

ABIDING TOGETHER FOR 80 YEARS!



ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

8211 RED OAK DRIVE | MOUNDS VIEW MN 55112-5929
763-784-5120

Abiding Together for 80 Years

Pastor Ryan Brodin and Pastor Lisa Richardson Engen



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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8211 Red Oak Drive
Mounds View MN 55112-5929
763-784-5120
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OCTOBER 2019

God has been at work in and through this congregation over the last eighty years! Just imagine the number of souls that have been touched through this congregation. Eighty years is over 4,100 Sunday worship services. Think of all the meals that have been prepared in the kitchen, the Sunday School lessons that have been taught, all the baptisms and weddings and funerals. Generous hearts have driven these amazing ministries.



God continues to work in and through Abiding Savior today. We continue to worship and grow in faith as God pushes us out into the world to share love. We are working with our partners in serving this community like Pinewood Elementary School, Community Support Center, Quincy House, Community Partners with Youth and others. We are creating new partnerships with Cross of Glory and Atonement Lutheran Churches, Lutheran Social Services, Kingdom Builders Worship Center and a revamped Shobi's Table Food Truck ministry. Through the heartfelt sharing of time, talents and our financial resources, God is working in and through us today!



How exciting to think about the plans God has for us in the future. When God calls us, we are ready to respond in love to our church family, our community, and out into God's world. We do not know what the future holds for us or for Abiding Savior, but we do know that as we share what God has entrusted to us, God can and will continue to work in us and through us for generations to come.

We invite you to read through the pages of this newspaper to see the ways God has been working in and through Abiding Savior then, now, and forever. These amazing stories, memories, hopes and dreams are only possible because of your generosity and the generosity of your neighbors. Together we abide in God's love, as a welcoming and caring family that nurtures spiritual growth, shares our Christian faith, and serves all creation.



Then



Now



Forever

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



How We've Grown
Take a look back at some memories over the past 80 years

PAGE 2



Our Church Home
See why Abiding Savior has become and remains our church home

PAGE 6

We Remember our Memorable Firsts

2012 "Snackpack" program began



2013 VBS "HOP" (Heart of Prayer) offered to entire community



2015 New parking lot



2019 "Open Arms" canopy completed



2001 Prayer Shawl Ministry began



2004 Church organ was replaced



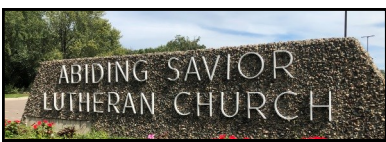
2010 Mission trip to Galveston for Hurricane Ike cleanup



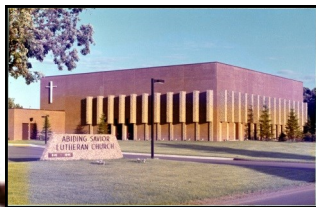
2010 First annual "Roy Andermann Memorial Men's Fishing Trip"



1971 Name changed to Abiding Savior Lutheran



1973 First service in new church



1986 Softball team



1993 "Revelation" traveling youth music and drama team



1940 First worship service held without doors or windows installed



1955 Christian Education Building was built



1966 Nursery School organized



1938 First worship service in the C.E. Gordon Larson home



1939 The first congregation was organized



Cornerstone laying at Spring Lake Park Lutheran Church - July 21, 1940

Stories from the Past

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church has been a place where many memories have been created. We asked members to reflect on some of their memories which are shared below.

My first memory of Abiding Savior was in 1952 when I was asked by a friend to go with her to Luther League. The little church was so crowded that the ushers would have to put chairs in the aisles. Then in 1961, I became a member. All 5 of our kids were baptized in the old church and 4 of them were married in the new church. I remember going to Sunday school and Bible school with my children. One thing that stands out about Bible school was Grace Nelson teaching the song "This is my father's world." I thought "how will the kids ever remember all the verses?" Now one verse is "in the rustling grass I hear him pass." This has become a favorite of our family. We need to "be still and know that I am God": Psalms 46:10

- Lavina Moinicken



I loved going to Camp Wapo with Ellen and Abby and I loved going to preschool here. These are some of my best memories.

