

VIEW

from the lake

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



From the Pastor

How are We Preparing?

The season of Advent, which begins the church year, is a season focused on preparation. Rather than jumping into cultural Christmas as soon as the Thanksgiving turkey has cooled (or even earlier), the church takes time to prepare for the birth of Christ. We don't rush into the celebration without first considering what it means.

In order to aid in that consideration this year, we are going to focus our worship on two questions:

- *Who* are we preparing for?
- And, how do we *respond* to him?

We will answer the first question by reflecting on seven names for Christ that are drawn from scripture and highlighted in the classic Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. This hymn is always a part of our Advent worship, but this year we will examine the titles for Jesus over the course of seven worship services (4 Sunday services and 3 mid-week). We will focus our prayers, our readings, and our reflections on the way that each title for the coming Christ expands our understanding of how he brings light and life into the world.

In considering how we respond to the promise of this complex God entering into our lives we have a beautiful model in the song of his mother, Mary. Luke 1: 46-55 records a startling song of praise from the young mother-to-be in which she reflects on how the news of her pregnancy reveals God's pattern of coming into the world: God raises up those without power and evens out imbalances. This song has been inspiring Christ followers ever since, so we will be singing 7 different songs and hymns based on Mary's "Magnificat" as our hymn of the day for each of our Advent worship services. In addition, we will start the season with a special intergenerational forum on Sunday, Nov. 28, in which we learn about and do some fun activities with the Magnificat.

December, 2021

January Newsletter Deadline
December 13, 2021



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.



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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Now, I certainly won't blame anyone for embracing the light, and joy, and celebratory focus of cultural Christmas before Dec. 24 this year. After nearly 2 years of pandemic, we need all the calls to peace and love that we can get. But I hope we can also come together during worship for these hours of preparation... preparation not just for the general joy of the Christmas season, but for the specific gift that Jesus is and for the readiness to respond to the way he changes everything.

~ Pastor Serena

Thank You Corner

Thank you to Rev. Jim Parks for writing last month's article on how Abiding Peace got its name. We look forward to seeing you when you visit and preach this coming April. *~ Ray Mueller*

Thank you to Don for his continual efforts to ensure that the sound system in our worship space works as well as possible. Last month he recognized a problem with our speakers, came up with a temporary fix, researched the best long-term solution, coordinated all the logistics of the purchase, and donated the funds to cover the expense. So, next time you are in the sanctuary and can easily hear the worship service, say thanks to Don! *~ 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 December 13.



Faith Kitchen Shopping for December 7 Kielbasa/Sauerkraut/Potatoes

We are starting cooking again at Faith Kitchen. The ingredient handout is at the church. Please have the items at church no later than Monday, December 6.

There will only be four people from APLC cooking and two helpers filling containers. Please call me if you can help, 973-459-0908.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder, Social Ministry

Sunday Scripture

December 5

Isaiah 53:1-3
Hebrews 11:1-13a

December 19

Isaiah 33:20-22
Matthew 1:18-25

December 12

Malachi 4:1-2
Luke 1:78-79

December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

December Birthdays

- 4 Carol Biunno
- 10 Don Bowe
- 17 Edward Venator
- 20 Barry Kullack
- 25 Howard Corneilson
- 29 Emily Prosser
- 30 Alice Kandikatla

The Meaning of a Quilt

Back in September, as part of this year’s Bishop’s Challenge, Vanessa Ponce introduced us to the story of Pastor Jehu Jones, the first African American Lutheran pastor. In the context of the disappointing way that our Lutheran forebearers treated Jones, the Challenge is an invitation to learn, lament, and commit to building a future church that supports and embraces our leaders of color. As another part of that challenge, each congregation that commits to support the new Synod fund for emerging leaders of color has been given a quilt square to decorate. These squares will be combined in a Synod quilt that will be unveiled at the next Synod Assembly in May, 2022. Here’s the explanation of this project from the Bishop’s Challenge:

“During times of slavery, it is believed that quilts were used as a form of communication. Some maintain they contained hidden messages amidst the beautiful patterns. In the mid 1800’s, Quilts were believed to help prepare slaves for their long journey to freedom, to guide them as they traveled. The patterns often told a story and provided a map for them to follow. The colors also indicated where they might find safe havens and help from certain houses or be warned of danger and to stay away from other homes.”

