, it is not too late. Please prayerfully consider your sharing with Abiding Savior as together we continue to support and grow the work of God done in and through our congregation. Also, if you already have not done so, please take the time to complete the Generosity Autobiography you received in worship or in the mail. Wherever you are at on your generosity journey, God can and will use the gifts of your time, talent, and resources to make a difference in the world.

Generosity is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. The sharing of our resources as well as our time and talents is one of the ways that God works in the world. Without sharing, the church and all that God accomplishes through the church would not exist. It takes volunteers and it takes resources to run a church. It is only through your sharing that God accomplishes so much through Abiding Savior. Thank you again for your continued generosity.

Wednesday Adult Education Series: *What it Means to be Lutheran: Then & Now*

Wednesdays November 6 & 13 | 5:30—6:30PM in Coffee House



Whether you have been a Lutheran your whole life, or you are new to the Lutheran Church, join Pastor Ryan for an overview of what it means to be a Lutheran. This course will look back at the origins and history of the Lutheran Church, the theology and teachings of Lutheranism, and discuss what it means to be a Lutheran in the twenty-first century. There will be no homework for this class, and no one will be forced to answer any questions. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship and learning as together we look at what it means to be Lutheran.



Special Advent Choir Opportunity



Join us as we prepare for Advent and take part in a short-term special choir opportunity for worship on **Sunday, December 22!** We'll be practicing at **9:00am on Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22.** Please contact Mary Larew with any questions at mary@abidingsavior.org. We look forward to making music together!

Intergenerational Handbell Choir Short-Term Opportunity

Have you ever wanted to play handbells? Now is your chance. We would like to assemble a short-term intergenerational handbell choir to play at our Advent Lessons and Carol service on December 22.

We would most likely practice for about 6 weeks leading up to the December 22 service. This choir would be open to all ages from 6th grade up through adults. No experience necessary and no music reading required. Just a willing spirit and the ability to count to 4. Sign up [HERE](#) if interested!

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.

All Saints Sunday November 3 | 10AM

During worship on Sunday, November 3, we will remember all the saints in our lives who have gone before us. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in honor or in memory of those special saints in your life either before worship begins or following communion. Please join us for this special time of remembrance.

Help Celebrate Pastor Ryan's 15 Year Anniversary at Abiding Savior

Join us on **Sunday, November 17** as we celebrate Pastor Ryan's 15 years of ministry (so far) at Abiding Savior! We will have a short recognition during worship and brunch following the service. Thank you, for your ministry among us, Pastor Ryan! (Note brunch moved from 11/10 to 11/17.)

Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 27 | 6:30pm
PIE SOCIAL FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

You're invited to worship on Thanksgiving Eve and stay after for a pie social. Come enjoy this fellowship! If you'd like to bring a pie, please sign up at church or click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548ACAA2EA1FF2-45560600-thanksgiving>

Decorate the church for Advent
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 1PM



Election Night SMORGASBORD Tuesday, November 5 | 4:30 - 7:00pm

Get out and vote and then join us for our Election Night Smorgasbord! We'll have a limited number of tickets available, so you're encouraged to purchase your tickets ahead of time!

- **Scandinavian meal:** Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, sliced turkey, gravy, dressing, cranberries, sweet corn, beet pickles, olives, dill pickles, herring, lefse, rice pudding, fruit soup, krumkake and cookies) and

Advanced tickets are \$15/adult, \$6 for youth ages 6—12 years, and children 5 & under are FREE. Tickets will be \$18/adult at the door.

Pastor Marla's husband, Randy, will be providing music with his band in the Narthex, and there will be a craft sale as well so you can get a jump start on Christmas shopping!

Invite your friends and get your tickets in the church office or before/after church on Sunday!



NERF NIGHT Saturday, November 16 6-8PM

Bring your own Nerf equipment and come for live action battles! Pizza and snacks provided. This is a **FREE event!** Please invite your friends!

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:30—6:15pm	Dinner served Nov. 06: Hamburger Soup Nov. 13: Pork Loin & Potatoes Nov. 20: Beef Stroganoff Nov. 27: <i>No meal (Thanksgiving Eve)</i>
5:30—6:30pm	<i>Being Lutheran</i> Adult Education Series (through November 13)
5:30—6:30pm	POWER Up
6:30—8:00pm	Confirmation
7:00—8:00pm	Adult Choir



Sunday Morning Children's Time

We are excited to welcome all **3-year-olds (by 9/1/24 and potty-trained) through 5th-graders** to join us for Bible stories, music, crafts and activities each Sunday morning.

- 9:30-9:55: Classroom time. Parents are encouraged to enjoy fellowship in the library.
- **No classroom session December 1st**
- Following the children's sermon during worship, children are invited to join Patty to walk to the chapel for music/worship time led by Barb Wolter. They will be escorted back to the sanctuary during the *Hymn of the Day*.

**Please join us!
Invite friends and neighbors!**

Families do not need to be members of Abiding Savior to participate in our programs.

You are WELCOME — You are VALUED
You are LOVED — You BELONG

MS/HS Youth News Get Involved!

