



VIEW

from the lake

The newsletter of ABIDING PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Budd Lake, N.J.



From the Pastor

January, 2021

**February Newsletter Deadline
January 21, 2021**

*Worship: 10:00 am
Online*

**For hospitalization or other
pastoral care needs, please call
Pastor Serena at 908-458-3940**

OUR MISSION & 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.

**Phone: 973-691-9393
Website: www.abidingpeacechurch.org**

Keeping Christmas in Our Hearts

This past December, we have again heard the annual call to Keep Christ in Christmas. This call is a relevant challenge to the societal forces that define the practices of Cultural Christmas. The cultural side of the holiday includes much that is beautiful: an abundance of lights in the long dark of winter nights; reminders about the joy of giving; and the opportunity to focus attention on valuing our loved ones. Not to mention, who can deny the goodness of Christmas cookies!?

But cultural Christmas has its dangers as well. Without the grounding in the Christ story, the warm fuzzy feelings of the Christmas season can drift into vague sentimentality that is more about feeling good than recognizing the power of self-sacrificing love. And, of course, there is the rampant consumerism of Black Friday deals and the competitive side of holiday displays. Cultural Christmas can produce as much stress as joy, and as much friction as togetherness.

So, the call to keep Christ in Christmas is a helpful reminder that there is something more important than presents and ornaments and holiday baking at the heart of the Christmas season. None of those things are bad, but we must not let them distract our attention from the powerful truth of Emmanuel, God with Us. The most important thing we celebrate is the Love that chose fragility and struggle in order to join us in our messy lives and show us that God will do anything to be with us. That is the message at the heart of Christmas. And it is a message that will change us if we let it. Because once we know how wildly, and deeply, and completely we are loved... how can we live lives controlled by fear, or selfishness, or distrust again?

Continued on page 2

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	George Pawlo

Council Members

Sandy Carlson	Barbara Prosser
Howard Corneilson	Sibylle Schroeder
Ray Mueller	Nick Senior
Heather Nilsen	Paul Otu Winner
Cindy Pawlo	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	<i>Vacant</i>
Financial Secretary	Nita Persson
Messengers Dancers	Mary Kasakove
Mutual Ministry	Heather Nilsen
Property	<i>Vacant</i>
Social Ministry	Sibylle Schroeder
Seniors	Sibylle Schroeder
Stewardship	Nick Senior
Worship & Music	Mary Kasakove

OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Serena Rice
Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:

Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Strobel
office@abidingpeacechurch.org

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

So, yes, let's keep Christ is Christmas. But more importantly, let's keep Christmas – the truth of Christmas; the power of Christmas; the transformation of Christmas – in our hearts. Let's not let go of Christmas too easily and just move on to a new year. (Even though, I know, we are all LONGING for a new year!) We probably all have hopes for 2021. Hopes for an end to the pandemic. Hopes for hugs, and shared meals, and seeing each other's smiles. Hopes for this long, traumatic crisis to be over.

My hope is that as we move beyond 2020 we will keep at least this little part of it with us: the reminder that at the end of such a hard, painful, loss-filled year... Christ was born among us to remind us that our most desperate need is where God longs to be. If we can remember that, and live our lives in the same love... 2021 really can be a different year.

Pastor Serena



Faith Kitchen Shopping for January 5

Bagged Lunch

~ 2 Loaves Multi-grain Bread
~ 2 lbs. Salami

Items need to be at church no later than Sunday, January 3, Please contact me at 973-691-1910 if you can provide food or help assemble the sandwich bags.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry



No UFO Night, but I hope you are all working on a project or two or three. Maybe, if you finish something, send the pictures to Christine to put into the next newsletter.



There will be many articles and posts looking back on 2020 and everything we have endured. So many of us have experienced pain and grief and loss, both big and small. We have been in crisis mode for so long, we are exhausted and it is so easy to look back and see all the things we are missing: our enthusiastic sharing of the peace, the wonderful German luncheon after Reformation, singing together, and just being together. Given everything the world has endured this past year, just getting through 2020 is enough.

However, we did more than just hang in there. At our upcoming congregational meeting on Sunday, January 24th, we will hear stories of how we as Abiding Peace rose to the challenge and found new ways to be the church in the world and new ways to connect as the body of Christ. We learned and adapted and had some technical difficulties along the way but still found ways to love and laugh and listen together. We struggled and innovated and we will hear that story on the 24th. We will also hear about the budget, which is less exciting but provides the resources to equip our ministry.

I, like many of you, feel exhausted at just the thought of another Zoom meeting, especially one that deals with all the nuts and bolts of keeping the church running. However, we need to pay the bills so we can keep live streaming the service and storing food for the food pantry and continuing all the other projects we have kept running even during a global pandemic. We need your participation in the congressional meeting so we can look forward. We still have a long road to recovery but there is hope. That hope is what we embrace when we gather together and plan for the new year. We at Abiding Peace have done some pretty amazing things in 2020 and I am excited to see what we can do in 2021.

I hope to 'see' you all at our Zoom congressional meeting at **11:15 am on Sunday, January 24.**

Heather Nilsen



*For unto us a child is born!
Merry Christmas!*

Thank You Corner

This month's thank you goes to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Eve worship truly wonderful – despite the necessity of worshipping from home and not sharing this special night together in person. Ben has pulled together SO MUCH amazing music, and so many musicians have added their voices and talents to our worship. Ray's video skills are continuing to bless us with professional quality video elements and sound mixing. Mary and the dancers kept up the Silent Night tradition. The Confirmation class performed our first Storytelling Christmas Eve Service play. And so many of you sent in nativity pictures and videos for our virtual candle-lighting and nativity blessing. The Christmas Spirit of sharing and giving is alive and well at Abiding Peace! Thank you!

