



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

December 2025

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**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.**

Christmas Eve Peace

These weeks leading up to Christmas are both amazing and sometimes draining. The season is filled with beautiful lights, concerts, and gift giving. But often this time of year is also marked by hustle, noise, and endless to-do lists.



Christmas Eve can be a time for us all to finally relax and enjoy the real meaning of Christmas. On that holy night long ago, amid a world of chaos and uncertainty, heaven touched earth in the quiet cry of a newborn child. The Prince of Peace was born not in splendor, but in simplicity.

Whether you come with joy, weariness, or longing, there is space for you in the calm of Christmas Eve worship as together we sing carols and hear again the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Emmanuel, God with us! Jesus was sent to be our Savior, to take away our sins, to pave the way to eternal life in heaven. And it all started with the baby, lying in the manger.

May you find peace in the busyness of this season, and may you find the love of God, the calm of worship, and the joy of Christmas this month and all year through.

See you in worship and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ryan Brodin



***Christmas Program "The ABC's of Christmas"*
Sunday, December 14 @ 10AM - followed by brunch**

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***Breath of Heaven: Lessons and Carols for Advent*  
Sunday, December 21 @ 10AM**

Join us for a stirring worship service filled with music, scriptures, readings and hymns to help prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas. This service will feature a special Advent Choir, Jubilation Ringers, Adult Choir, Reigning Grace, piano organ duets, and special music shared by vocalists. Join us for this moving Advent worship experience as we await the celebration of Christmas.

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***Christmas Eve Worship - Wednesday, December 24*
2PM & 3:30PM - Family friendly services with live animals
10PM - Candlelight and Holy Communion**



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***Christmas Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 28 @ 10AM***

Join us for a contemplative and festive worship service of lesson and carols for Christmas. This will be a chance sing our favorite hymns as well as enjoy uplifting special music as we continue the Christmas celebration.

## El Salvador Trip Planned July 31 to August 6, 2026



We are returning to El Salvador for an intergenerational mission learning trip July 31 to August 6. In El Salvador we will be the guests of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador and Pastors Matias and Martina Bonilla and

Pastor Christian Chavarria. All three of these pastors have been with us here at Abiding Savior. On this trip will be both participating in active ministry as well as learning about the culture of El Salvador while building relationships and friendships with Lutherans in and around San Salvador.

The cost of the trip, before fundraising, is approximately \$1800 per person including airfare, accommodations, meals and transportation. You can reserve your spot on the trip by making a \$250 non-refundable deposit by Sunday, February 1. The trip is led by Pastor Ryan. For more information, please contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120 or email [pastorryan@abidingsavior.org](mailto:pastorryan@abidingsavior.org) or take a look at [the brochure](#).

## Reflections on the Tanzania Mission Trip

*Welcome to the first reflection being shared about the recent mission trip to Tanzania! Each month, we hope to share some special moments and memories from our adventures. Enjoy!*

Overhead, three brand new shiny soccer balls silhouetted against the pale grey sky, dropped earthward, and bounced high on a field of dry wheat colored grass. Half the kids charged with the balls to the far end of the field. Nearby, groups of roiling, touching, grasping, giggling kids tumbled toward us, fascinated with the color of our skin and the feel of our hair. London Bridges became a game with as many as possible between the arms of the Bridge when they 'all fell down.' I wondered how to join this frantic, but joyful, melee. And then a small, warm hand slipped into mine, a little girl with a shy smile. Our eyes met. And I'd been given a gift in that deep, penetrating gaze - a gift of trust. In different ways each of my traveling companions experienced this gift. Makungu is a remote mountain village, hard to get to, with limited sources of revenue. We at Abiding Savior showed that we can be trusted when we helped to build the water system. Are we ready to go further, ready for what's next?



## Sanctuary of Safety Campaign

It is not too late to participate in the *Sanctuary of Safety* Campaign. Thank you to all of you who have already made gift or a pledge!

