



VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church



PASTOR'S ARTICLE – PATRIOTISM VS. NATIONALISM

As we approach the 250 th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and as the emotions of national pride and patriotism surge in our culture, I think it's helpful to give attention to what a healthy, faithful patriotism looks like, and what it's evil cousin Nationalism (or, frequently in our context, Christian Nationalism) looks like.

French General and Resistance leader, Charles De Gaulle is credited with the quotation: "Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first." De Gaulle and his people experienced the consequences of a neighbor's Nationalism in the Nazi occupation, and well as experiencing the fierce patriotism of the French citizens and soldiers in the Resistance. He certainly had the lived experience to differentiate between the two, and that difference is grounded in what each most values.

Nationalism is grounded in the value of control that serves the glorification of an ideal of the Nation. It ultimately values only a narrow and proscribed vision of the Nation that depends on the exclusion or repression of all who do not conform to the vision. In the case of American Christian Nationalism, this vision centers white, straight, married, patriarchal, Evangelical Christians. This ideology creates a social ranking in which only those who look, think, and act according to the approved expectations are deemed to be worthy of inclusion and protection. Others might be tolerated, but they will not be seen as deserving the same rights and protections as the natural citizens. This social control is accepted by insiders because it is merged with in the language of protection. People who identify with the ideal are told that anything different is an existential threat to their well-being, and that the only protection for them is an authoritarian control that elevates the ideal and marginalizes or rejects anyone and anything different. As such, this ideology is rooted in fear. It may use religious language to camouflage its agenda as serving God's will, but in practice it rejects the fundamental teachings of Jesus.

In contrast, Patriotism encompasses devotion to the country as a whole – including all the people who live within it, however diverse they might be. This devotion is not about policing boundaries and imposing an authoritarian ideal of national identity. Rather, it is about the hope and trust that the country's value is best served by continually working to make it better. Patriots love their country enough to be honest about where it is failing, and to commit themselves to the hard work of continual reformation. In the context of Christian faith, Patriots differentiate between our love of the God whom we worship and our love of the country that God gave us to steward. To worship one static and unchangeable vision of our country would be to create an idol that dishonors God. Instead, we look to God as our moral compass, but we recognize that a country is an institution of human making, and it needs mechanism of checks and balances and space for diverse voices in order to avoid making it into an idol. Patriots distinguish God from country and express their faith by engaging in the secular work of politics as people committed to the common good and guided by a God's whose guiding commandment is to love all our neighbors as ourselves. This is a perspective grounded in love and reformation.

- Pastor Serena



GET INVOLVED

In continuation of the weekly ministry spotlights included in the Sunday announcements, you may be interested in following-up on one or more of the opportunities to engage your energy and passions through one of the highlighted ministries. Below are the ministries to be highlighted in June, with the contact information of whom to reach out to.

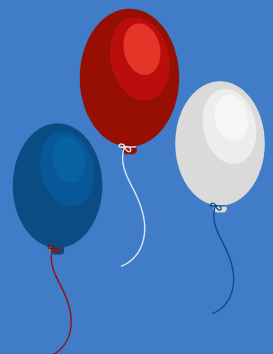
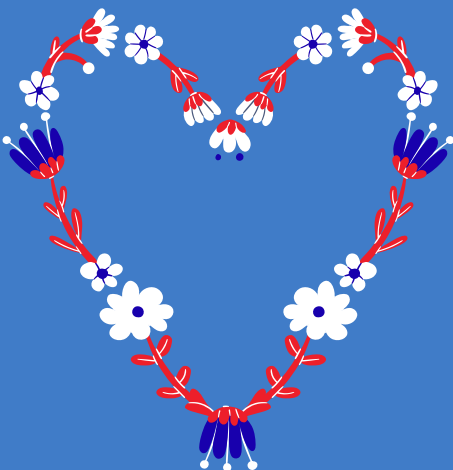
- ALTAR GUILD – Mary Kasakove: mjk167@gmail.com
- STEWARDSHIP – Pastor Serena: pastorserena@optimum.net
- PROPERTY PRIDE - George Pawlo or Pastor Serena: gpawlo@comcast.net, pastorserena@optimum.net



DEBT-REDUCTION OPPORTUNITY

The New Jersey Synod is offering congregations with significant mortgage debt an incredible opportunity to buy down that debt with matching funds. Following the closing of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairview, the proceeds from the sale of the building are being used to reinvest in our existing congregations to provide the stability to continue vital ministry. The program will provide up to a 2:1 match for funds raised by the congregation to buy-down mortgage debt. This is a particularly great opportunity for Abiding Peace, since our mortgage agreement allows us a once-per-year lump sum payment that reduces our monthly mortgage bill, rather than reducing the term of the loan.

