



VIEW from the lake

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



From the Pastor

We are All Co-Ministers

May, 2019

June Newsletter Deadline
May 23, 2019

Worship: 10:00 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

“Priesthood of all Believers.” That’s one of those super churchy-phrases that you might have heard, but you also might not really understand what it means. Historically it just means ***we are all equal before God***. Martin Luther rejected the idea that priests had some sort of higher spiritual status than the people they served, so he said “everyone’s a priest! All believers have priestly status.” That is absolutely true and wonderful. God hears all prayers equally, and no one gets special treatment.

In the 500 years since the Reformation, the phrase has developed another meaning which is true and wonderful as well: the idea that ***all believers do the work of ministry***. In the Lutheran church, we don’t attend worship as though it was a performance put on by professionals – we all share in the liturgy (which means “work of the people”). And we share in the other work of the church as well: the work of serving community needs, the work of studying the Bible and learning together, the work of bringing food for soup suppers; the work of caring for those who are sick in our congregation, the work of getting the boiler fixed. The church is not a business that hires professionals to produce its products. The church is the people of God coming together to do God’s work in the world.

That’s why our theme for this year’s Spring Time & Talents Focus is “We Are All Co-Ministers.” Church is a verb, and that means everyone who does church with Abiding Peace has the chance to be a minister. That doesn’t mean you have to stand up front in a white robe or give the sermon on Sunday (although if you are interested in either of those things, talk to me. It can be arranged). God has given us all unique gifts, and they are all

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	Ed Sekula
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

needed. So, as we hear from different co-ministers in temple talks over then next several weeks, and as you review the Time & Talents sheet, or come to the Time & Talents fair on June 2, I encourage you to earnestly consider what ways you are called to be a minister. The church needs you, and you might be surprised just how much you need to experience the fulfillment of ministry.

In love,
Pastor Serena

Easter Sunday at APLC



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!



First Quarter 2019 Financial Report

As has been requested by the congregation, the Council is committed to providing regular financial updates as we move into a new chapter in our ministry at Abiding Peace.

Please note in the numbers below that after the first quarter of this year we have a total shortfall of nearly \$3,000. This is a concern, especially because our spending is only about \$250 more than our budget, so most of the problem is on the giving side. If this is not addressed it could impact our ministry here at Abiding Peace. We trust that, as in the past, we will be enabled by God's grace to meet this challenge!

A letter was sent out to members and friends about this. Please take a close look at it and remember this concern in your prayers.

Current Month Giving

<u>March</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
13,130	12,244	886	Excess

Year to Date Giving

<u>March</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>		
34,006	36,732	(2,726)	Shortfall

Operating Expenses

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
36,988	36,732	(256)	Over Spent

YTD giving shortfall + over spending = total shortfall of 2,982 as of 3/31/2019.

Senior Meeting Schedule 2019

May 29 (Wed.)	Outing to Hackettstown and to a local restaurant to discuss the book: "The Cemetery Keeper's Wife" by Maryann McFadden
June 19 (Wed.)	Movie: Bohemian Rhapsody Or Green Book or....
July 18 (Thur.)	Valley Shepherd Creamery in Long Valley
August 21 (Wed.)	Picnic at the Pawlo's or Outing to Well-Sweep Herb Farm
Sept. 19 (Thur.)	Picnic at the Pawlo's
October 23 (Wed.)	Halloween Party
November 21 (Thur.)	Christmas Party
This schedule is open to changes.	

"Unfinished Object" Night May 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.



Sacred Dance News

The Messengers Dance Ministry is happy to welcome Heather Nilsen as our newest member. Heather danced for the first time on Palm Sunday.



Faith Kitchen Shopping List for May 7

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, May 5th.

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



May 11 * 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: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30.

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



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

May 5

Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 19

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 12

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 26

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29

May Birthdays

5 Shelli Skeels
11 Jackie McIntyre
27 Catherine Blackburne
27 Maria Jerez-Kearney

May Anniversaries

24 John & Sue Stirrat

Would You Recommend Abiding Peace?

