

VIEW

from the lake

The newsletter of ABIDING PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Budd Lake, N.J.



From the Pastor

Pastor Serena's column will appear on page 3 this month.

March, 2021

April Newsletter Deadline
March 22, 2021

Worship: 10:00 am
Online



Daylight Savings
Time Begins
March 14
Turn clocks ahead

**For hospitalization or other
pastoral care needs, please call
Pastor Serena at 908-458-3940**

OUR MISSION & PURPOSE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supporting and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit.

Phone: 973-691-9393

Website: www.abidingpeacechurch.org

Community in Communion

After a year of fasting from communion, we are so very hungry for it. Our worship and music committee and church Council have discussed this need and the options available to us, and we have decided to implement an option that allows for communion even as we continue to worship remotely. This option will also allow for the full participation of at-home worshippers even after we begin providing an in-person worship option again, in order to reinforce that those who are not able to be physically present are no less important or full members of the church than those who worship in person. It is God's Spirit that gathers us together as one body, regardless of distance.

So, here is our plan. Beginning on the Sunday of Palm Sunday, we will reintroduce the Communion liturgy into our live-stream worship. Each worship participant will be encouraged to prepare elements at home for this purpose. There is flexibility in what each person prepares, but we encourage you to choose elements that reflect "staple food" and "festive drink." This symbolizes the way in which Christ is both our daily bread and also the source of our celebration. Our worship will include a blessing of the elements and we will trust the power of God to work with the elements we provide to give us the gift of Christ's real presence with us in the food and drink.

One other aspect of this change requires your participation. One of the reasons that we have delayed so long in offering communion in our online service is because the biblical foundation of the sacrament is as a shared meal. Communion is not a "personal" moment between me and Jesus, it is a communal experience.

Continued on page 2

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Sheeba David
Treasurer	Nick Senior

Council Members

Sandy Carlson	Barbara Prosser
Sheeba David	Nick Senior
Jackie King	Shelli Skeels
Heather Nilsen	Paul Otu Winner
Cindy Pawlo	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	George Pawlo
Financial Secretary	Nita Persson
Messengers Dancers	Mary Kasakove
Mutual Ministry	Heather Nilsen
Property	<i>Vacant</i>
Social Ministry	Sibylle Schroeder
Seniors	Sibylle Schroeder
Stewardship	Nick Senior
Worship & Music	Mary Kasakove

OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Serena Rice
Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:

Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Strobel
office@abidingpeacechurch.org

Continued from page 1—Communion in Community

We don't want to separate our partaking in the meal from this experience of gathering together around the Lord's table. And, so, we are asking everyone in our community to **send in a photograph of yourself or your household – everyone who will be sharing in the sacrament.** We will be combining these photos into a collage of all the faces of our community, and we will show this collage on the screen as we all partake of communion. This visual reminder of our community gathered together will serve to unite us in the shared meal, even at a distance. Please send in your photos so that you can be part of the gathering.

A Sign of God's Guidance

Abiding Peace may have helped save a life.

So often we never know the impact we might have on another person, but every once in a while God gives us a glimpse. Maria got just such a glimpse of the impact of our congregation last month. She was in a conversation with a new acquaintance and shared about how much she loves our church, and how she found us via the church sign recruiting choir members. The acquaintance immediately knew the sign Maria was talking about, and she had her own miraculous story about the sign. A while back, the other woman had been in a place of deep despair and was contemplating suicide. She was driving on Rt. 46 and considering turning her car sideways. But her route took her past our church sign, and it was the week that we posted the Suicide Prevention Hotline. The message was meant for her. She took it as a sign that God was talking to her, and she did not follow through on her plans. She made it through the depression, and now feels grateful to our church for our part in getting God's message to her!

What a story of God's provision. We have only posted the suicide prevention number once in the last several years, but I have no doubt that it was God's Spirit nudging us to do it just when it was needed. And then God brought the story back to us, thanks to Maria's openness in sharing her story. May we all be encouraged, and be equally open to recognizing opportunities to spread more hope in the world.

The Wall

This month marks one year. Twelve months of pandemic. Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes (give or take) of NOT singing together in worship, or giving each other hugs, or seeing each other's smiles through anything other than a computer screen. And rather than getting used to the separation and limitations, it is getting harder. Trauma specialists tell us that this is to be expected. Most people hit a "wall" about 6 months into a crisis when they have exhausted their emotional reserves, then rally their energy, only to hit another wall at the one year milestone.

