



VIEW

from the lake

The newsletter of ABIDING PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Budd Lake, N.J.



From the Pastor

Created For...

Each Lent our congregation explores a different theme – a focusing idea that helps us to engage with the rituals, stories, and practices of the penitential season by centering us in a core lesson or calling. This Lent we are entering the 40-day journey through the Lenten wilderness after already having spent nearly a full year in the wilderness of pandemic. It doesn't feel like we need a season to call us into fasting from our regular routines. Rather, we are all longing to get back to our regular routines. Life (and worship) has felt on-hold for us in so many ways. What meaning can Lent have in such a context?

Perhaps we can find that meaning in re-focusing on what it is that we are created for. We can remember that our purpose is not dictated by our circumstances, not even the all-changing circumstance of pandemic. And so, whatever our circumstances, our created purpose can center us and equip us. So, that is our Lenten theme: created for...

We will explore this theme in two primary ways. Our Sunday post-worship gatherings will focus on the ways that we are “created for devotion” and we will explore a series of personal spiritual practices that can deepen our connection with God. [To be part of picking those practices, vote for your favorites in the Facebook poll here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/62672709803/permalink/10159060981149804> or else respond to Pastor Serena's e-mail from Jan 17]. On Wednesday evenings, we will hold mid-week worship that focuses on texts and prayers that explore how we are “created for community.”

“Created for devotion” and “created for community” are really two sides of the same purpose... that we are created for connection. After a year of social distancing and disconnection, we can remember that at the core of our Creator's intention for our lives is connection – and that connection cannot be defeated by a pandemic, no matter how long we wait to again gather in-person for church. We ARE the church.

Pastor Serena

February, 2021

March Newsletter Deadline
February 22, 2021

Worship: 10:00 am
Online

**For hospitalization or other
pastoral care needs, please call
Pastor Serena at 908-458-3940**

OUR MISSION & 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.

Phone: 973-691-9393

Website: www.abidingpeacechurch.org

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Cindy Pawlo |
| Vice President | Heather Nilsen |
| Secretary | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Treasurer | George Pawlo |

Council Members

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Sandy Carlson | Barbara Prosser |
| Sheeba David | Nick Senior |
| Jackie King | Shelli Skeels |
| Heather Nilsen | Paul Otu Winner |
| Cindy Pawlo | |

Ministry Leaders

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Arts & Crafts | Sibylle Schroeder |
| Christian Education & Youth | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Evangelism | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Fellowship | Demetria Laird |
| Finance | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Financial Secretary | Nita Persson |
| Messengers Dancers | Mary Kasakove |
| Mutual Ministry | Heather Nilsen |
| Property | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Social Ministry | Sibylle Schroeder |
| Seniors | Sibylle Schroeder |
| Stewardship | Nick Senior |
| Worship & Music | Mary Kasakove |

OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Serena Rice
Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:

Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Stobel
office@abidingpeacechurch.org

Get Your “Ash” At Home This Year

Our Worship & Music committee continues to come up with creative ways to share meaningful liturgy while worshipping at a distance. This means not just figuring out a second-best option when we cannot do something the way we want, or the way we are used to doing it, but putting thought into what new opportunities we can find to deepen our connection to the rituals of our faith.

Ash Wednesday gives us another opportunity to do just that. In preparation for this sacred service at the beginning of Lent, the Altar Guild will be mailing out small packets to everyone for whom we have addresses. The packets will include a small amount of ashes that can be mixed with oil at home, but these will be accompanied by a mailer that offers additional ideas about how to integrate the texts, symbols, and meaning of Ash Wednesday into your own spiritual practices at home. We will also be having a live stream service in partnership with Flanders United Methodist church, in which we hope you will participate. But why not do something more as well? Why not take the opportunity to draw an ash cross on the forehead of someone else you care about (in your family, or in your “pod”) and have them do the same for you, speaking to each other the blessed words of release that accompany this day – the reminder that we are dust, and that is enough.

It won’t be the same as every other year, but maybe that is a special blessing.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Since we can’t have an in-person Pancake Supper this year Pastor Serena thought it might be fun to have a Zoom Pancake Supper instead. It will be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 pm. Pastor will send out the link for the meeting. Also, please share your favorite pancake recipes or syrup/toppings, etc. and any Lenten traditions or disciplines you’d like to share with everyone. Demetria will be collecting recipes so if you have a recipe you would like to share, please email Demetria at normandy1956@optonline.net.

Education Opportunities

An engaged group of folks gathered on zoom in January to talk through how to structure and focus our education offerings for 2021. We came up with a number of interesting topics to explore in both forum and Bible study formats, as well as agreeing on a Summer book-club read and subjects for our quarterly Loving Dialogue. We also came up with the idea of varying our formats between mid-week and Sunday gatherings. So, rather than always doing forums on Sunday and Bible study or Story Hour on Wednesday nights, we will vary them more.

Below is the schedule for the Epiphany season and the next column you can find the specific dates and topics of discussion for the next couple of months, as well as a listing of additional topics we will explore going forward during the year. We hope you will make the time to participate in some of these community-building and faith-building conversations.

