



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

July 2026

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Please join us for an all church picnic after worship on Sunday, July 12. The meal will include pulled pork sandwiches and other picnic type food. All are welcome to come celebrate the summer, enjoy a free meal, and have a time of fellowship together!

Summers in Minnesota: A True Gift from God!

Dear friends,

There is something unmistakably beautiful about a Minnesota summer. After months of gray skies and frozen ground, the world around us bursts into color, lakes shimmer, and long evenings glow with light. It's as if creation itself is singing. The psalmist captures this wonder so simply and so powerfully: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1). Every warm breeze, every blooming flower, every sunset over the lake is a reminder that God is still creating, still sustaining, still delighting in this world and delighting in each of us.

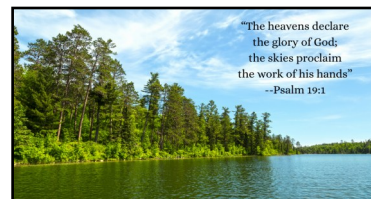
As we soak in these summer days gardening, grilling, traveling, or simply sitting on the porch, I hope you'll take a moment to notice the fingerprints of God all around you. Summer invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and remember that the same God who paints the sky also holds our lives with care and purpose. The beauty of creation is not just scenery, but is also sign of God's greatness, generosity, and love.

Wherever your summer takes you, I invite you to stay connected in worship. Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM for worship. We will be worship inside on communion Sundays (first and third Sundays) and outside enjoying the summer weather on non-communion Sundays (second, fourth or fifth Sundays). And if you're traveling or spending a weekend at the cabin, you can always worship online (<https://www.youtube.com/@abidingsaviorlc8211/streams>) and continue to give online (www.abidingsavior.org/give-to-abiding-savior) to support the ministry we share.

May God bless your summer with rest, joy, and wonder.

I'll see you in worship!

Pastor Ryan



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shares our Christian faith, and *serves* all creation.

VBS—Help Make It a Success!



VBS preparation is well under way and we need your help to make the week happen! Volunteers are an integral part of all ministries at Abiding Savior and we couldn't do important work without you. A number of volunteers are needed to help make VBS week go smoothly. Volunteer areas include leading or assisting with crafts, games, music, science, snack, registration/check in, small group leader or assistant, or floater. Even if you can't volunteer for a full day or week, we'd love for you to join in the fun! We will do our best to place you in the requested area, are unable to guarantee placements. If you are interested in volunteering, sign ups are available in the narthex and the Children, Youth and Family bulletin board. Questions? Talk to Pastor Katie!

El Salvador Mission Trip: Donations Collection



El Salvador

There are 14 people from Abiding Savior visiting El Salvador this summer. As a part of their trip, they will be conducting medical missions. They are planning to take donations with them for the medical mission as well as supplies for students. Please consider donating from items from the list below or making a cash donation. Thank you for your generosity. We will be collecting items through Sunday, July 26.

1. Financial Offerings

- We encounter so many needs and worthy ministries to support. Making a donation to buy medicine, to support students going to school, or to be given to whatever is most needed is a wonderful option!

2. Computers and Chromebooks

- In good working condition and not too old

3. Medical Items

- **Cash** for buying medicine and vitamins in El Salvador
- **Rehydration salts:** Gatorade packets (not bottles), any sports drink packets, Pedialyte packets, or any other branded rehydration powders.
- **Multi symptom cold/ flu meds:** Dayquil/ NyQuil capsules, Mucinex, generic cold and flu capsules, Tylenol cold and flu
- **Pain patches:** SalonPas, all sizes, lidocaine patches, generic pain patches
- **Pain creams:** Icy Hot, Aspirocream, Voltaren- Absolutely NO hemp, CBD or cannabis products.
- **Robitussin** 4 oz bottles, generic Tussin in 4 oz size,
- **Cough drops:** Ricolla, generic cough drops
- **Children's Chewable Tylenol tablets**
- **Children's chewable vitamins** (no gummies)
- **Claritin, Allegra, antihistamines**
- **Saline eye drops**
- **Antifungal cream:** Clotrimazole, any generic antifungal cream
- **Hydrocortisone cream:** Cortisone 10, any generic hydrocortisone cream 1%
- **Neosporin and band aids**
- **Tums:** small bottles
- **Anti-histamines,** Benadryl, Claritin
- **Anti Diarrhea:** Pepto and Loperamide
- **Toothbrushes** (especially children's toothbrushes)
- **Reader/Cheater eye glasses**



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Summer Worship

Summer is here! Like last year, we plan to alternate Sundays worshipping both outside and inside.

- On Communion Sundays (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month), we will worship inside.
- On non-communion Sundays (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month), we will worship outside (weather permitting).

