



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

February 2026

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ANNUAL MEETING

All members of
Abiding Savior
Lutheran Church
are encouraged
to attend our
**Congregational
Annual Meeting**
Sunday, February 8
at 11:30am
*Sloppy Joe lunch
served before
the meeting!*

Tanzania:

The Practice of Karibu



Karibu in Swahili means welcome. To the people of Makungu, Tanzania, karibu is not just welcome, it is a way of life. We were warmly welcomed into the village and were treated as special guests. For many years the congregation had been building a beautiful guest house and, although still not totally finished, it served as a comfortable home for our group.

Before we entered the house, Pastor Daniel pulled me aside and told me this guest house belonged to Abiding Savior. Of course it was not really ours, but the pastor was showing their appreciation for the partnership between Abiding Savior and Makungu that helped to buy the building materials for the guest house. From now on, whenever we visit or others visit the village, they have a place to stay.

During our time in Makungu, we realized that along with the financial donations and the prayers, there was a strong value also in the relationships between the people of our congregations. It meant a lot to the Makungu Parish that we would come all the way to Tanzania to visit them. It showed them that they were important and it gave them hope. They not only warmly welcomed us and treated us like family, they also send us back to Abiding Savior with their love, their thanks, and their karibu.

When we were planning our trip to Makungu last October, I challenged the group to do whatever they could to bring Makungu to Abiding Savior. This partnership through Bega Kwa Bega (which means shoulder to shoulder) is about being in relationship with one another, about knowing one another, and about praying for one another. It is our honor to share our resources to complete projects and send their kids to secondary school. It is their joy to pray for us and to use whatever resources they have available to share the love of God in Makungu.

One of the ways we hope to bring Makungu to Abiding Savior is by hosting two Adult Education Hours after worship on Sunday, February 15, and Sunday, February 22. Please join us as we share the stories, the hopes and dreams, the joy and laughter, the love, and the karibu of the Makungu Parish!

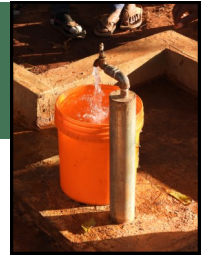
God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan

Living in God's love, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
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shares our Christian faith, and *serves* all creation.

Tanzania Mission Trip Reflections

Contributed by Curt Johnson



From as early as I recall, missionaries were part of our Sunday School experience. However, I never thought I would be one, and I never wanted to go to Africa (there are snakes). Now, I have been so blessed to have been there twice (and never saw a snake!). Thirteen years ago (2012) I with the first ASLC trip to Tanzania. I was privileged to go again to the mountain village of Makungu, our sister congregation in 2025. I thought it might be helpful to highlight a few changes. There have been many great improvements, but today I'll focus on the gift of clean water!

Up until this summer, contaminated water was carried in 5 gallon buckets from the river far down a hill, requiring many trips and hours every day. This was done by the women, but also kids, missing school time to help; most men worked the land farming. The most common medical problem in the village was gastrointestinal diseases, especially in children, from drinking contaminated water. Now deep underground clean water is pumped up into large tanks and provides uncontaminated water to 9 spouts spread throughout the village and primary school. As a result, gastrointestinal disease is close to being totally eliminated!

ASLC, St. Paul Partners and the labor or the Makungu Lutheran residents teamed to provide this. Villagers were trained how to manage and maintain the water system, and there is a fund the villagers contribute to for repairs.

We learned from the village leaders of an unexpected result of our contributions. Approximately 550 of the 1500 villagers are Lutheran/Christians, but all benefit from the clean water. Now villagers are showing a new interest in the Christian Church of Makungu!

Evangelism comes in many and unexpected forms: "They will know we are Christians by our love ..." has a true meaning and effect! Thank God and you all for the opportunity to represent Christ and the people of ASLC.

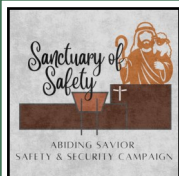
El Salvador Trip Planned: July 31 to August 6, 2026

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. The registration deadline has passed, but there is still time to sign up if you hurry by making a \$250 non-refundable deposit. The trip is led by Pastor Ryan. For more information, please contact Pastor Ryan at 763-784-5120 or email pastorryan@abidingsavior.org or stop by the church office to pick up a brochure.

