



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

A Longing to Learn

As I sit down to write this article, both of my children are participating in online classes. Quinn is learning new music for a summer theater camp, while Maddox is learning about chemical reactions and mixing cornstarch with different liquids. It's not the Summer we had planned for, and I know they would both rather be "at" camp, learning alongside old and new friends, but it's still a chance to learn something new and that makes it fun.

As our nation, state, and local school districts debate how and when to re-open schools for in-person instruction, the importance of learning is rightly a top priority along with safety. We critique plans for how effectively our children will be able to learn and engage new materials in different plans, and we worry about them losing precious months of educational growth. It is an unquestioned value that school matters for much more than the childcare it provides to working parents. We want our community's children to learn as much and as well as possible.

Which raises a question for me: do we want the same for ourselves? Do we want to foster opportunities for learning? Do we want to be exposed to new ideas and expand our minds? ***Do we long for learning?***

Scripture, in its elevation of the pursuit of wisdom, calls us to be life-long learners. Wisdom is a different thing than knowledge. Knowledge is a matter of mastery: do you know a fact or a skill, or do you not? Most public debates (of which we have plenty these days) function on the level of knowledge – debating facts and information. But wisdom is not about what we know, it is about our orientation to the world. Wisdom is a consistent behavior of being interested in learning.

Continued on page 2

August, 2020

**September Newsletter Deadline
August 18, 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

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Joe Barrett
Treasurer	George Pawlo

Council Members

Gerry Ayotte	Heather Nilsen
Joe Barrett	Cindy Pawlo
Sandy Carlson	Sibylle Schroeder
Howard Corneilson	Nick Senior
Ray Mueller	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	Karen Coates
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	Nancy Ayotte
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, Wednesday, Friday: 3:30 pm—5:30 pm

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” because it is a recognition that we are not God. It places us in a position of humility that opens our hearts to be guided by God and by the practices of love that are at the center of God’s law. From that attitude of openness, we practice listening. We practice discernment. We practice the thoughtful, prayerful, faithful work of seeking to follow God’s way in the world, always knowing that we have not mastered it. In other words, we live in a way that demonstrates that we are never done learning.

I have learned a lot of new things in the last 5 months. I have learned how to run zoom meetings (complete with break-out rooms and screen and audio sharing). I have learned about streaming software and how to interpret Facebook viewership data. I have learned more than I ever wanted to about epidemiology, aerosolizing dangers, and interpreting infection rates. But more important than any of the knowledge I have gained has been the reminder to love learning again. All the ways we don’t know can feel really threatening, but it can also be an opportunity: and opportunity to walk in the way of wisdom.

Pastor Serena



Faith Kitchen Shopping for August 4

Bagged Lunch

For the Month of August we will be providing a bagged lunch. I need 5 people to bring in each 2 loaves of multi-grain bread and 1 1/2 lbs. of salami by Monday, August 3. I also need at least one person to help prepare the lunch bags. Please call me at 973-691-1910 to let me know if you can help.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry

Plans for Re-Gathering

Our planning team is making progress toward developing a workable plan to gather safely for in-person worship. Provided that current conditions do not change, we believe that both **safety** and **worship** are possible, and those dual goals guide our planning. The goal of safety means that our gathering will look and feel significantly different than what we were used to prior to the pandemic. But it will still be worship. Worship can be nourishing and meaningful, even if it is a little unfamiliar. As we share plans and prepare for this new opportunity, please bring a heart ready to experience the blessing of worship in new ways. May we practice gratitude for what we can do, rather than frustration for what we cannot.

Based on the feedback from the survey, and considering the needs of both those wanting to gather and those unable to do so, we are planning for the hybrid option: we will gather once per month in-person for an adapted liturgy (which will be live-streamed for those not able to gather), and the other Sundays of the month we will continue with our fuller liturgy exclusively by live-stream. Please note that other teams are working on opportunities for fellowship, since numerous factors significantly limit the fellowship that can happen during these Sunday morning gatherings.

Our re-gathering plan includes the adaptations below. Please familiarize yourself with these policies if you plan to participate in our in-person worship. If you have questions, please direct them to Pastor Serena.

Meditative preparation: In preparation for worship, people will be invited to immediately enter the sanctuary on arrival and find a seat in silence, rather than socializing. Prelude music will be played to aid as we prepare our hearts, and for those gathering via the livestream (please be aware that the microphone in the sanctuary will be “live” online). This will be a time for quiet prayer and reflection, with resources provided in the bulletin.

Mask-wearing: All people entering and present in the building will be required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth at all times (masks may be momentarily removed *only* for the time needed to partake in communion at your seat). If anyone removes their mask (or moves it so that mouth or nose are not covered) while in the building, they will be asked to replace it. If they decline, the service will be immediately ended and all worshippers will exit.

Social distance: Seats have been spaced to ensure minimum 6 feet distance between households. Worshippers will be required to sit only with members of their household “bubble” and to remain at their seats throughout the service, except when invited forward by household to receive communion.

Singing: Music will be a part of the service, but the congregation will not be singing. We will have one soloist, who will be safely separated from the congregation. The congregation may mouth words silently, if desired.

