



VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

Resisting a Ministry of Maintenance

One of the more memorable sermons I have heard came from a former pastor of mine who was reflecting on the story of John the Baptist. The sermon dealt with the reaction of the Pharisees to the wilderness prophet, and her reflection was both vulnerable and brave. She admitted that, in a parallel situation, she probably would have lined up with the Pharisees, rather than with the crowds streaming to the Jordan River to be baptized. Of course she would! She had a responsibility as a pastor to guard her congregation against wild, unorthodox prophets proclaiming a message that challenge the established revelation to God's people. This is one of the deep challenges for people who follow a God of revelation. We want to protect the familiar, established way of following God because it has worked in the past. New revelations, new calls to head out to the unfamiliar wilderness seem like a threat to God's people.

But the thing is, our familiar, established church was once the new way of following God. Calling the people into the wilderness to learn something new has been God's pattern virtually since the beginning. Our God, the God revealed in Jesus is not a God of protecting the familiar establishment. Our God is a God of growth and transformation. A God of ever-expanding revelation. A God that starts with one chosen family, expands to a chosen people, then to a chosen nation, and then to a Savior of the whole world. Our God is a God who is always warning us not to direct our worship to the ways we access the divine, and to always be willing to discover a new way that God is being made known in the world.

In other words, our God is not interested in a ministry of maintenance. Ministry of maintenance is a term for a way of being church that is primarily concerned with preservation of the institution, rather than with figuring out what God is calling us to in the new moment. On the whole, Abiding Peace has not been very

July, 2021

**August Newsletter Deadline
July 16, 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

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susceptible to a ministry-of-maintenance-mentality, but the last 15 months have made the familiar much more alluring. After more than a year of forced transformation, it is entirely natural to want a return to normalcy. We are tired of innovation and adjustment. We want things to go back to the way they were. And there is nothing intrinsically wrong with this longing, so long as it does not turn into a longing for a ministry of maintenance... so long as we do not get confused about what our purpose is as God's church.

The purpose of God's church is to follow God's call, and to do God's work in the world. Our activities together as a church are all oriented toward that goal. They can certainly feed our spiritual hunger and provide us with peace and healing, but if that's all they do then we need to ask whether this is really all God is calling us to, because that doesn't really sound like the God who consistently calls the people into the wilderness.

The last 15 months have been in the wilderness, and now the return to normalcy and familiarity is beckoning to us. We can rejoice in that. We can give thanks that God has sustained us in the wilderness and lead us back home. But as we come back to what is familiar let's not make the mistake of thinking that what we have been missing is the only way to be the church. Let us not fall for the trap of the ministry of maintenance. We worship God, not a certain way of being church, and there has been revelation in the wilderness that we should not throw away.

~ Pastor Serena



Faith Kitchen Shopping for July 6 Bagged Lunch

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

Please have items to church no later than July 4.
Please contact me at 973-691-1910 if you can help assemble the sandwich bags.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder, Social Ministry

Thank You Corner

To all the volunteers who helped with getting the church garden planted and the fellowship hall cleaned up. Both spaces look great and equip us to serve our community through the food we will grow and the support groups we host.

Thanks to John & Sue Stirrat, Jackie King & Charlie, Mary Kasakove and George & Cindy Pawlo for doing some “spring cleaning” in the fellowship hall and janitor’s closet.

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 July 16.

Do You Have Something to Contribute?

Our church newsletter is a community newsletter, which means that anyone in the community can contribute articles, announcements, “thank yous,” pictures, or other content to edify our congregation. In the past, members have contributed poetry, reflection pieces, encouragements, and other wonderful offerings. So, if you have something to share, send it to Pastor Serena!



July Birthdays July Anniversaries

- 7 Joan Blackburne
- 8 Dick Kamin
- 13 Rodney Prosser
- 19 Robbie Cranmer
- 20 Steven Tangen
- 30 Patricia Persson
- 6 Chris & Christina Belfiore
- 14 Bill & Leann Clark
- 19 Jim & Kathy Tangen

Sunday Scripture

July 4

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 18

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 11

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 25

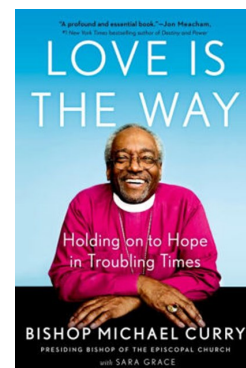
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

Are you Ready to Read? (Or Just Talk?)