Abiding Peace will be decorating our quilt square for this project once we vote on our contribution with the budget in January, but in the meantime, we participated in creating our own quilt. Members who joined in our rally day service project helped to cut out quilt squares that our expert quilters Sheeba and Sibylle then used to create this beautiful quilt that will be donated to Lutheran World Relief’s quilt project, to provide warmth and comfort for displaced people served by this mission. There is no particular symbolism or messages in the colors and patterns, but this quilt still has symbolic significance. It symbolizes how much beauty comes from combining different colors into



one whole. It symbolizes our ability to work together in creative endeavors. It symbolizes our desire to comfort and care for those who have faced trauma and struggle. And, perhaps most importantly, it symbolizes our community’s commitment to love.

New Liturgy Sponsorship

As indicated in the past newsletters, the 50th Anniversary Committee has prepared the list of phrases that will make up the Liturgy and assigned a cost to sponsor each phrase. (Ben Schroeder, our Director of Music, has volunteered to develop this new Liturgy for Abiding Peace.) As of this writing, 80% of our primary goal has been pledged. Help us complete this project. You can see the available phrases at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15Zmzw4GWF99v7TL54OeWspzmRBMt6MIRTeizripZdbM/edit?usp=sharing>

This list will also be posted at the church building and updated weekly. Each segment of the Liturgy has five columns:

Phrase - words that make the phrase up
Cnt – the number of times the phrase is repeated in the Liturgy segment
Donation – the donation requested to sponsor the phrase
Sponsor – the individual / family who is sponsoring the phrase
Donated – indicating the donation has been received.

This will be a first come, first sponsor situation. In other words, if more than one wants to sponsor a phrase, the first one who submits and completes the sponsorship will have it. To complete sponsorship, contact Howard Corneilson (hgcorn@optonline.net / 973.584.0307) or Ben Schroeder (benmschroeder@gmail.com / 862.266.6844) with the segment and phrase and submit the requested sponsor amount within seven (7) days. You may also fill in the posted form at the church building, but please make sure to notify Howard or Ben as well. Be sure to indicate on your envelope, check, or Venmo donation that this is for the “Anniversary Liturgy.”

50th Anniversary Committee



Waiting for Pictures

As indicated in past newsletters, the 50th Anniversary Committee is putting together a new Pictorial Directory. The directory will include members, family members who have moved out but want to participate (these would be incorporated separately from the family), former members who would also like to be involved, and any friend of the congregation who attends our worship or participates in our livestream worship.

Pictures are slow to come in. Please send them in so we can put together this Pictorial Directory as a celebration of Abiding Peace’s 50 years.

Remember, have fun with it! Submit photos that reflects your personality or interest (although studio photos are fine as well). Just make sure to send a picture in which the faces are the most prominent (not distant full body pictures). Digital pictures (preferred) can be transmitted to hgcorn@optonline.net or physical pictures (along with a method of contacting you) may be mailed to the church at:

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church
305 US Highway 46
Budd Lake, NJ 07828-2804

For both friends of the congregation (including those who join our livestream) and children of members who have moved out of their parents’ household, we would need their names and contact information so that we would be able to post it.

A display of what will be printed will be delivered to you for your approval prior to publication.

Please send in your pictures! You can also have a picture taken at church, either on your phone or by someone else who is there. I am looking forward to seeing all your beautiful faces.

50th Anniversary Committee





Celebrating 50 of God's Faithfulness
years
yesterday ~ today ~ forever

Series Continues on Abiding Peace History in Words and Photos

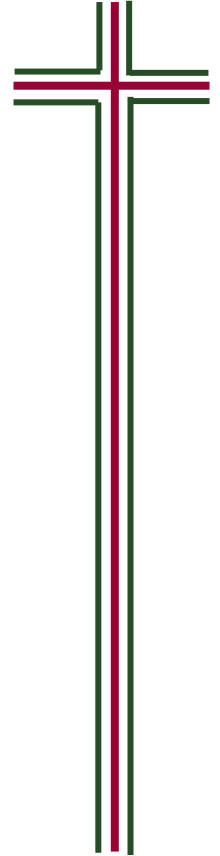
As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, for Advent here's a look back at our 1980's decade. Also, a corresponding photo album is posted on Facebook with dozens more photos. It's not too late to add photos from the 1990's on by emailing them to Ray at okray.mueller@gmail.com.

The albums on Facebook begin with the 1970's, our first decade. They are on the Abiding Peace Facebook Organization Page at <https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/photos>. Click on the first photo in an album to enlarge and see each one in order, and please add to the comments as you wish. Watch for the 1990's history next month – Epiphany!

