

VIEW from the lake

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



From the Pastor

We Are Witnesses

In early March clergy and lay leaders from the Northern district of the NJ Synod gathered for our annual District Meeting in preparation for the Synod Assembly in May. As part of the agenda each represented congregation was asked to do some personal assessment about their greatest strengths and weaknesses within five identified categories of core mission. On the strengths side, the answers were pretty well spread out across four of the five categories, but all but two of the 15 congregations identified the same challenge area: witness.

I don't think that this trend was particularly surprising for anyone. The Lutheran tradition in North America has a long history of being "private." Our faith is deep and meaningful, but we don't tend to feel very comfortable sharing it. We worry that we will seem pushy, or make our friends or acquaintances feel uncomfortable if we talk about our faith or (*winces a bit*) invite them to church. And, of course, larger cultural trends encourage this reticence. On the East Coast, at least, we are most definitely living in a post-Christian culture in which many people have negative associations with Christian faith due to their own past church trauma or due to voices associated with a judgmental, oppressive Christianity in the bitter culture wars. It is understandable that we do not want to activate defensive responses by bringing up our faith. But this leaves a challenge for our church, because sharing the truly Good News of God's love for humanity remains a core calling of our faith, and is perhaps all the more important when some of the loudest voices representing Christ in our culture are communicating such judgment.

Our church Council has spent some time thinking about how we can more actively engage and equip our community for outreach and witness and we hope to develop these ideas in the coming months. In addition, the focus for worship in our Easter season will be on the call to witness and what that can look like in our lives. At the heart, however, witness is not actually a complicated

Continued on page 2

March, 2023

April Newsletter Deadline
April 24, 2023

Worship: 10:00 am
Online/In-Person

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. 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

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Jackie King
Vice President	Aaron Hyndman
Secretary	Nick Senior
Treasurer	George Pawlo

Council Members

Cindy Pawlo	Sheeba David
Ken Schwier	Maria Jerez-Kearney
Nick Senior	Jackie King
Shelli Skeels	Aaron Hyndman
Sibylle Schroeder	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	Aaron Hyndman
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	George Pawlo
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
 pastorserena@optimum.net
 Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:

Ben Schroeder
 benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Kev Schneider
 aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

task: it just means talking about what we know. We don't have to learn any special techniques or strategies. We just have to tell our own stories like we do in any other area of our lives where we experience joy.

As one, perhaps silly, example: a few weeks ago I had an eye exam and left the optometrist's office with new "multi-focal" contact lenses. The new technology allows for both distance and up-close vision and it is wonderful! So, I shared my great news. I made a social media post, and mentioned it to friends in conversation, and had a number of conversations with folks who became interested in exploring the new technology for themselves. That's what witness looks like – it's just sharing something good in my life with no agenda to "convert" anyone, but because of my joy others get interested in learning more for themselves.

So, don't get nervous about the sermon series on "witness." I'm not conscripting anyone into street corner evangelism, and nor is Jesus. Witness is just another word for sharing the joy and meaning of our lives with the people around us.

~ Pastor Serena

Why Do I Give?

"I am returning to the Lord part of what has been given to me."

November 2022 – Survey Response



Faith Kitchen Shopping List for April 2

- 6 cans of whole potatoes
- 2 large bags of sauerkraut

If you have any questions, please call me and let me know, 973-459-0908.

With gratitude, *Sibylle Schroeder*—Social Ministry

Unfinished Object Night April 10 * 7:00 pm

Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night at 7:00 pm. For information and to make sure it's on - call Sibylle at 973-691-1910.



Faith, Hope & Love registration is now live!

The Synod has a wonderful resource for us to continue to grow in our RIC journey—the annual Faith, Hope & Love event is back in-person this year!

The event will be hosted on Saturday, April 22nd at Abiding Presence, located at 2220 Pennington Rd, Ewing Township, NJ from 8:45am to 3:30pm. The day will include opening remarks, three workshop slots filled with topics surrounding youth, parent resources, advocacy, LGBTQ+ 101, mental health, and congregations. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This year, Faith, Hope & Love will be by suggested donation of \$20/attendee or \$40/family (3 or more members of the same family). [Click here to register.](#)



Food Pantry Needs—April

The food pantry has been filled due to a wonderful big donation from the Mount Olive Democrats food drive, so what we still need is:

- **Canned fruit**
- **Juice**
- **Hot-dogs and buns (please put these directly in the freezer)**



Senior Meeting Schedule 2023

April 18 - Orchard View Lavender Farm, Mansfield Township, 101 Karrville Rd. Port Murrey

May 17 Movie

June 21 Wildwood Arboretum at Chester and dinner or coffee at the Chester Diner

July 19 Games

Aug.16 Pool Party at the Pawlos

Sept. 20 Book Review "Happy for no Reason", "A Man Calles Ove" or "A Walk in the Woods"

Sep. 30 (Sat.) "Peter's Valley Craft Fair" at the Sussex County Fairgrounds or Mineral Fair

Oct. 18 Halloween Party

Nov. 29 Christmas/Holiday Party

This schedule is open to changes.



Thank You Corner

Thank yous to Sue Stirrat for cleaning out the overgrown front flower garden and also to the helpers of today's workday: George, Mike, Sue, Sandy, Ray, Aaron, and Joan.

- Sibylle Schroeder

Sunday Scripture

April 2

Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalm 118:1-4
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11

April 9

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28:1-10

April 16

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 23

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 30

Acts 2:42-7
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

March Birthdays

5 Anoop Kandikatla
8 Sue Stirrat
10 Demetria Laird
22 Mary Kasakove & Krista Persson
26 Jim Tangen
29 Cindy Pawlo

Pastor Serena—APRIL Schedule

In addition to posted hours in the office, Pastor Serena is also available to the congregation by cell phone or e-mail during the week (other than Saturday—her day off): (908) 458-3940; pastorserena@optimum.net.

