

# VIEW FROM THE LAKE

## Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

### CASTING OUT FEAR

by Pastor Serena

With "spooky season" fast approaching we are about to be inundated with invitations into fright. In the case of Halloween festivities this is mostly harmless (I personally don't enjoy being scared on purpose, but to each their own). Haunted house decorations, ghost stories, ghoulish treats, and even horror movies are intended for entertainment and light-hearted fun.

As a more general principle, however, there is more to be said about the role of fear in our lives. The topics of fear has been coming up a lot lately, in pastoral conversations as well as in our Loving Dialogue sessions in September, and it is not the harmless, entertainment version. It's a weight in the pit of our stomachs, and pressure on our chests restricting our lungs, and a jolt that wakes us up at night. Our constant exposure to real life horrors through the 24-hour news cycle, and talking heads feeding our anxieties takes a toll, even before we consider the specific, personal crises that give us very real reasons to be afraid. As a person who lives with an anxiety disorder, I know that we cannot just shake off the scary things. Fear has real power to direct our thoughts and drive our actions.

I also know that we need to be discerning in the way that we engage with fear in the context of our faith. An unfortunate historical and current reality is that some parts of Christianity are seduced by the power of fear. Fear is one of the simplest and easiest ways to control people, and theology is no exception to this rule. Far too often, the threat of "hell" has become a tool to coerce blind obedience to a given presentation of Christianity, particularly the kind that brooks no disagreement or questioning of leaders. As just one example of this, I remember being forbidden to trick-or-treat at Halloween as a young child because "Halloween was the Devil's holiday, and I would open myself up to demonic forces if I participated."

It sounds ridiculous to me, now, that dressing up in a poodle skirt and collecting candy would make me spiritually vulnerable, but such is the way of a theology based in fear.

At Abiding Peace, we know that such coercive faith is not consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the foundational claims we assert in our Loving Dialogue commitments is the biblical truth that "perfect love casts our fear" (1 John 4:18), and the way of the cross reveals to us that God's plan of redemption is not to coerce us into obedience but to journey through fear and death with us in order to defeat it through resurrection. At the same time, we do not want to make the rejection of fear a test of faith... that's just a more subtle manipulation of the power of fear to make us doubt ourselves and our belovedness. We have to take our fears and anxieties seriously, without submitting to their power.

That's what I love about the reminder from first John 4:18. In just 5 words, it offers us two important reminders. The first reminder is that overcoming fear is a matter of love, not will.

When fear grabs us, we have a resource to turn to: love. Both the love of God and the love of all the people (and animals) that God gives us to teach us about that love. Love reminds us that we are not alone and it turns our hearts and our minds toward the good that remains even when things are scary. There is a strength in love that we can hold onto when we are assaulted by fear. The second reminder is that it takes work to push back fear. "Casting out" is a very physical, visceral description of the work involved in denying fear the power to control us. It's not easy. It's just not work that we have to do alone. So, during this scary season, and any fearful season in our lives, we can recognize the very real impact of fear in our lives, without surrendering to it. Love is more powerful, and it is our partner in casting out fear.

**Worship: 10:00 AM**  
Online/ In-person



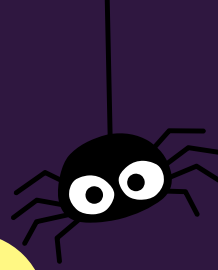
November 2024 newsletter deadline: 10/27  
Any news/ photos can be sent to Erin  
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

### 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](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)

# COUNCIL & MINISTRY



## Food Pantry Needs for October

- Parmalat Milk
- Rice
- Vegetable Oil
- PB & Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Juice
- Hot-Dogs and buns
- Soups
- Vegan/vegetarian protein options
- Toiletries
- Bread
- Meatballs  
(proteins & breads must go directly into freezer)

## Our Staff

Pastor:  
Serena Rice  
pastorserena@optimum.net  
c: 908-458-3940

Music Director:  
Ben Schroeder  
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:  
Erin Porter  
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

## Officers

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Cindy Pawlo  
Heather Nilsen  
Jackie King-Palermo  
George Pawlo

## Council Members

Cindy Pawlo  
Ken Schwier  
Shelli Skeels  
Sibylle Schroeder  
Heather nilsen

Jackie King-Palermo  
Maria Jerez-Kearney  
Charlie Palermo  
Aaron Hyndman

## Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts  
Christian Ed. & Youth  
Evangelism  
Fellowship  
Finance  
Financial Secretary  
Messengers Dancers  
Mutal 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  
Nick Senior  
Mary Kasakove

## Office Hours

Pastor Serena will hold office hours on Wednesdays OR Thursdays most week. As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for updates on the times she is scheduled to be in the office and free for drop-ins. 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. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday.

