

# PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



## ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

8211 RED OAK DRIVE | MOUNDS VIEW MN 55112-5929  
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### Our Mission Statement

*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.*

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**OCTOBER 2018**

### We Are The Church and We Make a Difference

Dale Aukee, Stewardship Committee Chair

We, the members of Abiding Savior, are 'doers'. We act as helpers, teachers, comforters and ministers to encourage and grow our faith. We are the *people who make a difference* through our actions by volunteering of our time and talents to make our church a home and a place of belonging.

This fall we begin our church programming year by inviting you to be an active steward of your church. There are many opportunities—Sunday school teacher, choir member, join the council or participate in the many committees and groups. This special invitation is exclusively for you to share your time and talents with our congregation. It is by and through the people of Abiding Savior we are able to accomplish many great things and spread God's message.

This year we celebrate our stewardship theme "*People Who Make a Difference*". You and I are the "people" who make a difference. By donating your time and energy, you make our church a thriving and exciting place to worship and fellowship. We see this multiple days a week though the many members who come to the church practicing stewardship as they help organize worship, make sure the snow is shoveled, lead the youth, wash dishes, set tables and make sure the coffee pot is full.

Your time is a gift given by God and to God. God gives us the choice of how we use our time and talents. This choice, and how we use our time and talents, is what makes the difference in the lives we interact with. This church year we invite you to be one of those "people who make a difference".



### People Who Make a Difference (Like You)!

Pastor Ryan Brodin and Pastor Lisa Richardson

Stewardship is about what we do with what God has entrusted to us while here on Earth. That includes our possessions, our relationships, and our time. This newspaper is filled with stories of how people are using these resources to make a difference for God.

We are all a part of the body of Christ. As Paul writes in II Corinthians, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." Each one of us is called to use our gifts and talents in service to God and one another. This is especially true in a church. Churches are not buildings, but instead are made up of people who voluntarily gather together for worship, fellowship, caring, and service.

It is only through volunteers like you that Abiding Savior is able to make a difference in the lives of so many families as well as working in this community to share the love of God. As you read through the pages of this newspaper, We hope you are inspired by the stories as you share of your own time and resources. There are always ways that you can participate in the work of God done in and through Abiding Savior. Together, as each one of us shares what God has entrusted to us, Abiding Savior will continue to make a difference for God in our families, our congregation, our community, and out into God's world!



*Let us pray together.  
Your church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.  
It will be friendly, if I am. It's pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work.  
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.  
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.  
It will be a church where people grow in faith and serve you, if I am open to such growth and service.  
Therefore, with your help, Lord, we shall dedicate ourselves  
to the task of being all the things you want your church to be. Amen.*

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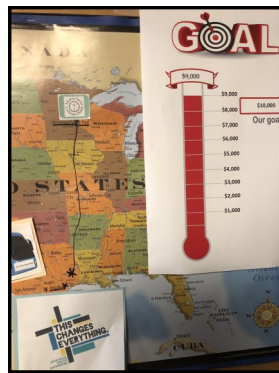


**Delivering Meals**  
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## 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

### How Your Support Helped Make a Difference and Changed the Lives of Our youth



As we gathered in a Walmart parking lot, the 13 of us had no idea what we were about to experience. We loaded the bus along with many others and started our 25 hour journey to Houston, TX. We arrived at our hotel and immediately knew the next five days were going to be amazing.

Our first night consisted of meeting friends from all around the U.S., floor seats at the NRG stadium, late night small group, and praising the Lord in song and dance. Day one changed everything. The second day we participated in interactive learning. This included games, activities, artwork, music, food trucks, and building walls. Day two changed everything. On the third day, we walked around the streets of Houston shopping and talking to locals seeing so much joy and pain in the eyes of the people who do not have homes. Later that afternoon, we had a worship with the rest of the St. Paul synod. Day three changed everything. The fourth day was our service day. We spent the morning walking around the fifth ward handing out flyers for hurricane relief and picking up trash. Day four changed everything.

30,000 high schoolers under one roof praising the Lord is a pretty cool experience. We listened to incredible speakers and learned so much about hope, grace, and love. Full send for Jesus! One of the main things we talked about was that we are called to welcome EVERYONE and not just the people who look like you or act like you. We are called to have open arms and love one another just as Jesus loved us. We learned that our pain, struggles, and unfairness can bring us closer to God and closer to our community.

After the mass gatherings, we had small group where we read Bible stories and talked about things going on around us. We shared so many laughs and some tears as well. We ended with singing "Kumbaya" and praying as we went off to bed.

We'd like to thank each one of you for supporting our journey! Whether it was with money, food donations, or prayers, it all helped us majorly! Huge shout out to Maren Hawkins and Brad Mills too for being the absolute best leaders and chaperones we could ask for. The trip changed everything!