Abiding Savior is a safe place, and we will do all we can to ensure the safety of those who come here for worship, meals, fellowship, school, or other activities. The Sanctuary of Safety Campaign allows Abiding Savior to make important advancements in our security.

This campaign has a goal of raising \$15,000 to update security at Abiding Savior. In light of recent events in Minnesota and across the country, we believe it is necessary to install a keycard access, buzzer, intercom and video for the front door and vestibule area to better control access to the building during business hours. We also plan to update and expand our current security camera system. Finally we plan to rekey the entire building to better control the accessibility of the building.

If you wish to make a gift to the *Sanctuary of Safety* Campaign, you can do so by placing cash or check gifts given in the orange envelope provided in the office. You can also place a gift in the offering plate during worship marked for the campaign. Or you can go online any-time to make a recurring or one-time electronic gift using this QR Code or [visit our website](#).

Everyone, all of God's children, can and should feel safe here at Abiding Savior!



### Mission

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### **Santa (and Fire Trucks) Coming to Abiding Savior Tuesday, December 2 @ 6:30pm**

You're invited to come watch the SLP-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department's Santa Parade in the Abiding Savior parking lot! Hot chocolate, treats, fire pits provided. Bring non-perishable food items to donate!

### **NLCA: Come Dwell with Us**

Join the National Lutheran Choir under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison for *Come, Dwell with Us: A Christmas Festival*.

- 4:30pm, Friday, December 12
  - 1:30pm\* and 8:00pm, Saturday, December 13
- Basilica of Saint Mary, 1600 Hennepin Ave, Mpls  
\*The Saturday 1:30pm performance will be live-streamed.

Tickets at [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com).



### **Cookie Making for El Salvador Mission Trip**

**When:** Friday, December 19 (5-10pm or earlier than 5:00 if you're free!)

TBD: Saturday, December 20 (8-11am)

**What:** Come make Christmas cookies to help raise funds for the El Salvador Mission Trip

**Who:** Anyone is welcome to come help! We need lots of hands!

*Look for information in the days ahead on how you can place an order for Christmas Cookies!*

### **SPECIAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

Love to sing, but haven't joined the Abiding Savior choir (yet)? Now is your chance! Attend rehearsals on Wed., Dec. 3, 10 & 17 then sing with us on Sun., Dec. 21 in worship. We will sing 2 delightful choral selections on Sun., Dec. 21. You are also officially invited to sing with the choir at the 10PM service on Christmas Eve! No experience is necessary; come have fun and make a joyful noise in the Advent Choir!

### **ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

## **Mary's Song**

*A Journey of Hope, Peace, & Joy*



Join us on Wednesday evenings during Advent for midweek worship as we journey through Mary's story from the perspectives of Peace, Hope, and Joy. These services offer a contemplative atmosphere to slow down and reflect on the Advent Season.

Wednesdays during Advent @ 6:30pm  
12.3 • 12.10 • 12.17



## *All Ages Christmas Light Tour*

### **SAM'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE**

710 SPRING ST,  
SOMERSET, WI 54025

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

MEET AT CHURCH AT 6 PM TO CARPOOL  
WE WILL RETURN BETWEEN 9 AND 10 PM  
*FREE ADMISSION!*

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO JOSH AND ALEX

## **Wednesday Night Schedule**

4:30—6:15pm Dinner served

Dec. 3: Pork loin and mashed potatoes

Dec. 10: Chicken ala king

Dec. 17: Hamburger gravy & mashed potatoes

5:30—6:30: ABC's of Christmas program practice

6:30—7:00pm Advent worship

7:00—8:00pm Confirmation

7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir

8:00—9:00pm Reigning Grace practice

ASLC's  
**ABCs of Christmas**  
all ages are invited to participate!

Rehearsals:  
Wed., 12/3 @ 5:30pm  
Wed., 12/10 @ 5:30pm  
Sun., 12/14 @ 9am



**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10am Worship**  
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church | 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View 55112



There will be no 'official' ASK programming during the month of December. However, all kids are invited to take part in ASLC's *ABC's of Christmas*! We'll be practicing Wednesdays, December 3 & 10 starting at 5:30 and at 9 on Sunday, December 14. See you there!

