



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Advent Transformation

The church year begins with just one candle shining in the darkness. With a gentle chorus singing “come, o come...”. With an invitation to waiting, to expectation... because something important is happening.

While the world around us is rushing into Christmas with all its activity, and noise, and vibrant light, Advent calls us to take a breath and remember that the really important changes don’t happen in an instant. They unfold. They grow... like the light on the Advent wreath that gets a bit brighter each week. Advent invites us to pay attention to the process of transformation.

This fall, our adult forum class slowed down to explore the way in which the structure of our worship calls us into transformation. At the final session of our fall series on the liturgy, we considered this repeated pattern of transformation:

- We come to worship as individuals, weighed down by the world, conscious or unconscious of the sin that has marred our lives during the week... and in the **gathering** we are welcomed together into a holy place in which forgiveness is pronounced.
- We come to the readings distracted, perhaps overwhelmed by our own stories, or confused about what we are to do... and in the **word** we hear guidance and inspiration, a reminder that our story is part of something much bigger into which we are called.
- We come to the table hungry for a nourishment that goes deeper than bread... and in the **meal** we are sated with the Bread of Life, given for us.

December, 2018

January Newsletter Deadline
December 13, 2018



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
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

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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

- And finally, we conclude our worship having received forgiveness, belonging, inspiration, direction, the very body of Christ... and in the **sending** we are called back out into the world to give to others.

We follow this pattern of transformation every Sunday, but the season of Advent calls us to pay special attention to why our practice of transformation matters. Advent reminds us that we are in the middle of a much bigger transformation. The transformation of God's kingdom – God's way of doing things – invading our world and turning all of our broken patterns inside out.

It's not always a "merry and bright" process. Transformation can be messy, and even scary at times. But, just like our pattern of worship, the change is one that we and our world need. Advent invites us in, meets our needs, and then sends us back out to be agents of transformation.

This season we will be exploring the theme of *witness* – which is just a churchy word for telling our story. Each of us has a story (probably more than one) of transformation. This Advent, let's embrace together the witness of transformation.

Pastor Serena

Prayer Partner Cookie/ Gift Exchange

The Prayer Partner Cookie/Gift Exchange will be Sunday, December 16. All Prayer Partners are encouraged to attend and bring a gift for their 2018 Prayer Partner as well as cookies to share with everyone. We will also be choosing new Prayer Partners for 2019.

Thanks.
Demetria





Why Do We Pledge?

When I hear the word “pledge” I generally think of fundraising: stewardship programs at church, or pledge drives for public radio or my favorite podcasts. In other words, I think of necessary, practical matters, that are not terribly inspiring, and might even be an unwelcome distraction from the reason I really came (or tuned in to listen).

When I asked my children what a pledge was, though, they gave a much more fundamental answer. They said: “a pledge is a promise.” And, of course, they are right. That’s exactly what a pledge is. And that means that ***a pledge involves a relationship, not just a transaction.*** When we make a promise, we are making a commitment that we are going to be around to keep that promise. This is a relationship that we see continuing into the future. And we want the other party in the relationship to know that we are there for this relationship going forward.

In that sense, ***pledging can be considered a spiritual practice:*** a commitment to a pattern of behavior – in this case a pattern of giving – that we pursue because we know it will grow our faith. We’ve been talking about “giving – a means to grow our faith” since mid-October. The stewardship focus is now complete, and this is probably the last time you will be hearing that phrase for a while. But our pledges, our promises will carry that growth forward as a continuing spiritual practice. They’ll do the necessary, practical work too – of helping Council to plan the budget, and getting the bills paid – and I’m grateful for that! But I hope they are also inspiring. I hope they remind you, month-in-and-month-out that your promise connects you to a relationship that is vital, and meaningful, and a blessing to you as much as it is to all who are served by this church.

Thank you for pledging to support the work God is doing through Abiding Peace.

Pastor Serena

Pastor Serena's December Schedule

Week of Nov. 26—Dec. 2

- Wednesday, Nov 28: 10:30 am—8:00 pm
- Friday, Nov. 30: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm, Confirmation Class
- Sunday, Dec 2: 8:30 am—4:00 pm

Week of Dec. 3—Dec. 9

- Wednesday, Dec. 5: 6:00 pm—8:00 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 6: 10:30 am—9:30 pm, Council
- Sunday, Dec. 9: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Week of Dec. 10—Dec. 16

- Wednesday, Dec. 12: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 16: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of Dec. 17—Dec. 23

- Wednesday, Dec. 19: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 23: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Week of Dec. 24—Dec. 30

- Monday, Dec. 24: 6:00 pm—12:00 am
- Tuesday—Saturday: vacation
- Sunday, Dec. 30: 9:00 am—12:00 pm



Have you remembered your Prayer Partner lately? Pray for her daily, send a card or leave a small gift now and then. If you do not know her, this is a great opportunity to meet and learn about someone new, or just to bond a little more with someone you already know. Make sure to have fun.

