

VIEW from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Travelling Through Lent with Our Senses

Lenten practices often focus on deprivation. Fasting is a traditional Lenten practice that draws us into the contemplative mood of the season but removing distractions or by heightening our awareness of cravings by intentionally foregoing certain pleasures for a while. It is a strategy to connect us in some small way with the reality of all that Jesus gave up in order to join us in our humanity and to model for us a life completely devoted to love for God and neighbor. When we deprive ourselves of a small pleasure for a time, it helps us to understand Jesus's willingness to live for others all the time and to carry that through to the ultimate act of love in his death.

This year at Abiding Peace, however, we are going to explore a different approach to connecting with Jesus and his road toward the cross: not through deprivation but through intentional sensory experiences. From one perspective, Jesus's incarnation as a human being is PART of his sacrifice – his willingness to confine his infinite power and knowledge into a fragile human body. But from another perspective his incarnation is a bid for connection to us, an action that expands the ways in which we can experience God's love and willingness to join us.

Just as the sacraments communicate grace to us through physical means and not just through words, so too spiritual practices that call us to pay attention to our bodies remind us of how God chose to inhabit a human body with all of its senses, needs, and also joys.

So, this year, our Lenten journey as a congregation will be focusing on Jesus' physicality. We will explore how the Sunday gospel stories draw us into his human experience, and on Thursdays our mid-week services will each explore a different sense: sight, sound, scent, touch, and taste. Each service will be a chance to journey through Lent with Jesus, to connect with the palpable reality of his humanity and to find in that connection a deeper understanding of what the season of Lent is all about. Lent is about preparing for Holy Week.

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March, 2023

March Newsletter Deadline
March 28, 2023

*Worship: 10:00 am
Online/In-Person*

**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. 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

COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Jackie King
Vice President	Aaron Hyndman
Secretary	Nick Senior
Treasurer	George Pawlo

Council Members

Cindy Pawlo	Sheeba David
Ken Schwier	Maria Jerez-Kearney
Nick Senior	Jackie King
Shelli Skeels	Aaron Hyndman
Sibylle Schroeder	

Ministry Leaders

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	<i>Vacant</i>
Evangelism	Aaron Hyndman
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	George Pawlo
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
pastorserena@optimum.net
Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:
Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Kev Schneider
aplcbuddlake@gmail.com

Continued from page 1—Pastor’s Column

It is about focusing our attention on Christ’s sacrifice and just how much it means for us. The more we understand Jesus’s solidarity with us in our human experience, the more we will understand his love.

~ Pastor Serena



SNOW CLOSINGS

During the winter it sometimes becomes necessary to cancel the worship service. If there is inclement weather headed our way please call the church at 973-691-9393. If in-person worship has been cancelled there will be a message stating so. Thank you!



Why Do I Give?

“Church life is important to me because I need the continued support of my pastor and those who attend the services. Their presence in my life strengthens my faith and keeps it real for me.

November 2022 – Survey Response

Lent Happenings



Thursdays in Lent:
6:30pm—Soup Suppers
7:00pm—mid-week worship: Sensory Lent

Unfinished Object Night March 13 * 7:00 pm



Come and join us for Unfinished Object Night at 7:00 pm. For information and to make sure it's on - call Sibylle at 973-691-1910.

Fellowship Opportunities March

We have two fellowship opportunities coming up in March. First we're celebrating St. Patrick's Day on Sunday March 12th so remember to bring your favorite green/Irish dessert to share with everyone at our coffee hour following the 10:00 service.

Back by popular demand is our Chili Cook-Off. We haven't had one since 2020 so since we are bringing back some other popular events it's time for the return of the Chili Cook-Off. It will be held on Saturday, March 18th at 5:30 pm. There will be judges and prizes so everyone come and have a good time and hopefully some pretty good chili.

~ Demetria Laird



Faith, Hope & Love registration is now live!