I hope the answer is yes, and if so, why not do it? There are a few easy ways to share your love for Abiding Peace:

- 1) Anyone with a Facebook account can write a short **review of the church** to help boost our church profile. Go to the church Facebook page: [Facebook.com/abidingpeacechurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidingpeacechurch); click on “Reviews” on the menu along the left-hand side of the page, and click “yes” to recommend Abiding Peace, then write a brief review (25 words or more) about why you like the church.
- 2) **Share a sermon** post with a friend. Our weekly sermons are available in written form and audio recordings, both accessed through the blog page of our website: (<https://www.abidingpeacechurch.org/blog>). If a message strikes you, or might bless a friend or family member, why not send them a link? You can also sign-up to get the sermons automatically sent to your e-mail, or follow the church’s audio-postings on soundcloud: (<https://soundcloud.com/serenarice-720659529>)
- 3) **Have a conversation.** Even in our technological age, personal connections are still important. You never know when the story you share about how your life has been touched by God’s Spirit and God’s people might be exactly what someone else needs to hear to find hope, or to finally step through the doors of the church. After all, we are part of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. Let’s share the good news that our lives are better when we find God in community.



Pastor Serena's May Schedule

Week of April 29 – May 5

- Sunday, April 28: 4:00pm – Tuesday, April 30: 1:00pm (off-site training)
- Sunday, May 5 : 9:00am – 1:30pm

Week of May 6 – May 12

- Wednesday, May 8: 10:30am-8:00pm
- Thursday, May 9: 6:30pm-9:00pm
- Sunday, May 12: 9:00am-1:00pm

Week of May 13 – May 19

- Wednesday, May 15: 10:30am-9:00pm
- Sunday, May 19: 8:30am-1:00pm

Week of May 20 – May 26

- Wednesday, May 22: 10:30am-9:00pm
- Sunday, May 26: 9:00am-1:30pm

Week of May 27 – June 2

- Tuesday, May 28: 1:00pm – Wednesday, May 29: 12:00pm (offsite training)
- Wednesday, May 29: 1:00pm – 8:00pm
- Sunday, June 2: 9:00am – 1:30pm

Thank You Corner

My sincere thanks to George and Cindy Pawlo for making the one hour drive to my house and back to get me and my car home when I had my episode of Vertigo at church. It wasn't just the sacrifice of your time that I am so grateful for, it was the generosity of your spirit. You didn't think twice about it and I knew that you were genuinely glad to care for me, which made a rotten night much better. Thank you! – Pastor Serena

Thank you to Alexis Sweeney for planting pansies in the entrance courtyard.– Mary Kasakove

Thanks to Marco Ponce for making the long climb to change the Lenten, Good Friday, and Easter drape on the cross on the sanctuary wall.– Mary Kasakove

Naaman and the Servant Girl

One of my favorite books when I was little was called “Naaman and the Servant Girl.” I don’t remember who gave it to me but it was a hardcover, 4x6” book beautifully illustrated throughout. I treasured this book and have it somewhere in our 30 years of accumulations in our house.

Back in the days of Naaman, the Jews were separated from the Gentiles who were thought to be unclean. Even though that was the common feeling, the Bible gives us examples of Jews who regarded unbelievers in a different light. For example: Joseph, Daniel and the Servant Girl.

We don’t know the Servant Girl’s name. She was taken prisoner and was the servant of Naaman’s wife. They had a good relationship so it was comfortable for her to make suggestions. She was loyal to her master. Naaman was highly esteemed by the king, a strong leader and respected. She felt compassion for Naaman and sorry that he had leprosy. She wanted him healed and she told his wife about the prophet Elisha (one who speaks for God) who would heal him.

So she told Naaman what the servant girl from Israel had told her and Naaman presented what he heard to the king and asked permission to travel to Elisha to be healed. When Naaman came to the King of Israel the king was furious and ripped his clothes saying how can they think he can heal this man. When Elisha heard of this he told the king to send Naaman to him, a prophet of Israel. Naaman went to Elisha who told him to dip himself 7 times in the Jordan river and he would be healed. A servant helped Naaman believe in Elisha and he did as Elisha said and he was healed. Naaman was saved from alienation and judgment when he believed in God (vs. 15): “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.

What did I learn from this story:

I learned that a little girl could bring a non-believer to God. It brought joy to Naaman, a non-believer. Therefore, if you believe and share your belief in God, you too can bring many others to know the love of God.—Nancy Ayotte

This story can be found in 2 Kings 5:2-19

Spiritual Life Inventory – What did we learn?

At our Council retreat in April, your church leadership team had the chance to dive into the report from the Spiritual Life Inventory compiled by Luther Seminary as part of the *Leadership for Faithful Innovation* program we are participating in with the Synod. You may remember the survey because a good number of you filled it out last November. Well, we have the report from your responses and it offers some really interesting insights into the life of our church: where we are thriving, what we need, how involved we are, what feeds us spiritually, and where we can keep working to do better. The summary report is attached to this newsletter, and if you want the more detailed report just let Pastor Serena know and she can give you a copy.

