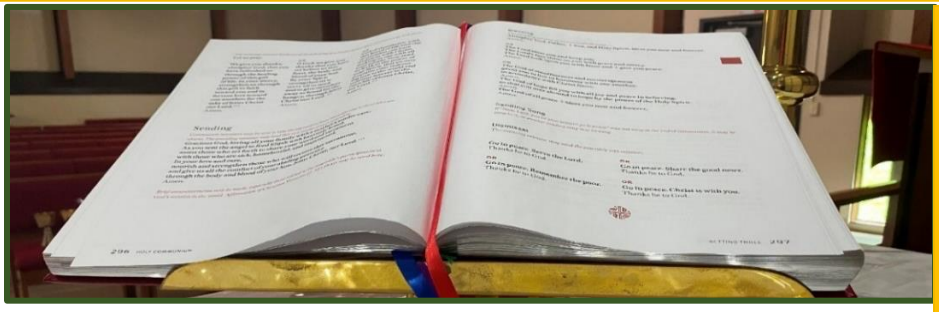
NEWS FROM ABIDING SAVIOR

November 2026





SERMON–Reformation Sunday

SERMON – All Saints' Sunday

BIBLE STUDY
is held on Wednesdays:
At noon (in-person & on-line) and at 7:00 pm (on - line only).
We are 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

GIVING THANKS FOR DAILY BREAD

From Pastor Carroll's Desk

Martin Luther, in both his Small and Large Catechisms, reflects on Daily Bread as not only being food for human survival but also, clothing, shelter, family harmony, justice on the part of government and, peace on our streets; in our nation and around God's world.

ALL these things are what it takes to be made whole; to feel complete as human beings. So, when Jesus says that we should pray – give us this day our daily bread – we are invited to understand that we are asking God for **much more** than food.

When we pray the Prayer that our Lord taught us, we are in essence saying, 'we claim, almighty Parent:

- † that You will provide us with food to enable us to survive
- † that You will provide us with an environment of peace in our lives – outside and inside – our homes and,
- † that You will do **all of that --- each day** of our lives'.

Notice in the Lord's Prayer that Jesus uses the pronoun 'us' when we ask God for daily bread. Give US – not just me – each day our daily bread. The Prayer that Jesus offers as a model is not primarily individually focused but rather, it is a prayer **of** and **for** the community – inside and outside of the institutional church.

You, members of Church of the Abiding Savior, have learned this lesson of the bread -- being for all. And I give thanks for you as you share God's daily bread by collecting dry goods for food packages for our NC CENTRAL neighbors in need and a home-cooked hot meal to our neighbors sheltering in downtown Durham.

And so, as we look towards thanksgiving celebrations, I give thanks to God for my family and the love that they have given me which gives me **sustenance**. And, to paraphrase St. Paul as he wrote to the congregation at Philippi:

"Every time I think of you (CHURCH OF THE ABIDING SAVIOR) I give thanks to (our) God". (Philippians 1.3)

Pastor Carroll

ALL ARE NEEDED - LET US TALENTS EMPLOY!

All we have — our financial resources, our time, and the unique skills we carry — are gifts entrusted to us by God through the Holy Spirit. As faithful stewards of these blessings, we are invited to ask ourselves: *What will I share?*

If you have not yet completed a pledge for the coming year, please take some time to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to offer your treasure, talents, and capabilities to support our church community.

Use the links below to submit your financial commitment and/or share where you'd like to lend your gifts:

- Financial Pledge Form: [Click here]
- Time and Talent Form: [Click here]

CALL PROCESS UPDATES AND INVITATION!

As Abiding Savior begins the call process, the congregation council is responsible for the completion of a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is an **ESSENTIAL** document in the Call Process. The MSP is an ELCA document in which congregations describe their ministry and their search for a rostered leader. The entire MSP is shared with all candidates that the call committee considers and with those candidates who express interest in the congregation by contacting the synod office directly. **Congregations must fill out the entire MSP**. The call committee cannot be trained without this completed document.

