

September 2024

VIEW FROM THE LAKE

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

FAITH AND CIVIC LIFE by Pastor Serena

It is a commonly-held belief that polite conversation should never engage the topics of religion or politics. So, it might seem like a VERY bad idea to intentionally have a conversation about religion and politics together! But that is one way to frame our next (2-part) Loving Dialogue session at Abiding Peace on the topic of Faith and Civic Life.

These forums are inspired by and will focus on the ELCA's new draft Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith. Social Statements are the way that our denomination addresses social issues that call for a thoughtful, informed response from our church body. They are commissioned at a General Assembly of the church (held every three years), developed over several years of study by a task force appointed for the topic, and presented in draft form to request feedback from the church at large. This is where the forums come in. The comment period for the current draft social statement extends through September, so we at Abiding Peace have the chance to discuss and provide feedback on this statement.

More importantly, the draft statement gives us a chance to think deeply and collaboratively about how our faith does in fact call upon us to engage with civic life, as citizens, voters, and partners in God's work in the world. This is not about the role of faith in politics, but about the way that we as people of faith who are also people of the polis understand the interaction of these elements of our identity and our daily life. If we are to be whole and integrated people, we cannot hold these essential things separate.

But how to engage our faith in a world where politics is so divisive and often vitriolic is a challenging question. So, we are going to tackle it together, with the help of the study and care of leaders from our larger church.

My hope is that we will all come to these conversations with the commitments of our Loving Dialogue pledge: trusting that God call us into tough conversations and equips us for them, reading to both listen to each other and call each other into the grounding of our faith. These kinds of conversations do NOT have to be the disaster that common wisdom predicts. They can be a chance to grow, and love, and learn together.

If you want to review the social statement ahead of time (it is dense!) you can access it here: <https://www.elca.org/civicsandfaith>. You can also review the feedback questions here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCTT8ZV>

**Worship: 10:00 AM
Online/ In-person**

October 2024 newsletter deadline: 9/27
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

Food Pantry Needs for September

- Parmalat Milk
- Rice
- Vegetable Oil
- PB & Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Juice
- Hot-Dogs and buns
- Soups
- Vegan/vegetarian protein options
- Toiletries
- Bread
- Meatballs
(proteins & breads must go directly into freezer)

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



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

Office Hours

Pastor Serena will hold office hours on Wednesdays OR Thursdays most week. 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.

Erin will hold her office hours on Thursday of each week from 9:00-12:00. She can always be reached via email: aplcbuddlake@gmail.com



Pastor's September hours

Aug 26 – Sept 1

Thurs.8/29: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Sun.9/1: 9:00am-1:00pm

Sept 2 – Sept 8

Weds. 9/4: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Su.n 9/2: 9:00am-2:00pm

Sept. 9 – Sept. 15

Thurs. 9/12: 9:00am – 1:00pm
Sun.9/15: 9:00am – 1:30pm

Sept. 16 – Sept. 22

Tues. 9/17: 9:00am-3:00pm (offsite Synod event)
Weds. 9/18: 9:00am – 7:00pm
Sun. 9/22: 9:00am – 1:30pm

