



the vinebranch

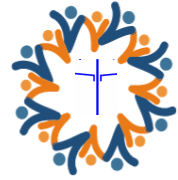
a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

November 2023

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Sustain and Soar Campaign



SUSTAIN AND SOAR
ABIDING SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Friends,

God is at work here at Abiding Savior. This is our spiritual home, our family of faith. This is where we worship, pass faith along to our children and youth, grow in faith, support one another through the trials and tribulations of life, and gather for life giving fellowship. This is where we are energized to share God’s love in our homes, schools, workplaces, community and out into God’s world. God is truly at work in and thorough this place and in and through each one of us.

These excellent ministries and life changing relationships are sustained by the sharing of our time and resources. As members of the Abiding Savior Congregational Council, representing this amazing church community, we would like to make you aware that currently our church is \$59,455 behind for 2023 fiscal year. Due to this deficit, we are inviting each of you to join us in closing this gap, through our November *Sustain and Soar Campaign*. You will be receiving a letter and envelope in the mail this month. We ask that you prayerfully consider returning the envelope with a financial gift to help Abiding Savior end the year strong and enter the new year in a healthy position.

To provide transparency as to why this *Sustain and Soar Campaign* is so important, we have listed out the reasons below:

- We are looking to call a new Associate Pastor in 2024 and must be able to financially support that new pastor.
- So much momentum and amazing ministries are in abundance here at Abiding Savior, and we must keep that momentum going through providing financial support.
- The staff of Abiding Savior consistently does amazing work, and their work is supported by our generosity.
- The Congregational Council is looking to the future, with your guidance, and the visionary work and strategic planning will need both financial support and volunteers.
- In the Listening Sessions conducted by the Council, the congregation has shared their hopes and dreams for our congregation to grow participation by young families, children, and youth, while continuing to provide for the spiritual needs of those who are aging in our congregation.

This congregation is worth sustaining and that is why this campaign is so important. As we look towards the future, we want to be able to answer the call of God to share love in and through our wonderful welcoming community at Abiding Savior. It is imperative to retain our excellent staff. We want to call an Associate Pastor and move our ministries forward to ensure that we can meet the needs of our church and community.

We are asking that you prayerfully consider helping to close our 2023 funding gap. You can donate anytime or return the envelope you will receive in the mail and in worship. As we live together in God’s love, we will ensure that Abiding Savior is a welcoming and caring family that nurtures spiritual growth, shares our Christian faith, and serves all creation.

God’s blessings!

Abiding Savior Congregational Council



**Join us for an
Election Night
Meal**

**Tues., Nov. 7th
4:30—6:30pm
Tickets on sale
now!**



**THANKSGIVING
EVE SERVICE**

**Wed., Nov. 22nd
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,
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serves all creation.

Tree of Sharing—Sharing Time and Talents

The Tree of Sharing is a way for volunteer opportunities at Abiding Savior to be posted and for you to be able to find places to volunteer. The Tree of Sharing is located in the Narthex Area outside the Sanctuary and on the tree will be little tags with volunteer opportunities for you and your family. You are invited to look over the many volunteer opportunities and to choose how you want to share your talents. Each volunteer opportunity on the tree has two separate tags stapled together. One tag has a description of the volunteer opportunity and the contact person for that volunteer opportunity. The second tag has a place for you to fill in your name and contact information and that second tag can be placed in the jar provided by the tree. You are encouraged to visit the tree, check out the volunteer opportunities, and choose how you will joyfully share your time and talents at Abiding Savior.



Spirit of Sharing Stewardship Campaign

We have had a great response to our Spirit of Sharing Fall Stewardship Campaign. If you have not already done so, it is not too late to turn in your pledge card. Through your generosity, and the generosity of your brothers and sisters at Abiding Savior, God is at work in and through our congregation. Worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, Confirmation, Wednesday Suppers, PowerUp, choirs, bells, our support of Community Partners with Youth, Quincy House, the Irondale High School Pantry, Makungu Parish in Tanzania, and so much more are all possible through our combined Spirit of Sharing. Thank you for your continued generosity!



