

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

USING OUR VOICES

Those of you who were part of the Abiding Peace community when I first came as your pastor-in-training may remember that the work I had done prior to candidacy was focused on anti-poverty policies, including a good amount of advocacy. While this is no longer my career, I still consider it a part of my vocation. My concern for social issues has always been a direct expression of my faith, and using my voice to try to improve social conditions is part of how I live out Jesus' command that we must love our neighbors as ourselves.

At the same time, I know that God calls and equips us all in different ways, so I have never wanted to conscript our congregation into speaking out for our neighbors in one particular way. We have had a few opportunities for letter-writing, especially around World Hunger Day, and many in the congregation have appreciated these chances to speak out. Our process of becoming an RIC congregation was also, in effect, a form of advocacy by deciding to be a visibly affirming community. More recently, however, the church Council and I have heard an upswell from the congregation of a hunger for ways to be more active in "doing something," especially for our immigrant neighbors. Our study of the ELCA social statement on civic life last year has affirmed that speaking out for justice can be a faithful part of the church's witness, and the community is expressing that desire.

That is why our God's Work, Our Hands project for this year is going to be focused on advocating for our immigrant neighbors. The local group, Voices for Justice, will be coming to share information and resources with our community. Retired pastor Chet Penza and Andy Meissner will share information about what legal rights are at issue and the variety of ways that concerned members of the community can use our voices to speak out for the full humanity and human rights of our neighbors. When I met with them to discuss the plan, they emphasized that "there is something for everyone." Whatever your comfort level or experience, there are ways that each of us can make a difference. I am hoping that this will be an opportunity for all of us to be equipped for the faithful work of loving our neighbors by using our voices.



October 2025 newsletter deadline: 9/27
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

Worship: 10:00 AM
Online/ In-person

SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS:

Pastor Serena will be trying a new "split schedule" for office hours in the fall. Most weeks, this will involve 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.

Sept. 1-Sept. 7

Wednesday, Sept. 3: 1:00pm-7:00pm
Thursday, Sept. 4: 9:00am-1:00pm
Sunday, Sept. 7: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sept. 8-Sept. 14

Wednesday, Sept. 10: 3:30pm-9:00pm
Thursday, Sept. 11: 9:00am-1:00pm
Sunday, Sept. 14: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sept. 15-Sept. 21

Wednesday, Sept. 17: 10:00am-8:00pm
Sunday, Sept. 21: 9:00am-12:00pm

Sept. 22-Sept. 28

Wednesday, Sept. 24: 9:00am-2:00pm
Sunday, Sept. 28: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sept. 29-Oct. 5

Wednesday, Oct 1: 3:30pm-9:00pm
Thursday, Oct 2: 9:00am-1:00pm
Sunday, Oct 5: 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 September

- 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:
Erin Porter
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

September Readings

Sept. 7

Deuteronomy
30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Sept. 14

Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 21

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 28

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
Luke 16:19-31

NOTES FROM COUNCIL

In August our Council met in-person with co-President Shelli Skeels leading the meeting. In addition to receiving reports and clearing old business, we made the following decision:

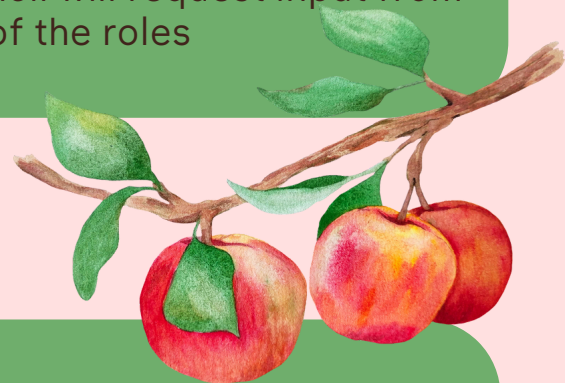
Church Property: a variety of issues related to property maintenance were discussed.

- Rain Garden: Council approved the final plans for the rain garden installation on in lawn going down toward Route 46. Work will begin soon.
- Repairs in utility closet: Plan to request bid for repair work.
- Upper Parking Lot: Plan for church work day to weed/clean-up the upper lot and use grit/asphalt patches for cracks and pot holes.

God's Work Our Hands Project: Given general concern in the congregation about recent targeting of immigrants, Council approved the suggestion to invite Voices for Justice on GWOH day to present about how we can engage in advocacy for our neighbors.

Church Leadership:

- Council member: Two Council members, Jackie & Charlie, need to resign their positions because they are moving out of state. They will be deeply missed. Council has option to appoint two new members to fill the roles until elections in January, or to allow one or both of the roles to remain empty - decision deferred for Sept. meeting.
- Bylaws for financial roles: As a first step to drafting new by-laws for the roles of treasurer and financial secretary, Council will request input from George and Nita on the details of the roles



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.

FALL OPPORTUNITIES AT CROSSROADS

Did you know that we have an amazing resource for spiritual growth less than 20 minutes from the church? Crossroads Camp & Retreat Center is not ONLY for kids. They offer a variety of programs throughout the year to nurture faith, including two that former APLC pastor, Dale Selover helps to facilitate:

- **Wednesdays Away: First Wednesday of the month from 9:00am-3:00pm.** Next date is October 1st and will explore the topic: "A Visit with Lady Wisdom" (registration not yet open, but e-mail hnd@popnj.org for more information.
- **Women's Retreat: Friday, October 24, 4:00pm to Sunday, October 26, 10:00am** (all meals included). An exploration of how to embrace the wholeness and sacredness of our bodies made in the image of God. Cost: \$205 for bed in Christ Center (shared double-room, with ensuite bathroom), or \$155 for Lodge (dormitory style room with hall bathroom). Register at <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/womens-retreat/>



WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 24-26, 2025

Led by Laurie Matarazzo and Dale Selover

CHECK-IN: FRIDAY, 4 PM

CLOSING WORSHIP: SUNDAY, 10AM

CROSS  ROADS
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
[REGISTER HERE](#)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

9/7 - Jan Persson
 9/9 - Doug Laird
 9/12 - Linda Venator
 9/24 - Jimmy Tangen
 9/24 - Tim and Linda Venator
 9/26 - Raymond Stirrat

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.	9/1	9/2 Faith Kitchen 9:30-12:30	9/3 AA 6:30 PM	9/4	9/5	9/6 Zumba @ 9:00
9/7 Worship 10:00 Sunday School God's Work, Our Hands/Rally Day	9/8 Worship & Music Committee, 10:00 - Zoom	9/9	9/10 UFO Gathering 2:00pm- 4:00pm AA @ 6:30pm	9/11	9/12	9/13 Zumba @ 9:00
9/14 Worship 10:00am Baptism Celebration	9/15	9/16	9/17 Senior Ministry Book Discussion, 2:00 Prayer Service @ Mt. Olive Manor, 4:30 AA@6:30 Choir @ 7:30 PM	9/18	9/19	9/20 Zumba @ 9:00
9/21 Worship 10:00am Sunday School	9/22	9/23	9/24 AA @ 6:30pm Choir, 7:30	9/25	9/26	9/27 Zumba @ 9:00 Newsletter Deadline
9/28 Worship 10:00 AM Church Clean Up Day, 11:00	9/29	9/30