Join Us for  
**Children's Time**

Every Sunday during worship (after the children's sermon), children are invited to join volunteers for a short Bible lesson and activity! Children will return at or before the offering.

📍 Find us in MOD 1!

Interested in volunteering with Children's Ministry? Talk to Pastor Katie!

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

# Youth Christmas Party

**DECEMBER 17TH, 2025 AT 6:30 PM**

Christmas Treats and Games! Wear an UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER for a chance to win a prize! Please bring a WRAPPED gift of no more than \$5 (or something you already have around the house) for a White Elephant gift exchange!



**Christmas Cookie Baking**

**AND MOVIE NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Come bake and decorate cookies for our El Salvador trip fundraiser!

**FRIDAY 5 - 10 PM**

**BRING A FRIEND!**

A festive illustration featuring Santa Claus in a red suit, holding a clapperboard and a bucket of popcorn. He is standing in front of a green Christmas tree.

## Mission

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.

## HELP WANTED!

### Sound Booth Operator

We are looking for someone to take over our sound booth operations. If you or someone you know might be interested, please let the office know! There is a small monthly stipend for this opportunity.

### Preschool Committee Members

Have a heart for kids? Come be a part of the Abiding Savior Preschool Committee! We are looking for 2—3 new members to join our committee. We meet 1x/mo. ?? — See Linda Weiner Herman!

## God's Work. Our Hands. Helping Others.

**Meals on Wheels Delivery:** Our next opportunity to deliver meals and smiles is the week of December 15. Let Fern Fisher know if you'd like to join the team. Hot food, warm smiles, and sincere appreciation make this a blessing for everyone involved.



**Giving Tree:** Check out the Giving Tree in the narthex if you'd like to brighten the holidays for some of our neighbors. Take an ornament, buy the requested items (mainly gift cards), and return them to church, the earlier the better. There are several organizations/causes we'll be helping. We've added Crescent Cove this year, Minnesota's only residential respite and hospice care facility for children, located in Brooklyn Center. Thank you for your generosity and caring hearts!



**Food Shelf Thanks:** Thank you to everyone who donated food or money for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in November when high prices and the government shutdown made basic food needs hard to manage for many of our neighbors. Economic uncertainty and a slow job market continue to be challenges for many households hoping to make hard-earned dollars stretch to cover holiday meals and gifts. Please continue to help if you can.



**Blood Donation Thanks:** Huge thanks to everyone who stepped up to donate blood October 30! Because of the good turnout (we're looking at you, choir), we are able to remain a host for future blood drives. The next opportunity to share this gift of life is January 8 so mark your calendars and sign up. Thank you!



**Coat Collection Thanks:** Thank you to everyone who has donated coats and accessories for the Mounds View Police Department's collection for Salvation Army. Warm winter clothing is something many of us take for granted, but for those without this is a gift indeed. May your hearts be warmed by your generosity and kindness.



**Thank You Kitchen/Dish Crew!** Novembers really keep the kitchen busy: Wednesday night suppers, Election Dinner, Brunch, Thanksgiving Pie Social, and funerals. Sincere thanks to everyone who planned, shopped, cooked, served, bussed dishes, washed dishes, and did the laundry. We are so fortunate to share meals and fellowship but be sure to thank our dedicated volunteers for making it possible. Better yet, come and join the crew. Free, on-the-job training.



**Christmas Blessings:** May you all know how appreciated you are, how your generosity never fails to answer needs, how you make a difference in the lives of others, and how this congregation shares God's love through our words and deeds.



