



# VIEW

## from the lake

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



From the Pastor

### Transforming Gratitude vs. False Positivity

November, 2020

**December Newsletter Deadline**  
**November 24, 2020**

**Worship: 10:00 am**  
**Online**



**Daylight Savings**  
**Time Ends November 1!**  
**Please turn your**  
**clocks back.**

**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)

November is upon, which means a flood of calls to gratitude: gratitude-themed house decorations, holiday messages, memes, and 30-days of gratitude posts. We can all probably use the reminder to take stock of our blessings after a year that has confronted us with so many losses, but there is a subtle danger in the annual return to a month-long glorification of thanks-giving. The danger is in the pressure to demonstrate gratitude because that is what is expected. In this context, our giving of thanks may be more a fill-in-the-blank demonstration of public piety than a spontaneous recognition of the goodness in our lives. Of course, such going through the motions can sometimes reshape our perspective. The “attitude of gratitude” can build habits that retrain our brains to notice all for which we really should be grateful. But the shadow side of this practice can be the hidden message that grief, anxiety, suffering, or anger aren’t \*nice\* things to talk about. Calls to gratitude can silence the truth of our lives, and teach us that we are just supposed to “stay positive” regardless of the challenges we are facing.

The difference between this kind of false positivity and the kind of gratitude modeled for us in scripture is the starting place. Expectations of gratitude start at the end-point and don’t teach us how to get there. They communicate the “should” of giving thanks... the expectation that there must be things in your life that you can be thankful for, so just focus on that, and ignore the rest. But ignoring something has never, in the history of humanity, made challenges go away.

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**COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS****Officers**

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Barbara Prosser/ <i>Seat 2 vacant</i>
Treasurer	George Pawlo

**Council Members**

Sandy Carlson	Cindy Pawlo
Howard Corneilson	Barbara Prosser
Ray Mueller	Sibylle Schroeder
Heather Nilsen	Nick Senior

**Ministry Leaders**

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	<i>Vacant</i>
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 Stobel  
office@abidingpeacechurch.org

*Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column*

The scriptural model of thanksgiving that we see most clearly in the Psalms is different. The Psalms are profoundly honest about the whole range of human emotions. They name frustration, and fear, and anger, and even despair. They provide a model for starting in the middle of our reality, and then they walk the path of grappling with our own inability to re-make our lives according to our own design, before moving to a recognition of God's promises of steadfast love and mercy. It's only after dealing honestly with pain and letting the promises speak to that pain that the most powerful Psalms move to the expression of thanks and praise. In other words, gratitude is not a starting place, or an attitude that we chose to assume, it is the result of a process of transformation where we are open about our truth, and let the promises of God bring healing to our places of pain.

I believe that after a year like this past year, what we need is transformative gratitude, rather than an attitude of positivity. We need the space to name all that is not as we want it to be, and to know that God is as willing to hear our cries of pain as our cries of praise. We don't have to be grateful for every details of our lives. But, when we know God listens to all that we have to say, we can be transformed by the gratitude for a God who knows us and loves us in all of our truth.

*Pastor Serena*

**Faith Kitchen Shopping  
for November 3****Bagged Lunch**

I have all the food needed for November. Thanks to all who bring food every month for the pantry as well as Faith Kitchen.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder  
Social Ministry



### Stewardship Focus: Why Abiding Peace?

If there is one thing the pandemic has made clear to many of us, it's the importance of asking the question **"WHY?"** The loss of so many of the patterns and habits of our daily life has revealed just how much those habits previously defined the shape of our lives. Think about it, how many minutes of your day before March were proscribed by habits that you didn't really think about, and how many of those minutes have had to shift since the pandemic shut down our way of moving through the world? The pandemic has meant a whole lot of adjustment, and quite a bit of loss, but it has also given us an opportunity: the chance to ask the question *"why did I always do that?"*

Sometimes the answer may reveal that we didn't really have a deep purpose for our habits. Sometimes the answer helps us to name for ourselves the things that really do matter.

Our hope, as church leadership, is that Abiding Peace falls into the second category: that you have come to appreciate in a newer or deeper way how important your participation in the community at Abiding Peace is to you. Our habits around church have had to change with the pandemic, but the work of living out the gospel together has just shifted form, it hasn't shifted its core purpose.

**If that's true, then we want to hear from you.** Our Fall stewardship campaign is going to be a bit different this year (like our worship, fellowship, education, service, etc.) Rather than asking just a few of you to prepare a speech for a Temple Talk, we are asking everyone to send in *your answer to the question "why Abiding Peace?"* It doesn't have to be long or detailed. It doesn't have to be profound. We just want to hear from you about why this is your faith community? Why do you spend time worshiping, serving, or learning with this congregation? Why do you give your time, talent, and treasure to this particular work of God's mission in the world? What is it about Abiding Peace that makes it the right congregation for you?

*Continued next column*

*Continued from previous column—Stewardship Reflections*

Whatever your answer we want to hear it. **Write an e-mail. Send a text. Record a short video. Even take a picture of what this church means to you.** Pastor Serena is waiting for your messages. And they will help to craft the congregation's work as we look forward to the coming year. Before we can pledge to support the work of the congregation, we have to know **WHY**.

### Send in your Gratitude Pics/Words/Voices!

Gratitude is **NOT** an obligation, but if your reflection on gratitude prompts you to share this thanks with your community, there is an easy way!

This year the annual Mt Olive Clergy Association Community Thanksgiving Service will be virtual. While we will miss the chance to gather in person, this format gives us the chance to join in new ways of sharing our thanks. All members of the greater Mt. Olive community are invited to submit photos and words that express **GRATITUDE**.

