



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Proclaiming Authenticity & Hope

June, 2019

July Newsletter Deadline
June 20, 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

At the beginning of May a small group of Abiding Peace folks gathered for an adult forum discussion. The topic was “The Millennial Mystery,” and Heather Nilsen led us in a thoughtful and challenging discussion, using a Bible study resource from the December, 2017 edition of *Living Lutheran*. The education planning group had picked this study because Abiding Peace, like so many other churches, is grappling with the question “why don’t we have more young people?” We ask this question not in accusation, but in the genuine desire to figure out how we can reach the needs of the younger generation, whom we recognize as an important part of the world God calls us to serve.

In our conversation on May 5, and some follow-up afterwards, at least one answer became clear: **church has to give young adults a reason to connect!** With so many demands on time, irregular work hours, and competing priorities – and without the same cultural expectation to “go to church” as older generations – Millennials are only going to show up for something that really matters in their lives.

But what does that mean? What makes church “matter?” It means **getting back to the heart of what church is really about.** As explained in the *Living Lutheran* study:

“(young adults) really aren’t hungry for more church structure, or smooth programming, or better praise bands, or fun social activities – they are hungry for the radical Jesus they discover in the Bible. In this Jesus, they see a God who is real – present on the margins, willing to shake things up, on the side of the lowly, choosing to die without status, and always radically loving us and the world. The more congregations that proclaim this Jesus, the more the church will find opportunities to engage millennials.”

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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

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This is good news for the church. Because it calls us to authenticity, rather than salesmanship. It calls us to the work of witness, not programming. It calls us to be church in a way that is not only relevant for the younger generation, but for all generations. Because it calls us to remember that Jesus actually changes lives. We spent all Lent talking about transformation, but I hope that was more than talk. I hope that was faith. I hope that was the work of God's change-making Spirit in our lives that didn't stop once we took the purple cloth off the altar. The question of the Millennial mystery challenges us to answer with authenticity in our identity and in our proclamation. And I find in that a deep reason for hope.

Pastor Serena

Ideas for Rally Day Service Project Needed!

Yes, we haven't officially gotten to Summer yet, but we all know how fast time flies when we're having fun. September and Rally Day will be here before we know it, and that means another chance for our congregation to do the work of reaching out to our community's needs.

So, if you have any ideas for a good community project for *God's Work, Our Hands* Sunday – drop a note to Pastor Serena. Or, you could even volunteer to head-up the effort...





When it comes to the “big three” of Christian stewardship – time, talents, and treasure – time is probably the one that I struggle with the most. It’s not so much that it’s hard to share my time. (Howard is consistently on my case about making sure I am keeping my church hours reasonable). I love the work of the church. I *like* to spend my time prepping sermons and Bible studies, talking with church members about the challenges in their lives and questions in their faith, and planning meaningful worship and relevant outreach. It’s not hard to give my time to the church – that’s probably why this is my job!

The challenge is with the idea of “stewardship.” Stewardship implies a sense of intentionality – a deliberate effort to assess what my resources are, and what needs there are, and then making wise judgments about how to use my resources – my limited time – most responsibly and faithfully. But there are a thousand demands on my time and attention every day, and I’m not necessarily thinking about stewardship when I respond. In today’s frantic, go-go-go culture I know I’m not alone. We all get pulled in multiple directions and feel like we don’t have enough time to give to any of the things we care about.

That’s why I appreciate that the church names time as an area of stewardship. It’s a reminder, or even an invitation, to be deliberate about the decisions I make regarding my time. My time is one of the resources God has given me, and being a good steward means being thoughtful about how I give it away. Sometimes that means giving it to the church. Other times to my family, or to making healthy food, or to a chat with a dear friend. There’s lots of good things to give my time to, and instead of worrying about all the things I “don’t have time for” I can focus on being a steward of the time I do have.

Senior Meeting Schedule 2019

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 June 17 * 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.





Faith Kitchen Shopping List for June 4

Chicken That Makes its Own Gravy

- ~ 1 package of chicken breasts (5-6 large pieces) **or**
1 package of 10-12 chicken thighs
- ~ 1 can evaporated milk
- ~ 2 cans “Cream of Mushroom” soup
- ~ 1 (8 oz.) package shredded cheddar cheese

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, June 2nd.

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



June 8 * 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 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27.

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

June 2

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14,
16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

June 23

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 9

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 30

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

June 16

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June Birthdays

2 Michael Pawlo
6 Ray Mueller
11 Joanna Venator
12 Sue Corneilson
13 Alaina Rice

June Anniversaries

7 Tom & Joan Blackburne
18 Howard & Sue Corneilson

Spiritual Life Inventory, Part 2 Telling the Stories of our Faith

Last month's newsletter included an introductory article on the results of the Spiritual Life Inventory that our congregation completed last Fall. (If you missed it, you can go back and read it [here](#) – there's some encouraging and important findings). This survey is one of the tools we have access to through the Leadership for Faithful Innovation program. It offers us insights into how we are doing at meeting the needs of our faith community and nurturing the kind of growth and ministry that the gospel of Jesus Christ calls us into. The idea is not to give us a grade, but to lead us in discerning what we can try to change in order to more fully live into our mission.

