



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

The Freedom of a Christian

July, 2020

August Newsletter Deadline
July 27, 2020

Worship: 10:00 am
Online

**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

The first Saturday of July we will celebrate Independence Day, the national holiday that links our country's story inextricably to the idea of freedom. It a beautiful and inspiring element of our national identity – the idea that our country exists in order to ensure freedom not just for a group of ruling elites, but for all people, in all of their diversity. While we have never entirely lived up to this ideal (and I doubt any complex society could) it is, at least, a positive goal to reach for.

But what does freedom mean for a Christian? Whatever our national and cultural identities, our most fundamental identity is that we are children of God, baptized into the promise and practice of faith. So what does our faith teach us about freedom? And how can that teaching shape the way that we engage the American cultural ideal of freedom.

One of Martin Luther's most famous teachings comes from his treatise on The Freedom of a Christian. In that work he explains the paradox of the Christian relationship to freedom:

"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

This paradox celebrates the freedom that we find in our faith: we are "perfectly free... subject to none." Our most essential identity is found in Christ, so no other human being or human institution can demand our absolute allegiance. BUT that freedom does not exist for us to exploit. We are not just "freed from" we are simultaneously "freed for." We are freed to serve. To serve our neighbor, to serve the stranger, even to serve our enemy because truly loving our enemies requires that we seek to ensure that their true needs are met. We are freed from fear, and from sin, and from death, and from the claims of all who would seek to control or enslave us. But that freedom is not just for our own good. We are always called to use our freedom for the good of others.

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COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Joe Barrett
Treasurer	George Pawlo

Council Members

Gerry Ayotte	Heather Nilsen
Joe Barrett	Cindy Pawlo
Sandy Carlson	Sibylle Schroeder
Howard Cornelson	Nick Senior
Ray Mueller	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	Karen Coates
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	Nancy Ayotte
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, Wednesday, Friday: 3:30 pm—5:30 pm

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

In considering this freedom in the context of our national ideal of freedom, it's clear that freedom, from a Christian perspective, is not about our "rights." It is not about defending ourselves against claims that others might make on us. It is always about freedom to live out the call of our faith. A call that tells us we are to seek the good of others. It is only when we use our freedom for this purpose that we are free indeed.

Pastor Serena



Faith Kitchen Shopping for July 7

Bagged Lunch

For the Month of July we will be providing a bagged lunch. I need 5 people to bring in each 2 loaves of multi-grain bread and 1 1/2 lbs. of salami by Monday, July 6. I also need at least one person to help prepare the lunch bags. Please call me at 973-691-1910 to let me know if you can help.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry

Sunday Scripture

July 5

Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

July 12

Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:23

July 19

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

July 26

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 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 Sunday mornings 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. The kids will be home for the duration of the summer (their camp programs have been moved to virtual platforms), but she can be available for phone calls, or for in-person visits (if needed) with notice. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

In addition, Pastor Serena will be taking 2 weeks of vacation from July 6 - 18 while her family moves to a new house. **For pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Pastor Karol VanWulfen (908) 689-1976.**

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.



Plans for Re-Gathering

While no decisions have been made yet regarding transitioning back to in-person worship at Abiding Peace, here are a few things to keep in mind as we plan:

We are not planning for a re-opening. The church has stayed open and active this whole time. The Church is the people, not the building. **What we are planning for is a re-gathering.** This planning recognizes the value and the energy that we get from being together, while also affirming our identity as the church, whether we are together or not.

Continued next column

Continued from previous column—Plans for Re-Gathering

Our starting point is safety. Jesus commands his followers very clearly – the center of “all the law and the prophets” is **love of God and love of neighbor**. Love of God is not dependent on any particular form of worship; it’s a matter of our commitment and trust. Love of neighbor - In the context of a deadly pandemic – is dependent on taking all necessary steps to protect our neighbors from harm. This means that the timing for our return to in-person worship will be determined by guidance about what is safe, rather than by calendars, and that re-gathering will look different than what we are used to with in-person worship. It also means that we will continue to offer remote live-streaming worship for those who cannot safely gather in the sanctuary.

