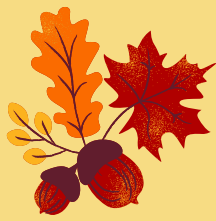


VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church



I'm Thankful for all of you

November is the month that our minds and hearts traditionally turn to thoughts of gratitude, so I wanted to use this month's article to share with you all at least some of the many reasons that I am so thankful for the community of Abiding Peace.

- You all share your deep love for God and for the life of faith. I have been so blessed over the years to hear many of your personal stories of faith, including stories of God's faithfulness, as well as stories of struggle and doubts. Whether your faith has been a consistent source of meaning and support in your lives, or you have had to battle through significant deconstruction and figure out how to hold onto God while releasing problematic inherited beliefs, I deeply value the chance to hear these stories and to walk alongside you on your faith journey. Across the board, what I hear from you is that your faith deeply matters to you. Abiding Peace is not a community for "Country Club Christianity." It is a place for genuine spiritual connection and faith that shapes our lives. This is such a blessing for me as your pastor.
- You embrace creativity and are willing to try new things. I was working on preparing the "Luther rose" rock painting craft during a recent zoom call with colleagues, and one of them pointed out, "it seems like your people really like these kinds of creative activities." I agreed with great joy! Being able to merge the reliable traditions of our faith with more creative or even experimental practices offers me inspiration. It calls me into deeper thinking about how to engage the teachings and impact of our faith in new and meaningful ways, and it makes worship planning deeply fulfilling for me. Knowing that these efforts are meaningful for you all as well is such a gift.
- Those of you with young kids bring your children to worship. It was not all that long ago when my children were tiny (and more than a little noisy) and I remember well how exhausting it could be to try to meet my own spiritual needs in worship while managing their energy. If online worship had been an option at that age, I might have done that just to make it easier. So, I am beyond grateful that you bring your children to worship. I think it's pretty obvious how much I love each of them, and how much I enjoy the energy, personality, and inquisitiveness that they bring to our community. Thank you for letting me get to be their pastor as well as yours.
- Those of you without young kids welcome the young ones in worship. All of the energy-managing challenges of having young children in worship means that their presence makes itself known. I know some faith communities tolerate such things, and some faith communities object to them. But you all CELEBRATE the presence of children in worship. Our Abiding Peace children know that they can show up just as they are and received in love by the adults in our community, which is the surest way to teach them that God receives them in love as well. Thank you for being such good witnesses!
- You show me that you love me. Before I ever met any of you, your former pastor, Dale Selover, told me that what Abiding Peace needed most was a Pastor who would love them. I have tried to do that (and you all make it super easy!). What I did not really process before I came is that my love would be multiplied so many times and returned back to me. You make me feel safe to be truly known in this community, with my various imperfections, knowing that you will take me as I am. I am eternally grateful for the love that fills our community and includes me so warmly.

- Pastor Serena



December 2025 newsletter deadline: 11/26
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

Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 23: "Walking the Journey of Faith"

Introducing this Fall's Stewardship theme: "Walking the Journey of Faith." Faith is a never-static journey. It involves movement and growth. It is a lifelong process of learning and transformation that improves our lives and equips us to respond to the needs of those around us, individually and as a community.

In our individual stewardship, we recognize that everything we carry with us as we walk this journey is from God - our abilities, our possessions, our finances. We're stewards of these gifts. In thanksgiving and gratitude for these blessings, we dedicate them to God. We accept them for ourselves and also share them with our families, our church community, and others. We trust that our needs will continue to be met by our loving God who walks with us on this journey.

Our faith is also a shared journey. As part of our collective stewardship this coming year, we plan to build an outdoor Labyrinth. Walking Labyrinths are a long-standing Christian practice that focuses prayer through movement, a physical representation of our faith journey. Twists and turns are part of it, as we step forward toward our center in God's love. This contemplative path will signify our congregation's confidence in God's provision to not only enable us to support our church's ministry but to enhance it with a new spiritual resource here on our land. It will also be a physical and lasting reminder of how, by the grace of God, our community works together, walking in faith, nourishing faith, and changing lives.

Your part? Support our ministry at Abiding Peace in whatever way works for you:

- If finances are tight and you can't commit more support than the past or even need to decrease your giving, pledge whatever fits. Know that you are still part of this community project.
- Maybe you want to challenge yourself with a percentage giving model, or if you're already using one, increase the percentage of your giving. This support is a proportional share of your income or resources.
- In addition to your pledge, you may wish to "buy a brick" (or multiple bricks at \$100 each) for the Labyrinth. This spiritual walkway will be dedicated to honor or memorialize those who have helped us along our faith journey.

At our Sunday worship on Nov. 23 we'll dedicate our pledges as we commit individually and as a community to walk the journey of faith in 2026. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to respond. And remember, our faith journey benefits from company on the road.