The event will be hosted on Saturday, April 22nd at Abiding Presence, located at 2220 Pennington Rd, Ewing Township, NJ from 8:45am to 3:30pm. The day will include opening remarks, three workshop slots filled with topics surrounding youth, parent resources, advocacy, LGBTQ+ 101, mental health, and congregations. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This year, Faith, Hope & Love will be by suggested donation of \$20/attendee or \$40/family (3 or more members of the same family). [Click here to register.](#)



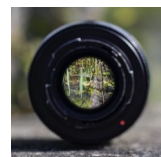
Faith Kitchen Shopping List for March 5

- 6 cans of whole potatoes
- 2 large bags of sauerkraut
- 3 rings of kielbasa

If you have any questions, please call me and let me know, 973-459-0908.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder,
Social Ministry



Evangelism Corner

Greetings, Church Family! As part of my new role on Church Council, I've felt a calling to oversee Evangelism, which is a critical function of our ministry, and as part of that effort I'll be authoring regular newsletter articles reflecting on this theme in ways we can connect it to the world around us.

Essentially that's what evangelism is. It's sharing the gospel, which is the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ, to our community and beyond according to our particular calling.

So what exactly is that good news? It seems to be a topic of continued debate, especially in light of a recent ad campaign leading up to, and during, and in the aftermath of this year's SuperBowl. It's titled "He Gets Us," in an attempt to get viewers to connect themes many in our culture value today, such as compassion and tolerance, to Jesus' life and teachings.

The question to ask ourselves in the midst of this though, is "do WE get HIM?" As has been a recurring theme in Pastor Serena's sermons this past year, Jesus has called us to a mission of "holy disruption." Does that mean always getting along? Think of His repeated verbal jousts with the Pharisees. Or even more dramatically, when He entered the Temple and drove out the moneychangers in violent fashion. The mysterious beauty of the incarnation is that Jesus was fully human, and so He operated with all the complexities and difficulties contained in human nature.

Are things always this easy to interpret? Absolutely not, and especially not in the course of a 30-second commercial, no matter how sparkly and perfect the production is. This is part of our mandate to, as discussed in another sermon, be the salt and the light. Evangelism is a process of being in the midst of a discussion to provide the clarities of these truths to people who want to understand more.

And certain things are crystal clear, no matter how difficult the teachings and behaviors of Jesus sometimes can be to interpret. Love the Lord with all your heart. Love your neighbor. Go forth into the world and share the gospel to everyone.

~ Aaron Hyndman

Sunday Scripture

March 5

Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 19

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41

March 12

Exodus 17: 1-17
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4:5-42

March 26

Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11: 1-45

March Birthdays

7 Sudhakar Kandikatla
8 Sibylle Schroeder
11 Marco Ponce, jr. + Tyler Rjce
14 Pastor Serena
15 Christine Blackburne
19 Carolyn Blackburne

Ministry Focus: Building Maintenance

We have all heard the idiom *it takes a village to raise a child* right? Well, the application of the shared tasks principle goes a lot farther than just child-raising. It applies to many contexts of church life as well. *It takes many ministers to lead liturgy* (which literally means “the work of the people.” *It takes many shoppers to fill the food pantry.* In addition, *it takes many hands to keep the church looking welcoming.* We hire a regular cleaning service, but that only covers the weekly tasks like vacuuming & cleaning surfaces. There are a variety of other occasional maintenance tasks – none of which are particularly onerous on their own, but that add up if we don’t have enough folks to help share the load. These tasks include:

- Changing lightbulbs
- Maintaining outdoor sign lightbulbs and cleaning sign
- Changing batteries in thermostats and timers
- Power washing the exterior of the building
- Cleaning gutters
- Washing outside windows
- Garbage and recycling
- Changing air filters

Pastor Serena March Schedule

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.

Feb 27 – Mar 5

- ♦ Thursday, Mar 2, 10:30am-8:30pm
- ♦ Sunday, Mar 5: 9:00am-5:00pm

Mar 6 – Mar 12

- ♦ Thursday, Mar 9, 10:30am-8:30pm
- ♦ Sunday, Mar 12, 9:00am-2:00pm

March 13 - Mar 19

- ♦ Tuesday, Mar 14, 9:00am-3:30pm (off-site Synod event)
- ♦ Thursday, Mar 16, 12:00pm-8:30pm
- ♦ Sunday, Mar 19, 9:00am-2:00pm

Mar 20 – Mar 26

- ♦ Thursday, Mar 23, 10:30am-8:30pm
- ♦ Sunday, Mar 26, 9:00am-1:00pm

Mar 27 – Apr 2

- ♦ Thursday, Mar 30, 10:30am-8:30pm
- ♦ Sunday, Apr 2, 9:00am-1:00pm

- Changing thermostats (winter/summer)
- Fall grounds cleanup
- Spring grounds cleanup
- Parking lot gravel cleanup

Currently these tasks are primarily covered by just a few people (folks who also help out the church in lots of other ways as well), so we are looking to expand the team with the goal of *many hands makes light work*.