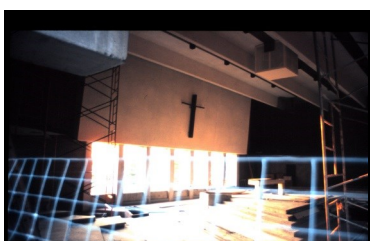
- Rachel Clausen



I remember my "first view." The time had finally come- the finishing touches were being completed and we would soon be worshipping in our new sanctuary. My husband, John, a member of the building committee, had just returned from his near daily checking on the building progress and invited me to go right back up to the church and see it -- he looked and sounded excited!! I had only seen the building from the street for some time so this was my first inside view. As I walked through those center back rock pillars and looked into the completed sanctuary for the very first time, I was awed and thrilled!! My eyes filled with tears as I viewed our new church sanctuary- how worshipful!!

Abiding Savior—that was the new name we had recently voted on and there was the cross, a symbol of "our" Abiding Savior. I've always loved the design of the cross—the horizontal bars remind me of arms—Jesus' arms—reaching out to me with love, forgiveness, peace, joy, hope, encouragement or whatever I am in need of at that particular time. And there was the triangular altar area representing the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Baptismal Font, the Communion rail going all around the altar binding us together around the word and sacraments. The trees inside and outside those large windows reminding us of our responsibility to witness and serve those in our community and world. Our dream of a new church home had become a reality and my heart was filled with joy and gratitude!!

- Margaret Larson



Abiding Savior is my home church ... a huge part of my life that houses many memories of growing up, nurturing my faith, and forming relationships with so many precious people. I became a member on May 22, 1960. So many memories of this place take residence in my heart ... baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals and other special times throughout the chapters of my life. What is most special about my life at Abiding Savior is its people. Brick and mortar hold a building together, but it's the love and concern from those caring people that make a church what it is meant to be. A family of God. My brother once told me that the only thing we take with us when we leave this earth is what we have packed in our heart. The love, care and concern of God's precious people will go with me and I treasure that more than any earthly thing and I am humbled to know that God blessed me with those who truly care.



- Marilyn Quarberg

Thinking back on the 15 years that Julie and I have been part of the Abiding Savior community, the memories come streaming in. So hard to choose! I decided to share the story of a truck driver I met in Ocean Springs, Mississippi a few years ago.

I was in Ocean Springs as part of a group from Abiding Savior on a mission to help people recover from hurricane Katrina. We worked to pour a large concrete floor under a home that had been raised and placed on stilts to help it survive the storm surge if there should ever be another Katrina.



The first couple of days saw us floundering a bit as we discovered how little we knew about pouring such a large pad. Carlos was the driver of the first cement truck to arrive. He could see we were amateurs and he asked me who we were and why we were there that day? I explained that we were a church group from Minnesota on a mission trip, and that we were helping a woman restore her home. Carlos said "I'm not like you people. I would never do something like this to help someone. I don't even like other people." He went on to say, "I like dogs way more than people." I then pointed to Pastor Lisa who was also in my group and said that Pastor Lisa also loves dogs, and that she is having a hard time right now because her dog back home is not doing well. I don't really know what they talked about, but soon he returned to his truck. Carlos delivered the load, washed down the truck and pulled it forward to make room for the next truck. Then, to my surprise, he got out, walked back, and started working with us! Carlos stayed until the next trucks arrived and made sure their drivers knew we needed any help and expertise they could offer. That day, Abiding Savior helped a woman restore her home and maybe helped Carlos learn a little bit about loving his neighbor. I know I did.

- Gary Engen



Norma Holmberg, the church secretary, tried to help out the new Associate Pastor (Jim Almquist). She made hot dishes and other meals to help him out and tried to teach him some basic "cooking for one." Norma wanted to help this bachelor preacher (she felt that he needed a wife). Norma kept supplies of "I wish" cards in the pews for any questions, ideas, etc. She decided to make up some cards that read "I would like a date with Pastor Almquist" and place them in the pews as well. This was all in good fun. By the way, Pastor Almquist did meet that special lady and was married at Spring Lake Park Lutheran Church (no "I wish" cards needed).

- Janet Wilcox

Harvey and I taught Sunday School- attended Adult Bible Study when our children were in Sunday school and then all attended church together. When Harvey was Sunday School Superintendent, he sent a bus and cars to pick up children in the community. We had over 1000 in our Sunday school. Our family especially enjoyed singing in the various choirs. We did musicals (TELL IT LIKE IT IS) and performed at other churches. BLESSED BE OUR MEMORIES!!