## Youth Volunteers Make a Difference at VBS

How many teenagers would want to spend a week of their summer with 140 elementary aged kiddos? Here at Abiding Savior, there are MANY! These youth took precious time off from work or play to share their time and talents with the kids of our congregation and the community during our Vacation Bible School.

When asked why they volunteer and what difference they were making by volunteering, the youth shared the following:

- To spread God's love and have fun with the kids
- We have volunteered every year since we were too old to be in VBS ourselves
- Kids love having us around to be a positive influence that is not a parent or adult
- It is important to help out and I like the kids
- Help out the kids, VBS is a fun time with fun people
- Makes you feel good to help out and share positive vibes with the kids

These youth are an amazing influence on the kids at VBS. They bring an energy and enthusiasm that adults cannot always muster! But most of all, they are willing to step up and volunteer. When asked what difference her volunteering was making, one youth simply said, "If no one volunteered, VBS would not be happening right now." She was right about not only VBS, but also about the whole church. If no one volunteers, then there is no church. If no one volunteers, we are not doing the work God has called us to do together.

These youth volunteers at VBS are truly an inspiration, not only to the 140 kids that attended VBS, but also to the rest of us as they gave of themselves joyfully to share God's love!



## Making a Difference Through Knitting and Crocheting



In 2001, Cheryl Rogge had an idea for a new ministry. She approached Janelle Anderson and explained how praying while knitting or crocheting a shawl could bring comfort.

The two women developed their plan and brought the idea to Pastor Gedde. They would ask anyone who could knit or crochet to make a shawl, praying for it to bring

comfort to the person who received it. These shawls would be dedicated on the fifth Sunday of the month and given to anyone who needed one. It was announced to the congregation and everyone invited to make or support the shawl ministry.

The first month with a fifth Sunday found Janelle and Cheryl frantically knitting. They were worried there would not be enough shawls. They had ten finished, but what if that wasn't enough?

On Sunday when the shawls were brought to the altar, there were so many! Many people were knitting and crocheting, and there was an

abundance of shawls to bless!

That quiet, behind-the-scenes support for the prayer shawl ministry has continued. "Things just appear," Janelle said. The cabinet is always stocked with yarn and there are always shawls when someone needs one. "There is nothing more wonderful!"

Early in the ministry, Cheryl and Janelle had "knit-ins" or "crochet-ins" to teach others to make shawls, but that has not happened for quite some time as the shawls keep coming in. They don't know who makes the shawls or how many have been made. They don't even know how many people are supporting the project. "It is a very quiet ministry," Janelle said. "I almost don't want to have it lifted up and noticed. It's about prayer and prayer is meant to be a quiet time."

These special shawls cover the recipient in both warmth and prayer. It reminds them to pray and of the power of prayer. In making a shawl, the maker is giving a gift of their time--one of the most precious gifts since it is giving a part of yourself. Those who make the shawls also receive a gift in the time they are able to spend in prayer for another.

These prayers and shawls make a quiet kind of difference that makes all the difference in the lives of the makers and the recipients.

## Reigning Grace



Imagine a worship service in our church without music! What a sad difference that would be and the reason for highlighting our praise band, Reigning Grace.

This band began with the decision to have a contemporary service at Abiding Savior. Sara Quarberg (now Parent) and Ryan Hertado were the initial members of the new Praise band that soon took the name of Reigning Grace. Working under the framework provided by Pastor Ryan, the band began

choosing and rehearsing songs from current contemporary Christian music.

Through the years, members of the band have changed, but there are five to seven people volunteering their time and talent on any given Sunday. They meet once a week to practice, play every Sunday, and call, text, or email frequently between the members of the band. They are a very dedicated group, loving the music and what they do to bring it to life each week.

As a member of the band, Gary Peterson said the band loves the different style of music they bring to worship. They want the congregation to enjoy the music and for the music to help everyone understand the message. The difference they want to make is getting the congregation excited about the message in the music. This is the shared goal of the group. Once in a while, they hear someone confirm that impact when a person tells them, "I really liked that song!"

The members of Reigning Grace are very faithful. The band played for the second service every Sunday all year around until two summers ago when Abiding Savior went to one service in the summer months. Band members have become good friends, despite their generational differences. They have brunch together, coffee together, and a couple times a year, they gather together with their families for fellowship.

The band is always looking for new members. Anyone interested in singing or playing an instrument—or both—is encouraged to talk to Reigning Grace members about joining. There is also room for those with a technical interest to help in the sound booth or get the band "plugged in" at practices and Sundays.

This is a group of volunteers who truly do make a difference by making "a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

## Our Congregational Council Leadership Makes a Difference



Good leaders make a difference in the life of any organization, especially a church. The Congregational Council consists of leaders elected by the congregation to make decisions on their behalf dealing with budgets, strategic planning, personnel issues, policies and procedures, as well as other issues or requests that might come

up. The Council of Abiding Savior is filled with hard working people of faith who care deeply about this church.

