

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

WHY AN ASSEMBLY?

Having grown up in an unaffiliated nondenominational church context, "church" to me was always synonymous with the congregation: the people who gather together on Sundays, share coffee hours and sometimes meals, and know each other's names and stories. While this is undoubtedly the most significant manifestation of church for most Christians, it is not the only reality encompassed by the word. In the creeds that we confess together most Sundays, we affirm our belief in the "holy catholic (meaning universal) church." This is a profound statement of belief, claiming that all followers of Christ around the world are part of one church.

Even in a globalized reality with the possibility of real-time communication with people around the world (including our own music director who is living 11 time zones away from us at the moment), we do not often get to experience the shared identity and purpose of the church beyond our immediate community. However, once a year we have the chance to experience being church with other members of our Synod, comprising about 200 congregations. Of course, there are logistical necessities for the Synod Assembly, including constitutional requirements, but there are also deeply spiritual purposes as well.

Worshipping together reminds us of the unity of our faith. Debating resolutions together helps us to practice the work of careful listening and discernment. Passing a budget together requires that we connect our money with our values. Electing a new bishop allows us to ask big questions about our collective mission and vision as Christ's church in this time and place.

Of course, the "us" in all of those observations will only include three members of our congregation (myself, Tyler Rice, and Heather Nilsen, this year), but I hope that no member of our congregation feels like the Synod Assembly is irrelevant to your lives as a result. The New Jersey Synod is your Synod, your church. We are united in mission and in resources in important ways. The next Bishop will be a leader for our church in casting a vision for moving forward in a context that makes less and less room for faith communities, and for empowering us to love boldly in that reality. So even if you will not be actively participating in the Synod Assembly this month, I hope you will see it as a reminder that our church is so much bigger than Abiding Peace. Please pray for the work of the assembly, and be encouraged that we are church together.

July 2025 newsletter deadline: 6/27
Any news/ photos can be sent to Erin
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

Worship: 10:00 AM
Online/ In-person

Our Mission and 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. we are a reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

Phone: 973-691-9393 Website: www.abidingpeacechurch.org

COUNCIL & MINISTRY

Food Pantry Needs for June

- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Soups
- Juice
- Hot dogs & buns
- Frozen meatballs
- Mashed Potato mix
- Crackers
- Gluten free pastas

Our Staff

Pastor:
Serena Rice
pastorserena@optimum.net
c: 908-458-3940

Music Director:
Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Erin Porter
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

Pastor's Hours

June 2 – June 8

Synod Assembly June 5-7

Sunday, June 8, 9:00am-6:00pm

June 9 – June 15

Wednesday, June 11, 12:30pm – 8:00pm

Sunday, June 15, 9:00am-12:00pm

June 16 – June 22

Thursday, June 19, 10:00pm – 8:00pm

Sunday, June 22, 9:00am-12:00pm

June 23 – June 29

Thursday, June 26, 10:00pm – 8:00pm

Sunday, June 29, 9:00am-2:00pm

June 30 – July 6

Thursday, July 3, 10:00am – 8:00pm

Sunday, July 6, 9:00am-12:00pm

Officers

Co-Presidents
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Shelli Skeels / Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndmann
Jackie King-Palermo
George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
Ken Schwier
Shelli Skeels
Sibylle Schroeder
Heather Nilsen

Jackie King-Palermo
Maria Jerez-Kearney
Charlie Palermo
Aaron Hyndman

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts
Christian Ed. & Youth
Evangelism
Fellowship
Finance
Financial Secretary
Messengers Dancers
Mutual Ministry
Property
Social Ministry
Seniors
Stewardship
Worship & Music

Sibylle Schroeder
Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndman
Demetria Laird
George Pawlo
Nita Persson
Mary Kasakove
Heather Nilsen
Vacant
Sibylle Schroeder
Sibylle Schroeder
Nick Senior
Mary Kasakove

JUNE OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Serena will hold office hours one day a week, on either Wednesday or Thursday.

As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for updates on the times she is scheduled to be in the office and free for drop-ins. 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.



June Readings

6/1

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Rev. 22:12-14, 1
6-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

6/8

Acts 2:1-21
Ps. 104:23-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17

6/15

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

6/22

1 Kings 19:1-15a
Ps. 42 & 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

6/29

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Ps. 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

Council met on May 18, focused primarily on a detailed review of Constitutional updates. Key points from the meeting:

Budget:

- April was a positive month with a \$3,342 surplus, helping to erase some of the year-to-date deficit (now at just over \$5,700)
- Agreed to share the budget update at the June Congregational Meeting.

Constitution Update:

- Edits and reformatting to bring the church's constitution into compliance with the ELCA model constitution were approved, with discussion of all discretionary components.
- Congregational meeting scheduled for June 29 th to present the updated constitution to the congregation for a vote.

