



VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

Pastor's Article – A month for Amazement?



As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and the new organizational sponsor for Pride Mount Olive, Abiding Peace actively engages with the observation of Pride Month. I am grateful for this commitment and proud of the work our community has done to understand the importance of being public with our welcome. I have valued the chance to learn together and the ways that we have experienced the power of Christ's gospel in new ways through this learning. I have seen the fruit of this commitment in the safety that is felt within our community. We have gotten to see first-hand why this commitment has the name of Reconciling in Christ. It truly is reconciling work: work which names what is broken in our society and seeks to restore wholeness.

AND I am aware that naming what has been broken is deeply important to the observation of Pride. Pride started as a protest after all, in the Stonewall Riots, and the status of anti-queer legislation, court cases, and hate crimes in 2026 continues to require a strong element of protest in Pride messaging and advocacy. This is important for our church's participation in the work of reconciliation as well. We need to be loud with our love AND we need to be loud with our witness against dehumanizing policies that strip rights and impose second-class status on queer people. Our work is the work of welcome AND it is the work of challenging hate and dismantling the claims of those who try to use Jesus to justify their bigotry. Prophetic witness has always been part of the way that God challenges sin in the world.

AND (yes I'm using another AND)...my personal goal this June is to hold this commitment, and this learning, and this prophetic witness together with one more essential aspect to the observation of Pride: Amazement. Awe at the beauty and power of queer identities and stories. Wonder at the creativity God has displayed in blessing humanity with the spectrums of gender and sexuality that we experience. Astonished joy at how community flourishes when we release binary expectations and instead let ourselves be and value others in full authenticity. During the years I spent in un-affirming traditions I was taught that queerness was a threat to my faith, but now I know how much it feeds my faith. It draws me into worship for the Source of love and life because it helps me to see a bigger and more loving God. It introduces me to the imago dei (image of God) in new faces and new stories. And it rejects the fear that claims the God of the universe can somehow be threatened by love if it is expressed the "wrong" way.

So as our community celebrates Pride this month I hope you celebration can hold all of these facets together.

- I hope you practice Pride: rejecting shame and affirming wholeness for all identities.
- I hope you practice Reconciliation: naming brokenness and working for healing.
- I hope you practice Protest: rejecting oppression and calling for protection.
- AND... I hope you practice Amazement: embracing the beauty we get to see when everyone shows up in the fullness of who God made them to be.

- Pastor Serena



July 2026 newsletter deadline: 6/27
Any news/ photos can be sent to Catherine
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



DEBT- REDUCTION OPPORTUNITY

The New Jersey Synod is offering congregations with significant mortgage debt an incredible opportunity to buy down that debt with matching funds. Following the closing of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairview, the proceeds from the sale of the building are being used to reinvest in our existing congregations to provide the stability to continue vital ministry. The program will provide up to a 2:1 match for funds raised by the congregation to buy down mortgage debt. This is a particularly great opportunity for Abiding Peace, since our mortgage agreement allows us a once-per-year lump sum payment that reduces our monthly mortgage bill, rather than reducing the term of the loan.

Our stewardship team will be working on developing our application (due September 30) for this generous gift of the synod. If you are interested in joining the team, please reach out to Pastor Serena. You can also begin to prayerfully consider if you are able to give toward this effort over the next year.

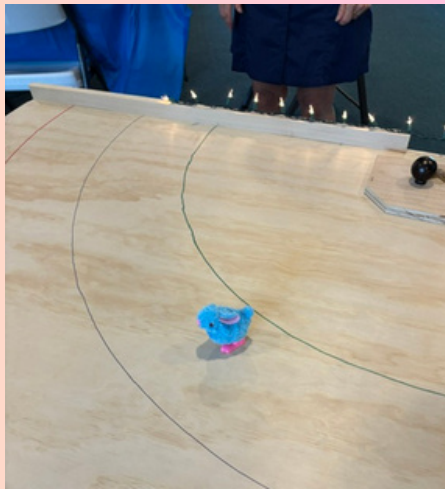
GET INVOLVED

In continuation of the weekly ministry spotlights included in the Sunday announcements, you may be interested in following up on one or more of the opportunities to engage your energy and passions through one of the highlighted ministries. Below are the ministries to be highlighted in June, with the contact information of whom to reach out to.

