



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

August 2026

in this issue

Security System Update	2
Special Events	3
Animals of Tanzania	4
Garden of Grace	5
Financial Update	6
August Calendar	7

roar: wild about faith

Have you ever noticed how many Bible stories are centered around animals? This summer, kids at Vacation Bible School will take a deep dive into Bible stories about animals! "ROAR: Wild About Faith" will explore animals in the Bible through story, song, games, crafts and more! VBS runs the week of August 10-14, 9am-12pm, for children entering preschool-5th grade. It's not too late to register!



We'd love for you to join the fun! We are still looking for a number of volunteers for VBS week, specifically to help shepherd small groups through the rotations. Prior experience is not needed to volunteer! If you aren't able to give your time but still want to support the ministry of VBS, a bulletin board with donation requests can be found in the church Narthex. You can also shop via Amazon Wish List by scanning the QR code. We are so grateful for all of the ways the good people of Abiding Savior support VBS!



On Wednesday, August 12th, from 5-7pm, we will host our annual "Neighborhood Family Fun Night" in the church backyard to mark the midweek point of VBS. All ages (whether you are part of VBS or not!) are invited to join us for a free meal and activities including face painting, a bounce house, a DJ, sno-cones, and more!

Any questions regarding volunteering, donations, or attending VBS can be directed to Pastor Katie.

I look forward to celebrating a wonderful summer and week of VBS with you soon!

Pastor Katie



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is a *welcoming and caring* family

that *nurtures* spiritual growth, *shares* our Christian faith,

and *serves* all creation.

Sanctuary of Safety Campaign: Installation Complete!

We are excited to announce that the installation of our new security system is complete! This will allow staff to easily and safely let people into the building during business hours and will also allow us to schedule when the doors will be unlocked to avoid them being left open by mistake.



We are now in the process of identifying individuals who need access and getting that access set up before we re-key the building.

During business hours, the leftmost external (handicap accessible) door will be unlocked and you can then ring the office from the vestibule by pressing the ring button on the wall unit. You can also ring the office from the back door wall unit. If you have any questions, you can contact the office for help.

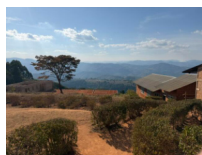
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Council Update: Summer 2026

The Church Council wants to regularly update the congregation on decisions, ministries and projects. A monthly article in the Vinebranch is one of the ways they hope to communicate. Here are some of the highlights for summer 2026:

Hospitality Task Force: The objectives of the Hospitality Task Force Create to create a more welcoming atmosphere, improve circulation and functionality of the building, foster community and to refresh the church while maintaining the existing architecture. To guide their decorating choices, they conducted extensive online research, visited other church spaces, and tried to imagine the impression the current space makes on a new visitor to ASLC. The Hospitality Task Force presented their report to the Council concerning decorating the Narthex. Their proposal included bringing more color into the space, creating more comfortable colorful seating and side tables for conversational groupings, and improving signage including an ASLC Narthex wall sign and directional signage.



Financial Support for Ipalamwa Secondary School Science Building in Tanzania: Ipalamwa Secondary School is where eight students support by scholarships from Abiding Savior attend school. The Lab Project will provide improved science education and help the schools meet Tanzanian Government requirements for dedicated science labs. \$2,000 from the Capital Campaign benevolence Fund was approved toward this project.



Children's and Family Programming Discussion: Pastor Katie noted that declining participation by children in church activities is a widespread, systemic issue across traditional congregations, rather than something unique to ASLC. Because it did not happen overnight, it will require ongoing discussion and long-term resource support to rebuild connections with younger families. The Council asked the pastors develop a job description and begin pursuing candidates for a part-time (10 hours/week) Children's Ministry position.



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In collaboration with Vacation Bible School, Abiding Savior will host two different times for a Blessing of the Animals. Join us during outdoor worship on Sunday, August 9th or at the conclusion of VBS on Wednesday, August 12th at noon for a pet blessing! Well-behaved, leashed or caged animals are welcome to attend. If your pet/animal is unable to make it in person, please bring a picture of them to be blessed!



Family FUN NIGHT

Wednesday, August 12 5-7PM

everyone loves A PARADE!



Come join us on Friday, August 21st to walk in the Mounds View Parade! We will have a small "float" featuring music from Reigning Grace and are looking for more volunteers to come decorate, walk, pass out candy, and represent Abiding Savior in the community! Wear your favorite Abiding Savior or VBS shirt - if you don't have one, come see us in the office and we can help you get one! The parade starts at 6 PM, but we will communicate specific details to volunteers as we get them. Contact the office with any questions.

Men's Fishing Trip | September 18-20

Big Sandy Lake in McGregor, MN

Mark your calendars now for the Annual Men's Fishing Trip to be held Friday, September 18 to Sunday September 20. This year we will be going to Big Sandy Lake in McGregor and staying at Pastor Ryan's cabin. The cost, including housing and all of our meals while at camp, bait, and gas for our boats and cars is only \$130 per person. No fishing experience necessary. We will be bringing our own boats to use over the weekend so if you have a boat, bring it along. If you don't have a boat, don't worry, others will share! Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Pastor Ryan leads this trip and offers evening devotions and Sunday morning worship. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120 or pastorryan@abidingsavior.org.