Sanctuary of Safety Campaign Update



Thank you for your support of the *Sanctuary of Safety Campaign*! We set a goal of \$15,000 and so far, we have received donations of \$16,110! This campaign was undertaken to safeguard our church building by updating and expanding our security cameras as well as installing an electronic keycard entry system to the front doors that allows staff to regulate entrance into the building. Work on the cameras is in progress and soon we will begin work on the doors. If you haven't done so already, there is still time to make a gift or fulfill your pledge.

Thank you again for your generosity as together we create a *Sanctuary of Safety* at Abiding Savior.

Mission

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Tanzania Trip Adult Education



**Sundays, Feb. 15 & 22
Following Worship**

Please join us as members from last summer's Tanzania trip share the stories, the hopes and dreams, the joy and laughter, the love, and the karibu of the Makungu Parish!

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, Feb. 15 - Monday, Feb. 16 @ CAMP WAPO

All Confirmation students and High Schoolers are invited to our Confirmation Retreat!

Registration materials were mailed to Confirmation families in early January and are available in the office. Be sure to turn in your paperwork to the office **ASAP**.

It will be an awesome weekend growing in faith and having fun together!

Women's Bible Study *How We Learn To Be Brave*

The decisive moments in life are those pivot points when we're called on to push past our fears and act with strength. With *How We Learn to Be Brave*, Bishop Mariann Budde teaches us to respond with clarity and grace even in the toughest times. Being brave is not a singular occurrence; it's a journey that we can choose to undertake every day.

Here Bishop Budde explores the full range of decisive moments and draws on examples ranging from Harry Potter to the Gospel According to Luke. She seamlessly weaves together personal experiences with stories from scripture, history, and pop culture to underscore both the universality of these moments and the particular call each one of us must heed when they arrive.

With Bishop Budde's wisdom, readers will learn to live and respond according to their true beliefs and in ways that align with their best selves. *How We Learn to Be Brave* will provide much-needed fortitude and insight to anyone searching for answers in uncertain times.

Be Brave

Souper Bowl Sunday



February 8 is Souper Bowl Sunday. Please consider a donation of your spare change and dollars to help ease hunger right in our community. Collection will take place in the Narthex after worship. Thank you for caring for your neighbors!



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 18
4:00PM AND 6:30PM

Register for Bible Camp!

Registration is now open for summer camp!

- **WAPO Youth** (Completed grades 4 - 9)
 - June 14 - 19
- **SEEDS** (Completed grades 1 - 3)
 - June 19 - 21



Camperships/scholarships are available so don't let the cost of camp keep you from attending. Register at <https://lwlbcj.com>.

Wednesday Schedule

Through February 11

- 4:30—6:15pm Dinner served
- Feb. 4: Lasagna
 - Feb. 11: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham
- 6:00—7:00pm ASK Children's Activities
- 6:30—8:00pm Confirmation
- 7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir
- 8:00—9:00pm Reigning Grace Practice

Starting February 18

- 4:00—4:45pm Lenten worship
- 4:45—6:15pm Lenten soup suppers
- Feb. 18: Chicken Noodle Soup
 - Feb. 25: Vegetable Beef
- 6:30—7:15pm Lenten worship
- 7:15—8:00pm Adult Choir
- 8:00—9:00pm Reigning Grace Practice



Abiding Savior is Hiring: Office Administrator

The Office Administrator provides essential administrative, operational, and communication leadership and support to ensure the smooth daily functioning of the church. This role oversees office operations, building maintenance, scheduling and access, staff coordination, bulletins, financial processing support, and member communication. The Office Administrator serves as a central point of contact for staff, members, volunteers, and community partners, helping the congregation live out its mission through organized, reliable, and hospitable administration. This position is 28 hours/week, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

To inquire about this position contact Pastor Ryan at (763) 784-5120 or pastorryan@abidingsavior.org



Abiding Savior Preschool

I can't believe how fast this year is going and that we are at the point in the year where I am opening up registration for the 2026-2027 school year! If you know anyone that has toddler age through preschool age children, please pass along our information!

Our programs that we offer are the following: (1) Toddlers (16 months - 33 months) on Tuesday/Thursday; (2), Preschool (3 years - 4 years) on Monday/Wednesday/Friday; and Pre-K (4 years - 5 years) on Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Monday through Friday.

We are starting our pizza fundraiser this month! Please watch for the order forms out in the Narthex. Orders will be due no later than Sunday, March 1 and the pickup for the pizzas will be on Wednesday, March 11.

As always thank you for your continued support of our program!

Jen Boog, Preschool Director

preschool@abidingsavior.org; 763-784-5326; www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com



February MS/HS Youth Events - Join Us!

Sunday, February 1: Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale

Meet in kitchen at 8:30am to help bake & frost rolls and stay to help sell after church!



Retreat in February – Sunday, February 15 to Monday, February 16

This retreat is for all sixth, seventh and eighth graders and is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships between the kids and with the other caring adults on the trip. The retreat is held at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI. Registration materials were mailed and are also available in the church office.

Parent Night Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 to 8:00

Parents join your child or children for Wednesday Night Worship followed by Parents Night. At Parents Night we will not only have important information to share, but we will also have some spirited family discussions!

Confirmation Responsibilities During Lent (February 18—April 1)

In lieu of regularly scheduled Confirmation lessons, during Lent, students are expected to attend Wednesday Night Worship Services (at 4:00 or 6:30 PM) with their mentor. Information on finding a mentor was sent out in early January with the retreat registration packet and are available in the church office. 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to pick the same mentor they had last year. Students and mentors should attend worship together and expect to meet for 15 minutes after the service to discuss the message.

Additionally, Confirmation Students are expected to help with TWO Lenten Soup Suppers. Volunteering can be done in small groups or students can sign up individually for the nights that work for them. These do not count as regular service hours, but students should still fill out a Service Hour form (located in the church office) so we can track who has participated each week.

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God's Work. Our Hands.

Giving Tree Update: Your generous response to the Christmas giving tree resulted in over \$1,000 of gift cards! Cards have been delivered to Irondale High School and Crescent Cove Respite and Hospice Home for Children. A supply of cards will be kept for future caring opportunities. Please let the office know if you become aware of someone who could use a little help. Thank you for remembering those who need extra love and care.



Lenten Project Coming Soon: We'll again be collecting supplies for newborn kits, sent by Global Health Ministries around the world. A mass assembly will take place Palm Sunday after church. Look for details in the bulletin and join in the caring by donating needed items and helping assemble kits. Let's show those babies some love!



Knit or Crochet Baby Hats: Global Health Ministries will accept handmade hats for newborns kits. If you'd like to make a hat or dozen, please go to www.ghm.org, click on Get Involved, click on Service Projects, scroll down and click on Download Project Instructions to find their patterns for knit and crochet baby hats. Thank your talented hearts and hands for this act of love.

Souper Bowl Sunday: February 8th is Super Bowl and Souper Bowl Sunday. In contrast to the big game and its excesses, a collection to fill empty bowls takes place nationwide. This year our proceeds will go to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. We'll also be collecting food and hygiene products for them during March FoodShare month. Please be generous with any spare dollars you have. Thank you for thinking of our hungry or struggling neighbors.



Blood Drive Thanks: Thanks to everyone who made the January 8th Blood Drive a success! We had 20 donors come out on a cold, blustery day, our custodian Steve moved furniture and equipment, and Gary, Cheryl and Linka provided support. The Red Cross was pleased and appreciative of your efforts and gifts.



Garden of Grace: The gardens may be at rest, but the seed catalogues are coming to remind us that growing season isn't too far away. We're looking for a garden coordinator to promote the opportunity to garden at ASLC, assign beds to interested gardeners and make note of any needs/repairs. No meetings or long-term committee commitment required, just a desire to be outdoors with fellow gardeners during the growing season. Please let the office know if you can help in this way. Thank you!



Meals on Wheels 2026 Schedule: Looking for a friendly way to make a difference? Have we got a deal for you! ASLC delivers Meals on Wheels during the following weeks this year: Feb. 9-13, Apr. 6-10, June 1-5, July 27-31, Sept. 21-25, and Nov. 16-20. Pick up meals at Unity Hospital around 10:45, deliver to people in Fridley, Columbia Heights and/or Spring Lake Park on set routes with clear directions, return insulated packs to Unity and be home in time for lunch. Please let Fern Fisher know if you can help in this way. Thanks for caring.



Little Food Pantry: This entryway shelf has been amazingly kept stocked by some mighty nice angels among us. Thanks to everyone who has been so kind and generous!



Volunteer Opportunities!

We are in need of people willing to help with the following. If you are interested, contact the office!

- Shoveling sidewalks at church
- Coffee fellowship on Sundays
- Sound booth help on Sundays
- Garden of Grace Coordinator

Note of Thanks

Thank you!

Dear Abiding Savior —
Thank you for all the cards, prayers and get well wishes. It meant a lot to me and I really appreciate everyone's concern.

