



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

September 2023

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Together in God's Love

Let's face it, life can be hard. There are a lot of different forces that pull us apart, difficult relationships to navigate in our families and neighborhoods, worries about our finances or our jobs, and health related issues that occur for us or our loved ones. These are just some of the many burdens we can carry around with us every day.



Fortunately, we do not have to carry these burdens alone. Instead, we were created by God to live in relationship with God and with one another. To help our neighbors in their moments of need and to live together in community. In the midst of all the difficulties in life, we need to find times of peace, a chance to re-energize, and people who care about us.

That is the beauty of Abiding Savior. This is a place where we find others who care about us. This is a place where we can connect with God. This is a place where we can share our burdens and others can share their burdens with us. This is a place of love and support and fellowship that we simply do not find most other places in our lives.

Whether you come often or just occasionally, I invite you to experience the peacefulness of a worship service. I invite you to come and participate in life giving fellowship over coffee, a meal, or at a Bible study. I invite you to join in the ways that Abiding Savior is living out faith through service in this community and beyond.

The theme song from the 80's TV show Cheers used to say, "Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came." For us, Abiding Savior is that place. Life is hard and we need each other. As we live together is God's love, Abiding Savior truly is a loving and caring family. We want everyone to experience that love and that care.

I'll see you in worship!

Pastor Ryan



COMING SOON

FALL PROGRAMMING

Rally Sunday September 10

9:30am

Sunday school families invited for fellowship & making a backpack tag

10:00am

Indoor worship

11:00am

Brunch

Wednesday Programming Begins September 13

Sunday, September 17

Sunday School & Fellowship
at 9:00am

Worship at 10:00am

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.

New Pastor Search and Interim

We are blessed to have Pastor Marla Amborn here as our interim pastor. The purpose of an interim is to provide pastoral support to the congregation as the congregation discerns what they are looking for in their new pastor. This time of discernment is a gift, and the Council is doing a deep dive into deciding what Abiding Savior might look like moving forward.

We expect to begin the call process for a new pastor in early 2024 and will keep the congregation updated throughout that process. In the meantime, Pastor Marla is with us and doing an excellent job. Please reach out to Pastor Ryan or Council President, Dawson Blanck, if you have any questions about the interim or the call process.

Stewardship Corner

It All Belongs to God

Whatever you call your own, actually belongs to God. Your time, your possessions, your resources are not your own. Think about it—How much of your material wealth can you take with you when you go to heaven?

It all stays here because it all belongs to God. We just get to use our possessions while we are here on earth. God shares with us and God trusts us to be good stewards of what belongs to God. Being a good steward means using our possessions, our time, our talents, and our selflessly. As we have been entrusted with an abundance by God, we are called by God to also share abundantly. The question we should be asking ourselves is not necessarily how much of what God entrusted to us do we share, but instead how much of what God entrusted to us do we dare keep for ourselves?

Our God is a God of abundance, not scarcity. God provides for us and God calls upon us to share with those who do not have enough. Thank you God for providing us with what we need, teach us God to joyfully share what you have entrusted to us.

New Intergenerational Handbell Choir

Have you ever wanted to play handbells? Now is your chance. Join us Sunday mornings 9:05-9:30 beginning October 1. We will practice for about 6 weeks and then share our gifts in church on November 12. This choir is 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. If you have questions, please reach out to Paul Weller @ pkweller@gmail.com.



Wednesday Worship Returns Sept. 13! New Location New Format

Wednesday Worship is a worship service on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm starting September 13. This exciting worship service is less than half an hour long, family and kid-friendly, and totally relaxed. We will be singing songs, praying together, hearing God's Word and a short reflection from one of the pastors, and sharing communion every other week. We will be meeting in Mod 2 for worship. All are welcome, come and see!

Growing Through Loss



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 is joining with several area churches to offer an excellent series of grief support called Growing Through Loss. **These sessions will be on Monday evenings, September 11 through October 16 from 7—9PM at Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville.** Each session begins with a speaker on an aspect of grief. Then there will be an opportunity to meet in a small group with those experiencing a similar loss (loss of parents, loss of spouse, loss of child, separation or divorce, suicide loss, and transitional loss (empty nest, moving, job loss, broken relationship, financial setbacks).

Schedule

09/11: Understanding Grief & Loss
09/18: What Do We Do with These Feelings
09/25: Families Coping with Grief
10/02: The Power of Staying in Your Story
10/09: Personal Story: Loss of Spouse
10/16: Healing and Prayer Service

Mission

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Rally Sunday September 10



Sunday School Families Welcome Activity Blessing of the Backpacks and Brunch Sunday

- **Sunday School Families Welcome Activity:** Sunday School families are invited to church at **9:30am** to meet in Mod 2, greet friends and make a backpack tag.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks:** Students of all ages please bring a backpack (empty) to church at **10:00am** for a special blessing as you begin a new school year!
- **Brunch:** Stay after worship and join us for a delicious brunch.