- Ina Mae Glommen



There are times when God is doing things and we might not understand it yet. That is why it's important to cherish the little moments on your walk with Christ. You might not know exactly what He is doing, but you know something is being done.

Then and Now



1940



1939



1939



1972



1940



1960



Interesting Statistics

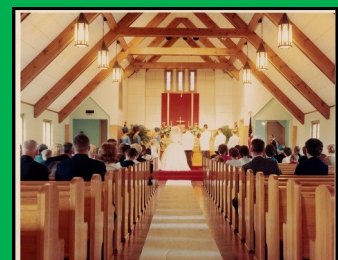
Baptisms
4,305



Confirmations
3,024



Weddings
1,433



Funerals
1,163



Worship Services
Over 10,636



Abiding in God's Love Today and Sharing the Good News of the Gospel with Our World

"I was glad when they said to me let us go to the house of the Lord." -Psalm 122:1

In the world we live in, where the news every day is about divisions, violence and so much bad news, what a joy it is to proclaim and live out the good news of the Gospel through our Lord Jesus Christ, of our God who deeply loves this world that He has made. It is God's love that is at the heart of all we do as a congregation of Abiding Savior.

The first words of our mission statement are "Living in God's love...". We gather for worship to hear about the love of God that joins us together and sends us out. It is because of experiencing God's deep love, welcome, and caring that Abiding Savior is able to be a loving, welcoming and caring family. It is a place where people feel welcome and cared for through worship, learning, and fellowship. It is a place to call home. What a joy it is when babies, children and adults come to the font for Holy Baptism. What a joy for children and youth to come and learn about God's love in Sunday school, Wednesday night programs, Confirmation and youth group. Abiding Savior cares about kids through caring adults, teachers, small group leaders and mentors and offers opportunities to learn, grow and serve. What a joy to hear children and adults sing of God's love through the choirs. What a joy to gather for meals on Wednesday nights and Sunday brunches to share life together with all ages. To share meals in joys and in sorrows, to be nourished, strengthened and cared for. What a joy it is to gather together for Bible study to hear God's word as a community caring for one another and praying for those in need. What a joy it is to serve together. Abiding Savior Lutheran serves in so many ways to make a difference to share God's love in the community. To be there to care for neighbors, children, youth and adults. To help meet needs through sharing our time, gifts and resources. To bring hope. To be a beacon of light and to share God's love, not only in the community but to reach out in the city and across the world through our companion congregation, Makungu Parish in Tanzania.

We give thanks to God for the faithful work and vision of those who have gone ahead of us who helped build Abiding Savior over 80 years ago! The important work and vision that began when this congregation was founded continues through today to share the good news of the Gospel by sharing God's love and grace. We give thanks for God's continued faithfulness today as we continue to share the good news of God's love to a world so desperately in need. We look to the future with confidence, trust, faith and joy knowing that God is leading Abiding Savior today and in the future as we begin these next 80 years and forever!



The Quincy House teens and volunteers are SO GRATEFUL for the meals our amazing volunteers provide every Tuesday and Thursday! The conversation and fellowship shared around the table is key to our ministry.

- Quincy House



Abiding Savior is proud to partner with Community Partners with Youth each summer by opening our doors to provide a place for the program to serve youth each Monday-Thursday. Here's an excerpt from a thank you received from the youth after this summer's program: "Thank you for letting us use your church. You're appreciated. We will miss this place. Thank you so much."



Thank you for keeping FMSC as an integral part of your Missions. We are proud to partner with you. In fact your community has helped to provide over 34,500 meals during the past 15 years. I cannot thank you enough for your commitment in supporting the mission of feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. Feed My Starving Children would not be where we are today without you, of that I am certain.

- Nancy Breyen, FMSC



Meals are brought and served at LSS—Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis. The Center for Changing Lives provides health and human services, as well as affordable housing for children, adults and families. It's mission is to bring people together, transform lives and create a vital community.



On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, a dedicated group of talented women gather to make quilts for those in our community. This month, 10 quilts were brought to Sharing and Caring Hands in Minneapolis. Quilts have also been given to International Students at Luther Seminary,



Every week an amazing group gathers together to plan, shop for and prepare our Wednesday Night Dinners that are open to the community. Once a month, a similar group gathers to prepare Sunday brunch. Another dedicated team plans, preps and serves food for the annual Smorgasbord, and yet another group helps with our church picnics. What a blessing to everyone in our congregation as well as those in our community to have the opportunity to gather together around a meal for fellowship and nourishment.