~ Pastor Serena

Many thanks to Kaiya Hefele and Angela Burdett for facilitating the donation of the poinsettias that adorned our Christmas altar. So much beauty just when we needed it most!

~ Mary Kasakove

If you would like to express a "Thank you" in next month's newsletter, please send a brief paragraph to Christine (chstrobel@optonline.net) by January 21.

January Birthdays

7 Kevin Persson
10 Robert Bowden
11 Gene Kasakove
14 Judy Jacob
16 Sarah Laird
17 Barbara Prosser
18 Brittanie Scalora
21 George Pawlo
23 Jeffey Kamin
29 Christina Belfiore

January Anniversaries

11 Sudhakar & Alice Kandikatla

Sunday Scripture

January 3

Lessons & Carols

January 10

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Feeding our Neighbors in a Time of Pandemic

We are so grateful for the generosity of our community in ensuring that our church food pantry can continue to respond to hunger in the area during the pandemic. We have continued to receive donated food, as well as monetary donations to allow us to purchase the most needed supplies. Of course, the need continues, so here are the ways you can continue to help make sure our neighbors have the food they need:

Please continue to pick up extra supplies for our food pantry, as you are able (Note – for anyone who needs to avoid grocery shopping, due to risk factors, reach out to the church. There are members who can help).

When you have supplies to donate to the church food pantry or if you know people who need food assistance, please call Sibylle Schroeder at 973-691-1910 and coordinate with her.

Special needs for the food pantry at this time are:

Hot dogs & buns	Jelly
Parmalat milk	Juice
Canned vegetables	Soup
PB	Spaghetti Sauce

Thank you all for your generosity!



January Office-Hours

For the duration of Social Distancing Protocols, Pastor Serena will not be holding office hours at the church. She will be present on-site Sundays for worship and any other tasks that need to be completed in the building. She is also available to the congregation by Cell Phone or e-mail during the week: (908) 458-3940; pastorserena@optimum.net. Her availability is impacted by the need to assist with home-instruction from 8:00-3:00, so she will respond to non-urgent messages after 3:00pm.

Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday. Many thanks for the understanding of the community as Pastor Serena balances her two calls of being a mom as well as a pastor.

Pastor Serena will be taking vacation the week Dec. 25 – Jan1. During that time, Rev. Scott Schantzenbach will be covering any pastoral emergencies. You can reach him at (908) 892-8299.

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PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
973-691-9393
or have someone call for you, if you are
hospitalized.
Because of the HIPAA privacy laws,
the church is **not**
notified when you are admitted to a
hospital,

Please clip this article and keep it

JANUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT IF YOU CANNOT SERVE.

JANUARY	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER
3 Lessons & Carols	TBD	Demetria Laird
10	Sheeba David	Karen Coates
17	Jackie King	Jeanne Scalora
24	Linda Venator	Sue Stirrat
31	Heather Nilsen	Howard Corneilson

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: TBD

BREAD BAKING: None



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers:

Those who are sick or in need: Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Gillian George, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Lynn Peterson's family and friends, Alexandra Heinz, Chris Mastakas, Pat & Jeanne Scalora, Robert Buckley, The Canon family, Howard Gentler, Cindy Behler, Elisabeth and Otto Schroeder, Jim Tangen, Amelia Krusch, James Ehrke, Jennifer Van Doran, John Brun, Michelle Kamin, Roslyn & Kerry Winfield, Chris Killian, Margret Zwicker, Amy Orama, Nalina (Sheeba's mom), Lauren Francis, Jackie King, Aimee (Heather's sister), Lindsey Caruso, Lora Gordan, Eric (Hildegard's grandson), Skip Kaub, Peter Block, Alex Herd, Michael Lynch, Melanie Smith

Those who are expecting: Alyssa Jurtschenko

Those in mourning: Those mourning Henry Hill, The Bowden and Schroeder families on the death of Evelyn Bowden, The Jaeger family, those mourning John Bohmke, The Schwier family on the death of Elsa Platt, Marja-Liisa Apgar, the Linderman family, the Ashu family, The Kildea family, those mourning Herman Cain, The Woodard family, those mourning John Lewis, the families of Nilsen and Degraw/Wilman, the family and friends of Donna Woody, those mourning the death of Michael Krush, the McCabe family, Linda Tubelis (on the death of her husband, Oto), those mourning the death of Christy Kakassy, those mourning the death of Michael Tisler, those mourning the death of Heath Morgan

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	2 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
3 2ND SUNDAY/ CHRISTMAS Lessons & Carols <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Fellowship Zoom	4 <i>5:45 pm</i> “Sunday” School Zoom	5 <i>9:00 am</i> Faith Kitchen	6 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00 pm</i> Story Telling Hour: Share which is your favorite Christ- mas carol/song and why	7 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at <i>11:30 am</i>)	8 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	9 <i>Cancelled</i> Church Family Breakfast <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Discussion of the Gospel of John	11 <i>5:45 pm</i> “Sunday” School Zoom	12 <i>7:30 pm</i> Council Meeting	13 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00 pm</i> Story Telling Hour	14 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at <i>11:30 am</i>)	15 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	16 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
17 2ND SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship	18 <i>5:45 pm</i> “Sunday” School Zoom	19	20 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00 pm</i> Story Telling Hour	21 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at <i>11:30 am</i>) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
24 3RD SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Zoom Congre- gational Meeting	25 <i>5:45 pm</i> “Sunday” School Zoom	26	27 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00 pm</i> Story Telling Hour	28 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at <i>11:30 am</i>)	29 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg.	30 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
31 4TH SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship						