

SHARE THE HARVEST



ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The field of harvest

Dale Aukee | Stewardship Committee Chair

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

—Matthew 9:37-38

We tend to think of autumn as the end of a cycle. We see the trees turn colors and leaves fall, flowers lose their beauty and slowly shrink into the earth, crops are harvested and stored, time is spent canning fruits and vegetables for the winter ahead. But this is not an end. Our appreciation of summer and what God has given us is a beginning in which we start to share the harvest and ourselves. Your Stewardship Committee discusses the many ways as an individual and as a congregation our lives have been blessed through our hard work and most importantly by God's grace.

While growing up my mother (along with a little help from us kids and my dad) was always canning something: berries, peaches, tomatoes, green beans, and every other vegetable you could think of. We did enjoy eating whatever was canned, but what I remember most was my mom always sharing with others what she worked so hard to make. Whenever we would go to someone's home, one or two of what she had canned was brought along and joyfully given away. Mom always said "Food is Love".

Our newspaper will tell you stories of how our congregation members have been the workers sent out into the field to *share the harvest*, showing God's love and touching the lives of those in need of comfort, assurance, guidance and help. These are stories of a beginning, not an end. Now is the time to *Share our Harvest!*



Share the harvest!

Pastor Ryan Brodin



God has blessed us so richly and in so many ways. We receive from God a bountiful harvest of blessings! God provides us with all that we need and more. Everything we call our own, our friends and family, even our lives themselves really and truly are a blessing from God. For most of us, we have received more than enough in our lives: enough to eat, enough to provide a home, a car, or an education for our children, a beautiful and active church for worshiping and serving God. We have an abundance, and God calls us to share from that abundance to further the Kingdom of God and to meet the needs of those who do not have enough.

How can *you* share from the harvest of blessings received from God? There are so many ways! One of those ways is to volunteer or to give toward the work of God done in and through your congregation, Abiding Savior.

This giving goes toward providing weekly worship services, visiting the sick and homebound, passing faith along to our children and youth, and providing outreach ministries to our community and beyond that help to feed the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, and reach out to at risk children and youth. All of this happens only because you are willing to joyfully share from your harvest of blessings!

I invite you to read through the pages of this newspaper to see the ways God is at work in your congregation. See the many ways that we are blessed by God and in turn we can *Share the Harvest* of those blessings in service to God and others.

Called and sent to share God's love

Pastor Lisa Richardson



God's love has found us and we can't help but go out and share God's love in our daily lives. It is such a joy to witness everyday how you are sharing God's love through the ministry of Abiding Savior congregation and in your daily lives. I see God at work every day as God opens our eyes to see a neighbor in need and also see how God is joining us together in caring relationships. I see God at work through your generosity in sharing your gifts – both monetary gifts and gifts of time and love for the sake of the Gospel. I see the thankfulness of those receiving meals delivered to their home with love in a time of need. I hear of the thankfulness of the children and parents receiving Snackpacks. The social worker at Pinewood refers to this congregation as "Abiding Savior Angels". The leadership and kids at Treehouse have been so thankful to Abiding Savior for being a "light of hope and love in the community." Our companion congregation in Tanzania, Makungu Parish, is faithfully proclaiming the Gospel and growing in faith and numbers. Through the gifts we have sent they have been able to add a new mission start and complete a new space for worship. They say "Asante Sana!" Time and time again, day after day, so many lives are touched by your sharing of God's abundant love, grace, compassion, generosity, and blessing.

Jesus said to his disciples and to us; "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ..I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete". (John 15:9, 11) God's love has found us and we are called and sent with joy into the world to share God's abundant love and grace. Thanks be to God!



Receiving a bounty on a mission trip

How building a house for others resulted in blessings for the builders.

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Quincy Tree House

Sharing the harvest with at-risk youth in our community!!

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How we've been abundantly blessed by God and used those gifts to bless others



"I was blessed with a great job that enabled me to help other people realize their dreams. That job also provided me with an income that now enables me to give back through Sharing and Caring Hands, I can give people rides where they need to go, and I can do things to help people who need it."

—Gloria

"I've been blessed with a great family and support system. Because of this, I can try my best to help others I see who don't have the same support system I do."

—April

"Having parents alive at an older age, I feel that family is a gift and shouldn't be taken for granted. I can honor them for the care they gave me by being there for them. We can all learn from and be respectful of people older than us even if we're not related to them."

—Cheryl

"I share my blessings from God by sharing my faith with my friends and bringing them to church."