Erin will hold her office hours on Thursday of each week from 9:00-12:00. She can always be reached via email: aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

## Pastor's October hours

### Sep 30 – Oct 6

Wednesday, 10/2: 10:00am – 8:00pm  
Sunday, 10/6: 9:00am – 2:00pm

### Oct 7 – Oct 13

Thursday, 10/10: 10:00am – 8:00pm  
Sunday, 10/13: 9:00am – 2:00pm

### Oct 14 – Oct 20

Wednesday, 10/16: 10:00am – 8:00pm  
Sunday, 10/20: 9:00am – 1:00pm

### Oct 21 – Oct 27

Thursday, 10/24: 10:00am – 9:00pm  
Sunday, 10/27: 9:00am – 2:00pm

### Oct 28 – Nov 3

Wednesday, 10/30: 10:00am – 8:00pm  
Sunday, 11/3: 9:00am – 1:00pm

## October Readings

**10/6:** Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8, Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

**10/13:** Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90:12-17, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

**10/20:** Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 91:9-16, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

**10/27:** Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 126, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52



## NEW ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

This year the clergy in our section of the ELCA Synod (the Northwest Clergy Cluster) will be offering a series of adult education programs on different topics called "Growing Together in Faith."

The first one is happening in October over 5 Wednesday evenings on! This joint educational opportunity will provide the chance to learn from various pastors in our cluster, meet other members of the wider church, and engage thoughtfully about your faith. This first series is called "Study Skills for Scripture," where you will have the opportunity to learn more about how to read and understand scripture with a discerning lens. The weeks will build upon each other, but it's okay if you miss one or two.

Let Pastor Serena know if you have more questions or if you'd like to participate. If you can't join this time, stay tuned for the next mini series.



## ALL SAINT'S DAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

On All Saint's Sunday, we remember our beloved departed and all those who have died in the faith. Many choose this day to make a special offering to THE MEMORIAL FUND. At Abiding Peace, this fund is dedicated to the permanent needs of our worship space - hymnals, communion chalices, furnishings, technical needs.

Please give your donation your usual manner, directing it to THE MEMORIAL FUND and include the name of the person/persons you wish to remember or fill out the form in your bulletin.



## Sign Messages Wanted!

Want an easy way to help the church reach out to our community? Use your creativity to suggest new sign messages. Send your ideas to Pastor Serena.

We also always appreciate volunteers to help change the sign messages each week. A simple way to bless our neighbors.

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10/2 - George and Cindy Pawlo
- 10/8 - Lynn Peterson
- 10/14 - Thomas Blackburne
- 10/15 - Carol and Richard Biunno
- 10/21 - Jim and Maria Kearney
- 10/23 - Marco Ponce
- 10/30 - Rod & Barbara Prosser
- 10/31 - Maddox Rice



**SENIOR EVENTS**

Oct. 23 Halloween Party 2:00-4:00

Nov.20 Christmas/Holiday Party

★ This schedule is open to change.

**Did we miss a milestone? Please email Erin (aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) to keep us up to date!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>10/1</b> Faith Kitchen @ 9:00-12:30	<b>10/2</b> Skills in Scripture Study - 1 via Zoom @ 6:30pm  AA 6:30 PM	<b>10/3</b>	<b>10/4</b>	<b>10/5</b>
<b>10/6</b> Worship 10:00 Blessing of the Animals! Sunday School 10:15 Council Meeting 11:30	<b>10/7</b> Worship & Music Committee 1:00pm via Zoom	<b>10/8</b>	<b>10/9</b> Skills in Scripture Study - session 2 Zoom 6:30pm  AA 6:30 PM	<b>10/10</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>10/12</b>
<b>10/13</b> Worship 10:00  Placeholder for New Members Class 11:30am	<b>10/14</b> Partnering Team Meeting 7:00pm Via Zoom  UFO Night 7:00pm	<b>10/15</b>	<b>10/16</b> Prayer Service at Mt Olive Manor 4:30pm Blood Drive, 1:00pm- 6:00pm AA 6:30 PM Skills in Scripture Study - 3, 6:30pm	<b>10/17</b>	<b>10/18</b>	<b>10/19</b>
<b>10/20</b> Worship 10:00  Placeholder for New Members Class @ 11:30am	<b>10/21</b>	<b>10/22</b>	<b>10/23</b> AA 6:30 PM  Skills in Scripture Study session 4, Zoom 6:30pm	<b>10/24</b>	<b>10/25</b>	<b>10/26</b>
<b>10/27</b> Worship 10:00  Renaissance Sunday & Fall Fair 11:00-2:00	<b>10/28</b>	<b>10/29</b>	<b>10/30</b> AA 6:30 PM Skills in Scripture Study - session 5 Zoom 6:30pm	<b>10/31</b>		