

# VIEW

## from the lake

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



From the Vicar

Missional Ministry

March, 2018

April Newsletter Deadline  
March 15, 2018

Worship: 10:00 am



**Daylight Savings**  
**Time Begins**  
**March 11**  
**Turn clocks ahead**

For hospitalization or other  
pastoral care needs, please call  
Vicar Serena at 908-458-3940

### OUR MISSION & PURPOSE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming everyone to a safe place to grow in faith and community 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)

Last month I shared a three-part description of *missional leadership* drawn from the ELCA candidacy process: missional leaders (and congregations) are “**prepared** for ministry in light of **God’s mission** for *the sake of the world*.” This description offers a challenge to our community to think carefully about the goal underlying all of the many things we spend our time and resources doing. In other words, how does our work connect to our mission? In my February article I reflected on the *preparation* part of this understanding. This month, I want to talk about the *ministry* part.

In church-speak, “ministry” can be a catch-all phrase for any and all activities of the church. We have fellowship ministries, music ministries, dance ministries, social ministries, and education ministries. All of these things are wonderful and genuine areas of ministry, but the habits of language can make the word ministry sound like a synonym for “department,” and this can give the impression that church is all about programs. In contrast, the New Testament word for ministry is *diakonia*. *Diakonia* also means service. It is not about organizational functioning or program areas, it is about reaching toward needs.

What is more, missional ministry remembers that our work, our service, gets its meaning from God’s mission. Church is more than a community of like-minded people; it is a community formed by God to share together in God’s work. As a missional church, everything we do should flow from and serve our understanding of how we are called to be God’s hands, feet, voices, and heart in the world. Programs are all well and good, but that’s not what church is about. We are about mission and ministry.

Vicar Serena

## ***COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS***

### **Officers**

President	Heather Nilsen
Vice President	Robert Bowden
Secretary	Howard Corneilson
Treasurer	Nancy Ayotte

### **Council Members**

Gerry Ayotte	Ray Mueller
Nancy Ayotte	Heather Nilsen
Robert Bowden	George Pawlo
Howard Corneilson	Sibylle Schroeder
Doug Laird	

### **Ministry Leaders**

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	Karen Coates
Evangelism	Ed Sekula
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	Nancy Ayotte
Financial Secretary	Nita Persson
Messengers Dancers	Mary Kasakove
Intern Committee	Shelli Skeels
Property	<i>Vacant</i>
Social Ministry	Sibylle Schroeder
Seniors	Sibylle Schroeder
Stewardship	Ray Mueller
Worship & Music	Mary Kasakove

## ***OUR STAFF***

### **Vicar:**

Serena Rice  
Cell: 908-458-3940

### **Music Director:**

Ben Schroeder  
benmschroeder@gmail.com

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Christine Strobel  
office@abidingpeacechurch.org  
**Monday-Friday: 9:00 am—12:00 Noon**

## **Vicar Serena's March Schedule**

Week of February 26 - March 4:

- Tues. Feb. 27, 9:00-2:30 (off-site)
- Wed., Feb. 28, 10:30-9:00
- Sun., Mar. 4, 8:30 - 2:00

Week of March 5 - March 11:

- Wed., Mar. 7, 10:30-8:00
- Thurs., Mar. 8, 7:00-9:30
- Sun., Mar. 11, 9:00-1:00

Week of March 12 - March 18:

- Wed., Mar 14, 10:30-9:00
- Sun., Mar. 18, 9:00-1:00

Week of March 19 - March 25

- Wed., Mar. 21, 10:30-9:00
- Sun., Mar. 25, 9:00 - 2:00

Week of March 24 - April 1:

- Thurs., Mar. 29, 10:30 - 9:00
- Fri., Mar. 30, 6:00 - 9:00
- Sat., Mar. 31, 6:00-9:00
- Sun., Apr. 1, 8:30 - 1:30

## **"Unfinished Object" Night March 19 \* 7:30 pm**



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night at 7:30 pm. Come out and bring your Easter projects or anything else, or just come to hang out. For information and to make sure it's on - call Sibylle at 973-691-1910.