—Elizabeth

"I am blessed by my family and being able to be involved in their daily journeys. Sharing time with them is a blessing!"

—Trisha

"We are able to give where we can financially with Shoebox kits at Christmas time, donations to the Snack Pack program, VBS donations, etc."

—Jan and Douglas

"I am blessed to be alive and in a healthy place. I can be a sounding board for other people in similar situations."

—Daniel

Thursday morning work crew



Have you ever wondered how all the little odd jobs are completed around our church? A few years ago a group of retired and semi-retired men started meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month to take-on some of these "odd jobs".

These men were blessed with various occupations throughout their careers. One was a carpenter, one worked with computer disk drives and dispatched trucks, another was a production supervisor for a company that made corrugated boxes, another made generators, and many more.

Now they are using some of their time and talents and passing them along as *blessings* to our church. These *blessings* are many and include: weeding outside, trimming trees, raking, vacuuming and cleaning the compressor and greasing our boiler to keep us cool in the summer and warm in

the winter. They also do electrical, plumbing, painting and whatever else needs to be fixed or done to keep our church in shape.

A member of the work crew also tends to the "turkey droppings" each Sunday morning before church. The droppings are from our newest "members" who have decided our church property is a good place to live!



Sharing a blessing at Baptism and with others



Alice Lisell is a member of Abiding Savior who has spine problems and is forced to use a wheelchair. In 2002 she spent April through Christmas in hospitals undergoing surgeries to correct a previous surgery done on a bad disc. The doctors were never able to repair the damage but with therapy she is able to transfer herself from the chair to the car or another chair. She is able to stand but only for a brief time.

Many might think that Alice would be bitter having to use a wheelchair for 14 years, but those people would be wrong. Alice is 89 years old and keeps her mind active doing word, number and logic puzzles. God has also put it on her heart to make crosses to be given to those who are Baptized as a keepsake of the day.

The crosses are made by weaving ribbon through plastic canvas cut in the shape of a cross. She uses white ribbon for the Baptismal crosses. She also makes crosses using colored ribbon. She always has a supply of these with her when she goes out and about. If someone does a favor for her, such as open a door, or if she sees someone who may need a little cheering up she will hand them a cross and say to them, "Jesus loves you and so do I". Alice says it makes her feel good to be able to do something for Jesus.

Thank you Alice for using God's gift to you to share with others. Jesus loves you and so do we!



Sharing the harvest through the Mission Endowment Fund

Marlene Pecha

How often do you consider the many gifts God has given to you throughout your lifetime? Most of us are reminded daily of these gifts. As we make plans for our future, we should consider sharing some of that "harvest" with others.

Giving is simple and joyful! Have you considered sharing your "harvest" with a gift to the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior? There are many ways to contribute: wills, assignment of life insurance policies, trusts, charitable gift annuities, transfer of properties (cash, stocks and real estate), and other charitable giving opportunities.

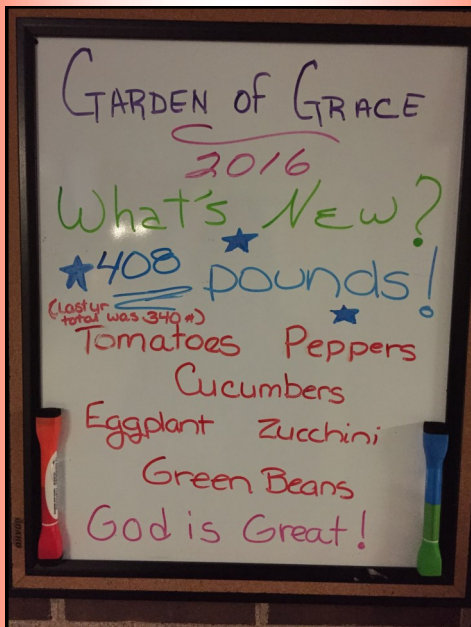
By using the following language, you can make Abiding Savior a beneficiary:

I bequeath ___% (or \$___) of my estate to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church located at 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View, MN 55112 designated for the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

In 2017 we will be share the harvest through the first distribution from this fund which is approximately 4.25% of the earnings to be used for various mission outreach programs and various needs within the church itself. Please consider "Sharing Your Harvest" to this fund!



Garden of Grace



Literally sharing the harvest

What a perfect opportunity to tell everyone about the Abiding Savior "Garden of Grace". We began building our vegetable garden in 2014 to help support our local food shelf (Ralph Reeder). We started with a small plot on the southeast side of our church property and raised 285# of food that first year. Last year, our second, we revamped a bit and increased our production to 340#. This year in 2016, we are on track to better the last two harvests, with plans to greatly expand for next year.

