



# VIEW

## from the lake

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



From the Pastor

### What are you Waiting For?

Usually, when we hear the phrase “what are you waiting for?” it is meant as a goad into action. The implication is: if you can name what you want to happen, then you should get moving to make it happen! Waiting, in this context, is the enemy. It is the barrier to realizing our dreams. It may even be a subtle call-out, suggesting that we are too scared or indecisive to take control of our own lives.

But if Advent is a season for waiting, and if that season lasts 4 weeks, then the question takes on a different implication. In the context of Advent, waiting is not something that we are pushed to get past or to rush through. Rather, it is a discipline. It is an intentional cultivation of stillness and a willingness to anticipate God’s action, rather than just taking action into our own hands. This waiting is not passive, however. It is a waiting of preparation. It calls us into the work of opening our hearts and minds and lives to an agenda that is NOT about our ideas and wants and actions, but rather about God’s incarnation: God’s self-revelation in a form or a manner that we do not get to dictate.

In Advent, we can hear “what are you waiting for?” as a very different challenge than a call to take action. In this season, our task not to rush into action, but rather to take seriously the contemplation of what we are expecting God to do. Advent is a call to remember that God is NOT a divine Santa Claus, and Christmas is not about get everything on our list. We have something much better than presents to anticipate. We are waiting for God’s in-breaking work of *holy disruption*, for the revelation of how God wants to interrupt and remake things that are not right with the world. If we trust God, we can trust that these holy disruptions will be good, but there’s a reason why we wait for them. We need these Advent season to prepare ourselves to welcome God’s plans rather than our own.

So, this Advent, I encourage us all to think about what we are waiting for, and to ask God for the grace to anticipate God’s will, not ours, being done. ~ *Pastor Serena*

December, 2022

January Newsletter Deadline  
December 12, 2022



*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.



Phone: 973-691-9393

Website: [www.abidingpeacechurch.org](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)

**COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS**

Officers

President	Jackie King
Vice President	Shelli Skeels
Secretary	Sheeba David
Treasurer	Nick Senior

Council Members

Sandy Carlson	Cindy Pawlo
Sheeba David	Ken Schwier
Maria Jerez-Kearney	Nick Senior
Jackie King	Shelli Skeels
Heather Nilsen	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
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  
Cell: 908-458-3940

**Music Director:**  
Ben Schroeder  
benmschroeder@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Megan Coiley  
office@abidingpeacechurch.org



**Faith Kitchen Shopping List for December 6**

~ 2 large bags of Sauerkraut  
~ 6 cans of whole potatoes

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

With gratitude,  
*Sibylle Schroeder,*  
Social Ministry

**Sunday Scripture**

**December 4**

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

**December 18**

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

**December 11**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

**December 25**

Lessons & Carols

**Unfinished Object Night  
December 12 \* 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.



## Long-term Planning

At November's Council meeting, we were having a conversation about how to address the leak in the church utility closet, and one of the Council members asked "isn't the roof new?" It was an understandable question. We did a big capital campaign several years ago to repair the leaking roof, so it's concerning to hear about another leak. As it happens, the leak is in a different part of the building, so it's not a problem with the new roof (which covers the sanctuary), but it highlights one of the challenges of owning a building: *buildings regularly need repairs*. In addition to the current leak, there is the annual issue with air conditioning (or rather, its lack), and the church parking lot is definitely going downhill. And jumping from facilities crisis to crisis can be exhausting.

So, Council has decided to take a more intentional approach. On January 19 (at 7:00pm), we will be holding a Long-Range Planning meeting for anyone interested and available to do some outside-the-box thinking. Coming to the meeting is not a commitment to serving on a long-term committee. It's just a chance to put our heads together about how to steward all of our responsibilities well. Please consider if you can offer creativity or ideas to the planning.



### *Why Do I Give?*

“Over the years I have been blessed and fortunate. While struggling financially in our early years, we have been able to now live very comfortably and I want to give as a thanks to God for helping to provide the life we lead. I also want to be able to share my resources with those less fortunate. And I believe our church is such a giving community, I want to support its efforts.”

