



# Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 39, 2023  
Spring & Summer Issue

## Calendar

### May

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
Mother's Day

**18<sup>th</sup> Thursday**  
Ascension of Our Lord

**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
Day of Pentecost

### June

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**  
Synod Assembly

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
The Holy Trinity/First  
Sunday after Pentecost

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
Father's Day

### July

**4<sup>th</sup> Monday**  
Independence Day

## "See Him in Galilee"

*"He is going ahead of you to Galilee"* (Matthew 28:6)

Matthew's Gospel has a distinctive way of expressing when heaven and earth intersect in Jesus's resurrection. As the two Marys approach the sealed tomb, all heaven appears to break loose. An earthquake occurs because the angel of the Lord breaks onto the scene, rolling back the stone that seemed to separate Jesus utterly from the life that he had once lived, and then, sitting down on it as an obvious sign of divine triumph.

Matthew asserts that God is erupting into the world in a new and decisive manner.

Matthew's core theological point is that there is no mere naturalistic way of speaking about the resurrection. This is not about human capabilities or possibilities. It is completely about the realm of God's capability and determination.

The empty tomb says that, notwithstanding all the evidence in the tragic story of humanity that manifests pain and suffering which seemingly overpower healing and wholeness, but in this case, God has acted to overcome the pain and harm done to Jesus. This serves as a promise that in the divine reign fully realized, the same can and will be true for all of us. God will overcome the pain and suffering with His own triumph through Jesus. Therefore, we can conclude that there is profound hope for us to seek restoration from suffering or even death.

More importantly, Matthew wants to further say that Jesus is going ahead of his disciples to Galilee and that he will meet them there. This is a fulfillment of the promise he made to his disciples in 26:32, a promise that, though the sheep would be scattered, he would gather them together again in Galilee.

Galilee is not only the place where Jesus had promised to gather his scattered sheep again, but it is also the place where his ministry, which embodied the dawning reign of God, had been lived out. It is the place where he called disciples, healed the sick,

fed the multitudes, and taught about a Messiah who would suffer. The point of telling the disciples to meet him in Galilee is straightforward: The risen Jesus is to be expected in the places of his lived and future ministry, and in all the places of grace-filled endeavors, where healing, feeding, teaching, and even suffering is undertaken in his company. The encounter with the risen Jesus is not a self-contained, solitary spiritual experience. It is a promise of the mission he pursues even now and continues to invite us to join. Amen.

Pastor Jongkil Na

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## Message from the President

Easter Sunday has come and gone. Our own congregation heard a very inspiring sermon by Pastor Na, enjoyed hearing handbells and a choir of four; all of this made the baptism of Oliver Gajadhar quite special. After many years we had a potluck brunch, and many delicious dishes. Thanks to everyone who participated.

We are already four months into the year, some of us already thinking about vacation. Pastor Na is preparing to visit Korea at the beginning of May for one month to see his mother, a well-deserved time off. Have a safe trip, you will be missed. Pastor Na has become an expert connecting to zoom each week. Standing in to help while Pastor is away with the zoom connection is Jan Kalshoven who is always ready to offer his assistance for anything for the church. We are very grateful for your assistance, Jan. There will be two Pastors filling in for Pastor while is gone and many of us filling in to ensure that everything goes well on Sundays during the service. Not that is easy to fill Pastor Na's shoes while he is away, but we will do our best.

Although our church is small in number, we are generous by serving with our talents and financial contribution. We are almost back to our normal worship, there are fresh flowers at the altar and fellowship hour is back as usual. Thank you all for your continued support. Let's keep our church family in our prayers for those who are not feeling well.

Be safe and stay healthy!

Peace,

*Annie Gajadhar, President*



**In Our Prayers:** Angela, Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Janet, Jean, Julia, Ken, Linda, Lisa, Martha, Matt, Meghan, Neil, Pat, Ramesh, Wol-Mak Park and Zally

**Happy Birthday to:** Ann LaVigna, Billy Clark(5/12), Steve McKisson(5/27), Joyce Das(6/11), Anna Graeber(6/13), Bette Deller(6/18), Jerome Gajadhar(7/4), Soomin Na(7/10), Nathan Na(7/18), Lydia Kalshoven(7/31), Laura Kalshoven(8/13), Ken Ryland(8/14)

### **Benevolence/Outreach**

Earlier this year we received an update on donations to the Synod's Christmas *Gifts of Hope Drive*. Four individuals donated a total of \$750 online and identified themselves as members of Abiding Presence. (Others may have given, but, if so, they did not identify as members of our congregation.)