The goals of the garden group are to:

- 1) Use the gifts of land, sunshine, and other resources God has given us to grow healthy food to share with our neighbors in need.
- 2) Gather a group of interested gardeners in fellowship.
- 3) Engage our congregation through awareness of our garden as an outreach in our community and solicit their continued support for this important mission.
- 4) Be a visible example of "God's Work, Our hands".



Sharing the harvest of homemade food

Fern Fisher

My God given bounty was inherited from my Grandmothers and my Mother, all well-known, very good homemade cooks. I've always felt comfortable in the kitchen while planning and preparing food for family and friends.

In 2000 or 2001, I was introduced by Marie Grzybowski to Harvey Glommen. He started the Wednesday Night Suppers because he wanted children to have homemade food instead of fast food. I started working

with him right away and have been in the kitchen ever since!

The whole kitchen crew enjoys working together to prepare and serve the food to others. We love to see all ages coming to eat and share fellowship with each other.

I'm sure it pleases God that we are serving others here at Abiding Savior, sending meals to shut-ins, and the youth at Quincy Tree House.



Mission Outreach

Linka Holey

The six members of the Mission Outreach Committee are honored to serve on this congregational committee. Working with this aspect of our church has awakened in us the sense of privilege we have as individuals and as members of a loving community. The needs of others throughout the country and world are clearly presented in the media, yet the work of our church family has opened our eyes to the reality of individuals within our very neighborhoods.

By being involved in outreach, these neighbors take on faces and names – they become real and their needs become our needs. Everything we have has been provided by a loving God, and we are called to share this abundance with others. A challenge of the Mission Outreach Committee is to provide opportunities for the congregation to SEE those in need as children of a loving God, rather than simply needy neighbors who receive gifts from our abundance.

The committee members have many and diverse gifts – just as the body of the church. Over the past few years, we have learned about these gifts and how to share with each other as well as those we seek to serve. The opportunities for sharing the bounties of the harvest are many, and the Mission Outreach Committee attempts to communicate and provide experiences for the Abiding Savior community to SEE the neighbors as a part of LOVING our neighbors.



A prayer shawl received and reciprocated

Ruby Bennett



A number of years ago, I attended a wedding at Abiding Savior. At the wedding, I received the news that my husband had passed away. He had been ill and was in a care facility. Pastor Lisa heard about my husband's death and gave me a Prayer Shawl.

Over the next weeks, that prayer shawl brought

much comfort to me. I found myself taking it to bed with me or just wrapping myself in it when I was sitting. It gave me so much peace and comfort just to have it close to me. It was like you could feel the love and peace that was stitched into it. Since that time, I have passed the shawl on to another person in need of comfort.

I joined Abiding Savior a number of years later and realized that my crocheting could be of use to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. What a gift to be able to crochet prayer shawls to bring the same comfort and love that I at one time received.

May the hands that knit and crochet prayer shawls be blessed, and those that receive them find comfort and peace.

Receiving a bounty from God

Marilyn Quarberg

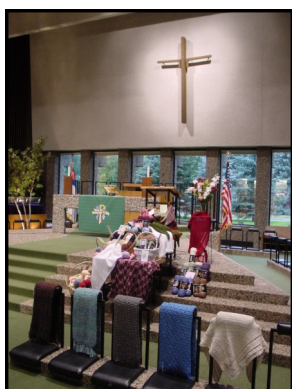
I have seen a bountiful God in so many ways at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. As a young child, I saw God in all those who formed my faith foundation by their own example as they lived out their own faith. I saw God in the now lifelong friendships that He blessed me with as a teenager in Agape and a young adult. God touched my life through the precious lives of those who attended our special class on Saturday mornings. Teaching them was an honor and a gift. God was ever-present in their smiles and in their love and that love was illuminated to me time and time again.

I have been blessed teaching young children in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for many years and felt so fulfilled each time I experienced the joys and the challenges that came with spending time with those precious children. God speaks to us and calls us to serve Him using the talents and gifts He has given to each of us. The opportunities are endless.



Worship is my passion and it is so important that we come to worship with open minds and open hearts to hear God's Word. Accompanying that, I want worship to be meaningful to all those who come, by working together to make our sanctuary beautiful and festive with the seasons. Although a beautiful sanctuary is not what makes worship what it is, it can still add to the "feeling" of warmth and celebration as we do worship. I have always said that some people around the world worship in churches with dirt floors, yet they still joyfully worship with their hearts and their voices. We are blessed to have more than that and we celebrate that!