The Council members volunteered to be leaders for a variety of reasons. They see it as an honor and a duty to serve God and give back to the church for all they have received. Being in leaderships fits their gifts and talents, just as singing in the choir, stuffing bulletins, or preparing communion fits for others. They enjoy learning more about the ins and outs of the congregation and feel that their opinions matter. They believe their work as a Council makes a difference as they help plan the future of the church in an ever-changing world. They also enjoy the fellowship and being a part of something bigger than themselves as they help Abiding Savior participate in God's mission in the world.

Abiding Savior is blessed with many leaders who give of themselves to make sure Abiding Savior is carrying out our mission to welcome others, care for one another, nurture faith, share God's love, and serve others in God's name. Your Council members are: Annika Bankston, Jim Christopher, Andy Clausen (Pres.), Gary Engen (Vice Pres.), Dan Franke, Brady Hoffman, Ron Huesman (Secr.), Stacy Overby, Gloria Pettis (Treas.), Laurie Sangren, Lisa Schlotterback, and Cindy Smith.

## Making a Difference by Delivering Wednesday Night Suppers

Each Wednesday night, we serve between 170 and 220 people at our Community meal. But did you know that not all people are served at Abiding Savior? Our Community meals have often been delivered to people in their homes ... and we have people who Make a Difference by delivering those meals!

Nancy Anderson is a life-long member of Abiding Savior. Years ago, she became aware of how a hot dinner could make a difference for people who, for various reasons, aren't able to make it to Abiding Savior for the Wednesday evening meal. In response, Nancy delivered food prepared in the ASLC kitchen to people in their homes. These people so appreciated getting a meal delivered by Nancy. It has helped make them feel a part of Abiding Savior and that they are cared about. Nancy often noticed people watching in their window as she arrived. Perhaps they looked forward to seeing a friend-

ly, warm and caring face as much as receiving the food! Nancy says she feels called by the Holy Spirit and a passion in her heart to minister to people in this way.

When work obligations arose and interfered with Nancy delivering the Wednesday evening meals another member of Abiding Savior, Maren Hawkins, stepped in to help with delivery. Maren shared that she began delivering meals after seeing the impact of receiving a home-cooked meal (along with a visit) had on her Dad when he was suffering from ALS. Maren enjoys volunteering and found that delivering meals fit into her schedule outside of work. She also enjoyed one-on-one time with her daughter as they delivered meals together and the opportunity to visit with members who weren't able to make it to church! Thanks, Nancy and Maren, for sharing your time and talents delivering meals!

Nancy and Maren are no longer able to continue delivering, **so we (and those in our community) need your help!** If you can help deliver meals (even on a part-time basis) please stop by or call the church office and say, **"I can make a difference by helping to deliver Wednesday night meals!"**



## Supporting Our Worship Services and Making a Difference



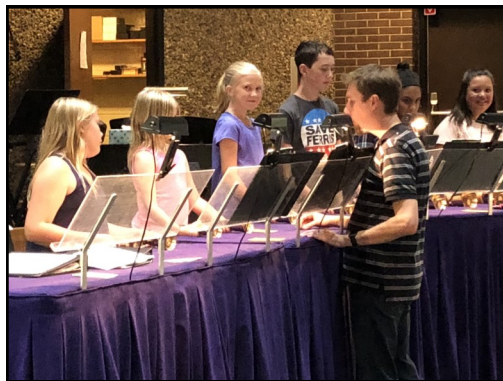
More often than not we don't even think of all the pieces that go into our worship services. There are many people volunteering behind the scenes who support our Sunday worship services. They make a difference! We know that many have supported these areas over time and we thank everyone who has volunteered. We thank everyone who has volunteered in these roles in the past (and now!).

The Altar Guild does what the name suggests. Gloria Pettis and Tonya Cox are the co-chairs of this group. Both Gloria and Tonya enjoy this service. Gloria shared that when she was working, she had little time to serve. But now that she is retired, this is one way to give back in respect for the support and care she has received from this congregation. Tonya has been a member of ASLC for years. Her family, by example, instilled in her the desire and willingness to volunteer.

The responsibilities of the Altar Guild are numerous: they order and pick up the flowers that are on the Altar as well as flowers and plants for special occasions. They make sure that the Eternal Flame and other candles are properly maintained. They change the parameters in accordance with the seasons of the Church year. They train the people for communion, order wafers and communion wine, and prepare the table for communion. Additional people are needed to set up the communion service and put the items away after the service. Volunteers helping with communion can be anyone over Confirmation age. The commitment is for 1 month per year and generally 2 Sundays a month. If you are interested in serving with the Altar Guild, speak with Gloria or Tonya or contact the office!