When you or someone you know could benefit from prayers and knowing that God's love surrounds us, our Prayer Shawl Ministry provides shawls for anyone in need. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month our worship services include a time of 'prayers at the altar' during which anyone can come share prayer concerns and receive a prayer shawl for themselves or someone in need.



Our weekly women's bible study gathers together each week to hear God's word and to spend time in fellowship together (as well as enjoying inter-generational activities with our preschoolers!).



To the Abiding Savior congregation, we share our deepest thanks for your collection of warm winter clothing and outerwear. We appreciate your love and care!

- Luther Seminary International Community

Why Abiding Savior is My Church Home

As part of our 80th Anniversary celebration, we set out to gather the thoughts of the people who make up Abiding Savior. As we celebrate by looking back at our rich history, celebrating what God is doing in and through our church today, and dreaming about where the Spirit will lead us in the future, we asked "Why do you come to Abiding Savior?" Here are just a few of the responses received!



Abiding Savior is my church family - really the center of my life. It is a large part of my support system. It's a very large part of my life in every way.

The fellowship and feeling of being part of a family of Christ.

Warmth of congregation members and all of the following reasons: message, fellowship, invited, family, food, music and programs. A special place to be!!

The caring people.

Welcoming staff and congregation.

Abiding Savior is home. No matter how far I have lived or the wonderfully, welcoming churches I found, I'm not home until I come to services at Abiding Savior.

We have been members since 1969. We consider ASLC to be our family. Caring pastors, outstanding support staff.

I love to worship on Sundays at Abiding Savior. The atmosphere of care while glorifying God makes me want to come every week.

Faith formation for our children.

Do you want to feel welcomed when you come to church? Do you want to be met with a smile, a handshake and a hug if you need one? Do you want to hear great music and listen to a meaningful sermon? Then come to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and be a part of a family.

Christ centered faith-filled worship.

The two pastors are the first and most important reason. They glow with their love of the Lord and make me feel my love for him too.

I found this church about 10 years ago and I was so inspired by Pastor Ryan and later Pastor Lisa that I have been attending ever since. The friendliness of everyone is wonderful and I can't imagine going anywhere else!

I feel welcome and supported in this congregation and especially the women's bible study. Pastor Ryan and Pastor Lisa are caring and compassionate and welcoming to all.

I feel loved and accepted here. It is my church family.

Abiding Savior is such a caring and sharing church. If something or someone is in need, people step up. More gets done by volunteers than anyplace I've ever seen.

Wonderful friendly people!

We had only been members of ASLC/Spring Lake Park Lutheran for about a year when the tornadoes in 1965 destroyed our home. The next day as I was picking through rubble, Pastor Nelson appeared with \$75.00 cash in hand, in case we needed it. We didn't, but I will never forget that act of kindness.

Abiding Savior is my second home! I've been coming here since I was 7 years old. This is where I learned to pray and love my God and Savior. I guess I love everything about Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, especially the people and of course our pastors.

No matter who you are, there is a feeling of family here.

It's the safest place on earth. I know that when I am under "attack" or life's storms rage, I always feel safe here. I literally feel the presence of the Holy Spirit filling me and changing me physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The people were so warm and welcoming. We came back and never stopped attending.



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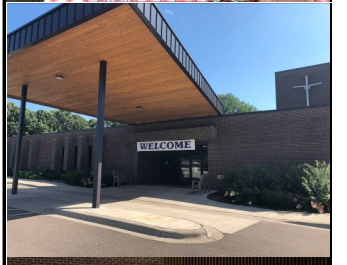
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A Look at our Next 80 Years!

Eighty years is a long time. In eighty years we will be celebrating the turn of this century into the next. What will our church look like then? If only we could see that far into the future. The people who started this congregation in 1939 could never have imagined worship with PowerPoint projection on screens led by electric guitars, ten members of our church travelling to Tanzania to visit a companion congregation, or livestreaming our worship services on Facebook.

All we know through faith is that God has plans for Abiding Savior! How exciting to think about what new and exciting ministries God has in store for our congregation. Ministries we are only beginning to imagine and explore. Worship styles that are yet to be developed. Outreach to an ever-changing community. Sermons that address the issues of the day that have yet to evolve. Lives to be changed with the love of God both inside and outside the walls of our congregation.

