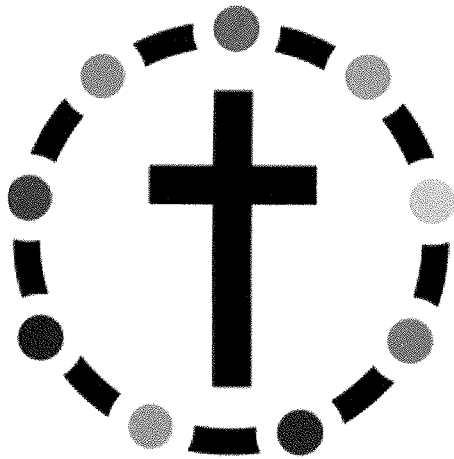


# Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

801 Charlotte Highway

Fairview, NC 28730



## Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

*United in Christ. Welcoming All.*

- Ability ● Age ● Ethnicity ● Gender Identity ● Language
- Life Circumstances ● Marital Status ● Race ● Sexual Orientation

2017-2018  
Annual Report

**ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
801 Charlotte Highway, Fairview, NC 28730

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
July 08, 2018

The following slate is presented for election to the Church Council:

**OFFICERS**

President	John Corkran
Vice-President	Harold Sweitzer
Secretary	Jennifer Ownbey
Treasurer	Bob Lierman

**MISSION TEAM LEADERS**

Stewardship	Tom Radle
Family Life	Sue Hebb
Outreach	Kay Doverspike

*NOTE: Mission Team leaders, along with the Officers and Pastor, comprise the Church Council. The office of Treasurer is voted on by the Council on an annual basis. Bob Lierman currently serves as Treasurer and Toni Corkran serves as Financial secretary.*

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### RECEIVED IN 2017

### WHEN

### HOW

#### CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Brian Propst	09/17	Transfer from Luth cong
Emily Propst	09/17	Transfer from Luth cong

#### BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Keaton Propst	09/17	Transfer from Luth cong
Nola Propst	09/17	Transfer from Luth cong
Calloway Propst	09/17	Transfer from Luth cong
Mills Propst	09/17	Transfer from Luth cong

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Mary Skibo	09/17	Affirmation of Baptism
Susan Chapman	09/17	Affirmation of Baptism

### REMOVED IN 2017

#### CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Joe Langley	8/17	Death
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#### STATISTICS AS OF 12/31/2017

Baptized: 135 Confirmed: 104 Associate: 6 Average Worship Attendance: 43  
[Report to ELCA = 141 members total]

## A Pastoral Letter, July 2018

Friends in Christ,

As we enter the summer months, I have a question I need to ask the congregation: How much do you value the ministry of Abiding Savior? We are small but mighty. Our worship is creative and spirit-filled. Our welcome is inclusive and inviting. Our care for one another is top notch. Our service in the community is substantial for a church of our size. We are mentoring a group of wonderful young people which not only includes Sunday School and service projects, but we will add a Confirmation class this fall. Our adult education on Sunday mornings models how Lutherans interpret Scripture which is different from much of what we see on TV. We like to play together including art, movies, hiking and cookouts.

All of this is wonderful and good. All of this is a bold witness to the community at large regarding what a healthy church looks like. All of this continues to provide us with a refuge from the chaotic world around us. Abiding Savior is, without a doubt, a light in the darkness.

This is what we are...but in order for all of this to happen we have to have enough money coming in to support our ministry. As it stands at the end of May we are -\$6074.54 behind in income verses expenses. Thanks to your generous support last year, which gave us a + \$7,262.45 surplus for 2017, we have enough reserve to cover this so far. But this cannot go on indefinitely. We also had an unexpected water repair which cost us around \$3,000. We have collected almost half of that money so far in extra donations, but the rest was paid out of our diminishing reserve funds.