Abiding Savior is a caring church and God sends us out to care for those who have physical, mental, and emotional needs. He especially asks us to pray for one another. I see God in the beautiful prayer shawls that are made and given to those who desperately need to feel God's love embracing them as they wrap it around them. I love to make the cards that accompany those shawls so they know they were made with love and a caring hand.



When my husband's aunt was terminally ill with pancreatic cancer, she wrapped her shawl around her every day. She loved it. When she passed away, her shawl was beautifully draped under a spray of flowers on top of her casket. I knew that God was wrapping His arms around her even in death.

God lives in the hearts of all those who serve Him at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. When I was hospitalized twice last year, a precious friend brought meals to us at least once a week for many weeks. We not only were blessed with a wonderful meal, but some wonderful conversation at the same time. Her visits were wonderful and I will never forget them. Every day, cards came in the mail with get well wishes and many prayers. To this day, those same people still ask how I am doing. It is that care and concern that makes Abiding Savior Lutheran Church what it is. It is not about our budget, a beautiful building, or an economical parking lot. It is about its people and the bounty that God has given to us as we celebrate our foundation, our faith, our family and our future. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Blessings delivered through the USPS

A little over 11 years ago, a member of our congregation had a life-saving liver transplant. She would remain in the hospital for over 10 months. During this time she received numerous cards from members of our congregation. She was heard to say "who are these people and why are they sending so many cards with get well wishes"? These cards were truly a blessing to her during her time in the hospital and recovery at home.

After being at home for a while, she went to Women's Bible Study and met some of these people. She took it upon herself to start sending cards to people on the Prayer List that is distributed weekly. She felt this was a good way she could pass along many of the blessings she received during her time of recovery.

Sometime later, a member of the church staff approached her and asked if she would be willing to take over the Card Ministry at ASLC. This would require her to send cards to members who were ill or had lost a loved one or were confined to their homes or care centers. Cards were also to be sent to members with special birthdays. She gladly said yes because she was not able to drive and felt she could continue sending blessings to others while at home.

The cards are hand-made by some members of the congregation and purchased from various other sources. The cards are signed "From Your Family at ASLC" and let members know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

People who have received these cards feel so blessed to know others are thinking about them during their recovery from illness, loss of a loved one or celebrating a special birthday.



"We have been blessed by our family (33 members in our immediate family!). We see the fruits in all of them and with what they're doing in their lives as they share with others."

—Deanna

"We share our gifts by making people feel welcome in our church through talking with them (and by sharing packets of gum with young kids each Sunday!)."

—Jack

"I have been blessed with a big family. I have 14 great-grandchildren. I have been blessed with a small stipend that I wasn't expecting, which I use to help others financially with groceries when I can. Our church has been blessed by the talents I and others share through Bible study and choir, visiting with people, bringing communion to shut-ins, and teaching. We are all blessed through prayer. We don't always know where the needs are but God does!"

—Ina Mae



"We, and our son, have been blessed by Preschool, Sunday School, and Kings Messengers at Abiding Savior. Our son enjoys the school and the activities, knows the church, and feels comfortable (almost too comfortable!) here. In my work with teenagers dealing with substance abuse, I try to give back to them by supporting them and providing an environment where they feel a sense of community and being cared for."

—Stacey, Jay (and Tristan)



"I have been blessed with a good retirement which allows me to donate to the preschool at my church. Abiding Savior shares their blessings by reaching out to the community with Wednesday night dinners. People really enjoy the meal and fellowship."

--Judy



“My whole being is a gift from God. I share my gifts through service to other people and volunteering. I enjoy going to Quincy Tree House. I’ve brought them household items they need to keep the house going. They receive the gifts with true thanksgiving. When you start sharing you don’t want to stop.”

—Maxine



“I feel blessed because our home has been fixed with solar panels which enables us to make some of our own electricity. We are able to tithe. We share the bounty from our apple trees. I coach and am able to share my talents with the kids and see them develop over time.”

—Neil

“I’m blessed with a husband who is retired and is able to be at home to help with things. I have a job that I love that allows me to work from home one day a week. I hope I’m able to bless my staff every day when I work with them.”

—Jenna

“I feel blessed by God because He lets me pray and talk about things I need to get off my chest.”