## October 2025 Financial Highlights

| 2025                            | Monthly        | YTD            |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                   |                |                |
| Current gifts and giving        | 41,850         | 414,878        |
| Festival giving                 | -              | 17,959         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                 | <b>41,850</b>  | <b>432,837</b> |
| Other income                    | 10,082         | 101,322        |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>             | <b>51,932</b>  | <b>534,160</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                 |                |                |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>56,281</b>  | <b>537,277</b> |
| <b>NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b> | <b>(4,349)</b> | <b>(3,117)</b> |
| Benevolence paid                | 2,737          | 56,445         |

## Let's Finish Strong!

As we head into the end of the year, we are encouraged to continue praying about our sharing and to be generous toward the work of God done in and through Abiding Savior and other worthy organizations. We are running behind budget for the year, but through all of us continuing to share generously, we can and will end 2025 in a strong financial position.

## Thrivent Action Teams Deadline December 31

If you have a qualifying Thrivent policy or investment you are eligible to apply for two Thrivent Action Team Grants up to \$250 each to be used for fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, educational events, or meals. If you have not already applied for your grants, it is not too late!

Unused grant applications will expire on December 31. 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.

## Preschool News!



ABIDING SAVIOR  
PRESCHOOL

I can't believe that we are just a short time away from Christmas! Where has the year gone! I wanted to thank everyone who purchased wreaths during our annual wreath fundraising this year! As always our program appreciates the support!

Our annual Christmas program is Monday December 15 at 6pm. Please feel free to come listen to all the beautiful children we have enrolled in our program!

I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season!

**Jen Boog, Preschool Director**

[preschool@abidingsavior.org](mailto:preschool@abidingsavior.org) — 763-784-5326



### GET INVOLVED

Help us brighten the holidays for our neighbors through the Giving Tree! Find the tree in the narthex - take an ornament, buy the requested item(s), and return them to church (the earlier the better). We will be supporting a number of organizations this year, including Crescent Cove, Minnesota's only residential respite and hospice care facility for children, located in Brooklyn Center.

### WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you to everyone who supported Ralph Reeder food shelf with food or monetary donations during the month of November! High prices and the government shutdown made basic food needs hard to manage for many of our neighbors. Economic uncertainty and a slow job market continue to be challenges for many households hoping to make hard-earned dollars stretch to cover holiday meals and gifts. Please continue to support Ralph Reeder if you can!



## Giving to the Endowment Fund is Simple and Joyful!

When you make or revise your Will or Trust or review your life insurance contracts or retirement funds, please consider Abiding Savior as one of your beneficiaries using the following language:

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

Please talk to Pastor Ryan Brodin if you have questions about making a gift to the Endowment Fund.



