



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

May 2026

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MUSIC SUNDAY & LUTHERAN LUAU



**SUNDAY
MAY 17**



**Worship at 10AM
Lutheran Luau/Potluck
at 11AM**

Our annual Lutheran Luau will feature pulled pork, BBQ sauce, buns, lemonade, coffee and water (all provided).

The "potluck" will be the side dishes.

We ask that everyone please bring a dish to share.

A-L: Fruit

M-Z: Salads

**(or anything else
you'd like to bring)**

**Cake will be provided
in honor of
Ina Mae G.'s 98th birthday**

All are welcome to eat even if you aren't able to bring anything to share.

A free will offering will be gladly welcomed to help cover the cost of the pork, buns and drink.

Spring: A Season of Hope and New Life!

Here in Minnesota, just when winter feels like it might never end, something miraculous begins to happen. The sun lingers a little longer in the sky. The snowbanks shrink. Birds return with their songs. Slowly the Earth is reborn as flowers and shoots push their way through the cold, stubborn ground.



Spring has come and with it comes a joy that feels both familiar and brand new. It is the joy of thawed earth and open windows, of muddy boots and blooming trees, of the world waking up again. But for people of faith, spring is more than a change in weather. It is a living parable. A reminder woven into creation itself that God is always bringing new life out of death, hope out of despair, and renewal out of what once seemed lost. The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate springtime of the world. It is God's definitive declaration that death does not have the final word. That despair is never the end of the story. That new life is always possible, even when we cannot yet imagine it. As Paul writes in Second Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new."

Spring is a season of possibility. It invites us to imagine what could be, to dream new dreams, and to trust that God is already ahead of us, preparing the soil, planting the seeds, and nurturing the growth we cannot yet see.

God has great things in store for you and for our congregation. I invite you to read through the pages of this newsletter and discover the many ways that you can get involved in the life changing work of God done in and through Abiding Savior. Come to worship to grow in your faith and be renewed. Be sent out into the world to share the love of God and to tell of the new life, forgiveness, and second chances found through the resurrection of Jesus.

Happy Spring 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.**

Stewardship Corner
Grateful Generosity

Grateful
GENEROSITY



Generosity begins with a simple, humbling truth: nothing we call “ours” is actually ours. Scripture reminds us, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1). Our time, our resources, our abilities are all gifts entrusted to us by a God whose love overflows long before we ever think to give anything back. When we recognize that every blessing comes from God’s hand, we cannot help but to say, “Thank You!” Gratitude becomes the soil in which our generosity grows. Instead of clinging tightly to what we have, we hold our blessings with open hands, ready to share because God has shared so abundantly with us. Believing in the abundance and generosity of God, our own giving becomes less of an obligation and more of a joyful response to God. We give because God first gave to us. We bless because we have been blessed. Generosity is the joyful overflow of people who know they live every day in the overflowing grace of God. May our lives reflect our gratitude to God through bold and joyful generosity. And may that generosity be used to change the world for the better as together we live in God’s love.

ASLC Mission Endowment Fund 2026 Grant Recipients

In 2026, the Abiding Savior Mission Endowment Fund was able to fund grants totaling \$10,936. \$9,043 from the Endowment Fund, and \$1,893 from the Bonnie Kay Christiansen Fund to be used for education or children. There were fourteen separate grant requests totaling over \$25,000 for 2026. Here are the grants awarded for 2026:

• Humble Walk	Youth and Congregational Care Coordinator	\$550
• El Salvador	Medicine for Medical Mission	\$250
• Sound Booth	Camera and Sound Equipment	\$2000
• Shobi’s Table	Supper Church	\$1200
• ASLC Preschool	Improvements to Play Equipment	\$1000
• Makungu Parish	Tanzania Scholarships	\$700
• Abiding Savior	Scholarships for ALSC Seniors	\$1000
• Community Support Center	Annual Luncheon Sponsorship	\$1000
• Range Mental Health	General Support	\$250
• CPY	Feeding CPY Youth	\$1686

Adult Education

Christian Nationalism: America as a “Christian” Nation

Wednesdays April 29, May 6 and May 13

5:30 to 6:30 in the Coffee House



We hear a lot about Christian Nationalism in the news lately. But how much do we really know about Christian Nationalism? This class will dig deeper into the beliefs of Christian Nationalism and answer questions like: What is Christian Nationalism? Who are the Christian Nationalists? Is Christian Nationalism dangerous? How is the theology of Christian Nationalism similar or different from my own? And why is separation of church and state important?

Join us! No prior experience is necessary, no homework is assigned, and no one must answer questions in front of the class. Join Pastor Ryan for this discussion as together we learn more about the most talked about movement in Christianity today.

Mission

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welcome

NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome our newest members to the Abiding Savior family on **Sunday, May 3**.

Please join us for a special reception following worship and be sure to introduce yourself and help them feel welcome!

