

VIEW from the lake

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



From the Pastor

What Does It Mean To Be Transformed

As we head into Lent, I wanted to take this chance to introduce this year's Lenten theme: TRANSFORMATION.

The obvious way to introduce a topic like this is to offer a short and pithy faith-oriented definition, so I turned to my usual resources to find one. I couldn't. I looked through all my "faith-dictionary" type resources. Nothing. Even my trusty 770 page Strong's Concordance only offered up 4 Bible references. *I had a brief panic attack wondering if I was totally off-base in picking transformation as our Lenten theme...*

But I trust the guiding of God's Spirit, and I know our worship during this season is grounded in the gospel, so I don't think it's the topic that's the problem. Transformation is a clear and central expectation for the life of faith. It is central to Jesus's core gospel message: repent and believe – change and trust. And the Apostle Paul exhorts us in Romans 12 that our response to the grace of God is to live transformed lives.

So, why isn't transformation highlighted in the way that we talk about faith? I think perhaps, at least for Lutherans, "transformation" sounds a little too much like works righteousness. We worry that transformation means conforming to an idealized image of what a "Christian" is supposed to be. We imagine that it means confronting all of the things that are "wrong" in our lives and working hard to do better. We hear in the word a condemnation, rather than a promise.

But I think that "transformation" is actually a word of hope, because it tells us that we are not condemned to stay where we are,

March, 2019

**April Newsletter Deadline
March 21, 2019**

Worship: 10:00 am

**For hospitalization or other
pastoral care needs, please call
Pastor Serena at 908-458-3940**



Daylight Savings

Time Begins

March 10

Turn clocks ahead

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	Heather Nilsen
Vice President	Robert Bowden
Secretary	Howard Corneilson
Treasurer	Nancy Ayotte

Council Members

Gerry Ayotte	Ray Mueller
Nancy Ayotte	Heather Nilsen
Robert Bowden	George Pawlo
Howard Corneilson	Pat Scalora
Doug Laird	Sibylle Schroeder

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
Intern Committee	Shelli Skeels
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

stuck in all the habits, and fears, and patterns that we fall into on our own. We have a God who has called us beloved and said to us “you are free.” Free to become what we were created to be.

We GET to be transformed. Our faith can genuinely change us in ways that produce the fruit of love, and joy, and hope in our lives. As we walk the Lenten road in the coming weeks, and sit at the Lenten table, we are going to engage with stories of transformation from our sacred book. These are stories of the lives of faithful people from the heritage of our faith, but I hope they are more than that. I hope they are also an invitation to open up to the transforming things that God wants to do in our lives as well.

And maybe, by the end of Lent, we can come up with our own short and pithy faith-filled definition of transformation, based on our transformative experiences.



Donate As You Shop!

Did you know that you can help raise money for Abiding Peace just by buying things you were already planning to purchase? Amazon has a program called “smile” that allows you to shop with all of Amazon’s regular vendors, and pay the normal amazon price, but when you make your purchase, a portion of your purchase price is donated to the charity of your choice.

To set-up your amazon smile account, go to www.smile.amazon.com. You will be prompted to select a charity that will benefit from your purchases. Search for Abiding Peace Lutheran Church and select the Abiding Peace church in Budd Lake. When you shop, just make sure you log into smile.amazon.com (rather than the standard amazon) and start earning money for the church!



Stewardship As I See it!

One of several definitions the dictionary provides for the word 'stewardship' is the employment or use of one's time, talent and possessions. Although, my guess is that most church people would probably consider the use of their possessions (e.g. available funds) as the target of their church's stewardship drive. However, as the dictionary definition includes time and talent as well, possessions or funds should be only one of three areas of stewardship emphasis. I believe Christ would most likely consider our time and talent availability the most important stewardship asset available to him.

Christ devoted his life to feeding the hungry, standing up for people being treated unjustly, and those suffering from debilitating diseases. In order to follow his teachings, our Christian community must emulate Christ's values and concerns. In order to mitigate the many problems facing our world we must step up to the plate; we cannot expect our governments to solve everything.