—Brooks



How powerful it is when we come together as a community to do something purely for the good of our neighbor. It not only helps our neighbor in need, but feeds those who volunteer and donate knowing that they are living out what it means to be a community by sharing and caring for one another. As we work together to feed others, we literally share the harvest of God’s blessings with others.

On September 11, 2016, four local churches joined together to help the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf with an afternoon event at Cub Foods in New Brighton. Abiding Savior, joined by Atonement, Christ the King, and Cross of Glory, held a large food drive, hot dog fundraiser, and food packing event. Volunteers from the different congregations worked side-by-side at Cub Foods to collect items, help serve hot dogs and bag groceries.

Thanks to this day of service, the four churches raised almost \$1000 for the food shelf in addition to bringing in over 398 pounds of food collected

How Verlinda has been blessed and how she blesses our congregation

I have been blessed by God right from the beginning of life. I had a very loving dad who sent me and my siblings to a Christian, two-room schoolhouse in the country. I received my studies of the Bible and hymns every day. My dad’s love and support got me through many hard times in school, as I was very shy, sick often and I had a very difficult time with school learning. I know now, that my dad prayed to God for me. I may not remember what I learned in school but I did learn to be sincere, to be considerate and polite to people of all ages, and to work diligently in all the jobs I’ve had. I was taught to be reliable and passionate about whatever I did, whether I liked it or not. I learned from my dad about generosity from a young age. He would volunteer at church in everything, after his farm work was done. He supported the church financially first, then food on the table and made sure we had clothes on our back. When I was at an age where I could babysit the neighbors, I loved it. I learned to be responsible for the children and always wanted the parents to come home to a clean house, so I would dust, wash dishes, sweep, etc. and this was all after the children were in bed. What a silly girl I was! I think that is when I wanted people to like me so they would call me back.

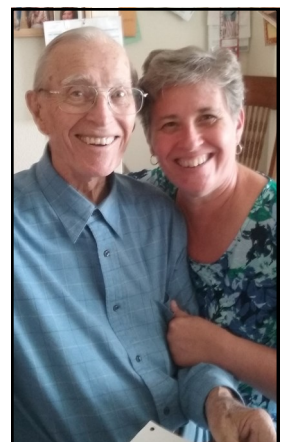
When I went to high school in 9th grade to town in Buffalo Lake, I was scared to death. That’s when I used to pray much more frequently to God to help me through the day and help me make new friends. It took me until 10th grade to make friends. I never had one best friend, I had friendships with many girls; shy ones, outgoing ones, good looking ones, smart ones and athletic ones. This is where I really learned to be considerate and polite to all persons. I did get involved with athletics, which did help with my low self-esteem. God was good to me, in that I did well in running.

In my junior year, I was honored to be chosen by my peers, to be princess of my class for the Homecoming ceremony. Joel Plath was chosen as prince. Two of my classmates got together to plan an outing before the evening. Joel and I were to go out to dinner with the other four classmates. That was my very first date which was 41 years ago. I do believe that was God’s plan for Joel and I to be together. It has been the best 35 years of marriage to a man that respects me for who I am, makes me laugh every day and a man of God. We have 2 beautiful daughters.

My career was always mom first, I had daycare in my home, cleaned homes for 15 years

and working at Abiding Savior, now for 17 years. During the years when my girls were young, I was able to be home with them, to get them on the bus and be home with them when they arrived home from school. I then cleaned homes or worked at church, which gave me the flexibility that I needed to be a mom. As you all know, raising children is the most rewarding and the most challenging, but what an honor to raise one of God’s children. Without the Lord in our family life each day, we would not have been able to accomplish what God asked us to do. Joel and I had our girls baptized, brought them to Sunday School and Confirmation. We would celebrate their baptismal days every year until they were 18 years old. I have 6 godchildren and Joel has 6 as well, some different from mine. We have always made a big deal for each one of our godchildren also, so they knew how important it was to remember the sign of the cross on their foreheads and they were children of God. As our girls went on their own way after college, they drifted from the church, like so many youth do. One daughter has found her way back where one has not. We continue to pray that there is a change in her life soon.

Thank you to Ina Mae Glommen. She is the reason why I am here today at Abiding Savior. She saw something in me, to apply for the job. I volunteered at church for years, working with Jeanne McCormick, Duane Hass, Marlene Friske, to name a few. I prayed and prayed that my church would accept me. I didn’t have a lot of schooling background but knew enough of the job to get it done. The church welcomed me with open arms. My job changed throughout the years to more responsibility. I have learned a lot about myself, through these years. I do have compassion or empathy towards people in need. There were some ups and downs during my years here but I continue to hear God tell me, this is where I need to be right now. Many people have said to me, why don’t you get a real job, where you can make real money. It has never been about the money, I am rewarded through the people I serve each day at Abiding Savior. I have made friendships with people of all ages, male and female. I am very blessed.