This is reassuring in the sense that – when we feel utterly spent and disheartened – we can know our minds and bodies are responding to our collective stress in normal, well-adjusted ways. But it doesn't necessarily make the burden feel any lighter. Especially as we move through Lent and Lenten calls to reflection, self-examination, and confession. Who wants to look inside when inside just wants to curl into a ball and cry? So, this month, I want to offer two resources that might actually help a bit.

The first is a little piece of wisdom that a friend recently encouraged me with as a way of reframing the experience of "hitting the wall."

*When you hit a wall, it's because
you need something to lean on as you
rebuild your strength.*

How wonderful is that? The exhaustion and frustration do not reflect a failure to power through... they are your inner wisdom giving you a pause so that you can reset and move on.

The second resource is a beautiful prayer from Lutheran Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber that engages the spiritual process of "resetting" in the context of a world that is suffering so much. Her words offer us a model of confession and trust.¹

Dear God,

Help me to stop feeling like everything is a test. A test of my compassion. A test of my fortitude. A test of my faith. Help me remember that I am not being graded. I am being guided. Guided to see that maybe I have a greater capacity to be ok when everything is horrible than I thought I did, but that it is not limitless, and it does not need to be.

Help us manage our compassion fatigue and the judgement we feel toward ourselves for having it. If you did not create our psyches to be able to withstand and respond to every tragedy and hardship happening to human beings right now, then nudge us to respond when it is our turn, and be gentle with ourselves when it's not.

Help us know when our work is done. Help us rest when we should. Help us reach out to serve when we can. Help us remember to check on our strong friends. Help us be kinder toward those who can't do as much as we can. Help us do the next right thing. And Lord, help us not forget the ice cream when we go to the grocery store next.

Amen.

It is an accomplishment that we have made it through a year of pandemic. It is also an intense drain on our strength and an experience that has impacted all of us, each in our own way. May we all mark this anniversary with gratitude for God's presence with us, and with compassion for ourselves and each other as we continue to do the next right things, even when that right thing is to take a nap.

Pastor Serena

¹ Source: <https://thecorners.substack.com/p/help-us>)

Thank You Corner

A special Thank You! to Christine for the extra work to pull together the Ash Wednesday and Lenten mid-week services even with her reduced hours, as well as the updated membership directory. You keep the logistics running, Christine. Thank you!

Pastor Serena

If you would like to express a “Thank you” in next month’s newsletter, please send a brief paragraph to Christine (chstrobel@optonline.net) by March 22.



Faith Kitchen Shopping for March 2 Bagged Lunch

~ 2 Loaves Multi-grain Bread
~ 2 lbs. Salami

Items need to be at church no later than Sunday, February 28. Please contact me at 973-691-1910 if you can provide food or help assemble the sandwich bags.

With gratitude,
Sibylle Schroeder



March Birthdays

7 Sudhakar Kandikatla
8 Sibylle Schroeder
11 Marco Ponce, Jr.
Tyler Rjce
14 Serena Rjce
15 Christine Blakburne
19 Carolyn Blackburne
28 Karen Coates

Sunday Scripture

March 7

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 14

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 28

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 15:1-47

Attention Thrivent Members!

Have you designated your “Thrivent Choice Dollars” for 2021 yet? You need to designate these funds every year. When you log in to Thrivent, select “Membership Overview” (right next to “Account Overview”). Down a little bit, you can select “Direct Choice Dollars”. You can do as I did and pick “Abiding Peace Lutheran Church” for my Organization and then chose “Direct all.”

Thrivent is a fraternal organization and needs to give some of its profits money to non-profits to maintain that status. Do not let those dollars go to waste.

Feeding our Neighbors in a Time of Pandemic

We are so grateful for the generosity of our community in ensuring that our church food pantry can continue to respond to hunger in the area during the pandemic. We have continued to receive donated food, as well as monetary donations to allow us to purchase the most needed supplies. Of course, the need continues, so here are the ways you can continue to help make sure our neighbors have the food they need:

Please continue to pick up extra supplies for our food pantry, as you are able (Note – for anyone who needs to avoid grocery shopping, due to risk factors, reach out to the church. There are members who can help).

When you have supplies to donate to the church food pantry or if you know people who need food assistance, please call Sibylle Schroeder at 973-691-1910 and coordinate with her.

