

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

HOPE AS A GOAL by Pastor Serena

Sometimes the process of developing the theme for our Advent worship involves a lot of thought, reflection on the readings, listening to the needs of our community, and seeking God's inspiration. Other times, I just find a resource and think "that will work!" I confess that this year, I went with door number 2. The ELCA liturgy planning resource included a midweek service plan centered around "Restoring our Hope" and I liked it so... great. Hope. Theme selected.

Sometimes that's how God's Spirit works: through convenience rather than prayerful dedication. I'm very grateful. Because it has become increasingly clear to me over the last month of planning that hope is precisely what our community needs at the moment. Hope for health and wholeness. Hope for comfort in grief. Hope for a future in the midst of anxiety.

I am also increasingly aware that hope is something that has to be built. It does not just happen. We cannot simply summon hope through positive thinking. Recently, researcher/ author Brene Brown shared a reflection on hope that includes this insight: "The research shows that hope is a powerful antidote to despair. What's interesting, however, is that hope is not an emotion (C. R. Snyder). Hope is a cognitive-behavioral process. It's about having a goal, a pathway to achieve that goal, and a sense of urgency, or "I can do this."

"Cognitive-behavioral process" is a fancy therapy term for something that we create through a combination of conscious thoughts and intentional actions. We have to put effort into the patterns of our thoughts and our behaviors in order to cultivate hope. And, according to Brown, we specifically need to focus on a goal and a way to achieve that goal.

It makes sense, but I think it can be a little hard to know how to apply this wisdom in the context of faith, because faith calls us to put our trust in God, rather than in our own efforts. In the Lutheran tradition, especially, we focus so much on grace and on how God is the one who always initiates and assures our salvation, so that we know we never earn it. This is a vitally important teaching when it comes to our standing before God, but that doesn't mean that we are called to be passive in everything. Far from it. We are given grace so that we might have life. And life is active, just as hope is active.

So, for this Advent season, our community will be focusing on practices hope. Our goal, the hope we look to (especially in Advent) is to prepare for the coming of God's kingdom, God's way of being in the world. And there are absolutely active practices that we can embrace to achieve that goal. I hope you will join in our efforts to build hope.

Worship: 10:00 AM
Online/ In-person

January 2025 newsletter deadline: 12/27
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

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 December

- Parmalat milk
- Peanut butter
- Canned fruit
- Juice
- Hot dogs & buns
- Frozen meatballs
- Mashed Potato mix
- Rice
- Crackers
- Cake mixes
- Gluten free pasts

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



DECEMBER OFFICE-HOURS:

Pastor Serena will hold office hours on Wednesdays in December. 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 December hours

Dec 2 – Dec 8

Wednesday, 12/4: 3:30pm – 9:00pm
Sunday, 12/8: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Dec 9 – Dec 15

Wednesday, 12/11: 12:00pm – 9:00pm
Sunday, 12/15: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Dec 16 – Dec 22

Wednesday, 12/18 10:00am – 9:00pm
Sunday, 12/22: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Dec 23 – Dec 29

Tuesday, 12/24: 1:00pm – 12:00pm
Sunday, 12/29: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Dec 30 – Jan 5

Thursday, 1/2: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Sunday, 12/5: 9:00am – 12:00pm

December Readings

Dec. 8

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 22

Advent Pageant:
Luke 1:39-55

Dec. 29: Lessons & Carols

Isaiah 9:2-7; Micah 5:2-5a;
Luke 1:26-35, 38; Luke 2:1-7;
Luke 2:8-16; Luke 2:21-38;
Matt. 2:1-11; Matt. 2:13-18;
John 1:1-14



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Calling all actors (and all who don't think of themselves as actors but still enjoy helping with church plays)! After the success of last year's Advent/Christmas pageant, we are trying it again. This time, Pastor Serena tried her hand at writing the pageant, and it will be focused on the Magnificat, and what its promises would look like in our times.

We need a total of 13 "players" (I have 9 volunteers so far, so 4 more needed). The pageant will be held is worship on Sunday, Dec. 22. For those who are able, we will hold a rehearsal on Dec. 15 after worship, but if you cannot make that day don't let that stop you from volunteering. Most scenes are just with one other scene partner, so it would be easy to run-through it before worship on Dec 22. And not memorization required!

Thank you all for making our second annual pageant at success!

Sign Messages Wanted!

Want an easy way to help the church reach out to our community? Use your creativity to suggest new sign messages. Send your ideas to Pastor Serena, or sign up to join the sign ministry!

We also always appreciate volunteers to help change the sign messages each week. A simple way to bless our neighbors.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:
 12/4 - CAROL BUONO
 12/10 - DON BOWE
 12/17 - EDWARD VENATOR
 12/25 - HOWARD CORNIELSON
 12/29 - EMILY PROSSER
 12/30 - ALICE KANDIKATLA



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/1	12/2 Worship & Music Committee 1:00 PM via Zoom	12/3 Faith Kitchen @ 9:00-12:30	12/4 AA 6:30pm; Soup Supper 7:00pm; Midweek Lenten Service 7:30pm	12/5 Council Meeting 6:45 via Zoom	12/6	12/7
12/8 Worship 10:00 AM Assembly of Holiday Bags for Food Pantry 11:15	12/9 Worship & Music Committee, 1:15pm via Zoom	12/10 Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm	12/11 AA 6:30pm; Soup Supper 7:00pm; Midweek Lenten Service 7:30pm	12/12	12/13	12/14
12/15 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:15 Rehearsal for Pageant 11:30	12/16 UFO Night @7:00pm	12/17 Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm	12/18 Mt. Olive Manor Service 4:30 AA 6:30pm; Soup Supper 7:00pm; Midweek Lenten Service 7:30pm	12/19	12/20	12/21 Forum on Mental Health Resources 3PM Longest Night Service 4 PM both @ Redeemer Succasunna
12/22 Worship 10:00	12/23	12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 7:00, 10:15	12/25 AA 6:30 PM	12/26	12/27	12/28
12/29 Lessons and Carols 10:00 am	12/30	12/31				

	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24 (7:00pm)	12/24 (10:15pm)
Altar Guild	Mary Kasakove	Mary Kasakove	Mary Kasakove	Mary Kasakove		
Counter	Ursula Schroeder	George Pawlo	Nita Persson	Sandy Carlson	TBA	TBA
Assistant Minister	Sibylle Schroeder	Maria Jerez	Sheeba David	Demetria Laird	TBA	TBA
Lector	Doug Laird	Sue Stirrat	Anna Santino	Maria Jerez	TBA	TBA
Communion Assistant	Cindy Pawlo	George Pawlo	Howard Corneilson	Mary Kasakove	TBA	TBA
Usher/Greeter/ Acolyte	Howard Corneilson	Cindy Pawlo	Mary Kasakove	Doug Laird	TBA	TBA
Soloist	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Livestream Assistant	Tyler Rice	Ray Mueller	Nick Senior	Sheeba David	TBA	Tyler Rice

BREAD BAKING: Demetria Laird