Four churches, one goal: feeding local families

at Cub Foods. As a part of this day of service, the churches also assembled and bagged over 600 sandwiches to provide meals for the homeless in Minneapolis.

“We can do so much more when we work together,” said Ralph Reeder Executive Director, Lisa Baker. “The beginning of the school year is always a hard time for us and we struggle to keep the shelves filled. So this event is great timing that will make a big difference in how much we can provide.”

The event is being held as part of a nationwide service day sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America called “God’s Work, Our Hands.” Thousands of volunteers in hundreds of congregations across the country will hold service events in their communities this same day. Together we are working to *share the harvest!*

Abiding Savior shares the harvest in Guatemala

David McLernon

When we look around I believe it is not hard to see how we have been gifted with God's love. We have just about everything we need in excess whether it be food, money or water. Of course God's bounty is not just material items, it can be things like the love of your family and community. This is why I believe that some of the most traditional ways of charitable giving (i.e. mission trips, food/clothing drives) are still great ways to spread God's bounty. The material bounty is spread to those who need them and the non-material bounty like relationships between people are strengthened. But sharing God's bounty can also be much simpler than this. It can be saying "hi" and smiling to someone as you pass them or lending them a hand when they need a bit of help. These small acts can have just as profound of impact across a community as the mission trips and other forms of charitable giving. On our trip it was one of these small things that had the biggest impact on me. After we had dedicated the house we built our group and about 50 kids all walked down to a river. On the way back a boy that was probably 4 years old came up to me and asked to be swung. So his older brother and I swung him all the back to the town. Of course other kids wanted to join in, so eventually I ended up running up and down the street giving kid piggyback rides. It was during this time I looked around and saw that every single kid around me was smiling and laughing. I realized that even though none of these kids were the ones receiving the house, I was still able to make a connection with them and share God's love with them by doing something as simple as giving them a piggyback ride.



Sharing talents of knitting and crocheting via prayer shawls

Sheryl Rogge

Prayer shawls have been used for centuries. Ancient Israelis used prayer shawls to help them pray and to remind them of God's presence. Shawls are universal. They comfort, wrap, offer warmth and shelter.

The prayer shawl ministry has been active at Abiding Savior for at least 10 years. In that time hundreds of shawls have been knit and crocheted. Shawls from this congregation have traveled to our neighborhood, into far reaches of our country and even to Tanzania and Mexico. I have a beautiful picture of a young girl in an orphanage in Tanzania with a pink prayer shawl from our congregation, wrapped around her shoulders. The broad smile on her face says so much to me. One of our pastors told me of making a hospital visit to a member of our congregation who had recently had hip replacement surgery. The pastor was quite surprised when the member pulled the covers back to show him her prayer shawl which she had wrapped around her hip!

Each shawl is started with prayer by the person who is crafting it. Prayers are offered during the construction of the shawl. They are blessed at the altar. I have found myself in prayer often



while knitting, prayers for the unknown person who will receive the shawl, prayers for the person who will present the shawl, prayers for myself and others near and dear to me.

We give prayer shawls in times of sorrow, in times of hurt, in good times as well as difficult times. Prayer shawls are God's love made visible. They are a reminder that we are never alone, a reminder that someone is in prayer for and with us. Prayer shawls are a hug that you get every time you wrap yourself

in one. We present these shawls as a sign of this congregation's prayers and care and God's presence surrounding us with strength.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please talk with Sheryl Rogge or Janelle Anderson. Patterns for the prayer shawls are readily available on the internet. There are several books available with patterns for knit and crocheted shawls. We try to keep a few pattern books in the prayer shawl cupboard in the Narthex. Four or five skeins of Lion Brand Homespun yarn makes a nice sized shawl, although any soft yarn can be used. We have limited supplies of yarn and needles available for those who don't have access to supplies. If you are an experienced knitter or crotchetier feel free to make up your own pattern or design. Shawls can be triangular, oblong or square shaped. You can leave your completed shawls in the cupboard. If you know someone who could use a shawl, please feel free to deliver one or to speak with one of the pastors about delivering one.