Our means is creativity. We do not believe that changes in the ways that we worship need to be an experience of deprivation or loss. We have so many diverse resources to help us to worship in new and engaging ways. So, while worship will be different in many ways, we hope and trust that it can connect us to God and each other in exciting ways. The planning team welcomes any ideas from the congregation for how to adapt our worship practices in creative, life-giving ways. And if you have a creative skill that you would like to offer for this planning, please let us know!

Our goal is worship. When we participate in worship, we bring all of ourselves to the experience. This means that we are present with all of our own individual preferences for how we like to worship. But worship should not be about satisfying these preferences. Worship is about our desire to draw close to God, to praise God’s goodness and mercy, and to be transformed and empowered by that experience. We are certainly involved in worship, but we are not at the center. As we adjust our practices to be safe and to utilize creative new ideas, the center of our planning and our practice will always be the goal of helping the congregation to give glory to God, and to be shaped by that experience.

If you have ideas or questions as we continue to plan, please reach out to the planning team: Pastor Serena, Ben Schroeder, and Mary Kasakove. And you if you interested in rolling up your sleeves and diving into this important work with us, we welcome your involvement.

Pastor Serena



It is a time to celebrate! We can thank God that our congregation's financial stewardship is looking positive – literally. As of the end of May we have a \$483 surplus, rather than a shortage as has been the case for at least as long as I can remember. In fact, this is after we have overcome a deficit of thousands of dollars with which we started out 2020. Why?

One factor is that our Administrator, Christine Strobel, offered to reduce her hours as she took on a separate full-time job. Council agreed to give this a trial, and to date it has worked well. With only minor scheduling accommodations, the budget needed after January for this staff position has been reduced 58%. In addition, through good stewardship in handling our finances, George Pawlo has saved us money by our converting the boiler from oil to heat and by finding savings in our insurance expenses.

Of greatest significance, however, is your own continued faithful stewardship, which not only makes possible the ministry of Abiding Peace but also confirms your faith and trust in God even during these COVID times. Whether your income is up or down, your regular giving of a portion of that income demonstrates through your life and values the primacy of your faith.

That is why your support of Abiding Peace continues at a time when we are literally not passing the plate! Your mailing in your offering, giving automatically through your bank, and now, thanks to Nick Senior, giving through Venmo all remind us that our church community continues and thrives even when we cannot gather in person. Thanks be to God!

Ray Mueller

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, please call the church office to arrange drop-off: (973) 691-9393. Note – Christine is usually in the office approx.. 3:30-5:30pm M/W/F.

When you bring the donation, leave it at the door, and knock to let Christine know that your donation is outside. She will collect it.

If you know of people who need food assistance, please let them know to call the church office to arrange pick-up. Christine can leave the bags outside the door at the arranged time.

Special needs for the food pantry at this time are:

Hot dogs & buns
Parmalat milk
Canned vegetables
PB
Jelly
Juice
Soup
Spaghetti sauce

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,
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!

July Birthdays

7 Joan Blackburne
8 Dick Kamin
10 Roy Persson
13 Rodney Prosser
19 Robbie Cranmer
20 Steve Tangen
28 Leann Clark
30 Patricia Persson

July Anniversaries

6 Christina & Chris Belfiore
14 Bill & Leann Clark
19 Jim & Kathy Tangen

Thank You Corner

Thank you to the LFI Guiding Team, plus Lynn,
for stepping up to help coordinate meaningful
opportunities to connect and deepen relationships in
our community. It is wonderful to share the love of
community-nurturing with each other!

~ Pastor Serena

Thank you to Sibylle Schroeder for making and
donating face masks.

*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 July 27.*

Our Garden

On Saturday, June 6 members of the congregation
kicked off our garden, which provides produce to the
Mt. Olive Food Pantry and Mt. Olive Manor. It was a
beautiful day and great to see everyone after all this
time (and easy to keep social distancing).

If anyone is interested in helping maintain the garden
over the summer, we would never turn you away.
Volunteering is at your convenience. No limits on
how much time you would like to give. There is also
another garden attached to this garden for members
of the congregation who would like to have a garden
for themselves.

