

# VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

## AFFIRMING HUMANITY AND BEING HELPERS

There is a lot of distress in the conversations at Coffee Hour in recent weeks about the direction of our country. I completely understand where the anxiety is coming from. My family is directly impacted by policy changes that put my child's legal and medical rights under question. Others in our community are also worried about direct impacts on their lives. When we are worried, we naturally seek support and validation from those we trust, and I am so grateful that we are a community that deeply trusts and relies on each other.

AND...I want to offer our community two positive challenges to keep in mind in the months ahead.

First, in expressing anxiety, let us never fall to the temptation to dehumanize those who support policies we disagree with. Anger is a natural response when we feel threatened, and I would never tell you not to be angry. I WILL remind us all (myself included) that anger can be expressed in ways that still affirm that all people are made in the image of God and have inherent dignity. I think at least one of the root causes of the deep divisions in our society at the moment is the way that scorn and ridicule have become normalized in our political discourse. It's around us everyday and it is so easy to slip into. But it is both degrading and distracting, and it leaves no room for healing. I encourage our

community to explore how we can hold our concerns in tension with our empathy for those who do not see the world the way we do.

Second, I want to offer the best advice I know for how to channel anxiety in positive ways: be a helper. I recently ran across a powerful poem from John Roedel, that expresses this hope:

*Whenever I feel helpless  
In this overwhelming world  
I become a helper  
oh, oh, my love  
on the days  
when it feels like  
I have no power,  
I serve others.  
You see,  
whenever I wash  
the world's feet  
my hands  
immediately  
stop shaking.*

I will not pretend that my hands never shake. But I do know that I feel less overwhelmed and anxious when I find a way to make a difference and to serve someone else's needs. Such work simultaneously makes me feel less alone and gives me direct evidence of one thing, at least, getting better. We are a community full of natural helpers. Let us make that our hope.

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

March 2025 newsletter deadline: 2/27  
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 February

- 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

## February Office-Hours:

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

### Jan 27 - Feb 2

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

### Feb 3 - Feb 9

- Thursday, 2/6: 10:00am-9:00pm
- Sunday, 2/9: 9:00am-12:00pm

### Feb 10 - Feb 16

- Wednesday, 2/12: 10:00am-8:00pm
- (Vacation 2/15 -2/21)

### Feb 17-Feb 23

- (Vacation 2/15-2/21)
- Sunday, 2/23: 9:00am - 1:00pm

### Feb 24 - Mar 2

- Thursday 2/27: 10:00am-9:00pm
- Sunday, 3/2: 9:00am-12:00pm

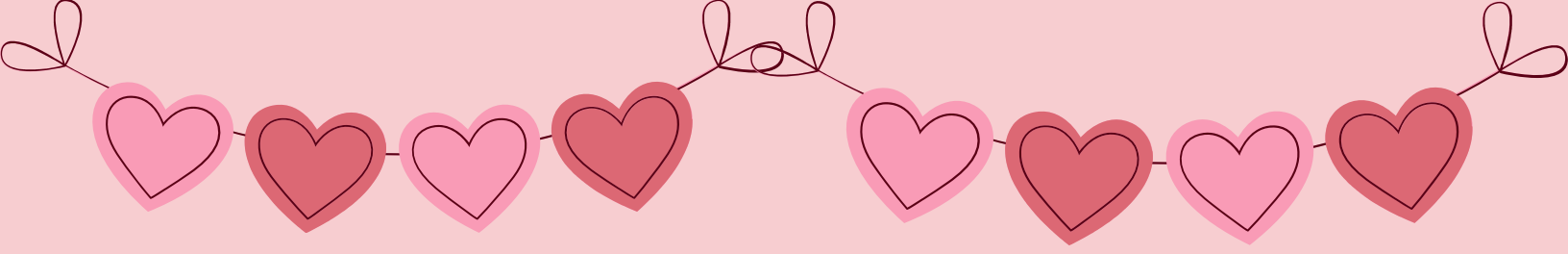
## February Readings

Feb. 2  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 84  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

Feb. 9  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16  
Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 23  
Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38



## NOTES FROM COUNCIL

In the interests of improving communication between Council and the congregation as a whole, we are introducing this new newsletter item. Going forward, you can check here each month for important updates on decisions from your Council leadership.