The Animals in Tanzania: Reflections by Pastor Katie

Being an animal lover doesn't change while being 8,500 miles from home. Throughout our time in Tanzania, we saw SO many animals, both foreign and familiar.



Upon our arrival in Tanzania, we made our way from Dar es Salaam to Iringa, a trek that took nearly 13 hours via coaster bus. It's not every day you get stopped on the road to let a pack of impalas cross. As our drive continued, we discovered new species of bugs that came in through the windows, saw primates on the side of the road, and made many attempts to catch the best photos of animals most of us had only ever seen on the big screen.

The first time we saw something familiar was a dog at the Haruma Orphanage in. I was thrilled to see something that reminded me of home, but was quickly told not to touch it. In Tanzania, dogs aren't domesticated as pets. They are strong and aggressive and serve as protection for homes and crops - very different from how we view them here in the states. Pastor Katie purchased her very own animal while in the village of Makungu - a chicken we named "Brunch" that was gifted to Pastors Zaina and Daniel as a token of gratitude for their incredible hospitality. A chicken that would not be kept as a pet, but would likely turn into a meal.



Our animal expedition continued all the way through the end of our trip - we saw a number of incredible beasts while on safari, a few of us even lost our morning coffee cake to some monkeys! As we made our way back to Dar es Salaam, this time by a small aircraft, we noticed the runway was surrounded by giraffes. No chance of taking off until they were cleared! What an incredible final memory as we said "see you later" to Tanzania.



Stewardship Corner: Sharing our Time and Talents

One of the greatest strengths of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is the way our members share their gifts with love. Every act of service—large or small—helps us live out our mission to welcome, care, and serve in Christ's name. As we look ahead to the coming months, we're gathering a list of people who are willing to share their skills from time to time to support the ministries and upkeep of our church. You do NOT have to join any committee to share your skills! We are in need of people with skills to use as a resource and to help maintain our building and support the work of God done in and through our congregation.

Do you have experience with **painting, plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, cleaning, office tasks, answering phones, cooking, dish washing, lawn mowing, snow removal, gardening, or computer help?** **Do you have expertise in roofing, cement work, tree removal, landscaping, or HVAC systems?** Maybe you have another skill not listed here that could bless our congregation.

If you're willing to be contacted occasionally when a need arises, we'd love to hear from you. Your gifts—whether hands-on, behind-the-scenes, or technical—help us care for our building, support our ministries, and extend hospitality to all who walk through our doors.

Thank you for the many ways you share Christ's love at Abiding Savior. Together, we make a difference.

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God's Work. Our Hands.

School Supplies: We are having an informal collection of school supplies through the end of August. In addition to the usual paper, pencils, notebooks, glue sticks, erasers, pens, crayons and markers, the middle school is asking for spray deodorants. Gathered supplies will be shared with our local school friends at Pinewood, Sunnyside, and Edgewood. Thank you for this kindness.

Blood Drive Thanks: Three cheers and high fives to blood donors and volunteers at our July 23 blood drive! Thank you for caring so much for strangers in need.

Walk for Our Neighbors: Save the date for the Community Support Center's fundraising walk September 27th at Silver View Park in Mounds View. The CSC assists neighbors facing eviction by working with landlords to catch-up back rents, helping with resumes and finding steady employment, and supporting sustainability with long-term goals and skills like budgeting and savings. Join walkers from area churches and organizations in this active, friendly event.

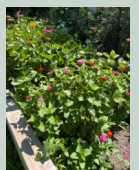
Meals On Wheels: Thank you to our team of drivers for their deliveries the week of July 27th. Our next delivery week is September 21. It's pretty easy - Pick up meals at Unity Hospital about 10:30, deliver meals on routes in Fridley, Columbia Heights and Spring Lake Park (detailed directions included) and return thermal food bags to Unity. You'll be home in time for lunch! Please let Fern Fisher or the office know if you'd like to give it a try. Thanks for the delivery of a meal and a smile!

Special Gifts: Are you blessed with awesome skills or talents? Do you see ways church could benefit from your special gifts? We're often asking for help with needs and odd jobs but maybe they don't require what you have to offer. Don't be shy. Please let the office know what you're good at and join the "I can help with that" volunteer team that keeps ASLC vibrant and moving forward.

Mission Trip Thanks: Huge thanks to everyone for supporting the mission trip to El Salvador. Your financial and spiritual assistance allows us to share love and necessities with our human family "down south." Great appreciation and gratitude to those who went to work, witness and befriend on behalf of ASLC. Well done!

Garden of Grace

Have you looked at the Garden of Grace lately?! Wow! We have gardeners with green thumbs! Some of the plants are getting really ambitious! One of Tristan's pumpkin vines was heading out to visit Gary's potatoes and another wanted to sit around the fire pit before Amanda reigned them in. Check out the sling on the trellis for their biggest pumpkin.



Steve and Kendra have vine crops escaping their beds and meeting in the middle. Dave's garden is lush and everything is growing in all the church gardens. Have you seen the beautiful flowers in some of the garden beds?! Kaia and Jo have flowers that are a feast for the eyes. Our church backyard is beautiful!

By the time you read this, Marilyn will have be picking her beans, Steve will have cucumbers and tomatoes, and Jenny will be enjoying summer squash.



Oh, the blessings of our gardens and gardeners!

June 2026 Financial Highlights

2026	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	339,753	252,136
Festival giving	180	15,211
SUBTOTAL	39,933	267,347
Other income	7,044	60,208
TOTAL INCOME	46,977	327,555
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,247	342,132
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(5,270)	(14,577)
Benevolence paid*	5,454	28,083

Mission Endowment Fund

Giving to the Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is Simple and Joyful! You are encouraged to make a gift to Abiding Savior through your estate planning. 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.

It's that easy! If you have any questions or need help planning your gift to the Endowment, please talk to Pastor Ryan Brodin at (763) 784-5120 x2004.



ENDOWMENT FUND

Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Teams

If you are a Thrivent member, you may receive Thrivent Choice dollars that you are able to direct to Abiding Savior each year. Directing your choice dollars is easy. Just log in to www.Thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."

You can also apply for two Thrivent Action Team Grants up to \$250 to be used for fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, educational events, or meals. The application is simple and quick. If you would like to apply for a Thrivent Action Team Grant to benefit one of the ministries of Abiding Savior, please contact the church office.

Notes of Thanks

I want to thank you for the many ways you have provided support and help these past months while I have been recovering from a fall and broken bones in my arm. Thank you for your prayers, cards, wonderful meals, rides, phone calls, visits, and words of encouragement and kindness. I have felt very blessed to be a part of such a caring church family in a difficult time. I am on the mend and am thankful to be using both arms again.

Thank you also for the prayers for my son, Andy Richardson, while he was in the hospital for 13 days!
--Pastor Lisa Engen

Thank you to everyone at Abiding Savior for the compassion and love shown to Bob Wirtz. The dishroom and kitchen crews, the ushers, the Women's Bible study, our pastors, and all the people in this congregation who made him feel welcome and safe. Thank you for your prayers and support through his illness and the beautiful service and brunch to celebrate his life. We have been truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family.
--Debby Nelson

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August 2026					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10:00 Worship Service	27	28 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	29 9:15 Cub Foods delivery	30 10:00 Women's Bible Study	31 OFFICE CLOSED EL SALVADOR TRIP DEPARTS
2 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion	3	4 12:00 Staff Meeting	5 9:15 Cub Foods delivery	6 10:00 Women's Bible Study	7 OFFICE CLOSED
EL SALVADOR TRIP	EL SALVADOR TRIP	EL SALVADOR TRIP	EL SALVADOR TRIP	EL SALVADOR TRIP	8 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
9 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10:00 Outdoor Worship Service with Blessing of Animals	10 VBS 9AM – Noon 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	11 VBS 9AM – Noon 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting	12 VBS 9AM – Noon 12:00 Blessing of Animals 9:15 Cub Foods delivery Family Fun Night 5- 7PM	13 VBS 9AM - Noon 9:00 Work Crew 1	14 VBS 9AM - Noon OFFICE CLOSED PM
16 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30 YOUTH TIE DYE PARTY	17	18 9:00 Quilting 12:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting	19 9:15 Cub Foods delivery	20 10:00 Women's Bible Study	21 OFFICE CLOSED Mounds View Parade 6PM
23 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10:00 Worship Service	24	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	26 9:15 Cub Foods delivery	27 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	28 OFFICE CLOSED
30 INDOOR WORSHIP 10:00 Worship Service	31				29 OFFICE CLOSED
					EL SALVADOR TRIP 1 AUGUST
					22 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
					29 Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in August

July 31 - August 6: El Salvador mission trip
August 2: Worship with Holy Communion
August 5: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
August 6: Women's Bible study
August 9: Outdoor worship with Blessing of Animals
August 10 - 15: VBS (9AM - Noon)
August 10: Women's gathering at Moe's
August 11: Caring Visitors meeting
August 12: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
Neighborhood Fun Night (5 - 7PM)
August 13: Work crew (No Bible study)
August 16: Worship with Holy Communion
Youth tie dye party
August 18: Quilting
Council meeting
August 19: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
August 20: Women's Bible study
August 21: Mounds View parade (6PM)
August 23: Outdoor worship
August 25: Benedictine service
August 26: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
August 27: Work crew & Women's Bible study
August 30: Indoor worship

Pastors, Staff and Hours

Ryan Brodin Senior Pastor
Katie Hendrikson Associate Pastor
Josh & Alex Ertz Youth Directors
Janelle Schauer Organist
Mary Larew Vocal Choir Director
Paul Weller Bell Choir Director
Alex Ertz Office Manager
Connie Clausen Office Assistant
Steven Hill Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9AM - 4PM
Closed on Friday

UPDATE

YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION

Help keep our contact information up-to-date! If you have a new home phone, cell phone or new email address, please call the church office at 763.784.5120 or visit <https://abidingsavior.org/update-my-contact-information/> so we can update our records. Thanks!