Sept. 23 – Sept 29

Thurs. 9/26: 9:00am – 8:00pm
Sun. 9/29: 9:00am – 3:00pm

September Readings

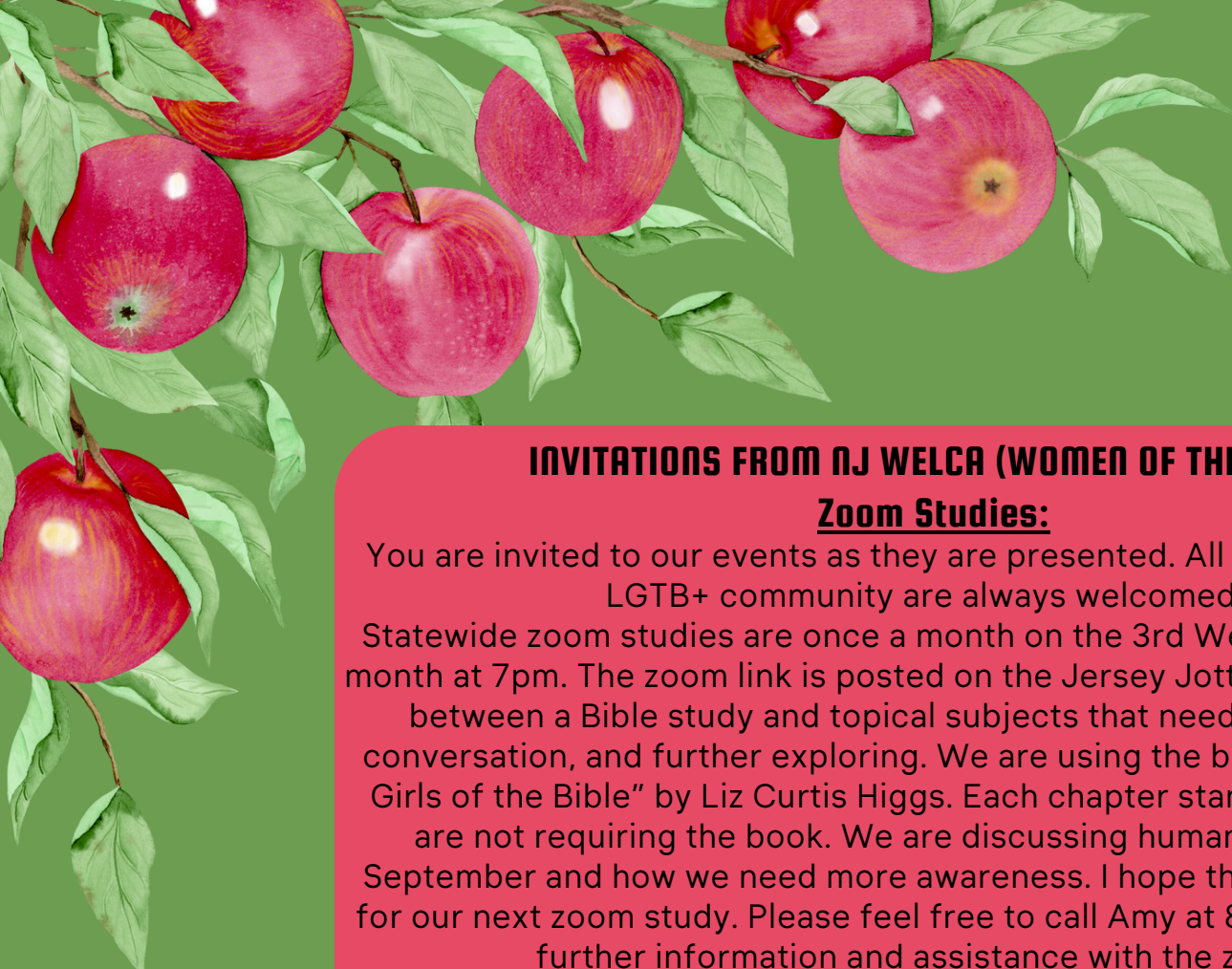
9/1: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9/8: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

9/15: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

9/22: Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13–4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

9/29: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50



INVITATIONS FROM NJ WELCA (WOMEN OF THE ELCA)

Zoom Studies:

You are invited to our events as they are presented. All are welcome; the LGTB+ community are always welcomed.

Statewide zoom studies are once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. The zoom link is posted on the Jersey Jottings. We alternate between a Bible study and topical subjects that need our attention, conversation, and further exploring. We are using the book, "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Each chapter stands alone and we are not requiring the book. We are discussing human trafficking in September and how we need more awareness. I hope that you will join us for our next zoom study. Please feel free to call Amy at 862-284-4094 for further information and assistance with the zoom.

NJWELCA Convention 2024:

NJ WELCA has an annual convention in October at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holmdel (exit 114 off the GSP) on October 11 & 12. The convention business will be held on Friday, October 11 at Good Shepherd at 7pm. It will also be available on zoom. On Saturday, October 12, the Gathering will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with registration and coffee hour from 8am to 9am and followed by worship, speakers and workshops and fellowship. We do have a hold on hotel rooms for those who wish to join us. Registration for the convention is \$25. Please contact Valerie Slack for registration. Payment for convention is available by cash, check, and Zelle. Please email Valerie at Vslack14@yahoo.com for registration. Scholarships are available, please contact Amy Palazzolo at 862-284-4094 for any questions.

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.

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/7 - Jan Persson
- 9/9 - Doug Laird
- 9/12 - Linda Venator
- 9/24 - Jimmy Tangen
- 9/24 - Tom & Linda Venator
- 9/26 - Raymond Stirrat



SENIOR EVENTS

Sept. 18 "UFO of God: The Extraordinary True Story of Chris Bledsoe"

Oct. 18 Halloween Party

Nov.29 Christmas/Holiday Party

This schedule is open to change.

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/1 Worship 10:00	9/2	9/3 Faith Kitchen @ 9:00-12:30	9/4 Worship&Music Committee@ 1:00pm - Zoom AA 6:30 PM	9/5 Partnering Team Meeting @ 7:00pm - Zoom	9/6	9/7
9/8 Worship 10:00 Rally Day & God's Work Our Hands Activity	9/9 UFO Night @7:00pm	9/10 Council Check-In @ 7:30pm - Zoom	9/11 AA 6:30 PM	9/12	9/13	9/14
9/15 Worship 10:00 Loving Dialogue: Civic Engagement pt.1 @ 11:30am	9/16	9/17	9/18 WELCA Zoom Study: Being an Ally by Building Brave Space @ 3:00pm Prayer Service-Mt. Olive Manor - 4:30 pm AA 6:30 PM	9/19 Go and... Synod Zoom Outreach study @ 7:00pm	9/20	9/21
9/22 Worship 10:00 Loving Dialogue: Civic Engagement pt 2 @ 11:30am	9/23	9/24	9/25 AA 6:30 PM	9/26	9/27	9/28
9/29 Worship 10:00 Open House & Partnership Luncheon, 12:00pm-2:00pm	9/30					