Cinnamon Rolls (General Youth Fundraiser)

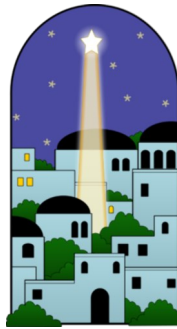
- **When:** Sunday, Nov. 3 before and after worship

Smorgasbord on Election Night

- **When:** Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 4:30—7pm
- **What:** This all church event is made possible by volunteers - especially youth volunteers!!! We need your help setting up, bussing tables, and cleaning in the kitchen.

Nerf Event

- **When:** Saturday, Nov. 16 from 6-8pm
- **Who:** All Youth
- **What:** Bring your own Nerf equipment and come for live action battles! Pizza and snacks provided. **Free event!** Please invite your friends!



One Night in Bethlehem

A Christmas Program Presented by
the Children and Youth
of Abiding Savior

All children and youth are invited to participate in our annual Christmas program, which will be presented on Sunday, December 15 during worship. Rehearsals are as follows:

- **Saturday, November 30 – 9:30-11:00**
 - Grades 2 and older
- **Saturday, December 7 – 9:30-11:00**
 - All children and youth
- **Saturday, December 14 – 9:30-11:00**
 - All children and youth

** We ask that you come to at least two rehearsals if possible. **

Children will also practice songs on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. If you are a youth older than 5th grade who is interested in a speaking part and/or singing with us, please contact Patty Mesenbring or sign up on the Children's & Family Ministry bulletin board. Anyone interested in providing special prelude music (piano, instrumental, vocal) is also encouraged to sign up.

COME AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR SAVIOR!

POWER Up! for Kids

A Kid's Program FULL of Faith & Fun

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30

Ages: 4yrs—5th grade

• **Bible Devotions** • **Crafts** • **Games** • **Activities**

• **Musical Exploration and Expression**

*** NO POWER Up November 27 ***

We can't wait to welcome you!

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Abiding Savior Preschool Happenings



I can't believe how fast this school year is going already! The kiddos are having fun, making friends and learning a lot!

Thank you to everyone who bought a wreath for our annual Mickman Holiday Wreath Fundraiser! Your support is very much appreciated! Look for those orders to arrive the week before Thanksgiving!

The program will be purchasing Abiding Savior Preschool t-shirts for the children. If you are interested in purchasing one please email me at preschool@abidingsavior.org, call 763-784-5326, or stop by my office any weekday morning if you have any questions. Orders are due by December 2. The t-shirts will be delivered by mid-December.

Thank you for your continued support of our program!

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



God's Work. Our Hands.

Coat Update: Your gifts of coats for the October 19th coat give away have been most appreciated by neighbors needing some winter warmth and care. The coats and accessories collected by ASLC absolutely stuffed every square inch of a Toyota Camry not occupied by the driver. Added to the items collected from other churches, there was a gym full of options. Warm thanks for thinking of others!



Giving Tree: Coming soon to a narthex near you – the Christmas giving tree! You will have the opportunity to brighten someone's Christmas by choosing an ornament and returning the requested gift card for distribution. We'll be collecting for a variety of local organizations helping neighbors and families needing a boost. Let's love our neighbors!



Meals on Wheels Delivery: Our congregation's next week of delivering is November 18th. Let the office know if you are interested in dropping off noon meals, with a partner if you prefer. Help all week or be on call to fill in as needed. Any and all help is appreciated! Fern Fisher can answer any questions you may have.



Blood Drive: Please sign up on the Red Cross website to donate blood Thursday, December 5th. Supplies are very low as fewer people are donating at this time. Abiding Savior has a dedicated group of donors with approximately 60% of the last drive being members of our church. Times are available from 1:30 to 6:30. Thank you for this gift of life.



Garden of Grace: The beds are refurbished and resting. Many thanks to Jim Kenyon for rebuilding the raised beds and thanks to the Endowment Fund for covering material costs. See you in the spring!

Bridging: Thanks to the Evensons for delivering a truck full of towels, wash cloths, sheet sets, pillows, blankets, and handmade quilts to Bridging in October. Thanks to the ASLC quilters for their loving gifts of warmth for families transitioning to housing stability. 5 comforters, 5 comforters w/ sheets, 16 twin sheet sets, 3 full sheet sets, 71 bath towels, 45 hand towels, 135 washcloths, 3 bed pillows were delivered!



Quick and Easy Volunteering: 60 Minutes or less! Needed – one or two people to deliver collected food from church to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, next to Speedway on County Road I and Highway 10. Check expiration dates, load into your car, drive less than a mile, unload at the backdoor. Pick two mornings a month (M – Th) that work for you. So simple and so appreciated! Please let the office know if you can help.



September 2024 Financial Highlights		
2024	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	34,038	360,818
Festival giving	-	15,957
SUBTOTAL	34,038	376,775
Other income	6,088	56,534
TOTAL INCOME	40,126	433,309
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	47,074	448,327
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(6,948)	(15,018)
Benevolence paid	2,294	32,020

Thrivent Choice Dollars Thrivent Action Teams

If you are a Thrivent member, you may receive Thrivent Choice dollars that you are able to direct to Abiding Savior each year. Directing your choice dollars is easy. Just log in to www.Thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."