Now, I know \$6,000 this sounds like a large sum. But when your Church Council and I sat down at our last meeting, we came to the conclusion that it would take an average of \$20 extra a week from every giving unit in the church (above what we are receiving currently) in order to fully fund our ministry. \$20 extra a week may seem like a lot of money. And for some it is a financial impossibility. However, I suspect that most of us can meet or exceed this challenge. It's a matter of making Abiding Savior a top priority in our lives.

Let me tell you a story. Before we built our current facility, I was prayerfully considering how much extra I could offer in order to do my part to help make our church building a reality. I felt the Holy Spirit challenging me to tithe, not as a legal obligation in order to make God happy. The Holy Spirit was telling me to take a leap of faith and trust that God would help me meet the rest of my financial needs. Guess what? I started tithing and I've never looked back. In fact, I often give even more when it is needed.

I share this story with you not to say that everyone should tithe. I share this with you because I believe we as a church can rise to the financial challenge that is set before us. Some of us can give more than \$20.00 extra a week. Some of us can give less. The important thing is that we prayerfully consider how much we value the ministry of Abiding Savior. If it does not become a bigger priority in all of our lives, we will have to make some big cuts regarding our ministry. Unfortunately, many of our expenses are what they are and there is very little wiggle room. The only thing we can realistically cut is in the area of staff which means we will need to go to a part time pastorate.

So, I'll ask the question again. How much do you value the ministry of Abiding Savior? Please take the time this week to prayerfully consider the question. I am confident that we can meet the challenge before us and continue to be the amazing church God has called us to be.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our church is a warm and welcoming place where Sunday worship is a blessing. We as a church, and also individually, participate in many activities that benefit the Asheville area. We have members who are great stewards of our church and have always found that when needs arise some will step up whether the need is physical participation or financial relief.

We closed the books in 2017 in what was believed to be fiscal solvency but as 2018 progressed, council found that our finances were rapidly declining. Thus as both a church and as individuals we must look for ways to increase our income. I don't know of any one solution but hope there are enterprising members who can come up with ideas that can help to improve our financial situation. If you have an idea, let council know so that your idea can be considered for implementation.

Some ideas that have been floated included: request membership to evaluate their finances and increase their monthly giving if they are able, to recruit new members who you feel share our ideals, or to open our church up for organizations interested in presenting plays or concerts and A.S.L.C. being paid for it.

Perhaps part of the problem could stem from our own complacency, we as a nation and a congregation have lived through a decade of economic misfortune but now that millions have gained new jobs or long overdue raises, together with the middle class tax cut taking effect this year, perhaps some will be able to find extra funds that they can draw a percentage from and contribute it to the finances of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