Twin Cities Media Figure Pat Miles will Discuss her Book on End-of-Life Matters *Before All is Said and Done*

SEPTEMBER 24 @ 2:00pm

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake

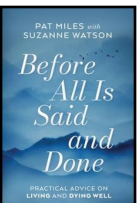
Former news anchor Pat Miles will discuss her book, "Before All is Said and Done: Practical Advice on Living and Dying Well," which navigates the realities surrounding dying and widowhood on September 24 at 2:00. The public is invited and encouraged to attend at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake.



Local journalist Miles drew on personal experience and learnings after losing her spouse unexpectedly.

"The book underscores the importance of having critical discussions in advance of a loved one's dying and death. Pat Miles writes from her personal experience that these conversations are difficult, but it is more difficult later without them. We're very pleased to offer these valuable insights to the White Bear Lake community," said Pastor Marla Amborn.

Following the talk there will be a reception with the author including refreshments.



Get the book. Read it. Come with your questions. Bring your friends. We hope for a large crowd and a lively discussion as we address this topic that everyone needs to talk about sooner or later, and it works better if you do it sooner!



Important Upcoming Confirmation Dates

- Sept. 6: 6th-8th grade Orientation at 6:30pm
- Sept. 13: First class for all grades at 6:30pm
- Oct. 29: Rite of Confirmation for 9th graders

Wednesday Nite Schedule

Starting September 13

- 4:30—6:30pm Dinner served
- Sept. 13: Tacos
- Sept. 20: Chicken Salad
- Sept. 27: Hamburger Gravy & Mashed Potatoes
- 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

* See article on pg 4 for exciting information about this year's POWER Up program!

Last Chance! Men's Fishing Trip



Join us **Friday, September 22 to Sunday September 24** for our Men's Fishing Trip! This year we will be going to Camp Hiawatha on the Shores of Deer Lake just north of Grand Rapids, MN. Invite your friends and neighbors, sons and sons-in-law for a weekend of fishing and fellowship. The cost, including housing and all of our meals while at camp, bait, and gas for our boats and cars is only \$170 per person. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Pastor Ryan leads this trip and offers evening devotions and Sunday morning worship. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120.

Blood Drive - Sept. 28



Join us **Thursday, Sept. 28 from 1:30 pm—6:30pm** for our blood drive! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment. If you are available to help volunteer at the blood drive, please contact the office!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rally Sunday, September 10 at 9:30am
Welcome Activity (No Class)

Come to Mod 2 to greet your friends
and make a backpack tag.

First Session is
Sunday, September 17
9:00-9:50am

Welcome, families! Children 3 years old (and potty-trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us each Sunday morning for Bible stories, songs, crafts and other activities our wonderful teachers prepare just for you. Even if you can't make it every week, please come when you can. And remember—friends are always welcome.

Although there is no fee for our Sunday school program, we ask that you please [visit our website to register](#). It is important for us to have contact information for each child and to be aware of any allergy or medical concerns. Your cooperation is appreciated.



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

Sunday Parent Fellowship

Bringing your kids to Sunday school this fall at church before worship at 9:00am? How does spending that time connecting with other parents, sipping coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage sound to you? Or maybe you need to get some work done and want to bring your laptop and enjoy some free Wi-Fi while being with others? Spend the time laughing, talking, sharing stories from your week together with other parents. No programs, no lessons, no structure, just parents meeting for fellowship! No pressure at all.

Meet in the library table area directly across from the office area at 9am each Sunday.

REGISTER NOW

Although there is no fee for any of our children's programs, please register your children online or pick up a form in the church office for [Sunday School](#) and [Wednesday Evening Children's Programming](#). To best serve the families in our programs, it's important for us to have parent/responsible adult contact information, as well as knowledge of any allergies, medical or behavioral concerns. *Thanks!*

New Preschool Year Begins!



I can't believe how fast the summer went and that we will welcome the preschoolers back into the building this month (along with our new toddlers)! We are so excited to have all these kiddos in our program for this school year! I have been busy all summer promoting our program and I think seeing all these little faces proves that it has been successful! I am sure this will be school year filled with lots of smiles, laughter, and learning!

As always thank you for your continued support of our program! We have a few preschool spots still open so if you know of anyone looking for an amazing preschool program, please recommend Abiding Savior!

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

POWER Up! for Kids **One Program Full of Opportunities**

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

Devotions—Crafts—Activities
Musical Exploration and Expression

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13
[Register today!](#)

We can't wait to welcome you,

Patty Mesenbring—Dir. of Children's Ministry
Mary Larew—Vocal Choirs Director
Paul Weller—Bell Choir Director



DO GOOD THANK YOU! So many people contributed to making this year's VBS possible, and we are grateful for each and every one of you. Whether you donated funds or supplies, volunteered in any way, or kept us in your prayers, your kindness & generosity are appreciated.

Mission

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Women's Bible Study News

The Women's Bible Study has been having lively and meaningful discussions sparked by reading "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." Fifty-one people have participated in person or online during this series. A big "Thank You" to Thrivent Financial for the Thrivent Action Team grant that covered a significant portion of the cost of these books, and to an anonymous doner who contributed so that the books could be free to participants!

During September, Pastor Marla will be away for a couple of weeks on vacation. During that time, we will have some travel discussions: Sept. 14 - Pastor Ryan with an El Salvador Trip Report & Sept. 21 - Pastor Lisa with a Norway Trip Report.

Starting in October we will focus on Women in the Gospels. Each week we'll read the scripture and hear the story of a woman in the Bible and discuss the questions raised by her situation. It will be a good time for people who haven't been part of the Women's Bible Study during the summer to join in Thursdays at 10am!

Living Prayer: Deepening our Communication with God

Lord, teach us to pray! Throughout the centuries, Christians have turned to God in prayer. Like those first disciples, many of us would like to deepen our prayer lives and learn more about how to pray. Over this study we will be using *The Workbook of Living Prayer*, a classic prayer manual by Rev. Maxie Dunnam who served as president of Asbury Theological Seminary to guide our prayer journey. Pastor Marla will lead us as we learn about and practice praying in multiple ways. We'll meet during the education hour on Wednesday evenings 5:30 - 6:30 according to the following schedule:

Date	Chapter	Theme	Date	Chapter	Theme
Sept. 27	---	Introduction	Oct. 25	3	When All Else Fails, Follow Directions
Oct. 4	1	Getting Our Bearings & Beginning the Adventure	Nov. 1	4	Basic Ingredients of Prayer
Oct. 11	2	With Christ in the School of Prayer	Nov. 8	5	Pray without Ceasing
Oct. 18	---	<i>Week off for MEA</i>	Nov. 15	6	Resources for Praying

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend so that we can have enough books for everyone!

God's Work. Our Hands.

Coat Drive - The 24th Coat Drive and Give-away is scheduled for October 21st at Christ the King, New Brighton. We'll be collecting gently used or new **warm** winter coats until October 19th. Mittens, scarves, snow-pants, and boots are also accepted, but hats must be new. Items for school age children are most needed - last year we ran out of these sizes. Please place donations in the Social Concerns trunk. There will be opportunities to help set-up and work at the give-away. It's a very rewarding event! Thank you for caring for your neighbors!

Walk for Our Neighbors - Thanks to everyone participating in the Community Support Center's fundraising walk July 30th. 400 walkers logged over 500 miles and raised over \$20,000! What great support for the CSC's efforts to prevent homelessness/evictions. Thanks to our ASLC volunteers and 18 walkers for joining the social event.



School Supplies - Hearty thanks to everyone donating school supplies this summer. Sunnyside, Pinewood, and Edgewood students will be off to a good start thanks to your generosity and care.

Fall Opportunities - When we get back to our regularly scheduled programming, please consider lending a hand to help make things run smoothly and share in the joy of doing. There are many varied opportunities including many infrequent tasks, if you prefer. Your skills and talents are needed and welcomed here!



July 2023
Financial Highlights

2023	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	29,691	285,025
Festival giving	-	11,468
SUBTOTAL	29,691	296,493
Other income	994	23,393
TOTAL INCOME	30,685	319,886
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	44,064	365,008
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(13,379)	(45,122)
Benevolence paid	3,363	23,677

First Tuesday
Committee Night Resumes

It is good to be able to be together once again! Beginning on **Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30PM** we will once again start our monthly "All Committee" night. On this night we will gather together for a time of fellowship, check in with one another and hear updates, pray together and then head into our committees to complete our important work done in God's name. Some committees might make other arrangements for meeting so be sure to check with the chair of your committee or staff liaison. We look forward for a great year for our Youth, Stewardship, Worship, Adult Education, Fellowship, Children's Ministry, Mission Outreach, Property and Evangelism committees!