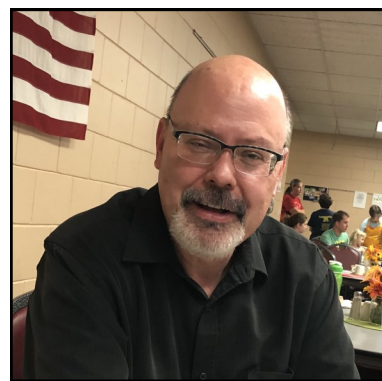
We asked you, the members at Abiding Savior, on a recent Wednesday night, to tell us about some people you feel make a difference here in our congregation. Here are just a few people who were mentioned and how they feel they make a difference!

(The pictures in the middle of these pages are just a few examples of how people at Abiding Savior have made a difference during this past year.)



Directing the bell choirs makes my day brighter! I do it for the people I work with—they inspire me!

—Paul



I've served on a number of committees—nominating, mission endowment, adult education, and am currently secretary of the Council. I find it gratifying to serve in a leadership role and help provide vision for our congregation. I also sing in the choir and enjoy spending time with that group of people!

—Ron



I make a difference by helping people at school.

—Sarina



I make a difference by helping lead the Reigning Grace worship band which brings a contemporary musical aspect to worship. I hope youth, kids and families who are looking for a relaxed or non-traditional worship experience enjoy the service. I'm also a small group leader for Confirmation because my small group leader helped mentor me and helped develop my faith. I hope I can do the same.

—Alex

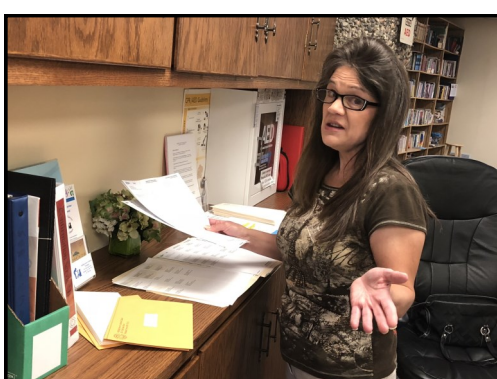
I sing in the choir and play bells, volunteer on the Women's committee and help with money counting. These are areas where I can use my gifts and I think any place you can help and every little thing you do makes a difference!

—Anita



We help wash dishes for Wednesday night meals because we're able to support the group that makes the delicious food!

—Ken, Linda, Gene, Dave



I make a difference by helping with tasks in the church office. The work (and sharing my gifts) brings me joy and it warms my heart.

—Nancy



I make a difference by singing and reading scripture.

—Sophia

I serve as a Befriender, am on Church Council, help with spring and fall clean-up, and read.

—Jim



I like making sure everyone gets enough calories on Wednesday nights with the sweets I help make! I also help co-chair the Smorgasbord with Fern because I like sharing the traditional Scandinavian food with younger kids so they can try it.

—Cindy (with Fern)



I serve as an acolyte to help with and be a part of the church service. I also helped serve treats during VBS. It's an easy way to help.

—Matt



I help with sound during Sunday worship because I think it's an important part of the service. It helps connect me to worship.

—Jack



By helping youth sell cinnamon rolls each month, I assist kids in learning time management, kitchen skills, planning, setting up, cleaning up, how fast jobs get done when there are more people helping, and the importance of fundraising for activities they participate in.

—Brad



I use the skills I've been given by serving on the Property Committee, Thursday morning work crew, helping with fixing things in the preschool, and participating in the Men's Bible study and men's fishing trip.

—Jim



I teach Confirmation because it helps renew my faith — we're all on a lifelong faith journey. It's meaningful to help young people discover their faith and help them on their path.

—Jan

By serving on my boys' PTA at school, and being a 'coach's wife' I'm able to connect with others, help provide resources to kids and can support the teaching of important life-lessons.

—Annika



We enjoy and appreciate being involved in dramatic presentations at Abiding Savior, because we believe in them and the effective way they tell a story. There is a level of emotion that a live performance delivers that can reach people and really pull them in. This would not happen without the willingness of members of our congregation to join our casts. It is a blessing to get to know and work with a cast. Together we learn so much as the words come alive. It is a faith building exercise, which we hope conveys faith and conviction to those in attendance. Dramatic presentations of Bible stories and dramas with Biblical themes are fresh and exciting ways to deliver God's Word.

—Gary and Jackie



Growing up, I had leaders and mentors in my life who gave so much support, patience and energy to children. I committed to choir to share that love with children as it was once shared with me! And every week, I am reaffirmed that children are the best!!!! They are truly a gift with their humor, engagement, spirit and knowledge. If I can be a mentor or leader in their life, I can truly feel like I have made a difference!

