

VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Welcome as a Process

October, 2022

November Newsletter Deadline
October 26, 2022

Worship: 10:00 am
Online/In-Person

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

In late September our RIC core team met for the first time in a few months to talk about where we were in our process of preparing the congregation to vote on the decision to become a Reconciling in Christ* congregation. As I prepped the agenda for the meeting I looked back over notes from the prior year's work, noting the learning forums that we had not yet scheduled, and the "stages" left in the process according to the resources we have been working from. I felt good about our progress, and considered that we had a clear path forward in terms of what to plan so that our congregation could be "ready" to take a vote on this important part of our public witness.

When the team met with our coach, I was challenged to re-think my assumptions about the work that we had left to do. I had been working from an assumption that we needed to do *all the things* before we could call for a vote. It's not that I worried we needed to do more to convince people that this in the direction God's Spirit is leading our congregation. We all agreed that the vast majority of our congregation is supportive of this step. I just wanted to make sure we were ready...that we had done all of the education we needed to do so that we could offer the kind of welcome that feels truly welcoming to groups who have too often been excluded and hurt by Christian churches. I wanted to do the more in-depth Bible study to address the clobber verses. I wanted to help everyone get comfortable with the acronyms and SOGI spectrum. I wanted to explore the ways that inclusive language could enrich our worship. I wanted to make sure we had done all of the prep work first.

But our conversation as a core team helped me to realize that this desire for "perfect" welcome might actually be contradicting the welcome we want to offer. For one thing, we don't expect "perfection" from anyone walking in the door (or those already inside), so we don't want to communicate that we must achieve a certain standard of knowledge about inclusion before we are willing to offer it. For another thing, waiting to make this public affirmation of our commitment to inclusive welcome makes it seem

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COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Jackie King
Vice President	Shelli Skeels
Secretary	Sheeba David
Treasurer	Nick Senior

Council Members

Sandy Carlson	Cindy Pawlo
Sheeba David	Ken Schwier
Maria Jerez-Kearney	Nick Senior
Jackie King	Shelli Skeels
Heather Nilsen	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
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	Nick Senior
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

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like this affirmation is an optional add-on to our public witness. Whereas, the biggest reason to move forward with this decision is because it is essential to our witness about the open and embracing love of God. Finally, it has always been a given that our learning will not magically be complete once we take the vote, so we can keep offering learning opportunities after we take this step as a congregation.

The result of our core team meeting, as affirmed by Council, is that we will hold a special congregational meeting on October 30 to vote on becoming an RIC church. The article isn’t about the logistics of that vote, however. It is about the learning I am continuing to do about what “welcome” really means. I am continuing to learn that a big part of welcome is really the openness to admit to not knowing everything. If, as I hope, our congregation votes to become RIC, it will be a huge and important step in our witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and our outreach to our community. But it will not be the end of our welcome journey. It will just be a step, a step that opens up new chances to learn and to discover what welcome really looks like.

I’m looking forward to learning and welcoming with you.

~ Pastor Serena

* Reconciling in Christ is the designation for Lutheran congregations that have gone through a process of learning and commitment to be a community that openly welcomes and affirms all people, including members of the LGBTQ+ community and people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, with a commitment to equity for all.



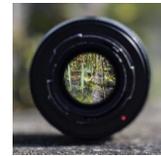
Why Do I Give?

This year, we want to hear from you!

Usually, when the Fall Stewardship time rolls around, the Stewardship team sends you a letter talking about our theme for the year that we hope will inspire you. Then, we ask 3 or 4 people to get up in front of the church to share their thoughts and experiences related to stewardship. Pastor preaches a sermon or two that connect to the stewardship theme. And, in the end, you all respond generously with the pledges and giving that supports our ministry at Abiding Peace for another year.

Well, this year, we want to invite you to be part of the sharing and inspiring from the beginning. In the next few weeks, look for a link to a survey with the title "Why Do I Give?" We are asking everyone in the congregation to spend just a couple of minutes thinking about the reasons that you support the ministry of Abiding Peace. The survey will have just 2 questions: The first question will list a number of common reasons that people list for contributing to faith communities and invite you to "check-all that apply" for you. The second question will be a text field for you to offer your own answer to the question "why do I give."

The idea is that we ALL are part of supporting the ministry of Abiding Peace, so we can ALL be part of inspiring each other in this generosity. This year, share your words as well!



Ministry Focus: Music

When I was a little girl I loved to sing. I was always singing, I would sing my lessons to remember them, I would sing commercials perfectly and of course I sang in the school choir and glee club!

My father being a wanna be classical musician encouraged me and my siblings to play musical instruments!

As I grew older and had children of my own I encouraged them in singing and music as well!

When they joined school choirs or in school musical performances, I was there cheering them on and singing along!

Finding myself needing to sing with a group again, I came upon our church sign which was looking for singers! I applied and was accepted, but never expected the outpouring and friendship that I received. The ministry of music has offered me, so much then I could ever repay.

The songs we sing are full of joy and love for our fellow man and our Lord. Thank you Ben.

I sing when I'm happy, sad, and for peace. I sing for love, and hope for a better world with music.

Recently watching the news in the Ukraine, the people hiding in the underground rail stations were scared so they started to sing for peace and safety!

This is what this ministry has done for me!
Encouraged me to sing more with love and pride.

~ Maria K.