**If you are interested in learning more about our committees please contact the church office and we'll put you in contact with someone from the committee.*

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.



ENDOWMENT FUND

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. We could use Thrivent Action Team Grants for the following upcoming events:

- Fall Festival
- Wednesday Night Suppers
- Smorgasbord/Election Night Meal Bake Sale
- Preschool Wreath Fundraiser

**Save the date for our Fall Festival!
Sunday, October 8—following worship**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 AUG	28 AUG	29 AUG	30 AUG	31 AUG	1	2
MLS ON WHLS	MLS ON WHLS	MLS ON WHLS	MLS ON WHLS	MLS ON WHLS	MLS ON WHLS	MLS ON WHLS
10:00 Outdoor Worship (also via Facebook Live)		10:00 Staff Meeting	9:45 Cub Foods baked goods delivery	9:00 Work Crew	OFFICE CLOSED	
3	4 LABOR DAY	TWINS OUTING				
10:00 Indoor Worship with Holy Communion (also via Facebook Live)	OFFICE CLOSED	10:00 Staff Meeting	9:45 Cub Foods baked goods delivery	10:00 Women's Bible Study (also via Facebook)	OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 RALLY SUNDAY	11	6:30 Committee Meetings	6:30 Confirmation Info Night (6th-8th grad) Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study (also via Facebook)		16
9:30 Sunday School Welcome Activity (no class)		10:00 Staff Meeting	9:45 Cub Foods delivery	9:00 Work Crew		
10:00 Indoor Worship Service with Blessing of the Backpacks (also via Facebook Live)	5:30 Women's Gathering	1:00 Property Committee Meeting	4:30 - Wed. Night Supper	10:00 Women's Bible Study (also via Facebook)	OFFICE CLOSED	
11:00 Brunch		6:00 Lydia Circle	5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp	7:00 Jubilation Rngrs		
17	18		6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship		22	23
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship		9:00 Quilting	6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation	9:00 Work Crew		
10:00 Indoor Worship Service with Holy Communion (also via Facebook Live)		10:00 Staff Meeting	7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir	10:00 Women's Bible Study (also via Facebook)	OFFICE CLOSED	
	25	6:30 Council Mtg		7:00 Jubilation Rngrs	OFFICE CLOSED	MEN'S FISHING TRIP DEPARTS
24	26					30
9:00 Sunday School & SS Family Fellowship	10:00 Staff Meeting		9:45 Cub Foods delivery	9:00 Work Crew	OFFICE CLOSED	
10:00 Indoor Worship Service (also via Facebook Live)	12:00 Benedictine Service		4:30 - Wed. Night Supper	10:00 Women's Bible Study		
FISHING TRIP RETURNS			5:30 - 6:00 PowerUp	BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 - 6:30PM	Men's Faith and A Pint	
			6:00 - 6:30 PowerUp	7:00 Jubilation Rngrs		
			6:30 - 7:00 Wed. Worship			
			6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation			
			7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir			

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

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Go Paperless

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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 September

- Sept. 1: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Sept. 3: Indoor Worship with Holy Communion
- Sept. 4: LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED
- Sept. 5: Committee Meetings
- Sept. 6: Confirmation Orientation Meeting (Grades 6-8)
Adult Choir
- Sept. 7: Women's Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Sept. 10: Fall Kick-Off Sunday
Indoor Worship begins with Blessing of Backpacks
Brunch Sunday
- Sept. 11: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Sept. 12: Property Committee Meeting (1PM) & Lydia Circle
- Sept. 13: Wednesday Night Supper Resumes
Wednesday Evening Programming Resumes
- Sept. 14: Work Crew and Women's Bible Study
- Sept. 17: Sunday School & Sunday School Family Fellowship
Indoor Worship (also online)
- Sept. 19: Men's Bible Breakfast & Bible Study Resumes
Quilting
Council Meeting
- Sept. 20: Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Evening Programming
- Sept. 21: Women's Bible Study (in-person or online)
- Sept. 22—24: Men's Fishing Trip
- Sept. 24: Sunday School & Sunday School Family Fellowship
Indoor Worship (also online)
- Sept. 27: Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Evening Programming
Adult Education: *The Workbook of Living Prayer*
- Sept. 28: Work Crew and Women's Bible Study
Blood Drive (1:30—6:30pm)
- Sept. 30: Faith & A Pint Men's Outing

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, Vocal Choir Director

Paul Weller, Bell Choir Director

Katie Brouillard, Office Manager

Connie Clausen, Office Assistant

Trisha Bourassa, Office Assistant

Jennifer 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/> so we can update our records. Thanks!