



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 37
Fall Issue, 2022

Calendar

September

7th Wednesday
Online Bible Study
begins

October

30th Sunday
Reformation Sunday

November

Food Drive

6th Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Saving Time ends

20th Sunday
Christ the King Sunday

27th Sunday
First Sunday of Advent

December

The Gifts of Hope

11th Sunday
Greening of the Church

18th Sunday
Cookie and Chinese Gift
Exchange

24th Saturday
Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 pm

25th Sunday
No Service

God's Justice

"Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies" (Psalm 5:1 and 8)

Basic to Israel's theology is the conviction that God is just and that, accordingly, in the world God rules, justice reigns. Yet, people notice that matters are not so simple. In Psalm 5, the author holds on to this conviction, but clearly, his actual experience does not readily confirm it. His enemies, whom he regards as wicked, are unpunished. He himself is not secure. On this matter, Psalm 5 expresses a unique spiritual attitude. Some might call it "faith." This faith means holding firmly to official teachings even when the actual experience does not confirm them. One with this faith not only continues to believe these teachings to be true, but also plans life according to them.

This psalm, however, also reflects a certain danger in the Israeli traditional doctrine of God's justice. Instead of understanding that good and evil are present in all of us, it may inadvertently divide the world into those who are good and those who are evil. Typically, we see ourselves as the good ones, and the others as the wicked. For example, we Americans tend to divide the world into the "good nations" and the "wicked nations." Since we already suppose that Americans are good, those who work with us on the international scene are also good. By definition, then, those who oppose our global policies are seen as bad. Since we are on God's side, those who oppose us are against God, and consequently, deserve to be destroyed. It is the human judgementalism that justifies oneself and condemns one's enemies. On the other hand, parts of the Bible, such as Psalm 95, present the understanding that God is creator of all, who can also bring everyone into one common family, undivided

between good and evil. This vision of justice here is highly anticipated and welcomed by all.

Paul saw a distinction in terms of how we understand God's justice. Do we understand it as wrath or as love? He believed that Jesus revealed God's justice as love. If we agree with Paul, the next step is to abandon the expectation that God is on our side against our enemies. God is on the side of everyone. Therefore, we should expect ourselves to be God's side, rather than placing God in our own favorable confirmation biases.

Ignoring the real threat of evil is unauthentic, but giving oneself over to retaliation, even in the name of the Lord, is less than what Christ calls us to do. The psalmist roots us in the genuine experience of one who is struggling to find divine help in facing the complex reality of evil in life.

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Message from the President

It's time again to put together and share recent summer activities and what has been happening in our lives for our newsletter. I am sure that there is lots to share, especially since we do not all meet together to worship in person. Hopefully, that will change in the near future. Thank you all for being so faithful to this congregation even though we all do not meet in person to worship. Thanks for continuing to share your talents and monetary contributions, too. This is what keeps us close together as a congregation.

As we are preparing for the start of the new school year, it seems that summer is over, but we still have about another month of summer left. We still have time to take that well deserved vacation before the weather changes. Best wishes to all who are returning to school. We wish them a very productive school year.

As the pandemic continues to linger, I know it is still somewhat stressful to some of you to deal with everyday life. For those of us who are still fearful, we can focus on accomplishing things at home or doing things that make us feel joyful or connected. We can read a book, watch family videos, look at photos, watch TV, listen to music, and such. These activities can help pick up your mood and mindset.

Thank you, Chris and Nathan, for continuing to provide and support our service through Zoom. Thank you, Pastor Na, for making sure each week that the system works. Also, thanks to Bette who continues to count and deposit our offering each week. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Congratulation to Stephanie and Marlon Gajadhar on the birth of their baby boy, Oliver, who was born on 8/16/2022. As we are now waiting for the birth of Julia Kalshoven's baby. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Try to stay safe and healthy as the year goes forward. May God's blessings be on all of us as we continue our journey at APLC.