Being blessed through a prayer shawl

Amy Haugen

I remember so many loving gestures from our church family around the time of Stan's accident in 2004 when he suffered a traumatic brain injury from a fall. One was the day Pastor Lisa came to visit us after Stan came home from Bethesda and she brought a soft, green, hand knit prayer shawl. She spoke to us both about how the shawl was knit by a member of the church, who was praying as she knit, and it was Blessed during the church service that day. It was given to Stan to remind him of God's arms wrapped around him for comfort and that God will always be there for him.

At that time in his recovery from his brain injury, he didn't know what she was saying, but I did. I used that prayer shawl for the many times I felt alone, sad, or just needed a hug during the trying times as Stan's caregiver. That same green prayer shawl still lies on the back of Stan's recliner, used by both of us for warmth, comfort, and a constant reminder of the love of God and our family at Abiding Savior.



Shobi's Table: Sharing the harvest on the streets of St. Paul



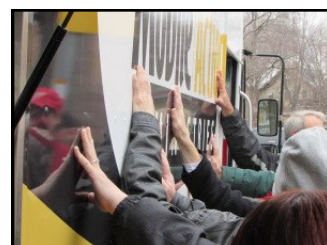
Abiding Savior has been a strong supporter of the work of Shobi's Table for many years. Pastor Margaret Kelly has been our guest in worship where she let us know her church is not your typical church. Shobi's table has no building, no committees, no youth group. Instead, Shobi's Table has built a ministry with a borrowed food truck. On Thursdays, the members of Shobi's Table have pulled together a caring community of believers as they feed the hungry as they hand out hot "Shobi's Pockets" from the food truck every Thursday on Payne Avenue on St. Paul's East Side.

In meeting recently with Pastor Margaret, she shared a story of God's abundant harvest. It had been a dream of Shobi's Table to have their own food truck. One day, the owners of their borrowed food truck sat down with Pastor Margaret and handed her the keys. They wanted to give the food truck to Shobi's Table and did so simply with the instructions that this food truck was to be a mustard seed to build the Kingdom of God.

With this amazing blessing of the food truck, Pastor Margaret and those involved at Shobi's Table, have been putting together a plan to help

that mustard seed grow! They continue to feed people and build community on Payne Avenue, but they also plan to expand their feeding ministry to new locations. They hope to also create opportunities for vocational training by using the food truck for learning the ins and outs of cooking, serving, and small business ownership.

How exciting for Abiding Savior to continue to be a part of what God is doing in and through the ministries of Shobi's Table as they share with others!



Gifts to be used in service — in Guatemala

Curt Johnson

Sixteen of us embarked July 17th under the prayers of our church and immediate families. Propelled by months of saving, fund raising, and planning; fueled by a Holy Spirit; with passion and commitment to delve into the unknown, despite sacrifice, fears and challenges.

We were sent and returned, not only to help a family, but to strengthen and transform two communities equally loved by God. A relationship grew with a loving family and a community far away, bonding with our strange and wonderful group (that's us), along with our families and our Church family (that's you). There grows a sense of unity and fellowship, in a unique and mysterious way, like a pebble causing ripples to spread in a pond. The effects are not limited to ourselves, but the grand purposes of a loving and

perfect Father.

So what does a short term mission trip to Guatemala have to do with stewardship ???

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

By the same Holy Spirit that lead us, by the same Spirit that comforted us and strengthened us, by the same Spirit of God that held us close and our group close together, God gave us each unique gifts to be used in service, manifested in works, for the purposes of God: From God, for God, to God, in thanks to God.

Sounds like rock solid stewardship to me ! Ya sure, you Betcha! *Muchas gracias* to all who supported us !!!!

From God, through Jesus, by the Spirit, for God.



Abiding Savior and Quincy Tree House—Sharing the harvest with at-risk youth

Tami Moberg, Treehouse Co-Founder



Quincy Treehouse just celebrated one year of serving our kids in our community. As we reflect on this year we are overwhelmed with God's goodness. When others ask how Quincy was started the answer is always, "It's God's story." There is no way Wayne Andersen or myself could have done this on our own. Every step of the way God was a step ahead preparing the hearts of others and opening doors.

Last September as school was starting and we were officially beginning our first fall at Quincy, I received an email from Pastor Lisa asking if we were opening a Treehouse in the neighborhood. I replied yes which was followed by a knock on Quincy's door within minutes! God prompted Pastor Lisa to reach out and we have never been more thankful. That meeting was a God sized meeting!