In order to provide for our community and stand with those who face challenges, our Christian community needs to provide volunteers that can advocate for, donate to its needs and participate in events that support Christ's teachings, values and concerns. I see that as my duty and chief contribution to Christian stewardship.

Thom Coates

"Unfinished Object" Night March 18 * 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.



It's Not Too Late to Participate

As part of our Lenten focus on *transformation* this year, Abiding Peace will be participating in a 4-part Bible study for local congregations called **Congregations**

for Justice. This study, hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Dover, will explore the teachings of scripture that call followers of Christ into efforts to *proclaim good news to the poor and set the oppressed free*, with a particular focus on issues of hunger in our state.

Training Highlights:

- A 4-Part Bible Study Series on learning how to engage in justice issues (February 24, March 3, March 17, 31)
- A statewide Justice Gathering with experts in the field on March 16, 2019
- Service: Putting Faith into Action, apply what you have learned!
- A Closeout Celebration to acknowledge your hard work on May 4, 2019

Even if you can't participate in all four dates, attend the ones you can. You can sign-up with Pastor Serena, or use the sign-up sheet posted on the board by the church office. The sessions run from 2:00 pm—3:00 pm.

Senior Meeting Schedule 2018

The Senior Planning Meeting/Tea Party will be held on Thursday, March 21 beginning at 2:00 pm. Please come and join us!

All are welcome.



Faith Kitchen Shopping List for March 5

Kielbasa and Sauerkraut

- ~ 3 to 4 rings Kielbasa
- ~ 2 large bags sauerkraut
- ~ 4 large cans of whole potatoes

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, March 3.

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



March 9 * 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

Bring a friend or neighbor. Enjoy fellowship and reflection before your 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

March 3

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-43a

March 24

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 10

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 31

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 17

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35



March Birthdays

7 Sudhakar Kandikatla
8 Sibylle Schroeder
11 Marco Ponce, Jr.
11 Tyler Rice

14 Serena Rice
15 Christine Blackburne
19 Carolyn Blackburne
28 Karen Coates

Lent Happenings



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5. Anyone involved in cooking should plan on being at church by 4:30 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE Wednesday, March 6 @ 7:30 pm



This year we will observe Ash Wednesday at Flanders United Presbyterian Church in Flanders, NJ. Participating in the service will be Rev. Rick Oppelt of Flanders United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Meekyung Choi Kim of Flanders United Methodist Church, and Pastor Serena Rice for Abiding Peace.

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey; the Imposition of Ashes reminds us of our mortality, the need for self-examination and repentance. Sharing this service with our brothers and sisters of other denominations makes the experience even more meaningful.



Lenten Dinner Church

Abiding Peace's annual Lenten Dinner Church begin on Wednesday, March 13. Each Wednesday at 6:30 pm members and friends join together for an informal dinner. Please sign up to bring your favorite soup recipes, a salad, or a main dish on the bulletin board in the narthex. A brief Lenten service will be held at 7:00 pm. Please plan to make these meaningful gatherings a part of your Lenten discipline.

Pastor Serena's March Schedule

Week of February 25 – March 3:

- Tuesday, Feb. 26: 1:00 pm—12:00 am (off-site training)
- Wednesday, Feb. 27: 12:00 am—2:00 pm (off-site training); 2:00 pm—8:00 pm
- (Thursday – Sunday: half-week vacation – Pastor Jaye Newbold available for pastoral emergencies).

Week of March 4 – March 10:

- Wednesday, March 6: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Thursday, March 7: 7:00 pm—9:30 pm
- Sunday, March 11: 8:30 am—1:00 pm

Week of March 11 – March 17:

- Wednesday, March 13: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Friday, March 15: 10:30 am—12:30 pm (off-site)
- Sunday, March 11: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Week of March 18 – March 24:

- Wednesday, March 20: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Friday, March 22: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
- Sunday, March 24: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of March 25 – March 31:

- Wednesday, March 27: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Thursday, March 28: 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
- Sunday, March 31: 9:00 am—11:30 pm

Coming Up On 50 years

We had the first meeting to prepare for our 50th anniversary (which will be in May 2021) in January. I know it is a bit in the future, but it takes a good deal of planning to celebrate an event like this.