Our stewardship team will be working on developing our application (due September 30) for this generous gift of the synod. If you are interested in joining the team, please reach out to Pastor Serena. You can also begin to prayerfully consider if you are able to give toward this effort over the next year.





**"Witness of Ash Capra from their Affirmation of Baptism on June 30th."
June 21, 2026**

Ideally, today, I would be reading you all a flawless poem that bared deep emotions and gave life to the unique set of skills I've learned along the way on my journey to faith. Realistically, life is much more humbling than that. Life is not a series of epic poems or never-ending wars led by greedy tyrants. Life is more like late night trips to the grocery store and making sure the seats are more filled than empty on Sunday mornings.

And what I mean by that is life is more tedious and repetitive and character building tasks than it is climactic moments.

And what I am saying is right now I do not feel like my proudest, strongest, surest self. I feel vulnerable. And that's okay.

As someone who has experienced a lot of trauma, I tend to be tensed for the next emergency. I tend to lean toward people pleasing just to keep the peace, while simultaneously sacrificing my own happiness. So it is nice to have a place to go on Sundays; to be able to call church a shelter when home, or the government, is not a safe haven. It is nice to have my relationship with God, or Source, to remind me that there is wholeness at my core no matter how broken my human shell feels. It is important that I can falter and ask questions at any phase of life and to know I will be met with

mercy. It is important to move on and reclaim a sense of resolve each time it fades. So that's what I am doing here today.

I am grateful to Pastor Serena for her support and guidance and acceptance as I continue strengthening my faith. I am grateful to the people in this community for welcoming me and helping me grow. I invite you all to conversation if you're struggling with belief or belonging or if you just want to test how bad my social anxiety is at the moment, then let's talk. Either way thank you for being a part of this declaration and affirmation today.

Ash Capra



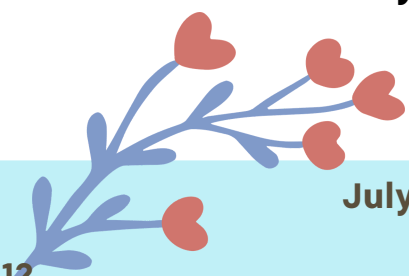


**Celebrate Reformation Day 2026 with the NJ Synod
in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany
Reformation: Then and Now
October 26 - November 5, 2026**

**To read Bishop Compton's Invitation, Itinerary & Registration info:
go to: www.njsynod.org/germanytrip**

**Travel with Synod friends, Bishop Compton and our docent, The Rev. Dr.
Kit Kleinhans, recently retired Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.**

**Interested? germanytrip@njsynod.org
Pastor Carol Lindsay, Synod Trip Coordinator**

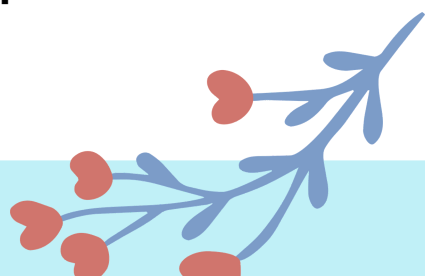


July 5
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

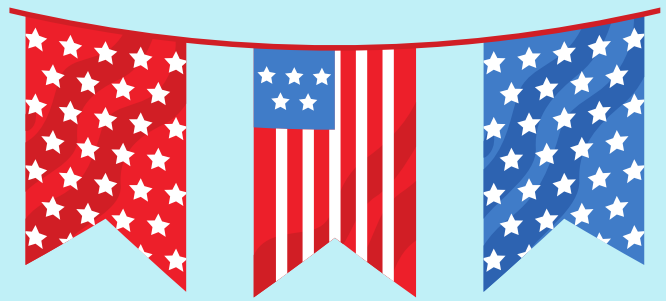
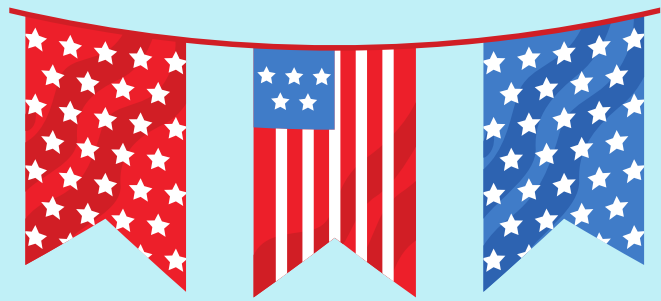
July 12
Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July Readings

July 19
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



July 26
Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



We would like to thank Cindy and George for hosting the Music Party. It was a great evening with a lot of singing and wonderful people.