Our Summer Book Club selection is *Love is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry.

If all you know about Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is his sermon from the Royal Wedding of Harry and Meghan, then there is a lot still to learn, and his book is an invitation to get to know him as well as his focal message about love being the answer to our world’s current challenges. As the subtitle of the book indicates, the book addresses the challenges of our current time, but it does so from a perspective of hope. Bishop Curry invites us into his own life story, which has known its share of trouble, as a way to experience his reasons for believing in how much a commitment to love really can change the world.

As always, the book club is open to all who wish to participate, whether or not you want to read the book, and whether or not you can make all of the meetings. Our first meeting will be held on the church patio, and over zoom on **Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30pm**. I hope you will join us!



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 | Hot Dogs |
| Canned fruit | Frozen Meatballs |
| Juice | White Beans |
| Bread | |

Thank you all for your generosity!



Pastor Serena's July Schedule

Starting at the end of June, Pastor Serena will return to in-person office hours at the church. Please see below for the times she is scheduled to be present on the church property. 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.

Week of June 21—27

- Monday, June 21: 6:00 pm—7:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 23: 10:30 am—8:30 pm (Off-site from 4:15 pm—5:15 pm for Mt. Olive service)
- Sunday, June 27: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of June 28—July 4

- Wednesday, June 30: 11:00 am—9:00 pm
- Thursday, Jan. 9: 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
- Friday, July 2: 6:30 pm —9:00 pm

Week of July 5—11

- Vacation

Week of July 12—18

- Monday, July 12: 9:00 am—7:00 pm
- Sunday, July 18: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of July 19—21

- Wednesday, July 21: 10:00 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, July 25: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Week of July 26—August 1

- Wednesday, July 28: 10:00 am—9:00 pm
- Friday, July 30: 7:30 pm—10:30 pm
- Sunday, Aug. 1: 9:00 am —1:00 pm



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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

JULY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

JULY	ASSISTANT MINISTER	USHER	SOLOIST
4 In-Person	Demetria Laird	Howard Corneilson	TBD
11 In-Person	Mary Kasakove	Ken Schwier	TBD
18 In-Person	Sibylle Schroeder	Doug Laird	TBD
25 In-Person	Sheeba David	Sandy Carlson	TBD

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Shelli Skeels

BREAD BAKING: None



Keep These Friends in Your
Heart & Prayers

Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers: *Those who are sick or in need:* 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, 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, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Mickey Gasparine, Sandy Kahler, Kenneth Johanson, Sally Lasker, Karen Qualls

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, 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, The Scalora and Crescenzo families on the death of Jeanne's cousin Sandy

JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>7:15 pm</i> LFI Guiding Team	2 <i>7:00 pm</i> Ice Cream Social/Game Night	3 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
4 6TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person	5	6 <i>9:00 am</i> Faith Kitchen	7 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg.	8	9	10 <i>Cancelled</i> Church Family Breakfast <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
11 7TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person <i>11:15 am</i> Balcony Conversation	12 <i>12:30 pm</i> Worship & Music Committee Meeting <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	13 <i>7:30 pm</i> Council Meeting	14 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Bible Study: Psalms of Conflict	15 <i>7:30 pm</i> Anniversary Committee Meeting	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
18 8TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person <i>11:15 am</i> Bible Study: Psalms of Grace	19	20 <i>7:30 pm</i> RIC Committee Meeting	21 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Book Club: Love is the Way, Pt. 2 (Ch. 5-9)	22	23	24 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.
25 9TH SUNDAY/ PENTECOST <i>10:00 am</i> Webcast Worship/In-Person <i>11:15 am</i> Loving Dialogue: Back to Work	26 <i>5:45 pm</i> Children's Church Zoom	27	28 <i>6:30 pm</i> AA Mtg. <i>7:30 pm</i> Balcony Conversation	29	30 <i>8:00 pm</i> Outdoor movie: Soul	31 <i>8:00 pm</i> NA Mtg.