We are looking to have the formal celebration the middle of May in 2021. We are currently looking to find a venue for this and setting a date. If anyone has a suggestion for this, please let us know.

We are also looking to do a number of remembrances leading up to that celebration. We will be contacting some of our former pastors to see if they can visit with us and give a homily on a Sunday prior to our celebration.

Our next meeting will be Sunday March 3rd following our service. Come and join us. We appreciate all input and suggestions.

Howard Corneilson



General Budget Financial Summary

	January	Y-T-D
Budget	\$12,244	\$ 12,244
Income	\$ 9,945	\$ 9,945
Expenses	\$12,095	\$ 12,095
Surplus/ (Deficit) to Spending	\$(2,150)	\$ (2,150)
Surplus/ (Deficit) to Budget	\$(2,299)	\$ (2,299)

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

Learning Opportunities (Calendar Updates)

Since weather has disrupted some of our scheduled adult learning plans this winter, the schedule for the March – June has been updated with some changed and some new dates. Print-outs of the updated adult education schedule are available at the church building, but the upcoming months are also copied below (in hopes of no more weather-related rescheduling). Items with an asterisk (*) are new or changed.

Adult Forums:

- **Congregations For Justice Study** (off-site)
Feb 24, March 3, 17, 31
- March 10 – **New Church Welcome Statement**
- March 24 – **Learning from Ubuntu***
- April 7 – **De-churchifying God-Talk***
- April 14 – **Palm Sunday activity**
- May 5 – **Millennials in the Church***
- May 19 - **Loving Dialogue on Opiate Crisis***
- June 2 – **Time & Talents Fair***
- June 9 – **Local Roots – the Lenape people***
- (Date TBD) **Expert speaker – Advance Directives & Wills** (note, Pastor Serena is working on this one, but if you have any leads, please let her know!)

Mid-week studies:

- **Bible Study 101**
Feb 6: **Timeline of Salvation History**
Feb 27: **Literary Types in Scripture***
May 8: **Inspiration, Human-Divine Partnership***
May 15: **The Task of Interpreting***
- **Hard Bible Topics**
May 22: **Gender-based violence***
May 29: **Household codes***
June 5: **Purity Codes***
June 12: **Genocide/murder texts***
June 19: **“Lead us not into temptation”***

A Wide Open Welcome

Welcome Statement is found on Page 8

Inspired by a welcome statement that our Messengers Dancers brought back from a local congregation, our church Council has adopted an official-but-delightfully-informal new welcome statement (see welcome statement included in this newsletter). It's our effort to put some detail into the welcome we hear each Sunday in worship: *whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, know that you are most welcome here to receive God's goodness, mercy, and love.*

In adopting this welcome statement, the Council talked about why it's important to identify specific groups as welcome. In our church culture we say "all are welcome" and we know that we mean that, but the reality is that not all churches who have used this phrase always make good on this promise. By adding details to our welcome we are doing a couple of things. First, by naming traditionally marginalized groups (including divorced, queer, inked, etc.) we are making it clear that "yes, our welcome includes you," Folks who have been excluded from churches in the past sometimes justifiably feel skeptical about whether they will really be welcomed. Second, by naming groups that might not seem to go together (long-time Lutherans and doubters; veterans and draft-dodgers; people of different political affiliations; etc.) we are making a statement that welcome does not mean uniformity. We get to bring our whole selves to our worship and to our community, and we don't have to fit in to belong.

If you have thoughts, or questions, or even concerns about this welcome, or if you want to think and talk about how we can really live into it, you are encouraged to come to the **adult forum on March 10**. We will be diving into our welcome statement and what it really means to welcome everyone.



ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE!¹

At Abiding Peace Lutheran Church,
whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith,
know that you are most welcome here, to receive God's goodness, mercy, and love.

