



# VIEW

## from the lake

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

February, 2017

**March Newsletter Deadline  
February 17, 2017**

*Worship: 10:00 am*

**For hospitalization issues,  
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)



From the Vicar

### **Light in the Darkness**

I'm sure I am not the only person in the congregation who feels the darkness of long nights pulling my spirit down on occasion. In December we had the light of Advent and Christmas to balance the longest night of the year, and in January we had the invigoration of a new year and new resolutions (or reformations), ... but by February the darkness has really settled in, and Spring can still feel far away.

So I am thankful that this year we get to gaze on the light of Epiphany for a bit longer before we settle into the confessional season of Lent. The Light of the Christ Candle is not a blazing fire, but it is a powerful light all the same. It is "the light (that) shines is the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). *Not being overcome* by the darkness might seem like an underwhelming resume, but it is a powerful hope. No matter how big the darkness seems, or how small the light that you feel burning in your heart, the darkness cannot extinguish it. Even a small light can illuminate the next step in front of our feet.

So let's keep walking forward, through whatever darkness tries to invade our lives, holding onto the unextinguishable light of Christ. I know that that light shines through you to illuminate the way for others, whether you can see it or not.

Vicar Serena

## **COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS**

### Officers

President	Howard Corneilson
Vice President	Robert Bowden
Secretary	Doug Laird
Treasurer	George Pawlo

### Council Members

Gerry Ayotte	Kim Prentiss
Robert Bowden	Pat Scalora
Howard Corneilson	Sibylle Schroeder
Doug Laird	Sue Schwier
George Pawlo	

### 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
Mutual Ministry	<i>Vacant</i>
Property	<i>Vacant</i>
Social Ministry	Sibylle Schroeder
Seniors	Sibylle Schroeder
Stewardship	<i>Vacant</i>
Worship & Music	Mary Kasakove

## **OUR STAFF**

### **Vicar:**

Serena Rice  
Cell: 908-458-3940

### **Music Director:**

Ben Schroeder  
benmschroeder@gmail.com

### **Administrative Assistant:**

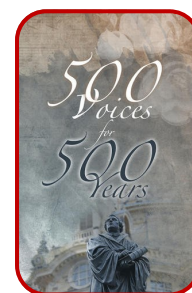
Christine Strobel  
office@abidingpeacechurch.org  
**Monday-Friday: 9:00 am—12:00 Noon**



## **New Members**

Alexis & Jackie! We are so happy that you are now *officially* part of the body of Christ at Abiding Peace! You have both jumped in and embraced the life and ministry of this church long before “joining” as members, but we still get a thrill from getting to call you ours. Thank you for the joy, love, and energy you add to our congregation. We are a stronger, more loving church because you are part of us, and we thank God for bringing you to be part of our community.

## **500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reformation Concert at Carnegie Hall**



Join us for a Reformation Hymn Festival to be held at Carnegie Hall in New York City Sunday, June 25 at 2 pm. The festival is presented by Concordia-NY, a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod college in Bronxville, NY which is assembling a 500 voice choir to lead the festival, as part of this year’s celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.

If interested in joining our Abiding Peace group carpool, please email Christine in the church office at [chstrobel@optonline.net](mailto:chstrobel@optonline.net) by Tuesday, February 28. Indicate how many tickets you would like and if you’d prefer \$15 or \$25 tickets (if 8 or more, 20% group discount). For more info see [www.concordia-ny.edu/about/500-Voices.cfm](http://www.concordia-ny.edu/about/500-Voices.cfm) or contact me.

Ray Mueller



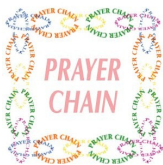
### Blessed Start to 2017

We at Abiding Peace have so much to be thankful for this Epiphany season. As we begin a new church year, I can sense renewed warmth and enthusiasm in the congregation. Much of it of course is inspired by our new Vicar, but it is also evident in the smiles and comments of members and visitors alike. We have come through a long pastoral vacancy period and emerged strong in spirit and in commitment to our church family.

I see this time as an opportunity for us to grow - in faith, in our support of each other, and in our outreach to the community around us. To do this we all need to share the gifts we have been given in gratitude for the work God is doing in this place.

I have often been amazed by the generosity this congregation has displayed over the years. So many issues were resolved and problems fixed – just by asking. The congregation has showered this church with time and treasure whenever we were in need. We are starting a new chapter in Abiding Peace history. Help in any way you can to make us stronger.

