



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

A Nap and a Snack

In early February of 2020, back when we were only just starting to hear about COVID and had no idea how it was about to disrupt the entire world, we held a special service of Healing for Mental Health for the greater Mt. Olive community. Members of Abiding Peace, and a few other community members gathered for worship on a Friday night to pray, sing songs of lament and healing, and hear from God's word a very important message:

When you are overwhelmed by despair and by the pressures of life... God wants you to have a nap and a snack.

This message is drawn from 1 Kings 19:1-8 and the story of the prophet Elijah collapsing under a tree out in the wilderness, after being threatened with death by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. In his isolation and despair, Elijah cries out to God to kill him because he feels forsaken and lost. In response, God sends an angel to bring him food and tell him to sleep, and then to repeat this provision and instruction when he wakes up. As a person living with both depression and anxiety, this story is one I have often clung to when life feels overwhelming. I read it to remind myself that God does not judge my depression. When I get into that space of pain, God wants me to take care of myself. This is not to reduce mental health care down to "a nap and a snack." I also have a therapist, and I take medication, and I nurture numerous resources to help me through the hard periods with my illness. But in the context of my spiritual life, it is deeply healing to know that my depression is not a failure of faith. God understands and God nurtures us when we are overwhelmed by the conditions of our lives or minds. (If you are interested in the sermon from the Service of Healing, it is posted [here](#)).

May, 2021

June Newsletter Deadline
May 25, 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

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COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Officers

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Sheeba David
Treasurer	Nick Senior

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	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
Cell: 908-458-3940

Music Director:

Ben Schroeder
benmschroeder@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Strobel
office@abidingpeacechurch.org

Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column

I'm re-sharing this message because, after more than a year of pandemic, I feel like it has a much broader application to the conditions we are all living through. I have heard from many of you how the isolation, fear, and disruption of the pandemic has impacted your mental health. People who do not have underlying mental health disorders are nevertheless being impacted by the on-going trauma of the pandemic. People who do have prior mental health disorders may have resources to cope, but those resources have been strained by the extended duration of the crisis. Our society as a whole is experiencing pervasive trauma and that takes a toll. Even though we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Even though restrictions are slowly being lifted. We are still dealing with the cumulative strain of all that the last 14 months have involved.

So, if you find yourself slumped under the strain... if you cannot concentrate like you think you should, or you are snapping and irritable for no apparent reason, or you just feel constantly exhausted and stressed, remember Elijah. When we have passed our limits, God does not demand that we keep functioning. God sends a messenger to tell us to have a snack and take a nap. It's okay to stop and rest when everything is just too much. And after 14 months of pandemic, it's okay if everything is just too much.



Faith Kitchen Shopping for May 4 Bagged Lunch

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

Items need to be at church no later than Sunday, May 2. Please contact me at 973-691-1910 if you can provide food or help assemble the sandwich bags.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder
Social Ministry

Fifty Years and Going

This is May of 2021, and 50 years ago on May 9, 1971 a Service of Organization was held for Abiding Peace Lutheran Church at the Upper Elementary School on Sunset Drive (now the Chester M. Stephens Elementary School) in Budd Lake.

Now, fifty years later, we will be doing some of the same items we did then. On May 16th we will be having a special commemorative service to remember that day. The mission developer and first pastor, Jim Parks, will be with us and participating in the service. Two things that we will be using during this service that were used in the Service of Organization is the Call to Worship and the hymn “The Abiding Peace of Christ,” the words of which were written by Susan Brown, one of our charter members.

This is just the start of our celebration. The 50th Anniversary Committee was planning many events leading up to this special day. However, due to the Covid epidemic, these events could not be held. Now, we are working on putting on these events during our 50th instead of leading up to our 50th year.

We will be having a Festive Celebratory Buffet at the Holiday Inn in Budd Lake on May 21, 2022 and a “50+1”-year Celebratory Service and get-together on Sunday May 22, 2022.

We are also working on scheduling former clergy associated with Abiding Peace to be with us and give a homily for a Sunday during the late winter and spring leading up to the above weekend. You will hear more about these items and other details as time goes on.

Looking forward to the rest of this year and the next 50 years.

Howard Corneilson
Chairman, 50th Anniversary Committee



So What is All This About RIC?

RIC stands for Reconciling in Christ. It is the designation for Lutheran congregations that have gone through an intentional process of bible study, learning, conversation, and moral deliberation around the commitment to be open and affirming to the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups. The word “reconciling” is very intentional. It reflects that RIC congregations are in the active process of repairing a relationship that has been damaged. The painful reality is that much of the Christian church has systematically rejected and shamed people for their sexuality or gender identity if it diverged from the narrow confines of heterosexuality and binary cis-gender norms. Even in congregations that have not participated in this shaming and rejection, the history of the Christian witness in the world means that there is damage that needs to be repaired. When people have been actively told they don’t belong, a passive welcome probably will not ever be heard. Only active efforts to reach out and repair the damage done can lead to reconciliation.

Abiding Peace **IS** a welcoming community. We hear that from new visitors who quickly find community and love in our congregation. We express that welcome in a broadly inclusive welcome statement. We offer words of affirmation on our church sign for those driving past, and carefully avoid words of judgment. But that doesn’t mean that there is nothing left for us to do. We can still learn. We can still create space to talk through what welcome really means. We can still seek God’s guidance in discerning how God wants us to communicate the gospel of grace to the world around us.

