



VIEW from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Peace That Abides

I love the name of our Congregation, and I love it even more now that we are living through this time of pandemic and quarantine, because *peace that abides* is exactly what we all need right now. Peace, from a biblical perspective is about so much more than just a sense of calm, or an absence of conflict. It is about the wholeness of Shalom, the kind of peace that reshapes us and re-connects us. Pastor Tara Woodard Lehman wrote recently about the word *shalom*, that it means “peace of body, mind, and soul. Peace between families and communities. Peace between humanity, creation, and our Creator.” Peace as a quality of living requires connection. To have peace we need to be integrated within ourselves, and also open to others. That is the fullness of what peace means.

Of course, at the moment, we are seriously restricted in our ability to connect with others beyond our own households. That’s where we get to “abiding.” To abide means “to make one’s habitation with” – literally to LIVE with. So how do we live with peace? Especially, how do we live with peace when we are being bombarded by angst and anxiety, and when we are either living in isolation or living so completely WITH our people that we need a break?

I think the answer comes from what it means to “live with,” rather than “to achieve.” Peace is not a task that we can put on our to-do list. It is not a benchmark for which we strive. It is not even a practice to perfect. Peace is a roommate. Peace is something that we make space for in the routines of our daily life in the same way that we make space in our home for a new family member or housemate. That’s what *abiding peace* means. It means that peace lives with us. And the great thing about having peace as a roommate is that it’s not up to us to create it. It’s only up to us to notice it. To remember that it needs some space in our homes and in our lives so that it can thrive, and so that we can appreciate having it around.

Continued on page 2

April, 2020

May Newsletter Deadline
April 23, 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

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: 4:30 pm—6:30 pm

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

So, when the news cycle, or the isolation, or the low supply of toilet paper starts to feel like a little too much... take a seat on the couch and ask your roommate to sit down with you. Peace will show up, because Jesus promised that it would. *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid"* (John 14:27). Peace isn't something you have to create for yourself. It's just something you need to embrace. And the really good news is – Peace gives great hugs!

Pastor Serena

April Office-Hours Calendar

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



Faith Kitchen Shopping for April 7

Bagged Lunch

For the Month of April we will be providing a bagged lunch. I need 6 people to bring in each 2 loaves of multi-grain bread and 1 1/2 lbs. of salami by Monday, April 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



Abiding Peace and COVID-19

How do we get through this pandemic financially caused by COVID-19 (AKA coronavirus)? Our expenses have not diminished – they are for the most part fixed. Attendance is almost none (and may soon be required to be virtually none). Most of our members bring their offerings to worship and place it in the offering basket. However, now we have no one attending our services, our offering basket is empty. What do we do?

Some suggestions:

Mail in your contribution to Abiding peace. This can be done by placing your normal contribution inside your church offering envelope and then putting that in a mailing envelope and sending it through the US Postal Service. You could do the same with just a check if that is what you normally place in the offering basket.

But I will propose this as a solution for now and even the long term – this is what I do (and several other families).

Log on to your bank's internet site and go to the bill pay section. You can add Abiding Peace as a payee. Give the address and phone number of Abiding Peace. It will most likely ask you for an account – I use my envelope number (ENV ##), although you should most likely be able to leave it blank (our Financial Secretary, Nita, will recognize your name). This would only need to be done once.

Once the above is complete, go to the bill pay section and choose Abiding Peace, enter the amount of your offering, (choose a date to send if you want to delay the send), and confirm the transaction. The bank will print and send the check and it will arrive at Abiding Peace in about 7 days. I do not know of any banks charging for this service, but there may be some.

Something else you may consider if you choose the bank method is to make the offering through the bank recurring.

Continued from previous column—Stewardship Reflections

I would like to share what Sue and I do financially that strengthens our spiritual life. Financial Stewardship has always been part of our faith. So, Sue and I have pledged weekly amounts. This, in conjunction with what Abiding Peace means to us (and I am sure it does to you as well), we set our bank to send our offering the same day every week. This also has an additional side benefit – our offering is present every week whether we are here or not. And please note it is very easy to change as circumstances change. More than once I had to reduce my weekly giving to Abiding Peace when I lost my job and went on unemployment and increased it when I was fully employed again. Have faith. Give it a try. Please consider this.