When we say that you are welcome, we really mean it:

We extend a loving welcome to those who are single, married, divorced or widowed; those who are gay, queer, confused, or straight; those who are rich, comfortable, or experiencing financial hardship. *We welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or quietly hum.* We welcome those of all gender identities, ethnicities, races, political affiliations, immigration status, and primary languages. *We welcome you if you are more Christian than Martin Luther, haven't been to church since Confirmation, or have never before entered a church. We welcome those who are questioning their faith, have not participated in organized religion, grew up in another tradition or religion, or are just looking to sit a while.*

We welcome, with open arms, those who are over 60 but not yet grown up and teenagers who are growing up way too fast. *We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both, or neither. We welcome veterans, those in active service, and draft-dodgers.* We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters, and those who love a good Lutheran coffee hour. *We embrace those who are in recovery (grape juice is offered at communion), or still addicted. We welcome you if you are having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like organized religion.* We offer a smiling welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, are recently unemployed, can't spell, or are just here because Grandma made them come. *We welcome those who are vision or hearing impaired. We welcome those with physical and mental health conditions, and children, youth, and adults with special needs.* We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved upon them as kids, or simply took the wrong road and ended up here by mistake! *We welcome those who wish to be welcomed with an extended hand and listening ear, as well as folks who want to sit silently in a pew. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters, those who are hurting and those who are celebrating.*

We welcome you if something we said above bothers you. We are open to talking about it. We can be community even when we disagree.

Whoever you are, we welcome YOU, because we all need this same welcome, and we want to share the welcome we have received. Welcome to Abiding Peace!

¹Abiding Peace thanks the people of Coventry Cathedral, St. John's Episcopal Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover. Your welcome statements inspired us.

MARCH

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

MARCH	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
3	Howard Corneilson	Alexis Sweeney	Doug Laird	Maria Jerez-Kearney	~ Cindy Pawlo ~ Sibylle Schroeder	Jeanne Scalora
10	Doug Laird	Pat Scalora	Demetria Laird	Dick Kamin	~ Maria Jerez-Kearney ~ Howard Corneilson	Vanessa Ponce
17	Pat Scalora	Doug Laird	Ray Mueller	Mary Kasakove	~ Christina Belfiore ~ Pat Scalora	Alexis Sweeney
24	Alexis Sweeney	Cindy Pawlo	Roy Persson	Doug Laird	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Alexis Sweeney	Marco Ponce
31	Howard Corneilson	Alexis Sweeney	Bob Peterson	Barbara Prosser	~ Sibylle Schroeder ~ George Pawlo	Sue Stirrat

COUNTERS: 3: Howard Corneilson 10: Nancy Ayotte 17: George Pawlo 24: Howard Corneilson
31: Nancy Ayotte

ALTAR GUILD: Jackie King (Weeks 1-2) TBD (Weeks 3-4) Mary Kasakove (Week 5)

BREAD BAKING: Jeanne Scalora



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, Daniel LeFave, Jozef Molitoris, Cora Woodruff, Madeline Gasperine, Anja Zwicker, Barbara Pinekenstein, Mary Kathryn Laird, Sylvie Markowicz, LuAnn Price, Sandy Siewert, Sandy Olson, Craig Yandrow, Norton Woodruff, David Dearman, Bob Vanderhoof, Ken Anderson, Max Levinston, Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Rich Apgar, Michael Krush, Judy Wayman, Leo Inglin, Sr., Tamsin Skeels Those in mourning: The Dennis family

MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30 pm Game Night 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	2 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
3 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am 50th Anniversary Planning Meeting 2:00 pm Congregations for Justice Study @ Trinity, Dover	4	5 9:00 am Faith Kitchen 5:30 pm Pancake supper	6 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ United Presbyterian Flanders	7 7:30 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	8 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	9 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
10 1ST SUNDAY/ LENT 8:45 am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Forum: New Church Welcome Statement	11	12	13 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Lenten Dinner Church 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	16 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
17 2ND SUNDAY/LENT 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Congregations for Justice Study @ Trinity, Dover	18 7:30 pm Unfinished Object Night	19	20 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Lenten Dinner Church 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2:00 pm Seniors Meeting: Tea Party	22 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	23 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
24 3RDSUNDAY/ LENT 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Forum: Learning from Ubuntu	25	26	27 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:45 pm Lenten Dinner Church 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	28		
31 4TH SUNDAY/ LENT 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Congregations for Justice Study @ Trinity, Dover						