Wednesday Night Schedule Programming Ends May 13

4:30—6:15pm Dinner served
(\$5 suggested donation per meal)
May 6: Hamburgers from the grill
May 13: Tacos (*final meal until fall*)
5:30—6:30pm Adult education (5/6 & 5/13)
6:00—7:00pm ASK (Abiding Savior Kids) (*ends 5/13*)
6:30—8:00pm Confirmation (*ends 5/13*)
7:00—8:00pm Adult choir practice (*ends 5/13*)
8:00—9:00pm Reigning Grace practice

RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE

AT ABIDING SAVIOR

THURSDAY
MAY 14

1:30 - 6:30PM

SIGN UP NOW!

www.redcrossblood.org





Malmberg's
Garden Centers



SPRING FUNDRAISER

YOU'RE INVITED!

for a Garden Center Shopping Fundraiser with

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

When: Sunday, May 17 - Saturday, May 23, 2026

Where: 2456 125th Avenue NE, **Blaine**, MN 55449
20045 County Road 81, **Rogers**, MN 55374

ABIDING SAVIOR PRESENTS:

Hollywood
REVUE

 **Saturday, May 9**
Show - 6:00 pm | Dinner - 5:00 pm

TICKETS: \$20 - SHOW ONLY | \$30 - DINNER & SHOW

JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC FROM YOUR FAVORITE HOLLYWOOD HITS! MAKE IT A FULL NIGHT OUT BY ENJOYING A DELICIOUS ITALIAN DINNER BEFORE THE SHOW!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR
2026 EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP!



2026 High School Graduates: Apply for an ASLC Scholarship

Graduating seniors! Stop by the office to pick up an application or access the scholarship form at: abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/senior-scholarships.

Applications are due Sunday, May 31!

Mark your calendars for **Graduation Sunday** on **June 14!**



Abiding Savior Preschool

As we begin to wind down another wonderful school year, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your continued support of our program.

This year has been filled with meaningful moments—new friendships formed, confidence built, and so much growth in all of the children in our program. It has been a joy to watch them learn, laugh, and thrive together each day.

As we approach the end of the year, we will be saying goodbye to some of our students as they move on to their next chapter. They will be missed, and we feel incredibly grateful to have been a part of their journey. We are truly fortunate to be surrounded by such wonderful children and families.

Our final day of school, along with graduation, will be May 20th—a special day that will be here before we know it.

If you know of any families looking for a caring and engaging toddler, preschool, or Pre-K program, please point them in our direction. Abiding Savior Preschool is a place where children are nurtured, supported, and inspired to grow.

Thank you again for your support, and for being such an important part of our community.

Jen Boog
Preschool Director
preschool@abidingsavior.org
763-784-5326



Preschool is Hiring!

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

WE'RE HIRING!

Abiding Savior Preschool is looking for two energetic, enthusiastic, and caring individuals to join our program staff!

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR & LEAD TEACHER

Call 763-784-5326 to inquire!



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* ✦

AUGUST 10-14

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for a week of fun as we adventure through stories of animals in the Bible!

ROAR!
WILD ABOUT FAITH

9a-12p | M-F | Entering PreK-5th grade

Save the Date for Family Fun Night!
Wednesday, August 12th

May MS/HS Youth Events Join Us!

Saturday, May 2, 9AM—Noon

- **Spring Clean Up**

Come help clean up the church backyard and earn service hours! Free LUNCH afterward!!

Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day)

- Last cinnamon roll sale before summer

Wednesday, May 13

- Last night of Confirmation
- End of year PARTY

Sunday, May 31

- HS Seniors—scholarship applications due!
- Join us for Graduation Sunday on June 14!

Watch for upcoming communications about events that will be held over the summer!

Mission

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Garden of Grace

Now taking plot reservations!
Don't miss out!

As of mid-April, there are six gardeners with plots in the backyard of Abiding Savior which means there are two "unclaimed" plots waiting for YOU!

These plots are premium places to grow just about any vegetable or flower you choose and the harvest is yours to do with as you like--keep it for your own use, donate it to the food shelf, put it out for worshippers on Sunday morning or on Wednesdays with the bread give away.

Contact Vickie Wendel if you want a plot this summer--612-240-9031 or vwendel@comcast.net. But don't delay! Planting time is almost here!

THANK YOU SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks to this season's wonderful snow removal volunteers! Some brought their own shovels and one brought their own snow blower! You kept the walkways safe for everyone and changed a chore into something enjoyable. For our other members, there's always next season. We'll provide the shovels!

God's Work. Our Hands.

Blood Drive—May 14: Join fellow heroes donating the gift of life on Thursday, May 14 from 1:30—6:30PM. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Abiding to schedule an appointment. Bless you for caring for others.



Meals on Wheels: Our next delivery opportunity is the week of June 1-5. Please let Fern Fisher know if you'd like to join the "Hot Meals, Warm Smiles" delivery team. Many thanks for feeding bodies and souls.



Community Support Center Walk: Mark your calendars for the new and hopefully cooler, CSC Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors on September 27, 2026. You spoke and CSC listened, trying to beat the sweltering weather of the last few July walks by moving the date to September. It will still be in Mounds View's Silver View Park but we're hoping for a cooler forecast and invigorating event. We look forward to seeing you there!



