



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

January 2026

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ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendars!
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 8
11:30AM

All members of Abiding Savior are invited and encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting. The Annual Reports will be reviewed, any current elections will take place, and the 2026 proposed budget will be presented.

Come before the meeting for a meal with proceeds benefiting the El Salvador mission trip!

Reflecting on 2025 and Looking to 2026

As we turn the page from 2025 into a new year, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways God has been at work among us here at Abiding Savior. This past year has been rich with blessings, growth, and opportunities to share Christ's love. Highlights from 2025 include:



- Welcoming Pastor Katie Hendrikson as our new Associate Pastor
- Helping provide clean, sustainable water to the village of Makungu, Tanzania
- Sending nine members to visit our companion congregation in Makungu
- Celebrating the confirmation of young people in their faith
- Youth adventures in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Camp WAPO
- Weekly worship and the ministry of our Caring Visitors
- Opening our doors to two other congregations who share our space
- Preparing and serving thousands of meals from our kitchen
- Palm Sunday service projects supporting Bridging and Hope for Youth and continued partnerships with CPY, Quincy House, Shobi's Table, Ralph Reeder Foodshelf, Irondale High School, and weekly bread distribution to neighbors in need
- Vibrant Bible studies and fellowship gatherings
- A joyful Vacation Bible School and the launch of A.S.K. (Abiding Savior Kids)

Looking ahead to 2026, we trust that God will continue to guide us. We anticipate more worship services that transform lives and hearts, hundreds of visits to the sick and homebound, thousands of prayers lifted for the church, the world, and all people in need, continued outreach to those who are hurting, hungry, or searching for hope, and whatever new adventures that God has yet to reveal!

As we live together in God's love, may we find strength, courage, and joy in the year to come. My prayer is that God blesses you and your family, and our entire Abiding Savior family, with peace and hope in 2026.

Happy New Year, and God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan

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.

Office Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers in the Church Office to answer phones, help assemble bulletins and mailings, and other light office duties. This need is especially important during this interim time of office staffing. The need is greatest on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Even if you cannot "commit" to a regular schedule of volunteering, your time and talents are still needed and appreciated. Please [talk to Pastor Ryan](#) for more information or to volunteer.

Celebrate Katie Brouillard on Sunday, January 11



Join us after worship for a brunch celebrating Katie Brouillard's eight years of service as Office Manager. There will be food, cake, and a chance to say thank you to Katie. Fortunately, the Brouillard family is still going to be active here at Abiding Savior so this brunch is not goodbye, but instead a chance to wish Katie good luck in her new adventures.

Chili/Soup Cookoff El Salvador Fundraiser Sunday, January 18 after worship



Do you have a special chili or soup you would love for others to try? Ever wonder how your chili or soup compares with others? You are invited to make a batch of your chili or soup and bring it to our Abiding Savior Chili Cookoff on Sunday, January 18 after church. All proceeds will benefit our El Salvador mission trip.

Each chili and soup will be available for tasting. Those attending the event after worship will make a donation toward the mission trip and will be given the opportunity to sample the chilis and soups and judge the chili/soup cook off winner. There will be more than enough chili and soup available to make a meal out of attending this event. Sour cream, cheese, crackers bread and drinks will also be available.

Sign up on the board outside the church office or via this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548ACAA2EA1FF2-61310046-copy> to bring your favorite chili or soup. ... or plan to attend to sample each type and vote on your favorite. The suggested donation is \$6/per person or \$30/family for all you can eat chili and soup. First, second, and third place awards will be given. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event!

El Salvador Trip July 31-Aug. 6

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 near 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 pastor-ryan@abidingsavior.org or stop by the church office to pick up a brochure.

El Salvador Mission Trip Planning Meeting Sun., Jan. 11 @ 11:15



There will be a planning meeting for those attending or interested in attending the El Salvador Mission Trip after worship at 11:15 on Sunday, January 11, in the Coffee House. We will be planning for upcoming fundraisers, learning more about the trip and the culture, and doing some group bonding!

Mission

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Blood Drive



Join us **Thurs., Jan. 8 from 1:30pm—6:30pm** for our blood drive! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment. If you are available to help check people in or serve treats to donors, please let the office know.

*You're invited to
Abiding Savior's*



Come to the next monthly "meet-up" for the Women of ASLC at Moe's in their main dining room at 5:30pm on January 12 (come for as long as you're able).

The purpose of this meet-up is simply to socialize and get to know our "Pew Sisters" better and may to discuss future activities and gatherings.