You are a part of God's plan for the future. God tells us in Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me."

The future is filled with hope. Through our prayer, our searching and listening for God and God's call, through the sharing of our talents and resources, God is building the kingdom here in this place and out into God's world. God is here, yesterday, today, and forever, abiding with us as we abide with him.



Investing in the Future of Abiding Savior Today: The Mission Endowment Fund

Through the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior, you can do something today that will impact the work of God done in and through Abiding Savior for the next eighty years and beyond. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are invested and the earnings from the investment are used annually for ministry. Funds allocated from the Endowment Fund must be used for ministry and outreach, never for the day to day operations of the church.

Once a year the Endowment Fund makes grants through a granting process to individuals, ministries, or organizations inside or outside of Abiding Savior totaling 4.25% of the fund balance. The Mission Endowment Fund has grown to over \$135,000 in just seven years of existence. This year over \$4,700 in grants were awarded!



Not only does a planned gift or a cash gift to the Endowment help ensure the work of God will be done in and through Abiding Savior for generations to come, your gift may provide a significant tax savings for you or your heirs. You are invited to leave a legacy of faith and generosity by making a lasting gift to the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior.

Giving to the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church 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.

Upcoming Special Stewardship Events

Mark your calendars for the following stewardship opportunities!

Fall Stewardship Campaign events

Adult Forums 10:05 AM in the Coffee House

Sunday, October 6: Bishop Patricia Lull, St. Paul Area Synod

To help us celebrate our 80th Anniversary we are honored to welcome Bishop Patricia Lull to Abiding Savior. Bishop Lull will be our guest preacher at both services and will be sharing in Adult Forum that morning. Bishop Lull will share inspiring stories of the work of God carried out through Abiding Savior partnered with the other congregations in the synod. Join us to welcome Bishop Lull and to learn more about the mission of God we help to carry out together through the St. Paul Area Synod.



Sunday, October 13: 80 Years of Abiding Together by Vickie Wendel

Join our resident historian, Vickie Wendel, as she leads us on a trip back over the past 80 years of our congregation. Sharing stories is part of what families do when they gather and on October 13, we will be sharing stories about how the Abiding Savior family came to be the church that it is today. Pictures looking back at the last 80 years will help tell these fun and poignant stories of life in our church and community. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about how Abiding Savior came to be the church we know and love today.



Sunday, October 20: Celebration Sunday!

- 80th Anniversary Brunch in Fellowship Hall
 - Join us for a complimentary brunch as we celebrate 80 years of ministry as a congregation. The brunch is sponsored by the Stewardship Committee and is offered free as a way to say thank you for your generosity in the past and for the coming year.
- Processional Offering
 - During worship that day we will have a processional offering bringing forward our weekly offerings as well as our pledge card for 2020. After sharing our offerings, there will be an opportunity to write down your hopes and dreams for Abiding Savior and place them on the Tree of Hopes and Dreams in the front of the church as we look to our next 80 years of ministry and beyond.



Tree of Hopes and Dreams

As we celebrate 80 years of ministry together, we also have an eye toward where God is calling us in the future. Beginning Sunday, October 6 through Sunday, October 20, we will have an opportunity to share our hopes and dreams for Abiding Savior by writing them down on a leaf and placing our leaves on the Tree of Hopes and Dreams in the Narthex. The Tree of Hopes and Dreams will be moved down to the front of the church for our Celebration Sunday on October 20 for all to see and for anyone to add their hopes and dreams, or additional hopes and dreams. God is not even close to done with us yet! We look forward to where God is leading us today, tomorrow, and forever.



Join us for worship!

Sundays

- 9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship
- 11:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship

Wednesdays

- 6:30 p.m. - Relaxed, Family Friendly Worship w/ Camp Songs



FRIENDS IN FAITH

WEDNESDAYS AT ABIDING SAVIOR!

- Worship**
 - Wednesday Worship from 6:30—7:00 p.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
- Cub Foods bread delivery (open to the public) beginning at 11:00 a.m.



79th Annual Smorgasbord

November 5th 2019
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Food, bake & book sale, and fellowship!



JOIN US AS WE
ABIDE TOGETHER
AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE!

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