Community Support Center Luncheon: Thanks to everyone who attended the annual CSC luncheon and program April 30. If you'd still like to donate to help prevent homelessness and eviction, you can mail checks to Community Support Center, 1600 Silver Lake Road NW, New Brighton, MN 55112. Thank you for helping neighbors regain stability.



Garden of Grace: There are only two garden beds left to claim as of April 14. Please let Vickie Wendel know if you're interested in exercising your green thumb and connecting with other gardeners.



Global Health Ministries Infant Kits: Wow and Amen! Thanks to everyone involved in donating to and assembling 300 bundled infant kits for Global Health Ministries to send to countries in Africa. Special thanks to ASLC's Elaine Boyer, Michele Olson and Jacki Evenson plus GHM's Sam Buegler for their extra help preparing and delivering, and to the confirmation class for finishing the last 50 bundles after we ran out of diapers on Palm Sunday. Truly a group effort to show those new babies some love. Thank you so much!



Ralph Reeder Support

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated during the March Food Drive! 111 pounds of food was brought to Ralph Reeder and \$522.31 was raised for Ralph Reeder at the Lenten Soup Supper. Thank you for helping to feed our neighbors!

Women's Bible Study "Proverbs"

You're invited to join the Women's Bible Study on Thursdays at 10AM as we continue studying the book of Proverbs. Found in the Old testament and often connected to King Solomon, Proverbs looks at simple, practical wisdom for everyday life and is full of short sayings that teach us how to make good choices, treat others well, and trust God. We'll talk about what it means to live with wisdom and how these lessons can guide us in our lives.



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 please talk to Pastor Ryan at (763) 784-5120.

Dear ASLC friends -

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank all of you for the love and support that we have received on the sudden passing of our son, Tadd. All the preparations for his funeral and reception were so much appreciated. Times like this, one certainly can't 'go it alone' or without faith that we will see him again. Love and blessings!

—Jack & Deanna Tuomie & family; Jodi & family

March 2026 Financial Highlights

2026	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	46,386	122,981
Festival giving	4,762	6,167
SUBTOTAL	51,148	129,148
Other income	8,140	28,459
TOTAL INCOME	59,288	157,607
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	54,997	172,133
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	4,291	(14,526)
Benevolence paid	2,462	11,242

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.

Things to Celebrate at Abiding Savior!

- A successful Easter egg hunt, welcoming approximately 200 people into Abiding Savior as 75 kids hunted for 2,000 Easter eggs! Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make this event a success!
- A beautiful Easter Sunday with meaningful worship (complete with streamer cannons) and delicious brunch served by our youth!
- The baptism of Harper Jo Welty on Sunday, April 19!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 APR ENDOWMENT SUNDAY	27 APRIL	28 APRIL	29 APRIL	30 APRIL	1	2
10:00 Worship Service		10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service	9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Education 6:00 - 7:00 ASK Kid's Activ. 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace	10:00 Women's Bible Study CSC Luncheon 7:00 Jubilation Ringers	OFFICE CLOSED	Spring Clean Up 9AM - noon Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
3 RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Cookie Reception honoring our new members		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 5:30 - 6:30 Adult Education 6:00 - 7:00 ASK Kid's Activ. 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace	10:00 Women's Bible Study Jubilation Ringers 7:00	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM Hollywood Revue Dinner and Show El Salvador Fundraiser 5PM
10 MOTHER'S DAY	11	12	13 LAST NIGHT WED. ACTIV.	14	15	16
10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale	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 Kid's Activ. 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 - 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 - 9:00 Reigning Grace	9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 - 6:30 Jubilation Ringers 7:00	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
17 MUSIC SUNDAY MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER	18 MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER	19 MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER	20 MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER	21 MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER	22 MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER	23 MALMBORG'S FUNDRAISER
10:00 Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00 Lutheran Luau and Potluck		9:00 Quilting 12:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Mtg	Preschool Graduation		OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 Worship Service	MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service		9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED	Janelle - Sanctuary 3-5PM
31 10:00 Worship Service						

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
8211 Red Oak Drive
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abidingsaviorlc/>

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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 May

- May 2: Spring Clean Up
- May 3: NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
Worship with Holy Communion
New member reception following worship
- May 5: Men's breakfast and Bible study
- May 6: Wednesday evening programming (see pg. 3)
- May 7: Women's Bible study
- May 9: Hollywood Review Dinner & Show fundraiser
- May 10: MOTHER'S DAY
Worship
Cinnamon roll sale
- May 11: Women's gathering at Moe's
- May 12: Caring Visitors meeting
- May 13: Wednesday evening programming (see pg. 3)
Final Wednesday evening at church until fall
- May 14: Men's work crew
Women's Bible study
- May 17: MUSIC SUNDAY AND LUTHERAN LUAU
Worship at 10am followed by potluck lunch
- May 17—23: Malmborg's fundraiser for El Salvador trip
- May 19: Men's breakfast & Bible study
Quilting
Council meeting
- May 20: Preschool graduation
- May 21: Women's Bible study
BLOOD DRIVE
- May 24: Worship
- May 25: MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
- May 26: Benedictine service
- May 31: Worship

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
Jen 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!