Over the past two weeks, the Congregation Council has worked diligently to prepare a draft of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This draft reflects information and insights gathered from Deacon Wendy Roberts' visit and congregational study, area demographics, our annual parochial report, in-depth council discussions, and the congregation's annual reports.

The final version will be submitted and activated through the ELCA system. Again, **all** candidates interviewed by call committee will have access to the MSP. Before the MSP is submitted, the congregation council would like to share it with the congregation.

There will be a Lunch Bunch discussion on Sunday, November 15th, *before the congregation council meeting,* to share the MSP and get input from the congregation.

Please, plan to attend the November 15th Lunch Bunch discussion as we complete this very important step in the Call Process.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY-NOVEMBER 22ND

Christ the King Sunday is the final Sunday of the liturgical calendar in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations. This year, it falls on November 22nd, the Sunday before the season of Advent begins.

On Christ the King Sunday, we are reminded that the power of Jesus Christ is found in compassion rather than competition, that strength is found in mercy instead of judgment, that the ways of God lead us into justice and make space for everyone at the table of forgiveness and new life.

The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of Advent. As the calendar year draws to a close, the church year begins anew with the promise that Jesus never stops showing up in our world, bringing fresh hope, life and possibility.

WELCA and MEN'S GROUP NOVEMBER MEETING

Abiding Savior's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and Men's Group will both gather for their November bi-monthly meetings on Saturday, November 14th. Meetings begin with breakfast and provide an opportunity for fellowship, sharing ideas, participating in service projects and planning future ministry activities. All are encouraged to attend and help shape an exciting and meaningful year of ministry.

THANKOFFERING SERVICE

Did you know that the concept of Thankoffering celebrations dates back more than 100 years and beyond Lutherans? Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Abiding Savior's WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) will present their Thankofferings during worship on Sunday, November 22, 2026

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION



The North Carolina Chapter of
The African Descent Lutheran Association
will host a Kwanzaa Celebration January 2, 2027
First Greensboro Lutheran Church
3600 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27410

Please consider joining the African Descent Lutheran Association
Link to join.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The fall, 2026 semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2026, following the worship service. At that time, the 2027 spending plan will be presented. The finance committee will work with the congregation council to prepare the spending plan which will be shared prior to the meeting. Please plan to attend.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETINGS

The monthly meeting of the congregation council is normally held on the third Sunday of each month. After approval, the minutes of monthly meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of narthex.

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.

NOVEMBER DINNER AT THE SHELTER



A heartfelt "**thank-you**" is extended to everyone who regularly volunteers with our shelter meals! Providing a meal takes many helping hands, from planning and shopping to preparing and serving. Since November has five Sundays, Abiding Savior will once again provide dinner for our siblings at Urban Ministries. We thank the Weathers family for securing a Thrivent grant to support the meal. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 29th ,** the Sunday after Thanksgiving!

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Again this year, Abiding Savior will join several Durham congregations on Saturday, November 21st at Lowe's Grove Baptist Church, 4430 S. Alston Avenue, for an Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service. The service will be held at 11:00 am. Following the worship service, lunch will be provided by the saints at Lowe's Grove.

November 3, 2026



"As a Christian and as a Lutheran, I step into the voting booth with the Lord's Prayer on my lips: *Thy kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven.*

—Bishop Emily Hartner in *"To Bring About the Common Good"*



Dear friends,

Greetings to you on this election day! I hope that, by now, you've either already voted or made a plan to do so. It's an important part of participating in our democracy. Every single one of us has a say-so in how our country, and state, and municipalities are governed. It's quite remarkable, if you think about it.

To be honest, it has not always felt to me like my voice has mattered, and there are times when I have felt like I was voting for a lesser of evils. But it doesn't negate the fact: every single one of us gets to cast a vote.

But what does voting have to do with being a Christian? Or a Lutheran, for that matter? Well, more than we might at first realize.