We also held a Thanksgiving 2022 to Easter 2023 drive for *The Maryland Food Bank*. At Christmas the amount given was \$280, and as of April 16<sup>th</sup> that amount had risen to a total of \$480.



As reported in our December newsletter, Michael's House (dedicated to serving the elderly poor in developing world countries) ceased operation at the end of March 2023. Prior to that date, APLC forwarded the agreed upon \$200 in benevolence to Michael's House.

We continue our monthly giving to our Metro DC Synod.

*Anna Graeber*

### **Music Ministry**



It is so good to be back at Abiding Presence! I am forever grateful to Annie Gajadhar, Bette Deller, and Steve McKisson for rehearsing the Easter choral piece while I was gone. They were rock solid by the time I returned, and Josephine, Jason, and Lydia were easily able to follow their lead in singing the piece.

Many thanks are also overdue to Steve McKisson who, after Rich Moore's passing, became the sole person cantoring for our services. We are truly blessed to have his voice! Steve and I will continue to sing duets during the offertory until we break for the summer. If anyone is interested in joining us, we, of course, would be thrilled to have you!

*Laura Kalshoven, Choir Director/Pianist*

## Bible Study Notes



This spring we continued our study of the Book of Matthew.

When Jesus calls his disciples at the onset of His ministry, it is simply Jesus' call to "Follow me" that brought some of the disciples, (Simon-Peter, Andrew, James, and John) to Him--apparently without knowing who He was or where they were to go. What was required was simply to follow him. The power of Jesus' word and His call to follow His path are themes in Matthew.

In Matthew after the report of the calling the disciples, there is a very brief account of His healing and preaching at the start of Jesus' ministry. Mark and Luke describe His acts of healing in many verses prior to verses describing His teachings. However, Matthew gives much greater attention to the words of Jesus, or at least his idea of what Jesus would want Matthew's congregation to hear. This continues Matthew's theme of attention to Jesus' words.

We will continue with the study of "The Sermon on the Mount" when Bible Study resumes in September. In terms of background, we learned that although described as "a" sermon, it appears to be a collection of sayings from different settings. The three chapters 5-7, devoted to the sermon include the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, the salt of the earth analogy and many other familiar and pithy pieces of advice on how to live -- at least as Matthew thought Jesus would have us follow Him.

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



Our annual meeting was held on January 29, following the Sunday service. After President, Annie Gajadhar determined that we had a quorum present in person and on Zoom, devotions started the meeting.

Last year's minutes of the annual meeting were approved, as was the agenda for this year's meeting.

President Annie Gajadhar, Pastor Na and Music Director Laura Kalshoven reviewed their written report. Financial Secretary Ann Lavigna noted that our giving pattern is generous and consistent.

The treasurer then presented the budget for 2023 and noted the changes that had been made since last year. Before being passed, a motion was made to increase the amount paid for supply organists as Laura will be away a little longer than normal. This motion was passed, and the budget was approved.

Council members were then installed; Pastor and Laura were given extra monetary gifts for their service, and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## WHERE DID THAT PHRASE COME FROM?

You've heard it said, "Oh that was just a piece of cake," meaning something was easy? Well, that little expression is relatively new. It was coined by Ogden Nash in the 1930's and has been popular ever since.

How about, "It's raining cats and dogs." That's a bit more obscure but originally was thought to come from cats and dogs falling from old English thatch roofs as they huddled between the wooden roof and the thatch topping to keep dry. "Experts" decided this was unlikely as the thatch provides good traction and slipping would be usual. Next, the "experts" decided the idea came from one of the Norse gods for storms whose symbol depicted dogs and wolves and a witch whose intimacy with black cats is well documented. So.....take your pick.....your guess is as good as the experts.

## Holy Week Services



We began Holy Week on **Palm Sunday**, April 2nd, with the distribution of palm branches commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The branches were waved during the service as we remembered how he was loved and then suddenly turned upon.



