

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*



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026

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.

Visitors are invited to leave a comment in the stream if you would like a follow-up contact from the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence.

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 (there is a QR code on the related page of the bulletin), online bill pay with your bank, or mailing your offering envelope to the church.

Holy Communion: Online worshippers are encouraged to prepare to share in communion by having ready a bite of “staple food” (bread, crackers, or something similar are appropriate) and “festive drink” (juice, or wine are good options). When we reach the Meal section of the liturgy, the pastor will guide you through partaking.

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WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

PRELUDE

Sonatina I, for flute

Ludvig. van Beethoven

GATHERING

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

GREETING

Worshippers are invited to light a candle in recognition of the light of Christ present with us in worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C **Amen.**

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

C you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C Amen.

Worshippers may dip their fingers in water and make the sign of the cross as a remembrance of the forgiveness received in baptism.

P Let us pray. Lord God,

C your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1–4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experience the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

L A reading from Isaiah.

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of

Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who lived
in a land of deep darkness—on them
light has shined. You have multiplied
exultation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at
the harvest, as people exult when
dividing plunder. For the yoke of their

burden and the bar across their
shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of
Midian.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 27:1, 4–9

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 4 **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the
temple.**
- 5 For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a
rock.
- 6 **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround
me.**
**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**
- 7 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 8 **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**
- 9 Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
salvation.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

L A reading from 1st Corinthians.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can

say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter:

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they

were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake **ELW 799**



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake, o -
play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624-1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813-1896, alt. Music: Bartholomaeus Gesius, 1555-1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586-1630. (PD)

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 As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth our home.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Vicki, Carol, Shariff, Lisa, Maxine, Samy, David, Peter, Joan, Jose, Brian, Judy, Mary Beth, Joseph, and Chris. *(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. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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.

OFFERTORY

Siciliana, from Sonata V for Flute

G. F. Handel
arr. Maximilian Schwedler

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

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venmo

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P Jesus, unite us as we 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.**

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

C **We come to taste and see the goodness of God.**

You are invited to partake in the communion elements that you have prepared. Any “staple food and festive drink” is appropriate for use in the sacrament.

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

C **Amen.**

A Radiant God,

C **we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

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

THE BENEDICTION

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Thou My Dearest Life

Johann Sebastian Bach



Next Week's Lessons:

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Serving in Worship		
	Today, 1/25	Next Week, 2/1
Altar Guild	NA	Cindy Pawlo
Counter	NA	Ursula Schroeder
Assistant Minister	Sybylle Schoeder	Sue Stirrat
Lector	Roy Persson	Mary Kasakove
Communion Assist.	NA	Sybylle Schoeder
Usher/Greeter	NA	Doug Laird
Acolyte	NA	Sandy Carlson
Soloist	NA	TBD
Livestream Assistant	Tyler Rice	Tyler Rice

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Wed 1/28, 10:00am-9:00pm; Sun 2/1, 9:00am-1:00pm

Catherine Belfiore: Thurs 1/29, 9:00am-1:00pm

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, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginetz, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore, 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, Heinz, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Shariff Stewart, Lisa Wolper, Maxine Wolper, Samy Dawood, David Laird, Peter Jensen, Joan Lewis, Jose, Brian Henkel, Judy Day, Mary Beth Mueller, Joseph DeSantis, Chris Laird, Linn Fisher, Nancy Ayotte, Jenn DiDino, Nancy Tullo, and Sue Corneilson.

Those in mourning: The family of Otto Schroeder; The Persson Family on the loss of Kayla; those mourning Dan Filin (partner of Pastor Serena's mom); The family of Dawn Parks; the loved ones of Carole Ernstrom; those mourning Maria's mother, Juanita; the friends and family of Kenneth Johanson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ **Church office hours:** Pastor Serena will generally hold office hours on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.

~ **Food Pantry Needs for February:** Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten-free pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruit.

~ **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 Catherine Belfiore (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: Pittman, Lauren Wright. For Those in Darkness [Light is Dawning], from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/art-imagelink.pl?RC=57084> [retrieved January 19, 2026]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

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

This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, January 25:

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

Monday, January 26:

Tuesday, January 27:

- Tullo's Ballroom Bachata 7:00 p.m.
- Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, January 28:

- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 29:

Friday, January 30:

Saturday, January 31:

- Zumba, 7:00 p.m.

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, February 1:

- RIC Sunday Worship (10:00am) - In-person and Live-streamed
- Little Learners Sunday School
- Pride Mount Olive Forum (11:30am)

Monday, February 2:

- Worship & Music Committee, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, February 3:

- Tullo's Ballroom 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4:

- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 5:

- "Grief and You" - NW Clergy Cluster Zoom Study, 7:00p.m.

Friday, February 6:

Saturday, February 7:

- Zumba, 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 8, 11:00 a.m. - **Congregational Meeting**

Thursdays in February, 7:00 p.m. - **"Grief and You" Zoom Study** from the NW Clergy Cluster (Feb 5 & 26 - Pr. Jack DiMatteo; 12 & 19 - Deacon Karen Kelly)

Sunday, February 15, 11:30am - **Lament & Hope Gathering**

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00pm - **Ash Wednesday Service**