Celebrating the end of the World Cup On July 12, after worship, with an International Potluck Lunch. Please remember to sign up and bring your best international dish.

NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY
July 19 after worship.

The church will provide the ice cream everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite toppings.



**A shout out from Sue,
To Emily, Ken, Jeannette, and all those who helped prepare, donate, and plant the vegetable garden. Hopefully we will have a "bumper crop".**

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

Food Pantry Needs for June:
pasta sauce, soup, Parmalat milk;
canned fruit; cereal; hotdogs &
buns; juice; crackers, & rice /rice
mixes.

THANKS A BUNCH!!

Thanks to everyone who donates
food to Faith Kitchen, and
everyone who comes to help
prepare the food. We usually
serve over 100 meals!! - Sibylle

Senior Activities For 2026

July 8 - Pool Party
August 19 -Movie
September 16 - Oktoberfest
October 21 - Halloween Party
November 18 - Christmas / Holiday
Party
(The schedule is open to changes.)



July Birthdays

July 7 Joan Blackburne
July 8 Richard Kamin
July 10 Roy Persson
July 13 Rodney Prosser
July 16 Tyler Ascot
July 19 Robbie Cranmer
July 20 Steven Tangen
July 30 Patricia Persson



July Anniversaries

July 6 Christina and Chris Belfiore
July 14 Bill and Leann Stet
July 19 Jim and Kathy Tangen

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



COUNCIL & MINISTRY

July Office Hours

From June 25 - July 9 Pastor Serena will be away on vacation, for pastoral emergencies contact: Deacon Karen Kelly (215)-872-0949 or Pastor Bernie Kelly (609)-741-9234.

Pastor Serena's office hours will be reduced over the Summer as she receives cancer treatment. Her plan is to come into the office on Wednesdays, but some office hours may be cancelled depending on recovery needs. As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for weekly changes. In addition to posted hours in the office, she 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.

June 29 – July 5

- Pastor Serena away

July 6 – July 12

1. No weekday office hours, Pastor Serena will be back in the country the evening of July 9th

- Sunday, July 12: 9:00am-12:00pm

July 13 – July 19

- Wednesday, July 15, 10:30am-8:30pm
- Sunday, July 19: 9:00am-12:00pm

July 20 – July 26

- Wednesday, July 22, 10:30am-8:30pm
- Sunday, July 26: 9:00am-12:00pm



Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Aaron Hyndmann
Heather Nilsen
Howard Corneilson
George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
Ken Schwier
Shelli Skeels
Sibylle Schroeder

Howard Corneilson
Maria Jerez-Kearney
Heather Nilseno
Aaron Hyndman
Tyler Schiess

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
Ken Schwier
Mary Kasakove

Our Staff

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

Music Director:
Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Catherine Belfiore
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Mass Protest against Christian Nationalism in Philadelphia, organized by the Palm Sunday Path	4 Zumba , 9:00am  Happy July Fourth
5 Worship 10:00am	6	7 Faith Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	8 Senior's Pool Party, 2:00pm @ the Pawlo's AA @ 6:30pm	9	10	11 Zumba, 9:00am Rain Garden Maintenance volunteering, 11:00am
12 Worship 10:00am World Cup Pot Luck Lunch	13 Worship & Music, 10:00 am via Zoom	14	15 Unfinished Objects Gathering 2:00pm-4:00pm AA @ 6:30pm	16	17 Fellowship Hall/Narthex reserved for Bridal Shower, 11:00am-4:00pm	18 Zumba, 9:00am
19 Worship 10:00am National Ice Cream Day	20	21	22 AA @ 6:30pm	23	24	25 Zumba, 9:00am
26 Sunday Worship 10:00am	27 Newsletter deadline	28	29 AA @ 6:30pm	30 Council Meeting, 7:30pm via Zoom	31	
