Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive 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.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher if they would like a follow-up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The Ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), online bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

Holy Communion: We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward, or come forward at the end for the common cup. We offer either wine or juice and allergen-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. You are also welcome to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

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WORDS FOR REFLECTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

PRELUDE

Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme tune from Greatorex's Collection

arr. Samuel Wellman

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

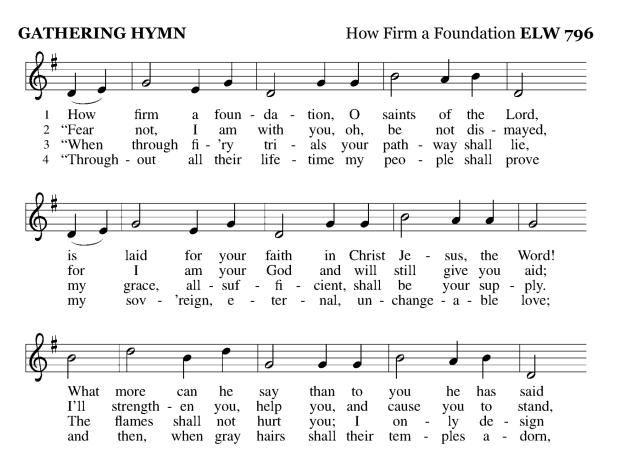
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

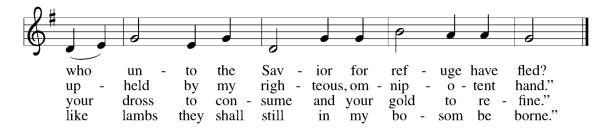
- P In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- *P* Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- *P* Merciful God,
- C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer to pursue temporary satisfaction and selfish ends. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.
- P Beloved church, you belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of \oplus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.



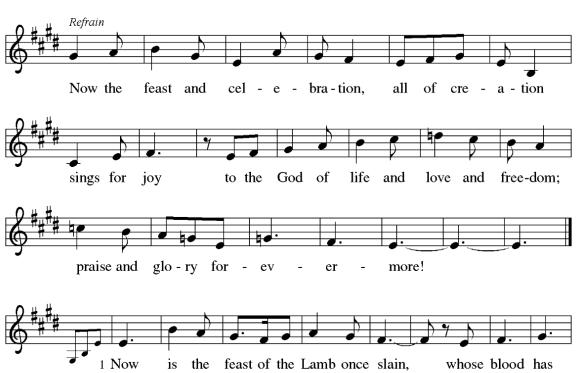


Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE





- *P* The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. O God,
- C judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

L A reading from Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams

that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 82

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

- God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- 2 "How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?

- 3 Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;
- 4 rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- 5 They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;

all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

- Now I say to you, 'You are gods,and all of you children of the Most High;
- 7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"
- 8 Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

L A reading from Hebrews.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put

foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

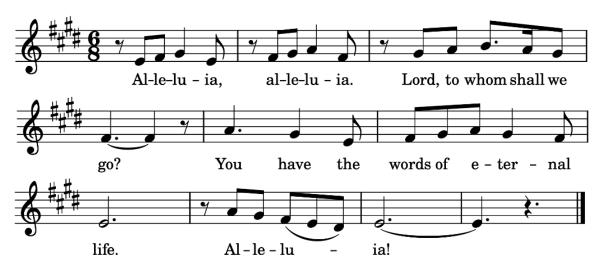
Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL Luke 12:49–56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and

daughter-in-law against mother-in-law"

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

- *P* The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

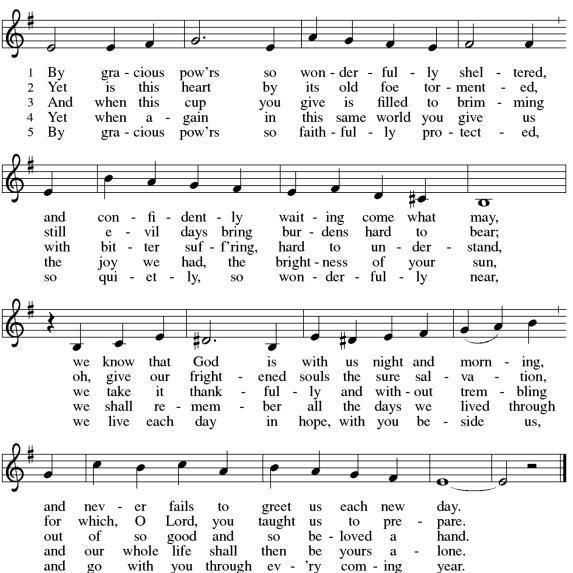
SERMON

Rev. Lorna Woodham

Silence for reflection follows. All stand and sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Gracious Powers ELW 626



Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945; tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: TELOS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
English text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A God of promise, with thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. God, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

A God of wisdom, raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. God, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

A God of power, safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists like the Raritan Headwaters Association and the Highlands Commission, and guide policy makers and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. God, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

A God who listens, bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

A God of love, embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Sibylle, Leslie, Hailey, Kate, Dawn, Elle & Heinz, Ellen, Vicki, Carol, Mary Lee & Steve, Darrell, Shariff, and Nicole. (Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.) We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. God, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

A God of hope, guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in our whole community a spirit of collaboration and support for this work. God, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

A Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Ministers and People share the sign of peace. Afterward, please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

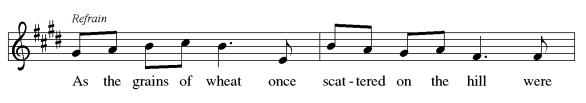
Abiding Peace

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OFFERTORY

Offertorium from "Missa pro Organo" Franz Liszt



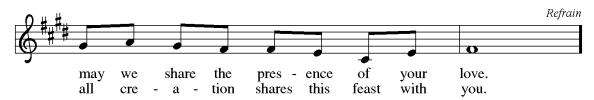




gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



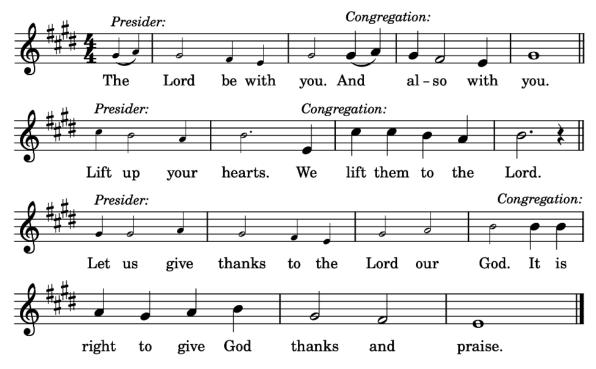




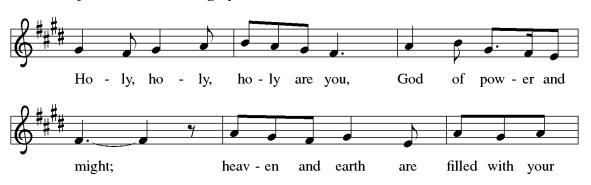
A Creator God,

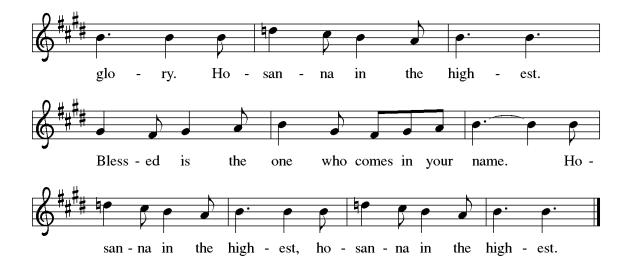
C in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the earth's harvest is sufficient for all to be fed. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





P Holy God, you have reached out to us to show us your love and grace through your Son, Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, in remembrance of what Christ has done for us, we call out in faith for your Holy Spirit to fill our lives, and to unite your church. Bless us and send us to honor you through our service.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

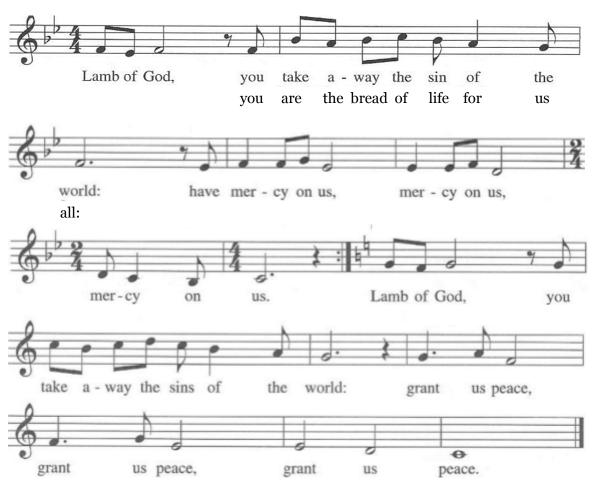
- *P* Jesus, teach us to pray:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

P The kingdom of God is set before you.