80's: Expanding

On November 21, 1983 APLC made their first presentation to the Township for approval to build a 40-45 unit facility uphill from the church site. As new information emerged in December 1983, this vision expanded to a facility providing up to 100 units of affordable housing, and a new site was sought. In 1984 the Abiding Peace Senior Housing Corporation was formed to shepherd this vision to completion. On September 27, 1989 a \$4.5 million Housing & Urban Development (HUD) loan was secured to build a 61-unit complex on Flanders-Bartley Road. The groundbreaking was held on October 10, 1992. Mt. Olive Manor welcomed its first residents on September 30, 1993.

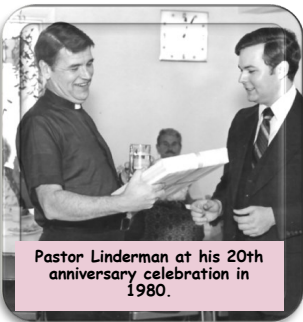
Meanwhile, Abiding Peace became a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) when the LCA merged on January 1, 1988 with the American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.



Parsonage at 15 Hatakawanna Terrace, up the hill.



The Abiding Peace Thrift Shop, 1982.



Pastor Linderman at his 20th anniversary celebration in 1980.



Our original altar and railing before our sanctuary renewal in the 1990's.



Rummage Sale, 1986.



Mary & Gene Kasakove at the 10th Anniversary of the Parish Center.



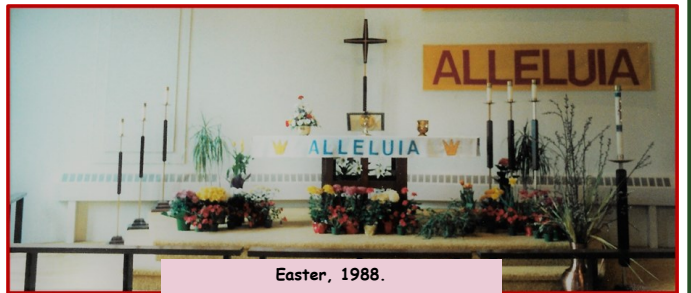
10th Anniversary of the Parish Center, 1988.



Vacation Bible School, 1987.



Summer Fun at VBS, 1987.



Easter, 1988.

Singing in Worship

Oh, how we have missed singing together! Of all the worship-related sacrifices that COVID has required of us, this might have been the hardest for our musical congregation. It has been a necessary sacrifice, because research has repeatedly shown that singing is one of the group activities most likely to spread the virus if any of the singers are infected (even if asymptomatic). However, as knowledge of the virus continues to increase, it has become more evident that the amount of time spent in a space while singing has a significant impact on the risk of spread. So, at the recommendation of the Worship & Music team, Council has approved a proposal to allow congregational singing for the final hymn of each Sunday's worship. This will allow us to raise our voices in song together each Sunday, and then move out of the worship space in case there is any virus floating in the air.

What this means for you:

- **You can sing the last hymn!** For the time being we are asking everyone to sing only the last hymn with your voices (of course, you can sing ALL of the songs with your heart)
- **You need to keep your mask on!** Our congregation has been so wonderful about following the masking requirements without issue or complaint, so this is really just a reminder.
- **You are encouraged to use a surgical or N95 mask.** Long past are the days of shortages, and these disposable masks are shown to be most effective at preventing the spread of virus, so if you want to sing these are the best masks to wear. They are also less likely to “suck in” when you breathe than cloth masks, so they are more comfortable for singing.
- **If you don't feel safe with singing, you can move to the narthex for the end of the service.** We will have chairs available in the Narthex for anyone who does not want to stay in the sanctuary during the final song, so that you can avoid any increased risk. The audio system and glass wall allow this space to remain part of worship, while being removed from the “singing air.”



Christmas Eve Services

December, of course, brings celebrations of Christmas, and we are so grateful to have to chance to celebrate the holiday TOGETHER this year. With vaccination rates continuing to rise, more effective treatments being rolled out, and the protections of our COVID protocols, we are confident that we can gather together for our traditional Christmas Eve services in-person, while also offering the livestream option for those who need it.

This year we will be offering three (3) services on Friday, December 24.

The first service will be a brief (30 minute) service at 4:00 pm, oriented toward children, with interactive worship and story-telling.

Our second service at 7:00 pm will be a traditional Christmas Eve service conducted with our standard Sunday COVID-protocols for the highest level of safety (this service will also include a children's time for older children/youth, including a Christmas gift for each child). This service will be livestreamed for worshippers unable to join in-person.