- Abiding Peace will be partnering with Pride Mt Olive to host the first Mt Olive Pride Festival at Turkey Brook Park on Sunday, Jun 8.
- 2024 Budget ended balanced, thanks to strong giving in December. Pledges for 2025 are strong @ \$99,720.
- Plans are in the works for a Child Safety training & discussion with Sunday School teachers & families.
- Council discussed and approved a plan for a trial change to the music director position, given Ben's relocation to Thailand. Music budget will be split between salary for Ben to continue music-directing-related tasks and a fund for a rotation of professional musicians who will lead music on Sunday mornings. Erin Porter will take over direction of choir. (See Pastor's e-mail from Jan 17 or reach out for more details).
- Council voted to join the NJ chapter of the ELCA African Descent Lutheran Association as an organizational member (\$100/year), which will allow us to support and engage in education and advocacy efforts with the association.
- Discussed and approved Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting.



**Having a ball at the Pawlo's party!**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

**2/4 - CHRISTOPHER LAIRD**

**ALEX PONCE**

**2/5 - SHEEBA DAVID**

**2/10 - KENDRA PROSSER**

**ANELISE ASHU**

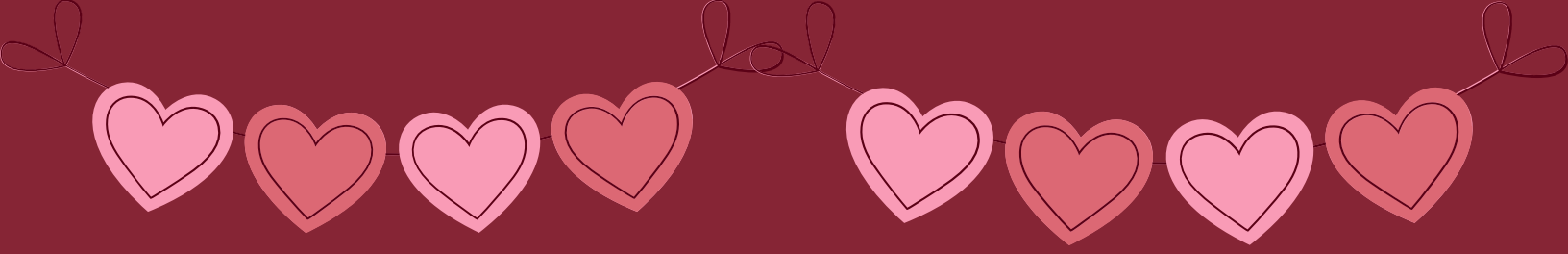
**2/17 - HANNAH MUELLER**

**2/23 - KENNETH SCHWIER**



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>2/1</b> Zumba @ 9:00
<b>2/2</b> Worship 10:00am Goodspeed for Ben @ 11:00	<b>2/3</b> Worship & Music cmte. mtg @ 1PM	<b>2/4</b> Faith Kitchen 9:00-12:30	<b>2/5</b> AA @ 6:30pm Prayer Practices - Zoom @ 7:00	<b>2/6</b> Choir @ 7:30 PM	<b>2/7</b>	<b>2/8</b> Zumba @ 9:00
<b>2/9</b> Worship 10:00am Sunday School Council meeting @ 11:45	<b>2/10</b> Sign Committee meeting @ 1PM	<b>2/11</b>	<b>2/12</b> AA @ 6:30pm Prayer Practices - Zoom @ 7:00	<b>2/13</b> Choir @ 7:30 PM	<b>2/14</b>	<b>2/15</b> Pr. Karol VanWulfen emergency pastoral care (2/15-2/21) Zumba @ 9:00
<b>2/16</b> Worship 10:00am Guest preacher, Priest Lorna Woodham Forum on Reentry Ministry @ 11:30	<b>2/17</b>	<b>2/18</b>	<b>2/19</b> AA @ 6:30pm Prayer Practices - Zoom @ 7:00	<b>2/20</b> Choir @ 7:30 PM	<b>2/21</b>	<b>2/22</b> Zumba @ 9:00
<b>2/23</b> Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School Forum: What&How of Adult Learning @11:30	<b>2/24</b>	<b>2/25</b>	<b>2/26</b> AA @ 6:30pm Prayer Practices - Zoom @ 7:00	<b>2/27</b> Choir @ 7:30 PM	<b>2/28</b>	



	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
<b>Altar Guild</b>				
<b>Counter</b>	Howard Corneilson	Ursula Schroeder	Sandy Carlson	Anna Santino
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	Sheeba David	Maria Jerez	Demetria Laird	Sibylle Schroeder
<b>Lector</b>	Mary Kasakove	Sue Stirrat	Doug Laird	Roy Persson
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Cindy Pawlo	Doug Laird	George Pawlo	Maria Jerez
<b>Usher/Greeter/ Acolyte</b>	Sandy Carlson	Sibylle Schroeder	Cindy Pawlo	Howard Corneilson
<b>Soloist</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Livestream Assistant</b>	Tyler Rice	Ray Mueller	Sheeba David	Nick Senior

**BREAD BAKING:** Sibylle Schroeder