Harold Sweitzer

**Abiding Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
 July through December 2017

	Jul - Dec 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
10500 · General	62,868.50	55,475.00	7,393.50	-113.3%
10505 · Rentals	1,353.00			
10506 · Thrivent Choice	68.00			
10507 · Memorials	345.00			
10509 · Misc. Income	349.60			
10510 · Designated Funds	125.00			
10511 · Flower Fund	400.00			
10519 · Homeless Fund	1,500.00			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>67,009.10</b>	<b>55,475.00</b>	<b>11,534.10</b>	<b>-120.8%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>67,009.10</b>	<b>55,475.00</b>	<b>11,534.10</b>	<b>-120.8%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Education</b>				
50501 · Adult supplies	99.02	50.00	49.02	198.0%
50503 · Youth supplies	93.53	150.00	-56.47	62.4%
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>192.55</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>-7.45</b>	<b>96.3%</b>
<b>Family Life</b>				
50521 · Supplies	42.21	75.00	-32.79	56.3%
<b>Total Family Life</b>	<b>42.21</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>-32.79</b>	<b>56.3%</b>
<b>Office</b>				
50300 · Office Supplies	179.86	212.50	-32.64	84.6%
50302 · Postage	98.00	87.50	10.50	112.0%
50303 · Telephone	509.16	600.00	-90.84	84.9%
50305 · Copy Machine	903.48	900.00	3.48	100.4%
50307 · Social Security	137.74	175.50	-37.76	78.5%
<b>Total Office</b>	<b>1,828.24</b>	<b>1,975.50</b>	<b>-147.26</b>	<b>92.5%</b>
<b>Outreach</b>				
50512 · Advertising/Web Site	0.00	30.00	-30.00	0.0%
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>-30.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Pastor</b>				
50201 · Base Salary	25,614.24	16,307.70	9,306.54	157.1%
50202 · Housing & Utilities	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00	0.0%
50203 · Social Security Allowance	0.00	1,706.53	-1,706.53	0.0%
50204 · Pension	2,881.68	2,881.68	0.00	100.0%
50205 · Medical	5,340.60	5,295.78	44.82	100.8%
50206 · Expenses Reimbursement	0.00	1,600.00	-1,600.00	0.0%
50207 · Continuing Education	120.00	200.00	-80.00	60.0%
50208 · Gary Medical	0.00			
<b>Total Pastor</b>	<b>33,956.52</b>	<b>33,991.69</b>	<b>-35.17</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>				
50531 · Offering Envelopes	210.59	107.75	102.84	195.4%
50532 · Utilities	2,497.39	3,250.00	-752.61	76.8%
50533 · Capital Equipment/Purchases	0.00	750.00	-750.00	0.0%
50534 · Church Insurance	1,981.70	2,250.00	-268.30	88.1%
50536 · Cleaning Supplies	48.60	50.00	-1.40	97.2%
50537 · Groundskeeping	740.00	510.00	230.00	145.1%
50538 · Mortgage Payment	14,077.20	14,077.20	0.00	100.0%
50539 · Flower Fund	450.45			
50540 · Heat Pump Fund	0.00	2,250.00	-2,250.00	0.0%
<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>20,005.93</b>	<b>23,244.95</b>	<b>-3,239.02</b>	<b>86.1%</b>
<b>Worship</b>				
50542 · Worship supplies	124.34	100.00	24.34	124.3%
50544 · Pianist	2,100.00	2,287.50	-187.50	91.8%
50545 · Piano Tuning	0.00	75.00	-75.00	0.0%
50546 · Licence, CCLI	0.00	62.50	-62.50	0.0%
50547 · Substitute Pastors	125.00			
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>2,349.34</b>	<b>2,525.00</b>	<b>-175.66</b>	<b>93.0%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>58,374.79</b>	<b>62,042.14</b>	<b>-3,667.35</b>	<b>94.1%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>8,634.31</b>	<b>-6,567.14</b>	<b>15,201.45</b>	<b>-131.5%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,634.31</b>	<b>-6,567.14</b>	<b>15,201.45</b>	<b>-131.5%</b>

## Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through June 2018

	Jan - Jun 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
10500 · General	50,592.27	54,088.13	-3,495.86	93.5%
10505 · Rentals	1,585.00	1,260.00	325.00	125.8%
10506 · Thrivent Choice	445.00			
10507 · Memorials	800.00			
10509 · Misc. Income	494.11	90.00	404.11	549.0%
10510 · Designated Funds	1,400.00			
10511 · Flower Fund	362.84			
10515 · Heat Pump	1,125.00			
10518 · Candle fund	11.84			
10519 · Homeless Fund	246.43			
10550 · Restricted Reserve	1,215.74			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>58,278.23</b>	<b>55,438.13</b>	<b>2,840.10</b>	<b>105.1%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>58,278.23</b>	<b>55,438.13</b>	<b>2,840.10</b>	<b>105.1%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Education</b>				
50501 · Adult supplies	33.80	50.00	-16.20	67.6%
50503 · Youth supplies	181.91	150.00	31.91	121.3%
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>215.71</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>15.71</b>	<b>107.9%</b>
<b>Family Life</b>				
50521 · Supplies	55.39	75.00	-19.61	73.9%
<b>Total Family Life</b>	<b>55.39</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>-19.61</b>	<b>73.9%</b>
<b>Local Ministry</b>				
51519 · Homeless Fund	246.43			
<b>Total Local Ministry</b>	<b>246.43</b>			
<b>Office</b>				
50300 · Office Supplies	293.11	212.50	80.61	137.9%
50302 · Postage	0.00	87.50	-87.50	0.0%
50303 · Telephone	355.47	415.38	-59.91	85.5%
50305 · Copy Machine	894.55	930.00	-35.45	96.2%
50307 · Social Security	175.95	233.32	-57.37	75.4%
<b>Total Office</b>	<b>1,719.08</b>	<b>1,878.70</b>	<b>-159.62</b>	<b>91.5%</b>
<b>Outreach</b>				
50512 · Advertising/Web Site	0.00	77.64	-77.64	0.0%
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>77.64</b>	<b>-77.64</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Pastor</b>				
50201 · Base Salary	16,307.69	16,307.70	-0.01	100.0%
50202 · Housing & Utilities	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
50203 · Social Security Allowance	1,706.54	1,706.54	0.00	100.0%
50204 · Pension	2,881.68	2,881.68	0.00	100.0%
50205 · Medical	5,634.60	5,634.60	0.00	100.0%
50206 · Expenses Reimbursement	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00	100.0%
50207 · Continuing Education	160.00	200.00	-40.00	80.0%
50208 · Gary Medical	0.00			
<b>Total Pastor</b>	<b>34,290.51</b>	<b>34,330.52</b>	<b>-40.01</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>				
50531 · Offering Envelopes	0.00	112.50	-112.50	0.0%
50532 · Utilities	3,986.30	3,250.00	736.30	122.7%
50533 · Capital Equipment/Purchases	374.50	400.00	-25.50	93.6%
50534 · Church Insurance	1,988.35	2,250.00	-261.65	88.4%
50536 · Cleaning Supplies	26.50	50.00	-23.50	53.0%
50537 · Groundskeeping	455.00	600.00	-145.00	75.8%
50538 · Mortgage Payment	14,077.20	14,077.00	0.20	100.0%
50539 · Flower Fund	362.92			
50550 · Restricted Reserve/Repairs	800.00			
50551 · Plumbing Fund	2,952.58			
<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>25,023.35</b>	<b>20,739.50</b>	<b>4,283.85</b>	<b>120.7%</b>
<b>Worship</b>				
50541 · Bulletins	0.00	22.50	-22.50	0.0%
50542 · Worship supplies	77.26	117.50	-40.24	65.8%
50544 · Pianist	2,500.00	3,050.00	-550.00	82.0%
50545 · Piano Tuning	0.00	75.00	-75.00	0.0%
50546 · Licence, CCLI	129.00	62.50	66.50	206.4%
50547 · Substitute Pastors	0.00	250.00	-250.00	0.0%
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>2,706.26</b>	<b>3,577.50</b>	<b>-871.24</b>	<b>75.6%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>64,256.73</b>	<b>60,878.86</b>	<b>3,377.87</b>	<b>105.5%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-5,978.50</b>	<b>-5,440.73</b>	<b>-537.77</b>	<b>109.9%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-5,978.50</b>	<b>-5,440.73</b>	<b>-537.77</b>	<b>109.9%</b>

## STEWARDSHIP MISSION TEAM REPORT, 2017-2018

In Pastor David's recent letter, he emphasized the need for increased income in order to sustain Abiding Savior's ministry. In this report we would like to share with you how the resources you provide are used.

**Pastoral compensation-56%:** Pastor David has accepted a cash salary well below the ELCA guidelines for one with Pastor's education and experience. He is willing to do this because of the great love he has for the people of Abiding Savior and he is able to do it by accepting an additional call, to Chaplaincy at Mission Hospital. The congregation fully funds Pastor's health insurance and pension contributions and reimburses him for travel. One of the most important things we do is to provide a housing allowance thereby enabling Pastor and Gary to own their own home. Some of us "oldsters" remember the days when congregations provided a parsonage where the pastor and family lived. This was owned and maintained by the congregation, a good deal until the pastor left or retired, with neither a place to live nor equity to purchase a home.