On **Maundy Thursday**, selected passages were read citing Jesus' directions to his disciples at the Last Supper. The word, Maundy, actually refers to foot washing, as Jesus did this, humbling himself before his followers. The word comes from the Latin, for mandate, or command, and this night also began the institution of the Eucharist to followers of Christ.



On **Good Friday**, selected passages were read from Matthew telling the story of the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion, His death on the cross and his burial. But why do we call this "Good" Friday? Actually, "good" used to mean "holy", and in some churches this is Holy Friday instead of Good Friday, but because His death was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, many Christian churches call it the same as we do-- most certainly a "good" thing!

## Easter Sunday



**Holy Baptism** – There was a Holy Baptism of Oliver Jerry Gajadhar on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, to welcome him into the Lord's family. Oliver is the infant child of Marlon and Stephanie Gajadhar.

The church was adorned with Easter lilies, and it was a joyous service with the singing of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," and "Thine is the Glory." Jason, Josie, and Lydia, members of the Kalshoven family added their singing voices to the choir, and handbells were played by Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller as part of the choir anthem.





The baptism began with Oliver and his parents and sponsors gathered at the baptismal font in the rear of the sanctuary. The congregation also gathered around the font as witnesses and to affirm their own baptism. Pastor Na read a short introduction telling how baptism liberates us from sin and death and how through the waters of baptism, we are reborn as children of God and inheritors of eternal life.



Then the Representatives of the Congregation presented Oliver Jerry Gajadhar for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Pastor Na explained their obligations as parents to bring Oliver to services and provide him with instruction in the Christian faith so that in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life. They promised to fulfill those obligations. A responsive reading entitled Prayers of Intercession followed this.

After the prayers there was a responsive reading of Thanksgiving in which the importance of the gift of water was noted throughout Bible history. At the end of this reading, we asked God to pour out His Holy Spirit so that those who are baptized may have their sins washed away, be given new life, and be brought forth as inheritors of His kingdom.

The final part of the ceremony was a responsive reading of the renunciation of evil and the profession of faith by the congregation. This was followed by the actual baptizing of Oliver Gajadhar. Pastor Na poured water from a small shell over Oliver's head as he recited, "Oliver Jerry Gajadhar, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Then he gently dried the baby's head with a towel.





A hymn entitled “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” was sung as the baptismal group went to the altar at the front of the church and the congregation took their seats in the sanctuary for the rest of the ceremony. At the front of the altar, Pastor Na conducted the laying on of hands, the signing of the cross on the forehead of Oliver, and the giving of a lighted candle to the parents. Jason Kalshoven and Annie Gajadhar participated as readers in this part of the ceremony. The congregation then welcomed Oliver into the Lord’s family followed by a sharing of the peace.



Following the baptismal ceremony, the regular worship service continued. It included the presentation of gifts, the choir anthem,

the offertory, thanksgiving, praise, the Lord’s prayer, communion, and the pastoral blessing.

The recessional hymn sung at the end the service was “Thine is the Glory.” It was a lovely Easter service followed by a delicious potluck feast, much happy camaraderie, and clever thank-you favors given to members made by the Gajadhar family. What a wonderful day!



### Birthday Celebration

We usually sing Happy Birthday to members who show up at church on a Sunday near their birthday. Then each honoree blows out a candle in whatever dessert is available that Sunday. Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between January and May. Happy birthday, everyone!



Jan Kalshoven – Jan. 1



Pastor Na – Jan. 20



Marlon Gajadhar – Feb. 10



Sherlon Gajadhar – Feb. 10



Josie Kalshoven – Feb. 25



Stephanie Gajadhar – Mar. 1



Chris Ham – Mar. 18



Joshua Ham – Mar. 19



Pat Thornberg – March 20



Ramesh Das – April 20

#### The Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year is a celebration observed by many Asian cultures and is also observed in the U.S. The year of 2023 is the year of the rabbit. According to tradition, people born in the year of the rabbit are believed to be gentle, quiet, elegant, patient, and very responsible. Years of the rabbit include: 2023, 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939, and 1927.