Our church is not a building but rather a wonderful group of people working together to serve one another! Please **join us on Sunday, November 26** as we recognize and thank all who volunteer of their time and talents!

Caring Visitors Training

Caring for one another. It is central to who we are as a congregation and as God's people. Our mission statement highlights this foundational piece of our ministry: "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."

You can be a Caring Visitor and truly make a difference in the lives of others. Having a Christian caregiver can be a tremendous blessing at times in one's life such as following the death of a loved one, during a serious illness, when dealing with life's difficulties, or when in need of connection with one's church. Caring Visitors reach out through personal visits, phone calls, cards, and care packages to provide support. Caring Visitors extend the reach of our caring ministry beyond what the pastors can do alone.

Pastor Marla will be providing training and support for our Caring Visitors team. Please think and pray about whether you might be willing to serve in this way.

Being a Caring Visitor does not require a big commitment of time, but it can make a big impact on the life of someone who receives this care. Whoever reaches out in love and care to others finds that love and care comes back to them in ways beyond what they could have expected.

Contact Pastor Marla or Pastor Ryan if you'd like to learn more about this or may be interested in being part of Abiding Savior's Caring Visitors Team.

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NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Abiding Savior, please come to our New Member Class on **Wednesday, November 1, at 5:30PM** in the Coffee House. We will be talking about Abiding Savior, ways new members can get involved, a little about what it means to be a Lutheran, and best of all, you will meet other new members. New members will have a congregational sponsor who will help them to learn more about the congregation. For those who choose, dinner is served on Wednesday evenings at the church and you are welcome to grab dinner before the meeting or bring dinner along with you. New members will be received at worship on Sunday, November 12, and new members will be the honored guests at our congregational brunch that day following the service. If you have any questions, please talk to one of the pastors.

Special Choir Opportunity



Join us as we prepare for Advent and take part in a short-term special choir opportunity! We'll be practicing at 9:00am on **Sundays, November 19 & 26 and December 3 & 10**. We plan to sing one piece from Handel's *Messiah* and *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

Please contact Mary Larew with any questions at mary@abidingsavior.org. We look forward to making music together!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 23 | 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>

ELECTION NIGHT SMORGASBORD MEAL BAKE & CRAFT SALE

Tuesday, November 7 | 4:30 - 6:30pm

Get out and vote and then join us for our Election Night Meal. We'll have 2 meal options this year:

- **Scandinavian meal:** (\$15/meal for 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
- **Kid's meal:** (\$6/meal for hot dog, chips, mac & cheese, fruit cup and cookie)! BBQ pork meal & kid's meal.

Pastor Marla's husband, Randy, will be providing music with his band in the Narthex, and there will be a bake (benefiting our Preschool) and small craft sale (benefiting the ELCA Youth Gathering).

Invite your friends and get your tickets in the church office!

Election Night Bake Sale

Tues., Nov. 7 | 4:30 - 6:30pm



In conjunction with our Election Night Meal, we'll be having a wonderful Bake Sale! We're looking for baked items or other tasty goodies to sell that evening. If you're willing to make something sign up [HERE](#) and drop it off Sunday after church or Monday & Tuesday during church office hours. All proceeds will benefit Abiding Savior Preschool.

Wednesday Night Schedule

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 4:30—6:15pm | Dinner served |
| | Nov. 1: Chicken ala King w/ Biscuits |
| | Nov. 8: Beef Soup |
| | Nov. 15: Spaghetti |
| | Nov. 29: Beef Stroganoff |
| 5:30—6:30pm | <i>Living Prayer</i> Adult Education Series |
| 5:30—6:00pm | POWER Up |
| 6:00—6:30pm | POWER Up |
| 6:30—7:00pm | Wednesday Worship |
| 6:30—8:00pm | Confirmation |
| 7:00—8:00pm | Adult Choir |

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:

November 26: **No Sunday school**
(Thanksgiving break)

*** Please see separate article on Christmas Program rehearsals ***

Even if you can't make it every week, please come when you can. And remember—friends are always welcome.