We are overwhelmed by the love and support Abiding Savior Lutheran Church showers on Quincy. Abiding Savior is the hands and feet of Jesus to their community. Always looking for ways to give back and love on those who are in need. I am thankful everyday for the friendships we have made because of this relationship.

Abiding Savior provides much needed funding, volunteers and of

course, food! The Wednesday night kitchen team has fed our boys and girls this past year with yummy homemade dinners. The kids faces light up when they come for supper! They especially love the tator tot hot dish!! It's gone in a flash! I am incredibly thankful for Abiding Savior and the team for thinking of our Quincy kids and loving them with a warm heartfelt meal.

At Quincy Treehouse we pray everyday for those that come through our doors. We remind them that they are lovable, capable and worthwhile. We remind them that they are gifts and we are honored to do life with each one. Their roads are not easy and we are thankful to Abiding Savior for all your prayers. You are Love Warriors! Your example of loving others well inspires us to do the same. Jesus says love your neighbors. Period. You are doing that and we are so thankful that God brought us together.

I am overwhelmed by your goodness to us and feel incredibly blessed and thankful for Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. I pray for this upcoming school year and ask that you pray with us as our kids navigate some pretty tough waters.



Calendar of events

Mark your calendars for the following stewardship opportunities!

Fall Stewardship Campaign events

Sunday, October 9, 2016

- *Sharing the Harvest* kick-off
- *Sharing the Harvest* message

Sunday, October 16, 2016

- *Sharing the Harvest* message
- *Sharing Tree*—grab an apple and share some of the many blessings you’ve received from God!
- Adult forum with Pastor Ryan: *Share the Harvest — How Abiding Savior shares in this community and beyond*

Sunday, October 23, 2016

- Celebration of Sharing Sunday
- *Sharing the Harvest* message
- *Sharing Tree*—grab a heart and share the ways you are sharing the abundant harvest of blessings you have received from God!
- Processional offering of pledge cards
- Celebration of Sharing *Thank You* brunch

Look for an opportunity to share your time and talents later this winter as we roll out a new Time and Talent inventory!

Thanks for all the ways you participate in the mission and vision of your congregation — Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and our community!!

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.



Share the Harvest Sharing Tree

We receive an abundant harvest of blessings from God. In turn, God calls us to share from that harvest with others. As a part of the Share the Harvest Fall Stewardship Campaign, you will have the opportunity to thank God for that harvest of blessings and to share how you and your family are sharing that harvest of blessings with others through our Share the Harvest Tree.

On Sunday, October 16, there will be a tree in the Sanctuary for worship. In worship, you will be given a cut out of an apple. You are invited to write down on that apple some of the many blessings you have received from God. If you need more than one apple, there will be several available. Then, when you come forward to receive Communion, which in itself is a blessing from God, you are invited to hang your blessing apple on the tree.

Sunday, October 16th
Grab an APPLE and share some of the many blessings you’ve received from God!



The following Sunday, October 23, you will receive a cut out of a heart. On this heart you are invited to write down the ways you and your family are sharing from the abundant harvest of blessings you have received from God. There will be a processional offering that day. After you have brought forward your offering, which is an act of sharing from our abundance, you are invited to hang your sharing heart from the tree.

The tree will be a visual reminder of the harvest of blessings we receive from God and the many ways we are sharing with others from that harvest of blessings.

Sunday, October 23rd
Grab a HEART and share the ways you are sharing the abundant harvest of blessings you have received from God!



“One, two, three. Eyes on me.” Blessings from VBS.

Linda Weiner Herman

The phrase “One, two, three. Eyes on me.” was a phrase that was said a lot to a twenty-plus sized group of three and four year olds. The week of Vacation Bible School was AWESOME and busy! Over 130 kids participated ages 3 to 5th grade. Three and four year olds are full of energy and it was our job as small group leaders to help them move from one activity to the next. Thank you to my great group of helpers who shared their gifts of working with young children: Brianne, Dion, Kate, Levi and Natalie. Thanks also to those who dropped in just for a day to assist and help keep our busy group together! “One, two, three. Eyes on me.” became a familiar saying. What we should have been saying was “One, two, three. Eyes on Jesus.” because that’s what we learned during those five days together! There were great songs and wonderful Bible studies telling about God and His love for us. As we marched along from one activity to the next, it was amazing what the young children took away with them. One might not think they were listening — but they were! God’s love was taking root in them. What a joy and blessing it was to be part of such an awesome week. Thank you, three and four

year olds, for reminding me to “keep my eyes on Jesus”!



SHARE THE HARVEST
WWW.ABIDINGSAVIOR.ORG