Have you remembered your Prayer Partner lately? Pray for her daily, send a card or leave a small gift now and then. If you do not know her, this is a great opportunity to meet and learn about someone new, or just to bond a little more with someone you already know. Make sure to have fun.

## Lent Happenings



### LENTEN WORSHIP AND SOUP SUPPERS

Abiding Peace's annual Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers continue on Wednesday until March 21. Each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. members and friends join together for an informal soup supper. Please sign up to bring your favorite soup recipes on the bulletin board in the narthex. A brief Lenten service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to make these meaningful gatherings a part of your Lenten discipline.

Commit yourself to Walk the entire  
Path with Jesus

#### Maundy Thursday, March 29 \* 7:30 pm

Onward in His footsteps treading.  
Come together at 6:30 pm for a traditional  
Passover Seder as Jesus and his followers would  
have observed it. Gather in the sanctuary for the  
foot washing and stripping of the altar.

#### Good Friday, March 30 \* 7:30 pm

Let us ever die with Jesus.  
Come hear a dramatic reading from the Passion ac-  
cording to St. Mark. Follow Jesus to  
Golgotha. See his ultimate  
sacrifice for our sins.

#### Easter Vigil, March 31 \* 7:30 pm

Let us ever live with Jesus.  
Light the Easter Fire and return it to the  
sanctuary to begin the Easter Feast.



### Adult Education

#### I've Always Wanted to Know...

We always learn more when we are interested in the topics we are learning about. That's why members at Abiding Peace are encouraged to help with the planning of our adult education offerings. This year, we are taking another step and asking you to nominate specific topics for three of our education series. Check out the kinds of studies we are planning to do, then make your nominations on the lists posted on the sign-up board outside the church office:

- **Hymns** (April/May) Is there a classic hymn that has always made you question, "I wonder what the back story is"? Check out the list of 28 (mostly) common hymns on the sign-up board and see if it is listed. If it is, cast your "vote" and we can learn about it. If it's not, see if any others catch your eye. We will be doing a few **adult forum** sessions using the resource *Hymns To Sing Before You Die* to learn about the history of the hymns we love to sing.
- **"Problem" Texts** (April) You can love the Bible and also find parts of it confusing, frustrating, or down-right alarming! When we have those reactions to something we read in scripture, we might be tempted to turn away, but those reactions can be a great invitation to lean in. The Bible is not an instruction manual that you can skim and understand without much thought. We have to struggle and question and explore its complexities. So, what stories or passages do you want to explore?
- **Parables** (May/September) We had a great time studying a number of the parables of Jesus last year, but there are so many we did not get to study. Check out the list posted on the sign-up board or nominate another that you think might be interesting. We will be diving into these fascinating stories for our **mid-week study** before and after the Summer break.

### Assistants Needed

Adding an additional communion assistant has helped the serving of Holy Communion run smoothly but it also means that another person is required. Please consider volunteering for this simple duty. There is no formal reading required. The communion assistant simply helps serve the wine, either with the pouring chalice or common cup. The only speaking required is the simple message "The blood of Christ shed for you".

If you would like to be a Communion Assistant please contact Christine Strobel in the church office so that she can put you on the schedule, which will be sent to you each month. If you have any questions, please speak to Vicar Serena or Mary Kasakove.

COME SERVE  
WITH US

### Thank You Corner

Thank you to Demetria for being our consistent organizer of all things Fellowship! From Shrove Tuesday, to Chili cook-off, to Lenten Soup Suppers, February was a busy month for organizing activities. And all that time together is part of what makes this community so special. We are all a part of being a warm and welcoming community, but special thanks to Demetria for keeping all these great times together on our calendars (and making sure we always have enough food).