Peace,

*Congregation President
Annie Gajadhar*

In Our Prayers: Angela, Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Julia, Ken, Laura, Lisa, Martha, Matt, Meghan, Neil, Pat, Ramesh, Wol-Mak Park, Yong-Ho Chun and Zally

Happy Birthday to: Annie Gajadhar (9/3), Rachel Soobin Ham (9/4), Eugene Lehr (9/11), Adelyn Gajadhar (9/28), Julia Kalshoven (10/2), Murzeena Gajadhar (10/18), Seon Hee Ham (11/7), Jean Opeka (11/17), Matt Opeka (12/10), Jason Kalshoven (12/13), Keisun Na(12/16). Lucas Gajadhar (12/26)

Benevolence News

Our treasurer has paid the Synod Benevolence each month and has paid all the budgeted benevolence for *Congregations United for Compassion and Empowerment (CUCE)*, *Michael's House*, *American Wheat Mission*, and *Lutheran Immigration Services LIRS*.

Remember that our church budget is not very generous in the benevolence category. If you wish to give additional support through APLC to *American Wheat Mission*, *Congregations United for Compassion and Empowerment (CUCE)*, *Lutheran Immigration Services (LIRS)*, or *Michael's House* you can write a check payable to APLC. On the check memo line and on the envelope indicate that you wish this amount to be given as an additional amount to the agency you selected. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer will work together to periodically forward the funds to the selected benevolence.

Tidbits of the month: LIRS has score of 100 out of 100 on the Charity Navigator Charity Rating Site. LIRS was involved in the recent resettlement of Afghans in Maryland and Virginia.

Bible Study



Due to Pastor's long overdue vacation trip to see his mother and our usual summer hiatus, Bible Study sessions ended in early May. We look forward to finishing *Revelation* after Labor Day and will then likely start the study of the gospel of *Matthew*. All are invited at any time, but the start of the study of the *Gospel of Mathew* would be an especially propitious time for people to join.

The Wider Church



Since Abiding Presence is a member of the Metro DC Washington Synod of the ELCA, you may be interested in the actions of our synod and Churchwide Assembly.

Pastor's notes on the Synod Assembly are found below. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held August 8 – August 12, 2022. Check the ELCA website, elca.org, and click on "News."

Synod Assembly



After two years of holding the Synod Assembly by Zoom (thanks to COVID), the 2022 Synod Assembly was held in-person on June 10–11, 2022 at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference center. By the time it was announced to be an in-person gathering, some of us were concerned about the health and safety issues because of the inherent risks surrounding the virus and its variants.

The organizers for the Assembly carefully planned the meeting with a number of safety precautions such as: strongly encouraging attendees to be vaccinated and boosted, taking a PCR test, keeping a safe distance, wearing masks, allowing enough ventilation in the meeting hall, providing plenty of hand sanitizers, and even broadcasting last-minute zoom services for those who could not attend the meeting in-person due to their health issues and concerns. Thus, the assembly was held in a hybrid format. They seem to have done a decent job since we have not heard of any covid cases since the meeting. The theme of the assembly this year was about being “Rooted in Jesus” and what we are being called to do as congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.

The keynote speaker for the Assembly was Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, President of the United Lutheran Seminary, who spoke on the subject, “Rooted in Jesus...to Live Fearlessly.” He presented our Christian faith community as a tree system – roots, branches, and fruits. The image of the tree has often been used as a fundamental archetype for the Christian community as we see the tree of life appears in the beginning of Genesis and in the last chapter of the Book of Revelation. He mentioned that the Reformers also considered the tree as the image of the Christian community, rooted in the message and life of Jesus Christ, growing its many branches, and bearing fruits of the Holy Spirit. He also said that trees in the forest may seem to be isolated or solitary, but in actuality, they are mysteriously connected through the vast forest root system, communicating, and even cooperating with other trees and organisms as one body* like the church community as “many members, but one body” in I Corinthians 12:12.

The Assembly approved a 2023 synod budget of \$1,450,000. Despite the financial challenges within the past two years, the synod has managed the financial health well through changes on how work was done to create significant savings. This means that, in addition to the 2023 budget, the Synod now has over \$180,000 surplus funds to be carried over to invest to future activities. Furthermore, the assembly heard various reports from the bishop, the synod council, Tables, Divisions and Committees, and other ministries of the ELCA. The assembly also elected the synod council members and approved a couple of proposed amendments to Constitution and Bylaws. See details at <https://metrodcelca.org/synod-assembly-2022/>

**There is a scientific study about “the wood-wide-web” by Suzanne Simard. According to her theory trees are connected through vast fungal root systems known as mycorrhizal networks.*

WHERE DID THAT PHRASE COME FROM?

