

NEWS FROM ABIDING SAVIOR

September 2026



SERMON -AUGUST 23RD

SERMON – AUGUST 30TH

BIBLE STUDY

is held on Wednesdays:

At noon (in-person & on-line) and
at 7:00 pm (on - line only).

In September, we will begin
looking at the major themes in the
Gospel of St. Luke

<https://abiding-savior-lutheran.org/>

CLICK HERE TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING



PRAYER ROCKS-

PLEASE PRAY WITH US AND FOR US

If you didn't already get one, take a rock from the Narthex. Let it serve as a gentle reminder to lift this congregation in prayer—for vibrant ministry, its members, its leaders and its path forward in Christ. May the prayers be a blessing and bring strength, guidance, hope, and grace to all who are part of this faith community.

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

—James 5:16

"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE – THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME"

From the Pastor's Desk

Included below is a copy of the November 6, 1968 Abiding Savior Newsletter.

Mr. Larkin Teasley was the president of the congregation and Mr. Don Huber was the student pastor.

COUNT-DOWN

When it is time for NASA to send a giant rocket into space, the crews spend much time going through a rather elaborate count-down procedure. They don't just "throw the switch"! Instead, they carefully go through the proper steps one at a time.

In a way, our congregation is in a position like a rocket just before take-off. Now that we are actually: engaged in the process of calling a pastor, we have entered a critical "count down" phase. If everything is to work smoothly so that receiving a new pastor into our midst becomes an exciting and profitable event in our history, then we should plan and execute many important steps between now and the time of this event. Some of these are more mundane than others--we must paint the parsonage, for example! But we should also maintain our faithfulness (and actually go forward) in such areas as worship, education, and stewardship. These are our responsibilities. If we tackle them with enthusiasm, then we will be ready for real progress when we once more have the benefit of pastoral leadership.

This is a time of preparation and anticipation. Let's take advantage of it to the fullest extent. Let's have a good count-down end then finally a most successful lift-off!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, October 27, 32 voting members of the congregation met and extended a call to be our pastor to the Rev. Donald Saylor of Columbus, Ohio. Pastor Saylor has acknowledged receipt of our call and we will be in touch with him in the days ahead. We will keep you posted of all developments each Sunday during church. Please remember

Paster Saylor in your prayers as he makes a decision which will profoundly affect his own future' as well as that of our congregation.

EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School

We will begin an adult Sunday School class this Sunday, November 10. Mr. Roy Street will be the teacher. The topic: "The Mighty Acts of God" (a study of what the Bible is and what it means for us today). Don't just drop your children off for Sunday School! Bring them, but stay yourself for some interesting and provocative discussion.

Adult Instruction Class

Mr. Don Huber will be beginning another adult instruction class soon.

NOVEMBER 6, 1968 NEWSLETTER CONTINUED

We will discuss the doctrines and practice of the Lutheran Church, as well as the life of our own congregation. If you know someone who is interested in joining the Church of the Abiding Savior, or in learning about what the Lutheran Church stands for, please contact Don (489-6436). The time and place of meetings will be arranged later.

WORSHIP

Attention - Everyone who enjoys singing

We are trying to prepare some special music for Sunday, November 17, when we will have a number of visitors with us. We are going to sing a folk version of the Nicene Creed. This "Music for the Worship of God in the Twentieth Century" was designed for congregational singing, so the music is not difficult to learn.

Plan now to stay for a few minutes after church this Sunday, November 10, for a short rehearsal and share in the fun of singing folk music.

PARSONAGE

This Saturday, November 9th is the big day! That is, it's the day when we will paint the inside of the parsonage. We have five rooms, a hall, and two bathrooms to paint, so we can use you: We will begin at 9:00 a.m. sharp, but if you can't make it then, come when you can. "Please bring rags, brushes, rollers, and roller pans if you have them. Lunch will be furnished by the ladies. If you can help with the food, call Mrs. Helen Battle or Mrs. Azelle Powell. This work is very important. We want to be able to "show off" a clean, bright parsonage as we meet with a prospective pastor. So come on out for some hard work and good fellowship this Saturday.