*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 March 15.*



### Sunday School Schedule For 2018

3/11  
3/25

**This is a gentle reminder that if you have forgotten to submit payments to cover altar flowers or subscriptions for Living Lutheran Magazine, you can submit at any time.**

**Thank you.**



### Faith Kitchen Shopping List for March 6 Kielbasa and Sauerkraut

- ~ 3 rings Kielbasa
- ~ 2 large bags of Sauerkraut
- ~ 4 large cans of whole potatoes

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, March 4th.

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



**March 10 \* 9:00 am**

Church Family Breakfast will be held on the second Saturday of each month.

Following the breakfast will be a short Bible study based on the readings for Sunday. The readings are: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

Bring a friend or neighbor. Enjoy fellowship and reflection before your start your busy Saturday chores!

### General Budget Financial Summary

	January	Y-T-D
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$11,495</b>	<b>\$ 11,495</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,078</b>	<b>\$ 9,078</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,524</b>	<b>\$ 10,524</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(1,446)</b>	<b>\$ (1,446)</b>
<b>Current deficit as of 1/31</b>		<b>\$ (11,634)</b>

The chart above reflects giving and spending for all budgeted items. Designated (pass through) giving and spending is not included.

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

**Please clip this article and keep it handy!**

## Sunday Scripture

### March 4

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

### March 18

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

### March 11

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

### March 25

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 15:1-47



### Food Pantry Needs

**Bread**  
**Vegetables**  
**Tomato Sauce**  
**Pasta**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Jelly**  
**Parmalat Milk**

**Social Ministry is asking each of you to fill a bag with the above items so we can have a full food pantry. Thanks!**





## March Birthdays

7 Sudhakar Kandikatla  
8 Sibylle Schroeder  
11 Marco Ponce, Jr.  
11 Tyler Rice  
14 Serena Rice  
15 Christine Blackburne  
19 Carolyn Blackburne  
28 Karen Coates



## Our Boiler and Our Stewardship

Thanks to you, fellow members and friends of Abiding Peace, our new boiler is nearly paid for. And it hasn't even completed its first winter of use.

The increasing flames of our campaign poster show us meeting this sudden, serious, significant monetary need. We are now nearing our \$7,500 goal! Together with \$6,000 set aside earlier for unexpected needs, we have made the final boiler payment.

This is a great example of stewardship, both as a congregation and as individuals.

Our Council has been a good steward of the resources of our congregation by setting the goal of funding this need without indebtedness. Because we didn't need to finance it over time (and thanks to George's negotiating), we received a \$1,500 discount. That's good stewardship!

But even more, as individuals, we have stepped up to achieve this goal with generosity and love. How else to explain such giving? Can you think of anything less exciting than the replacement of a fuel oil furnace? It's just maintenance. It had to be done somehow. We know we weren't moved by the excitement of what would result from a successful campaign.

Rather, it affirms Vicar Serena's words in last month's newsletter, that stewardship is about "knowing that we are called to be part of God's work in the world, and finding joy in that opportunity." Even when it means giving for something as mundane as replacing a broken-down appliance. That was a God-given opportunity, and an occasion for joy!



## SNOW CLOSINGS

**During the winter it sometimes becomes necessary to cancel the worship service. If there is inclement weather headed our way please call the church at 973-691-9393. If worship has been cancelled there will be a message stating so. Thank you!**

## Senior Meeting Schedule 2018

The Senior Planning Meeting/Tea Party will be held on Wednesday, March 14 beginning at 2:00 pm. Vicar Serena will be joining us and we will celebrate her birthday. Please come and join us!

All are welcome.

## Spring Is About To Be Sprung

Days are getting longer, birds are singing, which means it's time to start thinking about our garden. We had a very successful growing season last year and the residents at Mount Olive Manor were so grateful for the 220 lbs. of vegetables we were able to donate. Our plan is to exceed that amount this year!