ENDOWMENT FUND

## Mission

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# December 2025

| Sunday                                                                                                                                   | Monday                                       | Tuesday                                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                   | Friday                                               | Saturday                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>30 NOV ADVENT 1</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b>                                     | <b>2</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>4</b>                                                                   | <b>5</b>                                             | <b>6</b>                                                                  |
| 10:00 Worship Service                                                                                                                    |                                              | 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study<br>12:00 Staff Mtg<br>6:30 Santa Parade (gather in parking lot)<br>6:30 Committee Mtgs | 9:30 Cub Foods delivery<br>4:30 - Wed. Night Supper<br>5:30 - 6:30 Xmas Prgrm Pract<br>6:30 - 7:00 Advent Worship<br>7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir<br>7:00 - 8:00 Confirmation<br>8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace | 10:00 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7:00 Jubilation Ringers                   | OFFICE CLOSED                                        |                                                                           |
| <b>7 ADVENT 2 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>                                                                                                       | <b>8</b>                                     | <b>9</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>11</b>                                                                  | <b>12</b>                                            | <b>13</b>                                                                 |
| 10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion<br>11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale                                                                    | 5:30 Women's Gathering at Ellen Zim-merman's | 12:00 Staff Mtg<br>2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting                                                                           | 9:30 Cub Foods delivery<br>4:30 - Wed. Night Supper<br>5:30 - 6:30 Xmas Prgrm Pract<br>6:30 - 7:00 Advent Worship<br>7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir<br>7:00 - 8:00 Confirmation<br>8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace | 9:00 Work Crew<br>10:00 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7:00 Jubilation Ringers | OFFICE CLOSED                                        | Wendels in CH Noon - 5PM<br>Sam's Christmas Village Outing (All ages) 6PM |
| <b>14 ADVENT 3</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>15</b>                                    | <b>16</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>18</b>                                                                  | <b>19</b>                                            | <b>20</b>                                                                 |
| 9:00 Xmas Prgrm Prct<br>10:00 Christmas Program during Worship Service<br>11:00 Brunch<br>11:30 Worship Planning<br>3 - 5:00 Girl Scouts | 15 MLS ON WHLS                               | 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study<br>9:00 Quilting<br>12:00 Staff Mtg<br>6:30 Council Mtg                                | 9:30 Cub Foods delivery<br>4:30 - Wed. Night Supper<br>6:30 - 7:00 Advent Worship<br>7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir<br>7:00 - 8:00 Confirmation<br>8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace                                 | 10:00 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7:00 Jubilation Ringers                   | OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>Cookie Making Fundraiser 5-10PM | Cookie Making Fundraiser 8 - 11AM (tentative)                             |
| <b>21 ADVENT 4 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>                                                                                                      | <b>22</b>                                    | <b>23</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>25</b>                                                                  | <b>26</b>                                            | <b>27</b>                                                                 |
| 10:00 Lessons & Carols<br>Special Music<br>Worship with Holy Communion                                                                   |                                              | 9:00 Work Crew Day (prep for Christmas Eve)                                                                               | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br><br>2:00 & 3:30 Family Friendly Worship with live animals<br>10:00 Candlelight Service                                                                                         | OFFICE CLOSED                                                              | OFFICE CLOSED                                        |                                                                           |
| <b>28 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b>                                                                                                     | <b>29</b>                                    | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>1 JANUARY</b>                                                           | <b>2 JANUARY</b>                                     | <b>3 JANUARY</b>                                                          |
| 10:00 Worship                                                                                                                            |                                              |                                                                                                                           | OFFICE CLOSED                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b><br>OFFICE CLOSED                                    | OFFICE CLOSED                                        |                                                                           |

## Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

8211 Red Oak Drive

Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

Phone: 763.784.5120

Email: [office@abidingsavior.org](mailto:office@abidingsavior.org)

Website: [www.abidingsavior.org](http://www.abidingsavior.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlc/>

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

## December Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 25 Number 12 Date 2025



### Go Paperless

If you want to go paperless,  
call the Church office at 763.784.5120  
or email us at [office@abidingsavior.org](mailto:office@abidingsavior.org).

Reduce waste.  
Reduce mailing costs.  
Receive information faster!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Events in December

- Dec. 2: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study  
Santa Parade viewing at Church
- Dec. 3: Wednesday Evening Programming  
Christmas Program Practice & Advent Worship
- Dec. 4: Women's Bible Study
- Dec. 7: 2nd Sunday in Advent  
Worship with Holy Communion  
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Dec. 8: Women's Gathering at Ellen Zimmerman's
- Dec. 10: Wednesday Evening Programming  
Christmas Program Practice & Advent Worship
- Dec. 11: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Dec. 13: Sam's Christmas Village Outing
- Dec. 14: 3rd Sunday in Advent  
Christmas Program during Worship  
Brunch
- Dec. 15—19: Meals on Wheels delivery
- Dec. 16: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study  
Quilting  
Council Meeting
- Dec. 17: Wednesday Evening Programs (*last one for '25*)
- Dec. 18: Women's Bible Study
- Dec. 19: Cookie Baking for Christmas Cookie Bake Sale
- Dec. 20: Cookie Baking for Christmas Cookie Bake Sale
- Dec. 21: Lessons & Carols Worship with Communion
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 2, 3:30 and 10pm
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day (Office closed through 12/28)
- Dec. 28: Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship
- Dec. 31—Jan. 1: Office Closed

### Pastors & Staff

**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

**Katie Brouillard**, Office Manager

**Connie Clausen**, Office Assistant

**Jennifer Boog**, Preschool Director

**Steven Hill**, Custodian

### 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 <http://abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/update-my-contact-information/> so we can update our records. Thanks!