BAPTISMS:

The following children were received by Holy Baptism on October 27:

Edward Andrew Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted, Long

Dana Andre Harris, and Garfield Edwin Harris III, sons of Mrs. Carolyn Harris

NEW ADULT MEMBERS

The following persons were received into our fellowship on November 3:

Mrs. Eunice Boehlke (by letter of transfer) Mr. Terry Boehlke (by confirmation)

Mrs. Nancy Rowland (by confirmation) * Mr. John Rowland (by adult baptism)

If you were not in church last Sunday to greet these new members, take a moment and introduce yourself to them this week.

CALENDAR

Saturday, November 9

9:00 am Parsonage Painting

Sunday, November 10

10:00 am Church Council

USHERS

November 10 Street, Teasley

November 17 Starr Sr., Teasley, Starr Jr.

November 24 Rowland, Boehlke

CLEAN-UP

November 9 Long

November 16 Pinson

November 23 Singletary

November 30 Rowland

I would like to thank all those who have been so faithful lately in cleaning our church home. We have had excellent response, and this effort is reflected in the improved appearance of our building.

Keep up the good work!

CONTRACT EXTENSION

The current contract for Interim Pastor, Dr. Julius Carroll is scheduled to end on September 30, 2026. As our congregation begins the pastoral call process, Pastor Carroll's contract will be extended through December 31, 2026, providing continuity and support during this important time of transition. We are grateful for Pastor Carroll's faithful leadership and experience. His guidance is a blessing to our congregation, and we appreciate his willingness to continue serving with us through the end of the year.

CALL PROCESS – CONGREGATIONAL STUDY MINISTRY SITE PROFILE (MSP)

In consultation with the NC Synod Office, the congregation is preparing to begin the pastoral call process. The first step will be to meet with Deacon Wendy Roberts, our synod's Call Process Coordinator. During her visit, she will guide us through a congregational study. Using this study, the congregation will work together to complete a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Congregations seeking a pastor describe their mission and hopes for ministry, guided by the call process Coordinator. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is the common form congregations and church-related organizations use to share their mission and search for rostered ministers. This important document will describe our community, share our mission, and highlight our vision for ministry as we seek the pastor God is calling to serve with us. **Deacon Wendy will join us for worship on Sunday, September 27th. Following worship, she will join us for lunch and begin the congregational study.**

The Council may begin gathering objective information that is unlikely to change, such as community demographics and financial information but will defer drafting sections that identify desired pastoral competencies and characteristics until after the congregational study, as those sections should reflect broader congregational discernment so the congregation will have an opportunity to discuss and shape its content.

The council will gather information from the congregation, complete the MSP document and share it with the congregation. **Your participation is needed, encouraged and crucial for the process.**

WELCA SEPTEMBER MEETING



Abiding Savior's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will begin gathering for bi-monthly meetings starting on Saturday, September 19th.

These meetings provide an opportunity for women of all ages to grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and serve together in Christian love. Meetings begin with breakfast, followed by Bible study and opportunities to participate in service projects that support our congregation and the community.

The September meeting will serve as our annual planning session, during which we will discuss and organize activities, studies, and service opportunities for the coming year. All women of the congregation are encouraged to attend, share their ideas, and help shape an exciting and meaningful year of ministry ahead.

COUNCIL MINISTRY / LEADERSHIP

The congregation's 2026-2027 council with ministry areas:

1. The interim, Pastor Julius Carroll, is a voting member of the congregation council. He will serve through the end of 2026.
2. Susan Hester will lead the *Worship, Prayer and Praise* ministry.
3. Patricia Bynum will lead the *Finance* ministry.
4. Linda Warren will lead the *Outreach* ministry and serve as Vice President of the congregation.
5. Lula Monds will lead the *Property* ministry.
6. Veronica Johnson will lead the *Records* ministry and serve as secretary of the congregation.
7. Diana Haywood will serve as President of the congregation and will also focus on *Faith Formation Ministry (with Youth and Education functions)*

THRIVENT OPPORTUNITIES - GRANTS AND CHOICE DOLLARS!

Members with Thrivent Financial products can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. If you are a member, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Abiding Savior. These Dollars accumulate in your account and are not automatically allocated. Your Choice Dollars can be designated online. Members may also apply for community Action Grants to address needs in the community. These grants can help to fund congregational projects (examples: school supplies and 5th Sunday Meals at the Shelter). Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive up to two \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grants per year.

AUGUST DINNER AT THE SHELTER



Many thanks to all who come out regularly and serve at the shelter. In August, Abiding Savior provided dinner to more than 225 brothers and sisters at Urban Ministries of Durham. Many hands were needed to provide the meal; purchase items, debone chickens, cook, set-up, serve and do everything needed for the dinner including getting a Thrivent Grant. We will prepare and serve dinner again on the 5th Sunday November (the Sunday after Thanksgiving).