Photos can be of people, things, places, or experiences for which you are thankful. Or, if you don't have a photo, send a word (for instance "health" or "love"). All of the community contributions will be combined into a slide show that will be featured during the Thanksgiving Service. **Use this opportunity to reflect on gratitude and lift all our spirits with your images and words.** Pictures and words may be sent to me at [pastorserena@optimum.net](mailto:pastorserena@optimum.net).

In addition, if you are a singer, you can contribute to the virtual choir anthem. We will be singing "I Will Give Thanks to the Lord" by Lloyd Larsen. Through the blessing of sound-mixing technology, our individual vocal tracks will be combined together into a community choir. If you are interested, contact Pastor Serena or Ben. We will provide an accompaniment track, sheet music, and instructions for how to record yourself singing. **Please add your voice to the chorus!**

All submissions are requested by Sunday, Nov. 1.



## Thank You Corner

Thanks to Tyler Rice, Ray Mueller, Don Larsen, George Pawlo, and everyone who has worked to make our online services possible.

~ Sibylle Schroeder

Thanks to Pat Scalora, Sue Stirrat, Karen Coates and all who helped with the garden this summer.

~ 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 November 24.***

### Service of Unity—November 4

This election season has been rough on our nation, our communities, and even our congregation. Our anxiety is sky-high after more than half a year of pandemic fears and isolation; we are being buffeted by economic and social unrest; and our virtual means of communication undermine the relationships that empower loving dialogue. Regardless of the results of the election, and how soon we know what they will be, we need healing.

So, Abiding Peace will be holding a Service of Unity on **Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7:30pm**. The service will be organized around a structure of reflection that we find in the Psalms, grounding us in what we know of God, creating space to name our needs, presenting our requests to God, and drawing us into the hope we know through God’s promises. The service will be held on zoom, to create a space that can truly draw us together as a community, and will include readings, time for interactive reflection, and some musical elements. All are welcome.

If you would like to help by voicing one of the readings for the service, please reach out to Pastor Serena as soon as possible.



### Advent Wreath Lighting

Advent is coming! That power beginning of the church year, where we look forward in hope to the new life and mission that God is bringing into the world. As part of this season, we want to explore more ways to get the large community of Abiding Peace involved in our Sunday worship, even when we cannot gather in person.

So, here’s the plan: We are looking for 4 households (single people; couples; families; etc.) to volunteer to record a lighting of the Advent wreath (1 for each week of Advent). We will provide the reading – you provide the wreath (but it doesn’t have to be fancy – 4 birthday candles in a green-frosted cupcake would work). Even better – record the video by your Christmas tree or nativity scene. Let us see the way you are preparing for the celebration of the birth of Christ at home!

If you are interested, please contact Christine or Pastor Serena



## Sunday Scripture

### November 1

Revelation 7:9-17  
Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

### November 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### November 8

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### November 29

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

### November 15

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 23  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30



## November 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](mailto:pastorserena@optimum.net). Her availability is impacted by the need to assist with home-instruction from 8:00-3:00, so she will respond to non-urgent messages after 3:00pm. Many thanks for the understanding of the community as Pastor Serena balances her two calls of being a mom as well as a pastor.

Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

## 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 dogs & buns	Jelly
Parmalat milk	Juice
Canned vegetables	Soup
PB	Spaghetti Sauce

Thank you all for your generosity!



## Christmas Food Baskets

problem.

Susan from the local food pantry would like us to get ham instead of turkey. Mostly, when you are able to get a free turkey you can pick a ham instead, so it should not be a

Please let Sibylle Schroeder know if you can get a ham (turkeys are still welcome) and donate either a whole basket or half a basket. All the items need to be brought to church by Sunday, November 29th.

Please call Sibylle at 973-691-1910 and let her know what you are able to donate. Thank you so much!

### 1st half basket:

- 1 large box of dried mashed potatoes
- 1 Parmalat milk
- 4 cans of vegetables
- 1 can of sweet potatoes

### 2nd half basket:

- 2 boxes of stuffing mix
- 2 cans or envelopes of gravy
- 1 box of cake mix
- 1 can of frosting
- 1 bag of cookie mix

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



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.

# NOVEMBER

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

NOVEMBER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	MOVEMENT MINISTER
<b>1</b>	None	Demetria Laird	Mary Kasakove	Mary Kasakove
<b>8</b>	None	Howard Corneilson	Heather Nilsen	Nita Persson
<b>15</b>	None	Jackie King	Jeanne Scalora	Robert Bowden
<b>22</b>	None	Sheeba David	Linda Venator	Mary Kasakove
<b>29</b>	None	Sue Stirrat	Karen Coates	Nita Persson

**COUNTER:** George Pawlo  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Sandy Carlson  
**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, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Jim Kosiorek, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, David Coyne, 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, 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, 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), Mardy & Susan Nersesin, Skip Kaub, Peter Block

*Those who are expecting:* Kimberly Defreitas

*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, those mourning Herman Cain, 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

# NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship 12:00 pm In-person Worship	<b>2</b> 12:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Post-election Service of Unity	<b>5</b> 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	<b>6</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>7</b> 10: am NJ Synod Anti-Racism Team Virtual Conversation on Racial Justice, Equity and Inclusion 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>8</b> <b>23RD SUNDAY/ PENTECOST</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship	<b>9</b> 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Story Telling Hour	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	<b>13</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>14</b> Cancelled Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>15</b> <b>24TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:15 am By the Light of Grace	<b>16</b> 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Story Telling Hour	<b>19</b> 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	<b>20</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>21</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>22</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:15 am Overview of the Gospel of John	<b>23</b> 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom Time TBD Community Thanksgiving Service via YouTube, followed by a community Zoom call	<b>24</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Story Telling Hour	<b>26</b> <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b> 	<b>27</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>28</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>29</b> <b>1ST SUNDAY/ ADVENT</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship	<b>30</b> 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom					