



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

All Saints (Really!)

On the first Sunday of November, we celebrate the feast of All Saints. This tradition began with two separate days (three if you count All Hallow's Eve – Halloween – which is now a purely cultural celebration). All Saints Day, on Nov 1, was for remembering and honoring recognized Saints of the church, folks like Mary Magdalene, Francis of Assisi, and Oscar Romero. This celebration was followed by All Souls Day, on November 2, to remember the lives of all the departed. In other words – one day for the “special” Christians and another day for everyone else.

I am grateful the Lutheran church has abandoned the distinction. It's bad theology. There are no “special” Christians. One of the core teachings of Martin Luther about the Christian church is that we are ALL “both sinners and saints.” There is no rank ordering of people in God's kingdom, no judging of some of the faithful “better” or “worse” than others.

This is good news! Because it means that our value is not conditional. We don't have to worry that we could do something bad that would make us become unworthy in God's eyes. God already knows that we are all sinners – that we fail to be the people God has created and called us to be in a hundred different ways – and God has said an unqualified “yes” to us anyhow! So, it's a waste of time (and a distraction of our energy and attention) to compare ourselves to others, whether that comparison makes us feel good or bad. We all fall short, but we all get forgiven.

That's the other side of the equation: that we are also all saints! Just like Saint Francis, and Mary Magdalene, and Archbishop Romero. Our lives may not look much like their's, but in the eyes of God we are not a lower level of believers. God has called us all saints!

November, 2019

**December Newsletter Deadline
November 21, 2019**

Worship: 10:00 am



**Daylight Savings
Time Ends November 3!
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

Continued on Page 2

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

Continued from Page 1—Pastor's Column

This understanding of sainthood is important for our understanding of our own identities, and it is also important for the griefs that we bring to All Saint's Day. When we lift up the names of our departed in prayer, and when we light candles in their memories, we can remember them as the sinners and saints that they are. We can bring the fullness and the complexity of our griefs into our worship. We can grieve the beauty and the love we have lost, and also grieve the things that were imperfect in our relationships. And, even as we grieve, we can rejoice that the promise to all of God's saints is that we will be united again.

Pastor Serena



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, November 9th 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 November 7th. If this time is inconvenient and you have another suggested time slot, please let Howard or the church office know as well.



Growing up in the Midwest I attended Lutheran schools during my entire childhood - in fact through college. My course work always included theology classes and I was taught the most traditional Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod interpretations of the Bible, at least through high school. My King James Version was annotated with historical years in which Genesis 1 was dated B. C. 4004.

I don't continue to subscribe to every Biblical interpretation and point of view that I was taught in those years. For example, I now recognize that female pastors are not only permitted, but are a blessing from God! But one of the practices I learned that I have appreciated throughout my life is that of tithing. Having been encouraged to give 10% of one's income back toward God's work, as God's people were asked to do in the Old Testament, it became a habit of mine from the time I started earning money.

When Mary Beth and I married, while she didn't grow up with this same habit, she understood it and readily agreed to adopt this practice as well. I'll confess that we figure our tithe after taxes and medical expenses (and after retirement savings which we'll tithe when we receive in retirement). Also, we consider charitable giving as well as what we give to Abiding Peace to be part of our tithe.

The money that we give away is a reminder to us that everything we have is from God. It helps us to be more grateful and thankful for it, while knowing that we are supporting the work of our church and other important ministries.

We believe that we are blessed through it. As God has promised in Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." I cannot say that such blessings are necessarily always

Continued—Stewardship Reflections

material things, but certainly we have been blessed abundantly in many different ways, and through good times and tough times, have always had enough.

I can understand how difficult the practice of tithing can be for many people. At Abiding Peace we encourage people to consider the challenge to "grow one percent" a year, as is explained in the mailing with the pledge card that you are receiving. Please remember to bring your pledge for 2020 to church on Sunday, November 24.

If you are not tithing or moving in that direction, test it out. See if God will not throw open the floodgates and pour out blessings that overflow! Discover the difference that generosity makes in your life and in your faith.