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION

Please consider joining the North Carolina chapter of the African Descent Lutheran Association (NC-ADLA) [Link to join.](#)

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

An Annual Day Devoted to Love of Our Neighbors and Church

We Celebrate the ELCA, Service, Community

ELCA Churches Across Country Activate in God's Name:

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." 10-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE

"God's work. Our hands." is the ELCA's annual day of service, taking place Sept. 13, 2026. It is a blessed opportunity for all ELCA congregations to celebrate who we are as a church, engaging in projects and activities that explore our convictions as Lutherans: that all life in Jesus flows from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The ELCA is one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor every day.

The day is an opportunity for congregations to tell the good news about this special event and engage in activities that show the world the difference that God's grace and love in Christ make in our daily lives. This call to service unites all ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors.

JOIN IN AS WE DO GOD'S WORK WITH OUR HANDS!

Abiding Savior will engage in service work right here in our community. Let's join thousands of ELCA members across the country on September 13th, share God's love and engage in service work to make a difference in Durham.

SERVICE PROJECTS: There is still time: We are supporting nearby elementary schools and CRAYONS2CALCULATORS (C2C) with school supplies: **IF you have not already done so, please bring school supplies to support CRAYONS2CALCULATORS.**

1. **Crayons2Calculators (C2C)** — a proud program of Durham Public Schools (DPS) Foundation — brings together dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners to support DPS teachers.
2. Founded in 2006, **Crayons2Calculators** began with a bold vision: to equip every Durham classroom with the essential supplies needed to support student learning, growth, and academic achievement. In early 2025, C2C came under the umbrella of Durham Public Schools Foundation.
3. By providing essential classroom supplies at no cost to them, C2C helps remove barriers to learning and ensures every student has a fair chance to succeed.

In a 2025 C2C survey, DPS teachers reported that C2C helps them annually save up to \$419 per person. 24% of teachers shared that they spend over \$300 on school supplies every year. Crayons2Calculators has played a critical role in closing the school supply gap.

My prayer for us is that we are able to listen louder than we speak, so that we might join together in our proclamation of the gospel—or at least come to realize that we don't do it alone."

—Bishop Emily Hartner in "Our Voices, Together"

Our Voices, Together



I am a choral singer. A second soprano, to be exact. I've sung in lots of different groups, learning how to match pitch, read music, blend vocally, harmonize, and be comfortable with dissonance. But it wasn't until this past summer that I realized how those choral skills might translate to being and living in community.

In early August, I spent a week in retreat with some colleagues at Holy Wisdom Monastery just outside of Madison, Wisconsin. Holy Wisdom is an ecumenical monastery with a fascinating history. It also happens to be the place where the documents were signed to create the ELCA, merging three predecessor church bodies. Three Benedictine sisters currently reside at the monastery and, in line with their practice of radical hospitality, they invite visitors to join them in their daily prayer services.

Before we attended our first morning prayer service, one of our fellow retreatants shared some wisdom she had garnered from a previous experience with the Benedictines. Our tendency, as good Lutherans, she observed, is to SING OUT and, as Lutheran leaders, to help vigorously support congregational singing. One time, though, a sister approached her group of (loud) Lutherans and very gently offered a suggestion. "If you can't hear the person to your left and to your right," she advised, "you're singing too loudly." Oof.

So when we went to the prayer services, I found myself practicing a bit of restraint in my singing (which, I must admit, is a challenge for me!) and, as one does in choral singing, listening for the voices around me.

It changed me, this experience.

It made me keenly aware that I was involved in something greater than myself. I heard my voice, yes, but in a sea of other voices. The communal act of singing—the sole fact that we were doing something together—outweighed the distinct quality of any one voice. It wasn't to say that distinct voices weren't important or appreciated, only that, in this one practice, the community took precedence.

Having been in the role of bishop for a year now, I've come to understand the synod as a community. Yes, there are distinctive voices in the local flair of congregations, but being united in a common mission, we are one community. What would it be like if we listened to the "person (congregation) on our left and the person (congregation) on our right" a bit more intently? Might we learn to sing together in a way that allows us to collaborate in our mission? Might that truly be holy wisdom?