2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS

DUE

We will soon be preparing materials for the Annual Meeting which will be held on February 8. All committees should submit a Year End report to the Church Office (office@abidingsavior.org) by **January 10**.

Wednesday Schedule

- 4:30—6:15pm Dinner Served
- Jan. 7: Chicken Tetrazzini
 - Jan. 14: Goulash
 - Jan. 21: Hot Turkey & Pork Sandwiches
 - Jan. 28: Tator Tot Hot Dish
- 6:00—7:00pm ASK (Abiding Savior Kids)
- 6:30—8:00pm Confirmation
- 7:00—8:00pm Adult Choir Practice
- 8:00—9:00pm Reigning Grace Practice

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Chili Cook-off

TO BENEFIT THE EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP

SUNDAY
JANUARY
18th 11:15AM-NOON

ENTER YOUR FAVORITE CHILI/SOUP OR
VOTE FOR THE BEST CHILI/SOUP

MORE ABOUT THE EVENT:
Come try several types of chili and soup then vote on your favorite!
Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP:
763.784.5120
www.abidingsavior.org

All you can eat for just

\$6 per person

\$30 per family

**"FOR I WAS *hungry* AND YOU
GAVE ME SOMETHING TO *eat*..."**

—Matthew 25:35



FMSC Packing Event Wednesday, January 21

Abiding Savior has reserved 85 spots to pack food at Feed My Starving Children on **Wednesday, January 21**. We will pack food from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. All ages are welcome (under 12 must be supervised by an adult). Please sign up outside the church office. Absolutely NO experience necessary. Come experience the joy of sharing!

Tanzania Reflections

Learning someone's name, "jina" in Swahili, is a first step in building a relationship. Our trip to Tanzania was to build relationships, and how important a "jina" was became apparent as we collected names for the banners. People flocked to us. They wrote their names, families' names, neighbors' names, everyone in the preaching points' names.

One woman waited patiently for her turn to sign. She added her "jina," then smiled brightly. She pointed to herself, then to where she signed and said, "Jina." She pointed to herself again and continued, "To America!" Her name was going to America!

When someone you didn't expect to know, says "Hello," and then says your name, it may surprise you. It also tells you that you are worthwhile enough for them to know who you are. The woman who waited understood that when she signed, she became our neighbor. The banners, in Makungu and here at Abiding Savior, are a symbol. We are to give and receive. That's what it means to 'Love your neighbor.'



Faith-based activities, games, crafts, and more! All students elementary aged and younger are welcome to join!

September-May

Wednesday Nights

6-7pm

ABIDING SAVIOR KIDS

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

4:30-6:15PM
COMMUNITY DINNER
ALL AGES - FELLOWSHIP HALL

WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS @
ASLC
STARTING 9/10

6-7PM:
"ASK" ACTIVITIES (MOD 1)
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND YOUNGER ARE INVITED TO
JOIN ABIDING SAVIOR KIDS (ASK) FOR FAITH-BASED FUN!
GAMES, CRAFTS, STORIES AND MORE!

6:30-8PM:
CONFIRMATION
6-8TH GRADERS: MEET IN THE YOUTH ROOM EACH WEEK
FOR ACTIVITIES, LEARNING, SERVICE PROJECTS, AND
MORE!

Join
US!

January Youth Events

Happy 2026 to all our youth! Here are a few special things going on in January — join us!

Sunday, January 4:
Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale
Meet in kitchen at 8:30am



to help bake & frost rolls and stay to help sell after church!

Wednesday, January 21: Confirmation Service Nite
Feed My Starving Children



Confirmation students, high school youth, families and friends are invited to come help volunteer at Feed My Starving Children! We will pack food from 7:00PM to 8:30PM. *Parents: Please note this 'end' time if you won't be going along so you can pick up your kids at FMSC around 8:45PM.* All ages are welcome (under 12 must be supervised by an adult). Please sign up outside the church office. Absolutely NO experience necessary. Come and experience the joy of sharing!

Sunday, January 25: Snow Tubing After Worship

Let's go snow tubing at Elm Creek park in Maple Grove. This event is free to attend! Invite your friends! Meet in the Youth Room after worship (we will leave around 11:30). We'll tube for 2 hours. Sign up on sign up board or online.



Abiding Savior Preschool

Wow! We are just scooting through this year at lightening speed! How is it already January? December was filled with learning about Jesus' birthday and our annual Christmas program! All the kids were amazing (and, of course, adorable)!

Looking forward to the 2026-2027 school year, enrollment will open up in February. Please pass along the word about our amazing programming! The structure of our classes is currently a Toddler Class (16 months - 33 months), Preschool Class (33 months - 4 years old) and our Pre-K Class which is (4 years - 5 years old).

As always thank you for your support of our program!

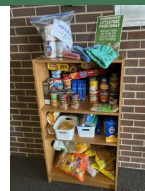
Jen Boog, Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org
763-784-5326
facebook.com/AbidingSaviorPreschool/
www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com

Mission

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God's Work. Our Hands. Resolutions to Help Others.

Little Food Pantry: You may have noticed a little food shelf in the entryway, started by church staff during the government shutdown. Anyone is welcome to use it and/or restock the shelves. Nutritious and protein-rich nonperishables are most appreciated. If you bring food and the shelves are full, please label the bag "Little Food Pantry" and leave it with the office. Thank you for caring for our friends and neighbors needing an extra boost.



Ralph Reeder Food Shelf: We continue our ongoing collection of food for the local food shelf. Please place nonperishables with current use-by dates in the shopping cart across from the office and we will deliver them. Again, your kind hearts and sharing spirits are a blessing to others.



Delivery Thanks: Thank you, Meals on Wheels drivers, for delivering warm meals the week of December 15. Face-to-face smiles and greetings, plus a hot lunch can really make someone's day. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! Stay tuned for upcoming dates.



January 8 Blood Drive: We rocked the last blood drive and need to do so again on January 8! Please sign up to donate. Your generosity in this ministry is truly a gift of life for those needing blood. Thank you!



Giving Tree Thanks: We are grateful to everyone who took an ornament and returned the requested gift to church. This restocking of mainly gift cards allows us to help individuals and organizations when we learn of a need or when someone stops in to ask for assistance. Thank you for your generous response and caring attitude towards others.



Join In: Did last year's resolution to be more involved in 2025 not quite turn into reality? No problem. Bump that resolution into 2026 and join in! We have committees, teams, choirs, crews, odd jobs, and any number of ways that your involvement would be greatly appreciated. Talk to current volunteers to get the lowdown or let the office know what you're interested in doing. Your involvement will make a difference and be most welcome!

join in

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Applications

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Endowment Committee will 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 [on our website](#). **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](#).

November 2025 Financial Highlights

2025	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	40,584	455,462
Festival giving	1,245	19,204
SUBTOTAL	41,829	474,666
Other income	11,762	112,518
TOTAL INCOME	53,591	587,184
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,218	589,387
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	1,372	(2,203)
Benevolence paid	2,955	59,400

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.



Thrivent Choice Dollars 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." 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.



Sanctuary of Safety

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 anytime to make a recurring or one-time electronic gift using this QR Code or [visit our website](#). Thank you!



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January

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 DECEMBER	29 DECEMBER	30 DECEMBER	31 DECEMBER	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2	3
10:00 Worship Service			NEW YEARS EVE OFFICE CLOSED	HAPPY 2026!! OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale		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 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir 7:00 - 8:00 Confirmation 8:00 – 9:00 Reigning Grace	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 – 6:30 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Brunch honoring Katie Brouillard	5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	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 – 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 – 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
18 COMMUNION SUNDAY	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Chili Cook-Off	OFFICE CLOSED MLK JR DAY	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 6:00 – 7:00 ASK Kids Activities 6:30 – 8:45 Confirmation Srvc Night at FMSC 7:00 – 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
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00 Worship Service		10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 6:00 – 7:00 ASK Kids Activities 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 – 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

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

8211 Red Oak Drive

Mounds View, MN 55112-5929

Phone: 763.784.5120

Email: office@abidingsavior.org

Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
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January Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 26 Number 01 Date 2026



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 January

- Jan. 1: Happy New Year - Blessings to you in 2026!
- Jan. 4: Worship with Holy Communion
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Jan. 6: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Jan. 7: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Jan. 8: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
Blood Drive (1:30—6:30)
- Jan. 11: Worship and Brunch honoring Katie Brouillard
- Jan. 12: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Jan. 14: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Jan. 15: Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 18: Worship with Holy Communion
Chili Cook Off
- Jan. 19: MLK Day (OFFICE CLOSED)
- Jan. 20: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Council Meeting
- Jan. 21: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
Service Night at FMSC
- Jan. 22: Work Crew
Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 25: Worship
- Jan. 28: Wednesday Night Activities (see pg 3 for info)
- Jan. 29: 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 Manager
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!