



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

September 2026

in this issue

Mental Health Training	2
Special Events	3
Checking Your Checkbook	4
God's Work. Our Hands.	5
Financial Update	6
September Calendar	7

the joy of being together

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another."
--Hebrews 10:24-25



How good it is to be to live TOGETHER in God's love here at Abiding Savior! As the seasons turn and the first hints of autumn begin to color the trees, after the Minnesota summer vacations, cabin weekends, family reunions, and long warm evenings, we return to a season of gathering, learning, worshiping, and serving together. Fall at Abiding Savior always feels like a homecoming, a chance to reconnect, to settle back into community, and to rediscover the joy of being the church side by side.

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us, *"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another."* These words remind us that Christian community is one of God's greatest gifts. We gather not simply because it is tradition or habit, or obligation, but because God uses our time together to shape us into people of love, compassion, generosity, and hope.

When we gather, something holy happens. We sing hymns that lift our spirits, we pray for one another's joys and struggles, we learn from Scripture, we share meals, we laugh, we cry and we serve side by side, discovering that we can do more together than they ever could alone.

In a world that is becoming increasingly isolated and divided, Abiding Savior continues to be a welcoming and caring family. As we begin this fall programming year, we do so with excitement and anticipation. Our ministries are ready to welcome children, youth, adults, families, long-time members, and brand-new faces alike. Please read through the pages of this newsletter and find the ways that you can get involved in the mission and ministry of your congregation.

Welcome home to fall at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

God's blessings!

Pastor Ryan

Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us on Sunday, September 13th for the Blessing of the Backpacks! All ages are invited to bring a backpack, lunchbox, workbag, or other school/work related items to receive a blessing during worship as we head into a new school year. Bag tags will be available to take before and after worship.



Called to Serve

Have you ever felt called to serve as an Usher, Communion Server, or on Altar Guild, but were unsure of what to do? Join us for a training session on **Sunday, September 20 at 11:30 am**. Come learn about the roles and responsibilities of each of these positions and discover serving in any of these seems is right for you.



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shares our Christian faith,
and serves all creation.

THE JOY OF
BEING
TOGETHER

Mental Health and First Aid Training

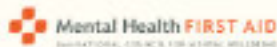
Church leaders and volunteers are often the first ones people turn to when life gets hard. This full-day training is for pastors, staff, small group leaders, volunteers and anyone serving in a role where people come to you, so you feel equipped to show up well for them.

Over the course of the day, you'll learn how to:

- Notice the signs that someone may be struggling with their mental health or with substance use
- Start a caring, non-judgmental conversation with someone who is having a hard time
- Know when and how to connect someone to a pastor, counselor, or other support
- Respond with steadiness instead of panic when a crisis shows up

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with a nationally recognized Mental Health First Aid Certification, good for three years, as well as a lot more confidence in your ability to show up for people in need. Lunch and materials will be provided.

Abiding Savior is sponsoring this training and is inviting anyone from the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA to attend. Those from outside Abiding Savior are being charged a fee to cover the cost of materials and lunch. Abiding Savior will cover the cost of this training for Abiding Savior staff and volunteers.



Tuesday, September 29
8:30am - 5pm

To register:

To register, please sign up on the board outside the church office or call or email the church office at 763-784-5120 or radfco@abiding-savior.org. Registration deadline is Friday, September 18, so materials can be ordered in time for the training.

Presented by:

The training is being led by Kendra Brodie, MSW, JD, a certified Mental Health First Aid instructor. Kendra is a nationally sought after speaker, teacher, and presenter in the field of well-being as well as the wife of Pastor Ryan. Kendra is teaching this course pro-bono because she believes in the value of this training to help church professionals and volunteers recognize, respond to, and support those struggling with mental health challenges.



Gifts from Tanzania by Elaine Boyer

The former head of chaplains at Bethesda Hospital offered this table grace: "In the enjoyment of Thy gifts, we bless Thy holy name." What were gifts Tanzania gave to me? Big smiles of little girls who



reached for me and call me "Bibi" (grandma); joy filled dance and singing by the Hehe, Makungu villagers; eye contact, a wordless hello and welcome - by the woman carrying a five gallon bucket of water on her head; Pastor Katie at auction, conferring over the price of a chicken to postpone its destined journey as lunch; dinner in a dry river bed under starry skies; elephants, ears flapping and trunks waving, (they don't see well but can hear and smell), deciding they could pass us by on the close path; young mothers in Iringa, crammed into a room awaiting their baby's turn with the physical therapist; conversation with travel companions. If we can, we receive gifts and enjoy them. In so doing, we bless God's name and give something back. Our blessing is passed on, maybe back to us, or maybe on to someone else. Elton John sang: It's a circle of life, and it moves us along. Could it be - It's a circle of love, and it moves us along.

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

LITTLE FREE FOOD SHELF

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Your contributions to our Free Food Shelf can make a difference to those facing food insecurity. We're collecting non-perishable items, as well as cash donations. Items most in need: notice:

- Canned meals (chili, stew, hearty soups)
- Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce
- Kid-friendly snacks (granola bars, Goldfish crackers)
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, peanut butter)
- Crackers (Ritz, graham crackers, wheat thins)
- Cleaning and hygiene products (laundry and dish soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste)
- Baby diapers and wipes

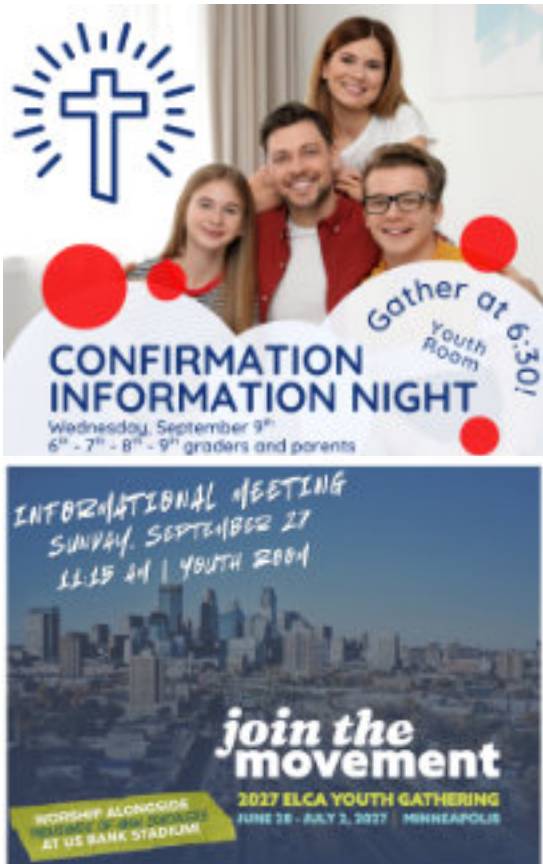
Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Thank you for your help!

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that helped make VBS 2026 possible! From monetary support, in-kind donations, and hours of volunteer time, we couldn't have had a successful week without your help!

Mission

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Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them by Liz Curtis Higgs explores the lives of ten infamous or flawed biblical women. Each chapter begins with a modern-day fictionalized retelling of a woman's dilemma, followed by a verse-by-verse biblical study to help readers recognize personal faults, avoid similar pitfalls, and embrace divine grace. **Join us in the coffee house or via livestream as we dive into these stories together starting Thursday, September 10 at 10AM.** Books are available in the office with a suggested donation of \$11 per book. Questions? Talk to Pastor Katie!



Men's Bible Study, led by Pastor Ryan, **begins again on Tuesday, September 15, at 8:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.** Come enjoy a hot breakfast and a time of fellowship and learning. No Bible experience necessary! This Bible study is non-threatening, enjoyable, and informative. Men's Bible Study meets the first third and fifth Tuesdays of the month through May. Come and join us!

Men's Fishing Trip September 18 - 20

Last chance to register for the Annual Men's Fishing Trip to be held Fri., September 18 to Sun., September 20. This year we will be going to Big Sandy Lake in McGregor and staying at Pastor Ryan's cabin. The cost, including housing and all of our meals while at camp, bait, and gas for our boats and cars is only \$130 per person. No fishing experience necessary. 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! 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.

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:30–6:15pm Dinner served (starts Sept. 16)



SEPTEMBER 16
Grilled
Hamburgers



SEPTEMBER 23
Chicken
Salad



SEPTEMBER 30
Tacos &
Spanish Rice

6:30 - 8:00pm Confirmation*

7:00–8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (starts Sept.2)

8:00–9:00pm Reigning Grace Practice

*Confirmation Parents Night on Sept. 9
Confirmation sessions begin Sept. 16

(PreK-5th grade programming starts 10/7)

Abiding Savior Preschool

Summer is already coming to a close, and our preschoolers will be returning to the building the week of September 14! We are so excited to welcome back our returning families, as well as greet the new faces joining us this year.

If you know anyone still looking for a high-quality toddler, preschool, or Pre-K program, please feel free to pass along our information—it's not too late to enroll!

We are still on the look out for a new Preschool Director! If you know of anyone who may be interested in this part-time position, please speak with Linda Weiner Herman or the office.

Thanks for your support of our program!

Abiding Savior Preschool Staff and Committee
preschool@abidingsavior.org
www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com
763-784-5326



Community Support Center

Walk a Mile
for Our Neighbors

Sunday,
September
27th
9 a.m. - 2p.m.



Where: Silver View Park (Silver Lake Road and County Road I), Mounds View

What: A fundraiser supporting the CSC

- Walk around a small lake with, hopefully, autumn weather.
- Bring your dog if he/she wants a lake walk, too.
- Get a chance to win a \$100 gift card when you donate.
- Get a "dot" on your name tag as you pass local church groups.
- Eat a free hot dog when the walk is done.
- Support this community's effort to keep our neighbors in their homes.
- Choose the "shorter walk" if you wish (0.2 miles)

Meals on Wheels - September 21 - 25
Let the office know if you'd like to help!

Stewardship Corner: Checking your Checkbook

I hate writing checks. It takes too long and I prefer to pay for everything digitally online if possible. That means that I also no longer use the handwritten check register that comes with the checks. I just check my balance online.

Whether you keep your checkbook balanced by hand or online, have you ever looked closely at your checkbook register? Checkbook registers can teach us a lot about our priorities in life. Where is your money going? What are you buying? What are you saving? What are you spending on essentials? And what are you sharing with your church and other worthy organizations?

Sometimes it might seem like there is too little in our checking accounts. We want to be more generous, but we listen to the lie that says if we give more, we will not have enough. But we do not have a God of scarcity, but instead a God of abundance. When we share, we find we still have enough, even more than enough. And God does not ask us to share everything, but instead to share proportionally, abundantly, generously, and most of all joyfully. As II Corinthians 9 says, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

So, when you look at your check register (or check your balance online), what are you seeing? What are your priorities and your values and are those reflected in the way you choose to use the resources God has entrusted to you? If not, I encourage you to try a little more generosity—you might just become a cheerful giver!

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God's Work. Our Hands.

School Supply Thanks: Sincere thanks to everyone who donated school supplies to our young friends at Sunnyside, Pinewood and Edgewood. We remember the excitement of a new school year and pray for happy days of learning and friendship.

Next Blood Drive: Mark your calendars for October 8th and sign up to donate blood here. The blood supply is critically low following summer's lull in giving and you can help replenish this life-saving resource. Thank you for caring for others!

Meals on Wheels: We deliver the week of September 21st. Please let Fern Fisher know if you can help all week or fill in as needed. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by those receiving a hot meal and your smiling face.

CSC Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors: Please plan to join walkers from area churches and organizations on September 27th at Silver View Park in Mounds View to support the Community Support Center's goal of preventing homelessness and evictions. Come anytime between 9am and 2pm and walk as many laps as you'd like, long or short options are available, dogs and strollers welcome. All donations get you a chance to win one of three \$100 Visa cards. Free hot dogs, too. The church walking the most miles wins the (prestigious?) Golden Sneaker statue, currently and only ever held by Grace Point Church. Let's give them some competition!

Call a friend, bring your kids or grandkids or dogs and come to support the CSC during this social and active fundraiser. If you can't attend but want to support CSC, mail checks to Community Support Center, 1600 Silver Lake Road NW, New Brighton, MN 55112. Online giving is available through their website <https://www.communitysupportcenter.org> Thank you!

Fall Opportunities: As we get back to our regularly scheduled programming, please consider lending a hand to help make things run smoothly and share in the joy of doing. There are many varied opportunities from Sunday worship volunteers to Wednesday meal cooks to funeral food servers to committee members to music makers. Many tasks are in small increments or once every month or you could offer to fill in when needed. Your skills and talents are needed and welcome here!

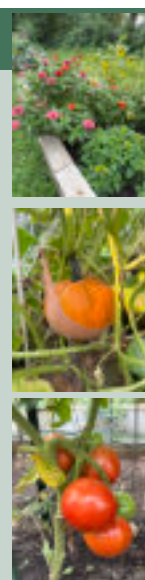
Garden of Grace

Summer is starting to wind down and so are the Gardens of Grace. Many of the gardens have bare places as their harvest has been completed. The flowers in Jo's, Kia's and Kendra's gardens have been beautiful and have lent an incredible splash of color.

Tristan and Mandy's garden has one of the more unique setups—a hammock (an old nylon) to hold up one of the pumpkins they are growing on a trellis.

Did you get one of the zucchinis that were abundant this year? There were several gardens with prolific zucchini plants. Thankfully, we did not hear reports of any zucchinis suddenly appearing on the hoods of cars in the parking lot on Sunday mornings, so the gardeners must have found takers for their bounty!

Fall will soon end our 2026 season of gardening, but that only means we can begin planning for 2027.



July 2026 Financial Highlights

2026	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current gifts and giving	49,321	301,456
Festival giving	0	15,212
SUBTOTAL	49,321	316,668
Other income	15,865	76,042
TOTAL INCOME	65,186	392,710
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	55,799	397,931
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	9,387	(5,221)
Benevolence paid*	11,789	39,8723

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 or need help planning your gift to the Endowment, please talk to Pastor Ryan at (763) 784-5120 x2004.



Choice Dollars and 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.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you so very much for another year of support! You are so generous to us and help make so much good happen! We are grateful for you and look forward to sending you our summer wrap up!

-- Humble Walk

Thank you for accepting the Preschool's grant application! We can't wait to purchase all the fun things for the classroom and playground!

--Abiding Savior Preschool

Growing Through Loss

Growing Through Loss is a grief and loss support ministry jointly sponsored by the North Suburban Grief Support Coalition, of which 18 churches and organizations in our area are members.

The fall series will be held on Monday evenings, September 21 through October 26 from 6:45-9pm, at The Church of St. William in Fridley.

Each session offers an educational presentation by a professional from the community, followed by peer support groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process. Each session is complete in itself. Call 763-755-5335 for info.

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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/>

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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 September

- Sept. 2: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
- Sept. 6: Worship with Holy Communion
- Sept. 7: Labor Day (Office closed)
- Sept. 8: Caring Visitors meeting
- Sept. 9: Cub Foods bread delivery distribution
Confirmation info night, Adult choir
- Sept. 10: Work crew, Bible study
Preschool Open House
- Sept. 13: RALLY SUNDAY with Brunch
Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks
Small group leader installation
- Sept. 14: Women's Gathering
- Sept. 15: Men's breakfast & Bible study
Council meeting
- Sept. 16: Wednesday evening activities (see pg 3)
- Sept. 17: Women's Bible study
- Sept. 18-20: Men's fishing trip
- Sept. 20: Worship with Holy Communion
Usher, Communion Srvr Training
- Sept. 21: Meals on Wheels
- Sept. 23: Wednesday evening activities (see pg 3)
- Sept. 27: Worship & CSC Walk for Our Neighbors
- Sept. 29: Men's breakfast & Bible study
Mental Health-First Aid training
- Sept. 30: Wednesday evening activities (see pg 3)

Pastors, Staff and Hours

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9AM - 4PM
Closed on Friday

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 <https://abidingsavior.org/update-my-contact-information/> so we can update our records. Thanks!