—Tanna



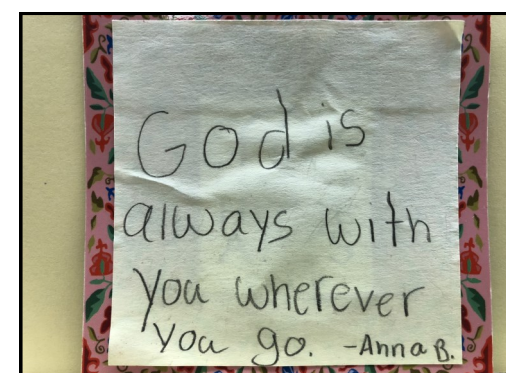
Serving as our Parish Nurse has been an amazing opportunity. Parishioners give us ideas on how to best serve them, we're able to help answer questions at church rather than people always waiting until their next appointment. We can respond to questions, share suggestions, and encourage people to see a doctor when they need to.

—Janet



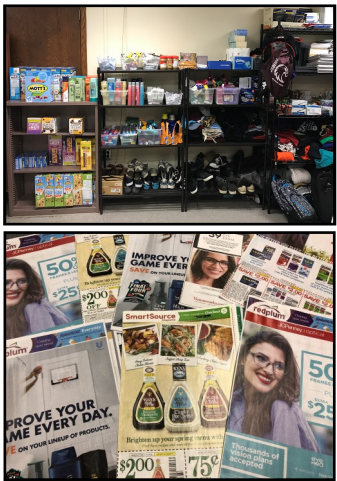
Faith is a journey, and I am honored to share in the early steps of that journey with the children here at Abiding Savior. I serve because I want kids to know that they matter - God's Spirit lives in them as fully as in the adults around them, and it's our job to nurture them in awareness of, and immersion in, that powerful relationship. It's a privilege to receive and return their goodness as part of my own faith journey.

—Patty



Messages shared with others (like the one above) can make a difference in the lives of the recipient! The note above was given to Maxine S. She has it on the dash of her car and it's a reminder whenever she's in her vehicle that God is always with her!

## Making a Big Difference by Using Coupons



Dawn Groberg has been a member of the Mission Outreach committee for 5 years. Having always used coupons to shop, she uses her coupons skills to buy toiletry items for the Food Shelf. A year and a half ago, her efforts resulted in a formal "Coupon Ministry" being established at Abiding Savior. The "Coupon Ministry" is supported through funds raised at Grandma's Attic and the Craft & Bake Sale at Abiding Savior's Smorgasbord. With the help of individuals who drop off their Sunday newspaper coupon ads, Dawn goes through and clips coupons that can be used for toiletry items such as shampoo, deodorant, tooth-

brushes, toothpaste, body wash, razors, and laundry detergent and then looks for these items on sale at local businesses. Dawn purchases name brand items and her first goal is to get things FREE ... then does her best to get shampoo and deodorant for 50 cents or less, toothpaste for 99 cents or less, razors for \$2.00 or less, and detergent for \$1.00 or less. She finds that Cub and Walgreens have the most generous coupon policy.

Dawn's purchases are then given to area organizations needing specific items. Those benefiting include Ralph Reeder food shelf, Irondale, Edgewood, and Pinewood schools. Quincy House has also received items.

While talking with Dawn for this article, she was quick to point out others who help with this ministry, such as Dan Franke who helps deliver all of the items she purchases. Her goal is not to bring attention to herself, but rather shine a light on the service this Coupon Ministry provides to the children and families it serves. Dawn welcomes help in this ministry and anyone can be a part of it!

- Drop your Sunday coupon ads off in the box located in the church office (Since coupons expire so quickly it'd be great to get the ads right away on Sunday morning or early in the week. No need to cut them out!)
- If you'd like to learn Dawn's most efficient system for cutting out coupons, contact the office!
- If you would like to help shop for items or help with delivery of purchased items, let us know.
- Support the Craft & Bake Sale at the Smorgasbord -- remember those are the funds that are used to pay for the items Dawn purchases.

The "Coupon Ministry" of Abiding Savior makes a big impact on the lives of so many in our community. This spring, 352 pounds of various items Dawn purchased were delivered to the Ralph Reeder food shelf including 70 containers of laundry detergent, each purchased for only 99 cents! Thanks Dawn, Dan, the Mission Outreach committee, and everyone who has brought in their coupons to support this ministry!! Keep clipping coupons!

## Impacting the Lives of Our Children and Youth

It is such a blessing to see so many young people coming again this fall and getting involved with a variety of programs at Abiding Savior that are educational as well as social experiences. What energy, what enthusiasm, what excitement these young people show and offer to us!

