

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church



Pastor's Article – Sunshine & Seeing

Who else can clearly remember the first warm, sunny day we had in March after this cold, brutal winter? I kept finding myself randomly smiling all day. Or pausing to take a deep breath and just exist in the warmth of the moment. Several friends mentioned the same reaction. After months of grey, and wind, and seeping cold, something as simple as sunlight felt completely transformative.

Nothing about the world I saw illuminated by that light had changed overnight. There were still dirty piles of snow in parking lots, rising gas prices, and headlines about government dysfunction and overreach. If anything, more light meant it was easier to see the ugliness in the world. But it was easier to see the beauty, too. Even before the grass began to green or the flowers began to bloom, the air sparkled in the sunlight. The muted colors of late winter warmed in the brighter light. My vision had changed, even if the world had not. Something as simple as sunlight made a genuine difference in what I saw because it changed the resources I could tap to deal with the rest of reality. I felt lighter, stronger, and more hopeful.

I like to think this is what Jesus means when he calls himself the light of the world. Obviously, the primary function of light is illumination. Light makes it easier to see what's around us. And consequently, light makes it easier to see both the good and the bad, the life-giving and the distressing. But light is about more than just a mechanism for sight. It can also influence the way that we see. The light does not change the reality around us, but it can change how we process it. Jesus, our light shows us the world around us clearly. He opens our eyes to the beauty and the worth. He also unflinchingly illuminates the things that we need to pull out of the shadows and confront. We see everything more clearly. AND, we see it all with a dose of sunlight in our souls. When his light opens our eyes, we have the strength and hope to respond to what we see, good or bad, suffused with his love.

- Pastor Serena

Happy Easter



May 2026 newsletter deadline: 4/27
Any news/ photos can be sent to Catherine
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

Worship: 10:00 AM
Online/ In-person

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



Notes from Council

Our new 2026 Council met on March 12 via Zoom with all members in attendance. Major discussion topics and decisions are below:

- **On-going Business:**

- Directory update is in process, but needs more feedback from congregation – announcements will be included in Sunday worship.
- Synod Secretary has reviewed our 2025 Constitution updates, and they will not cause any problems when we add the changes from the 2025 General Assembly.

- **Budget update:** February budget was helped by a significant gift from one member who submitted their entire 2026 pledge in a lump sum, resulting in a reduction in our year-to-date deficit. However, the monthly average giving is still lower than expenses.

- **Outdoor Projects:**

- **Church Garden:** As the time to open the garden draws near, we need to determine the energy and capacity within the congregation to assist with this project, so it does not all fall on one or two volunteers

- **Parking Lot Signs:** Now that the upper lot is clear of snow, and drive-through traffic may increase, we are planning to install the signs to discourage loitering and using the church as a pass-through.

- **AI in Church Social Media:** It was brought up that META is now spontaneously creating and regularly updating descriptions of the church and its activities. Although we have not yet noticed any serious errors, we are monitoring and seeking a way to disable this feature.

*Join the NJ Synod Anti-Racism Team
for a zoom workshop*

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS:
CONFRONTING THE SIN OF
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM**

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026
7:00-8:45PM**

*An interactive workshop,
explaining & exploring the misapplication of
Christian scripture, symbols, and language to
justify a policy agenda
that runs counter to the teachings of Christ*

Presenters:

Pastor Serena Rice & Pastor Sara Lilja

Use this link to register :

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/
d5w0OeqmRoOFcOP054iPdA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d5w0OeqmRoOFcOP054iPdA)



**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**

April Readings

April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Isaiah 25:6-9	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Psalms 114	Psalms 16	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Psalms 23
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
Luke 24:13-49	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

The result of the Chili Cook-off on 3/14/2026

Winners are:

First Place Ginnette Schwier

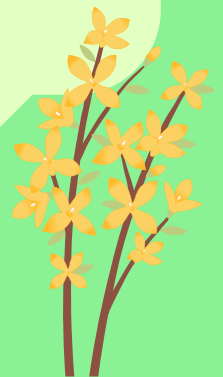
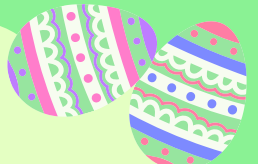
Second Place: Nick Senior

Third Place: Demetria Laird



AWESOME
JOB !

This is a reminder that
there is an
Easter brunch on 4/5,
at 11:15



Seniors had a beautiful Tea
on March 25, 2026.
There were delicious foods
and wonderful desserts.
Company was awesome.