Temple Talk

The day I came here in 2016 happened to be world hunger day, so its funny I was asked to speak today 2 years later.

When I had first arrived at Abiding Peace I had gone through a lot of changes in my life: divorce, cancer, and sold my home, all in just over a year.

It was a very sad time for me as I felt alone and I had no purpose in life. My cancer had ended my long infertility battle and made me accept the fact I would never start the family I wanted, my marriage was over after 15 years, and I was just lost.

I asked myself what am I missing in my life and how could I turn this around... The answer was God. I had been away from my church and faith for a long time since moving from my home town many years earlier.

So I decided to go “church shopping.” Abiding Peace was my 1st and last stop. Everyone was so welcoming and warm, without being pushy.

That 1st day I came here I heard about starving people all over the world, children right here in NJ with no school lunch and who were going to bed hungry. Then I heard what we could do to help. Everyone pitched in to write letters and was so engaged. As I spent the afternoon here I learned more about what this congregation does for the community and outreach... I said to myself, these folks are wholeheartedly generous and caring.

It made me realize that life is not about what I lost or don't have but rather how I can help others and serve the Lord. That day I walked in here with despair but left with a renewed hope and feeling whole again. I found my purpose and realized I do have a lot to offer. Also, that this is the place I want to be and the people I wanted to do it with.

I don't think any of you will understand what you gave me that day, but I am so truly grateful to all of you and happy to serve the Lord with you.

Jackie King

Thank You Corner

I want to thank everyone who helped with the Reformation Fair. Without it would not have been possible—Sibylle

Thank you to Don Larsen for saving your absent-minded pastor when she locked herself out of the church! You took it in stride when I showed up at your front door – unannounced – to ask to borrow your key to the church, and you didn't make me feel silly at all. Thank you for the help and the kindness! – Pastor 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) by December 13.



Church Decorating

When: Saturday, December 1

Where: APLC

Time: 11:00 am



**Faith Kitchen
December 4
Italian Chicken**

- ~ 10-12 chicken thighs or 5-6 large chicken breasts
- ~ 1 (14 1/2 oz.) can cubed tomatoes
- ~ 3-5 large fresh tomatoes
- ~ 1 container feta cheese

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

For any questions or if you can come and help serve,
please call 973-691-1910.

Thank you,
Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry

Sunday Scripture

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55

December 30

Lessons and Carols

Temple Talk

I love to sing, I always have since I was a little girl. I would sing in the church choir and in the glee club in school.

I was raised catholic and was taught of a fearful God. A God that would punish you if you did something wrong. “You must have done something wrong, so God punished you.” I never have a belief in a God who loved me. He didn’t have time for me.

I learned about faith through my aunt. She taught me about the love of the Virgin Mary. “Mary will always be there for you. Jesus will never deny his mother anything.”

So I raised my children catholic because that was tradition, but I didn’t sing anymore; that was for children. I would go to their concerts but something was missing. I would sing along with them in my head. Missing it. It had always given me such joy.

Then my son overdosed and I didn’t want to sing anymore; I didn’t want to do much of anything.

Then driving to work one day I passed this church with the sign outside reading “singers wanted in choir within.” It made me smile. Everyday I passed it on my way and everyday it made me smile.

So I thought why don’t I try out? So I did and everyone was so nice and welcoming. I never thought I would have to come to service every week. I was just thinking I’m going to sing with some nice people.

I did sing with some nice people and I learned with them and my pastor that God loves me and I can give back by sharing my love of singing with them.

“Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.”

Maria Jerez-Kearney

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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!

“Unfinished Object” Night



There will be no Unfinished Object Night in December. I hope everyone has a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

See you in January.



December 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: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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

Temple Talk

I am an authentic baby boomer. I was born a year after WWII ended. I was baptized by my grandfather. My parents made sure my brothers and I went to church and Sunday School.

I loved Sunday School. There was a teacher who played piano with lots of pep and energy. We were encouraged to pick hymns and songs during our assembly time. Without question, our favorite hymn was a spiritual, “gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside. Ain’t gonna study war no more, no more.” We requested that song time after time. We sang the wheels off that song. I can still remember the page number...232.

There was another teacher who had a flair for the dramatic. She used a really large flannel board with lights to teach us Bible stories. She moved scenery and figures around to make events come alive. There is one story I can still remember to this day. It was a story about two lakes located in the Holy Land. Of course, we know that in the Bible a lake is called a sea. The Sea of Galilee for example. Our teacher put up a blue roundish shape on the flannel board. That was the Sea of Galilee. Above that shape she put a narrow blue ribbon. That was the Jordan River flowing into the Sea of Galilee from the north. She explained that there were fish thriving in this sea, there was green vegetation along its banks, children played by the shoreline.

Then she placed another narrow blue ribbon on the southern edge of the Sea of Galilee. That was a continuation of the River Jordan. It flowed quite a ways south to another sea which was not blue but a grayish color. There were no fish in this sea, no greenery, no children playing nearby. This sea had an appropriate name...the Dead Sea. Our teacher explained that the difference between the two seas was that the Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the fresh water of the Jordan. It receives and gives in equal measure. Whereas the Dead Sea receives and keeps every drop of water from the Jordan. It gives nothing. The lesson was clear...**to give is to live.**

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Continued from page 6—Temple Talk

When I was growing up, I received many blessings and didn't even know it. In my young mind I thought I was like most people, and most people were like me. I thought everyone lived in a house with a backyard to play in. I thought everyone had three meals a day. I assumed everyone had a change of clothes. I thought everyone had a safe and loving family life. I thought everyone went to church and Sunday School. When I became older, I realized my childhood assumptions were quite wrong. There was plenty of hurt and need in the real world. I knew I had to give. ***To give is to live.*** I didn't want to be like the Dead Sea.

At this time of year, when we have a stewardship emphasis, it is good to consider all the things we receive inside the walls of this church. For starters, we receive Word and Sacrament, supported by music and sacred dance. We have fellowship, we have an authentic, full-fledged pastor. What do we give outside of these walls? We have a food pantry, we participate in Faith Kitchen in Dover, we give food from our church garden, we have food baskets forming to be distributed to those in need in the community. ***To give is to live.*** It is good to give thanks for what we receive, and to ask God to bless our efforts and find new ways to give in a world of increasing need. Amen.

Karen Coates

50 Years

It was May 9th, 1971 that Abiding Peace was organized with 134 baptized members (92 Confirmed and 42 Children).

As we approach the 50 year anniversary of our congregation, we are forming a committee to prepare for and plan this celebration. We are planning an initial planning meeting on January 13th following our Sunday service. I encourage our membership to attend and submit ideas on how we will celebrate. We are starting to plan now as this is a significant milestone for our congregation and we want it to be a memorable celebration. Please put this date on your calendar. If you are not able to attend, but want to make some suggestions, please let me know so I can bring the ideas up at the meeting.

Howard Corneilson



December Birthdays

4 Carol Biunno
10 Don Bowe
15 Pat Scalora
17 Edward Venator
20 Barry Kullack
23 Jeanne Scalora
25 Howard Corneilson
29 Emily Prosser
30 Alice Kandikatla



Food Pantry Needs

**Bread, Jelly, Soup
Tuna, Cereal, Rice
Instant Potatoes, Vegetables
Pasta Sauce**

Social Ministry is asking each of you to fill a bag with the above items so we can have a full food pantry. Thanks!

DECEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

DECEMBER	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
2	Doug Laird	Pat Scalora	Alaina Rice	Dick Kamin	~ Howard Corneilson ~ Maria Jerez-Kearney	None
9	Pat Scalora	Cindy Pawlo	Shelli Skeels	Mary Kasakove	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Doug Laird	None
16	Alexis Sweeney	Alexis Sweeney	Jeanne Scalora	Barbara Prosser	~ Christina Belfiore ~ Sibylle Schroeder	None
23	Howard Corneilson	Doug Laird	Heather Nilsen	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Mary Kasakove ~ Pat Scalora	None
30 Lessons & Carols	Doug Laird	Pat Scalora	TBD	Alexis Sweeney	~ Howard Corneilson ~ Maria Jerez-Kearney	None

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

30: Nancy Ayotte

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Kasakove **BREAD BAKING:** Sibylle Schroeder



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, O. Kelley Anderson and family, 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

DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>11:00 am</i> Decorating church for Christmas <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
2 1ST SUNDAY/ ADVENT <i>9:30 am</i> Music Rehearsal <i>10:00 am</i> Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Sunday School Assembling Christmas Baskets, after worship <i>2:00 pm</i> Pastor Serena's Installation	3	4 <i>9:00 am</i> Faith Kitchen	5 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	6 <i>7:30 pm</i> Council Meeting (All are welcome)	7 <i>7:30 pm</i> Game Night <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.	8 <i>9:00 am</i> Church Family Breakfast <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
9 2ND SUNDAY/ ADVENT <i>9:30 am</i> Music Rehearsal <i>10:00 am</i> Worship <i>11:30 am</i> Loving Dialogue on End of Life	10	11	12 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	14 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.	15 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
16 3RDSUNDAY/ ADVENT <i>9:30 am</i> Music Rehearsal <i>10:00 am</i> Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Sunday School <i>11:30 am</i> Prayer Partner Cookie/Gift Exchange	17	18	19 <i>4:00 pm</i> Taize Service @ Mt. Olive Manor <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	20	21 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.	22 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
23 4TH SUNDAY/ ADVENT <i>9:30 am</i> Music Rehearsal <i>10:00 am</i> Worship	24 CHRISTMAS EVE <i>7:00 pm</i> Christmas Eve Service <i>10:15 pm</i> Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	27	28 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.	29 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
30 1ST SUNDAY/ CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS <i>9:30 am</i> Music Rehearsal <i>10:00 am</i> Worship	31					