A very important part of our youth programs are the volunteers who help plan and lead the activities (in addition to the efforts parents put in!). Several of the volunteers were interviewed and asked why they help with these activities. Many of the answers were similar, including: I love kids; I want to hear what's happening in their lives; I want to be an influence; I want to help mentor/mold them; I want them to know that Jesus loves them; I want them to know that no problem is too big for God; It's important and I felt called; Others have reached out to my kids and I need to do the same for others; Someone motivated me or maybe they said we need you; Being encouraged or mentored by another; Kids are fun; My faith grows because of interacting with kids; It's not easy but it is a joy; Thanks be to God!

Volunteers are essential; they are a treasure. There are a variety of different things to do such as provide transportation, bring a treat to a gathering, fill in when someone may be absent, etc. Please accept this invitation to volunteer. We need you, our kids and youth need you, and God wants you to help!

## Funeral Luncheon Crew Makes a Difference to Grieving Families



A very special group of church members gather together to plan, make, and serve funeral luncheons. At a difficult time in the lives of family and friends, a home cooked meal and fellowship can help comfort them.

There is a group of luncheon volunteers who arrive around 8:30-9:00 AM. Tables are set with salt/pepper,

sugar/creamer, napkins, forks and spoons. Sandwiches are made, pickles are sliced, bars are cut and trayed along with cookies. Coffee and lemonade are made and along with water are put into pitchers for serving. Many people contribute salads, hot dishes, meat and cheese to make sandwiches, delicious bars and cookies. Many times lately, the funeral crew has made tator tot hot dish and hamburger/veggie hot dish.

Once families and friends have filled their plates with food, it's time to eat, tell stories and recall memories of their loved one.

As the meal ends, tables are cleared and the dishwashers are started by 2-3 more volunteers. This whole group of volunteers is ready to help whenever called upon. (The picture above shows only a few of the funeral crew.)

Some of the ladies and men were asked why they do this so willingly. Their answers were: "To help comfort the family with a hot meal during a difficult time." "Together we share in serving and giving back to the families and our community." Whatever their reasons, it comes from the heart.

## Making a Difference One Vegetable at a Time



It started in 2013 with a conversation and a tour. Michael Tippler and Sandy LaCroix both had interests in gardening and Michael knew of a garden to benefit the hungry at St. Philips. Sandy toured the garden at St. Philips and the idea of a garden at Abiding Savior was born.

For the past five years, ASLC's garden has delivered hundreds of pounds of produce to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. One of the most rewarding aspects of the garden is when the produce is delivered to the food shelf and there is an opportunity to meet some of the people receiving the garden's bounty. Many people ask what church provides the fresh food and this is an opportunity to talk about the mission of Abiding Savior.

The biggest difference, according to the gardeners, is in the congregation at Abiding Savior.

"We're a drop in the bucket to the food shelf," said Sandy. "They get food by the pallet full, but I think it makes a lot of little differences in our congregation." The garden is a non-threatening way to be involved and many members of the garden committee began as new members of Abiding Savior. The garden promotes conversation and an awareness of hunger in the community, bringing in donations as well as those in need. There is great support for the garden in the congregation and the committee keeps the congregation updated on their efforts.

For the past three years, Malmborg's Nursery has donated hundreds of dollars in plants to Abiding Savior's garden. At present, there are nine raised beds in the Garden of Grace.

Sandy described working in the garden as starting with a seed pushed into the dirt and waiting for a miracle. Planting that seed requires the gardeners to kneel and to have faith that the miracle of growth will happen.

500 or so pounds fresh of produce each year is 2000+ individual servings. Turning some seeds and a few plants into 2000 servings of fresh produce makes a difference! That's a miracle!

## Making a Difference by Knitting Thousands of Hats

Do you know who **Helen Paajanen** is? You have seen her I'm sure, but you maybe didn't know her name. Helen is a very unassuming person. Physically speaking, she is a diminutive person who possesses a positive personality and a strong spirit that shines within her. To Helen there are no strangers. She loves meeting people and sharing stories. She also loves to travel. Helen and her family joined Abiding Savior, then known as Spring Lake Park Lutheran, in 1950. It was in 1950 that the Paajanens moved to Blaine where they built a new house. Helen continues to live in that home. Helen's four children were all confirmed at SLP Lutheran. On Sundays, Helen usually sits in the north central pews about half way down.

Now how does Helen make a difference and why does she do this? Helen creates hats. She uses a knitting loom. It takes her about 3 hours to make a hat using colorful acrylic yarn. Often her work is done while watching TV. In 2017, she made 400 (yes, 400) hats. In 2016, she made 358 hats. She gives the hats to Food Shelves, Ralph Reeder for one, and schools. Pinewood has been a lucky recipient of her creations. She named about 6 or 7 other schools who have also received hats.



