



the vinebranch

a monthly publication of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

October 2026

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Choose to Love: Lifting Up by Letting Go Fall Stewardship Campaign

Jesus tells us, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." These words are not meant to frighten us or burden us. They are meant to help us think about our choices in life and to turn us toward a life shaped by love rather than self-preservation.

This year's stewardship theme, *Choose to Love: Lifting Up by Letting Go*, challenges us to examine our choices in life. Are we choosing love? Are we denying ourselves for the good of others? Jesus calls us to deny ourselves so that something better can rise in its place. Every time we say "no" to the habits that drain our time, attention, and resources becomes a "yes" to the things that give life.



Lifting Up by Letting Go

October 4

Campaign kick-off

October 11

Worship: Choose to Love

October 18

*Celebration of Sharing
Sunday*

Processional offering
Brunch following worship

There are so many small denials we can implement every day. We can choose not to buy the daily Starbucks, not to spend hours binging the next Netflix season, not to fill every spare moment with mindless scrolling. These are not actually denials; they are acts of liberation. When we step back from what consumes us, we step forward into what blesses others, and in the process, blesses us as well.

By denying ourselves, we create more space for love to grow. A few less cups of coffee can become scholarships in Tanzania. An hour reclaimed from screens becomes time spent building relationships with our family or neighbors. An evening freed from distraction becomes an opportunity to volunteer or spend time of with God.

Stewardship is not about guilt or obligation, but about love made visible through our choices. When we choose to deny ourselves, we choose to love our neighbors, our community, and the mission God has entrusted to us.

Together we can and will discover the joy that comes from saying "no" to what drains us and "yes" to what uplifts others. Together, we can generously and wholeheartedly *Choose to Love*. Be sure to take a heart from the basket in the Narthex challenging you to choose love!

Pastor Ryan

(See the full campaign schedule on pg. 2)

**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.**

Highlights of the 2026 Stewardship Campaign:

Choose to Love: Lifting Up by Letting Go



October 4

Campaign kick-off as we focus on how Abiding Savior chooses love as a place that lifts up others by letting go. Watch for campaign materials in your mail this week.

October 11

Stewardship includes the choices we make with the resources God has provided to us. That includes how we are stewarding our time and our skills. We can Choose to Love others by letting go and sharing our time and skills can lift up others.

October 18

Celebration of Sharing Sunday! Stay after worship for brunch served free of charge as a thank you for your continued generosity. This Sunday we will focus on how we can Choose to Love by sharing our resources to lift up others. During worship we will have a chance to bring forward our offering and our pledge cards in a processional offering.

Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere - Hospitality Task Force

Over the last several months, you may have noticed some design changes happening around the church building. Nearly a year ago, a Hospitality Task Force was appointed and approved by the church council with the goal of updating and refreshing many of our communal gathering spaces. The Hospitality Task Force worked hard to solicit congregational feedback and input through an open survey in the Fall 2025 regarding these projects to ensure that a variety of voices and perspectives were considered. In the last year, some of these changes included refreshing paint in the North Hallway and the Fellowship Hall, removing excess furniture, updating artwork, and developing a long-term plan to slowly roll out additional updates. ASLC's church council reviewed and offered feedback to this long-term plan; it was approved (with amendments) at the June 2026 council meeting.

Through heavy research and exploration of other churches in our area, it was obvious that the narthex lacked a bright and welcoming family-friendly atmosphere. In the coming weeks, you may begin to notice some larger changes happening, especially in the narthex. Abiding Savior has a long history of tradition, and that is no different when it comes to the design and visual features within our building. While these changes take place, please know the history and tradition of this congregation will be well maintained as we continue to update spaces. We hope that these design changes will be able to offer the same warmth and welcome that all of you do to everyone that walks through our church doors. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of these changes, please do not hesitate to reach out to the pastors.

Mission

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Blood Drive - Thurs., Oct. 8

All in! We need YOU to help save lives in and around our community. Our Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for **Thursday, October 8, from 1:30 - 6:30PM** has many openings to fit your schedule! Pick a time and [schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation](#) | [American Red Cross](#) and be a hero in your own community!

Fall Clean-Up Sat., Oct. 17 @ 9AM



**Sunday, October 25
10:00AM**

Congratulations and God's blessings to our ninth graders who will be confirmed on Sunday, October 25 during the 10AM worship service. Please pray for these young adults as they affirm their baptism and confirm their faith: Molly Burgers, Samantha Kacures, Tristan Overby, and Rhua Schwartz.