We hope this gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy the different settings for worship and helps make it easier for those helping with set up/distribution. Invite a friend or neighbor and see you at worship!

ABIDING SAVIOR YOUTH

SUMMER SERVICE NIGHT

Come help us assemble the new Gaga Ball pit!



JULY 8TH | 6:30 PM

Dinner provided for all volunteers!



RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE

AT ABIDING SAVIOR

THURSDAY
JULY 23

1:30 - 6:30PM

SIGN UP NOW!

www.redcrossblood.org

Meals on Wheels Help Needed! July 27-31



During the summer months some of our regular Meals and Wheels volunteers are not available. Our next delivery dates are **July 27 - 31**. Deliveries are ready for pick up at Unity at 10:20am and you'll typically be done delivering by noon. If you are interested, please reach out to Fern Fisher at 763-742-2187.

Men's Fishing Trip Big Sandy Lake, McGregor September 18-20



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. Invite your friends and neighbors, sons and sons-in-law for a weekend of fishing and fellowship. The cost, including housing and all of our meals while at camp, bait, and gas for our boats and cars is only \$120 per person. 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@bidingsavior.org.

Abiding Savior Preschool

As we move through the summer please share information about our program. We have openings in all three of our classes which are toddlers (16 months - 32 months), preschool (33 months - 4 years old) and Pre-K (4 years old - 5 years old).

We are going through some staffing transitions but our program remains as amazing as always! We have very dedicated teachers that make the children's happiness and early educational experience their priority!

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

preschool@abidingsavior.org

763-784-5326

www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com



Preschool is Hiring!

Our lead PreK teacher is retiring and our director is moving on to new opportunities this fall! If you know of anyone who would be interested in applying for these positions, please let the office or Linda Weiner Herman know!



The books in the Narthex Children's Area are due for a refresh and we'd love your help!

- 1 purchase new or donate a gently used copy of your favorite kids' book*
- 2 leave a note from your family on the inside cover (if desired)
- 3 place it in the black bin in the church office

✧ *titles on the topics of faith, diversity, justice, and inclusion (or similar) are highly desired* ✧

July's Middle & High School Youth Events

July 8 @ 6:30PM | Gaga Ball pit assembly and dinner

You may have noticed an empty space in the church backyard where our Gaga Ball pit used to be. Join us on Wednesday, July 8th to assemble the new one - we will be ordering dinner for all volunteers!

July 18-19 | Summer lock-in

Join us for a summer lock-in where we will have dinner and a number of fun activities such as games, music, movies, and finishing the mural in the youth room. In the morning, we will have breakfast and attend worship together. Drop-off at 6:30 PM on Saturday 7/18, pick-up after church on Sunday 7/19. Sign up on the Special Events page or the Youth Bulletin Board!

July 26 | "Minions and Monsters"

After church, we will be getting lunch and going to an afternoon showing of Minions and Monsters at the Mounds View Theater. Exact show times are not yet posted so we will decide closer to the date if we are getting lunch before or after the movie.

All of our July Events *are offered at no cost* and will be paid for with funds raised through Cinnamon Roll sales and the Can Trailer!

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Ipalamwa Secondary School Science Buildings Tanzania Reflections shared by Pastor Ryan

Nestled on the top of the hill directly across the valley from the village of Makungu sits the smallest of the Iringa Diocese secondary schools, Ipalamwa. Over half the kids who attend this Lutheran boarding school receive scholarships through churches like Abiding Savior. Our congregation is currently providing eight scholarships in Makungu.



When the group from Abiding Savior traveled to Makungu, we were privileged to visit Ipalamwa and to meet the students sponsored by Abiding Savior. As a part of our tour of the school we saw firsthand the foundations for the new science labs. It is interesting to me that these labs are on the edge of the mountain and are visible from Makungu which is way across the valley. These labs will help the school to meet the government requirements that all secondary schools have a science lab and will more importantly prepare future scientific leaders for Tanzania.



Using funds from the benevolence portion of the last capital campaign, Abiding Savior is making a \$2000 gift toward the completion of the science labs at Ipalamwa. Individuals are also invited to make a gift toward this project or to sponsor a student from Makungu to attend Ipalamwa.



Together, with the help and guidance of God, we can and are making a difference in the lives of others in Tanzania as we share abundantly of our resources and as we share the love of God.

God's Work. Our Hands.

School Supply Collection: We're happy to help out our young friends and neighbors with some needed school supplies. Growing middle schoolers need deodorant in addition to notebooks and pencils. If you see some back-to-school bargains while you're out and about, drop them off in the collection box in the office and we'll see that Edgewood, Pinewood and Sunnyside get supplies to set students off on a good start with what they need. Thank you!



Meals on Wheels: Hearty thanks to everyone who delivered the week of June 1! Our next week to drive is July 27-31. Let Fern Fisher know if you'd like to join the team delivering meals and receiving smiles and appreciation.