—Vivian Gillespie

Thrivent Choice Dollars Thrivent Action Teams



Join Us to
Make a Difference
in Our Community

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." 2024 Thrivent Choice dollars must be directed to Abiding Savior **no later than March 31 or they will expire.**

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.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 and once again, we plan to have/serve Lenten Soup Suppers between services. Sandra L. and Helen K. will be assisting/providing kitchen guidance each week. Each sponsor should connect with Sandra or Helen when you sign up to get some information and guidance to help make the event successful! If you/your group would like to help serve a meal, please let the office know or sign up outside the church office!

DATE:	SOUP SUPPER SPONSOR:
February 18	El Salvador Mission Trip
February 25	Helen Kriesel
March 4	<i>Open</i>
March 11	<i>Open</i>
March 18	<i>Open</i>
March 25	Abiding Savior Preschool
Thurs., April 2	Kitchen Crew

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

Endowment Fund Grants

MISSION
ENDOWMENT FUND

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Endowment Committee is thrilled to again be awarding grants for mission and ministry in 2026! The Mission Endowment Fund accepts applications from committees, staff, Council members, ministries of Abiding Savior, individual church members, and community non-profit organizations.

Grant Applications are available in the church office or by contacting the office if you would prefer an electronic copy of the application. **Applications must be received by February 28, 2026.** The application process is simple and criteria for grant funding is explained further on the application form. If you have a new ministry idea or know of a worthy organization, please consider applying for a grant from Mission Endowment Fund of Abiding Savior.

As the Mission Endowment Fund grows, the Endowment will be able award more and more grants to be used in sharing God's love in the world. If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider including the Abiding Savior Endowment in your estate planning. This can be done in a variety of ways including life insurance and IRA beneficiary designations, annuities, and simple language added to your will. All gifts, big or small, are appreciated and will be used to further the work of God done in the world. For more information contact Pastor Ryan Brodin.

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February

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion and Baptism 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale 11:15 All Staff Meeting Heggies Pizza order forms due		8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 12:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 6:00 - 7:00 ASK Kids' Activities 6:30 - 7:00 Advent Worship 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir 7:00 - 8:00 Confirmation 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace	10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
8 Annual Meeting Souper Bowl	9 MLS ON WHLS	10 MLS ON WHLS	11 MLS ON WHLS	12 MLS ON WHLS	13 MLS ON WHLS	14
10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Lunch 11:30 ANNUAL MEETING	5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	10:00 Merle Elling visitation 11:00 Merle Elling funeral 12:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting	9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 6:00 - 7:00 ASK Kids' Activities 6:30 - 7:00 Advent Worship 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir 7:00 - 8:00 Confirmation 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace Preschool Pizza Delivery	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
15 COMMUNION	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY	17	18 ASH WEDNESDAY	19	20	21
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion & Baptism 11:00 Adult Education: Tanzania Confirmation Retreat --->	Confirmation Retreat----->	8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 12:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Mtg	9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 4:00 - Ash Wednesday Service 4:45 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 - 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace	10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
22 YOUTH SUNDAY	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Adult Education: Tanzania		10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedicotine Service	9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 4:00 - Ash Wednesday Service 4:45 - 6:15 Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 - 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
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Phone: 763.784.5120

Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
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TWIN CITIES MN
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Go Paperless

If you want to go paperless,
call the Church office at 763.784.5120
or email us at office@abidingsavior.org.

Reduce waste.
Reduce mailing costs.
Receive information faster!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in February

- Feb. 1: Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Feb. 3: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Feb. 4: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Feb. 5: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 8: Worship
Souper Bowl Sunday
ANNUAL MEETING (lunch beforehand)
- Feb. 9-13: Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Feb. 9: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Feb. 10: Merle Elling Visitation and Funeral
Caring Visitors Meeting
- Feb. 11: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Feb. 12: Men's Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 15: Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism
Adult Education: Tanzania Trip Reflections
- Feb. 15—16: Confirmation Retreat @ WAPO
- Feb. 17: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Council Meeting
- Feb. 18: ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP @ 4:00 & 6:30PM
Lenten Soup Supper & Activities (see pg 3)
- Feb. 19: Women's Bible Study
- Feb. 22: Worship—YOUTH SUNDAY
Adult Education: Tanzania Trip Reflections
- Feb. 25: Lenten Worship @ 4:00 & 6:30PM
Lenten Soup Supper & Activities (see pg 3)
- Feb. 26: Men's Work Crew
Women's Bible Study

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
Alex Ertz, Interim Office Administrator
Connie Clausen, Office Assistant
Jen Boog, Preschool Director
Steve 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!