Embodied prayer and praise: We will be exploring various options for non-vocal congregational participation in the worship. All present will be encouraged to join in various embodied prayer and praise motions.

Air flow: Due to the dangers associated with consistent patterns of air flow, we will not run fans or other cooling systems while people are gathered in the building. Doors and windows will be opened to offer cross-ventilation and the exchange of fresh air. People may use paper fans to cool themselves. If you are very sensitive to heat, be conscious of the conditions when deciding whether to attend the worship in-person, rather than joining on-line.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3 —Plans for Re-Gathering

Reservations: In order to ensure that we do not exceed safe capacity limits, we will be taking reservations for in-person worship attendance. Building doors will be opened 10 minutes prior to the beginning of worship, and worshippers will be asked to exit the building once worship is concluded.

Videoing: Our 10:00 am service will be live-streamed for those worshipping at home. Participation in this service involves consent to have your image included in the live-stream.

Bathrooms: Only single-persons bathrooms will be open, to preserve social distancing. (Parents may accompany child to the bathroom).

Cleaning: All high-touch surfaces will be cleaned between each building use. All bulletins will be single-use. A full hour of intentional air purification will be practiced between services. Please take all disposable items (bulletins, masks, gloves, single-use communion ware, etc.) home with you for disposal.

Spirit of Welcome: This list of policies can feel like a long list of don'ts. We will all need to work together, within these constraints, to still live into the spirit of welcome that has always characterized our community.

We long to feel like a community again, and we can all contribute to this sense of community by releasing expectations, welcoming new opportunities, and supporting each other in expressing love by caring for each others' health. And let us all remember that the heart of worship is drawing near to God, and no list of policies or unfamiliar practices can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

(If you wish to review the comprehensive resource that was our primary guide in developing these guidelines, it is available here: <https://www.spas-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Resuming-Care-filled-Worship-and-Sacramental-Life.pdf>)

Pastor Serena

August 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 Sunday mornings 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. The kids will be home for the duration of the summer (their camp programs have been moved to virtual platforms), but she can be available for phone calls, or for in-person visits (if needed) with notice. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

In addition, Pastor Serena will be taking a week of family vacation from **August 27 – Sept. 2. For pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Pastor Ingrid Wengert (215) 692-2091.**

Sunday Scripture

August 2

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 23

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 9

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 30

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

August 16

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28

August Birthdays

11 Billy Clark
11 Alex LaVacca
28 Kevin Tangen
30 Laurel Kamin

August Anniversaries

4 Jeanne & Pat Scalora
10 Don & Cecilia Bowe
20 Pr. Serena & Tyler Rice
29 Lynn & Bob Peterson

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.



Thank You Corner

Thank you to everyone who is giving your time, voices, and effort to prepare music, readings, prayers, and videos for our weekly worship, especially everyone who chose songs and recorded videos for our July 19 Hymn Sing liturgy. Liturgy literally means “work of the people” and our community has been living into that meaning even though we cannot do that work together in one space. What a joy to share worship with so many different voices and faces to demonstrate the way that God draws us together.

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 August 18.

General Budget Financial Summary

	June	Y-T-D
Budget	\$12,244	\$ 73,464
Giving	\$10,681	\$ 72,424
Expenses	\$10,622	\$ 68,150
Surplus/(Deficit) to Spending	\$ 59	\$ 4,274
Surplus/(Deficit) to Budget	\$ (1,563)	\$ (1,040)

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

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, please call the church office to arrange drop-off: (973) 691-9393. Note – Christine is usually in the office approx. 3:30-5:30pm M/W/F. When you bring the donation, leave it at the door, and knock to let Christine know that your donation is outside. She will collect it.

If you know of people who need food assistance, please let them know to call the church office to arrange pick-up. Christine can leave the bags outside the door at the arranged time.

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!





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, Michael Krush, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Jim Kosiorek, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Donna Woody, Gillian George, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Baby Jackson Cook, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Luke Mueller, 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, Gary and Linda McCabe, 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

Those who are expecting: Kimberly Defreitas, April and Scott

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



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
someone close to you lets us know. Thank

Please clip this article and keep it handy!

AUGUST

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

AUGUST	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
2	None	None	Sheeba David	Karen Coates	None	None
9	None	None	Demetria Laird	Sue Stirrat	None	None
16	None	None	Linda Venator	Joe Barrett	None	None
23	None	None	Howard Cornelson	Heather Nilsen	None	None
30	None	None	Karen Coates	Sheeba David	None	None

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Cindy Pawlo

BREAD BAKING: None

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
2 9TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:30 am Council Retreat	3 2:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	4 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	5 Cancelled AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Book Club: <i>The Jesus I Never Knew</i> , by Philip Yancy (Part 2: Why He Came)	6	7 Cancelled NA Mtg.	8 Cancelled Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
9 10TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	10	11	12 Cancelled AA Mtg. 7:00 pm Zoom Study: ELCA Social State- ment on Race & Racism	13	14 Cancelled NA Mtg.	15 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
16 11TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Conver- sation: Telling Our Church Story	17	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 Cancelled AA Mtg.	20	21 Cancelled NA Mtg.	22 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
23 12TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	24	25	26 Cancelled AA Mtg.	27	28 Cancelled NA Mtg.	29 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
30 13TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour	31					