***It's time to order Christmas wreaths!
Watch your October bulletins
for preschool wreath order forms!***

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:30 - 6:15: Dinner served

- Oct. 07: Pork chow mein
- Oct. 14: Hamburger gravy & mashed potatoes
- Oct. 21: Chicken alfredo
- Oct. 28: Scalloped potatoes & ham

5:30 - 6:30: ASK Kids' Activities (10/07)
6:30 - 8:00: Confirmation
7:00 - 8:00: Adult Choir practice
8:00 - 9:00: Reigning Grace practice

FALL FESTIVAL & TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH • 10AM-12PM

JOIN US FOR GAMES,
MUSIC, TREATS, & MORE!



Get ready for a morning of fall fun, fellowship, and treats! Join us on **Saturday, October 24th from 10:00AM-12:00PM** for a

Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat. There will be games, music, treats, and plenty of fun for the whole family as we celebrate the season together.

Want to be part of the fun? Everyone is invited to host a trunk and pass out treats! Decorate your trunk, bring your favorite treats, and help make this a fun and memorable event for everyone. If you want to participate but can't attend, candy donations for Trunk or Treat are appreciated! If you plan to host a trunk, please sign up on the CYF bulletin board to let us know you'll be participating.

Bring your family, invite a friend, and come enjoy a festive fall morning with us! We hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

Abiding Savior's Election Night Smorgasbord

Tues., Nov. 3rd | 4:30 - 6:30pm

Tickets will be on sale the 2nd week of Oct!

Adult Education Series

Freely Forgiven & Freed to Forgive

**Wednesdays, November 4, 11 and 18 | 5:30 - 6:30PM
Coffee House**

Join Pastor Ryan to explore the power of forgiveness. This study will visit how we are forgiven freely by God through the power of grace in our lives. We are also commanded to forgive others (and ourselves) just as we have been forgiven by God. No experience necessary and no homework assigned! You are invited to this exciting and relevant class.

Preschool Peak

Preschool is off to a great start! The air is buzzing with excitement as the kiddos have entered back into the building! We are a busy program with Pre-K, Preschool and Toddler classrooms! The teachers and kids have been busy getting to know each other!

Christmas seems like it is far away but be on the lookout for information about our Annual Mickman Brother Wreath Fundraiser!

There are still some openings in all of our classrooms, so if you know of anyone who is looking for a great preschool program, please be sure to spread the word. The best recommendation a prospective family can receive is hearing about our program directly from those who are familiar with it!

As always thank you for your continued support of Abiding Savior Preschool!

www.abidingsaviorpreschool.com

CYF Committee

We are thrilled to introduce a brand new committee for all things related to **Children, Youth, and Family** ministry! The CYF Committee will focus on brainstorming ideas and events, supporting volunteers, pastors, and church staff, giving feedback on events and processes, and helping execute larger events in conjunction with a new events committee (coming soon!) As we kick off the program year, this committee will meet monthly as we work to reestablish and continue to grow our children, youth, and family programming. Questions regarding this committee can be directed to Pastor Katie, Alex, or Josh!

Children's Ministry

We are grateful for the excitement and commitment surrounding Children's Ministry programming at Abiding Savior. Last year, we experimented with weekly programming and noticed competing schedules with other weekly sports and activities. This fall, we are adjusting our approach and offering monthly programming. **On the first Wednesday of each month, children in preschool-5th grade are invited to join Pastor Katie from 5:30-6:30PM* for games, crafts, stories, and more.** We hope to see an increase in attendance without adding to the stress of already-full calendars while continuing to offer a fun and safe place to grow in our faith together. Mod 1 will remain open from week to week for informal play. Please note that children should not be left unattended as this room will not be supervised by staff or volunteers. This model is not set in stone and may be subject to change. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we explore the ways to best serve our children at ASLC! **Our first monthly gathering will be on Wed., Oct. 6th - we will meet in the church library at 5:30PM.** *Please note the time change (originally advertised as 6-7PM).

MS/HS Youth News

Fri., Oct. 2 | 7:30PM – 12AM

ELCA Youth Gathering Mock-In @ Roseville LC

8-12th Graders: Join us for a fun night of worship and fellowship with high schoolers from around the Twin Cities!