## Pastor Na's Birthday

Pastor Na's birthday was on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This year we celebrated it on Sunday, January 22, 2023. We sang Happy Birthday to Pastor Na during the coffee hour. Bette Deller made her Epiphany cake for some fun that day. Epiphany is the season when the three kings, or Magi followed the star to visit the Christ Child in Bethlehem. The cake had gum drops on top to make the cake look like a king's crown. It also had a small plastic baby inside to represent the Christ Child and three gold coins to represent the three kings.

By tradition, those who find the baby in their slice of cake are said to receive good luck for the coming year. Those who find a gold coin get to wear a crown as one of the three kings during the celebration. Jan Kalshoven found a gold coin in the slice of cake he chose, so he wore a king's crown during our coffee hour. Bette Deller found the plastic baby in the leftover cake that she took home, so it is predicted that she will have good luck in the coming year. She also found one of the gold coins. Pastor Na found the third gold coin in the portion of the cake that he took home, so he was also a king for the day. Since the wise men followed a star, Bette also made some star-shaped cookies along with some pecan butterballs and green grapes to add to the refreshments.



## Council Report



**January** – Pastor Na thanked members who helped decorate the church for Christmas and Anna Graeber for announcing the benevolence opportunities each week. He also thanked the extended Kalshoven family for singing with the choir for special services and announced the annual meeting to be held on January 29, 2023. Laura Kalshoven, our music director, and organist will be away for 8 weeks beginning in February and will provide supply musicians or recorded music during her absence. The proposed budget was discussed and amended before presenting it to the congregation. Pastor Na announced that reports for the annual meeting are due by January 17<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11:10 am. Ann LaVigna, Financial Secretary, was not in attendance at the meeting, but submitted her reports and graphs. Laura Kalshoven submitted the Treasurer's report on income, expenses, and the status of our Thrivent accounts. She will investigate investing some of those investments into a CD.

**February** – Pastor Na said it was good to see everyone again and thanked everyone for their participation in the annual meeting last month. He said that he did not have much to report. He announced that Lent begins this coming Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and that there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 pm both in person and via Zoom. Bible study will continue on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm following Ash Wednesday throughout Lent. Pastor Na announced the 2023 Synod Assembly meeting to be held on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rockville, MD. He will need two volunteers to accompany him to that. There is a reduced fee of \$100 per person if those names are submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ann LaVigna, Financial Secretary, submitted her financial report, and Laura Kalshoven, Treasurer, submitted her Treasurer's report. The council voted to move more of the Thrivent investment funds into CD's. Laura needs the council officers to sign an authorization form to allow her access as the new Treasurer so she can update our Mission Fund. Laura will be out of town and working online for the next 4 weeks. She will be back by the Wednesday before Easter. The current council officers all agreed to remain in their offices for the coming year.

**March** – Pastor Na thanked Bette Deller for decorating the coffee room with seasonal décor each month. He reminded us that we need to have two volunteers to accompany him to the Synod Assembly meeting in Rockville on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bette Deller and Pat Thornberg agreed to go with him. Pastor Na announced the baptism of Oliver Gajadhar to be held on Easter. Everything is ready, and we will have a potluck lunch after the service. Pastor Na thanked Chris Ham for buying us a new computer for the church on sale at Costco and thanked the council for approving this purchase. Other announcements included the reminder that Bible study will not be held during Holy Week or the week after but will resume on Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30 pm and continue thereafter during Lent. There will be worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 pm at church and via Zoom. The church newsletter will be published the first week of May, and there will be a publishing committee meeting on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Ann LaVigna did not submit a financial report this month, but Laura Kalshoven presented a Treasurer's report. Chris Ham suggested that we get rid of our church website and put the information from it on social media instead. These platforms are free and will get more viewership. Anna Graeber put that into a motion, and the council



voted to pass that motion. There was a discussion about scheduling the memorial service for Rich Moore. We are still trying to get his ashes to have at that service. If this does not happen, we will have the service without the ashes on the one-year anniversary of his death in September.