**Mortgage – 23%:** Abiding Savior carries two mortgages on our property. These are a recurring, mandatory expenditure and we have made steady progress in reducing these. However, we still have four years remaining on the smaller one. This is an area where increased giving offers the possibility of an earlier payoff which would free funds for direct ministry, such as improved pastoral compensation.

**Maintenance and Operations – 11%:** The major costs are utilities and insurance. We have equipment maintenance and pest control contracts to keep our facilities efficient and safe. We save a good deal through volunteer help in church cleaning and special workdays, for which we are most grateful. To avoid the cost of acquiring and maintaining expensive lawn care equipment we have a summer mowing contract.

**Program -10%:** This covers materials and support for worship and education. The largest single expense is for our accompanist. Here again we are blessed in that we have a musician who accepts less compensation because she loves this congregation.

Perhaps small congregations are bound to live precariously. At Abiding Savior we are blessed to have a membership who loves being here and has risen to every occasion. Your elected leaders are committed to practice the best possible stewardship of the congregation's resources, so that God's word and love will continue to be experienced within and outside our walls.



## **Annual Report for Family Life/Outreach Committee 2017 – 2018**

**Members:** Kay Doverspike, Harold Sweitzer, Jen Ownbey, Sue Hebb, and Pastor Dave

**August** – Homeless fed At Pritchard Park 8/13/17

**September** – Sunday school resumed for adults 9:45 am and children during the service. New curriculum for kids. Adults start a study of Revelations.

Parents Night Out 9/22/17, Anniversary pot luck lunch after the service 9/24/17

**October** – Laurel River Hike 10/14/17, Work Day in and out 10/21/17, Reformation Sunday 10/29/17

**November** – Coat drive at Carolina Rescue Mission 11/4/17, All Saints Day 11/5/17 members brought family plates for the remembrance table. Craft project for Advent 11/12/17 make prayer beads for meditations for the season. Pritchard Park breakfast for the homeless 11/19/17.

**December** – Sanctuary Christmas tree trimming 12/2/17, Christmas Feast pot luck meal 12/10/19, Parents Night Out 12/15/17, Congregational Meeting 12/17/17, Creche Service at 11am geared to children special cookies after the service 12/24/17, Traditional Christmas Eve Service at 7pm 12/24/17. No Sunday school on 12/24/17 or 12/31/17.

**January** – R. Wright funeral service with lunch to follow 1/13/18, Pastor Dave to attend Asheville Police meeting about safety 1/16/18, Open House Western Carolina Rescue Mission's Abba's House 1/19/18 ( 1<sup>st</sup> recipient of action grant), Bowling after church, lunch at Asheville Mall in the food court 1/21/18.

**February** – Prichard Park breakfast 2/11/18, Ashe Wednesday service 7pm 2/14/18, Holden Evening Prayer Services with dessert/fellowship to follow 2/21/18 – 3/21/18.

**March** – Palm Sunday Pastor Dave and John Propst special presentation during the service 3/25/18, Maundy Thursday 3/29/18, Good Friday 3/30/18

**April** – Easter Sunday with Easter Breakfast and (Egg hunt canceled due to no children) 4/1/18, Create in Me workshop at Luther Ridge 4/6/18, Hike Bearwallow Mountain 4/21/18

**May** – Property clean up 5/19/18, Pritchard Park breakfast 5/20/18. Shopping for Abba House done this month with youth of church made possible by a donation from the community and an action grant from Thrivent. Diapers collected by the congregation also given to Abba House. Hospitality Baskets placed in both bathrooms. Baskets donated from members. A questionnaire to congregation for suggestions to assess any ideas or interests for fellowship activities. Council will look at results for the fall and will incorporate ideas where possible.

**June** - Burgers, Brats and Beer at Pastors' and Gary's 6/24/18.

**July** – Out side Retreat rental of double wide 6/12-15/18, Ballgame at McCormick Field on 7/20/18 meet at ball field 6:30pm.