

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

Driving Out Fear

The two Loving Dialogue sessions in September included a chance to remind myself of the shared beliefs and commitments that are part of our intentional culture at Abiding Peace. Each of the "what we believe" foundations includes a scripture reference, and I have a clear memory of proposing one of them myself: "that perfect love drives out fear" (1 John 4:18).

This has been one of the most important scriptural guideposts in my journey of faith. The full verse reads, *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love."* The "perfection" spoken of here is not about moral perfection. It is about the wholeness of shalom, the assertion that God's love works in our lives in a way that is completely transformative, changing our reactions to every other experience and challenge we encounter.

This verse has been so powerful for me because my early faith life included a lot of fear, as is characteristic of the Evangelical Christian subculture. This branch of the faith is constantly warning against "slippery slopes" and "the attacks of the enemy" and the risks of facing God's judgment if we fail in our task. From a human perspective, this is a very effective strategy for control. Machiavelli made that argument centuries ago, and it has been proved over and over again in history. But that is human wisdom. It denies the truth of God's grace revealed in Jesus and the transformative power of God's love. If God is love (as scripture asserts), and if perfect love drives out fear, then the Christian message should not be using fear to coerce or control.

That realization was one of the great "aha!" moments of my faith, and it has changed everything for me. It is a powerful litmus test for whether or not a given teaching is consistent with the message of Jesus. If it drives me into fear, it is inconsistent with love.

In our current climate of fear in America, I am coming back to this reminder again and again. Mostly because there ARE legitimate and powerful reasons for fear. Political violence and extremism are demonstrably rising. Fundamental constitutional and human rights are under attack. Our economy and our health care are on shaky ground. There are practical, realistic dangers in our world and in our daily lives. No matter how strong our faith and how real our experience of God's love we are all going to feel afraid sometimes.

But what I love about the reminder from 1 John is that it talks about driving out fear. That means we can expect fear to make an appearance in our lives and in our hearts (you can't drive out something that's not there). But we don't have to let fear make itself at home. We don't have to steep ourselves in fear through our conversations, or our doom scrolling, or our anxious ruminations. God's love in Christ drives out fear. Love drives out fear by equipping us to push back against it through prayer and action. It drives out fear by giving us something stronger and more real to hold onto. It drives out fear by directing our minds and our hearts toward what we can do through Christ, rather than what might be done to us. Love is our companion and our hope. And when Love is real, fear cannot win.

November 2025 newsletter deadline: 10/27
Any news/ photos can be sent to Christine
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

OCTOBER OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Serena will be continuing her "split schedule" for office hours in October, holding office hours on Wednesday afternoon/evening and on Thursday mornings. As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for weekly changes. In addition to posted hours in the office, she 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. 29-Oct. 5

Wednesday, Oct 1: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Oct 2: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Oct 5: 9:00am-2:00pm

Oct 6 – Oct 12

Wednesday, Oct 8: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Oct 9: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Oct 12: 9:00am-1:00pm

Oct 13 – Oct 19

Wednesday, Oct 15: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Oct 16: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Oct 19: 9:00am-1:00pm

Oct 20 – Oct 26

Wednesday, Oct 22: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Oct 23: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Oct 26: 9:00am-1:00pm

Oct 27 – Nov 2

Wednesday, Oct 29: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Oct 30: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Nov 2: 9:00am-1:00pm

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

Food Pantry Needs for October

- Canned fruit
- PB & Jelly
- 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:
Christine
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com



October Readings

Oct. 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4,
2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Oct. 12

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 19

Gen. 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 26

Jer. 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

In September, our Council met over zoom with co-President Shelli Skeels leading the meeting. In addition to receiving reports and clearing old business, the following needs were identified:

Open Council Positions:

- With Jackie & Charlie's move, we are down two Council members. Although our new Constitution allows for a smaller Council, having only 7 members leaves fewer folks to share the work.
- *We are issuing an open invitation for anyone who might be interested in serving on the church Council. Oct-Jan gives a chance to "try it out" and see if you might like to serve in this way.*

Finances:

- Reduced deficit: An accounting error had over-stated our expenses for several months, so the church's shortfall is only about \$4,000 year-to-date (versus the \$9,000+ that had been reported).
- Musician Payments: the accounting related to payments for our weekly supply of musicians and choir accompanist is increasing the workload for our volunteer treasurer, and we would like to reduce this burden. We are seeking a church member familiar with basic accounting to help with this one aspect of the church accounts.