**April** – Pastor Na thanked everyone who was involved in our Easter activities: those who provided the decorations and the lilies, the handbell players, the choir, the organist, and those who participated in the baptism. He is constantly amazed by our faith community and is very grateful for all we do. He also reported that Billy Clark had our air conditioner checked on Wednesday, April 12th and repaired. The cost of the repairs that were needed was covered by our maintenance contract. The council discussed three items of business at the April meeting. One was regarding the purchase of a new desktop computer for the church since the current one often fails to work properly. The motion to make this purchase was made by Billy Clark, seconded by Chris Ham, and passed by the votes of the council members. Chris Ham will make the purchase for us. The second item was planning for Pentecost since Pastor Na will be in South Korea visiting his mother during the month of May. Pastor Reichard is having some health issues and recommended two other pastors who could serve. Peter Bastien will preside over the services on May 7, 14, and 28. Pastor Eugene Kern will preside on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Bette Deller will purchase a set number of red geraniums to decorate the church for Pentecost. Members may submit the names of family members and friends for dedications and are invited to make donations to the church for the cost of the geraniums to decorate the church. Annie Gajadhar will handle the list of dedications. Jan Kalshoven will set up and manage the Zoom services during May and will change the altar linens and banner for Pentecost. The third item of business discussed concerned investing some of our investment funds into stocks now that the market for stocks is improving. Pastor Na moved that we invest \$2,000 into the stock market as recommended by Billy Clark and Jan Kalshoven and re-evaluate its performance in July. Pat Thornberg seconded the motion, and it was passed. Jan Kalshoven reported that a nephew and sister of Rich Moore were found, but neither has responded to the outreach to them as yet. Jan also reported that he no longer has access to Rich Moore's bank account. However, he was sent a check from Rich's estate, which was deposited in the church investment account at the end of March. The issue of obtaining Rich's ashes is still ongoing. There seems to be a lot of red tape trying to get ashes distributed to anyone other than family members. The plan is to hold a memorial service for Rich on the one-year anniversary of his death with or without the ashes.

*Bette Deller, Council Secretary*

## News from the Pews

- **Jean Opeka** – The Opeka family has, for many years, observed a ritual for their Easter breakfast - the making of **potica**, a Yugoslavian nut bread. Being physically unable to roll out the dough, as needed, Jean and Matt called on their son and grandson for the hard part. Potica is made with a nut filling (2 lbs. of ground pecans, lots of sugar, honey, and milk), and the dough, which has been kneaded in the bread maker, makes two large loaves. Then comes the hard part.....pulling, stretching, and rolling the dough into two rectangles, 20" by 30". The dough is then covered with the nut mixture, rolled up and allowed to rise, then baked.....mmmmmmmm delicious! Ordinarily, breakfast is early, but this year was converted to brunch, with dyed hard-boiled eggs, ham and potica. Hopefully, the tradition will be continued. Although potica can be bought, It's not the same as the homemade kind!

- **Annie Gajadhar** – On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, if my dad were still alive, he would have been 100



years old on this day. His life was celebrated by his 9 children, daughters, and son- in- law, 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren joined together by zoom from Guyana, Canada, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Boston and of course Maryland. Each of us, through tears and laughter, relived our special moments with him. My father was our provider and protector, he loved his family very much. Like all parents, he only wanted the best for us. My father was a religious man. I remember when I moved to Maryland, he told me to make sure I join a church, and here I am at APLC. My father was my hero, and my brother said he was his captain. I am blessed to have had 2 wonderful parents. For me they were the world's best parents.

I would not change anything about them except the fact that they left us too soon.

- **Bette Deller** – The first few months of 2023 were quiet for me. I had brunches a few times with Denise, my daughter-in-law, when she came to Maryland to visit her dad.



A teacher colleague of mine from my early years of teaching passed away in January. She was a music teacher, who retired to Hurlock, MD on the Eastern Shore and was well-loved by students and teachers alike. My youngest sister had a terrible fall in her home in Florida on February 2nd requiring many staples in the back of her head and surgery on her ankle, which had multiple breaks. She is still in the recovery process from it. Another teacher friend, who was maid of honor in my wedding, who now lives in Ohio, called me for a long chat in February, which I enjoyed. We need to chat more often. I sent treats called petit fours from Swiss Colony to my family for Valentine's Day and again on Easter. I also treated my sister and her daughter to lunch at the Olive Garden in mid-February to exchange Christmas gifts, which was fun. I had been ill at the end of December, and one thing or another kept us from getting together earlier to do that. In March I worked on organizing my tax statements and took them to my tax preparer. I also had a medical checkup, which had mostly good things to report. I have to work on cholesterol, triglycerides, and blood pressure. In April, my Long & Foster office had a luncheon, which I attended and enjoyed. That's all I can think of for the first three and a



half months of 2023. There are family birthdays, graduations, and other holidays coming up in the next few months so I will have more to report for the next issue.