Ray Mueller



Thrivent Members

I had a meeting with my Thrivent Associate recently and he informed me of a change I would like to share. Some Thrivent policies that were not adding to your "Thrivent Choice Dollars" are now contributing to "Thrivent Choice Dollars." I have designated my Choice Dollars to go to Abiding Peace, and I would suggest that our members consider doing that as well. The designation is only good for a year, so I would suggest that our Thrivent members take the time to make their designated selection every year.

Howard Corneilson

Continued next column

Blessing of the Animals



On Sunday, October 6th, four much loved pets were welcomed to our Blessing of the Animals Service. This year expanded to include all endangered species as well. Animal visitors sat quietly (mostly) through the service and then came forward for a prayer and blessing. Other pets and animals were represented in photographs and received the same blessing.

In attendance:

Dogs: **Chester** with Demetria and Doug Laird
Woody with the Ponce family
Rusty with Jeanne and Pat Scalora
Tess with Dee from 11th Hour Rescue

In Photos:

Dogs: **Ake and Bay** with Sandy and Tony Carlson

Cats: **Kiara** with Demetria and Doug Laird
Scooter and Pumpkin with Mary Kasakove

Horses: **Stagecoach Mary** with Robert Bowden

Take home dog and cat treats were provided. Next year we'll add sugar cubes Stagecoach Mary!



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!

Thank You Corner

Thank you to everyone who made this year's remembrance of the Reformation a fun, thoughtful, and community-building time. For the members who participated in our dramatic proclamation sermon, everyone who dressed up, the bakers, food preparers, crafters, and participants (and – of course – a huge thank you to our Organizer Extraordinaire, Sibylle). It was a wonderful reminder of how God works through our community to continually re-form us!

~ Pastor Serena

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Reformation Service and Fair. ~ Sibylle

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 Nov. 21st.

"Unfinished Object" Night November 11 * 7:30 pm



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night 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.



Faith Kitchen Shopping List for November 5

Meatballs and Gravy

- ~ 1 (38.4 oz/96 count) package of cocktail meatballs
- ~ 1 (28 oz) bottle of barbeque sauce
- ~ 2 large onions
- ~ 2 large peppers
- ~ 1 large can of pineapple chunks

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, November 3rd.

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

November Birthdays

10 Don Larsen
14 Mike Schroeder
20 Ben Schroeder
21 Vanessa Ponce

November Anniversaries

3 Mary & Gene Kasakove
22 Roy & Carmelina Persson



Food Pantry Needs

Bread
Hot Dog Buns
Hot Dogs
Parmalat Milk

Thank You!

sunday Scripture

November 3

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 10

Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,
13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 17

Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



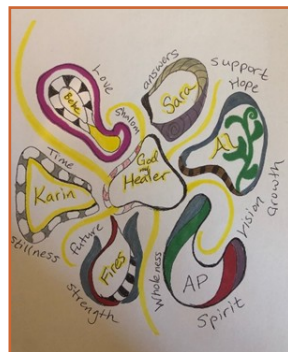
Building New Spiritual Practices— The Art of Prayer

Did you know that you can pray without words? When we pray in worship it generally means either words or silence (or singing – singing can be prayer too). But prayer can be practiced in ways that tap into other parts of our minds and bodies, and these practices can be really helpful, especially for folks who struggle to focus in personal prayer. Art can be a really powerful way to connect with God, and not just for super artistic people. Anyone with paper and a few colored pens or pencils can color as an act of prayer. Seriously!

“Praying in Color” is a book and website (www.prayingincolor.com) by the Macbeths, Sybil (a dancer and former teacher) & Andy (an episcopal priest), which teaches a creative way to focus mind and body on prayer in an innovative way: by using pen and paper not for journaling, but for doodling! Not random doodling, of course. The practice of praying in color uses the physical discipline of intentional doodles to focus the mind on what we want to pray about. It could be a person we want to pray for, or an attribute of God we want to contemplate, or a personal growth goal that we want God’s help to cultivate. Whatever our prayer need, doodling the prayer helps our mind to explore the prayer in company with God while our bodies join in the attention too.