She says she does this because there is a need and she can help! She gets a good feeling knowing someone has warm ears because she made a hat for them. She prefers to remain anonymous. She doesn't believe she has seen one of her hats on a youngster. She would like to someday see a child model her hats. Helen knows that she is helping families.

Several months ago, a major local TV station requested to interview and videotape Helen. Helen said no to this request. We are glad she is willing to share her "Making a Difference" story with us. It should be said that in her 68 years of being with this congregation, Helen has been active doing many things. She's been involved with committees and with the Quilters just to name a couple. For several years, she made the stoles for the Confirmands. Helen also mentioned that there are others who make and do special projects. Thank you Helen for giving us more ideas of members who Make a Difference. So Helen, Thank You and keep the yarn "flying" on that knitting loom! Helen, you make a difference.

### Sunday Coffee Treats Make a Difference



Whenever you come to ASLC for any reason, you most likely will find coffee brewing. Sunday mornings find many people gathering to share a cup of coffee before church in the Coffee House or after church in the Lounge/Library area. Lutherans love their coffee and also enjoy the fellowship it provides. It's a good time to catch-up on fellow members or discuss what's happening in their lives.

Two of our members make sure the coffee is ready when you come to church for services. Either Gary Engen or Wayne Bedard are at the church bright and early to make sure it's ready when everyone arrives.

When I asked Gary why he does it, he replied he took over when Wes Cox could no longer do it. Scott Quarberg also faithfully helped make coffee for many years. Gary also said he enjoys helping when called upon to do so. Wayne's reply to the same question as to why he does it was, "Verlinda asked me to help," but he also enjoys helping around the church when asked.

### Thursday Morning Work Crew

Every other Thursday at 9:00am, a group of men meets at Abiding Savior to, well, work. Our Office Manager, Katie Brouillard, makes a list of tasks that need to be done around the building such as moving tables and dividers, painting, cleaning, plumbing, landscaping, mechanical repairs, putting salt in the water softener, fixing doors and locks... the list goes on and on. These men meet regularly to take on these tasks. Because of their efforts, the church saves thousands of dollars in service fees we would otherwise have to pay to professionals to do the same work.

When asked why they share their talents with the work crew, the first words out of their mouths were that they enjoyed themselves. They love the comradery and always begin the morning with coffee and doughnuts as they receive their list of tasks for the day. They enjoy having something at church where men can be together to socialize and to give back. They enjoy being able to share their skills and talents with the church in a way that saves the church's financial resources. To them, having the building presentable and running smoothly is important.

The Thursday Morning Work Crew is always looking for more help. If you are interested, please talk to one of the pastors or Katie Brouillard.

**Thank you** to the Work Crew for their devotion and their behind the scenes work that keeps our building and grounds looking and running smoothly.



### Quilting Makes a Difference



When I knocked and opened the door of the Chapel early one Tuesday morning, I heard chatter, laughing and saw many busy hands creating quilts. This group of ladies meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month to make quilts, enjoy fellowship and, of course, treats. (After all, we know food is always present at any ASLC gathering.)

Approximately 10-12 large quilts and baby quilts are made each month depending on how many people come that day. A majority of the fabric is donated by families of deceased members who enjoyed sewing.

The quilts consist of a top, a bottom and fillers. Marlene Danielson cuts the fabric into squares. Gretchen Hanson and Gloria Peterson assemble the tops and bottoms in their homes. They are then pinned together by Shirley Gatzke, Margaret Larson, Doris Kelly and Ina Mae Glommen. After that, the quilts are tied together on the quilting rack by using yarn - Gretchen, Ina Mae, Louise Bierl, Doris Wilson and Gloria Johnson complete this task. Once that part is completed, Donna Kluck and whoever else wants to sew finish the quilt by tucking in the fabric and sewing it together on the sewing machine. The finished quilts measure 96" x 64". Five of the quilts made that day were for the Butikima family who are refugees from the Congo.

Quilts are donated to Human Services of Anoka County, homeless shelters, Camp Knutson for handicapped kids, Women's Advocate Shelter, WAPO for their annual fundraiser auction, and some to our own Smorgasbord to be sold in the craft room.

The quilting group started in 1988. In 1991, 328 quilts were made. More hands are needed because previous members are not able to come due to health reasons, some no longer drive and some have passed away. I was told that if you can sew on a button, you can help by pinning, tying yarn or using the sewing machine. In other words, anyone can help!

I asked the ladies why they do this mission outreach. Some chimed in "It makes you feel good knowing you've given and reached out to those in need." Others shared "It's good fellowship and of course the treats are always good!" and "It's hard to say no to Gretchen!"

Everyone is invited to check out this great Quilting Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. I'm sure you'll find some way to help!

