

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

PEOPLE I QUOTE

Part of the process of preparing sermons for our community every Sunday is making sure that my words are informed by the wisdom of the larger Christian community. While I always write and preach my own sermons, I know that my insights on any given text might need to be tested against or amplified by the insights of others who also care deeply about the biblical witness and the life of Christ's church. Some of these others are resources I turn to again and again, so I thought I might "introduce" you to the names that I often credit for the ideas they contribute to my sermons:

Debie Thomas (<https://www.debiethomas.com/>) is who I go to when I need honest talk and connection between scripture and life. She is a preacher's kid, author, wife and mom, woman of color, and deep thinker. She wrote commentary blogs for many years on www.journeywithjesus.net, and while she has moved on (now a seminary student without time for weekly essays), I go back to her archived writings most weeks because she preaches to my soul.

D. Mark Davis

(www.leftbehindandlovingit.blogspot.com) is one of my sources for Greek translation. Each week he publishes his own "rough" translation of the lectionary gospel reading, along with his notes about how the details of the language choices in the text suggest interpretations (or just points of interest) that can get lost in our English Bibles. I really appreciate how his translations open up texts to new angles and remind me how much interpretation is involved in word choices. He is just as likely to raise questions for me as to answer them, but questions often make the space for the Holy Spirit to work on challenging my expectations and leading me toward new wisdom.

Blue Letter Bible (www.blueletterbible.org) is my other Greek resource, which I go to when I really want to dive into the meaning contained in a key word or phrase. It is like a reference book online – type in the verse, click through the links, and find a world of information about alternative translations, patterns of usage, grammatical function, and even every other place that word shows up in scripture. It's a super accessible resource that I would recommend for anyone wanting to do their own Bible study.

SALT Commentary (www.saltproject.org) is a resource offered most weeks from the non-profit, story-telling community called the SALT project. The site as a whole offers a wealth of content, but my go-to is the sermon commentary, which offers a mix of comments on historical background, interpretive seeds, and beautiful invitations into the power and relevance of the week's texts. The creative team does not give personal attributions for the things they create, but the staff includes Matthew Myer Boulton, with degrees from both Harvard and Chicago Divinity Schools, so I trust that the theological insights in the commentary essays are grounded in theological and biblical study.

Honorable Mentions This article would get really long if I went into detail on the following list of folks, but they are also voices I frequently seek to listen to in my sermon preparations: Rachel Held Evans (Christian author & speaker who loved and wrestled with faith), Barbara Brown Taylor (former Episcopal priest and author), Dietrich Bonhoeffer (theologian, pastor, and leader of the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany), Frederick Buechner (Presbyterian pastor, theologian, and author), Frederick Borsch (Episcopal bishop, parables expert, and my former professor), Peter Enns (biblical scholar, author, and co-host of "The Bible for Normal People" podcast), Nadia Bolz Weber (Lutheran "rock star" pastor and author), Brene Brown (Social Work researcher & story-teller who publishes books about human resilience, shame, and other topics with deep relevance for faith). By the way, all of the resources are available to any person of faith. You don't have to be a pastor, or prepare weekly sermons, to get a lot out of listening to voices of wisdom and insight.



August 2025 newsletter deadline: 6/27
Any news/ photos can be sent to Erin
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

July Office Hours:

Pastor Serena: I will hold limited office hours over the Summer, working around travel and time at Crossroads Camp, however... **if you would like to schedule time for a pastoral conversation, or just casual time to talk, please reach out. A lighter summer schedule as far as programing and meetings, gives me lots of time to visit – let me know if you want to grab a coffee, or take a walk together, or just hang out! As always, check weekly bulletins and Monday e-blast for updates on the times I am scheduled to be in the office and free for drop-ins.** In addition to posted hours in the office, I am 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 Hours

June 30 – July 6

- Thursday, July 3, 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, July 6, 9:00am-12:00pm

July 7 – July 13

- No office hours: Fred Becker covering pastoral emergencies
- Sunday, July 13, 9:00am – 1:00pm

July 14 – July 20

- Wednesday, July 16, 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, July 20, 9:00am – 1:00pm