November 2022 – Survey Response

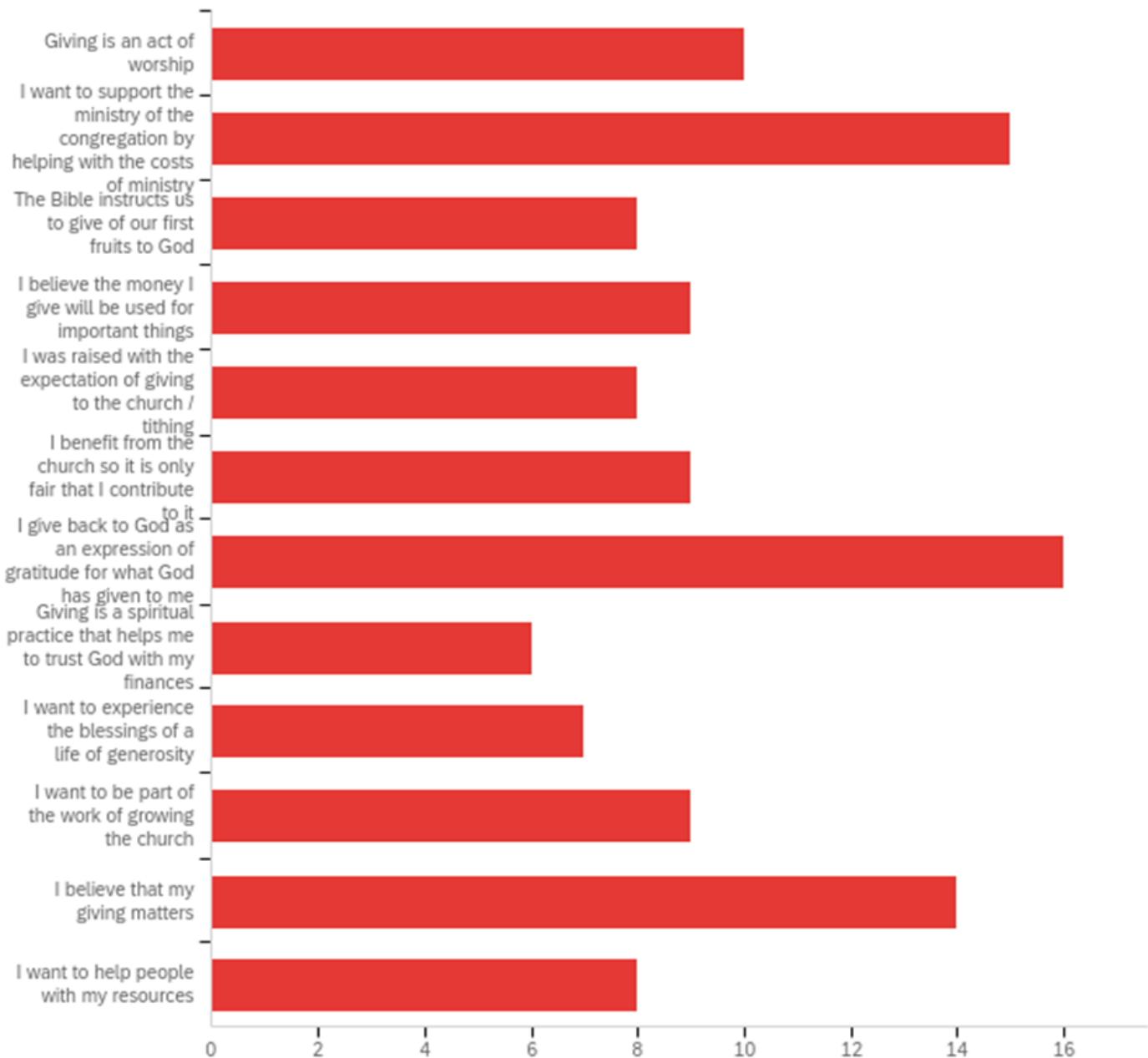
*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 2—Stewardship Focus

### Survey Responses: Why Do You Give?

In November, we asked members of the Abiding Peace Congregation to answer a 2-question survey answering the question “Why do you give?” The responses give us insight into what motivates the generosity of our community, and how we understand the purpose for our financial contributions to the work of the church. It is an inspiring response, demonstrating how much this community cares about Abiding Peace and being part of the important mission of this congregation. To share the inspiration, we are sharing the bar chart from question 1. Over the next year, we’ll also be including many of the open-answer responses in a new “Why Do I Give” feature to the monthly newsletter. May these words of our congregation remind us all of what we value about Abiding Peace.

