

God's Place Our Place Your Place?



Lutheran Church of the
Abiding Presence

Dear Members and Friends of Abiding Presence,

What a wonderful year it has been for us as a congregation! There is an energy – a Spirit – about the congregation that is contagious.

As I look ahead into the future, I see Abiding Presence as a place for people to connect with God, a faith family, and the work they are called to do in the world. More than just a physical place, Abiding Presence is a community of people brought together by the



Holy Spirit and formed into a faith family.

Family really is the best word to describe this community. We share in each other's joys and struggles, support each other as we learn, and share a common identity as chil-

children of God. By connecting with God and each other, we are fed, nurtured and challenged to act as God's hands and feet in the world.

But Abiding Presence isn't just this place for our members. We are also becoming this place for the Burke community. Two of our Mainly Music moms were recently overheard talking to each other as they walked into the church on a Tuesday morning. One mom said to the other, "This church is magical!" I'm not sure we really are magical, but I do know we are meeting a need for people who are searching for a way to connect with God and with others, even if they do not worship with us on Sunday mornings.



This is our vision. It's a bold one to be sure! What is before you in the pages of this booklet are the next steps toward this vision that the church council and I believe we can accomplish together in 2015. At the end of the book, you'll see an outline for what the



next three years might look like as we work together to fully bring this vision to life.

Three years from now we will reach an important milestone as

we will celebrate our 40th anniversary as a congregation, and the vision I just described is where I hope we will be as a church. We are already well on our way, but there is still more we have to do together. Our God is always in motion and is constantly pushing us to keep moving as well. There are many more wonderful years to come!

I'm excited about the ways that the Holy Spirit is stirring in our midst and molding us as a church, not only as a pastor but even more so as a mom. Especially, as a mom, I want our two girls to find their place with God and in a faith family so they can respond to whatever it is that God is going to call them to do in the world. I hope you will join me in enthusiastically helping to make this vision a reality for your family, for my family, and for all of the families in our community who are still looking for their place.



Blessings,
Rev. Meredith Keseley

What We've Done the Past Year

It's been a busy, energetic, Spirit-filled year at Abiding Presence! Highlights of this past year include:

- Hired our new Music Minister, David Chavez
- Hired our new Children's Minister, Sara Dyson
- Installed our new playground
- Provided 120 bags of food which fed more than 600 people through our new Food Pantry
- Collected 73 units of blood through Red Cross Blood Drive
- Made 30 quilts and 21 school kits for Lutheran World Relief
- Provided 75 bags of food each week to children at Rolling Valley Elementary School
- Offered connections through affinity groups such as the Young Couples, Parents of Teens & Tweens, Empty Nesters, and more.
- Baptized 15 children
- Affirmed the baptisms of 6 youth and 10 adults
- Expanded Holy Week worship offerings to include Good Friday Prayer Stations and 2 Good Friday Family Worship Experiences



Additionally, thanks to your support through the building fund, we have been able to be good stewards of the property that has been entrusted to us for ministry.

Facility Improvements:

- Replaced broken fire doors in fellowship hall
- Remodeled our nursery
- Installed two new stoves in the kitchen as a first step towards a kitchen remodel
- Replaced one HVAC unit and took preventative measures on other units

Parsonage Improvements:

- Removed two large trees
- Replaced the roof and gutters
- Repaired the chimney
- Replaced the entry door



Our Five Ministry Areas in 2015

Next Steps for Worship

Offer praise and thanksgiving to God through exceptional worship that is participatory, engaging, welcoming to newcomers and sends people out to serve the Lord.



Next Steps for Teach

Equip each member to grow in his or her faith by 1) continuing to support our growing ministry to children and youth and 2) developing an adult education program that offers introductory through advanced courses and increases the number of people engaged in intentional adult education.



Next Steps for Connect

More effectively build relationships within our congregation and community by launching 1) small group ministry and 2) Stephen Ministry, a program to enable us to better care for one another as a faith family.



Next Steps for Reach Out

Witness to the power of the gospel and the impact of the church as God's hands and feet by 1) training members to talk about their faith while they are going about their daily lives and 2) serving as a host congregation for programs that engage with the community.



Next Steps for Serve

Provide hospitality and care for those in our community by 1) continuing to support and expand the Abiding Presence Food Ministries and 2) developing an evening ESL class as part of Wednesday Night Gathering.



Three Year Plan to Our 40th Anniversary

2015 — God's Place

Growing Ministry to Better Connect People with God

In 2015, we plan to focus on the building blocks of ministry. We will strengthen our existing ministries and launch new ministries as previously outlined. We will lay the ground work for the anticipated growth in lay and staff leadership we will need moving forward. This ground work will include recruiting volunteer ministry leads for each of our five key ministry areas – worship, teach, connect, serve and reach out. We also plan to add full year salaries to the budget for the Music Minister at 30 hours/week and Children's Minister at 10 hours/week (both positions were hired mid-year in 2014), and provide budget money for a music assistant and pastoral assistant to support the worship life of the congregation.



2016 — Our Place

Growing Leadership to Better Connect People with Each Other



Our emphasis in 2016 will be on leadership. We will focus on connecting people to the faith family by involving them in ministry areas. Having put strong volunteer ministry leads in place the previous year, we will now be in a position to better recruit, equip and support people to serve within the church. Our goal will be to have 25% of our average worship attendance involved in teaching, leading or coordinating ministry. We will also increase our staff leadership by adding an Associate Pastor and increasing the hours of our Music Minister.

2017 — Your Place?

Growing Relationship with the Surrounding Community to Connect People with God's Work in the World

Having vibrant ministries and strong leadership in place, we will now be ready to throw open the doors of the church! In 2017, we will emphasize the Monday through Saturday life of the church facility and our people. We will ensure that there are daily opportunities for people from the congregation and community to connect with God and a faith family. We will help people to respond to God's call to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world. We will expand our Music Minister to a full time position, which will allow time to expand our music ministry beyond worship. We will also increase the hours of the Children's Minister and explore whether staff support is also needed for Youth Ministry.



“A voice cries out...prepare the way of the Lord.”

Isaiah 40:3

Dear Friends of Abiding Presence,

It is incredible to see how far we have come since we kicked off our 2014 Stewardship Campaign a year ago under our theme of “Love and Good Works: Stirred by God’s Abiding Presence.” Together each of you has supported our on-going worship, education and service areas with your time, talent and financial support. You stretched toward our goals for a new youth minister and a food pantry to serve our community. As 2014 draws to a close, we ask your continued support of our many ministry areas. Especially if you have not taken the opportunity to contribute this year, we encourage you to include Abiding Presence in your year-end giving.

Exciting challenges and opportunities await us as we look toward 2015. As you review this year’s stewardship booklet, we hope you sense the excitement that is building. Let’s grow in faith together on the way to the 40th anniversary of Abiding Presence.

As Pastor Meredith eloquently laid out our three year growth plans for “God’s Place, My Place, Your Place?,” we want to emphasize that each place can only exist with your investment in your time, your talent and your treasure - your financial commitment to our ministry areas - worship, teach, connect, reach out, and serve.

Thank you again for all you do to serve God here at Abiding Presence, and we ask for your continued support as we grow in our faith here in God’s Place.

In God’s Love,
Your Stewardship Team

Lori Rowley, Chair
Kelly Ballard, Monique Fraedrich,
Steve Lucky, Julie Moore, Mike
Schultz, and Duke Taylor







For online stewardship materials,
visit abidingpresence.net
and follow the links.