If you want to read a comprehensive exposition on this, I commend to you the ELCA's 2025 social statement, **Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All**, or the 2020 social message, **Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy**. These documents exceed an easily summarizable length, but suffice it to say that we Lutherans believe that we have a responsibility both to God and to one another to do our best to bring about the common good. *Shalom* is the word these documents use to describe God's intention for God's creation: "*Shalom* describes God's intention in creation for an abundance of peace, well-being, goodness, truth, beauty, justice, freedom, joy, wholesomeness, and love, all woven together." This notion of the common good guides our participation in civic life.

Notice that the impetus for participation in civic life extends beyond our own individual interests, and this broader vision might be one way our faith challenges us. When I vote, I'm not necessarily voting for what's best for me; I'm remembering God's intention for all of creation. As a Christian and as a Lutheran, I step into the voting booth with the Lord's Prayer on my lips: "Thy kingdom come…on earth as it is in heaven." I ask myself: what would it be like for God's kingdom to come here and now? And what even is God's kingdom?

Well, God's kingdom is *shalom*, and one way we participate in that kingdom is by engaging in civic life, which includes voting.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your faith. Thank you for your voice.

It matters, and you matter.

Together in Christ

Emily K. Hartner

NC Synod Bishop

Presiding Bishop Curry issues his sixth in a series of monthly messages that 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.

ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE

A Healthy Patriotism

October 28, 2026

Dear church,

Fannie Lou Hamer was a powerful Black woman who risked her life so that all people could exercise their right to vote. After attempting to register to vote in Mississippi in 1962, she faced violent retaliation, enduring threats, beatings and intimidation. Yet she continued to sing, testify, march and organize for equal voting rights for all people. She was not wealthy. She did not hold a high public office. Yet she exercised a profound public vocation, insisting she and her neighbors had the right to participate in civic life and to have the food, land and opportunity needed to flourish. She was a patriot who loved her country enough to challenge it to live up to its promise that every voice matters and every vote counts. By risking her own safety in the struggle for democracy, Hamer acted as a patriot, calling public leaders to serve everyone.

The airwaves are full of conflicting messages about patriotism, and many of you have written with your own questions and perspectives.

Together, this is what our church has decided to say:

“The ELCA understanding of civic life and faith affirms healthy forms of patriotism. Patriotism is to love one’s country, to pray for its well-being, to be committed to its success, to have a sense of pride in it, to criticize it, and to work for its reform when necessary. All of these can be elements of how Christians and their communities live out discipleship as individuals and in corporate bodies” (2025 social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*).

Healthy patriotism celebrates what is good and beautiful in our common life while remaining committed to tending to what is wounded and broken. Healthy patriotism fosters a sense of shared belonging because the strength of our nation lies in our ability to live together as diverse people who share a common future.

As Lutherans, we can live out healthy patriotism. We understand the government is called to serve and protect the common good. We exercise patriotism in part by holding public leaders accountable to serve the common good.

ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE-cont.

How should public leaders act? After Martin Luther wrote a commentary about Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), he sent it to the local prince along with a cover letter, telling him to follow the example of Mary the mother of Jesus. It was not common for monks to address princes in this way. Yet Luther wanted the prince to know Mary was a true leader. She trusted God with an open heart and allowed the Holy Spirit to work through her for the sake of others. She did this, not for her own fame or renown, but with humility and grace. Luther's emphasis on the marks of leadership rings true today.

As Lutherans, we continue to make this connection between trusting God and serving the common good.

Both Luther and Hamer remind us that positions of responsibility and public service are gifts to be used for the good of all, and that societies thrive when leaders and neighbors alike are guided by humility, gratitude and a concern for others.

As Election Day approaches, we can approach this responsibility with prayerful hearts and a commitment to the flourishing of all people. In all that we do, may we embody a patriotism rooted in gratitude, shaped by humility, strengthened by hope and guided by Christ's command to love our neighbors, working so that every voice can be heard and every person can participate in shaping our future. May we care for one another and our country enough to serve faithfully, speak truthfully and seek our common good. Like Hamer, may we take up our vocations in public life. And may Mary's song remind us that above all, our hope rests not in human strength, but in the steadfast love of God.

In Christ,



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