### Join Us As We All Make a Difference!

There's a lot going on at Abiding Savior!  
If you have any questions about any of the activities listed below,  
please don't hesitate to contact the church office.

**Weekly**

**Sundays**

- Traditional Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday School from 10:05—10:55 a.m.
- Adult Education from 10:05—10:55 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesdays**

- Men's Bible Study beginning at 8:30 a.m. (1st, 3rd, 5th Tues.)
- Quilting beginning at 9:00 a.m. (3rd Tues. of each month)
- Lydia Circle at 6:00 p.m. (2nd Tues. of each month)

**Wednesdays**

- Cub Foods bread delivery (open to the public) beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- Community Dinner served 4:30—6:30 p.m.
- **Music**
  - Celebration Ringers (children's hand bells) from 5:00—5:30 p.m.
  - King's Messengers Choir (4 yr—1st grade) 5:30—6:00 p.m.
  - Reigning Grace worship band from 6:00—6:30 p.m.
  - WWJD choir (2nd—5th grade) 6:00—6:30 p.m.
- **Education**
  - POWER Up (2nd—5th grade) 5:30—6:00 p.m.
  - POWER Up (4 yr—1st grade) 6:00—6:30 p.m.
  - Confirmation from 6:30—8:00 p.m.
  - High School Youth Group from 6:30—8:00 p.m.
  - Senior Choir from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
  - Book Club (3rd Wed. of each month) call for times
- **Worship**
  - Wednesday Worship from 6:30—7:00 p.m.

**Thursdays**

- Work Crew beginning at 9:00 a.m. (1st and 3rd Thurs.)
- Women's Bible Study from 9:45—11:00 a.m.
- Sharing & Caring Hands from 2:00—5:00 p.m. (3rd Thurs. of each mo.)

### Stewardship Word Find

See if you can find these stewardship related words:

Time, Talents, Share, Make a Difference, Stewardship, Volunteer, Love,  
God, Support, Gifts, Community, Financial, Mission, Abiding Savior

Q	N	H	A	O	M	G	J	G	C	L	U	W	B	A
A	R	F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	O	V	E	N
B	T	M	R	O	K	U	Q	F	V	R	M	N	I	T
I	N	P	C	J	E	W	I	T	B	X	E	O	W	V
D	S	T	E	W	A	R	D	S	H	I	P	E	L	O
I	C	I	P	A	D	N	W	E	L	M	H	C	P	L
N	A	M	K	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	W	A	D	U
G	O	E	A	O	F	P	A	H	T	A	Q	G	M	N
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O	E	C	W	P	N	G	W	Q	O	L	D	C	A	P
R	K	P	O	R	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	F
M	U	T	A	L	E	N	T	S	J	E	A	K	B	D

### Open Arms of Abiding Savior

*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.*

This is our mission statement, how we define ourselves as a congregation. There are so many ways that this self-proclaimed definition is true as we live out our calling to be welcoming, caring, nurturing, sharing and serving. In recent years, our congregation has grown to be less focused on ourselves (i.e. keeping the lights on, the mortgage paid, and the programs running) to being more welcoming and reaching out to share faith and serve others in our neighborhood and God's world beyond.

How appropriate that we are now seeing our new canopy being finished over the front entrance. This canopy is the first thing visitors will see when they drive into our parking lot. How appropriate that the canopy fits with our mission statement and who we are as a congregation. The canopy is designed with a "V" shape coming out from the existing building like two open arms. These "open arms" are a symbol of welcoming others and also reaching out from ourselves to share God's love. This new canopy will welcome those seeking God's love and grace for generations to come.

This new canopy can serve as a reminder to us of our calling to be both welcoming and reaching out. As we welcome others to worship, Sunday School, VBS, Wednesday Night Dinners, CPY, Kingdom Builders and other community groups that use our building, the canopy welcomes them with open arms. As we reach out providing SnackPacks at Pinewood Elementary, meals to Quincy House and the Center for Changing Lives, visits to the homebound and those in the hospital, we are sent out with open arms from under this new canopy.

As God welcomes us with open arms, we welcome others. As God calls us to reach out and share, we are sent out into the world with open arms to share God's love. Enjoy the new canopy—a reminder of who we are, and who we are called to be.



### Upcoming Special Stewardship Events

Mark your calendars for the following stewardship opportunities!

**Fall Stewardship Campaign events**

**Sunday, October 7, 2018**

- People Who Make A Difference kick-off
- Dedication of the Open Arms Canopy
- Adult Forum with Heather Eggert from WAPO

**Sunday, October 14, 2018**

- Adult Forum "People Who Make a Difference (Like You!)" led by Pastor Ryan

**Sunday, October 21, 2018**

- Celebration of Giving
- Celebration of Giving brunch (free of charge as a sign of appreciation for your generosity)

JOIN US AS TOGETHER  
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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