The final service at 10:30 pm will include the choir, as well as the opportunity for congregational singing throughout the service. This service will be livestreamed if we are able to identify a live-stream operator.

Masks will be required for all participants over the age of 2 at all services, as always, to reduce risk and allow us to be together despite current COVID case-load rates. We look forward to celebrating Jesus's birth together.



Pastor Serena's December 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.

Week of November 29—December 5

- Wednesday, Dec. 1: 10:30 am—8:30 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 2: 9:30 am—11:30 am (Off-site continuing ed)
- Sunday, Dec. 5: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Week of Dec 6—12

- Wednesday, Dec 8: 10:00am – 8:30pm (off-site meeting from 10:00-12:00)
- Sunday, Dec 12: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Week of Dec 13—19

- Wednesday, Dec 15: 10:30am – 8:30pm (off-site 4:15 – 5:15)
- Sunday, Dec 19: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Week of Dec 20—26

- Tuesday, Dec 21: 10:30am – 8:30pm
- Friday, Dec 24: 5:00pm – 11:30pm
- Sunday, Dec 26: 9:00am – 11:30am

Week of Dec 27 – Jan 2

- Monday – Saturday – vacation
- Sunday, Jan 2: 9:00am-12:00pm

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

Thank You for the School Supplies



Prayer Partner Cookie Exchange

Save the Date! December 5, 2021 we will be having our Prayer Partner Cookie Exchange. It will take place after the worship service has ended. We'll be meeting in the narthex to exchange gifts first so bring your gift to share with your 2021 prayer partner and choose a new one for 2022. Afterwards we'll share cookies so please bring a plate of cookies along with the recipe to share. Anyone who isn't comfortable with these arrangements can bring their gift to church & can pick up a new prayer partner form to fill out so that you can have a new prayer partner for next year & also you will be hopefully receiving gifts from your prayer partner.

Hope everyone can participate.

In Christian Fellowship,
Demetria Laird



DECEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

DECEMBER	ASSISTANT MINISTER	USHER	SOLOIST	LIVESTREAM
5 In-Person	Sandy Carlson	Cindy Pawlo	TBD	Nick Senior
12 In-Person	Demetria Laird	Ken Schwier	TBD	Quinn Rice
19 In-Person	Sue Stirrat	Mary Kasakove	TBD	Ray Mueller
26 In-Person	Sibylle Schroeder	Doug Laird	TBD	TBD
Undecided on the 26th: 100% remote, lessons & carols, synod service?				

COUNTER: George Pawlo

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Kasakove

BREAD BAKING: None



*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, Mickey Gasparine, Sandy Kahler, Kenneth Johanson, Karen Qualls, Nancy Ayotte, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Sheeba David, Jim Kosiorek, Cora Pawlo, Richard Biunno, Jim Tangen, Elizabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Mike Squillante, Ryan Manhardt, Dan Scouten, Mary Laird, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis

Those who are expecting: Chris and Marie Laird

Those in mourning: 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, Millie Miller on the death of her sister, The Scalora and Crescenzo families on the death of Jeanne's cousin Sandy, the Scalora family on the death of Pat's sister Sally, the family of Gary Siess, the family of Jim Cook, the family of Bryce Rosen, the family of Betty Curlander, the family of Jay Mohundro, the family of Carla Schechner

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Mid-week Advent Service: Ado- nai	2 6:30 pm NA Organiz- ers Meeting	3	4 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
5 2ND SUNDAY/ ADVENT 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:30 am Prayer Partner Gift Exchange	6 5:45 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg. 7:30 pm Council Meeting	7 9:00 am Faith Kitchen 7:30 pm 50th Anniver- sary Meeting via Zoom	8 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Mid-Week Advent Service: Key of David	9	10	11 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
12 3RD SUNDAY/ ADVENT 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person 11:30 am New Member Class (in-person and Zoom)	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:45 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	14	15 4:30 pm Service @ Mt. Olive Manor 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Mid-week Advent Service: King of Nations	16	17	18 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
19 4TH SUNDAY/ ADVENT 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person	20 5:45 pm Children's Church 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	21 7:30 pm Longest Night Service	22 6:30 pm AA Mtg.	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Children's Service 7:00 pm Traditional Webcast Worship/In- Person 10:30 pm Traditional Webcast Worship/In-Person	25 Merry Christmas 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
26 1ST SUNDAY/ CHRISTMAS 10:00 am Webcast Worship/In-Person Service TBD	27 7:30 pm NA Mtg.	28	29	30	31	