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



Looking Ahead:

Children's Christmas Program

Just an early reminder—rehearsals are as follows:

- **Saturday, 12/2, 9:30-11:00:**
- Grades 2-5 and other individuals who will be notified in mid-November
- **Saturday, 12/9, 9:30-11:00:** All children
- **Saturday, 12/16, 9:30-11:00:** All Children

The program will be **Sunday, December 17** during worship.



MS/HS Youth News Get Involved!

High School Youth Group

- **When:** Friday, November 3 from 6:30-8pm

Cinnamon Rolls (General Youth Fundraiser)

- **When:** Sunday, November 5 before and after worship

Election Night Meal

- **When:** Tuesday, November 7 from 4:30—6:30pm
- **What:** This all church event is made possible by volunteers - especially youth volunteers!!! We need your help setting up, busing tables, and cleaning in the kitchen.

Nerf Event

- **When:** Friday, November 17 from 6-8:00pm

POWER Up! for Kids

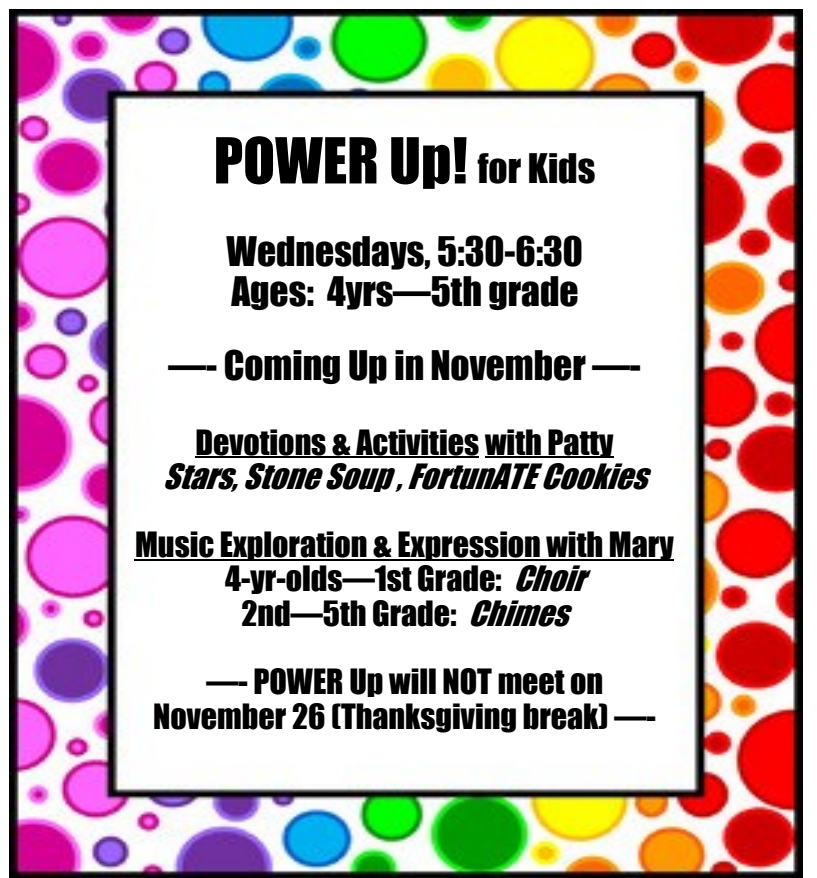
Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30
Ages: 4yrs—5th grade

— **Coming Up in November** —

Devotions & Activities with Patty Stars, Stone Soup, FortunATE Cookies

Music Exploration & Expression with Mary
4-yr-olds—1st Grade: Choir
2nd—5th Grade: Chimes