All of these realities are why we are beginning the RIC process. We want to do the active work of reconciliation, in service of our core mission to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hurting world.



Thank You Corner

Many thanks to Kaiya HefeLe and Angela Burdett for facilitating the donation of the beautiful lilies that graced our altar on Easter Sunday.

Thanks also to Mario Ponce for hanging the Good Friday and Easter drapes on the sanctuary wall. Bravely done and much appreciated!
The Worship & Music Committee

The dance ministry received many favorable comments on our offering for Good Friday and we thank all who shared their reactions with us. Our “dance” (due to COVID restrictions, we had to remain in place) could not have happened without Ben Schroeder’s inspired playing and Ray Mueller’s creative camera work. Creativity is often spurred by limitation, plus a little encouragement from the Holy Spirit!
Mary Kasakove, Messengers Dance Ministry

Thank you to Sibylle and Mike Schroeder, Sandy Carlson, Sue and John Stirrat, Cindy and George Pawlo for cleaning up the church property on April 24th. Also to Mary Kasakove, Sue Stirrat, and Sandy Carlson for planting flowers in the flower boxes. While a majority of the property was cleaned up, there is still more to do. Look for coming announcements about the next Clean Up Day. On Saturday as part of the clean up, the church had a new mailbox installed thanks to John and Sue Stirrat.

Thank you to our Faithful Innovation Guiding Team (Robert Bowden, Ben Schroeder, Sibylle Schroeder, Jackie King, Heather Nilsen, and Ken Schwier). It has been fulfilling and growth-inspiring to share with you all the process of engaging and adapting the Faithful Innovation program for our congregation, and I am really looking forward to sharing our learning with the congregation. Thank you for the time, openness, and energy you have all put in. ~ *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 May 25.

May Birthdays

5 Shelli Skeels
11 Jackie Schwier
27 Catherine Blackburne
Maria Kearney

May Anniversaries

24 John & Sue Stirrat

Sunday Scripture

May 2

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 23

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 9

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 30

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

May 16

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19



Christ is Risen!
He's Risen Indeed!

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!



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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

May 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.

My Visit to the Grand Mosque In Abu Dhabi UAE

At the beginning of Ramadan, Pastor Serena sent out a reflection about learning from other religions, including Islam. Reflecting on her email brought me back to the most spectacular visit to the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. I had never seen anything quite so grand. I had brought cover wraps for our trip there but they had color and for this mosque they required black coverings. Not to fear, they had a little rent a burka booth. It was a self guided walk through and I don't read Arabic so we were a little at a loss. One of our travel companions was a dear Jewish friend of ours. The highlight of this visit came when, while wondering what the lettering on the wall meant a very handsome, Omar Sharif looking gentleman approached us. We asked him to explain the meaning. He lit up and was so enthused to explain to us that these were the words of the different names of Allah. So here was an Arab educating a very interested Jew and Christian on the meanings and practices of his religion. I have had the fortune to travel to many countries of differing religions and strive each time to learn more about them. This was one of those special times. ~ *Shelli Skeels*



MAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

MAY	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LITURGICAL CANTORS	PSALM CANTOR
2	Sheeba David	Heather Nilsen	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder
9	Sue Stirrat	Howard Corneilson	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder
16	Jackie King	Jeanne Scalora	Ben Schroeder Robert Bowden Brittanie Scalora Serena Rice	Ben Schroeder
23	Karen Coates	Linda Venator	TBD	Ben Schroeder
30	Heather Nilsen	Sheeba David	TBD	Ben Schroeder

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Demetria Laird

BREAD BAKING: None



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers: Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, 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, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Sandy Siewert, Bill Crescenzo, Judy Consentino

Those who are expecting: Alyssa Jurtschenko, Rachel Pawlo

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, 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, Friends and family of Walter Pasuco, friends and family of Rudy Oeckinghaus, those mourning David Coyne, the VanHouten family, the Alstede family, Millie Miller on the death of her sister

MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
2 5TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:15 am Forum Conversation on RIC Process	3 5:45 pm Children's Church Zoom	4 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	5 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	6 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) 7:30 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting	7 Cancelled NA Mtg. Synod Assembly viewing party at APLC for May 8th session	8 Cancelled Church Family Breakfast Synod Assembly viewing party at APLC for May 8th session 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
9 6TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Synod Webcast Worship HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	10 5:45 pm Children's Church Zoom	11	12 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Bible Study: What books got left out of the Bible (and why)?	13 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	14 Cancelled NA Mtg.	15 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
16 7TH SUNDAY/ EASTER 10:00 am Webcast Worship –Anniversary Celebration Day 2:00 pm Memorial Service for Evelyn Bowden	17 5:45 pm Children's Church Zoom	18	19 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Story Hour	20 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am) 7:15 pm LFI Guiding Team	21 Cancelled NA Mtg.	22 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
23 DAY OF PENTECOST 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:15 am Introduction to Bible study on the Psalms as the Bible's prayerbook	24 5:45 pm Children's Church Zoom 7:30 pm Council Meeting	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Bible Study: Psalms of Praise	27 12:00 pm Bible Study with Redeemer (fellowship time at 11:30 am)	28 Cancelled NA Mtg.	29 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
30 HOLY TRINITY 10:00 am Webcast Worship 11:15 am Forum Conversation: Story Hour	31 5:45 pm Children's Church Zoom					