Have you ever been told it was time to “**face the music?**” This is a phrase meaning it's time for one to accept the consequences of one's actions. To tell the truth, the jury's still out on this one. Some think it is related to an officer being drummed out of his regiment for bad behavior; another popular theory is that it applies to actors facing the orchestra pit at the close of a performance; another theory surmises that it pertains to the nobility, in old England, having to face the songs from the peasants, singing songs that were critical of the gentry. Although its origin seems to rise from the mid 1800's in America, there is, sadly, no clue as to its exact origin.

Then there's the phrase, "**a fate worse than death.**" Today, of course, we use the phrase to identify any horrible misfortune, but it actually was used as a euphemism for the crime of rape. In Gibbon's, "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," comes this quote;

"The matrons and virgins of Rome were exposed to injuries more dreadful, in the apprehension of chastity, than death itself."

Tarzan, too, was accused of bearing Jane to a fate worse than death, but we never heard Jane's side of it so Edgar Rice Burroughs may have erred in his assumption there. Today, the original meaning is forgotten and journalists often use the phrase loosely in many ways.

Jean Opeka

Birthdays – May – August



Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between May and August 2022. We usually sing *Happy Birthday* to those who show up at church on a Sunday near their birthday and share a special birthday dessert with them. We could not celebrate that way this time since we were not fully open and many members still attended our worship services on Zoom, but we did sing to a couple of them. Happy belated birthday, everyone!



5/3 – Ann LaVigna



5/12 – Billy Clark



5/27 – Steve McKisson



6/11 – Joyce Das



6/13 – Anna Graeber



6/18 – Bette Deller



7/4 - Jerome Gajadhar



7/15 – Rich Moore



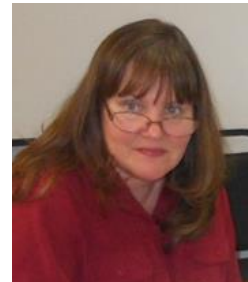
7/10 – Soomin Na



7/18 – Nathan Na



7/31- Lydia Kalshoven



8/13 - Laura Kalshoven

Father's Day – On June 19, 2022, we had a simple fellowship gathering in honor of the fathers in our church. Annie Gajadhar brought coffee and Bette Deller brought homemade brownies for a treat. This was the first time for coffee and a snack of any kind since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bette brought refreshments for the following two Sundays, and we posted a sign up sheet to resume simple refreshments for fellowship time to begin in July. Thanks to Rich Moore, who agreed to resume making the coffee for us beginning in July. Here are some photos from Father's Day 2022.



Pastor Na, Rich Moore, Billy Clark, Ken Christie, Jan Kalshoven and his son, Jason Kalshoven



Keisun Na, Annie Gajadhar, Billy Clark, Pastor Na, Rich Moore, Jason Kalshoven, Kelly Christie, Lynn Christie, Jan Kalshoven, and Ken Christie.

COUNCIL REPORT



May – The church council met on May 1, 2022. Pastor Na thanked all who helped with Holy Week and Easter events, especially our President, Annie Gajadhar, who assisted Pastor Reichard on the Sunday after Easter. Pastor Na also thanked Laura Kalshoven, for the special music during the Easter season. He also thanked the choir members and handbell players. He thanked Billy Clark for overseeing the servicing of our HVAC system and Chris Ham for monitoring and replacing lights as needed. Pastor Na announced that

he will be leaving for Korea on May 4th to spend a month with his mother in Korea. The worship service on May 22nd will be a spoken service since Laura Kalshoven will be away. Anna Graeber announced that she will be resigning as Treasurer due to personal reasons including some new health issues. A letter regarding this will be sent to PNC Bank, and the minutes will reflect that the council approved Anna's resignation. The council thanked Anna for all she has done over the years to serve the church. Laura Kalshoven will become Treasurer. Billy Clark reported that the drip pan at the bottom of the air conditioner unit is rusting. It will be addressed in June or July. The estimated cost for replacement is about \$1000.

June – The council met on June 12, 2022. Pastor Na thanked all who helped while he was in Korea during May, especially President (Annie Gajadhar), Vice President (Billy Clark), and Music Director (Laura Kalshoven). He reported that his visit to his mother was tough, but she is in much better shape now. Her former congregation and Pastor's visit was a source of comfort to her following her husband's death in January. Pastor Na reported that he attended the Synod Conference on June 10th and 11th. He will report on that in the next newsletter. Information can also be found on the Synod website. The fall newsletter will be published on Sunday, September 4th. Bible study and choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 7th.

Laura Kalshoven, our new Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report and submitted the usual charts of income and expenses along with information regarding the status of our bank account at PNC Bank and our Thrivent investments. Laura will be out of town for three weeks in July and August and again in September when her daughter, Julia's, baby is due. Laura will do provide virtual music presentations on Zoom during those times and will send the Treasurer's report to the council by email.

July – There was no council meeting in July of 2022.

August – There was no council meeting in August of 2022.

The next council meeting will be held on September 11, 2022, at approximately 11.10 am.

Bette Deller, Council Secretary

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Jean and Matt Opeka:** As this is being written, Jean and Matt will be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary during a quiet dinner with family and cold duck...no, not the waddling kind of duck. For those of you old enough to remember, cold duck is a wine concoction popular about 50 or so years ago. It's always been one of Jean's favorites but a little hard to find these days! Gee...where did those years go?

- **Anna Graeber:** I usually believe what doctors tell me, and I have had so many real issues that I rarely panic over "bad" news. But the information I received in April, which ultimately proved to be false, sent me for a loop. Although I have ongoing issues from my past surgery and treatments, I am grateful that there is nothing new to add to the list. I still stay close to home and keep up on my reading groups and meetings with friends and family on Zoom. My family in Germany and Switzerland are doing well. One great nephew had a mild case of covid, but to date the others have avoided the virus.

- **Stephanie & Marlon Gajadhar:** On August 16 at 3:09 PM Stephanie and I welcomed our son, Oliver Jerry Gajadhar, to the world. Little Ollie is doing well and his big sister, Adelyn, is very excited about her baby brother. We look forward to introducing him to the congregation.



- **Eugene Lehr:** I did quite a lot of distance traveling this summer to as many festivals as possible, along with the local scheduled festivals to advertise our WASCA (Washington Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association) festival for next March. These included a trip to Williamsburg, VA, in May for the 33rd Virginia State Convention, and I toured the Historic Williamsburg streets during one really hot day. In June, I took a two-day road trip to get to The National Square Dance Convention in Evansville, Indiana; and I stopped along the way to visit some of the KY capital of Frankfort. I especially enjoyed the tour of the Rebecca Ruth Chocolates



factory. After spending four days dancing and seeing the town, it took me two days to come home. The Star-Spangled Banner Festival in Hunt Valley, MD was in July, and the dancing was great. The following weekend, I flew to Saint Joseph, Missouri for the HASSDA (Heart of America Singles Square Dance Association) Convention. While there, I took a tour of the Pony Express National Museum, the Patee House Museum/Carousel, and the Jesse James Museum. Two other WASCA couples attended the Gatlinburg, TN, and North Hills, NC, Conventions to put out our display and give out registration forms to as many people as possible. I will be heading to the Pennsylvania Fabulous Fall Festival in Gettysburg, PA, on September 15th for four more days of dancing. There were only a few dances locally this summer, but the three clubs that I belong to will start dancing again in September for the upcoming school year. If anyone is interested in joining a beginner group and learning to dance--just let me know!

- Ramesh Das: Grandparenting – When Joyce and I heard that we would be 1st time grandparents, we thought that the sun must have risen from the west. But when we became grandparents for the 2nd time, well, the earth must surely be rotating on a different axis. But we were too excited to care about the occurrence of heavenly phenomenon. Noah's and Elijah's appearance were a phenomenon themselves.

Grandkids are so much fun! They make you feel young again. They want you to play games with them running around without a care in the world. My old bones start rebelling against such strenuous exercise, but I do try. I often wonder where they get such unlimited energy.

Our grandkids wrap us around their little fingers but who cares. They are so smart that they know they can get away with anything when they are with us. Not even Annie or Norma is immune to their charms when they need something. One look at their adorable faces and you want to give them the world.

What I cannot understand is where in heaven's name do these kids learn to navigate a iPhone or iPad so skillfully. That must be part of their DNA. And sometimes I am hard pressed to understand their language. Thank goodness their mom can translate. How did she know? There should be a handbook on kids' language for grandparents. Regardless we know that our grandkids love us unconditionally as we do them and so we try to teach them good habits. Not an easy exercise.

Don't you wish that the world was just filled with grandkids only-pure innocence. I'm sure Jesus would have said "suffer the little grandkids to come unto me for I would love them endlessly for such is the kingdom of heaven."

Through all of this there has to be a however and the however comes with mom (Nevena) of course, who sets boundaries. These boundaries must not be circumvented, and we try to respect them although it is so hard when they look to you for support. We are proud both that our daughter has rules that will serve her children well in the future and that our grandkids tend to follow them.

Our grandkids Noah and Eli are our world, and we love them so much- how much shhhhh... let's keep this a secret...more than we love their parents. Jan and Laura, you will experience this soon enough, and if you think I am fibbing just ask Jerome and Murzeena. Pastor and Keisun, someday you will too I pray. God bless.

- **Pat Thornberg:** For the past few years, my family has been vacationing in North Carolina, visiting old friends and family we knew as my children grew up. Last year was a sad year as my children lost their father and three other family members, and on a lake in North Carolina we attended a celebration of their father's and the other family members' lives. So, this year for my family vacation, I wanted something totally different than just having fun together. I investigated several places and decided on Williamsburg. Williamsburg was great. It had something for everyone at every age level.



July rolled around, and my daughter and granddaughter finally arrived after a 12-hour delay at the airport. The next day all of us set the course to Williamsburg. We arrived earlier and we toured Williamsburg and finally found a restaurant that had gluten-free meals for my granddaughter. Amelia, my granddaughter, really wanted a hamburger, but we never did find a place that served gluten-free hamburgers. We had a hard time trying to find meals for her on vacation. In California, most restaurants have gluten-free meals. She was a trooper and handled it well.

That afternoon we arrived at the campground. We got settled and headed for the pool. It was hot and the pool was great. It was so nice to get in the pool at my age and play games with the girls. We had a cookout that night and we finally called it a night. Everyone wanted to get their rest and be up early and ready for water country.

My son and wife cooked breakfast for us, and we headed to water country. It was hot! They had water slides, rides, and water pools everywhere. While the grandkids went on all the waterslides, we sat under the cabana and just enjoyed everything. We all enjoyed the wave pool. The pool had 2 to 4 feet waves every 30 to 45 minutes. The adults parked themselves at this pool. It was so much fun that we all could enjoy it. I liked to wave pool so much that I didn't venture out to other water spots. We just played with the girls. You would have thought we would be ready for bed, but instead we went to the pool at the campground.



The next morning, my nephew came in. He worked for Kings Dominion in special effects. He knew all about Busch Gardens, so he and Angela, and Amelia left early to go ride the big roller coasters. Dennis, I, and Mike's family came later. Mike's girls are too young to ride the big roller coasters.

Busch Gardens offered a lot of different entertainment for all age groups. I rented a scooter and rode around on it for a while. My son, Dennis, and I decided it was too hot for us, so we rode the train, sky rides, and took in air-conditioned theaters that were open. My daughter-in-law took the scooter and went with the girls. Several hours later, we all met for late lunch. I was surprised that even though it was so hot I was walking well and got around without the scooter. I was glad we had rented it because my daughter-in-law with her asthma had a hard time with the heat.

By then, the adults were tired, but the kids wanted to stay. Stephen, my nephew, Angela told us to go back to the campground and that they would take the kids on the rest of the rides. I don't know how they did with the heat, but they spent 10 hours at the park. We had no problems when they came back. The girls went straight to bed. The kids decided to go back to water country, but Grandma was smart, and we did our own thing.

Dennis and I decided to go to Jamestown. We were riding along, and we missed our turn and somehow, we ended up on a bridge with a ferry. We asked the people on the ferry where the ferry went. The ferry went to a small rural island with a seafood restaurant. So, we had a free 20-minute ride to the island that had not much to see, just crops and some houses. We turned off to a winding side road and to our surprise we came upon a large waterside restaurant where many friendly locals were having lunch. The restaurant had a nice atmosphere, and the food was excellent and reasonable priced. We wanted to see more of the island, but we did not have much time as we needed to take the ferry back. We were so glad we made this mistake. This was the best part of the trip. However, we did tour part of Jamestown, but a storm suddenly came up and we had to end the tour and go back to the campground.



We all got back at the same time. Amelia was not used to electrical storms, and she was scared to death. Her cousins were used to them and couldn't understand why she was so frightened. The storm passed and the girls rode their bikes all over the campground checking everything out as the next day we were heading back. The girls went to the center to play games while we packed up.

On the way home, we stopped by Mount Vernon and toured the grounds. We had a great old fashion lunch at the restaurant on the grounds. My granddaughter was fascinated by the old buildings and furniture. She will be studying our first president this year. We hope

history will be more interesting knowing what it looked like in those days. That evening we all met again, and the girls said their goodbyes to each other until next year. The next morning Angela and Amelia got on a plane to CA. They had no problems going back.

We had a great time! It took a week for us to get back to our routine. I highly recommend Busch Gardens for family trips as there is something for all ages. I also owe a lot to my instructor at Fairland Aquatic Center for helping me to get in shape for this trip. Anyone who has joint problems please check with Carolyn at the center. All the instructors there are good there, but Carolyn works with seniors, and she has been there the longest.

-Bette Deller – Bette had cataract surgery in May by Dr. Alyson Hall at the Lakeview Surgery Center in Bowie, MD. She was busy following a schedule changing weekly for putting drops in her eyes and obeying all the do's and don'ts. There was to be no lifting, no strenuous exercising, no bending, and more. The surgery went well and corrected her distant vision to 20/20 in one eye and 20/40 in the other. She recuperated through the end of June and had her glasses reconfigured to compensate for the weaker eye and to correct for reading and close vision.



Dr. Alyson Hall
Ophthalmologist



LAKEVIEW SURGERY CENTER
17001 Science Dr Bowie, MD 20715



Bette and Her Son, Steven

Following a bad thunderstorm on July 3rd, Bette's TV, Internet, and phone went out for 5 ½ hours. The next day someone from Verizon replaced her router and the Verizon ONT box. However, when he was finished, she still had no Internet, no Netflix or Amazon on the TV, and no communication with ADT for her security alarm. She had her son come over to fix the Internet and reprogram her TV also and had ADT come out to fix her alarm system. What a nightmare that was! She finally got everything working again by July 20th.

Bette also had a weird car problem in August! After doing some grocery shopping in the new Giant at the back of Calverton, she could not get her trunk lid to stay closed. She couldn't drive home with it open, so she asked a young man on his way into the store for help. He tied the lid closed for her so she could drive home...slowly with her flashers on. She could not get a repair appointment at her usual repair shop for a week or more, so she called Beltsville Garage, which took her the next day. The car needed a new trunk latch due to a broken plastic piece inside the latch and new fuses to allow her fob to open it. Bette never had this happen before with other cars she owned, so she is glad it is fixed and is now closing her trunk more gently.

- Pastor Na: When I was on the way to the church for the Maundy Thursday service back in April, I received a call from the secretary of my father's church in Korea, telling me that my mother had not been doing well since my father's passing in January. Although this was still during the COVID variant surge and mandatory 7-day isolation upon entering Korea, the call prompted me to think that I should not delay my visit to my mother any longer. The

preparation to travel to Korea was a challenging endeavor: organizing four substitute pastors on short notice, putting all my and Keisun's government issued vaccination records into one QR code as Korean government requested, a PCR test within 48 hours before departure, and purchasing flight tickets, when prices began to soar due to people scrambling to go to Korea when the Korean government announced it was dropping the mandatory 7-day isolation on May 1. Chris Ham basically helped me go through all the tests and preparations for entering Korea since he has been traveling to Korea often even during the peak of the pandemic.