Special needs for the food pantry at this time are:

Hot Dog Buns	Tomato Sauce
Canned fruit	Frozen Meatballs
Juice	

Thank you all for your generosity!



PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
973-691-9393
or have someone call for you, if you are
hospitalized.
Because of the HIPAA privacy laws,
the church is **not**
notified when you are admitted to a
hospital,

Please clip this article and keep it

March Office-Hours

For the duration of Social Distancing Protocols, Pastor Serena will not be holding office hours at the church. She will be present on-site Sundays for worship and any other tasks that need to be completed in the building. She is also available to the congregation by Cell Phone or e-mail during the week: (908) 458-3940; pastorserena@optimum.net. Her availability is impacted by the need to assist with home-instruction from 8:00-3:00, so she will generally respond to non-urgent messages after 3:00pm. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday. Many thanks for the understanding of the community as Pastor Serena balances her two calls of being a mom as well as a pastor.



No UFO Night, but I hope you are all working on a project or two or three. Maybe, if you finish something, send the pictures to Christine to put into the next newsletter.



MARCH

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT IF YOU CANNOT SERVE.

MARCH	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LITURGICAL CANTORS	PSALM CANTOR
7	Sheeba David	Heather Nilsen	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder
14	Sue Stirrat	Howard Corneilson	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder
21	Jackie King	Jeanne Scalora	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder
28	Linda Venator	Demetria Laird	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Jackie King

BREAD BAKING: None



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers: Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, Megan McGuire, Gillian George, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Lynn Peterson's family and friends, Alexandra Heinz, Chris Mastakas, Pat & Jeanne Scalora, Robert Buckley, The Canon family, Howard Gentler, Cindy Behler, Elisabeth and Otto Schroeder, Jim Tangen, Amelia Krusch, James Ehrke, Jennifer Van Doran, John Brun, Michelle Kamin, Roslyn & Kerry Winfield, Chris Killian, Margret Zwicker, Amy Orama, Nalina (Sheeba's mom), Lauren Francis, Jackie King, Aimee (Heather's sister), Lindsey Caruso, Lora Gordan, Eric (Hildegard's grandson), Skip Kaub, Peter Block, Alex Herd, Michael Lynch, Melanie Smith, Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, April, Scott, Bella, Bohdi, Leo and Chrissy Inglin

Those who are expecting: Alyssa Jurtschenko, Rachel Pawlo

Those in mourning: Those mourning Henry Hill, The Bowden and Schroeder families on the death of Evelyn Bowden, The Jaeger family, those mourning John Bohmke, The Schwier family on the death of Elsa Platt, Marja-Liisa Apgar, the Linderman family, the Ashu family, The Kildea family, The Woodard family, those mourning John Lewis, the families of Nilsen and Degraw/Wilman, the family and friends of Donna Woody, those mourning the death of Michael Krush, the McCabe family, Linda Tubelis (on the death of her husband, Oto), Those mourning the death of Christy Kakassy, those mourning the death of Michael Tisler, those morning the death of Heath Morgan, George & Janet Schroeder on the death of Janet's son Hans, Friends and family of Walter Pasuco, friends and family of Rudy Oeckinghaus, those mourning David Coyne, the VanHouten family, the Alstede family

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 2ND SUNDAY/ LENT <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: series on per- sonal spiritual practices	1 <i>12:30 pm</i> Worship & Music Committee Meeting <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	2 <i>9:00 am</i> Faith Kitchen	3 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Virtual Soup Supper <i>7:45 pm</i> Mid-week Lent Service	4 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	5 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	6 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
7 3RD SUNDAY/ LENT <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: Prayer of Discernment	8 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	9	10 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Virtual Soup Supper <i>7:45 pm</i> Mid-week Lent Service	11 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	12 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	13 <i>Cancelled</i> Church Family Breakfast <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
14 4TH SUNDAY/ LENT <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: Practice of the Presence	15 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom <i>7:30 pm</i> Council Meeting	16	17 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Virtual Soup Supper <i>7:45 pm</i> Mid-week Lent Service	18 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	19 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	20 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
21 5TH SUNDAY/ LENT <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: Practice of Silence	22 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23	24 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Virtual Soup Supper <i>7:45 pm</i> Mid-week Lent Service	25 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	26 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	27 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
28 PALM SUNDAY <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: Welcoming Prayer	30 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	31	1 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	2 <i>7:30 pm</i> Maundy Thursday Service	3 <i>7:30 pm</i> Good Friday Service	4 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Easter Vigil