



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

The Call to Co-Creation

I started thinking about the phrase “the call to co-creation” a few months ago, when I was introduced to the new Advent hymn that we will be using in our mid-week worship services this Advent. At first, the phrase struck me as strange as a theme for an Advent hymn. Isn’t Advent supposed to be about waiting? Aren’t we supposed to resist the urge to rush ahead into doing, and instead practice the discipline of expectation? Advent is a season to pause and re-center, not to engage in new imagination and action. Two thoughts have convinced me that, despite my own expectations about Advent, “co-creation” is actually the perfect theme for our Advent practice this year.

The first is the reality that we have had far too much of “waiting” this year. The pandemic has forced us to press pause on so many aspects of our lives, and such a long pause can by atrophying to the spirit. We need to stay connected to our purpose. We need to remember that not everything is on hold. We may not be able to gather for worship, or participate in our usual festive get-togethers, or even leave our houses without waves of anxiety pressing in on us... but God is not on pause. We are still called to be God’s body in the world. We are still called to do the work of loving our neighbor as ourselves, in whatever way they most need our love. We don’t need a passive Advent this year. We need to hear the call of how much there is for us to do.

The second realization was about the purpose of the Advent call to wait and to anticipate. We do not pause for the sake of pausing. We pause so that we can be reoriented, so that we can hear the good news about the way that God wants to enter the world, rather than rushing forward with our own ideas about what needs to be done. In a way, this year has been a long season of Advent for us. We have lost access to at least some of the habitual routines of our faith, and we have had to slow down and listen for

December, 2020

**January Newsletter Deadline
December 22, 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

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COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Barbara Prosser
	Paul Otu Winner
Treasurer	George Pawlo

Council Members

Sandy Carlson	Cindy Pawlo
Howard Corneilson	Barbara Prosser
Ray Mueller	Sibylle Schroeder
Heather Nilsen	Nick Senior

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	<i>Vacant</i>
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

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

God's guidance. We have been painfully reminded that we do not set the agenda. And we have been beautifully encouraged with the way that God can lead us into healing and purpose whatever the circumstances.

So, after all these reflections, I do think that this Advent we are being called into co-creation. Co-creation is, by definition, a collaborative work. It is a calling to partner with what God is doing in the world as active participants who also know we cannot create anything on our own. Advent is the season that most clearly expresses our life on earth, living in the anticipation of what has not yet come to pass. So, let's fully live in that anticipation. Let's engage in the co-creative work of bringing God's kingdom to earth in every small and big way that we can. We won't finish the work this Advent, but we can certainly take part.

Pastor Serena



Faith Kitchen Shopping for December 1

Bagged Lunch

~ 2 Loaves Multi-grain Bread
~ 2 lbs. Salami

Items need to be at church no later than Sunday, November 29, Please contact me at 973-691-1910 if you can provide food or help assemble the sandwich bags.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder



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.

Wreathes, And Readings, And Carols, Oh My!

Liturgy literally means “the work of the people.” That means that our worship depends on the participation of our community to come alive. While we are so very grateful that technology allows us to still have worship while staying safe, worship is so much better when many members of the community are contributing.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas provide lots of special ways for people to contribute recorded elements for our service. In addition to the regular readings and prayers that we include from our community each week, we also need folks to record special festive elements for our Advent and Christmas services, including:

- Advent wreath lighting videos: We will provide the reading – you provide the wreath (but it doesn’t have to be fancy – 4 birthday candles in a green-frosted cupcake would work). Simply record the reading from your home, including lighting your advent wreath!
- Lessons for Lessons & Carols: We always need readers for Lessons and Carols, but this year you can do the reading from the comfort of your own home. Even better – you can share the joy of Christmas in your home with the whole church. Record the video of your reading by your Christmas tree or nativity scene.
- Songs & Carols: We are going to need lots of singers for the holiday season: extra Advent music, Christmas Carols and Choral anthems, etc. If you’ve ever thought about sharing your voice with the church, now is the time!
- And more.... Keep your eyes open for e-mails about a Christmas play for the Lord’s Players, special elements of the Christmas Eve service, and maybe other ideas too. Let’s share our holiday spirit together!



Prayer Partner Gift Exchange December 13

This year’s Prayer Partner exchange - like the rest of the world - looks a little different. Please get a gift for your 2020 PP and leave it with a card (revealing your name) at church by December 13th. Let me know if you would like a new Prayer Partner for 2021 as soon as possible. I will copy your 2020 form and have a third person pick new partners for the coming year, sealing them into an envelope. They can be picked up with your gift or mailed to you per request. This should give everyone time to at least send a card to your new PP by Christmas. Looking forward to a less crazy year to come.

Many blessings,
Sibylle Schroeder



Prayer Partner Cookie Exchange December 13

For the cookie exchange Pastor suggested we have a zoom gathering on December 13th after the church service. Anyone who has a cookie recipe they want to share with everyone they can do so & maybe share why this particular recipe has any special significance to them. Pastor said she’d collect the recipes & send them out to everyone later so we can all enjoy them. As far as Prayer Partners & their gifts go she thought it might be a nice idea for everyone to purchase an item from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog & send a card to whomever your prayer partner was so you can let them know who they were. We can still try to pick new prayer partners for 2021. Either Christine or Christina can pick new ones for everyone & mail them or email them with the information. If you have any questions let me know.