Church Property: a variety of issues related to property maintenance were discussed.

- Lighted sign: There appears to be a fault in the power supply to the sign - will contact the company that installed it about repairs to this and to the locks.

By-laws:

- Financial roles: Our current treasurer and financial secretary have prepared detailed lists of the tasks they complete monthly & yearly
- Drafting sub-group. A sub-group of Council and current volunteers will draft by-laws for review by the Council and adoption at the January meeting, along with other required Constitution updates.



FALL OPPORTUNITIES AT CROSSROADS

Did you know that we have an amazing resource for spiritual growth less than 20 minutes from the church? Crossroads Camp & Retreat Center is not ONLY for kids. They offer a variety of programs throughout the year to nurture faith, including two that former APLC pastor, Dale Selover helps to facilitate:

- **Wednesdays Away: First Wednesday of the month from 9:00am-3:00pm.** Next date is October 1st and will explore the topic: "A Visit with Lady Wisdom" (registration not yet open, but e-mail hnd@popnj.org for more information.
- **Women's Retreat: Friday, October 24, 4:00pm to Sunday, October 26, 10:00am** (all meals included). An exploration of how to embrace the wholeness and sacredness of our bodies made in the image of God. Cost: \$205 for bed in Christ Center (shared double-room, with ensuite bathroom), or \$155 for Lodge (dormitory style room with hall bathroom). Register at <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/womens-retreat/>



WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 24-26, 2025

Led by Laurie Matarazzo and Dale Selover

CHECK-IN: FRIDAY, 4 PM

CLOSING WORSHIP: SUNDAY, 10AM

CROSS  ROADS
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
[REGISTER HERE](#)

THANKS A BUNCH!!

Thanks to everyone who donates food to Faith Kitchen, and everyone that comes to help prepare the food. We usually serve over 100 meals!! - Sibylle

ADULT ED SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has completed the church Adult Education survey in June. We have received 11 responses and some clear themes are emerging, but you may still register your preferences and ideas using this link:

https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Vyjo8PRAI2yUMm

At this point, responses are indicating interest in:

- Forums/studies on Sundays following worship (both for Summer and Fall schedules)
- Focus on current issues (i.e. Loving Dialogue sessions)
- Additional moderate interest in Bible studies, Balcony Conversations, and single-session topical discussions.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

October 2 - George and Cindy Pawlo

October 8 - Lynn Peterson

October 14 - Thomas Blackburne

October 15 - Carol and Richard Biunno

October 21 - Jim & Maria Kearney

October 23 - Marco Ponce

October 30 - Rod & Barbara Prosser

October 31 - Maddox Rice

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.	.	.	10/1 AA 6:30pm Choir 7:30 PM	10/2	10/3	10/4 Zumba @ 9:00 Rally for Crossroads
10/5 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Council Meeting 11:30	10/6 Worship & Music Com., 10:00 - Zoom Synod Workshop 7:00 PM	10/7 Faith Kitchen 9:00-12:00	10/8 New Members Class 5:00 AA @ 6:30pm Taize Service 7:30	10/9 Mt. Olive Pride Meeting, 7:00 PM - Zoom Zumba, 7:00	10/10	10/11
10/12 Worship 10:00am Forum: Tools for Inviting, 11:30	10/13	10/14 Prayer Service, Mt. Olive Manor, 4:30 WELCA Zoom: 7:00	10/15 AA 6:30 Choir 7:30	10/16 Zumba, 7:00 PM	10/17	10/18
10/19 Worship 10:00am Sunday School	10/20	10/21	10/22 AA 6:30 Choir 7:30	10/23 Zumba 7:00 PM	10/24	10/25
10/26 Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School Reformation Sunday & Faire	10/27 Sign Comm. - 10:00 Newsletter Deadline Synod Antiracism Taskforce Zoom	10/28	10/29 AA 6:30 Choir 7:30	10/30	10/31	.