**How will we do that?** We will be extending our garden in the spot volunteers cleared last year which should add at least 200 square feet of growing space. We'll also be doing a lot of succession planting, starting with cooler weather varieties in late March/early April, to keep a steady supply of veggies coming in.

**How can you help?** Volunteers are always welcome for planting, weeding and watering the vegetable garden as well as our seasonal ornamental plantings. We'll also need help with construction of the new garden. No previous gardening experience needed! We have a lot of seasoned gardeners to offer guidance. Once veggies are ready to harvest, we'll need help picking, bagging and dropping off to Mount Olive Manor.

**Don't want to get your hands dirty?** Contribute to our compost pile (located to the right of our garden behind the church). You'll reduce what goes into landfills, naturally fertilize the garden and our worms will thank you.

### OK to compost:

- ♦ Raw veggie scraps
- ♦ Coffee grounds
- ♦ Eggshells
- ♦ Shredded newspaper - black print only
- ♦ Grass clippings - not treated with any type of weed and feed or pesticides
- ♦ Shredded leaves
- ♦ Pet fur
- ♦ Horse and cow manure if you have access to it. Please confirm with owners that their animals are not given antibiotics and graze on grass not treated with pesticides or weed killer.

Please reach out to me or Pat Scalora if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

And as William Shakespeare said, "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

Happy gardening!  
Alexis Sweeney





## The Journey Down

by Vicar Serena

(shared by Vicar Serena at the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service)

Our language casts a not-so-subtle shadow on the things **below**:

words communicate inferiority –  
base, low, depressed, beneath.

To **lower** our standards is to degrade ourselves;  
and we look **down** on those who do not take the higher road.

The **underworld** is said to be the haunt of demons, and the damned,  
a hell where all the good and living fear to tread.

Patterns of **word** and **symbol** cause us to **fear the depths**,  
the deep, dark places of the earth, or sea... or soul.

So, we **resist** the downward path,

we see descent as loss,  
of status, place, esteem, or vista.

We are afraid of  
sliding on the slope,  
losing control, careening  
down, a one-way road that  
leads to our destruction, the  
fateful wrong direction, a final... **fall**.

Instead, we're seeking always to **ascend**.

To **rise** above  
detractors, circumstances, or the competition,  
to climb the ladder,  
scale to the heights,  
to be always, only at the top,  
to be the ones looked up to,  
rising above all who are trapped below our penthouse view.



*Continued from page 8—The Journey Down*

Or else, we long to climb the mountaintop.

To reach the heights of **self-actualization**,  
and, thus, **transcend** the earthly cares and sorrows  
that so often make a **trap**  
of life lived in the shadowlands.

We want our souls to rise  
Like incense in a heavenly curl  
And find release from bodily weight  
That drags... us... down.

Down to the depths,  
where we fear being **broken**.

I know this fear and longing – both – that pull us - always - UP.

But I would like to make a case for the journey DOWN.

To travel toward the depths must **not** always be  
an uncontrolled and tumbling plunge.

There is a **stronger** way to walk the downward road,  
a balanced tread that knows the truth of gravity's strong pull,  
and **leverages** it to help in the descent,  
while holding to a tight-held core of **trust**  
in deepest bedrock  
and the slow, deliberate step.

This careful, measured movement takes the time  
to understand the **lessons in each footfall**.

The journey down gives chance to travel **through** –  
to mine the layers of experience and pain  
that built the canyon walls;  
to **comprehend** the many-hued **foundations** that support the giddy heights,  
hiding shadowed beauty below the elevated surface.

The air is **richer** in the depths,  
heavy with the **promise** of the canyon-carving waters.  
The cool, clean mist offering a rest of **slow, deep breaths**,  
restoring spirit in the gentle stillness **free of striving**.

And **eyes** that grow accustomed to the dimmer light

*Continued on page 10*

*Continued from page 9—The Journey Down*

can see the details of life in the **immediate** and **near**,  
with sight no longer pulled away by distant vista,  
the overwhelming sky diminished to a hot, bright sliver  
far away above the canyon walls.

This **down-drawn vision** is limited, but it is **real**,  
and trains the eyes in noticing what's just beneath our feet:

A **solid foundation**. A place to be and know yourself,  
in the bare truth that is revealed  
only at **rock bottom**,  
all pretense stripped away  
by the honesty of sitting on the ground,  
in the dirt,  
and knowing you are **dust**,  
and to dust you will **return**.

It is into the depths that **God** came down,  
**Emptying** God's glory into our frail and lowly human flesh.  
and making it **beloved**,  
despite... in fact because, God suffered death,  
descending to the deepest pit of hell.  
To **rise** again

The journey down is **not about the destination** in the end.

It is about the **letting go**,  
not of our strength, our core of self, but **of the need to be above**.

It is about the wisdom learned by walking **toward** that which we have been taught to **fear**,  
and finding there a **freedom from performance**.

And learning, too, that such honesty is love,  
and this true **love**, when braided together with **faith** and **hope**,  
can become the rope to which we hold

as we begin, again, to **climb**.

# MARCH

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

MARCH	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
<b>4</b>	Doug Laird	Ken Schwier	Thom Coates	Maria Jerez-Kearney	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Mary Kasakove	None
<b>11</b>	Alexis Sweeney	Pat Scalora	Demetria Laird	Mary Kasakove	~ Maria Jerez-Kearney ~ Doug Laird	None
<b>18</b>	Doug Laird	Cindy Pawlo	Linda Venator	Barbara Prosser	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Pat Scalora	None
<b>25</b>	Howard Corneilson	Alexis Sweeney	Roy Persson	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Christina Schroeder ~ Cindy Pawlo	None

**COUNTERS:** 4: Howard Corneilson 11: Nancy Ayotte 18: George Pawlo 25: Howard Corneilson  
**ALTAR GUILD:** TBD



Keep These Friends in Your  
Heart & Prayers

**Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers:** Those who are sick or in need: Richard Biunno, Sue Schwier, Susan Jacob, Judy Jacob, Sue Corneilson, Ed Sekula, Cecilia A. Bowe, Rev. Edward N. Corneilson, Amy Super, Susan Ansari, Margie (Lynn Peterson's Aunt), Dale (Lynn Peterson's aunt), Kevin Kieran, Howard Corneilson, Nancy Doyle, Eli Blahut, Bill von Minden, Jennifer and Hunter Koscheff, Kim Prentiss, David Steitiz, Evan Geutler, Laura Dennis, Doug Laird, St. James Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg, NJ, the residents and staff of Mt. Olive Manor, Ray & Rose (Jeanne Scalora's brother and sister-in-law), Audrey Gregg, Diane Salje, the Nelkirk family, Bill Price, Rob Heller, Lloyd Yabsley, Diana Arroyo Perez, Gertrude Price, April Inglin, Kathleen Mazzagati, O. Kelley Anderson and family, Jeff Kamin, Mia Kissil Hewitt, Dominick Gattone

Those in mourning: The Peterson family, the Halecky family, the Gallo family

# MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>3</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>4</b> <b>3RD SUNDAY/ LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Adult Forum: Finding the Faces of Christ	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Mid-week Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	<b>9</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>11</b> <b>4TH SUNDAY/ LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Forum: Finding the Faces of Christ	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2:00 pm Seniors Planning Meeting 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Mid-week Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>17</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>18</b> <b>5TH SUNDAY/ LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Adult Forum: Finding the Faces of Christ	<b>19</b> 7:30 pm UFO Night	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Mid-week Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>24</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>25</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Forum: Understanding Maundy Thursday/Passover/Last Supper (video)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Passover Seder 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>30</b> 7:30 pm Good Friday Service 8:00 pm NA Mtg. Office Closed	<b>31</b> 7:30 pm Easter Vigil 8:00 pm NA Mtg.