In gratitude to you all,  
George



We are pleased to announce that APLC now has a Prayer Chain! If you have a prayer request that you would like the chain to work on, please call Christine in the church office; we will then notify Eastlyn Rodriguez, head of the Prayer Chain, to put your request in motion. Thanks to Eastlyn, Sibylle Schroeder, and Shelli Skeels for volunteering for this important ministry!

### February Fellowship Reminders

Our annual chili cook-off will be Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 5:30 pm. It's a great way to warm up on a cold night so come for some great chili and great fellowship. Hope to see everyone there. See page 7 for details.

In Christian Fellowship,  
Demetria Laird



### Mount Olive Birthday Party

Thank you to everyone that provided gifts, everyone that came to help with the Mt Olive Manor Birthday Party and especially Demetria - who ordered and picked up the cake. Everyone had a great time. First we asked the residents with a January Birthday to come up, we sang Happy Birthday and they were allowed to pick a gift from the many gifts the congregation had supplied. We had cake and then played Trivia. The questions were about all the former Presidents as well as questions about Mt Olive Manor. Quite a few residents came up to us to tell us how much fun they had.

**SEMINAR: Active Bystander Training**  
**February 4<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**Nativity Lutheran, East Brunswick**



At baptism, Lutheran Christians promise publicly to "love all people following the example of Jesus" and to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth". When we observe threatening or harassing behavior, how do we respond? What would you do? This training gives participants tools to build confidence in speaking up and acting to protect others, and promotes positive ways to impact our communities. [Click here to register.](#)

## Christmas Eve at Abiding Peace



*Vicar Serena's first Christmas  
with us*

### Food Pantry Needs

#### 25 of each

Bread  
Tomato Sauce  
Pasta  
Canned Beans  
Canned Meat or Tuna  
Peanut Butter

Juice  
Rice  
Instant Potatoes  
Canned Fruit  
Jelly

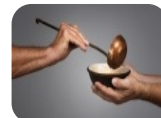


#### 50 of each

Vegetables  
Soup (no broth)

All items must be current. All expired food will be thrown out. All items that have been previously opened will be thrown out. Please be mindful of this when cleaning out your pantry.

### Faith Kitchen Shopping list for February 7 "Chili Rice Dish"



- ~ 1 can of diced tomatoes (14 ½ oz.)
- ~ 1 large can red kidney beans (40 oz.)
- ~ 1 bag of Chili seasoning mix (1.25 oz.)
- ~ 2 green peppers and 1 onion
- ~ 1 pkg. ground Turkey (about 1.3 lbs.)

I will pick up the rice.

Please bring these items to church by this coming Sunday, February 5. Let me know if you can come to help cook and serve or call with any questions 973-691-1910.

With gratitude,  
Sibylle Schroeder



## Sunday Scripture

### February 5

Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 112:1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
Matthew 5:13-20

### February 19

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18  
Psalm 119:33-40  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48

### February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

### February 26

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9



## February Birthdays

4 Chris Laird  
10 Kendra Prosser  
17 Hannah Mueller  
23 Ken Schwier

## Evangelism/Outreach

The January issue of "Living Lutheran" contains 25 Reformation quotes. Another 25 quotes can be read at [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org). I have selected and summarized or paraphrased several of them to share with you. As we prepare to celebrate Reformation 500, these quotes are a beginning:

- ~ Martin Luther took a stand. It changed theology, politics, and political boundaries. It gave us a revolution in education and literacy. (We are still struggling with the problem of illiteracy.)
- ~ The printing press allowed Luther to reproduce his thesis and translate the Bible for the common people. The Atlas of World Christianity now enumerates the adherents at about 500,000,000.
- ~ The principles of religious freedom, liberty of conscience, the rule of law, separation of powers constitutionally limited republics were unthinkable before the Reformation.
- ~ Thesis 62: The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.
- ~ He (Luther) made people understand the original and true meaning of the gospel of Christ.
- ~ Luther believed that that God's grace is a gift and no longer accepted what the church had for so long taught: that we are really saved by the works of the law. He became a teacher of grace.
- ~ Perhaps Luther's greatest achievement was the German Bible. It was more clear and dear to the common people. A daily guide in spiritual life.
- ~ In essentials, unity; in differences, liberty; in all things, charity.
- ~ Luther and Melancthon taught the Word of God.
- ~ Reformation ends not in contemplation, but in action.
- ~ Reformation should cause us not so much to celebrate the past, but to renew our ministry and mission in the present.
- ~ The joy of celebration of the power of the Lutheran witness to the gospel and at the same time, a space for self-critical acknowledgement of the failures of faithfulness and the continuing pain of division among Christians.
- ~ Admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.
- ~ The contours of the Reformation now are to be defined over against a new background in which powers and principalities now exert control: a cry for freedom and a call for the gospel.
- ~ The radical gospel of justification by faith.

It is my hope that I have shared the essence of the quotes and suggest that you if you get a chance, please read them for your self.



## "Unfinished Object" Night February 20 \* 7:30 pm



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night on the 3rd Monday of this month at 7:30pm. 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.

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!

## General Budget Financial Summary

	December	Y-T-D
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$11,480</b>	<b>\$137,760</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$12,381</b>	<b>\$125,974</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,995</b>	<b>\$125,838</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 1,386</b>	<b>\$ 136</b>
<b>Current deficit as of 12/31</b>		<b>\$ (979)</b>

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

## Thank You Corner

To all Members of Council – those continuing to serve, those renewing their terms, and to our newest in-coming Council member (Heather Nilsen) – thank you for your commitment and your leadership! A church is not a business, or even a non-profit organization. It is a community. As members of council, you offer your skills and perspective to doing the work of our community and helping us all to do the work to which God has called us. Thank you all for your time, effort, and engagement with the world-changing work of the church. – *Vicar 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](mailto:chstrobel@optonline.net)) by Feb. 15.*



Keep These Friends in Your  
Heart & Prayers

**Keep These Friends in Your Prayers:** Those who are sick or in need: Kathleen Mazzaghatti, Richard Biunno, Sue Schwier, Susan Jacob, Judy Jacob, Chris Killian, Roslyn & Kerry Winfield, Jean Eastman, Taryn & Little Frankie Parenello, Rob Heller, Jackson Hackelberg, Sue Corneilson, Florence Johnson, Neil Nilsen, Aimee L. Nilsen, James Paladino, Bill Price, Asta Mangan, Macy Sparozic, Oto Tubelis, Ray DeFelice, George Karl, Helen Michener, Gail Pinkham, Betsey Nardi, Briana Anderson, Hall Barker, Nancy & Gerry Appel, Ed Sekula, Gertrude Price, Regina Hand, Cecilia A. Bowe, Mary K. Laird, Marge Dunnican, Jack Pruden, Lisa Napolitano, Rev. Edward N. Corneilson, Jonathan Fornoff, Joellen Hansen, Wendy and John Morrell, Jim Tangen, Larry Clark, Kathi Buckley, Emily Dunbar, Jackie Darrow, Donna Ballotta, Rene Celada, Tony & Mickey Gasperine, Margie Greendyk, Carol Clark, Elaine Schmudde, Sandy Olson, Doris Conrad, April Inglin, Amy & Mark Super, Susan Ansari, Myra Charters, Abe Elias, Heather Austin, Marybeth Mueller, Sharon Puglia, Jeannine Anglum, Gary & Emilie Dunlap, Carol Giersch, Irv Catlow, Terry Jones, Johanna Pawlo, St. James Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg, NJ  
Those who are homebound: Ruth Petersen  
Those in mourning: The Ayotte Family

## **Synod Assembly: The power of staying connected**

### **by Robert Bowden**

In 2016, I had the privilege of attending the ELCA's NJ Synod Assembly with Maria Jerez and Heather Nilsen. I would like to say that I had no idea of what to expect only being part of Abiding Peace going on seven years. Each year when its time to select representatives there's a collective groan and lamentation of long boring meetings, etc., which culminate in two of our more senior members or longest members that grasp the importance of the assembly agreeing to attend.

What I experienced was far different and greater than I could have ever anticipated. Its one thing to learn the inner workings of the larger church, the votes and mission statements and so on. But if that's all you notice you are not paying attention. This year there was active and purposeful dialogue on where we stand as a church in regards to race, sexuality, finances and politics; four topics often avoided like the plague but probably the four topics that will undermine anything else we attempt to do if we don't address them. Less intense but equally important were the array of opportunities for the congregations to get active on a global level. It was at Assembly where I first learned of Crossroads Camp and Retreat, It was here I learned there's an active mission that needs crocheted hats and scarves and blankets; all we have to do is make and submit. I was beyond thrilled to see a conversation that I had both at council and with Pastor Schantzenbach about the financial state of seminarians be rolled into the Synods plan to address the needs of and shortage of Seminary students.

Most importantly, we collectively addressed the changing face of religion and the place of the church in the world today. How we can thrive and grow, but primarily how do we carry out the word of God and the Mission as Lutherans in the fast changing world? There was too much discussed on that to squeeze into a report, which brings me to my point.