Sun., Oct. 4 | 8:30/11AM | Cinnamon Roll Sale

Youth arrive at 8:30 & meet us in the kitchen to bake, frost, & plate then help sell after church!

Sat., Oct. 17 | 9AM | Fall Clean Up

Come help us clean up the church property and join us for a free lunch after!

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God's work. Our hands.

School Supply Thank You: Big thanks to all who donated school supplies to help get our friends at Sunnyside, Pinewood, Edgewood and Irondale off to a good start this school year. The simple joy of new crayons, notebooks and pencils is a shared memory for generations of students. Thank you for remembering!

Garden of Grace: Three cheers and green thumbs up for Vickie Wendel, who volunteered to oversee our garden beds this year. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by our growers and local bees!

Meals on Wheels: Thank you to our drivers who delivered hot meals the week of September 21st. Our last week for 2026 is November 16th. Please let the office or Fern Fisher know if you'd like to get in on this opportunity to brighten someone's day.

October 8th Blood Drive: If you haven't already, sign up now to donate blood here at ASLC on October 8th. The blood supply is critically low following summer's lull in giving and you can help replenish this vital resource. Thank you for caring for others in this life-saving way!

CSC Walk Thanks: The Community Support Center Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors took place on September 27th. Thank you to our station volunteers and those who walked a lap or two in support of the CSC's mission to prevent evictions and homelessness in our area. If you couldn't attend but would like 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 for caring for our neighbors!

You Guys Rock! This is only a small part of the many kind and generous acts of outreach that happen around ASLC daily. Know that your good deeds are truly appreciated and contribute to the fabric of our caring and welcoming congregation. God bless your loving hearts!

Garden of Grace Reminds Us of God's Beautiful Creation!

Summer is over and with it, the last of our gardens. By the time you are reading this, we will have likely had our first killing frost and the gardens will be taking time to rest over the winter. Rest is good for gardens, just as it is for us. While we and the gardens rest, we can reflect on the bounty and blessings of the gardens, even if you simply enjoyed the bright flowers that enriched our backyard.



Be thinking ahead to next year! This year's gardeners will have the first opportunity to claim a bed next spring, but if they choose not to take one, a new gardener will be invited to step in. (The picture of some of the past flowers is there to remind us how beautiful is God's creation!)



August 2026 Financial Highlights

2026	Monthly	YTD
INCOME		
Current giving	36,075	337,531
Festival giving	0	15,212
SUBTOTAL	36,075	352,743
Other income	15,355	91,257
TOTAL INCOME	51,430	444,000
EXPENSES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	59,472	457,403
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	(8,042)	(13,403)
Benevolence Paid	2,480	42,352

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.

Abiding Savior has switched internet providers, gaining faster internet speeds at significant savings. Look for guest Wifi information posted in various locations around the church.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this transition possible: Ivan Alderink, Jim Schlotterback, Mark Slotvig, Doug Lykke, and especially, Ron Wendel!

Support the Endowment Fund

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.



Notes of Thanks

We want to thank everyone for the prayers, notes, food, and visits while Him and I were recently both in the hospital. We are so grateful for our Abiding Savior church family! --Rita and Jim Kenyon

Three cheers and green thumbs up for Vickie Wendel, who volunteered to oversee our garden beds this year. Also, great thanks to the men's work crew for their maintenance, mowing and garden care. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by our growers and local bees!