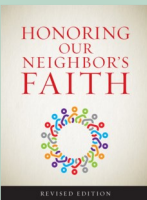
You can also apply for two Thrivent Action Team Grants up to \$250 to be used for fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, educational events, or meals. The application is simple and quick!

Endowment Fund

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.

Women's Bible Study *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*



Have you ever wondered what other Christians believe? Why are there so many different flavors of Lutheran? How does the Pentecostal Church compare with the Lutheran Church, or the Baptist Church, or the Catholic Church? What do Seventh Day Adventist, Mormons or Christian Scientists believe? How do you have a good discussion with a Jehovah's Witness at your door? As fellow Christians we have much in common, but we often fail to understand one another. We are curious about others who worship the God of Abraham through the Jewish and Muslim traditions. Where do we differ and where can we find common ground? Do our prayers all go to the same place? And what about those who faithfully practice world religions unrelated to Christianity, like Buddhists or Hindus? Worshiping idols or believing in reincarnation are very different from our experience. Is one wrong and the other right, or might there be differing ways to be faithful? We will consider these and more questions as part of the Thursday morning Bible Study led by Pastor Marla.

Each week we'll reflect on different faith traditions, noting similarities and differences with the Lutheran faith. We'll ask questions about how these differences came to be and what they mean for us today. We'll explore the challenges of living in a pluralistic country - where people of many faiths and no faith live side-by-side, and we'll consider how we honor one another's beliefs while being faithful to our own understanding of God. We will occasionally welcome guest speakers from other faith traditions and will also take some field trips to visit other places of worship and learn first-hand about an interesting mix of beliefs and practices.

This series begins on November 21 and continues into the new year. We invite you to join us in-person on Thursdays at 10 AM or follow along on Facebook, Our primary resource, Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith, compares and contrasts more than 30 faith traditions with ELCA Lutheran perspectives. Copies of this book will be made available to participants.

So, join us as we explore a wide range of faith traditions in a setting of fellowship and mutual support. Enjoy the delicious treats, prayer, music and supportive community that the Women's Bible Study provides. We hope to see you there.

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November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 OCT –CONFIRMATION 9:30 Children's Time (fka Sun School) 9:30 Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service w/ Confirmation	28 OCTOBER 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	29 OCTOBER 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	30 OCTOBER 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	31 OCTOBER 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Sanctuary in use 3-5PM
3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:30 Children's Time (fka Sun School) 9:30 Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service Holy Comm 11:00 Cinnamon Rolls	4 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting Election Night Meal 4:30 – 7:00	5 ELECTION DAY 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting	6 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	7 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 Sanctuary in use 3-5PM
10 NEW MEMBER SUN. 9:30 Children's Time (fka Sun School) 9:30 Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Dessert Reception for New Mbrs	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting 2:45 Property Committee Mtg 5:30 Women's Gathering	12 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting 2:45 Property Committee Mtg	13 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	14 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 Fall Clean Up 9:00 Sanctuary in use 3-5PM NERF Event 6-8PM
17 PR RYAN'S ANNIV CELEBRATION 9:30 Children's Time (fka Sun School) 9:30 Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service Holy Comm 11:00 Brunch honoring Pastor Ryan	18 MLS ON WHLS 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	19 MLS ON WHLS 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	20 MLS ON WHLS 9:30 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 PowerUP 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	21 MLS ON WHLS 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	22 MLS ON WHLS OFFICE CLOSED	23 Sanctuary in use 3-5PM
24 9:30 Children's Time (fka Sun School) 9:30 Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicotine Service	26 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicotine Service	27 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Worship followed by Pie Social	28 THANKSGIVING Happy Thanksgiving!	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 Christmas Program Practice 9:30 – 11:00 Decorate Church for Christmas 1:00 Sanctuary in use 3-5PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

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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 November

- Nov. 3: Children's Time/Sunday School & Fellowship
All Saint's Sunday Worship & Cinnamon Rolls
- Nov. 5: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Election Night Smorgasbord & Craft Sale
- Nov. 6: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 7: Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 10: Children's Time/Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship & Receive New Members
New Member Reception with Dessert Treats
- Nov. 11: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Nov. 13: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 14: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 16: Fall Clean Up
NERF Event—All Youth
- Nov. 17: Children's Time/Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship with Holy Communion
Brunch Celebrating Pastor Ryan's 15 Years
- Nov. 18—22: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Nov. 19: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, Council Meeting
- Nov. 20: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 21: Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 24: Children's Time/Sunday School & Fellowship
Worship
- Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social
- Nov. 28: Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov. 30: Christmas Program Practice
Decorate the Church for Advent/Christmas

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Josh and Alex Ertz, Youth Mentors

Patty Mesenbring, Dir. of Children's Ministries

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

Gene Herman, Custodian

Jennifer Boog, Preschool Director

UPDATE
CONTACT INFORMATION

Help keep our contact information up-to-date! If you have a new home phone, cell phone or new email address, please call the church office at 763.784.5120 or visit <http://abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/update-my-contact-information/> so we can update our records. Thanks!