If you are having a hard time imagining what this might look like, here’s a picture of a prayer doodle I made this week.

Clearly, you don’t need great artistic talent to engage in this spiritual practice. And I have been amazed how much easier it is to keep my mind engaged in prayer when my hands are guiding the conversation! I encourage you to check out the website (www.prayingincolor.com) and give it a try. We’ll also have a chance to explore praying in color at our first ever Abiding Peace Advent Retreat following worship on Dec. 1!



Pastor Serena’s November Schedule

Week of October 28—November 3

- Wednesday, Oct 30: 10:30am-9:00pm
- Sunday, Nov 3: 8:30am-4:00pm

Week of Nov 4-Nov10

- Tuesday, Nov 5: 10:30am-8:30pm
- (1/2 week vacation)

Week of Nov 11-Nov17

- Wednesday, Nov 13: 9:00am-8:00pm (off-site 9:00-4:00 for Bishop’s Ministerium Day)
- Thursday, Nov 14: 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Sunday, Nov 17: 9:00am-1:00pm

Week of Nov 19-Nov 24

- Wednesday, Nov 20: 10:30am-8:30pm
- Sunday, Nov. 24: 9:00am-3:00pm

Week of Nov 25-Dec 1

- Monday, Nov 25: 10:30am -9:30pm
- Sunday, Dec 1: 8:30am – 3:00pm

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

- Nov. 17—How Can We Talk About Race?
- Nov. 24—**Reading the Whole Gospel: Matthew**
- Dec. 1—**Advent Retreat on Spiritual Practices**
- (Date TBD) – **Prayer Partners Cookie Exchange**

* * *

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

Seniors Meeting: Halloween Party

Great Senior Halloween Party. A good time was had by all!



Senior Meeting Schedule 2019

November 21 (Thur.) Christmas Party

This schedule is open to changes.

Mid-Week Studies/Services (Wednesdays @ 6:45 pm)

- **Fall Mid-week series: Women in the Bible**
 - ~ Nov 6 – **Rachel, Lea, Bilhah, Zilpah**
 - ~ (Nov 13 – no Bible study)
 - ~ Nov 20 – **Miriam**
- **Taize Prayer Services**
 - ~ Nov 13
- **Mid-week Advent Services**
 - ~ Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 18



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, Danise Page, Daniel Bauer, 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 Barrett and Miklos families

November

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

NOVEMBER	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
3	Carol Biunno	Cindy Pawlo	Joe Barrett	Mary Kasakove	~ Doug Laird ~ Maria Jerez-Kearney	Jeanne Scalora
10	Howard Corneilson	Pat Scalora	Ray Mueller	Doug Laird	~ Christina Belfiore ~ George Pawlo	Alexis Sweeney
17	Pat Scalora	Alexis Sweeney	Roy Persson	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Cindy Pawlo	Sue Stirrat
24	Ken Schwier	Doug Laird	Alaina Rice	Alexis Sweeney	~ Howard Corneilson ~ Joe Barrett	Jeanne Scalora

COUNTERS: **3:** Nancy Ayotte **10:** George Pawlo **17:** Howard Corneilson **24:** Nita Persson

ALTAR GUILD: Sandy Carlson

BREAD BAKING: Pastor Serena

NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	2 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
3 ALL SAINTS DAY 8:45 am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Brave Space Interfaith Gathering	4	5 9:00 am Faith Kitchen 6:45 pm Women in the Bible: Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah	6 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	9 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
10 22ND SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	11 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	12	13 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Taize at APLC 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 7:15 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	15 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	16 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
17 23RDSUNDAY/ PENTECOST 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am How Do We Talk About Race	18	19	20 4:00 pm Taize Service at Mt. Olive Manor 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Women in the Bible: Miriam 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2:00 pm Seniors Meeting: Christmas Party	22 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	23 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
24 CHRIST THE KING 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Reading the Entire Gospel of Matthew	25 7:30 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	26	27 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	30 8:00 pm NA Mtg.