



# VIEW

## from the lake

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



From the Pastor

### Ending and Renewing

December is nearly here, and with it the annual reminder that church time is out of sync with our cultural calendar. While our culture is gearing up for all of the end-of-year celebrations that make the Christmas season both wonderful and exhausting, our new church year is not ending... it is *beginning*. The greatest story ever told starts over again with the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of expectation. A season of remembering that beginnings can be hard to recognize, and that sometimes we have to wait for evidence of what is happening under the surface. But this is not empty time. Even in the darkness that is lit – at first – with only one small candle, there is something growing. Advent is a season that reminds us of how growth is a process.

That is why our theme for the Season of Advent is Renewal. Each year we cycle back to this season of expectation to remind us that God is doing something new in our lives, in our congregation, and in our world.

- *How is God working in you to renew your faith?*
- *What new practices or shifts in your life can help to foster growth?*
- *Where do you sense a need for renewal?*
- *How might you open yourself up to renewal?*
- *How can we all work together to support God's work of renewal in our community?*

Advent asks us these questions, and then it invites us to sit with them for a while. We don't have to rush to find answers. We only need to expect that the answers are there for us, in the new things that God is doing among us. This December, let's embrace the promise of Renewal.

*Pastor Serena*

December, 2019

**January Newsletter Deadline  
December 19, 2019**



**Worship: 10:00 am**

**Christmas Eve Services:  
7:00 pm & 10:15 pm**

**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](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)

## ***COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS***

### **Officers**

President	Heather Nilsen
Vice President	Gerry Ayotte
Secretary	Howard Corneilson
Treasurer	Nancy Ayotte

### **Council Members**

Gerry Ayotte	Cindy Pawlo
Nancy Ayotte	Pat Scalora
Howard Corneilson	Sibylle Schroeder
Ray Mueller	Alexis Sweeney
Heather Nilsen	

### **Ministry Leaders**

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	Karen Coates
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	Ray Mueller
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  
**Monday-Friday: 10:00 am—1:00 pm**

## **BUILDING NEW SPIRITUAL PRACTICES – TAKE A WALK**

Our Advent focus on renewal will introduce us to a number of new practices for spiritual growth, in addition to the approaches that we have featured in the newsletter over the last several months. But if all of that feels too structured, or too involved, or just too much, I have good news for you. There is one spiritual practice that you already know how to do: WALKING!

That's right, just taking a walk – even a short, slow, or assisted walk – can be a very meaningful spiritual practice. When we move deliberately, paying attention to both our body and to our environment, we are actively drawing our attention out of our own heads. This opens us up to sense the nudging of God's Spirit. Walking can draw us into gratitude, for our bodies, or our environment, or something beautiful we see. Walking can slow down racing thoughts so that we can sit with an idea or a prayer for a while and see where it takes us. Sometime our feet will move naturally into the rhythm of a favorite hymn or song to sing to ourselves as we move. We don't have to have a specific agenda for our walking practice. The point



is just to get moving, and see where God takes us.

## **Prayer Partner Cookie/ Gift Exchange**

The Prayer Partner Cookie/Gift Exchange will be Sunday, December 8. All Prayer Partners are encouraged to attend and bring a gift for their 2019 Prayer Partner as well as cookies to share with everyone. We will also be choosing new Prayer Partners for 2020.

Thanks.  
Demetria





During the month of November we have had the chance to hear reflections on the theme “The Difference Generosity Makes” in our worship, and in the stewardship letter to start our drive. I expect that you have found those reflections as inspiring as I have – highlighting the way that the generosity, hospitality, and ministry of this congregation genuinely makes a difference of the lives of people inside and beyond our congregation.

Now, I want to invite you to do your own reflection. ***What difference does generosity make in your life?*** Maybe you have benefitted from the generosity of others. Maybe you have experienced joy or transformation through your own practice of generosity. Maybe the generosity practiced by our congregation has changed your life in some way.

***Can you find a way to express the difference generosity makes?*** It might look like a thank you card or phone call to someone who has helped you. Or a nightly practice of looking back at your day and journaling about where generosity happened. You could even introduce the topic around the Thanksgiving table this year and invite people to give thanks for their experiences of generosity from others.

The point is “The Difference Generosity Makes” is more than a stewardship slogan, it’s a way of looking at our lives from a new perspective. So, what difference does generosity make for you?

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**Unfinished Object Night**  
**December 9 \* 7:30 pm**



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night At 7:30 pm. We have been having a wonderful time hanging out and finishing our UFO's. For information and to make sure it's on - call Sibylle at 973-691-1910.



It is time to decide if we should continue with our Saturday Breakfast (second Saturday of the month). People who attend seem to appreciate the time together, but attendance has been extremely low. A Saturday Breakfast will be attempted once more on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

For those who would like to attend this breakfast, please bring a breakfast item to share and let Howard Corneilson (973-584-0307 / hgcorn@optonline.net) or the church office know by Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>. If this time is inconvenient and you have another suggested time slot, please let Howard or the church office know as well.