- Messengers dance ministry – Mary Kasakove: mjk167@gmail.com
- fellowship – Demetria Laird: dlaird1956@gmail.com
- lord's players – Pastor Serena: pastorserena@optimum.net
- stewardship – Pastor Serena: pastorserena@optimum.net



Kentucky Derby Day at Abiding Peace



MAY 2026



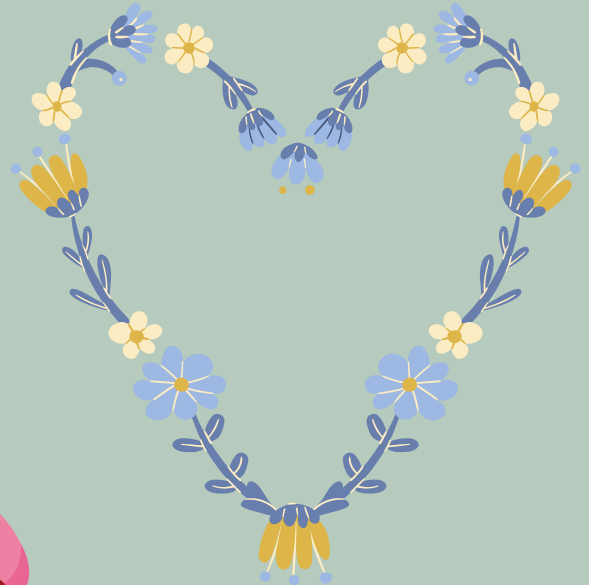
GET INVOLVED

In response to the new addition of ministry spotlights to weekly announcements, you may be interested in following-up on one or more of the opportunities to engage your energy and passions through one of the highlighted ministries. Below are the ministries highlighted in April (and those planned for May), with the contact information of whom to reach out to.

- Church Garden – Sue Stirrat: stirrat@optonline.net
- Pride Mount Olive – Pastor Serena: pastorserena@optimum.net
- Worship Assistant Roles – Catherine Belfiore: aplcbuddlake@gmail.com
- Choir / Music – Ben Schroeder: benmschroeder@gmail.com
- Sign Ministry – Pastor Serena: pastorserena@optimum.net
- Sunday school – Pastor Serena: pastorserena@optimum.net
- Feeding Ministries – Sibylle Schroeder: healingartquilts@verizon.net



Strawberry Sunday is June 21, 2026
Please bring your
Favorite Strawberry Desserts.





**Celebrate Reformation Day 2026 with the NJ Synod
in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany
Reformation: Then and Now
October 26 - November 5, 2026**

**To read Bishop Compton's Invitation, Itinerary & Registration info:
go to: www.njsynod.org/germanytrip**

**Travel with Synod friends, Bishop Compton and our docent, The Rev. Dr.
Kit Kleinhans, recently retired Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.**

**Interested? germanytrip@njsynod.org
Pastor Carol Lindsay, Synod Trip Coordinator**

June Readings

June 7

**Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

June 14

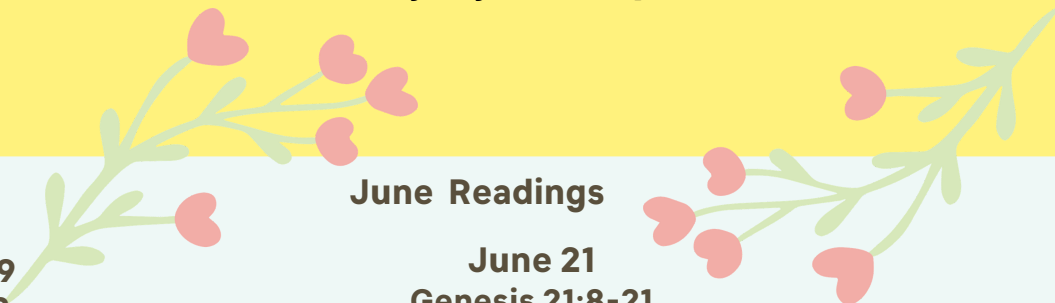
**Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]**

June 21

**Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39**

June 28

**Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42**



Food Pantry Needs for June:
pasta sauce, soup, Parmalat milk;
canned fruit; cereal; hotdogs &
buns; juice; crackers, & rice /rice
mixes.

