

VIEW from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Resolving for Others

As the New Year approaches, plenty of people, TV shows, gyms, and ad campaigns start to talk about New Year's resolutions. There are both cultural and scientific reasons for this focus. Transitions are a time that we are psychologically primed for change. It makes sense to set goals at the start of a new year and use the momentum of the transition to give us an extra push.

But have you ever stopped to realize how most typical "New Year's resolutions" are focused on ourselves? We want to eat healthier, or exercise more, or watch less TV, or read more books, or learn a new skill, or do something differently that will make our lives better. None of those things are bad goals, but they can have a tendency to turn us in on ourselves.

How would it be if instead we made resolutions to turn us outward toward others? What if we made resolutions to listen more to others? What if we made resolutions to get to know the needs of our neighbors, or our community? What if we made resolutions to give more, or volunteer more, or love more? Could we resolve to try to make the world better, instead of just trying to make our lives better?

In their collaborative reflection chronicled in *The Book of Joy*, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama repeatedly return to the theme that joy cannot be produced by trying to be more joyful. We cannot make our own lives better by devoting our efforts to cultivating joy. Joy is always the by-product of a life that is lived in deep connection to others, a life that is oriented toward bringing joy to others. In the same way, effort to make our own lives better are likely to be frustrated if we stop there. In practice, our own lives will be better – more whole, more satisfied, more full of joy – when we look beyond ourselves and seek to make the world better for others.

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January, 2020

February Newsletter Deadline
January 16, 2020

Worship: 10:00 am

**Congregational
Meeting**



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**
January 26
11:00 am

**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	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

And this is the gospel of Jesus Christ isn't it? This is the story of the one who *"though being in very nature God did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross."* (Philippians 2:6-8) This is the story that has changed our lives, and it is the way we are called to follow. The way of seeking not our own interests, but seeking how we can meet the needs of the world around us.

So, as we consider our New Year's resolutions, let's resolve to serve. It might just be the most joy-giving resolution we have ever made.

Pastor Serena

Thrivent Members

It is a new year and every little bit helps. If you have not designated your "Thrivent Choice Dollars" now is the time to designate your 2019 amount. Note that 2019 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2020. Also, Thrivent requires members to make a designation every year or the money just disappears (actually, it goes to other charitable organizations).

If you have a Thrivent online account, log in. Select the "My THRIVENT" drop down menu and choose "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars." There you can select the organization to receive your "Choice" money. If you have not previously directed your Choice Dollars, put the name of your organization (I suggest you select Abiding Peace) in the "keyword" block, hit the "search" button and select the choice you want.

If you do not have a login, you can call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and I am sure they will be able to help you.

Howard Corneilson





At the end of January our congregation will be voting on our plans for ministry for the coming year, including both open slots on our Council and our annual operating budget. The Council slots should be an easy vote. We have already identified candidates with energy, vision, and commitment to this community. The budget vote may be a bit harder. Given the gap we are facing at the close of the 2019 ministry year, we are likely to be facing some really tough decisions, including cuts that we don't want to have to make.

Our first instinct in anticipation of this kind of conversation is probably fear. *What will we have to give up? What if the thing that matters most to me is threatened? Will there be disagreements or anger? Will there be shame?*

I won't pretend that I don't get anxious when I look at our budget numbers each month. I'm as human as all of you, and I don't want our ministries to suffer, or our community to be strained by our current challenge. But my pastoral word for ALL of us as we prepare for the budget conversation is this:

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
2 Tim. 1:7

Fear or anxiety may be our first instinct, but it does not have to control us. We can see this challenge as a threat, or we can remind ourselves that it is instead an opportunity to think deeply together about what God is calling us to do, in this time and in this place. In that process of thinking, the spirit that God HAS given us can be our guide:

- We have POWER, not because we are in ourselves supremely capable, but because we trust in God's power and God's design for this congregation.
- We have LOVE, and it is our love for God, for each other, and for the world that God sends us to serve that drives our work, rather than a self-protective desire to meet our own needs.

Continued next column

Continued from previous column—Stewardship Reflections

- We have SOUND MIND, because we can practice discernment together in community. We have a clearly articulated mission that allows us to assess what we need to do the work to which we are called, and to let go of things that are not central to this mission.

I'm not promising that our budget discernment this month will be easy. But we don't have to be afraid. We have not been given a spirit of fear.

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, January 11th 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 January 9th. If this time is inconvenient and you have another suggested time slot, please let Howard or the church office know as well.

Unfinished Object Night January 20 * 7:30 pm



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night At 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.

Thank You Corner

Thank you to the congregation for all the food that was donated for the Christmas food baskets. We had hoped for 10 baskets and ended up with 12 which is wonderful. Susan, who picked up the food told me that she hands our baskets out to the bigger families because there is so much food. She was very thankful.
~ Sibylle Schroeder

Thank you members of Abiding Peace for all of the generous end-of-year gifts. They are truly appreciated and serve as a reminder of how wonderful you all are. It has been a constant pleasure working at this church.
~ Christine Strobel

Thank you to all the wonderful folks who have sent me beautiful and inspiring Christmas cards. They are currently decorating my china hutch, and they give me joy each time I walk past. They are each a reminder of the joy of Christ, and of how lucky I am to serve such a loving congregation. ~ 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 Jan. 16th.

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 you!

Please clip this article and keep it handy!