Food Pantry Needs for April: Pasta Sauce; Jelly; Parmalat Milk

Senior Activities For 2026

April 15 - Game Afternoon
 May 20 - Kentucky Derby Race
 (bring your own wind-up horse or other animal.)
 June 17 - Book Discussion
 (book choices, ' "Theo of Golden" - Allen Levi,
 "Correspondent" - Virginia Evans, or "The Cafe of Life" - Dr. Arno Burnier D.C.)
 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.)

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

Tullo's Ballroom

Tuesday's at 7:00

April 7
 April 14
 April 21
 April 28



Spring



April Birthdays

April 3 Nancy Ayotte
 Anoop Kandikatka
 April 8 Sue Stirrat
 April 10 John Cranmer
 Demetria Laird
 April 22 Mary Kasakove
 Krista Persson
 April 26 Jim Tangen
 April 29 Cindy Pawlo



April Anniversaries

April 5 Ray and Mary Beth Mueller
 April 9 Jan and Patricia Persson
 April 25 Doug and Demetria Laird

COUNCIL & MINISTRY

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 Nilsen
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

April Office Hours:

Pastor Serena's office hours will vary in April, due to Holy Week, vacation, and Synod events. 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.

Mar 30 - April 5

- Thursday, Apr 2: 10:00am - 9:00pm
- Friday, Apr 3: 5:00pm-9:00pm
- Saturday, Apr 4: 6:30pm-9:00pm
- Sunday, Mar. 8: 6:00am-1:00pm

April 6-April 12

- Pastor Serena on vacation. Pastor Karol Van Wulfen providing emergency pastoral coverage.

April 13 - April 19

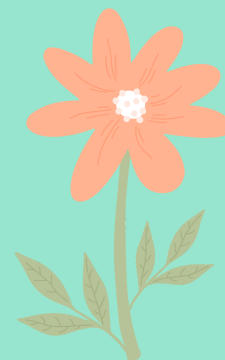
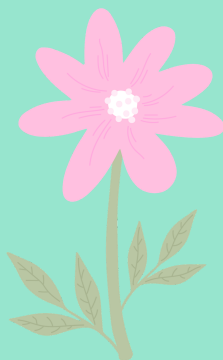
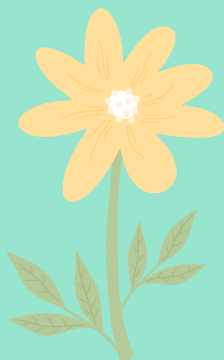
- Wednesday, Apr 15: 10:30am-9:00pm
- Sunday, Apr 19: 9:00am-1:00pm

April 20 - April 26

- Wednesday, Apr 22: 3:30pm - 9:00 pm
- Thursday, Apr 23: 9:00am-1:00pm
- Saturday, April 25: 9:00am-4:00pm (off-site conference)
- Sunday, Apr 26: 9:00am-1:00pm

April 27 - May 3

- Tuesday, Apr 28: 9:00am-2:00pm - Ministerium Day (off-site)
- Wednesday, April: 3:30pm-9:00pm
- Sunday, May 3: 9:00am-1:00pm





April 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			AA @ 6:30pm ¹	Seder Dinner, ² 6:15pm Maundy Thursday service, 7:30pm	³ Choir rehearsal, 6:30pm Good Friday service, 7:30pm	⁴ Zumba , 9:00am Easter Vigil service, 7:30 pm
⁵ Sunrise Easter Service, 6:15 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30am Easter Brunch, 11:15 a.m.	⁶	⁷ Faith Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tullo's Ballroom 6 pm.	⁸ Unfinished Objects Gathering, 2:00-4:00pm AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	⁹	¹⁰	¹¹ Zumba, 9:00am
¹² Worship 10:00am Forum: "Free to Be" with Lauren Applegate, 11:30 am	¹³ Worship & Music, 10:00am via Zoom	¹⁴ Tullo's Ballroom 6 pm. Council Meeting, 7:30 pm via Zoom	¹⁵ Senior's Ministry, (Games) 2:00- 4:00pm Mount Olive Manor Service, 4:30pm AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	¹⁶	¹⁷	¹⁸ Zumba, 9:00am
¹⁹ Worship 10:00am Sunday School Forum: Being an Inviting Church, 11:30 am	²⁰	²¹ Tullo's Ballroom 6 pm.	²² AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	²³ Cluster Zoom Study on Meditation, 7:00pm	²⁴	²⁵ Zumba, 9:00am Faith, Hope, & Love event in Lawrenceville, 9:30am-3:30pm
²⁶ Worship 10:00am Forum: Being a Welcoming Church, 11:30 am	²⁷ Newsletter deadline	²⁸ Tullo's Ballroom 6 pm.	²⁹ AA @ 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	³⁰ Cluster Zoom Study on Meditation, 7:00pm	Did we miss a milestone? Please email Catherine aplcbuddlake@gmail.com to keep us up to date!	