



VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church



Pastor's Message: Holy Expectations

This Advent, our worship will center around the theme of "holy expectations." It's a bit of a tricky theme because "expectations" can set us up for various kinds of problems. One of the most important topics that I always include in premarital counselling sessions is unpacking the partners' expectations of marriage, because unexamined or unspoken expectations can so easily sabotage communication and happiness. And far beyond the context of marriage, holding on too tightly to our expectations can frustrate us when they are not fulfilled, or blind us to the reality in front of us. It is dangerous to be too attached to our expectations.

Nevertheless, I believe that we can cultivate **holy** expectations that can serve us in our faith and life. By appending the qualifier of "holy," I am trying to communicate an awareness of something that calls us to actively participate in and anticipate God's plan, rather than our own. A holy expectation is not about a projection of our own wishes, or even a continuation of patterns that we have grown conditioned to expect. We cultivate holy expectations when we turn first to the wisdom and guidance in scriptures, the witness of God's people, and the Spirit's guidance in our lives to shape and direct our vision of where we are heading. From these foundations we can assess both our hopes and our fears against our awareness of God's promises and revealed intentions. We can look out for the evidence of God's action, and the indications of how God might be calling us to act.

Of course, we still need to be cautious about holding too tightly even to holy expectations. Christian history is full of examples of people who were so certain that they knew God's plans that they committed all kinds of evil in their efforts to bring those plans into being. Holy expectations are not GPS directions to be followed blindly once we plug in our anticipated destination. Instead, I like to think of them as guideposts, helping us to regularly check in with what we know about God's way of acting in the world and in our lives, so that we can be open to correction if we are heading off in the wrong direction.

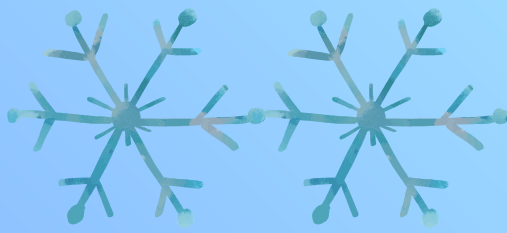
- Pastor Serena



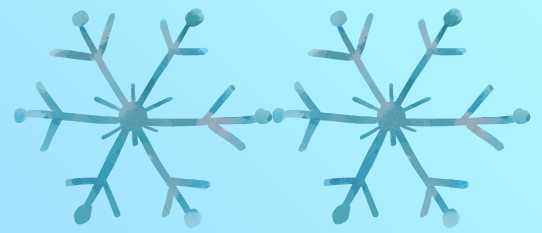
and



May you all be blessed
with a healthy 2026



Notes from Council



In November, our Council met in person with co-President Heather Nilsen leading the meeting. In addition to receiving reports and clearing old business, the following decisions were taken:

- **Nominating Committee:**

- As required by the church Constitution, a sub-committee of council members and Pastor will work as a nominating committee to suggest and approach church members regarding serving on Council for the three-year term starting Feb. 2026.

- Ken Schwier and outgoing Council member Shelli Skeels were approved for this committee.

- **Any church member (or soon-to-join member) who is interested may speak to Pastor, Shelli, or Ken about their interest.**

- **Partnerships:**

- **Tullo Ballroom:** previously approved and beginning classes in November.

- **Hummingbird Academy:** We are making progress toward developing a contract with this new homeschooling co-op to use the classroom space in the church starting next Fall.

- **Church Property:** A variety of issues related to property maintenance were discussed.

- **Windows:** George Pawlo and a contractor friend are working on this project, with funding for all supplies coming from the Thrive Campaign.

- **Dead Trees:** Thanks to the many members who reached out with recommendations, we were able to get initial quotes for tree removal and accept a bid for the removal of 7 trees, leaving the wood for firewood available for the community.

- **Church Garden:** The need for more volunteers to help with maximizing this resource for the community was discussed. Will be highlighted in the Time & Talents sign-ups on Nov. 23.

- **Upper parking lot:** There are some concerns about the use of the upper parking lot for a pass-through lane of landscaping trucks (causing degradation of the pavement) and potential gatherings that are leaving trash in the area. We agreed to post signage against trespassing and indicating the use of surveillance equipment.