Senior Activities For 2026

June 17 - Book Discussion
(book choices, '

"Theo of Golden" - Allen Levi,
"Correspondent" - Virginia Evans, or
"The Cafe of Life" - Dr. Arno Burnier
D.C.)

July 8 - Pool Party

August 19 -Movie

September 16 - Oktoberfest

October 21 - Halloween Party

November 18 - Christmas / Holiday
Party

(The schedule is open to changes.)

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



June Birthdays

June 2 Michael Pawlo

June 6 Ray Mueller

June 11 Joanna Venator

June 12 Sue Corneilson

June 15 Nita Perrson



June Anniversaries

June 7 Thomas and Joan Blackburne

June 18 Howard and Sue Corneilson



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



COUNCIL & MINISTRY

June Office Hours:

Pastor Serena's office hours will vary in May due to variations in her son's school schedule for testing. 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 email 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. pastorserena@optimum.net. Her sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

June 1 – June 7

- Wednesday, June 3: 3:30 pm-9:00 pm
- Thursday, June 4: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Sunday, June 7: 9:00 am-6:00 pm (including Pride Party)

June 8 – June 14

- Wednesday, June 10: 3:30 pm-9:00 pm
- Thursday, June 11: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Sunday, June 14: 9:00 am-7:00 pm (including Church Picnic)

June 15 – June 21

- Wednesday, June 17: 3:30 pm-9:00 pm
- Thursday, June 18: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
- Sunday, June 21: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

June 22 – June 28

- Wednesday, June 24: 10:00 am-8:00 pm
- (Pastor Serena away – Hymn Sing Sunday)

June 29 – July 5

- Pastor Serena away

Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Aaron Hyndmann
Heather Nilsen
Howard Corneilson
George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
Ken Schwier
Shelli Skeels
Sibylle Schroeder

Howard Corneilson
Maria Jerez-Kearney
Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndman
Tyler Schiess

Ministry Leaders

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

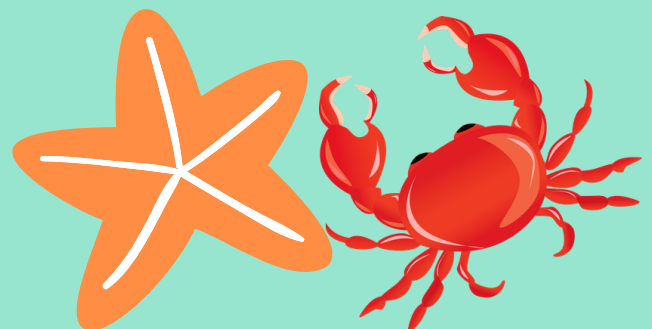
Sibylle Schroeder
Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndman
Demetria Laird
George Pawlo
Nita Persson
Mary Kasakove
Heather Nilsen
Vacant
Sibylle Schroeder
Sibylle Schroeder
Ken Schwier
Mary Kasakove

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 Worship & Music, 10:00am via Zoom	2 Faith Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	3 AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	4	5	6 Zumba , 9:00am
Worship 10:00am ⁷ Sunday School Pride Party, 1:00pm -5:00pm @ Turkey Brook Park (12:00 for volunteers)	8	9	10 Unfinished Objects Gathering, 2:00pm-4:00pm New Members Class, 6:00pm-7:30pm AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	11	12	13 Zumba, 9:00am
Worship 10:00am ¹⁴ Final Sunday School of school year Wrap-up Forum: Invite, Welcome, Connect, 11:45am NW Cluster Church Picnic @ Crossroads, 3:00pm-7:00pm	15	16 Council Meeting, 11:30am-1:30pm	17 Senior's Ministry Book Discussion, 2:00pm-4:00pm AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	18	19	20 Zumba, 9:00am
Worship 10:00am ²¹ Strawberry Sunday 	22	23	24 Senior's Ministry, Kentucky Derby Race 2:00-4:00pm AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	25	26	27 Zumba, 9:00am Newsletter deadline
28 Pentecost Worship 10:00am Hymn Sign Worship	29	30				

HAPPY SUMMER

JUNE 2026

