



# VIEW

## from the lake

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



### From the Pastor

#### Being Church Scattered

I was recently reminded of the linguistic roots of the word “church.” In the New Testament, the word that we read as church usually comes from the Greek word *ekklēsia* (ἐκκλησία). This word, in turn, comes from a compound of two other words: *ek* (ἐκ) – a prepositional word, usually denoting a place of origin (i.e. “from”), and *kalēō* (καλέω) – which means “to call.” So, literally, church means “called from.”

In the narrowest understanding, this means we are called from our individual homes to meet together as a gathered assembly (for worship and other shared work), and this is an important part of the experience of being church. The defining importance of gathering together is why we are all grieving so much the loss of our usual patterns of gathering on Sunday morning. But, to be the people who are “called from” can mean so much more than just gathering in one place.

- It can mean that we are **called from** whatever other ways we are spending our time in order to share a time of dedicated worship.
- It can mean that we are **called from** our individual-focused lives into a sense of shared mission and identity.
- It can mean that we are **called from** the concerns, worries, or pursuits that distract us from God’s way, into the new life we have in Christ.
- It can even mean that we are **called from** our worship (where we receive) **to** our work of service in the world (where we give to others what has been given to us).

All of these understandings of what it means to be “ecclesia” reinforce that church describes not a place but a shared identity. Church is something we ARE, not a place that we GO.

*Continued on page 2*

September, 2020

**October Newsletter Deadline**  
**September 17, 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](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)**

## **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 Corneilson	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*

And that means that we can still BE church even when we are scattered. We don't have to be in the same place physically in order to share the same identity and calling. We can do the work to which we are called wherever we are.

This time of COVID and physical distancing, of the loss of our shared space and the uncertainty about how to be church in changed circumstances, has me thinking of the early Jerusalem church following the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 8:1b-3). That, too, was a time when the church was scattered. Believers who had all been gathered together in Jerusalem spread out across the Jewish world and even beyond. ***And this was how the message spread!*** God used a time of trauma that must have felt like the death of the early church and turned it into a time of mission. As a result of this scattering, Phillip shared the message of Jesus with the first African convert. As a result of the scattering, the apostles recognized new believers in Samaria (where Jews has always been at enmity). As a result of the scattering, Saul travelled to Damascus, and on that trip encountered Jesus and became the apostle Paul. The early believers might have thought they were just running away from persecution, but really they were ***called from***. The church GREW because it was scattered.

And all of that makes me wonder: How might the scattering of our church during COVID lead to new growth?

*Pastor Serena*



## **Faith Kitchen Shopping for September 1**

### **Bagged Lunch**

For the Month of September we will be providing 70 bagged lunches. Thanks to all who provided the items to make these lunches.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder  
Social Ministry

## Plans for Re-Gathering

Sept. 13 – our extra-special ELCA Rally Day – is drawing near, and with it the long hoped-for opportunity to again gather for in-person worship. Many volunteers and worship planners have been working hard to get our sanctuary set and protective policies in place.

One of our protective policies is limiting the number of people in the building, which means taking **reservations**. We will be using Eventbrite to manage RSVP so that you can be sure that your space is reserved and have all the information you need to attend. Here is how it will work:

- The Sunday BEFORE our in-person worship, a link will be sent to the full congregation with the information for how to register for attendance at the 10:00am or 12:00pm service. (Note – people filling assistant roles will already have spots “reserved”)
- Click on the link for the service you wish to attend (you will need to provide your e-mail address).
- If there is space available, you will receive a confirmation message and a follow-up e-mail with safety information.
- If there is no space available, you will be placed on the waiting list. If a spot opens up, you will receive an e-mail inviting you to register to attend.
- If you do not have a chance to attend the service of your choice the first month (i.e. – you are on the waiting list), you will have priority opportunity to register the following month.

That covers the first kind of “reservations,” but we are very aware there might be other kinds as well. If you are hesitant to join our in-person worship, please know that you will not be forgotten. We will continue to live-stream our 10:00am worship every week, whether or not there are worshipers in the sanctuary. You are just as much a part of our worshipping community as anyone who is physically present. And If you have “reservations” about the safety protocols, we are more than willing to hear them and to talk them over with you. We know that masks can be uncomfortable and stifling, that it is hard to imagine worship without congregational singing, and that our plans for worship feel really different than we are used to. We are seeking to be guided by science and best practices, and we want to share the reasoning and intention behind all our decisions. If you have any question, or other “reservations,” please know that you can bring them to Pastor Serena, Ben, members of Council, or our Worship & Music chair, Mary.