### Your Answers to Why Do I Give?



## Pastor Serena December 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: (908) 458-3940; [pastorserena@optimum.net](mailto:pastorserena@optimum.net). Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

Week of November 28—December 4

- Thursday, Dec. 1: 10:00 am—8:30 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 4: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of December 5—December 11

- Tuesday, Dec. 6: 9:30 am—12:30 pm (Faith Kitchen)
- Thursday, Dec. 8: 12:30 pm—8:30 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 11: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of December 19—December 21

- Wednesday, Dec. 21: 3:00 pm—8:30 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 22: 4:00 pm—8:30 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 24: 3:00 pm—12:00 am
- Sunday, Dec. 25: 9:00 am—11:30 am

Week of December 26—January 1

- Monday—Saturday: Vacation Days
- Sunday, Jan. 1: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

## Thank You Corner

Thank you to Charlie and Mike for installing the heat tape on the roof. ~ *S Schroeder*

Thank you to everyone for donating food for the Christmas baskets and Faith Kitchen. ~ *S. Schroeder*

*If you would like to express a “Thank you” in next month’s newsletter, please send a brief paragraph to Pastor Serena ([pastorserena@optimum.net](mailto:pastorserena@optimum.net)) by December 12.*

---

## December Birthdays

- 4 Carol Bunno
- 10 Don Bowe
- 17 Edward Venator
- 20 Barry Kullack
- 25 Howard Corneilson
- 29 Emily Prosser
- 30 Alice Kandikatla

# DECEMBER

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

DECEMBER	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	USHER/ GREETER/ ACOLYTE	SOLOIST	LIVESTREAM
4	Sue Stirrat	Mary Kasakove	Sibylle Schroeder	TBD	Tyler Rice
11	Sheeba David	Doug Laird	Sandy Carlson	TBD	Nick Senior
18	Doug Laird	Cindy Pawlo	Howard Corneilson	TBD	Sheeba David
25	Mary Kasakove	George Pawlo	Doug Laird	TBD	Tyler Rice

**COUNTER: 4:** Nita Persson **11:** Howard Corneilson **18:** George Pawlo **25:** Sandy Carlson

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sandy Carlson / Mary Kasakove

**BREAD BAKING:** Demetria Laird



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, Elizabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Dan Scouten, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Chris Bauer, Brenda Anderson, Linda Kahler, Pat Scalora, Mark Dennis, Mike Urodinski, John Corneilson, Tim O'Connor, Karen and Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Gisela & Eddie Fritsch.

*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) *Please note: names of those in mourning will be listed for 6 months but please keep them always in your prayers.*

# DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> <i>12:30 pm</i> Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Mid-week Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY/ ADVENT</b> <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person <i>11:30 am</i> Forum: How Do We Display our Welcome?	<b>5</b> <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church via Zoom	<b>6</b> <i>9:00 am</i> Faith Kitchen	<b>7</b> <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Council Meeting (Budget Focus) via Zoom	<b>8</b> <i>12:30 pm</i> Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Mid-week Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <i>12:00 pm</i> Worship & Music Committee Meeting	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>3RD SUNDAY/ ADVENT</b> <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person <i>11:15 am</i> Intergenerational Sunday School	<b>12</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church via Zoom <i>7:00 pm</i> UFO Night (weather permitting)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>2:00 pm</i> Seniors Meeting: Christmas Party <i>4:30 pm</i> Mt. Olive Manor Prayer Service <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 am</i> Ask the Pastor Night	<b>15</b> <i>12:30 pm</i> Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Mid-week Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>4TH SUNDAY/ ADVENT</b> <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person <i>11:15 am</i> Prayer Partner Gift Exchange	<b>19</b> <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church via Zoom	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>4:30 pm</i> Prayer Service @ Mt. Olive Manor <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:45 pm</i> Longest Night Service	<b>22</b> <i>12:30 pm</i> Bible Study at Redeemer (lunch @ Noon) <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Advent Mid-week Service <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <i>Time TBD</i> Children's Christmas Eve Service <i>7:00 pm</i> Christmas Eve Service <i>10:15 pm</i> Christmas Eve Service (with choir)
<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <i>10:00 am</i> Lessons & Carols	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>