Howard Corneilson

Sunday Scripture

April 5

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

April 19

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

April 12

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

April 26

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Continued next column

Thoughts for Lent



Another day of virtual teaching is done and I am sitting here thinking how nice it would be to go somewhere where people are. Usually when I am done with school for the day, I long for peace, quiet and solitude but now with the exception of talking with Grace at our “teachers lunch” in between our school related activities on the computer it’s pretty darn quiet around here. I quickly tired of having CNN or FoxNews playing on the tv and I am finding out that they pretty much run the same Law and Order episodes every other day. As a college basketball fanatic I feel deprived of one of my guilty pleasures...March Madness. Those who know me best know I am not one to sit around, so this is definitely a challenge on my end.

Being raised Catholic (or as Howard says a Roman), Lent was portrayed as a time of sacrifice and penance. It was to be a somber time. I always said I was giving up cursing, candy or some other pleasurable thing. It was not eating meat on Fridays or having to go to the Stations of the Cross. When I was around 8 I tried giving up my younger brother but that was shot down quickly by my mother. My perception of Lent had always been it was punitive and I viewed Easter more of a release date than a day of celebration.

As I grow spiritually in my new “home” I have found Lent is more of time of healing and reflection in preparation for the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for me. The past two years I am beginning to understand that is not what you give up but more about opening my mind and heart and allowing the Holy Spirit to fill it.

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing for his ministry, I can’t help but to believe that this quarantine or whatever we want to call it, is a way for us to reflect and prepare to maybe make this current situation a way to pull together as a world. This wilderness that we are now in will most likely last beyond the 40 days of Lent but when the time comes, I look

Continued next column

Continued from previous column—Thoughts for Lent

forward to two things; Friday dinner out somewhere with Grace and celebrating Christ’s resurrection on Easter, even if it is in May or June with the people of our loving Abiding Peace Family.

Joe Barrett

Thank You Corner

A tremendous “Thank you” to Ray Mueller, who is the best live-streaming partner I could ask for as we figure out this new technology and seek to engage our community in meaningful worship while we are all separated. He has devoted significant time and creative energy, purchased new equipment, and made his own worship second to facilitating the worship of the community. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his hard work and dedication.

~ Pastor Serena

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who is investing time, energy, and prayer to partner in creating meaningful worship and finding ways to connect. I am grateful for Ben’s flexibility and positive spirit, for the Worship & Music Committee’s work to figure out the needs of the community and how to meet them, and for all who have volunteered to cantor or assist with our live-stream worship so that we can have a little familiarity in our time of remote worship. And my deep thanks to Council for supporting me, praying for our community, and reaching out to assess needs. We may not be “at church” but you all are “being church” and that is so much more important.

~ 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 April 23.

Feeding our Neighbors in a Time of Pandemic

During this time of necessary physical distancing we know that food pantries are more important than ever, but we also need to be conscious of how to share food without sharing risk. To that end, we are asking our community to do the following:

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.. 4:30-6:30pm 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

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!

April Birthdays

3 Nancy Ayotte
Anoop Kandikatla
8 Sue Stirrat
10 John Cranmer
Demetria Laird
22 Mary Kasakove
Krista Persson
26 Jim Tangen
29 Cindy Pawlo

April Anniversaries

5 Nancy & Gerry Ayotte
Ray & Mary Beth Mueller
7 Mike & Sibylle Schroeder
9 Jan & Patricia Persson
24 Dick & Laurel Kamin
25 Doug & Demetria Laird

APRIL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

APRIL	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
5	None	None	Demetria Laird	Sibylle Schroeder	None	None
12	None	None	Roy Persson	Mary Kasakove	None	None
19	None	None	Evelyn Bowden	Doug Laird	None	None
26	None	None	Doug Laird	Joe Barrett	None	None

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Kasakove

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, Rich Apgar, Michael Krush, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Jim Kosiorek, Randy Esposito, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, Jim and Patricia Porter, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Donna Woody, Gillian George, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, April Inglin, 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, Susan Nigra, Cindy Behler, Elisabeth and Otto Schroeder, Jim Tangen, Amelia Krusch, Gary and Linda McCabe, Rolf Zwicker, James Ehrke, Jennifer Van Doran

Those in mourning: The Laird Family

Those who are expecting: Kimberly Defreitas, Christina & Chris Belfiore, Krista Persson & Matthew Fluck, Robbie Cranmer & Kelli Still

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	4 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.
5 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 am Worship Online	6	7 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	8 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	9 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service Online	10 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg. 7:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service Online	11 <i>Cancelled</i> Church Family Breakfast <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg. 7:30 pm Easter Vigil Online
12 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service Online 10:00 am Easter Service Online	13	14	15 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	16 7:30 pm Online Council Meeting	17 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	18 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.
19 2ND SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Worship Online	20	21	22 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	25 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.
26 3RD SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Worship Online	27	28	29 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	30		