The report offered so much food for thought that it’s too much for one article. So, Council agreed that we will be providing the highlights of our analysis of the responses over the next several months. For the time being, here are the big-picture lessons:

- **We are an engaged congregation.** Whereas most of the congregations in the study were excited if they got 20-25% of their members to participate, we had more people complete the survey than we have at church on an average Sunday! And a large share of the respondents reported being engaged in some kind of ministry here. That is a great strength, and also means that there might not be a lot of bandwidth to “add” new things.
- **We are diverse in our needs and experiences.** Along with high engagement, our high participation in the survey means it gives a real overview of our congregation: from the super involved to folks who might not be getting as much from their church involvement; from those who are really growing in their faith to those who are stalled, or not even sure if they want to grow. There is depth and diversity in our congregation, even as small as we are, and our ministry needs to take these differences into account.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6 - Spiritual Life Inventory

- **There are two needs that especially stood out.** While it's not the only thing we can learn from the survey, two themes suggest areas that can guide our efforts to grow in faithful innovation. The first is helping our members to *cultivate spiritual practices* – ways to bring the nourishment and strength of our faith into our daily lives. The second is learning how to tell the *stories of our faith* – letting faith be like the other good things in our lives that we actually talk about with other people. More on both of these themes in the coming months.

Spiritual Life Inventory

faith+lead

Exploring spiritual life and church engagement in our congregations

LUTHER SEMINARY

Congregation	Participant demographics		
Abiding Peace Lutheran Church – Budd Lake	Gender 34% Male 66% Female 0% Other	Age 5% 10-19 11% 50-59 3% 20-29 38% 60-69 14% 30-39 24% 70-79 5% 40-49 0% 80+	Race or Ethnicity 86% White 8% Hispanic, Latino or Spanish 2% Black or African American 2% Asian 2% American Indian or Alaska Native
Responses			
46 completed inventories			

Why people come to church

How important are the following in drawing you to church?

Very important or important

- 100% Connecting with God
- 88% Helping my kids develop faith
- 84% I feel drawn by God's spirit
- 77% Recharging for the week
- 72% To connect with a pastor

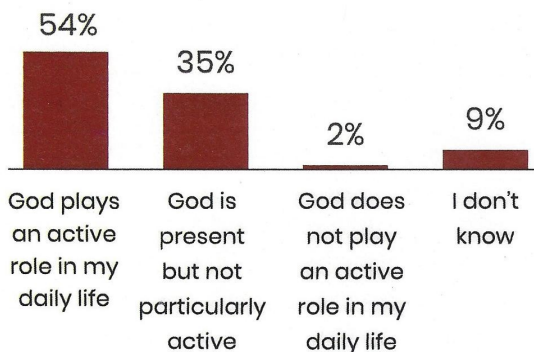


Not at all important or slightly important

- 37% It's what I've always done
- 35% Because of my spouse or family
- 30% Tapping into a cultural heritage
- 28% It's my family's tradition
- 25% Seeing my friends

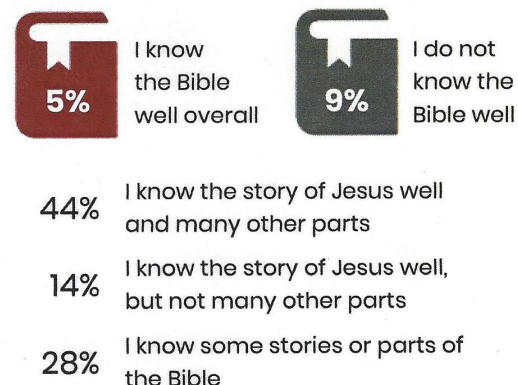
God's role in daily life

Which one of the following best describes your understanding of God's relationship to your daily life?



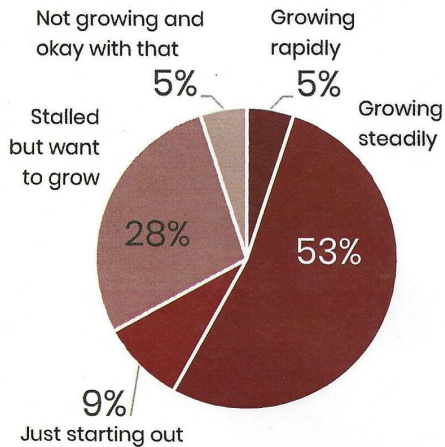
Bible knowledge

Which statement best describes how familiar you are with the Bible?