**- Gene Lehr – Square Dance Festival: “Dancing Through the Cherry Blossoms”**

I did quite a lot of traveling last summer to help advertise our WASCA (Washington



Area Square Dancers Cooperative Association) festival for this March. The festivals I attended included the Virginia Festival in Williamsburg, VA; the National Square Dance Convention in Evansville, Indiana; The Star-Spangled Banner Festival in Hunt Valley, MD; the Heart of America Singles Festival in Missouri; and the Pennsylvania Fabulous Fall Festival in Gettysburg, PA. In September, we started attending the Washington Area club theme

dances. I attended most of the “17” fantastic dances for the clubs that had theme dances. The Good Luck Squares, the New Carrollton Square Dance Club that I belonged to, had their theme dance in January. After years of dancing, the club ended with a combination Farewell, 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, and Theme Dance. My caller and friend, Jim Wass, started The Good Luck Squares and called on Thursday nights for 33 years.

Our committee for this year’s WASCA festival started working together in March 2019; and the festival should have happened in March 2021. After four years and cancelling two festivals, we finally celebrated the 62<sup>nd</sup> WASCA Festival – “Dancing Through the Cherry Blossoms” on March 16 – 18, 2023. I helped decorate the hotel on the evening of March 15<sup>th</sup>. There was an increase to 699 attendees at this year’s festival, and my friend, Ginny (see photo above) was one of the directors.

Starting with our Opening Ceremonies on March 16<sup>th</sup>, they presented the annual Awards, and introduced all the Callers, Cuers, Prompters, and the WASCA Board. They arranged for a performance with the Regional Onoe School of Dance Japanese dancers to perform a Classical Japanese Dance as a reminder of how the D.C. “Cherry Blossoms” got here. The rest of the night was filled with a lot of great dancing and camaraderie.

Our March 17<sup>th</sup> schedule included dancing, classes, workshops, and a great Sewing Seminar with my friend, Ann Wass, showing everyone how to combine a variety of trims to embellish a basic square dance skirt or dress. After dinner, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Festival Committee was introduced followed by more fantastic dancing. They made arrangements for GrooveQuest, a local band, to come back for another fantastic Sock Hop. The Band and our line dance prompters worked together to help everyone learn a few dances for the 50/60’s music.

The Saturday schedule was filled with more dancing, which included the Square and Round Dance Invitationals, which was a free 2-hour dance for all the current students. A very nice after-party was held at midnight to congratulate the Directors for their fantastic work with the 62<sup>nd</sup> WASCA Spring Festival “Dancing Through the Cherry Blossoms.”

**- Pat Thornberg– COVID is over:** I am so glad the COVID-19 is over, and we can take off our masks and get out of the house. It's been four years now; we still need to be cautious but now we can have fun this year. I ventured out spending more time in California and having a wonderful time with my family. During this time with my daughter and her family, we



attended the play that my 10-year-old granddaughter was starring in, *entitled "Beauty and the Beast,"* at the community playhouse. I was very proud of Amelia. She had several singing parts, and I was quite surprised by her talent since most of my family can't sing.

One of the events we attended was the Christmas play at Amelia's school. They event opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. All eight grades participated in the plays. I was surprised at how many parents and grandparents attended and participated at the school. On the third day of the events, the most impressive was the church service. They opened with prayer, the school band playing and the choir singing many carols. I was very impressed with the sermon. I wish they had taped it and sent it to every elementary school in the United States. I had the opinion that California people were much different from the rest of the country. That changed when I met people there who were concerned about their children and family life. Many parents participated in the school, and a lot of fathers were also involved. The parents that I talked to are so concerned about their children and what's going on in our country and are trying to raise their children. They asked me about the problems we had raising our children. I had to think about things, and I thought about how different everything is today. Life was somewhat simpler compared to what parents must face today. I was telling them life was different 50 years ago and it's true. No matter what the differences were, we still had problems; but having faith, raising children in church, and having families working together can conquer any problems. I feel I'm living proof of that going through a divorce, fighting medical challenges, no financial support and raising my children myself, but I had God's support, my church, family, and friends.