Is this a way that you think you can contribute to our shared ministry? Could you keep an eye on the light bulbs, and replace them when necessary (the church will buy the bulbs)? Do you have a power-washer you could bring to church once a year or so to clean off the building and make it look bright and inviting? Is window-washing a meditative experience for you that you could work into your schedule to clean one room’s worth of windows a month? The way you participate can be flexible and work with your availability, skills, and interests. We just need you on the team. **There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Just write your name down and any areas that you would be interested in helping out!**

March

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

MARCH	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	USHER/ GREETER/ ACOLYTE	SOLOIST	LIVESTREAM	LECTOR
5	Sue Stirrat	Maria Jerez	Howard Corneilson	Sheeba David	Nick Senior	Demetria Laird
12	Sibylle Schroeder	Mary Kasakove	Doug Laird	TBD	Sheeba David	Anna Santino
19	Mary Kasakove	Doug Laird	Cindy Pawlo	TBD	Ray Mueller	Sheeba David
26	Doug Laird	Heather Nilsen	Sibylle Schroeder	TBD	Tyler Rice	Sue Stirrat

COUNTER: 5: Anna Santino 12: Ursula Schroeder 19: Sandy Carlson 26: Howard Corneilson
ALTAR GUILD: Sibylle Schroeder
BREAD BAKING: Serena Rice



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Those who are sick or in need: Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Jim Tangen, Elisabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Pat Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Linda Kahler, Mark Dennis, Mike Urodzinski, John Corneilson, Tim O'Connor, Karen and Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Patrick Buinno, Harold Olsen, Neil Nilsen, and Aimee Nilsen.

Those in mourning: the Price family (mother of Carol Biunno), the Mueller Family, the family of Chris VanBeveran (aunt of Pastor Serena), the family of Joey Scollins (nephew of Sandy Carlson), the family of Kenneth Johanson (uncle of Lynn Peterson), and Elise Holck and family. *Please note: names of those in mourning will be listed for 6 months but please keep them always in your prayers.*

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>12:00 pm</i> Sign Committee Zoom <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	2 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Mid-week Lenten Service: Spirituality through Sight <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 <i>10:00 am</i> Service <i>11:15 am</i> Intergenerational Sunday School <i>3:00 pm—5:00 pm</i> Regional Meeting for NJ Synod	6 <i>12:30 pm</i> Worship & Music Committee <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	7 <i>9:00 am - 12:30 pm</i> Faith Kitchen	8 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:00 pm</i> Long-Range-Planning Meeting	9 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Mid-week Lenten Service: Spirituality through Hearing <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 <i>10:00 am</i> Service <i>11:00 am</i> St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour <i>11:30 am</i> Council meeting	13 <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom <i>7:00 pm</i> Unfinished Objects Night	14	15 <i>4:30pm</i> Prayer Service @ Mt. Olive Manor <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	16 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Mid-week Lenten Service: Spirituality through Scent <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	17	18 <i>6:30 pm</i> Chili Cook-off
19 <i>10:00 am</i> Service <i>11:30 am—1:30 pm</i> Confirmation Class	20 <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	21	22 <i>2:00 pm— 4:00pm</i> Senior Planning Meeting Tea Party <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	23 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Mid-week Lenten Service: Spirituality through Touch <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 <i>10:00 am</i> Service <i>11:30 am</i> Balcony Conversation	27 <i>6:00 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	28	29	30 <i>6:30 pm</i> Soup Supper <i>7:00 pm</i> Mid-week Lenten Service: Spirituality through Taste <i>7:45 pm</i> Choir Rehearsal	31	