It was so emotional and heartbreaking for me to see my mother mourn and grieve. The absence of my father left a hollow emptiness in the place where my family has been living together. My mother, Keisun, and I paid a visit to a local Korean National cemetery where my father's ashes have been laid since he was a veteran during the Korean war. The Sunday of May 8th was my mother's 88th birthday, which is a special celebration in Korean tradition. Keisun asked the fellowship committee of my father's church to place an order of special lunch boxes for everyone since cooking and sharing meals were not permitted due to COVID.

My mother got better every day during my stay. She needed emotional support. She was depressed from the deep sense of loss since my father's passing, but eventually, she began to recover her usual traits of considerateness, positive energy, and happiness. She was comforted by her faith and my presence. I was overjoyed to see her regain her usual sense of self, character, and personality.



Keisun and I met our old friends from college. One of our friends bought a traditional Korean house on the



countryside and invited us to a dinner. The town where their house was located happened to be the hometown where the new president of Korea was born. My friend took us on a tour around an old building complex where the tribe of the new Korean president originated. A congratulatory victory banner for the new president still remained hung among the trees in front of the complex. Keisun also met her close friend, Myung Eun Song, from her elementary school, and she had a delightful time at the café near the Su-Seong Lake. It was an overwhelming trip, but it was well worth it.

Trivia Corner

September – Back in the days of the Anglo-Saxons, September used to be called Gerst Monath, which translates into “**barley month.**” It was given this name because it was the time of year that the barley crop was harvested, and it was a special time as they brewed a popular drink out of it. The Anglo-Saxons had another name for September too, which was Haefest Monath. This is a particularly interesting one as this translates into “harvest month,” and our modern-day usage of the word “*harvest*” originates from this name!



October – Some say that October has just one birthstone, the opal. With this dazzling stone who needs another? The opal was valued by the Ancient Romans as the most priceless of all. The opal comes in a myriad of striking colors that often seem to swirl together and is a symbol of both faithfulness, purity, and hope. Opal gemstones are believed to cure eye infections, strengthen memory, calm nerves, and enhance creativity. Others say that the tourmaline is also a birthstone for October. Tourmalines are believed to help you stay calm while under pressure, bring peace and tranquility, and defeat negative emotions like jealousy and anger.



November – The name ‘November’ is believed to derive from “novem” which is the Latin for the number nine. In the ancient Roman calendar, November was the ninth month after March. November’s name has remained unchanged since the ancient Roman calendar, which was in use until 45 BC. This first Roman calendar was only made up of ten months, with November being the ninth month. When the Julian calendar was adopted in 45 BC two new months were added, which pushed November back to the 11th position. Despite its change in position, November was never renamed. November is one of the four months which have 30 days. The other months are September, April, and June.

9

December - According to a study of over 11,000 individuals, babies born in December are most likely to reach the age of hundred or above. As for the icing on the cake, December babies tend to live longer in general as compared to their counterparts born during other months.





SERVING IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER

	4 TH	11 TH
A-Minister	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
Lector	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

	18 TH	25 TH
A-Minister	Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
Lector	Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das

OCTOBER

	2 ND	9 TH
A-Minister	Billy Clark	Richard Moore
Lector	Richard Moore	Billy Clark

	16 TH	23 RD
A-Minister	Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

	30 TH	
A-Minister	Bette Deller	
Lector	Jean Opeka	

NOVEMBER

	6 TH	13 TH
A-Minister	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
Lector	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

	20 TH	27 TH
A-Minister	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
Lector	Ramesh Das	Richard Moore

DECEMBER

	4 TH	11 TH
A-Minister	Richard Moore	Anna Graeber
Lector	Billy Clark	Annie Gajadhar

	18 TH	24 TH (CHRISTMAS EVE)
A-Minister	Annie Gajadhar	Bette Deller
Lector	Anna Graeber	Jean Opeka