Blood Drive on July 23: We did a great job in May, collection 30 units of blood! Let's do it again and save more lives! Sign up online or ask for help in the office to secure your spot on the hero schedule.



Community Support Center Walk: Don't forget to mark your calendars for the new and hopefully cooler, CSC Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors on September 27, 2026. (Check the forecast for July 26, our previous Walk timeframe to see if we're going to be more comfortable in September.) Details will be coming, but it's an easy, social walk around the pond at Silver View Park in Mounds View with other area churches, raising funds to help prevent neighbors facing eviction from becoming homeless.



Big Thanks: Heartfelt thanks to all you good people for saying "I could help with that," over and over again. Programs run, chairs move, people are fed, grass is mowed, infant kits are assembled, food is collected, services are streamed, kids are learning, and so much more. Thank you for making God's work possible with your hands!



Have a Prayer Request?

If you have a Prayer Request that you'd like to share with our pastoral team or have put on our Prayer Chain, you can:

- call office,
- email office@abidingsavior.org and connie@abidingsavior.org
- submit an online request at www.abidingsavior.org/prayer-requests/

If you request to have your prayer shared on the Prayer Chain, it will be posted during business hours by the next business day.

Garden of Grace

Things are growing right along! There are pumpkins, beans, onions, flowers, potatoes, tomatoes, and so much more coming up in the Garden of Grace! And it all happens FAST! By the time this newsletter is published, the garden update is out of date, so this is a "memory" article!



Marilyn and her granddaughters were working hard on one of those hot days in early June, so they had to take some breaks. They planted green beans, carrots, green onions and some wildflowers. There are even some flowers blooming in several beds! Be sure to take a look at our gardens, especially when we are all together in the backyard enjoying those special outdoor services!

Note of Thanks

Abiding Savior: You have made a beautiful difference. Thanks to your heartfelt donation, there are now more chairs available at our already crowded table! Thank you for ensuring that our table is where folks know they are not alone!

—Deacon Kari Olsen, Shobi's Table

Give to the 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, talk to Pastor Ryan!

May 2026 Financial Highlights

2026	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	43,691	212,382
Festival giving	1,038	15,032
SUBTOTAL	44,729	227,414
Other income	10,471	50,352
TOTAL INCOME	55,200	277,766
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	58,792	289,885
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(3,592)	(12,119)
Benevolence paid	5,340	22,468

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."

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.

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July

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 JUNE OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Youth Outing to Bunker Beach Water Park	29 JUNE	30 JUNE 12:00 Staff Meeting	1 9:15 Cub Foods baked goods distribution	2 NO Women's Bible Study	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY USA!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion		12:00 Staff Meeting	9:15 Cub Foods baked goods distribution YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT & DINNER 6:30PM	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
12 OUTDOOR WORSHIP	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 Outdoor Worship Service 11:00 Church Picnic 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's		12:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Meeting	9:15 Cub Foods baked goods distribution	10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM YOUTH OVERNIGHT LOCK-IN 6:30PM ----->
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion		9:00 Quilting 12:00 Staff Meeting NO COUNCIL MEETING	9:15 Cub Foods baked goods distribution	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 – 6:30	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
26 OUTDOOR WORSHIP	27	28	29	30	31	1 AUGUST
10:00 Outdoor Worship Service 11:00 YOUTH MOVIE OUTING TO MINIONS & MONSTERS	27 MLS ON WHLS	28 MEALS ON WHLS 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	29 MEALS ON WHLS 9:15 Cub Foods baked goods distribution	30 MEALS ON WHLS 10:00 Women's Bible Study	31 MLS ON WHEELS OFFICE CLOSED EL SALVADOR TRIP DEPARTS	EL SALVADOR TRIP

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

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or email us at office@abidingsavior.org.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events in July

July 1: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
July 2: *NO* Women's Bible study
July 4: Happy 4th of July—Happy 250th Birthday USA!
July 5: Worship with Holy Communion
July 8: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
Youth Service Night assembling new Gaga Pit
July 9: Men's work crew
Women's Bible study
July 12: Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)
Church Picnic following worship
July 13: Women's Gathering at Moe's
July 14: Caring Visitors meeting
July 16: Women's Bible study
July 18-19: Youth overnight lock-in
July 19: Worship with Holy Communion
July 21: Quilting
NO Council meeting
July 22: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
July 23: Women's Bible study
Blood Drive (1:30—6:30PM)
July 26: Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)
Movie Outing to "Minions and Monsters"
July 27—31: Meals on Wheels delivery
July 28: Benedictine Service
July 29: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
July 30: Women's Bible study
July 31: El Salvador trip departs

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, Office Manager

Connie Clausen, Office Assistant

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!