With all the things that were covered above the one thing that stood out more than anything else that weekend was how many people know and admire this little church by the lake. Anytime we mentioned we were from Abiding Peace peoples' eyes lit up. They began to tell us about things they heard we do here, our Music and Dance ministry, Senior and Sign ministry and as always our Food. How the many supply pastors take examples of things we do here and share them with the various congregations around the state as suggestions for them to build in their worship and mission. It wasn't just one, two or even three it was numerous people throughout the weekend that came to speak to us about all that we do and all that they admired about our work here.

The other thing that I noticed was the number of representatives from other congregations. We sent three, mainly by accident, as we historically send one voting male one voting female. However, there's so much more going on than voting it was actually the least memorable part of the weekend, a quick raise of the hand and its over. There was so much happening that even with three people it was impossible to see or take part in the things we wanted to know about. Several churches had five or more people present to partake of all they had to offer. It's literally one day, night and half a day. We had three hotel rooms that held three people that could have held six or more. So space clearly wasn't the issue.

## Chili Cook-Off

It's time for our Annual Chili Cook-off again. Come and join us Saturday, February 25th at 5:00 pm for a hot time and some pretty good chili as well. Prizes will be awarded for the hottest chili so we will be recruiting judges. Anyone interested in becoming a judge should let me know by February 20th. There will be a sign-up sheet available soon. If you don't want to make chili we will also need desserts and other items such as cheese, sour cream, bread, etc. Hope to see everyone there.

In Christian Fellowship,  
Demetria Laird



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## SOMEWHAT OFFICIAL RULES FOR A CHILI COOK-OFF

### 1) SELECTION OF THE JUDGES

Proper judges for any Chili Cook-off should have three principal values:

- a) A complete lack of values or principles, such as integrity. No one with integrity would even attend a Chili Cook-off, let alone judge one. Sales ability counts for extra points if you can sell Spam as real food.
- b) A bribability or sleaze factor, such that judging could be listed on the IRS form under "occupation". Check for questionable occupational ties such as contractor, financial planner, or health care professional.
- c) Taste buds that have visible scar tissue. No one who can even spell "filet de boeuf marchan d'vin", or knows what it is, could hope to qualify.

### 2) QUALITIES THAT DETERMINE A WINNING CHILI

Chili should be made with:

- a) Absence of any form of vegetable matter. Chili is a meat dish, an entrée. It is NOT a casserole. Corn and beans should be an instant disqualification. Selected peppers are permitted only if ground to a size small enough to escape visual detection.
- b) Density or viscosity. The serving spoon, when placed vertically into the chili pot, should remain erect without help. Chili placed onto a cracker remains there and doesn't trickle down your sleeve. When you water down chili, it is no longer chili. It is soup. Soup is for Wednesdays in Lent.
- c) Applicable "after\_\_\_\_\_" words. *Afterburn*, such that after a spoonful, it doesn't really matter whether or not they removed your tonsils as a child. *Afterglow*, animals and small children stand next to you outside 'cause you're very warm, all over. Other "after—" words that could be applied include *afterlife*, *aftertaste*, and *aftermath*. Do not try to use *afterburner*—this is a church event!
- d) Fear. The fear that if you burp, you will melt fillings, crowns, and do serious damage to nasal passages.

**GOOD LUCK!**



# FEBRUARY

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

FEBRUARY	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
<b>5</b>	Don Bowe	Chris St. Genis	Dick Kamin	Mary Kasakove	Howard Cornelson	Alexis Sweeney
<b>12</b>	Howard Cornelson	Doug Laird	Demetria Laird	Dick Kamin	Heather Nilsen	Jeanne Scalora
<b>19</b>	Doug Laird	Ken Schwier	Linda Venator	Barbara Prosser	Christina Schroeder	Sue Stirrat
<b>26</b>	Don Bowe	Cindy Pawlo	Shelli Skeels	Sibylle Schroeder	Doug Laird	Kim Prentiss

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

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jackie King

*Continued from page 7—Synod Assembly*

Since that time I've made it a point to talk to anyone that would listen about how awesome it was and that my only regret is that there weren't more of us there to experience it. We often get caught up in our own little world of circumstances that we forget that the world is watching us. While we see our challenges, others see our successes. Taking that weekend to come together and truly commune with each other can recharge us, ignite new ideas and hopefully remind us that we are making a difference, one meal, song or dance at a time.



## 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!**

# FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>4</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>5</b> <b>5TH SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY</b> 8:45 am Worship and Music Committee Meeting 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Intern Committee Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Men's Ministry 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>12</b> <b>6TH SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Education Planning Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>18</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>19</b> <b>7TH SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	<b>20</b> 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>25</b> 5:00 pm Chili Cook-off 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>26</b> <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>				