**Church Decorating**

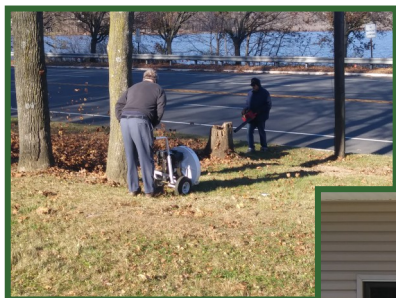
**When: Saturday, November 30**

**Where: APLC**

**Time: 11:00 am**

# Thank You Corner

Thanks go out to the following who stopped in and helped out with cleaning up the leaves and making preparations for the upcoming winter: Susan, Sibylle, Marco, Kelly, Wilmer, Martin, Paul, Jim, Jim, jr., Michael, Ray, Pat, and Gerry. In a few short hours we were able to clear the property of leaves, sticks and other debris, clean out the gutters and clean our sign on Route 46. ~ Joe Barrett



Thank you to Jeanne, Shelli, Dan, and Paul for your generosity in sharing your reflections on “the difference generosity makes.” We have a deeply generous congregation who give from our desire to serve the work of God in the world. At the same times, it helps us all to hear the stories of how that generosity touches lives. Thank you all for being willing to share your stories. ~ Pastor Serena

Thanks to George for redoing all the timer switches and the many things he does behind the scenes.  
~ Sibylle Schroeder

*If you would like to express a “Thank you” in next month’s newsletter, please send a brief paragraph to Christine ([chstrobel@optonline.net](mailto:chstrobel@optonline.net)) by Dec. 19th.*

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,  
in order to  
protect your privacy. The only way we will  
know if you are in the hospital is if you or  
someone close to you lets us know. Thank

**Please clip this article and keep it handy!**



**Assemble Christmas  
Food Baskets**

**When: Sunday, December 1**

**Where: APLC**

**Time: 11:30 am**



## Faith Kitchen Shopping List for December 3

### Italian Chicken

- ~ 10-12 chicken thighs or 5-6 large chicken breasts
- ~ 1 (14 1/2 oz.) can cubed tomatoes
- ~ 3-5 large fresh tomatoes
- ~ 1 container feta cheese

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, December 1st.

Please let me know if you can come to help cook and serve or call with any questions 973-691-1910.

Thank you,

Sibylle Schroeder  
Social Ministry

## December Birthdays

- 4 Carol Biunno
- 10 Don Bowe
- 15 Pat Scalora
- 17 Edward Venator
- 20 Barry Kullack
- 23 Jeanne Scalora
- 25 Howard Corneilson
- 29 Emily Prosser
- 30 Alice Kandikatla



### Food Pantry Needs

Bread  
Hot Dog Buns  
Hot Dogs  
Parmalat Milk  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly

Thank You!

## Sunday Scripture

### December 1

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

### December 15

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Luke 1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### December 8

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### December 22

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### December 29

Lessons & Carols

### Adult Forums/Events (Sundays @ 11:30 am)

- Dec. 1—Advent Retreat on Spiritual Practices
- Dec. 8—Prayer Partner Cookie & Gift Exchange

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- Jan 5, 2020—Planning meeting for 2020 adult education topics!

### Mid-Week Advent Soup Suppers and Services (Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm)

- Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 18



**Pastor Serena's  
December Schedule**

**Week of December 2—8**

- Wednesday, Dec. 4: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Friday, Dec. 6: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 8: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

**Week of December 9—15**

- Wednesday, Dec. 11: 10:30 am—8:00 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 12: 6:30 pm—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 15: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

**Week of December 16—22**

- Wednesday, Dec. 18: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 22: 8:30 am—1:00 pm

**Week of December 23—29**

- Tuesday, Dec. 24: 12:00 pm—12:00 am
- (1/2 week vacation)
- Sunday, Dec. 29: 9:00 am—12:30 pm



*Keep These Friends in Your  
Heart & Prayers*

**Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers:**

*Those who are sick or in need:*

Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Rich Apgar, Michael Krush, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Jim Kosiorek, Randy Esposito, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, Daniel LeFave, Jim and Patricia Porter, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Donna Woody, Gillian George, Mary Kathryn Laird, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, April Inglin, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Owen Strong, Baby Jackson Cook, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Luke Mueller, Lynn Peterson's family and friends, Alexandra Heinz, Chris Mastakas

*Those in mourning:* The Inghand and Maslow families

# December

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

DECEMBER	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
<b>1</b>	Carol Biunno	Cindy Pawlo	Jeanne Scalora	Joe Barrett	~ Doug Laird ~ Maria Jerez-Kearney	None
<b>8</b>	Howard Corneilson	Pat Scalora	Sue Stirrat	Doug Laird	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Cindy Pawlo	None
<b>15</b>	Pat Scalora	Doug Laird	Linda Venator	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Pat Scalora ~ George Pawlo	None
<b>22</b>	Ken Schwier	Cindy Pawlo	Evelyn Bowden	Ray Mueller	~ Christina Belfiore ~ Sibylle Schroeder	None
<b>29</b> Lessons & Carols	Carol Biunno	Pat Scalora	TBD	Mary Kasakove	~ Joe Barrett ~ Howard Corneilson	None

**COUNTERS:** **1:** Nancy Ayotte **8:** George Pawlo **15:** Howard Corneilson **22:** Nita Persson **29:** Nancy Ayotte

**ALTAR GUILD:** Mary Kasakove

**BREAD BAKING:** Jeanne Scalora

# DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>1ST SUNDAY/</b> <b>ADVENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Christmas Food Basket assembly 11:30 am Advent Retreat on Spiritual Practices	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>7</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>8</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY/</b> <b>ADVENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Prayer Partner Cookie & Gift Exchange	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7:15 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	<b>13</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>15</b> <b>3RD SUNDAY/</b> <b>ADVENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>20</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>21</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>22</b> <b>4TH SUNDAY/</b> <b>ADVENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 10:15 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>28</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>29</b> <b>1ST SUNDAY/</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				