Mission

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October 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 SEPTEMBER 10:00 Worship Community Support Center's Walk for Our Neighbors ROA: 12 – 3PM (Mod 2/FH)	28 SEPTEMBER	29 SEPTEMBER 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting ROA: 6 – 8:30PM (Mod 2)	30 SEPTEMBER 9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 – 9:00 Reigning Grace	1 10:00 Women's Bible Study	2 OFFICE CLOSED ELCA Yth Gathering Mocklin@ RosevilleLC 7:30PM – 12AM TME: 6 – 8:30PM (Sanct) ROA: 6:30–9PM (Mod 2)	3 TME: 9AM–2PM(Sanct) Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
4 STWRDSHP CAMPAIGN 10:00 Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 Cinnamon Roll Sale ROA: 12 – 3PM (Mod 2)	5	6 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Mission Outreach (CH) 2:45 Property (Library) ROA: 6 – 8:30PM (Mod 2)	7 9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 – 6:30 ASK Kid's Activ 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 – 9:00 Reigning Grace	8 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study BLOOD DRIVE 1:30 – 6:30PM	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 TME: 9AM–2PM(Sanct) Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
11 STWRDSHP CAMPAIGN 10:00 Worship Pr. Katie @ Bishop Theological Conference ROA: 12 – 3PM (Mod 2)	12 Pr Katie @ IC 12:30 Preschool Mtg (CH) 5:30 Women's Gathering at Moe's	13 Pr Katie @ IC 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Caring Visitors Mtg (CH) ROA: 6 – 8:30PM (Mod 2)	14 9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper NO KIDS' ACTIVITIES (MEA Break) 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 – 9:00 Reigning Grace	15 10:00 Women's Bible Study	16 OFFICE CLOSED TME: 6 – 8:30PM (Sanct) ROA: 6:30–9PM (Mod 2)	17 TME: 9AM–2PM(Sanct) Fall Clean Up 9AM Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM
18 STEWARDSHIP CLBRN PR KATIE CONT. ED. 10:00 Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 Stewardship Celebration BRUNCH ROA: 12 – 3PM (Mod 2)	19 PR KATIE CE Confirmation pictures, rehearsal and dinner	20 PR RYAN PTO PR KATIE CONT. ED. NO Men's Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting ROA: 6 – 8:30PM (Mod 2)	21 PR RYAN PTO PR KATIE CONT. ED. 9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 – 9:00 Reigning Grace	22 PR RYAN PTO 9:00 Work Crew 10:00 Women's Bible Study	23 OFFICE CLOSED TME: 6 – 8:30PM (Sanct) ROA: 6:30–9PM (Mod 2)	24 TME: 9AM–2PM(Sanct) Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat 10AM - Noon Janelle – Sanctuary 3-5PM ROA: 11AM KITCHEN 4 – 8:30PM (FH)
25 CONFIRMATION 10:00 Worship with Rite of Confirmation ROA: 12 – 3PM (Mod 2)	26	27 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Benedictine Service ROA: 6 – 8:30PM (Mod 2)	28 9:15 Cub Foods delivery 4:30 - Wed. Night Supper 5:30 – NEW MEMBER CLASS 6:30 - 8:00 Confirmation 7:00 – 8:00 Adult Choir 8:00 – 9:00 Reigning Grace	29 10:00 Women's Bible Study	30 OFFICE CLOSED TME: 6 – 8:30PM (Sanct) ROA: 6:30–9PM (Mod 2)	31 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

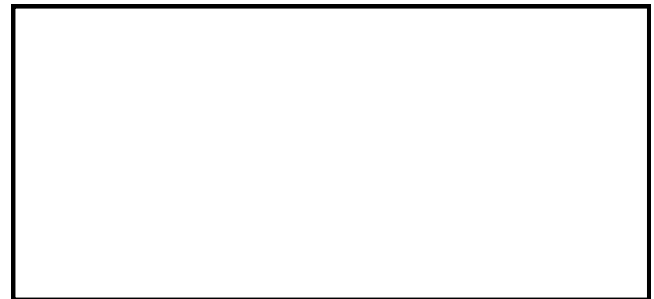
Website: www.abidingsavior.org

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

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
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TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 4987

October Vinebranch Newsletter Volume 26 Number 10 Date 2026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Events in October

- Oct. 1: Women's Bible study
- Oct. 2: ELCA Yth Gathering Mock-In
- Oct. 4: Stewardship Worship w/Holy Communion
Cinnamon Roll Sale
- Oct. 6: Men's breakfast and Bible study
- Oct. 7: Wednesday eve. programs (see pg. 2)
- Oct. 8: Work crew, Bible study, Blood Drive
- Oct. 11: Stewardship campaign worship
- Oct. 12: Women's gathering
- Oct. 14: Wednesday night supper & Adult choir
- Oct. 15: Women's Bible study
- Oct. 17: Fall clean up
- Oct. 18: Stewardship Celebration & Brunch
- Oct. 19: Confirmation practice, pictures & meal
- Oct. 20: Council meeting
- Oct. 21: Wednesday eve. programs (see pg. 2)
- Oct. 22: Work crew and Women's Bible study
- Oct. 24: Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 25: Reformation Sunday with Confirmation
- Oct. 28: Wednesday eve. programs (see pg. 2)
New member class
- Oct. 29: Women's Bible study

Pastors, Staff, and Hours

Ryan Brodin, Senior Pastor
Katie Hendrikson, Assoc. 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

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.