



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

March 2026

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HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday (March 29)

- Worship at 10am

Maundy Thursday (April 2)

- Worship at 4 and 6:30pm
- Lenten Soup Supper between services

Good Friday (April 3)

- Worship at 4 and 6:30pm

Easter Sunday (April 5)

- Worship at 8 and 10am
- Easter breakfast between services

Changed: Encounters with Jesus

Wednesday Lenten Worship Series

Every Wednesday in March: 4:00 & 6:30

The season of Lent is a time to examine our hearts, to name the places where fear, pride, or distraction have taken root, and to let God re-shape us with mercy. Lent leads us toward renewal and a deeper dependence on God, a clearer sense of who we are, and a more spacious capacity to love. It is a journey that prepares us not only for the joy of Easter, but for a life anchored in grace every day. Through our encounters with Jesus, we are forever changed.

During our Wednesday Lenten worship series this year, will be visited by five biblical characters whose lives were changed forever by their encounter with Jesus.

- The paralytic shares the story of his friends lowering him through the roof of the house to be healed by Jesus.
- The disciple Thomas will share his story of deep loyalty and devotion to Jesus and how he overcame his doubt as he places his hand on Jesus' wounds and never doubted again.
- Lazarus tells us of being amazed by his friend Jesus' miracles of healing and then being himself raised from the dead.
- Lazarus' sister Martha shares her experience of being rebuked by Jesus, but also about her deep faith and devotion.
- Mary Magdalene tells of Jesus casting out her demons and giving her a new life and how she became the first witness to the resurrection, the first messenger of the good news that Jesus was alive!

As we journey through Lent together, you are invited to join us for Wednesday Lenten worship and reflect on the ways that you have been changed by your encounters with Jesus.

See you in worship!

Pastor Ryan

LENT 2026

CHANGED

Encounters with Jesus

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 25 - MAR. 25
WORSHIP AT 4:00PM & 6:30PM
SOUP SUPPER BETWEEN SERVICES

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.

Tanzania Mission Trip Reflections

Contributed by Curt Johnson

Salam ("hello to many" in Swahili)

Thirteen years ago (2012) I was called to join the first ASLC trip to Tanzania. I was privileged to go again in 2025. As it was in 2012, their greatest need continues to be the education of their youth ... and the need continues to grow

You see, the Tanzanian government only covers Primary School (like Elementary school here). Most families cannot afford to pay for continued education. In 2012, ASLC members started to help by sponsoring 3 kids for secondary and advanced schooling. ASLC sponsorships grew to 12 students in 2025, and over the 14 years, there has been 122 scholarships awarded to > 42 students! Wow! Way to go ASLC! They are so thankful!

The people of Makungu are so appreciative of the help of ASLC., but perhaps even more powerful is our growing relationships. The 12 of us spent a great deal of time with the families and children of the village. We were honored guests at the local primary and secondary schools. The kids loved the school supplies and precious soccer balls we brought. Despite language differences, we spent hours playing games and visiting directly with the kids. It was an incredible experience... and wonderfully exhausting!

Later, we learned from the village leaders of an unexpected outcome. Word had spread quickly from the school children to their parents that "The Lutherans" (us) had provided school supplies and had spent time to play with all of them, not just the Lutheran Church kids. Those parents who do not attend church were impressed that "They were loving all our children". Now, these same villagers are showing a new interest in the 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!



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10:00, join us for a festive entrance of palm waving as we shout "Hosanna!" and remember Jesus triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Stay after worship for lunch and our congregation wide service project.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 4:00 and 6:30 we will hear Jesus' command for us to love one another and celebrate Holy Communion with those children receiving their First Communion. There will be a soup supper between the services served 4:30 to 6:00.

Good Friday, April 3, we will hear the Passion, the last hours before Jesus' crucifixion. The service ends with the closing of the tomb as we await the Easter Celebration.

Easter Sunday, April 5, we will join in festive worship at 8:00 and 10:00 as together we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



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2 Spots Open Lenten Soup Suppers!

We have two spots remaining for our soup suppers -- Wednesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 18. If you would like to host a supper to raise funds for a ministry or cause you're passionate about, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548ACAA2EA1FF2-62307276-2026>

FIRST COMMUNION

at Abiding Savior



SAVE THE DATE

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION CLASS
SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND AT 11:15AM
ALL AGES WELCOME TO JOIN!

for more info or to sign up:
call the church office at 763-784-5120 or
email pastorkatie@abidingsavior.org

Wednesday Schedule

4:00—4:45pm Lenten worship
4:45—6:15pm Lenten soup suppers
3/04: *OPEN—Call the office to host this supper!*
3/11: Hamburger Soup
3/18: *OPEN—Call the office to host this supper!*
3/25: Chicken Enchilada Soup with Grilled
Cheese Sandwiches *benefiting Abiding
Savior Preschool*
6:30—7:15pm Lenten worship
7:15—8:00pm Adult Choir
7:30—8:30pm Reigning Grace Practice

Palm Sunday Service Event

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 29 as we gather together after worship to work together to assemble newborn kids and do some other fun activities to benefit and serve others!