In Christian Fellowship,
Demetria



Thank You Corner

Thank you to everyone who helped with Faith Kitchen lunches and Christmas baskets for the local food pantry.

~ Sibylle Schroeder

My deep thanks go to our dedicated Church Council. Early into the pandemic they agreed to take the lead on staying in touch with all the members of our community by making regular phone calls to check-in, learn who needs help and who can give help, and just maintain the personal connection that we all need during this time. They have been going through the same exhaustion, anxiety, and stress that all of us have experienced due to COVID, so there's not always a lot of extra energy for phone calls (even life-giving ones!). But their commitment to reaching out has been such an important part of the connections in our community over this difficult year. I know you all will join me in saying THANK YOU!

~ 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 December 22.

December Birthdays

4 Carol Biunno
10 Don Bowe
15 Pat Scalora
17 Edward Venator
20 Barry Kullack
23 Jeanne Scalora
25 Howard Corneilson
29 Emily Prosser
30 Alice Kandikatla

Christmas Donations

Dear Friends,

Whether we gather virtually or in person, one of the joys of the Christmas season is seeing our altar aglow with red poinsettias. When asked, the congregation has always provided generously for these seasonal needs and we are deeply grateful for those donations. However, this year, being a very different year, we're taking a different approach. There is enough money on hand to make a good display of poinsettias on the altar but we find that the **WORLD HUNGER FUND** is running behind the usual giving level. We'd like to ask that you direct your usual decorating donation to the **WORLD HUNGER FUND**. Donate by whatever method you currently use for giving and clearly mark your donation for **WORLD HUNGER**. Please be generous.

Peace,

The Worship & Music Committee



Sunday Scripture

December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke or Psalm 89
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 27

Lessons & Carols

December 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. Her availability is impacted by the need to assist with home-instruction from 8:00-3:00, so she will respond to non-urgent messages after 3:00pm. Many thanks for the understanding of the community as Pastor Serena balances her two calls of being a mom as well as a pastor.

Pastor Serena will be taking vacation the week of Dec. 28 – January 3. In addition, her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

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 or if you know people who need food assistance, please call Sibylle Schroeder at 973-691-1910 and coordinate with her.

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!



50th Anniversary Update

For me it has been a very disappointing time. The 50th Anniversary Committee has decided to postpone our celebration. We had plans for former clergy associated with our congregation to be with us earlier in the 2021 year as part of that celebration. But with the current epidemic and in-person gathering limitations, we feel it is not currently practical. Although vaccines are in the works, it will take a while to get this pandemic under control.

So, our plans are now to have a 50th Anniversary plus 1 in 2022. We will be working on a similar set of plans as we did for 2021, but it will be done in 2022. All will be kept informed as we finalize these plans. I know this has been a great personal letdown for me, but we must deal with the reality of life and go on with God's help.

Howard Corneilson,
Chairman



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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,

Please clip this article and keep it

DECEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

DECEMBER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER
6	Demetria Laird	Mary Kasakove	TBD
13	Howard Corneilson	Heather Nilsen	TBD
20	Jackie King	Jeanne Scalora	TBD
27 Lessons & Carols	TBD	Linda Venator	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, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, 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, 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, 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), Lindsey Caruso, Lora Gordan, Eric (Hildegard's grandson), Skip Kaub, Peter Block, Alex Herd

Those who are expecting: Kimberly Defreitas

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, those mourning the death of Michael Krush, the McCabe family, Linda Tubelis (on the death of her husband, Oto), Those mourning the death of Christy Kakassy, those mourning the death of Michael Tisler

DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	2 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Virtual Soup Supper 7:45 pm Mid-week Advent Service	3 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	4 Cancelled NA Mtg. 7:15 pm LFI Guiding Team	5 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
6 2ND SUNDAY/ ADVENT 10:00 am Webcast Worship	7 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	8	9 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Virtual Soup Supper 7:45 pm Mid-week Advent Service	10 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	11 Cancelled NA Mtg.	12 Cancelled Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
13 3RD SUNDAY/ ADVENT 10:00 am Webcast Worship	14 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	15 7:00 pm Council Meeting	16 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Virtual Soup Supper 7:45 pm Mid-week Advent Service	17 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	18 Cancelled NA Mtg.	19 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
20 4TH SUNDAY/ ADVENT 10:00 am Webcast Worship	21 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Virtual Soup Supper 7:45 pm Mid-week Advent Service	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 pm Webcast Worship 10:15 pm Webcast Worship	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
27 1ST SUNDAY/ CHRISTMAS Lessons & Carols 10:00 am Webcast Worship	28 5:45 pm "Sunday" School Zoom	29	30 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Story Telling Hour	31		