Epiphany Season:

- Wed. January 27 – Story Hour: *What lessons has your work life taught you?*
- Sun Jan 31 – Empathy as the Antidote to Hate
- Wed. Feb. 3– Story Hour: *How has your life been different than you imagined?*
- Sun. Feb. 7 – Forum Conversation - Forum conversation on vaccines roll-out/frustration/how we live in the in-between time
- Wed. Feb. 10 – Story Hour: *Did you have a nickname growing up, and how did you get it?*
- Sun. Feb. 14 – Story Hour



Faith Kitchen Shopping for February 2 Bagged Lunch

~ 2 Loaves Multi-grain Bread
~ 2 lbs. Salami

Items need to be at church no later than Sunday, January 31. Please contact me at 973-691-1910 if you can provide food or help assemble the sandwich bags.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry

Education Opportunities Schedule

Lenten Season:

- Sundays, Feb 21 – March 21 – Created For Devotion: series on personal spiritual practices.
- Wednesdays, Feb 24 – March 24 – Created for Community: mid-week worship.

Additional topics:

- ◇ Living Lutheran studies:
 - Freed in Christ to Serve our Neighbor
 - God is Present Everyday
 - The Silent Epidemic
- ◇ Lutheranism 101 studies:
 - Christian vocation & worship
 - How is Lutheranism different than other denominations?
- ◇ Loving Dialogues:
 - ELCA Human Sexuality Statement & follow-up discussion/community survey
 - “Getting Back to Work” & how we ensure our economy works for everyone.
 - Education in the 21st C.
- Bible Study: What books got left out of the Bible (and why)?
- Bible study Series on Psalms as the Bible’s prayerbook
- Bible study series: Women of the NT
- Dwelling in the Word Bible studies (diverse texts)
- Reading the Whole Gospel of Luke – Acts (Nov. 21)
- Book Club: *Love is the Way*, by Bishop Michael Curry
- Friday outdoor Movie Night & Discussion: Pixar’s *Soul*
- Guest Speaker on Grief
- Sermon Talk-back Hour
- Story Hours

Thank You Corner

My deep gratitude and appreciation go to the three Council members whose terms ended in January. Sibylle Schroeder, Howard Corneilson, and Ray Mueller each brought a different presence to Council, but each were so valuable and wise. Thank you for the time, thoughtfulness, and deep care you each gave to the leadership of our congregation. Your presence on Council will be missed, but there is solace in knowing you will continue to give so much of yourselves to our church because that is just who you each are.

Pastor Serena

If you would like to express a “Thank you” in next month’s newsletter, please send a brief paragraph to Christine (chstrobel@optonline.net) by February 22.

Did You Pledge?

It is a new year. Have you made a pledge? Sue and I have. We believe it is important to give our congregation an idea of what to expect from us monetarily. It is not a contract. It is an indication of our intentions and it gives Abiding Peace an idea of what to expect for planning purposes.

We face difficulties while we continue to do live streaming worship and Zoom meetings. Boy, do I miss the personal contact with all of you. But we continue to go on doing the Lords work.

Remember, there are many ways to make contributions to Abiding Peace during this crisis. We can mail in our personal checks directly to the church. We can use our banks on-line bill pay function to send donations to the church (that is what Sue and I do – we enter Abiding Peace’s information once and then schedule a payment – for us we send our donation every week). For the third method, we can use VENMO app and direct the payment to @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake. All methods get to the same place and keep us going. ~ Howard

February Birthdays

- 4 Christopher Laird
Alex Ponce
- 5 Sheeba David
- 10 Kendra Prosser
Anelise Ashu
- 17 Hannah Mueller
- 23 Ken Schwier

Sunday Scripture

February 7

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 21

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 14

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Attention Thrivent Members!

Have you designated your “Thrivent Choice Dollars” for 2021 yet? You need to designate these funds every year. When you log in to Thrivent, select “Membership Overview” (right next to “Account Overview”). Down a little bit, you can select “Direct Choice Dollars”. You can do as I did and pick “Abiding Peace Lutheran Church” for my Organization and then chose “Direct all:”.

Thrivent is a fraternal organization and needs to give some of its profits money to non-profits to maintain that status. Do not let those dollars go to waste.

Feeding our Neighbors in a Time of Pandemic

We are so grateful for the generosity of our community in ensuring that our church food pantry can continue to respond to hunger in the area during the pandemic. We have continued to receive donated food, as well as monetary donations to allow us to purchase the most needed supplies. Of course, the need continues, so here are the ways you can continue to help make sure our neighbors have the food they need:

Please continue to pick up extra supplies for our food pantry, as you are able (Note – for anyone who needs to avoid grocery shopping, due to risk factors, reach out to the church. There are members who can help).

When you have supplies to donate to the church food pantry or if you know people who need food assistance, please call Sibylle Schroeder at 973-691-1910 and coordinate with her.