Partnering Effort:

- Given challenges with finding a building partner through our own efforts, Council discussed the option of using a property management vendor to find a renter. Up-front costs are significant once a renter contract is signed, so we will discuss at the Congregational meeting.

Pastor's schedule:

- Given significant overtime in the Spring, Pastor will be taking some mid-week comp time over the summer (July 8-12). She will also be serving as the camp Chaplain at Crossroads from July 28-August 2; doing her continuing education week August 11-17; and taking a family vacation August 25-Sep. 2.



Update on our Investing to Thrive Campaign

This month of June is the final official month of our Investing to Thrive campaign which began in mid-2024. Our generous community has pledged a total of \$54,250 toward the two phases of the campaign, and as of April 30, with two months remaining, we have received \$46,681. Thanks to all who have contributed! If you have not yet met your pledge and are able to, please do so by June 30. If you would like more time or need to lower your pledge, please update our Financial Secretary Nita Persson. To contribute stocks or other securities, contact Ray Mueller.

Here are the two goals that the funds being raised are going towards:

Level 1 - to ensure a safe and welcoming space, for ourselves and partners

This goal to raise \$35,000 has been met. Most of these funds are going towards two new air conditioning units. They have arrived and will be installed soon, in time for summer. Also we have new parking lot lights, did some painting and repairs, and will do patio sealing and window repairs with these funds. We have secured prices on all the projects totaling less than the \$35,000 anticipated cost.

Level 2 - strategic stewardship for longer-term investment in our property

Funds continue to come in for this goal, to be allocated among these investment categories:

- Building renovation and repairs
- Additional mortgage buy-down (\$5,000 has already been designated and used for this)
- Begin a parking lot repair fund
- Other priorities, if approved by the congregation.

Remember that gifts to Investing to Thrive are intended to be in addition to our regular support of Abiding Peace, and we encourage them to be from sources that are not part of our regular household budget such as tax refunds, investments, etc. But in all the ways that you support our congregation, thank you for your faithful stewardship!



**Like to Kayak? Join the
Sunset Guided Kayak
Trip on Budd Lake!**



Budd Lake Sunset Guided Kayak Trip

Join us as we paddle along the scenic Budd Lake,
taking in the beautiful views and enjoying the great outdoors!

We have 12 kayaks to borrow or
bring your own kayak or canoe.

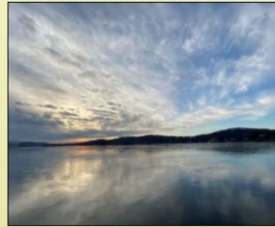
FREE to Budd Lake Watershed Residents!!

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

6 - 8 PM

MEETING LOCATION:

BUDD LAKE BEACH PARK



To Register:

email: tgordon@raritanheadwaters.org



**Raritan
Headwaters**



Don't kayak, but still looking for some fun to infuse into your June?

Join us on the Delaware Valley Wine Train June 21 at 12:00 PM. Tickets are only \$45, and can be purchased [here](#). Please reach out to Demetria Laird if you are planning on joining the fun!





Members of the congregation recreated the famous "Last Supper" painting for Quinn Rice's Art History Project!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

6/2 - Michael Pawlo
 6/6 - Ray Mueller
 6/7 - Thomas and Joan Blackburne
 6/11 - Joanna Venator
 6/12 - Sue Corneilson
 6/13 - Quinn Rice
 6/15 - Nita Persson
 6/18 - Howard and Sue Corneilson

Did we miss a milestone? Please
 email Erin
 (aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) to
 keep us up to date!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6/1 Worship 10:00 am Sunday school during service	6/2	6/3 Faith Kitchen 9:30-12:30	6/4	6/5 Choir 7:30 PM Synod Assembly	6/6 Synod Assembly	6/7 Zumba @ 9:00 Synod Assembly Trevor Project Benefit Show @ 7:00
6/8 Worship 10:00 AM Pride Party 2- 6 pm	6/9 Worship & Music Committee @10 via Zoom	6/10	6/11 UFO Gathering @2:00 AA @ 6:30pm	6/12 Choir 7:30 PM	6/13	6/14
6/15 Worship 10:00am Father's Day Fellowship @11:00	6/16	6/17 Council Meeting @7:00 via Zoom	6/18 AA @ 6:30pm	6/19 Prayer Service at Mt Olive Manor @4:30	6/20	6/21 Zumba @ 9:00
6/22 Worship 10:00am Sunday School during worship	6/23	6/24	6/25 AA @ 6:30pm	6/26	6/27 Newsletter Deadline	6/28 Zumba @ 9:00
6/29 Worship 10:00 AM Congregation al Meeting	6/30					