While it is evident that the landscape of the church today is far different than it was even six years ago, one thing that hasn't changed is that God is still calling us to do the work of the church together. My prayer for us is that we are able to listen louder than we speak, so that we might join together in our proclamation of the gospel—or at least come to realize that we don't do it alone. We started this summer with our Synod Gathering, where we highlighted ministry stories from across our state. Perhaps we can end our summer by returning to those stories and joining our voices together in song.

Together in Christ,

Emily K. Hartner
NC Synod Bishop

God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

Watch and share Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry's message for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.



WATCH VIDEO

Through our acts of service, we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Our congregations do this every day, accompanying their neighbors and addressing community needs. We are connected through this shared work. These ministries belong to all of us in the ELCA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yehiel Curry".

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop Curry issues his fourth in a series of monthly messages that will continue through the end of this year, titled "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word, rooted in Scripture, that witnesses to God's presence today, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us.

August, 2026

ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE

A Call to be Trusted Messengers in this Election Season

Dear church,

In an interview after I was elected, I reflected on my experience as a mission developer, saying, “It is not about what you think you’re bringing into the community. It’s who you are in the community. The minute we showed that we cared is really when the community adopted us. People don’t care about what you know till they know that you care, and that was the biggest learning for me.”

Faithful. Informed. Engaged. This refrain captures a vision for Lutheran Christians living out their baptismal calling in the election season and beyond. Faith grounds us in God’s promises, and Christ sends us forth to love our neighbors and serve the world. Being informed equips us to address complex issues with wisdom, discernment and integrity. Being engaged reminds us that our participation in civic life is a key way we love and serve our neighbors. Our public witness is rooted in faith, guided by honesty and expressed through active citizenship.

ELCA ministries and leaders already play vital roles during election seasons. You register voters, provide rides to the polls, open your buildings as polling places and advocate for voting rights. Thank you! This year, I invite you to embrace an additional role to help strengthen our democracy: serving as trusted messengers in your communities.

Our church can be “all together in one place” as a powerful witness for truth, love of neighbor and honesty. False information remains a persistent challenge during elections. It can spread rapidly, undermining confidence in the electoral process and discouraging participation.

Grounded in the commandment not to bear false witness, our churches and faith leaders are uniquely positioned to help address this challenge by seeking out and sharing accurate information and correcting misinformation when it arises. In a time when trust is often in short supply, serving as trusted sources of wisdom and guidance is a meaningful form of Christian witness. By helping our neighbors access accurate information and engage confidently in the democratic process, we live out our faith through responsible civic engagement and service to the common good.

“Healthy civic engagement depends on clear distinctions between fact and all forms of falsehood, ranging from partial misstatements to intentional disinformation to outright lies. ... Our church, then, encourages us all to ask, in every personal interaction and on social media, whether our words or those we repeat represent the best possible understanding of our neighbor.”

— *ELCA social statement* Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All (p. 62)

ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE-cont.

The ELCA offers a variety of resources to help congregations and individuals be trusted messengers.

The new “ELCA Election Engagement Toolkit” provides guidance on topics that include serving as trusted messengers, engaging in election protection and modeling love of neighbor in polarized communities. (A tool kit launch webinar on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 12:30 p.m. Central time will provide an introduction to action steps and themes grounded in our Lutheran tradition.)

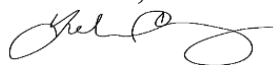
Through the “ELCA Civic Engagement Guide,” you can access materials on voter education, voter registration, candidate forums, legal guidelines for congregations, voting rights and ways to encourage participation in local communities.

I invite you to take faithful steps this election year:

- Register to vote if you have not already done so and check your registration to make sure it is up-to-date. Use the “Prepared to Vote Checklist” to think through local voting requirements.
- Learn about the issues, ballot measures and candidates that will shape your community. Participate in respectful conversations.
- Check sources of information before sharing it in conversations or online.
- Pray for those who serve in public office, for election workers and for all who will exercise the privilege of voting. Create spaces for faithful, open conversation with voters, candidates or neighbors in your community.
- Encourage your family members, friends and neighbors to take part in the democratic process.

Be faithful, informed and engaged as disciples of Jesus seeking the well-being of our neighbors and the common good of the communities God has entrusted to our care. Every act of informed participation, every conversation marked by grace and every vote cast with prayerful discernment is an opportunity to bear witness to God’s love in the world.

In Christ,



The Rev. Yehiel Curry

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America