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR PERSON IN NEED:



Kate Draven, a friend of the congregation who works in computers, has some basic computers to give away, if you know of a person in need. They are small form factor units running Linux, capable of basic multimedia playback (movies, audio), graphics and photo editing, desktop publishing, internet, and more. Kate has also offered to provide tech support, as needed, to help with navigating Linux. If you know a person or family who could use this gift, please reach out to Pastor Serena.



Reign of Christ Sunday 11.23.25



We want to thank all from church and the community who helped with planting the rain garden.



Here are some pictures from the Senior's Halloween Party



There was a beautiful spread of food,
and a wonderful group of people.
Which add up to a fun time.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Birthdays

Dec. 4 Carol Biunno

Dec.10 Don Bowe

Dec. 17 Edward Venator

Dec.20 Barry Kullack

Dec. 25 Howard Corneilson

Dec. 29 Emily Prosser

Dec. 30 Alice Kandikatla



- Food Pantry Needs for December:
- Bread
- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna
- Parmalat milk
- Juice
- Hot dogs & buns
- Frozen meatballs
- Mashed Potato mix
- Crackers
- Gluten free pastas

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

THANKS A BUNCH!!

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

Tullo's Ballroom

Tuesday's at 7:00
Dec. 2 Cha Cha
Dec. 9 Rumba
Dec.16 Fox Trot
Dec 23 Swing



December OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Serena will be continuing her "split schedule" for office hours most weeks in December, 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.



Dec. 1 - Dec. 7

Wednesday, Dec.3: 4:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Dec.4: 9:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, Dec.7: 9:00am-1:00pm

Dec. 8 - Dec. 14

Wednesday, Dec.10: 12:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Dec.11: 9:00am-12:00pm

Sunday, Dec.14: 9:00am-1:00pm

Dec. 15 - Dec. 21

Wednesday, Dec.17: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Dec.18: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Dec.21: 9:00am-12:00pm;
6:00pm-8:00pm

Dec. 22 - Dec. 28

Wednesday, Dec.24: 11:00am-12:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 28: 9:00am-12:00pm

Dec. 29 - Dec. 31

Wednesday, Dec.31: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, Jan. 4: 9:00am-1:00pm

COUNCIL & MINISTRY

Officers

Co-Presidents
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Shelli Skeels / Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndmann

George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
Ken Schwier
Shelli Skeels
Sibylle Schroeder

Howard Corneilson
Maria Jerez-Kearney
Heather Nilsen
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
Ken Schwier
Mary Kasakove

Our Staff

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

Music Director:
Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Catherine Belfiore
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Faith Kitchen, 9:30am-12:30pm Tullo's Ballroom Cha Cha 7pm.	3 Soup Supper, 6:15pm AA @ 6:30pm Midweek Advent Service, 7:00pm Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm	4	5	6 Zumba , 9:00am
7 Worship 10:00am Sunday School Advent craft, 11:00am	8 Worship & Music committee,10:00 am-11:00am via Zoom	9 Tullo's Ballroom Runba 7pm.	10 Blood Drive, 1:00 pm-6:00pm Soup Supper, 6:15pm AA @ 6:30pm Midweek Advent Service, 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	11 Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	12	13 Zumba, 7:00pm
14 Worship 10:00am Prayer Partners Gift Exchange, 11:30am	15	16 Tullo's Ballroom Fox Trot 7pm.	17 Prayer Service at Mt Olive Manor, 4:30pm Soup Supper, 6:15pm AA @ 6:30pm Midweek Advent Service, 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	18	19	20 Zumba, 7:00pm
21 Worship 10:00am Sunday School Decorating the sanctuary Longest Night Service, 7:00pm	22	23 Tullo's Ballroom Swing 7pm.	24 AA @ 6:30pm Xmas Eve Family svc. 7:00pm Xmas Eve Choir svc. 10:15	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27 Zumba, 7:00pm Newsletter Deadline
28 Worship 10:00am	29	30	31 AA @ 6:30pm 			