Special needs for the food pantry at this time are:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Hot Dog Buns | Tomato Sauce |
| Canned fruit | Frozen Meatballs |
| Juice | |

Thank you all for your generosity!



February Office-Hours

For the duration of Social Distancing Protocols, Pastor Serena will not be holding office hours at the church. She will be present on-site Sundays for worship and any other tasks that need to be completed in the building. She is also available to the congregation by Cell Phone or e-mail during the week: (908) 458-3940; pastorserena@optimum.net. Her availability is impacted by the need to assist with home-instruction from 8:00-3:00, so she will generally respond to non-urgent messages after 3:00pm. Her day off is Saturday, so please refrain from sending non-emergency messages or calls on Saturday. Many thanks for the understanding of the community as Pastor Serena balances her two calls of being a mom as well as a pastor.



Celeen Hefele dancing during Night of Silence/Silent Night

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
973-691-9393
or have someone call for you, if you are hospitalized.
Because of the HIPAA privacy laws, the church is **not** notified when you are admitted to a hospital,

Please clip this article and keep it



No UFO Night, but I hope you are all working on a project or two or three. Maybe, if you finish something, send the pictures to Christine to put into the next newsletter.

FEBRUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT IF YOU CANNOT SERVE.

| FEBRUARY | LECTOR | ASSISTANT MINISTER | LITURGICAL CANTORS | PSALM CANTOR |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|--|---------------|
| 7 | Heather Nilsen | Sheeba David | Sheeba David Don Larsen Sibylle Schroeder | Ben Schroeder |
| 14 | Howard Corneilson | Jackie King | Sheeba David Don Larsen Sibylle Schroeder Ben Schroeder Demetria Laird | Ben Schroeder |
| 21 | Sue Stirrat | Linda Venator | Sheeba David Don Larsen Sibylle Schroeder | Ben Schroeder |
| 28 | Karen Coates | Demetria Laird | Sheeba David Don Larsen Sibylle Schroeder | Ben Schroeder |

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Sandy Carlson

BREAD BAKING: None



*Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers*

Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers:

Those who are sick or in need: Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Gillian George, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Lynn Peterson's family and friends, Alexandra Heinz, Chris Mastakas, Pat & Jeanne Scalora, Robert Buckley, The Canon family, Howard Gentler, Cindy Behler, Elisabeth and Otto Schroeder, Jim Tangen, Amelia Krusch, James Ehrke, Jennifer Van Doran, John Brun, Michelle Kamin, Roslyn & Kerry Winfield, Chris Killian, Margret Zwicker, Amy Orama, Nalina (Sheeba's mom), Lauren Francis, Jackie King, Aimee (Heather's sister), Lindsey Caruso, Lora Gordan, Eric (Hildegard's grandson), Skip Kaub, Peter Block, Alex Herd, Michael Lynch, Melanie Smith, Emily Wager

Those who are expecting: Alyssa Jurtschenko

Those in mourning: Those mourning Henry Hill, The Bowden and Schroeder families on the death of Evelyn Bowden, The Jaeger family, those mourning John Bohmke, The Schwier family on the death of Elsa Platt, Marja-Liisa Apgar, the Linderman family, the Ashu family, The Kildea family, The Woodard family, those mourning John Lewis, the families of Nilsen and Degraw/Wilman, the family and friends of Donna Woody, those mourning the death of Michael Krush, the McCabe family, Linda Tubelis (on the death of her husband, Oto), Those mourning the death of Christy Kakassy, those mourning the death of Michael Tisler, those mourning the death of Heath Morgan, George & Janet Schroeder on the death of Janet's son Hans

FEBRUARY 2021

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | 1 <i>12:30 pm</i> Worship & Music Committee Meeting <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom | 2 <i>9:00 am</i> Faith Kitchen <i>12:30 pm</i> Anniversary Committee Meeting | 3 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Story-Telling Hour: How has your life been different than you imagined? | 4 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) | 5 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg. | 6 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg. |
| 7 5TH SUNDAY/ EPIPHANY <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Forum Conversation: Vaccines rollout/frustrations/how we live in the in-between time | 8 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom | 9 | 10 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00 pm</i> Story Telling Hour: Did you have a nick-name growing up and how did you get it? | 11 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) | 12 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg. | 13 <i>Cancelled</i> Church Family Breakfast <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg. |
| 14 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Story Telling Hour Council installation via Zoom | 15 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom <i>7:30 pm</i> Council Meeting | 16 <i>7:00 pm</i> Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | 17 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Ash Wednesday Service with UMC | 18 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) | 19 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg. | 20 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg. |
| 21 1ST SUNDAY/ LENT <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: series on personal spiritual practices | 22 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 23 | 24 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Virtual Soup Supper <i>7:45 pm</i> Mid-week Lent Service | 25 <i>12:00 pm</i> Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) | 26 <i>Cancelled</i> NA Mtg. | 27 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg. |
| 28 2ND SUNDAY/ LENT <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship <i>11:15 am</i> Created for Devotion: series on personal spiritual practices | | | | | | |