Please contact me at 973-584-0576 or patscalora@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, want
a garden spot or willing to help us.

Thank you.
Pat Scalora



50th Anniversary

As you no doubt are aware, Abiding Peace's 50th anniversary is coming up. As part of that, we have prepared information we would like to send out to former members and friends of the congregation. Since we do not want to overwhelm them with this information, we would like the cooperation of everyone. Please let me know who you are in touch with, and if you are willing to send the information to them. For those willing to send the information, I will supply the information to be distributed. So that former members and friends are only contacted by one person, I will let you know it is OK to send the information (the first one to identify a person). If you would rather not send the information, let me know and I will be happy to send it out. Send those you are in contact with (and their email if you would) to me at hgcorn@optonline.net. I will get back to you with the information to distribute and who we would like you to send it to.

As a reminder, we have five (5) former clergy associated with our congregation scheduled to come back and give a homily on various Sundays in 2021 and we expect our own Bishop of New Jersey Synod to join us as well. Our Celebration Service will be Sunday May 23rd. But keep Saturday, May 23rd on your calendar for our 3:00 PM Celebratory Buffet at the Holiday Inn in Budd Lake. The cost for this will not exceed \$50 per person. The more funds we can raise to offset the cost, the lower we can make the price. If you are inclined to help with our fund raising, donations are greatly accepted (put 50th Anniversary in the memo field).

Howard Corneilson
Chairman



Hand Made Face Masks



I am offering to make custom masks for the congregation for \$5.00 each with all the proceeds going to our 50 anniversary fund. If you would like to order, please mail me an order with the following information:

- ~ Name, address, phone number
- ~ How many male, female, child size and what color or kind of fabric (color or theme). I will accommodate this as best as I can (example: One female mask in flower fabric).
- ~ Enclose a check made out to APLC.

Send to Sibylle Schroeder, 9 Lawrence Avenue,
Stanhope, NJ 07874.

If you have a mask with a broken elastic, I can repair them as long as they are washed. Masks can be picked up at church or at my house. Just let me know.

Sibylle Schroeder

T-Shirt Evangelism

If you own a Thrivent T-shirt with the words "Live Generously," I would encourage you to wear it during the summer months. It is light and comfortable, but more importantly, it's message provides an opportunity for you to witness to our Christian calling of helping others. More specifically, it opens the door for us to witness to the efforts of Abiding Peace's commitment of helping others through our church garden and Faith Kitchen. I own three Thrivent shirts...a blue, black and a red. Each day that I wore them I received compliments regarding the message and interest in wanting to know more. So wear your shirt proudly and boldly as you go about your business this summer.

Karen Coates



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

JULY	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
5	None	None	Maria Kearney	Sheeba David	None	None
12	None	None	None	None	None	None
19	None	None	Joe Barrett	Demetria Laird	None	None
26	None	None	Heather Nilsen	Howard Corneilson	None	None

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:

Those who are sick or in need: Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Michael Krush, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Jim Kosiorek, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Donna Woody, Gillian George, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Baby Jackson Cook, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Luke Mueller, 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, Gary and Linda McCabe, James Ehrke, Jennifer Van Doran, John Brun, Michelle Kamin, Roslyn & Kerry Winfield, Chris Killian. Margret Zwicker, Amy Orama, Nalina (Sheeba's mom)

Those who are expecting: Kimberly Defreitas, April and Scott

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 Lindermann family, the Ashu family, the Kildea family

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Cancelled</i> AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Book Club: <i>The Jesus I Never Knew</i> , by Philip Yancy (Part 1: Who He Was)	2	3 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	4 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
5 5TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	6	7 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	8 <i>Cancelled</i> AA Mtg.	9	10 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	11 <i>Cancelled</i> Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
12 6TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship with St. Luke's Washington 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	13	14	15 <i>Cancelled</i> AA Mtg.	16	17 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	18 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
19 7TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	20	21 7:30 pm Online Council Meeting	22 <i>Cancelled</i> AA Mtg.	23	24 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	25 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
26 8TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28	29 <i>Cancelled</i> AA Mtg.	30	31 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	