Mar 27 – Apr 2

Thursday, Mar 30, 10:30am-8:30pm
Sunday, Apr 2, 9:00am-3:00pm

April 3 – April 9

Thursday, April 6, 11:00am-9:00pm
Friday, April 7, 4:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, April 8, 6:00pm-9:00pm
Sunday, April 9, 6:00am-7:00am; 9:00am-12:00pm

April 10-April 16 – VACATION

April 17 – April 23

Wednesday, April 19, 10:30am-8:30pm
Saturday, April 22 – Faith, Hope & Love event (off site)

Sunday, April 23, 9:00am-2:00pm

April 24 – April 30

Thursday, April 27, 10:30am-8:30pm
Sunday, April 30, 9:00am-3:00pm

Ministry Focus: Singing

I have volunteered to discuss the importance of singing and music to me as a ministry. Music has always been an integral part of my life. In fact, being the first girl in several generations on my father's side of the family, they had determined I would be a flute player even before I was born, if I should be a girl! Good thing I liked it!! So I grew up enjoying music and singing and playing the flute. I joined my church's junior choir when I was 11 years old. Then I continued in the adult choir and my dad and I would go to choir practice and sing all the way back home. Continuing into adulthood, singing was a wonderful way to meet people and it opened many doors. When I first came to Abiding Peace, 20 years ago, the choir director heard me singing with enthusiasm and immediately recruited me into the choir. I hadn't even decided if I was joining the church yet! For me there are so many hymns that are so special and bring back memories of loved ones, or bring me a certain peace when sung. Others remind me of hope to be had. Playing the flute also became a way for me to give back to my church. I started playing nearly weekly at my church while I was in high school. I enjoy being able to add my talent to a service. As I have been blessed to learn how to play, I want to share that blessing with others. Throughout the centuries, music has been used as a way to further the spiritual ministry, anywhere from the Psalms to Bach. Singing has always been promoted as a good way to retain things. I am happy to be able to continue sharing my musical capabilities and furthering musical ministry. I would urge anyone interested in joining our choir or who has other musical abilities to come forward and share in our ministry.

Return of the Chili Cook-off

On March 18 our beloved Chili Cook-Off returned post-pandemic with great success. A total of 9 competitors were enjoyed by all, with Nick Senior taking home top honors.

See the next page for photos of the event. If you have other fellowship ideas, please share them with our Fellow-

APRIL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

April	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	USHER/ GREETER/ ACOLYTE	SOLOIST	LIVESTREAM	LECTOR
2	Maria Jerez	Howard Corneilson	Sandy Carlson	TBD	Ray Mueller	Demetria Laird
9	Sibylle Schroeder	Mary Kasakove	Doug Laird	TBD	Sheeba David	Sue Stirrat
16	Mary Kasakove	Cindy Pawlo	Howard Corneilson	TBD	Nick Senior	Anna Santino
23	Sheeba David	George Pawlo	Sibylle Schroeder	TBD	Tyler Rice	Doug Laird
30	Demetria Laird	Doug Laird	Mary Kasakove	TBD	Sheeba David	Sibylle Schroeder

COUNTER: 2: George Pawlo **9:** Nita Person **16:** Sandy Carlson **23:** Howard Corneilson **30:** Ursula Schroeder

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Kasakove

BREAD BAKING: Serena Rice



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Those who are sick or in need: Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Jim Tangen, Elisabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Pat Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Linda Kahler, Mark Dennis, Mike Urodzinski, John Corneilson, Tim O'Connor, Karen and Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Patrick Buinno, Harold Olsen, Neil Nilsen, Aimee Nilsen, and Lorainne Nappa

Those in mourning: the Price family (mother of Carol Biunno), the Mueller Family, the family of Chris VanBeveran (aunt of Pastor Serena), the family of Joey Scollins (nephew of Sandy Carlson), the family of Kenneth Johanson (uncle of Lynn Peterson), and Elise Holck and family. *Please note: names of those in mourning will be listed for 6 months but please keep them always in your prayers.*

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 <i>11:15am</i> Intergenerational Palm Sunday activity	3	4 <i>9:00 am - 12:30 pm</i> Faith Kitchen	5 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	6 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Seder Dinner <i>7:30 pm</i> Maundy Thursday service	7 <i>6:15 pm</i> Choir Practice <i>7:30 pm</i> Good Friday service	8 <i>7:30 pm</i> Easter Vigil service
9 <i>6:30am</i> Easter Sunrise Service <i>10:00 am</i> Easter Service <i>11:15 am</i> Easter Brunch	10 <i>7:00 pm</i> Unfinished Objects Night	11	12 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	13 <i>7:45 pm</i> NO Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 <i>10:00 am</i> Service	17	18 <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	19 <i>4:30pm</i> Prayer Service @ Mt. Olive Manor <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00pm</i> IGC meeting via Zoom	20 <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	21	22 <i>8:45am—3:30pm</i> Faith, Hope & Love @ Abiding Presence in Ewing.
23 <i>10:00 am</i> Service (Camp Sunday) <i>11:30 am</i> Council Meeting	24	25 <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	26 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00pm</i> Bible Study	27 <i>7:00 pm</i> Mutual Ministry Meeting <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 <i>10:00 am</i> Service <i>1:00 pm</i> MOCA Walk of Compassion	1	2 <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	3	4 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Mid-week Lenten Service: Spirituality through Taste <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	5 <i>7:00pm</i> Confirmation Class	6