Sunday Scripture

October 2

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

October 9

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

October 16

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:-7
Luke 16:1-13

October 23

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

October 30

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

October Birthdays

8 Lynn Peterson
14 Tom Blackburne
23 Marco Ponce
31 Maddox Rice

October Anniversaries

2 George & Cindy Pawlo
15 Carol & Richard Biunno
21 Maria & Jim Kearney
30 Rod & Barbra Prosser

Senior Meeting Schedule 2022

10/19

Halloween Party

11/16

Party with music by Lynn Peterson
~ maybe a craft?



Faith Kitchen Shopping List for October 4

Kielbasa/Sauerkraut

- ~ 6 large cans of whole potatoes
(preferably with a pull tab)
- ~ 2 large bags of sauerkraut

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, October 2.

If you have any questions, please call me and let me know, 973-459-0908.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder, Social Ministry

Pastor Serena October Schedule

In addition to posted hours in the office, Pastor Serena is also available to the congregation by cell phone or e-mail during the week: (908) 458-3940; pastorserena@optimum.net. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

Sept. 26 – Oct 2

Wednesday, 9/28 – 10:00am-8:30pm

Saturday, 10/1 – 9:30am-2:30pm

Sunday, 10/2 – 9:00am-1:00pm

Oct 3-9

Continuing Education Week (no office hours)

Oct 10-16

Wednesday, Oct 12 – 10:00am-6:00pm

Sunday, Oct 16 – 9:00am-2:00pm

Oct 17-23

Wednesday, Oct 19 – 10:00am-8:30pm

Sunday, Oct 23 – 9:00am-2:00pm

Oct 24-30

Wednesday, Oct 26 – 10:00am-8:30pm

Sunday, Oct 23 – 9:00am-2:00pm

Oct 31-Nov 6

Wednesday, Nov 2 – 10:00am-8:30pm

Sunday, Nov 6 – 9:00am-1:00pm

Fall Studies

We are going to be trying a new approach to our mid-week faith-building opportunities this fall. Rather than holding an on-going Bible study, we will be switching between three different ways of engaging the questions and practices of our faith that we hope you will find engaging and helpful. The scheduling is only set through October, but here is a preview of what will be offered:

- **Balcony Conversations (Oct 12, Nov ?)** It's been a while since we gathered for one of these conversations, so we are bringing them back. If you are new to the congregation, or want a refresher, here is a short video about what these conversations involve: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INKUGvVFYXg>. Heather Nilsen has volunteered to lead our first conversation in October. Reach out to Pastor Serena if you have an idea for the balcony in November!
- **Pop-up prayer evenings (Oct 19, Nov?).** On these nights Pastor Serena will be at the church with prayer-related resources. There will not be a structured service, but people are invited to come by to spend time in individual prayer, pray with Pastor, or use one or more of the contemplative/prayer resources provided.
- **“Ask the pastor” improv nights (Oct 26, Nov?)** On the Sunday after Christmas in 2021, Pastor Serena did a “grab bag sermon”, responding on-the-spot to questions submitted by people in the congregation. We will be adapting that format for a few evening gatherings this fall. Rather than having to submit questions ahead of time, you can bring one of two things to these sessions:
 - a faith related question (anything you have wondered about, or what to foster conversation about); or
 - an object (challenge Pastor Serena to find a way to connect the object your brought to some faith-related idea).

While Pastor Serena will engage all questions & objects, others are welcomed to join in the conversation as well. Think of it as an out-of-the-box way to practice connecting faith to our daily lives.

OCTOBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

OCTOBER	ASSISTANT MINISTER	USHER/ GREETER/ ACOLYTE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	SOLOIST	LIVESTREAM
2	Demetria Laird	Sandy Carlson	Maria Kearney	TBD	Ray Mueller
9	Sheeba David	Cindy Pawlo	Heather Nilsen	TBD	Nick Senior
16	Doug Laird	Sandy Carlson	George Pawlo	TBD	Tyler Rice
23	Sibylle Schroeder	Howard Corneilson	Doug Laird	TBD	Sheeba David
30	Sue Stirrat	Mary Kasakove	Cindy Pawlo	TBD	Ray Mueller

COUNTER: 2: Sandy Carlson **9:** Howard Corneilson **16:** Nita Persson **23:** George Pawlo **30:** Sandy Carlson

ALTAR GUILD: 2-16: Sandy Carlson **23-30:** Sibylle Schroeder

BREAD BAKING: Serena Rice



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Those who are sick or in need: Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Kenneth Johanson, Karen Qualls, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Jim Tangen, Elizabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Dan Scouten, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Joey Scollins, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginetz, Chris Bauer, Brenda Anderson, Linda Kahler, Pat Scalora, Mark Dennis, Mike Urodinski, John Corneilson, Tim O'Connor, Karen and Ken Predmore and family, David Breault

Those in mourning: the Price family (mother of Carol Biunno), the Mueller Family, the family of Chris VanBeveran (aunt of Pastor Serena) *Please note: names of those in mourning will be listed for 6 months but please keep them always in your prayers.*

OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10:00 am Yard Sale & Blessing of the Animals (until 2:00 pm)
2 17TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person	3	4 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	5 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	6 12:30 pm Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 18TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:00 am Service & Learning	10 6:00 pm Children's Church	11	12 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 am Balcony Conversation	13 12:30 pm Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 19TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class (until 1:30 pm)	17 6:00 pm Children's Church	18	19 2:00 pm Seniors Meeting: Halloween Party 4:30 pm Prayer Service @ Mt. Olive Manor 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pop-up Prayer Night	20 12:30 pm Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 20TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:30 am Council Meeting	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 pm Children's Church	25	26 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm "Ask the Pastor" Improv Night Zoom session	27 12:30 pm Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:00 am Special Congregational Meeting on RIC 11:30 am Reformation Fair	31 NO Children's Church					