## Sunday Scripture

### September 6

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:5-20

### September 20

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

### September 13

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### September 27

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

## September Birthdays September Anniversaries

7 Jan Persson  
9 Doug Laird  
12 Linda Venator  
24 Jimmy Tangen  
26 Luke Mueller  
Ray Stirrat

24 Tom & Linda Venator



## Blessing of the Animals— Virtual Edition

Blessing of the Animals is a special tradition at Abiding Peace, and we don't want to let this Pandemic prevent the inclusion of our treasured creatures in our worship. So, we are going to do what Abiding Peace always does: get creative!

During our live-stream Blessing of the Animals service on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> we will be including a slide show with photos of our pets and beloved animals. **Please send digital copies of your photos to Pastor Serena ([pastorserena@optimum.net](mailto:pastorserena@optimum.net))** by Sunday, Sept. 27. When you send your photos, please also include your pet's name so that we can include that on the slide.

In addition, if there are any other animals or animal-related service for which you would like us to pray (your vet's office, a particular endangered species, a shelter at which you volunteer, etc.) **please let us know these names as well.** We will be praying for a wide scope of blessings!

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## September 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). Once school begins (Sept. 8) she will need to focus on home-instruction in the mornings and early afternoon, so she will 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.

## Daytime Bible Study Opportunity

Greetings to all members of Abiding Peace who are interested in trying something new.

Due to Pastor Jaye's retirement at Redeemer in Succasunna, I've been asked to continue their Thursday Bible Study. I would like to extend an invitation to Abiding Peace to join in with the Redeemer group of men and women who gather weekly to dive into scripture and relate it to our own lives.

I'm thinking about starting with Zoom meetings until we're more confident about returning to in-person gatherings. Many of us have health issues and want to stay safe.

I'm tentatively planning our first meeting for Thursday, September 17th, with a "meet and greet" at 11:30 am, and then study time begins at 12:00.

I've been looking over various study materials and think I've found something new that we can all find relevant to our lives today. First, we'll take a look at passages in Isaiah that describe the trials of the Hebrews when the two kingdoms were seized and the people were taken into exile. Our discussions will compare their experiences to our own during this time of quarantine/exile.

Then we will continue by following the Hebrews when they return home hundreds of years later and must re-establish their worship life. How will their experience compare with our new version of worship life during and after the COVID-19 pandemic? I'm hoping for some lively conversations!!

More details will follow soon.

*Sue Corneilson*

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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.



## Thank You Corner

In addition to deepest thanks to the whole team who has helped with new installations for the equipment that will allow enhanced and on-going livestreaming in our sanctuary space, I want to include a special thank you to Don Larsen. We are beyond lucky to have such a dedicate volunteer with solid knowledge as well as tireless commitment to ensure that our sound quality is as good as it can be. He has designed and led the effort to install all the sound elements of our new equipment, which has included lots of research and hours of work. Thank you for your work to make sure that everyone can hear clearly and enter into our shared worship! ~ *Pastor Serena*

Thanks to Don, George, Gerry, Jim Jr., Ken, Eric, Ray, and Roy for all their work on the wiring for our new sanctuary speakers and livestream equipment. Thanks, too, to the New Jersey Synod for the livestream equipment and to Thrivent for the rental of scissors lift. ~ *Ray*



*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 September 17.*

## 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	Jelly
Parmalat milk	Juice
Canned vegetables	Soup
PB	Spaghetti Sauce

Thank you all for your generosity!







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, 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, 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), Lauren Francis, Jackie King, Aimee (Heather's sister)

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 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



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!**

# SEPTEMBER

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

SEPTEMBER	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
<b>6</b>	None	None	Andi Bino (St. Luke's)	Jeanne Scalora	None	None
<b>13</b>	None	TBD	None	Robert Bowden	None	None
<b>20</b>	None	None	Jackie King	Karen Coates	None	None
<b>27</b>	None	None	Linda Venator	Sheeba David	None	None

**COUNTER:** George Pawlo

**ALTAR GUILD:** Nita Persson

**BREAD BAKING:** None

# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>5</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>6</b> <b>14TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am /Zoom Coffee Hour 12:00 pm In-person Worship Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Cancelled AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Education Planning Meeting for Fall	<b>10</b> 7:30 pm Council Meet- ing	<b>11</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>12</b> Cancelled Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>13</b> <b>15TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST</b> 10:00 am In-person Worship 12:00 pm In-person Worship Rally Day Service pro- ject (outside or take- home kits)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting	<b>16</b> Cancelled AA Mtg.	<b>17</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>18</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>19</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>20</b> <b>16TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> 2:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Cancelled AA Mtg.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Cancelled NA Mtg.	<b>26</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>27</b> <b>17TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST</b> 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Cancelled AA Mtg.			