I came back from California and the long plane ride affected my back and hip. I have been fighting pain for several months. My friend and I celebrated our birthdays together by attending a Wynonna Judd Concert celebrating the life of her mother. It had been years since I went to a concert. What a celebration; we had so much fun we couldn't sit down. We stood up for a couple of hours dancing and singing. Forgot the pain. Now when I am in pain, I turn on the music.

Easter at the Church was so wonderful, and most everyone was back and those who couldn't attend service were on zoom. It was a great day; my son and his family came to my house for dinner and a traditional Easter egg hunt. I hope more people will come back to church soon. It was a blessing and hope we can do it again.

My daughter and her family will be coming this summer. We try to get together once a year for our yearly vacation. Since the children are learning about our government in school, we thought it would be a good idea to tour DC. I understand they now have a water taxi tour which sounds good to me. We also have tickets to Kennedy Center to see the *Lion King* play. It's been years since I have been in DC but looking forward to it. Just hope I can do the walking.

**Update on Ken Ryland:** Ken and his family moved to Beltsville in 1963 and joined our church during the 60's with Barbara and their five children. I believe Ken is still a member of our church. He sold his home in Calverton last year and moved to Florida. Ken will be 90 in August. A few months after his move, he suffered a stroke and had several seizures. He was in the hospital for several weeks. He came back and stayed with his children for a short period, then he moved to a senior facility in Virginia near his older daughters. During his time here, he wanted to go back to Florida. But his children and the doctors were against it.

The doctors finally told him if you want to go back to Florida, he needed to show he could live by himself and get a new driver's license here and in Florida.

This January he passed all the medical tests and obtained his driving license, proving to his doctor and family he could live by himself. Also in January, Ken Jr. took off 30 days from work and set up Ken Sr.'s condo so that he could live by himself. We were not happy, as we don't have family close to where he wants to live in Florida. He is doing very well, and now he is coming back to attend his granddaughter's graduation next month. He will go back to Virginia to the facility he was living in for the next 6 months and go back to Florida in the winter. We are all overjoyed that Ken is doing well and living on his own – just another miracle.

**- Ramesh Das– Grandparenting traits:** Sorry guys if I am fixated on grandparenting, but I can't seem to help myself especially when my grandchildren are with me for a week to help celebrate my birthday (April 20th). And also, because we have new grandparents in the Church Family (Laura and Jan).



Seeing our children grow up to have children of their own is one of life's great joys and privileges, and it reminds us of how life is a circle with many stages and cycles. The young become old, and the children become adults giving out advice. We grandparents still have an important role to play in our grandkids' lives by providing the right blend of support and independence and helping them grow up with a positive influential family around them.

It is said that the best grandparents are full of patience with their grandkids as well as for the grandkid's mom and dad, even if your grandkids are boisterous or sometimes misbehave. We all know it is part of growing up. Our grandchildren trust us more if they don't see or hear us overreacting to stressful situations.

We as grandparents tend to be generous - not

necessarily in terms of buying toys, gifts, or financial generosity, but generous with our time, with our hospitality and advice if asked. We know how difficult it is not to spoil our grandkids rotten. It makes us happy to see them happy. But it is recommended that we resist the urge to buy them too many toys. Special milestones and accomplishments should be reserved for gift giving. Grandchildren will remember the quality time they spent with their grandparents more than the many toys they received. I know because believe it or not I was once a grandchild in such a situation.



Grandparents are a rock-solid foundation of love in a child's life. Grandkids need to know that no matter what might be going on in their lives, no matter the disappointments they might encounter, they are always safe and loved at grandma and grandpa's house. Listening to our grandkids without any judgement will make them feel heard and seen. They must know they can talk to us about anything and that we will be there to listen and love them no matter what.

Grandparents who understand learn once again to see the world through a child's eye. It is a privilege to be a grandparent. We get to interact with our grandkids and live life for a little while with their sense of time and their capacity for wonder. We have the wealth of knowledge and experience that we have accumulated over the years, but it is always refreshing to learn something new and to be up for modern ways of thinking. Remember these children early on acquire many technological skills that are required in today's world.

The best grandparents know how to listen. Just being there to listen to your grandkids' stories and encourage their enthusiasm is a wonderful gift to give. Life is busy and grandchildren have busy parents. Even if you are not retired, you need to make time to listen to far-fetched ideas and stories because they are important to them.

No matter how much we care for our grandkids we must learn to maintain a healthy



distance and without meddling or constantly injecting our own ideas. Our children may not follow the same traditions that we grew up with, so we need to give them space and let them follow their own norms and chart their own course. Remember many family squabbles happen because of meddling grandparents. You do not want to be asked to stay away from your grandkids.

The grandparents' presence is always more important than gifts. The grandkids learn a lot just being in the

same room with us watching us prepare their meals and listening to our interaction with others. We should tell them how much the world has changed from our time to now and watch them gasp. They will wonder how we survived without technology but that will be a conversation starter for them.

Grandkids need to see multiple generations of their family for them to learn who they are and how to live. The transmission of identity and family connection can be one of the greatest and simplest gifts of all. My apologies everyone. This was not meant to be a sermon, just some random thoughts.



## Trivia Corner

**May** - May 20, 1873, marked an historic day: the birth of the blue jeans. It was on that day that Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis obtained a U.S. patent on the process of putting rivets in men's work pants for the very first time. The wife of a local laborer asked Jacob to make a pair of pants for her husband so that they wouldn't fall apart. Jacob came up with the idea of putting metal rivets at points of strain, like pocket corners and the base of the button fly. These riveted pants were an instant hit. Jacob needed a business partner to help get the project rolling so he immediately thought of Levi Strauss, from whom he had purchased the cloth to make his riveted pants.



**June** - Father's Day is on Sunday, June 18, 2023, which makes it the perfect time to kick-off the summer season with a father-focused barbecue, camping trip, beach day, or other outdoor activity! It is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in June in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, India, and a number of other countries around the world and honors men who have embraced the essential role of fatherhood. On this day, we thank fathers and father figures (uncles, grandfathers) for the sacrifices they make, for embracing the responsibility of nurturing and raising children, and for devotion to their family. Many countries celebrate this holiday at other times of the year.



**July** – We celebrate our country's independence on the Fourth of July with fireworks. Fireworks were one of John Adams' ideas. When John Adams wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail, predicting an annual Fourth of July celebration, he included one iconic tradition: fireworks. He said that "It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Adams, an American founding father and the second president of the U.S. (1797-1801), also said "It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty." [See <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7752737-independence-day-will-be-the-most-memorable-epoch-in-the> for actual quote]



**August** - August is often a wonderful month for star gazing! It's the month of the Perseid meteor shower, which is one of the most prolific showers and reaches its maximum between August 11 and 13. The Perseid meteor shower has the brightest and most numerous meteors. Even if the viewing conditions aren't the best, you're likely to spot some meteors during the Perseid meteor shower. <https://www.almanac.com/content/perseid-meteor-shower>





## SERVING IN WORSHIP

### MAY

	7 <sup>TH</sup>	14 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
<b>Lector</b>	Ramesh Das	Jan Kalshoven

	21 <sup>ST</sup>	28 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Jan Kalshoven	Anna Graeber
<b>Lector</b>	Billy Clark	Annie Gajadhar

### JUNE

	4 <sup>TH</sup>	11 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Annie Gajadhar	Bette Deller
<b>Lector</b>	Anna Graeber	Jean Opeka

	18 <sup>TH</sup>	25 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
<b>Lector</b>	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

### JULY

	2 <sup>ND</sup>	9 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
<b>Lector</b>	Ramesh Das	Jan Kalshoven

	16 <sup>TH</sup>	23 <sup>RD</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Jan Kalshoven	Anna Graeber
<b>Lector</b>	Billy Clark	Annie Gajadhar

	30 <sup>TH</sup>	
<b>A-Minister</b>	Annie Gajadhar	
<b>Lector</b>	Anna Graeber	

### AUGUST

	6 <sup>TH</sup>	13 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
<b>Lector</b>	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

	20 <sup>TH</sup>	27 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>A-Minister</b>	Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
<b>Lector</b>	Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das