In faith, hope, and love,
The Abiding Peace Stewardship Team and Council



Notes from Council

In October, our Council met in-person with co-President Heather Nilsen leading the meeting. In addition to receiving reports and clearing old business, the following decisions were taken:

- Open Council/Ministry Positions:
 - Howard Corneilson has volunteered to serve in one of the unexpired Council positions vacated by the move of Jackie & Charlie Palermo and was unanimously approved by the Council. The position will extend through January, then subject to congregational vote at the congregational meeting.
 - We are issuing an open invitation for anyone who might be interested in serving on church Council to speak with Pastor Serena. There will be 4 openings in 2026.
 - Musician Payments: the accounting related to payments for our weekly supply musicians and choir accompanist is increasing the workload for our volunteer treasurer, and we would like to reduce this burden. We are seeking a church member familiar with basic accounting to help with this one aspect of the church accounts.
- Partnership Prospects:
 - Potential Partner for 2026: The Church Council is in talks with a local neighbor about providing space for a home-schooling coop group 5 mornings a week starting in September 2026. There is good vision-alignment and we are working through the details of costs, insurance, etc.
- Church Property: a variety of issues related to property maintenance were discussed.
 - Lighted sign: The lighted sign is illuminated again, but three of the locks still need to be repaired.
 - Windows: the glazing on the three tall sanctuary windows is failing, especially the one closest to the large wall cross. Will do research on costs for reglazing to consider replacing when the weather warms again.
 - Fellowship Hall: Exploring options to repair baseboard heating covers (currently an eye sore) and the hole in the wall by the outside door caused by a leaking pipe.
- Directory Update:
 - Need updated information: We are planning to update the congregation directory in 2026 – be looking for an update form to send-in.
 - Google Doc: We are considering migrating the directory to a google doc for easier updating. If you would like to volunteer to help with the project, please let Pastor Serena know.



Time & Talents - November 23

With a number of newer folks in our community, and questions about "how do I get involved?" we are going to host a "time & talents" sign-up opportunity on Sunday, Nov. 23 along with receiving 2026 pledges on that day. I will be working on identifying areas of particular need and opportunity in the coming weeks, so if you have ideas about ministry areas that could benefit from new partners, or innovations that we could apply, please let me know!

The Blessing of the Animals at Abiding Peace



Reformation Sunday



November Readings

Nov 2

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23

Nov 9

Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:12
Luke 20:27-38

Nov 16

Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
Thessalonians 3:6-5, 13-17
Luke 21:5-19

Nov 23

Luke 3:2-9, 15-18
Luke 2:1-14
Matthew 2:1-12
Luke 4:1-13
Psalm 22: 1-11, 19
Luke 24:1-10
Acts 2:1-8, 12-21
Luke 10:25-28
Psalm 93

Nov 30

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

COUNCIL & MINISTRY

Officers

Co-Presidents
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Shelli Skeels / Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndmann

George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
Ken Schwier
Shelli Skeels
Sibylle Schroeder

Howard Corneilson
Maria Jerez-Kearney
Heather Nilsen
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

November OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Serena will be continuing her "split schedule" for office hours most weeks in November, holding office hours on Wednesday afternoon/evening and on Thursday mornings. 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.



Oct. 27 - Nov 2

Wednesday, Oct 29: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Oct 30: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, Nov 2: 9:00am-1:00pm

Nov 3 - Nov 9

Pastor Serena on Vacation
Pr. Peggy Ludlow available for
emergency pastoral care:
(973)-827-5251

Nov 10 - Nov 16

Wednesday, Nov 12: 3:30pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 13: 9:00am-1:30pm

Sunday, Nov. 16: 9:00am-1:00pm

Nov 17 - Nov 23

Wednesday, Nov 19: 4:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 20: 9:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, Nov. 23: 9:00am-1:00pm

Nov 24 - Nov 30

Monday, Nov 24: 10:30am - 9:30pm

Sunday, Nov. 30: 9:00am-1:00pm

Food Pantry Needs for November

- Bread
- 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:
Catherine Belfiore
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com



from Jackie and Charlie:

We miss everyone so much and
look forward to seeing you all at the
holidays.

With Love,

Here's our new address:
137 W Green Ln
Milford, DE 19963

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



NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						11/1
11/2 Worship 10:00	11/3	11/4 Faith Kitchen 9:30-12:30	11/5 AA 6:30 Choir 7:30 Pride Game Night @ Mt Olive Senior Center, 7pm-9pm	11/6	11/7	11/8 Zumba - 9:00am Rain Garden Planting - 10:00 am
11/9 Worship 10:00am Sunday School	11/10 Worship & Music Committee, 10am- 11:00am via Zoom	11/11	11/12 UFO Gathering, 2pm AA 6:30 Choir 7:30	11/13 Zumba, 7:00 PM Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	11/14	11/15
11/16 Worship 10:00am	11/17	11/18	11/19 Senior's Holiday Party, 2pm Prayer Service at Mt Olive Manor, 4:30pm AA 6:30 Choir 7:30	11/20 Zumba 7:00 PM	11/21	11/22
11/23 Worship 10:00 am Pledging Cele- bration and Time & Talents Sign- ups, 11:00am	11/24 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @ United Presbyterian, 7:30pm	11/25	11/26 AA 6:30 Newsletter Deadline	11/27 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	11/28	11/29 Zumba 7:00pm
11/30 Worship 10:00 am	NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES: November 3 - Gene and Mary Kosakove November 10 - Don Larsen November 13 - Ann Anderson November 20 - Ben Schroeder November 22 - Roy and Carmelina Persson November 21 - Vanessa Ponce				Did we miss a milestone? Please email Catherine (aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) to keep us up to date!	