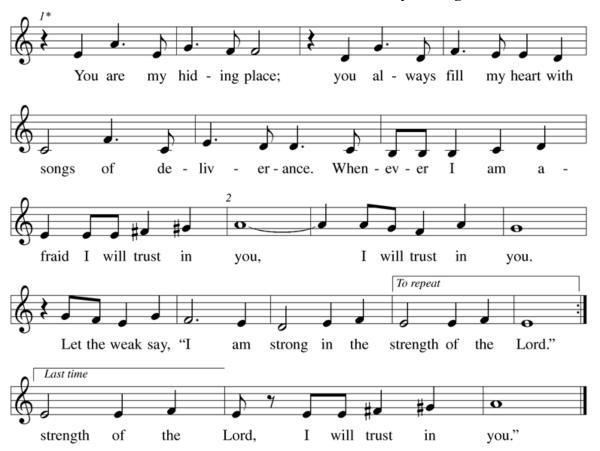
C We eat and rejoice.

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, hold your hand flat for the bread, and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.



COMMUNION HYMN

You Are My Hiding Place W&P 160



Text: Michael Ledner. Music: HIDING PLACE, Michael Ledner. Text and music © 1981 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyrite Company.

Stand, if you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

- A Mothering God,
- C You gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE BENEDICTION

P The love of God abound in your lives; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fills your hearts; and the life of the Spirit \oplus bless you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken **ELW 603**

All stand, as able, and sing.



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929. Music: MERTON William H. Monk, 1823-1889. Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bourrée and Finale from "Firework Music"

George Frideric Handel arr. S. Drummond Wolff



Next Week's Lessons:

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Serving in Worship		
	Today, 8/17	Next Week, 8/24
Altar Guild	Sandy Carlson	Sandy Carlson
Counter	Anna Santino	Sandy Carlson
Assistant Minister	Sandy Carlson	Demetria Laird
Lector	Sue Stirrat	Doug Laird
Communion Assist.	George Pawlo	Maria Jerez
Usher/Greeter/Acolyte	Cindy Pawlo	Howard Corneilson
Soloist	Howard Corneilson	
Livestream Assistant	Nick Senior	Ray Mueller

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Tuesday, 8/19, 10:00am - 8:00pm; Sunday, 8/24, 9:00am-1:00pm

Erin Porter: Thursday, 8/21 9:00-12:00

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Aimee Nilsen, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, Audrey Moehringer, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Leslie Picinich, Hailey Ochs Plante, Kate Draven, Dawn Huber, Elle & Heinz and family, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Mary Lee & Steve Fenster, Darrell Senior, Shariff Stewart, Nicole Toronzi, Lisa Wolper, Maxine Wolper, Samy Dawood, David Laird, Peter Jensen, Joan Lewis, Jose, and Linn Fisher.

Those in mourning: Those mourning Maria's mother, Juanita; The friends and family of Kenneth Johanson; the friends and family of Harold Olsen; The Persson Family on the loss of Carrin (daughter of Jan, sister of Krista); The family of Woody Woodruff; The friends and family of Nancy Appel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ~ Church office hours: Pastor Serena will not be holding regular office hours in the month of August due to family needs. She is available for pastoral care by phone, zoom, or other means, as needed. (Saturday is her day off). If you need to access the church building during the week, please contact Pastor Serena to make arrangements.
- ~ Food Pantry Needs for March: Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten-free pasta.
- ~ Altar Flowers: Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested please sign up by the last Sunday of the prior month. You may sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or send an email to Erin Porter (aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) with your dedication and the date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.
- ~ Interested in hosting a coffee hour? Not hard. Just bring some store-bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

Art: Photo by Mario Gogh on Unsplash. Accessed 8/11/2025. Public use permitted.

Music: Unless otherwise noted, music is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035.

Service Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b.1950, Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, adapt. Marty Haugen, Text and Music ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 Mason Ave, Chicago, IL, 60638.

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This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, August 17

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Fellowship time

Monday, August 18

Tuesday, August 19

- Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.; 2:00p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Taizé Prayer Service, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20

- Unfinished Objects Gathering, 2:00 p.m.
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 21

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Friday, August 22

Saturday, August 23

- Zumba, 9:00 a.m.
- Installation of Bishop Christa Compton, at First Baptist Lincoln Garden, 2:00 p.m.

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, August 24

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Forum on Understanding Moral Foundations, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, August 25

Tuesday, August 26

Wednesday, August 27

• AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 28

• Newsletter deadline

Friday, August 29

Saturday, August 30

• Zumba, 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 7, 11:30 a.m. - God's Work Our Hands Activity - immigrant advocacy training with Voices for Justice

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below: https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live