



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 40
Fall Issue, 2023

Calendar

September

6th Wednesday
Online Bible Study begins

23rd Saturday
Rich Moore's Memorial Service

October

29th Sunday
Reformation Sunday

November

Food Drive

5th Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Saving Time ends

26th Sunday
Christ the King Sunday

December

The Gifts of Hope

3rd Sunday
First Sunday of Advent

10th Sunday
Greening of the Church

18th Sunday
Cookie and Chinese Gift Exchange

24th Sunday
Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm

25th Monday
Christmas Day (No Service)

"Awareness of God's Presence"

"The Lord was not in the great wind...in the earthquake...in the fire..." (1Kings 19:11-12)

At the beginning of the nineteenth chapter in 1 Kings, Queen Jezebel sends a messenger to Elijah, telling him that she intends to kill him that very day, just as he killed all the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. In terror, Elijah flees farther into the desert. There, he prays for God to take his life. He is dejected and despondent, fearful that his life was not worth saving. God responds to his plea by sending an angelic messenger, who feeds and cares for him, and then, sets him out on the long road to Mount Horeb, where he will experience his theophany.

After the great wind, earthquake, and fire, a sound of sheer silence causes Elijah to hide his face in awareness of God's presence. This reminds us of the importance of creating prayerful times and spaces filled with silence, set apart from the din and confusion of the earthquakes, the strong winds, and fires in our lives. Elijah's experience also calls us to be sensitive to the power of our confining projections, our entrenched notions of how God's presence is made manifest in the convoluted patterns of our everyday lives.

To give a personal example of how we may relate this to our lives, I have been a birdwatcher for a number of years, and by watching the birds, I feel as though my perception and attention have been trained to focus on birds as they fly into my field of vision. Part of my brain has been wired over the years to pay attention to birds, so that I notice their presence, even if I am not consciously searching for them. Lately, what often amazes me is how many people do not see birds, since, of course, they are not looking for them. They, however, may see things that I do not see, because their patterns of attention are attuned to other expectations.

How do our expectations of how the Divine will manifest itself in our lives promote or inhibit our ability to perceive it? What have we done through prayer and study to shape those patterns of attention? Do we fail to see God's hand at work in our lives because we

believe that God's presence is always made manifest in wind, earthquake, and fire? Have we taken the time and expended the energy to train our vision to be open, receptive, vigilant, and capable of focusing on any flight of the Holy Spirit that may occur in our spiritual field of vision?

Despite Elijah's fears and failings, God does not give up on him. Elijah continues to prophesy to the rulers and to the people of Israel, demonstrating and exercising the power and will of Almighty God. It is heartening and inspiring to see that this favored one of God was so human in his character and career, susceptible to dejection, fear, self-doubt, and insecurity. For those of us who are called in God's name, Elijah's humanity is both encouraging and comforting, assuring us that God is indeed faithful, even in the face of our fear and depression, our worries and weariness, our blindness to God's revelations and our resistance to growth and change. Amen.

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10774 Rhode Island Avenue,
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
(301) 937-7646
www.APLChurch.org

Message from the President

We're fast approaching Labor Day weekend, which as you know is the unofficial end of summer. For some, this means going back to school...either for themselves or their kids. I send my best wishes to all who are returning to school, especially to those who are members of our own congregation.

Pastor Na was away in Korea visiting his mother for 4 weeks in May. During those 4 weeks, we had 3 different Pastors fill in for him. They all had their own style of preaching, but we missed our own Pastor Na. Everything went smoothly during his absence. Thanks to everyone for working together to help us achieve that. Things are getting back to normal now at church after the summer break. We are having our weekly refreshments and fellowship hour again, and soon the choir will be back singing their anthems.

We thank Jean and Matt Opeka for yet another generous donation, which was given early in August. APLC greatly appreciates all that they do for us, and we wish them God's Blessings. I also want to thank all of our members for their continued support.

My best wishes go to all of you during the next four months. With a blink of an eye the holiday season will be here again, and we will all be busy making plans for that. Some of us will be visiting relatives, and some will have relatives visiting us. Whichever way you plan to spend the time, be safe and stay healthy.

Peace,

*Congregation President
Annie Gajadhar*

In Our Prayers: Angela, Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Janet, Joan, Julia, Ken, Linda, Lisa, Matt, Meghan, Neil, Norma, Pat, Ramesh, Wol-Mak Park 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)

Bible Study

Bible Study has been on hiatus during the summer. However, we will resume our study of Matthew after Labor Day at 6:30 pm on September 6th.

Changes for *Living Lutheran Magazine*

As announced in the 2023 April/May edition of *Living Lutheran*, there will be only six print issues in 2023, and in 2024 the magazine will only be published electronically at LivingLutheran.org.

There is no plan to make livinglutheran.org a subscription-based website once the print edition ceases publication at the end of this year. All online content will continue to be available at no cost to our readers. There is also no cost to sign up for the magazine's e-digest where readers can get personalized stories delivered to them in their inbox weekly, biweekly or monthly. So, congregations will not need to include the magazine in their budgets.