July 21 – July 27

- Thursday, July 24, 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, July 26, 9:00am-1:00pm

July 28 – Aug 3

- (Chaplain at Crossroads Camp during the week)
- Sunday, Aug 3, 9:00am-1:00pm

COUNCIL & MINISTRY

Officers

Co-Presidents
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Shelli Skeels / Heather Nilsen
Aaron Hyndmann
Jackie King-Palermo
George Pawlo

Council Members

Christine Resciniti
Ken Schwier
Shelli Skeels
Sibylle Schroeder
Heather Nilsen

Jackie King-Palermo
Maria Jerez-Kearney
Charlie Palermo
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

Food Pantry Needs for July

- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- 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:
Erin Porter
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

July Readings

7/6

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

7/13

Deut. 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

7/20

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

7/27

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

Council met on June 17. Key updates & decisions from the meeting

Choir:

- Ben is working on identifying new options for choir leadership in his absence, since Erin's schedule does not allow her to continue.

Budget:

- May giving to spending was again in deficit, resulting in a year-to-date deficit of over \$9,000. The deficit is caused by a combination of lower than expected giving and higher than expected costs.
- Nita will complete an analysis of pledging vs. giving to determine if this is a factor. We will also explore alternative insurance options.

Congregational Meeting agenda:

- Updates to the Constitution will be presented by Pastor Serena and Howard.
- Council discussed the categories of potential investment for phase 2 Thrive funds, including the suggestion to include security cameras for the upper parking lot and sign under the category of renovation & repairs.

Council Retreat:

- Council retreat will be held on July 6 from 12:00-4:00 at Pastor's Lake House. The focus will be on the "so that..." of our faith and ministry.

Many thanks!

Thanks for letting me borrow the church for the show on June 7! Our benefit concert raised over \$300 for Point of Pride. - Erin

Thank you Joan, Sandy, Mary, Maria, Ursula and Jeanne for helping me with my move and garage sale. Thanks to Ray for an amazing supply of newspapers to wrap fragile items! - Sibylle

ADULT ED SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has completed the church Adult Education survey in June. We have received 11 responses and some clear themes are emerging, but you may still register your preferences and ideas using this link:

https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Vyjo8PRAI2yUMm

At this point, responses are indicating interest in:

- Forums/studies on Sundays following worship (both for Summer and Fall schedules)
- Focus on current issues (i.e. Loving Dialogue sessions)
- Additional moderate interest in Bible studies, Balcony Conversations, and single-session topical discussions.



Scenes from Mt. Olive's inaugural Pride Party!
Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us.



End of School Year cookie decorating
with our Sunday School. Yum!

Pentecost Sunday and a wonderful performance by
our choir!



JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

July 6 - Christina & Chris Belfiore
 July 7 - Joan Blackburne
 July 8 - Richard Kamin
 July 10 - Roy Persson
 July 13 - Rodney Prosser
 July 19 - Jim and Kathy Tangen
 July 19 - Robbie Cranmer
 July 20 - Steven Tangen
 July 30 - Patricia Persson

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.	.	7/1 Faith Kitchen 9:30-12:30	7/2 AA @ 6:30pm	7/3	7/4	7/5 Zumba @ 9:00
7/6 Worship 10:00 AM Council Retreat 12:00 PM-4:00 PM	7/7	7/8	7/9 AA @ 6:30pm	7/10 Worship & Music Committee @ 10:00 - zoom	7/11	7/12
7/13 Worship 10:00am Sermon "talk back" forum @11:30	7/14	7/15	7/16 Senior's Ministry Pool Party @ 2:00pm AA @ 6:30pm	7/17	7/18	7/19 Zumba @ 9:00
7/20 Worship 10:00am Forum after worship @11:30	7/21	7/22	7/23 Sign Committee Meeting @ 10:00 AA @ 6:30pm	7/24 Open Space @ 6:00 PM	7/25 Newsletter Deadline	7/26 Zumba @ 9:00
7/27 Worship 10:00 AM Balcony Conversation @ 11:30	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31		