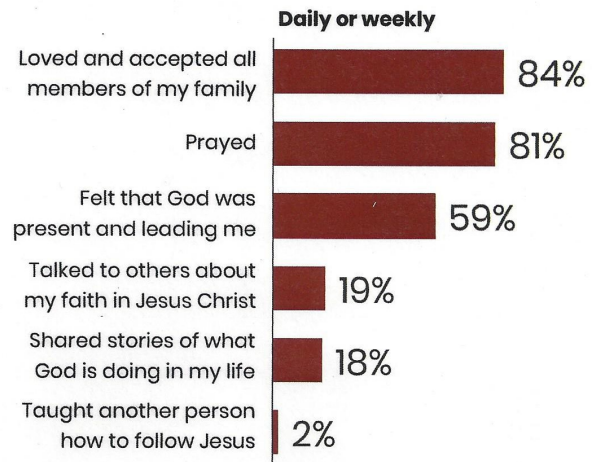
Spiritual growth

Which one of the following best describes your spiritual growth?



Spiritual practices

In the last year, how often have you done the following spiritual practices?



Church participation

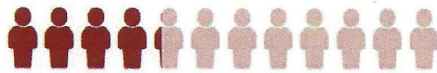
Do you take part in the following church activities?



67% Ministry team or committee



51% Small group or Bible study



35% Musical team or choir



36% Service or mission trip

Connecting with God

Where do you experience God's presence?

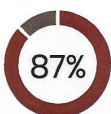
Often or always



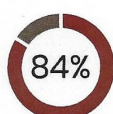
During worship



During prayer



When something good happens



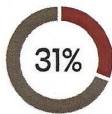
In serving others



During times of loss



With friends



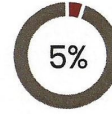
With pets



Over food



During yoga



During exercise

MAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

MAY	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
5	Doug Laird	Doug Laird	Demetria Laird	Alexis Sweeney	~ George Pawlo ~ Maria Jerez-Kearney	Vanessa Ponce
12	Pat Scalora	Cindy Pawlo	Karen Coates	Dick Kamin	~ Mary Kasakove ~ Doug Laird	Jeanne Scalora
19	Alexis Sweeney	Pat Scalora	Thom Coates	Maria Jerez-Kearney	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Cindy Pawlo	Marco Ponce
26	Howard Corneilson	Alexis Sweeney	Dick Kamin	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Howard Corneilson ~ Pat Scalora	Alexis Sweeney

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

ALTAR GUILD: Cindy Pawlo

BREAD BAKING: Demetria Laird



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers: *Those who are sick or in need:* Richard Biunno, Susan Jacob, Judy Jacob, Sue Corneilson, Ed Sekula, Cecilia A. Bowe, Rev. Edward N. Corneilson, Susan Ansari, Margie (Lynn Peterson's Aunt), Dale (Lynn Peterson's aunt), Kevin Kieran, Howard Corneilson, Nancy Doyle, Eli Blahut, Bill von Minden, 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, Diana Arroyo Perez, Gertrude Price, April Inglin, Kathleen Mazzagati, Jeff Kamin, Dominick Gattone, Gloria Stuart, Isabella Adams, Lynn Peterson and family, Fran Mountjoy, Don Bowe, Jozef Molitoris, Cora Woodruff, Madeline Gasperine, Anja Zwicker, Barbara Pinekenstein, Mary Kathryn Laird, LuAnn Price, Sandy Siewert, Craig Yandrow, Norton Woodruff, David Dearman, Bob Vanderhoof, Max Levinston, 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 *Those in mourning:* the Inglin family, the Anderson family

MAY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Taize Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 7:30 pm Game Night 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	4 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
5 3RD SUNDAY/ EASTER 8:45 am Fellowship Committee Meeting 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Forum: Millennials and the Church	6	7 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	8 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Bible 101: Inspiration, Human–Divine Partnership 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	11 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
12 4TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Mother's Day Brunch	13	14	15 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Bible 101: The Task of Interpretation 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	17 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	18 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
19 5TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Forum: Advance Directives & End of Life Planning Heather Darling, Presenter	20 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	21	22 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Hard Bible Topics: Gender-based Violence 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	25 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
26 6TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Adult Forum: Loving Dialogue on Opiates	27	28	29 2:00 pm Senior Meeting: Outing to a Hackettstown restaurant to discuss "The Cemetery Keeper's Wife" 6:45 pm Hard Bible Topics: Household Codes	30	31 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	