Come to Nerf Night!

Saturday, March 14: 5:30-8PM

Bring your own Nerf equipment and come for live action battles! Pizza and snacks provided. This is a FREE event! Please invite your friends!



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



Join us **Thurs., March 19** 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.

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 to anyone searching for answers in uncertain times. **Join us Thursdays at 10AM!**

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

We are rushing right through this school year! The kids have been busy learning and making friends!

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is officially open! Please spread the word if you know someone with toddler or preschool age children! Please refer them to our website: abidingsaviorpreschool.com for more information! Encourage them to reach out to me at preschool@abidingsavior.org if they would like to schedule a tour or if they have any questions!

The pizzas from our fundraiser are set to be delivered on March 11th. I will be sorting them into their individual orders that morning and they will be ready for pickup that afternoon/evening. Please pick up your pizzas in a timely manner as there is very limited freezer space.

Thank you for your continued support of our program.

Jen Boog, Preschool Director

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

March MS/HS Youth Events - Join Us!

Sunday, March 1: Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale

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



Saturday, March 14: NERF Night (5:30—8PM)

Bring your own Nerf equipment and come for live action battles! Pizza and snacks provided. This is a FREE event! Please invite your friends!

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 almost \$22,000! 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. The cameras have been installed and are up and working! We are currently getting quotes for the door projects. Thank you again for your generosity as together we create a Sanctuary of Safety at Abiding Savior.

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God's Work. Our Hands.

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf: March is national FoodShare month, an extra effort to fill food shelves and cupboards to help those facing hunger. Monetary donations have added impact this month and allow Ralph Reeder to shop for the most-needed things. All food donations with current Use By dates are welcome in the shopping cart across from the office, plus household products (dish and laundry soap, bowl cleaner, etc.) and personal hygiene items (diapers and wipes, tampons, shampoo, shower/hand soap, toilet paper.) Bring items to church and we'll deliver. Donations, marked Ralph Reeder, will be collected and delivered OR mail directly to: Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, 2544 Mounds View Blvd, Mounds View, MN 55112. Thank you for caring for your neighbors again!



Souper Bowl Collection: Thanks to our generous congregation for \$310 collected for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf on Super/Souper Bowl Sunday. Know Ralph Reeder will put this money to good use, feeding neighbors in need. And the need has been great these last few months – high prices have stretched tight budgets, and fear has interrupted or prevented regular work and school schedules. Bless you for recognizing our struggling neighbors.



Weekly Bread Distribution: Our Wednesday bread distribution sees a steady stream of folks – caregivers, neighbors helping other neighbors, those on a tight budget, you name it. One woman shared that she figures she saves about \$10 a week on bread so, in turn, she dropped off a few things for the Little Pantry in the entryway. It does a heart good to see kindness repaid with kindness.



Blood Drive in March: Our January blood drive went well and we're hosting another March 19th. Please sign-up to donate and mention it to neighbors who may be able to help. Thank you for this generous gift!



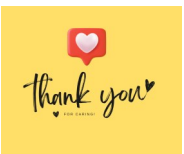
Meals on Wheels Thanks: Hugs and thanks to everyone who delivered Meals on Wheels the week of February 9th. Our next opportunity is the week of April 6th – smiles and gratitude guaranteed!



Garden of Grace: We're still 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. It sounds rather delightful! Please, let the office know if you can help in this way. Thank you!



Heartfelt Thanks: You might hear about or feel some "donor fatigue" these days, when need is great and funding limited or cut. Our congregation, though, has a way of responding that never ceases to amaze. Thank you for seeing our fellow humans as children of God and treating them as you yourself would hope to be treated. Bless you all!



Infant Kits for Global Health Ministries: See the list to the right and post-its in the Narthex with items needed to assemble Newborn Baby kits for Global Health Ministries to distribute where needed in the world. Please purchase items or donate money if you can. Our goal is at least 40 kits which we will bundle up assembly-line style on Palm Sunday. Global Health's goal is 20,000 kits in 2026 so let's help them with this ambitious project. Thank you.

