

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

THE "SO THAT" OF OUR MISSION

At our Retreat in July, the church Council explored 1 Philippians 1: 3-11, with particular attention to Paul's claim that he prays for the church "so that you will be able to discern what really matters...". Prayer does not need a particular agenda, of course, but it can be instructive at a more general level to ask ourselves the "so that" of our activities as a community of faith. What do we hope to achieve? What transformation or impact are we working for? When we pray, and worship, and learn, and serve, and welcome, and give... what is our 'so that'?

As part of this exploration, we went through a discernment process about what potential impacts we associate with the five ministry areas highlighted in our congregational mission statement. First writing our own descriptions of what we hope these ministries might create, and then combining our individual efforts into summary "so that" statements. The result of that process is copied here:

The congregation of Abiding Peace commits to the mission of...

Making Christ Known so that knowledge/ understanding of the real Jesus can spread widely, because that creates better places marked by love, comfort, and never being alone.

Welcoming All People so that we can fulfill Jesus' vision of the church body, that creates a diverse family who love one another, heal, bless, show grace, build friendships, and enrich us and others.

Creating a Supportive and Accepting Place so that every person (created by God), regardless of past experiences, can find peace, accept help, feel welcomed and heard, feel safe, find the courage to take risks, and be empowered to fulfill their God-created potential.

Growing in Faith so that we can be changed – finding hope, learning, being encouraged, and seeing things from God's perspective – and so that we can share God's love, offer support and inspiration, and make the difference Jesus wants us to.

Serving God and Our Neighbors so that Love can be an action providing support to the needs around us, opposing fear and ignorance, facilitating change to advance difference-making solutions, and remind us that we are servants of God's work.

These collaborative statements paint a powerful picture about what we are called together to do and to be as Christ's body in Budd Lake, but they are not comprehensive. I encourage you to do your own thinking about our mission as a congregation, and the "so that" motivations that guide your involvement in our ministry. What more can we do together?



September 2025 newsletter deadline: 8/27
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

Worship: 10:00 AM
Online/ In-person

AUGUST OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Serena: I will hold limited office hours over the Summer, working around travel and time at Crossroads Camp; however, if you would like to schedule time for a pastoral conversation or just casual time to talk, please reach out. A lighter summer schedule as far as programming and meetings gives me lots of time to visit – let me know if you want to grab a coffee, or take a walk together, or just hang out! As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for updates on the times I am scheduled to be in the office and free for drop-ins. In addition to posted hours in the office, I am 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.

Pastor's Hours July 28 – Aug 3

- (Chaplain at Crossroads Camp during the week)

Sunday, Aug 3, 9:00am-2:00pm

Aug 4 – Aug 10

- Wednesday, Aug 6, 10:00am-7:00pm
- Sunday, Aug 10, 9:00am-12:00pm

Aug 11 – Aug 17

- Continuing Education week; Pastor Fred Becker on call for emergencies

Aug 18 – Aug 24

- Tuesday, Aug 19, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday, Aug 20, 9:00am-5:00pm
- Sunday, Aug 24, 9:00am-12:00pm

Aug 25 – Aug 31

- Vacation week; Pastor Fred Becker on call for emergencies

COUNCIL & MINISTRY

Officers

Co-Presidents
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Shelli Skeels / Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndmann
Jackie King-Palermo
George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
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
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
Nick Senior
Mary Kasakove

Food Pantry Needs for August

- Canned fruit
- PB & Jelly
- Soups
- Juice
- Hot dogs & buns
- Frozen meatballs
- Mashed Potato mix
- Crackers
- Gluten free pastas

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

August Readings

8/3

Ecc. 1:2, 12-14,
2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Coloss. 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

8/10

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

8/17

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

8/24

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

8/31

Proverbs 25:6-7a
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

In July, our Council met for Retreat rather than a regular business meeting, so there are no Council updates to share, but the Congregation did make the following decisions at the Congregation Meeting

Constitution:

- Updates were approved to bring the Congregational Constitution into conformity with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA. The updated constitution has been forwarded to the Synod Secretary for review and will be posted to the church website once final approval is indicated.

Budget:

- Half-yearly giving statements, combined with reminders of pledge amounts, will be sent to the congregation, with the request that any changes in giving targets be communicated to Council for budget adjustments.

Partnership Project:

- All Phase 2 giving to the Thrive Campaign was designated to be used for two purposes:
 - Expenses related to Property Management/Agent fees for finding regular partners to use available space in the building, and
 - Necessary repairs to the building



ADULT ED SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has completed the church Adult Education survey in June. We have received 11 responses and some clear themes are emerging, but you may still register your preferences and ideas using this link:

https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Vyjo8PRAI2yUMm

At this point, responses are indicating interest in:

- Forums/studies on Sundays following worship (both for Summer and Fall schedules)
- Focus on current issues (i.e. Loving Dialogue sessions)
- Additional moderate interest in Bible studies, Balcony Conversations, and single-session topical discussions.



Twinning at APLC!

Many thanks!

Thanks to the mystery gardener who planted the geraniums. They look great! - Mary Kasakove



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

8/10 - Don and Ceclia Bowe
 8/20 - Serena and Tyler Rice
 8/28 - Kevin Tangen
 8/30 - Laurel Kamin

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.	8/1 Lifeline Screening Event, 9:00- 5:00	8/2 Zumba @ 9:00
8/3 Worship 10:00 AM Council meeting 11:30	8/4 Worship & Music Committee @ 10:00 - zoom	8/5 Faith Kitchen 9:30-12:30	8/6 AA @ 6:30pm	8/7	8/8	8/9 Zumba @ 9:00
8/10 Worship 10:00am	8/11	8/12	8/13 UFO Gathering 2:00-4:00 AA@6:30	8/14	8/15	8/16 Zumba @ 9:00
8/17 Worship 10:00am Guest Preacher, Lorna Woodham	8/18	8/19 Taize Service 7:00 pm	8/20 Senior Ministry Movie Party, 2:00-4:00 AA @ 6:30pm	8/21	8/22 Installation of Bishop Christa Compton, 2:00 @ First Baptist Church, Lincoln Gardens	8/23 Zumba @ 9:00
8/24 Worship 10:00 AM	8/25	8/26	8/27 Newsletter Deadline	8/28	8/29	8/30
8/31 Worship 10:00 AM Guest Preacher: Mona Fitz-Eliot						