— **POWER Up will NOT meet on November 26 (Thanksgiving break)** —



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Abiding Savior Preschool Happenings



Wow this school year is off to an amazing start! Our toddler room has been a huge success! It is so amazing to see all the little smiling faces! Our preschoolers are learning so much and making new friends. We had an amazing October filled with bring your favorite stuffed animal to school days, Halloween parties, pumpkin picking, etc. The month absolutely flew by!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a wreath during our annual Preschool Wreath Fundraiser! Your continued support means the world to me! ***The wreath delivery date is set for Wednesday November 15th.***

We still have a few available spots in our preschool classroom so please feel free to spread the word about our amazing program! We have a wonderful teaching staff that make each day fun and exciting for all the kiddos enrolled in our programs!

As always thank you for your continued support of our wonderful preschool program! We absolutely love every single one of our preschoolers and are thankful that their parents have chosen our program as the one for their precious children!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org



God's Work. Our Hands.

Coat Update: Your gifts of coats for the October 21st coat drive have been most appreciated by neighbors needing some winter warmth and care. 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 or gift card for distribution. We'll be collecting for a number of causes helping local neighbors and families needing a boost. Let's love our neighbors!



Coupons Needed: If you have unused coupons (groceries, personal hygiene, laundry) from mailings or the newspaper, please bring them to the office in a timely manner. With them, we are able to stretch our giving budget and let more folks know they have caring friends at ASLC.



Meals on Wheels Delivery: Our congregation's next week of delivering is December 18th. Let the office know if you are interested in dropping off noon meals, with a partner if you prefer. Fern Fisher can answer any questions you may have.



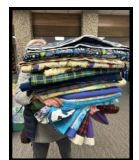
Interested in Outreach? If you'd like to be involved in ASLC's Mission Outreach activities, the committee would love to have you join us, as much or little time as you care to spend. Check out the volunteer opportunities presented as part of the Fall Stewardship Appeal, "Spirit of Sharing." Or check with Pastor Marla or Linka Holey for more information. Thank you for your good deeds.



Blood Drive Thanks: Big thanks to the 39 donors who contributed 39 units of life-giving blood on September 28th. And thanks to the volunteers who helped make it happen. What wonderful things you have done!



Quilts Delivered: 22 handmade quilts were delivered to Lutheran World Relief for distribution worldwide, where needed. Currently, 80% are going to Africa. Thank you quilters, for your gifts of love and warmth.



September 2023
Financial Highlights

| 2023 | Monthly | YTD |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Current gifts and giving | 34,095 | 347,377 |
| Festival giving | 160 | 11,708 |
| SUBTOTAL | 34,255 | 359,085 |
| Other income | 15,337 | 57,692 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 49,592 | 416,777 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 47,129 | 476,438 |
| NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES | 2,463 | (59,661) |
| Benevolence paid | 2,417 | 35,139 |

**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. 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.

**Giving to the
Endowment Fund
is Simple and Joyful!**

When you make or revise your Will or Trust or review your life insurance contracts or retirement funds, please consider Abiding Savior as one of your beneficiaries using the following language:

I bequeath __ % (or \$ ___) of my estate to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church located at 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN, designated for the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

Please talk to Pastor Ryan Brodin if you have questions about making a gift to the Endowment Fund.



Council Listening Sessions

The congregational council believes it is important to reach out to the entire Abiding Savior congregation to listen to your hopes, needs and desires for our church community. *Why do you attend Abiding Savior Lutheran Church? What parts of worship do you find inspiring at ASLC? What should never be changed at ASLC? What would you like changed or enhanced at Abiding Savior? Is Abiding Savior meeting your needs and the needs of your family? Why or why not? What value does ASLC bring to the community and beyond? What skills/competencies in a new pastor do you feel are most important to enable ASLC to be as you envision it? How would you describe the ideal Abiding Savior now and in the future?* The Council will share the results of the listening sessions with the congregation and will keep the congregation informed as we move together through this strategic planning process.

These discussion questions and the answers you all provide will assist us in finalizing our church's strategic plan and progression toward calling of a Pastor in 2024, based on strengths identified.

We have one remaining listening session scheduled for Sunday, November 5 at 9:00am in the Coffee House. If you did not have the chance to attend one of the October listening sessions, we strongly encourage you to attend the November 5 session to provide your hopes and dreams for Abiding Savior.

On behalf of the congregational council, thank you for your participation in the Listening Sessions. If you do not feel comfortable attending or you have a scheduling conflict for the remaining Listening Session please do not hesitate to email me at dawson@myas.org to provide feedback.

Dawson Blanck, Abiding Savior Congregational Council President

Mission

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November 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 29 OCT. CONFIRMATION 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 9:00 Intergen. Handbell Practice 10:00 Worship Service | 30 OCTOBER | 31 HALLOWEEN 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Mtg | 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed Hour 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir | 2 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook) 7:00 Jubilation Ringers | 3 OFFICE CLOSED High School Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00 | 4 |
| 5 COMMUNION ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 Listening Session 9:00 Sunday School & Fellowship 9:00 Intergen. Handbell Practice 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Cinnamon Rolls | 6 | 7 ELECTION DAY 10:00 Staff Mtg Election Night Meal and Bake Sale 4:30 - 6:30 | 8 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed Hour 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir | 9 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook) 7:00 Jubilation Ringers | 10 OFFICE CLOSED | 11 |
| 12 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 10:00 Worship Service (also via Facebook Live) 11:00 Brunch | 13 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's | 14 10:00 Staff Mtg 5:30 Lydia Circle | 15 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Ed Hour 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir | 16 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook) 7:00 Jubilation Ringers | 17 OFFICE CLOSED Nerf Night All Youth 6:00 - 8:00 | 18 |
| 19 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship 9:00 Dec 10 Special Choir Practice 10:00 Worship Service | 20 | 21 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Council Mtg | 22 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Worship followed by Pie Social | 23 THANKSGIVING DAY | 24 OFFICE CLOSED | 25 |
| 26 CHRIST THE KING VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL) 9:00 Dec 10 Special Choir Practice 10:00 Worship Service (worship also available via Facebook Live) | 27 | 28 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 Benedictine Service | 29 9:45 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp 6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp 6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir | 30 10:00 Women's Bible Study (in-person or Facebook) 7:00 Jubilation Ringers | 1 DECEMBER OFFICE CLOSED | 2 DECEMBER Decorate the church for Advent - 9am Sunday School Xmas Program Practice 9:30 - 11:00 (2nd-5th cost/spk) |

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Phone: 763.784.5120

Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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 November

- Nov. 1: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 2: Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 3: High School Youth Group
- Nov. 5: Council Listening Session
Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Intergenerational Handbell Practice
All Saint's Sunday Worship & Cinnamon Rolls
- Nov. 7: Election Night Meal & Craft/Bake Sale
- Nov. 8: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 9: Work Crew and Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 12: Sunday School & Family Fellowship
Intergenerational Handbell Practice
Worship & Brunch
- Nov. 13: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Nov. 14: Lydia Circle
- Nov. 15: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 16: Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 17: NERF Event—All Youth
- Nov. 19: Sunday School, Family Fellowship
12/10 Special Choir Practice
Worship with Holy Communion
- Nov. 21: Men's Brkfst & Bible Study, Quilting, Council
- Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social
- Nov. 26: No Sunday School, 12/10 Special Choir Pract.
Worship
- Nov. 29: Wednesday Evening Programming (See pg. 3)
- Nov. 30: Women's Bible Study

Pastors & Staff

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor

Marla Amborn, Interim Pastor

Josh and Alex Ertz, Interim 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!