Faith Kitchen Shopping List for January 7

For Faith Kitchen in January, I'm looking for several hams. Please talk to me if you are able to donate a spiral ham. We will need about 3 since I picked up some from the Thrivent money we had.

Thank you,

Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry

Sunday Scripture

January 5

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

January 19

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-19
John 1:29-42

January 12

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 26

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23



Food Pantry Needs

Bread
Hot Dog Buns
Hot Dogs
Parmalat Milk
Peanut Butter
Jelly

Thank You!

Listening and Sharing

When was the last time you got to hear someone else's spiritual story? Maybe it was recent... maybe you connected with someone at the Advent retreat in December while making prayer beads or learning about contemplative prayer and were inspired by their sharing. Maybe you are blessed with family or friends who open up with you about God's work in their lives. There are many ways that we can potentially hear each other's story – whether through intentional listening or happenstance. And when we do, what a gift it is. When we hear someone else's story about God moving in their lives, it can soften and open our hearts to recognize God's presence more easily ourselves.

If you haven't had that opportunity, perhaps you would like to. Perhaps the idea sparks a yearning for you, but you aren't sure what to do with that desire. How do you ask someone for their spiritual story?! Well, it just so happens that the Leadership for Faithful Innovation program that our church is participating in has some tools to offer us: 4 questions that can create the space to listen to and learn from each other. Here are the questions:

- Think of a time when you would say you grew spiritually in a significant way. Describe what was happening in that period of your life.
- What was it about this time of your life that you think caused you to grow spiritually?
- Was there something during this time in your life that you think God was trying to teach you or show you?
- Where do you experience God's presence most often now? (i.e. in worship, in nature, in conversation with friends/family, in prayer, in Bible study, at yoga, etc.)

These questions don't have to be the end of the conversation, but maybe they can be the start of one. Maybe these questions can give you something new to talk about, and a chance to learn a new side of people in your life. And, maybe, these are questions that you might want to think about yourself.

Continued next column

Continued from previous column—Listening and Sharing

If you want space for these kinds of conversations in your life but you're not sure how to start, the guiding team would love to hear your stories. Just reach out to me or one of the other guiding team members (Jackie King, Sibylle Schroeder, Heather Nilsen, Robert Bowden, Ken Schweir, and Ben Schroeder). There is no wrong answer to these questions. They are just a chance to learn, and grow, and connect in a new way. Whether or not you've ever really thought about it, I bet you have a story to tell! –

Pastor Serena

January Birthdays

- 7 Kevin Persson
- 10 Robert Bowden
- 11 Gene Kasakove
- 14 Judy Jacob
- 16 Sarah Laird
- 17 Barbara Prosser
- 18 Brittanie Scalora
- 19 Gerry Ayotte
- 21 George Pawlo
- 23 Jeffrey Kamin
- 29 Christina Belfiore

January Anniversaries

- 11 Sudhakar & Alice Kandikatla

Pastor Serena's January Schedule

Week of December 30—January 5

- Thursday, Jan. 2: 10:00 am—8:00 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 5: 8:30 am—1:30 pm

Week of January 6—12

- Wednesday, Jan. 8: 10:30 am—8:00 pm
- Thursday, Jan. 9: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 12: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of January 13—19

- Wednesday, Jan. 15: 10:30 am—8:00 pm
- Friday, Jan. 17: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 19: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Week of January 20—26

- Friday, Jan. 24: 10:00 am—5:30 pm (off-site training)
- Saturday, Jan. 25: 10:00 am—4:00 pm (off-site training)
- Sunday, Jan. 26: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of January 27—February 2

- Friday, Jan. 31: 6:00 pm—8:00 pm
- Sunday, Feb. 2: 8:30 am—1:30 pm



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, Mary Kathryn Laird, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, April Inglin, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, 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, Pat & Jeanne Scalora, Vivian & Vic Skaar, Robert Buckley, The Canon family, Howard Gentler, Susan Nigra, Cindy Behler

Those in mourning: The Ingle and Maslow families, the LeFave family

For Unto us a Child is Born



Happy Christmas

JANUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

JANUARY	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
5	Howard Corneilson	Doug Laird	Karen Coates	Joe Barrett	~ Howard Corneilson ~ Maria Kearney	None
12	Pat Scalora	Cindy Pawlo	Demetria Laird	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Cindy Pawlo	Joe Barrett
19	Ken Schwier	Pat Scalora	Ray Mueller	Mary Kasakove	~ Cindy Pawlo ~ George Pawlo	Sheeba David
26 Congregational Meeting	Carol Biunno	Doug Laird	Roy Persson	Ray Mueller	~ Christina Belfiore ~ Sibylle Schroeder	Sue Stirrat

COUNTERS: **5:** Nita Persson **12:** George Pawlo **19:** Howard Corneilson **26:** Nancy Ayotte

ALTAR GUILD: TBD

BREAD BAKING: Demetria Laird

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Office Closed 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	2	3 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	4 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
5 2ND SUNDAY/ CHRISTMAS 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	6	7 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	8 6:45 pm Women in the Bible: Deborah and Jael 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7:15 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	10 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	11 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School	13	14	15 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 6:45 pm Open Space 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	18 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
19 2ND SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	20 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	21	22 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	25 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
26 3RD SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Congregational Meeting 11:15 am Sunday School	27	28	29 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	