One of the areas for growth revealed in the survey relates to ***learning how to tell the stories of our faith***. Our congregation reported a very high level of spiritual connection (100% of respondents said they come to Abiding Peace to connect with God), but we also reported that we don't talk about that connection very much. Less than 20% reported talking to others about faith, or sharing stories of what God is doing in our lives on a regular basis.

Of course, there can be many reasons for the difficulty in talking about our faith. We live in a culturally and religiously diverse area, and there are lots of contexts (like work) where there are rules and expectations that limit what we are allowed to say about our faith. Even without restrictions, we rightly want to be respectful of others' beliefs and not be pushy. But talking about our own experiences isn't pushy. It's relationship-building. It's the willingness to be a little vulnerable and share about something that makes a difference in our lives. Of course, that means we have to be conscious of the difference God makes in our lives. And, according to the survey, about half of the congregation either didn't know if God was active in their daily lives, or felt God was present, but not particularly active.

Continued next column

Continued—Spiritual Life Inventory

Those responses are what reveal that ***telling the stories of our faith*** as an area for growth in our congregation. How can we become more conscious of the ways that God makes a difference in our lives? How can we become attuned to the stories that we already have to share about the transformation, peace, joy, etc. that God works in our lives? How can we start to tell ourselves these stories first, so that – when the opportunity arises – we can tell them to others as well?

At least one of the answers to those questions is that our congregation can start to work on fostering spiritual practices that will help us connect to God's presence and activity in our lives. That's next month's article...

Pastor Serena's May Schedule

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

Week of June 3—June 9

- Thursday, June 6—Saturday, June 8: Synod Assembly
- Sunday, June 9: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of June 10—June 16

- Tuesday, June 11: 6:30 pm—9:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 12: 10:30 am—8:00 pm
- Sunday, June 16: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of June 17—June 23

- Tuesday, June 18: 10:30 am—12:30 pm (off-site)
- Wednesday, June 19: 10:30 am—8:00 pm
- Sunday, June 23: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of June 24—June 30: Vacation

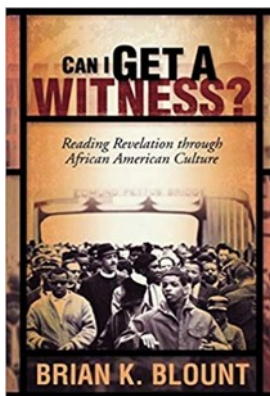
Get Ready for the Summer Book Club!

Summer is coming, and that means we will be hosting our second annual **Summer Book Club**. This year, the education planning committee selected ***Can I Get A Witness?*** by Brian Blount. The book is a carefully researched – but also readable – exploration of the book of Revelation, which unpacks this often mis-understood book by recognizing the importance of context, both the original author's and our own, and be revealing (*see what I did there?*) the way that the Christian call to witness is an ethic for response to struggle and suffering.

Why this book? Good Question:

- Revelation can be one of the most intimidating and confusing books in the Bible – this study will help us to understand and connect to it in a new way!
- Reading the Bible through a certain culture, especially if it's not our own, helps us to understand the role that we play in interpretation.
- This book offers us the chance to find the relevance of Revelation in our own lives.

The first session of the Book Club (focusing on the Introduction and chapters 1-2) will be Wednesday, July 17, so you have plenty of time to get started. **If you would like to be part of the group order, please sign-up by Sunday, June 9**



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, Mary Kathryn Laird, Sandy Siewert, 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, Megan McGuire, Benjamin Nersesian, Donna Woody, Gillian George

Those in mourning: the Anderson family

JUNE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

JUNE	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
2	Alexis Sweeney	Cindy Pawlo	Demetria Laird	Alexis Sweeney	~ George Pawlo ~ Maria Jerez-Kearney	Vanessa Ponce
9	Howard Cornelson	Pat Scalora	Ray Mueller	Maria Jerez-Kearney	~ Mary Kasakove ~ Doug Laird	Alexis Sweeney
16	Doug Laird	Doug Laird	Linda Venator	Mary Kasakove	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Cindy Pawlo	Marco Ponce
23	Alexis Sweeney	Alexis Sweeney	Heather Nilsen	Dick Kamin	~ Howard Cornelson ~ George Pawlo	Jeanne Scalora
30	Pat Scalora	Doug Laird	Roy Persson	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Christina Belfiore ~ Pat Scalora	Sue Stirrat

COUNTERS: **2:** Howard Cornelson **9:** Nita Persson **16:** George Pawlo **23:** Howard Cornelson
30: Nancy Ayotte

ALTAR GUILD: Shelli Skeels 6/2, 23, 30 Mary Kasakove: 6/9, 16

BREAD BAKING: Serena Rice

JUNE 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
2 7TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Time and Talent Fair	3	4 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	5 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	8 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
9 DAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Adult Forum: Lenape People (Sue Stirrat)	10	11 7:00 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	12 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Hard Bible Topics: Genocide/ Murder Texts 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	15 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
16 HOLY TRINITY 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Father's Day BBQ	17 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	18	19 2:00 pm Senior Meeting: Movie 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Hard Bible Topics: Purity Codes/ Household Codes 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	22 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
23 2NDSUNDAY/ PENTECOST Music Sunday and Hymn Sing 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship	24	25	26 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	27	28 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	29 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
30 3RDSUNDAY/ PENTECOST 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship						