

# VIEW FROM THE LAKE

## Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

### RESOLVING TO FIND JOY

As we approach the New Year and the annual deliberation about whether to make "resolutions," I want to share a reframing that I recently ran across: resolutions can be fun.

The context was a person talking about how they don't do resolutions because they can't stick with them and so they always end up feeling defeated and frustrated with themselves. The response was another person who shared that their resolution for the year was to eat every shape of pasta they could find over the course of the year. They have previously done something similar with different kinds of cheese. Because... why can't we challenge ourselves to do things we will actually enjoy?

While this reframing is not essentially spiritual in nature, it reminds me of the teaching from C.S. Lewis about how God wants so much more for us than we seek for ourselves. He used the analogy of children who insist on making mudpies in the yard because they cannot imagine how much more they would enjoy a holiday by the sea. Sometimes we get stuck in a certain model for how we are supposed to do life and faith because we cannot (or have not tried to) imagine the alternative. We think spiritual disciplines are supposed to feel like work. We fail to ask ourselves what would bring us more joy.

So, this is your invitation to resolve to find joy in 2025 in a specific way (because specifics are the only way to break out of a rut. Just resolving for joy won't work). You pick the practice:

It could be a celebration of pasta, or of music, or of sunrises (if you are one of those enviable people who actually enjoys getting up early).

It could be a practice that increases the grace you give yourself, or a strategy of planning that helps you be intentional about setting aside time for fun.

It doesn't have to be anything that takes significant time or resources. The point is just to remember that God created us for joy. There is a worship of effort in our society that can make us forget this fundamental truth, so we have to resist that pressure. But if we can, it will feed our relationship with God as much as it will restore our souls, because it reminds us that God intends us for abundant life.

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

February 2025 newsletter deadline: 1/27  
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

## Officers

President Cindy Pawlo  
Vice President Heather Nilsen  
Secretary Jackie King-Palermo  
Treasurer George Pawlo

## Council Members

Cindy Pawlo Jackie King-Palermo  
Ken Schwier Maria Jerez-Kearney  
Shelli Skeels Charlie Palermo  
Sibylle Schroeder Aaron Hyndman  
Heather nilsen

## Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts Sibylle Schroeder  
Christian Ed. & Youth Heather Nilsen  
Evangelism Aaron Hyndman  
Fellowship Demetria Laird  
Finance George Pawlo  
Financial Secretary Nita Persson  
Messengers Dancers Mary Kasakove  
Mutal Ministry Heather Nilsen  
Property Vacant  
Social Ministry Sibylle Schroeder  
Seniors Sibylle Schroeder  
Stewardship Nick Senior  
Worship & Music Mary Kasakove

## Food Pantry Needs for January

- Parmalat milk
- Canned fruit
- Juice
- Hot dogs & buns
- Frozen meatballs
- Mashed Potato mix
- Rice
- Crackers
- Cake mixes
- 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



## January Office-Hours:

Pastor Serena will hold office hours on Wednesdays or Thursdays in January. 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.

## Pastor's January hours

### Dec 30 – Jan 5

- Thursday, 1/2: 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, 1/5: 9:00am – 12:00pm

### Jan 6 – Jan 12

- Thursday, 1/9: 10:00am – 8:30pm
- Sunday, 1/12: 9:00am – 12:00pm

### Jan 13 – Jan 19

- Wednesday, 1/15: 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, 1/19: 9:00am – 1:00pm

### Jan 20 – Jan 26

- Wednesday, 1/22 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, 1/29: 9:00am – 1:00pm

### Jan 27 – Feb 2

- Thursday, 1/30: 10:00am – 8:30pm
- Sunday, 2/2: 9:00am – 12:00pm

## January Readings

### Jan. 5

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

### Jan. 12

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### Jan 19

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Cor. 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### Jan 26

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Cor. 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

## FELLOWSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who completed the fellowship survey in December to indicate interest in various ways of gathering for community this winter. There was the greatest interest in "Open Space" and "Game nights", with some interest also in a potluck. Wednesday and Thursday nights have equal availability, as well as interest in organized fellowship opportunities after worship on Sundays. Since our Sunday calendar is already rather full for January, we will prioritize after-worship gatherings in February. For this month, here is the schedule:

- Thursday, January 9, 7:00-8:00 – **Open Space** for connection & conversation
- Wednesday, January 15, 6:30-8:00(ish, presuming choir rehearsal will be Wednesday nights) – **Game night**
- Sunday, January 19 – **Potluck Lunch with the Bishop**
- Wednesday, January 22, 6:30-8:00ish – **Open Space**
- Thursday, January 30, 7:00-8:30 – **Game Night.**



Thank you to Dorian Morales for providing beautiful keyboard music at our Christmas Eve services. His presence was a gift to the congregation.

## 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, or sign up to join the sign ministry!

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

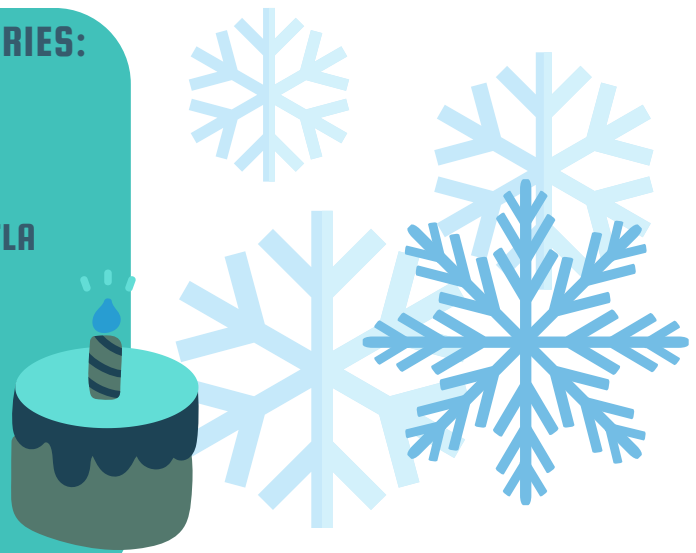


Decorating our windows for the advent season!



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 1/7 - KEVIN PERSSON**
- 1/10 - ROBERT BOWDEN**
- 1/11 - GENE KASAKOVE**
- 1/11 - SUDHAKAER AND ALICE KANDIKATLA**
- 1/14 - JUDITH JACOB**
- 1/16 - SARAH LAIRD**
- 1/17 - BARBARA PROSSER**
- 1/18 - BRITTANIE SCALORA**
- 1/21 - GEORGE PAWLO**
- 1/29 - CHRISTINA BELFIORE**



**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>1/1</b> AA @ 6:30pm	<b>1/2</b>	<b>1/3</b>	<b>1/4</b>
<b>1/5</b> Worship 10:00am	<b>1/6</b> Worship&Mus ic Committee @ 1:00 pm Zoom	<b>1/7</b> Faith Kitchen 9:00-12:00	<b>1/8</b> AA @ 6:30pm	<b>1/9</b> Pride Mt Olive meeting with the Mayor @ 10:00am Open Space @ 7:00pm	<b>1/10</b>	<b>1/11</b>
<b>1/12</b> Worship 10:00am Council Meeting 1:30pm, Zoom	<b>1/13</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>1/15</b> Prayer Service- Mt Olive Manor 4:30pm Game night 6:30pm AA @ 6:30pm	<b>1/16</b>	<b>1/17</b>	<b>1/18</b>
<b>1/19</b> Worship 10:00am Bishop's visit, potluck lunch	<b>1/20</b>	<b>1/21</b> ELCA zoom training: "How we heal from Racial Divisions" 11:00am-3:00pm	<b>1/22</b> AA @ 6:30pm Open Space @ 6:30pm	<b>1/23</b>	<b>1/24</b>	<b>1/25</b>
<b>1/26</b> Worship 10:00am Congregational Meeting @ 11:00am	<b>1/27</b>	<b>1/28</b>	<b>1/29</b> AA @ 6:30pm	<b>1/30</b> Game Night @ 7:00pm	<b>1/31</b>	