LENTEN PROJECT 2026

Newborn Kits

FOR GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Abiding Savior's Mission Outreach Committee is setting a goal to collect supplies for 40 Newborn Kits (to coincide with the 40 days of Lent) that will be sent overseas. We are requesting new items only and prefer gender neutral items.

Watch for the display in the Narthex! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Each kit will contain:

- 1 regular-size bath towel
 - Lightweight, approx. 50 inches x 26 inches
- 1 wash cloth
 - NO MICROFIBER
- 1 bath-size bar white ivory soap
 - In original packaging
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or 'onesie'
 - Size 0-3 months or newborn
- 1 baby receiving blanket (purchased only)
 - Soft cotton or light flannel
 - Between 30" x 30" and 48" x 48"
- 2 cloth diapers
 - Cotton with reinforced center panel, medium size 12" x 16"
 - Gerber diapers online are a good source
- Cash contributions welcome!
 - Please mark "Newborn Kits" in the MEMO line



FEBRUARY 22ND THROUGH MARCH 22ND



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." 2025 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.

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

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

01

HELP SHOVEL SIDEWALKS

We hope the snow is winding down, but March is known for typically having at least one big storm! We would love to have more than 3 people available to help shovel (especially considering one volunteer is over 80).



02

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Each Sunday before church, there are coffee and cookies (or other yummy treats) available in the Coffee House. We are in need of a few people who are willing to come help make coffee around 9AM and to help clean up after church.



03

SOUND BOOTH HELP

We need help in the sound booth! AV 101 training provided for on all aspects of the sound booth (sound, advancing slides, recording worship). It's not as daunting as you might think and is a great way to help out!



04

GARDEN OF GRACE COORDINATOR

Our Garden of Grace needs a coordinator to promote the opportunity to garden, 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!



05

BUTTERFLY GARDEN CLEAN UP

This spring and summer the butterfly garden outside the Coffee House area needs cleaning out and weeding. If you are interested in helping to maintain this beautiful area that is home to lots of butterflies, please let us know!



Note of Thanks

Dear church family —

I want to thank everyone for the prayers during my sister's long battle with cancer. All your prayers and cards have meant a great deal to me. Thank you for showing us the love of Christ.

—Debbie, Steve, and Lisa Phillips

Dear and wonderful church family —

I cannot thank you enough for all of your love & support during my breast cancer journey. Every card, text, message, thought & prayer is appreciated. I feel so loved! It's overwhelming how many have reached out to my family and myself. We are forever grateful.

By the grace of God and my wonderful community cheering me on I was able to "ring the bell"! The best part was having my mother and fellow warrior by my side.

—Jennifer Bakeberg

Did you know? In 2025, approximately \$9,300 worth of bread and bakery items from Cub were handed out to our congregation and community? Amazing!

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March 2026

1 COMMUNION	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion		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 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
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Brunch	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 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
15 COMMUNION	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion		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 BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 - 6:30PM 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Practice for Special Music on Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 First Communion Class		10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine 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
29 PALM SUNDAY	30	31	1 APRIL	2 APR MAUNDY THURS	3 APR GOOD FRIDAY	4 APRIL
9:00 Practice for Special Music 10:00 Palm Sunday 11:00 Worship Service Service Event		8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 12:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Committee Meetings	9:15 Cub Foods delivery No regular Wednesday evening activities 7:00-8:00 Adult Choir 8:00-9:00 Reigning Grace Prac.	4:00 Maundy Thursday Service 4:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 Good Friday Service 6:30 Good Friday Service	9:30 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 Easter breakfast prep Decorate for Easter TBD 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
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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 March

- Mar. 1: Worship with Holy Communion
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Mar. 3: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Committee Meetings
- Mar. 4: Lenten Worship at 4:00 & 6:30
Lenten Soup Supper
- Mar. 5: Women's Bible Study
- Mar. 8: Worship
Brunch
- Mar. 9: Women's Gathering at Moe's
- Mar. 10: Caring Visitors Meeting
- Mar. 11: Lenten Worship at 4:00 & 6:30
Lenten Soup Supper
- Mar. 12: Men's Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Mar. 14: NERF Night
- Mar. 15: Worship with Holy Communion
- Mar. 17: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Quilting
Council Meeting
- Mar. 18: Lenten Worship at 4:00 & 6:30
Lenten Soup Supper
- Mar. 19: Women's Bible Study
Blood Drive
- Mar. 22: Worship
First Communion Class
- Mar. 25: Lenten Worship at 4:00 & 6:30
Lenten Soup Supper
- Mar. 26: Work Crew & Women's Bible Study
- Mar. 29: Palm Sunday Worship & Service Project Event
- Mar. 31: Men's Breakfast & 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!