Synod Assembly



Pat Thornberg and Bette Deller accompanied Pastor Na to this event on June 3, 2023 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, MD. The logo expresses the theme of this year's meeting. The meeting began with a worship service at 9:00 am, which the three of us decided to forgo. We met at APLC at 9:00 am and arrived for the opening session of the conference at about 10:00 am. We stayed until 5:00 pm. There were various speakers, reports, and workshops.

There was the adoption of an amendment to the constitution changing the composition of the Executive Committee to consist of two members of the Synod Council instead of four. There was also an adoption of the 2023 Mission Spending Plan and the Compensation Guidelines. In addition, there was a resolution made to renew ELCA's commitment to the RIC program and a new welcome statement to LGBTQIA+, Black, Brown, Indigenous, or Persons of Color was adopted to be posted on the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synod website and in any materials that describe who the ELCA is. Along with this new welcome statement an annual financial contribution by the Synod to Reconciling Works of at least \$6,000 to facilitate the national RIC program was adopted.

You can read more about the tenets of the Reconciling in Christ ("RIC") Program at this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zhr8eM_MkCzUfGuNZjl8nty8LtTKOF-J/edit

Below are two links with more information about this Assembly Meeting.

<https://mailchi.mp/metrodcelca/2023synodnews-5557700?e=09032c2a65>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YeTDFs5F9TeHNv19kgM3xvMI-7ejZ19I4Hsef30MSe4/edit>

Lunch was provided at noon as part of the registration fee. We three had a chicken Caesar salad, a roll, a huge cookie, and either iced tea or lemonade. The three of us sat in the front row during the meeting, so we were captured in some of the photos that were taken.



Pat Thornberg, Bette Deller, and Pastor Na in the Front Row



Bishop Leila Ortiz

Lunchroom

WE LOST A GOOD FRIEND: Martha McKisson



The last few months have not been kind to several members of our congregation.... specifically, Chris, Billy and Steve. But Steve's loss is also ours since his wife of 54 years, Martha McKisson, died on July 18 after a courageous battle with cancer. Martha and Steve have been members of our congregation for many years and their contributions to the life of our Christian family are immeasurable.

On July 29, Pastor Na held a Service of the Word celebrating Martha's life. The service included reminiscences from one of their sons, and other remembrances of Martha's love and devotion to her family, as well as her generosity to others.

During the service, Pastor Na reminded us that we have been united with Christ in a death like his, so shall we be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to all who have lost loved ones.... thankful for their presence in our lives and trust that we shall meet again.

Birthdays – May – August



Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between May and August 2023. 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. Happy birthday, everyone!



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



7/10 – Soomin Na



7/18 – Nathan Na



7/31- Lydia Kalshoven



8/13 - Laura Kalshoven

WHERE DID THAT PHRASE COME FROM?

We don't hear it so much anymore (other expletives have taken over) but people used to say, "gee whiz" or "jeez" to express wonder or awe about something.

This term actually originated in this country, as the " gee" referred to Jesus, and gee whiz is called a "minced oath" – a short cut from other words.

In 1883 it appeared in an obscure ledger like this:

"When younger days have flown,
And we are older grown,
We sit and muse,
We've got the blues.....

.....
We have accomplished naught,
Our fight was poorly fought –
Gee whiz,
The rheumatiz."

Jean Opeka

COUNCIL REPORT



May – The church council did not meet in May.

June – The council met on June 11, 2023. Pastor Na thanked to everyone who made our worship services possible while he was away for a month in Korea visiting his mother. He especially thanked Jan Kalshoven, Chris Ham, and Billy Clark for technical assistance and overseeing the maintenance of our building. Pastor Na said that he had a good month renewing his relationship with his mother. He

also thanked Pat Thornberg and Bette Deller for accompanying him to the Synod Assembly Meeting on June 3, 2023. They met from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, MD.

Pastor Na announced that there were no coming events for the summer and that the fall newsletter would be published on September 3, 2023. He also reminded us that Bible study will resume on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning on September 6, 2023

The council approved the purchase of a green urn for Rich Moore's ashes, which will be part of the memorial service for Rich to be held on September 23rd. Jan Kalshoven is looking into a military or other cemetery in which the ashes can be interred after that date. There was no new business for the June meeting. The next church council meeting will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023.

July – There was no council meeting in July of 2023.

August – There was no council meeting in August of 2023.

Bette Deller, Council Secretary

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Jean and Matt Opeka:** Jean and Matt Opeka will celebrate their 67th Wedding Anniversary quietly on August 31st (or by the time you get this...will have) just going out to dinner with family. Nothing exotic or erotic.....too old for that! Sure, went by fast though.

- **Eugene Lehr:** I have traveled to two festivals this summer, along with some local dancing. In June, I took a 5-day trip to the 72nd National Square Dance Convention in Mobile, Alabama; and I went on the historic Mobile City Tour on a bus to see and hear about some of

the important places in the city. Everyone down there stressed the fact that Mobile was where the original Mardi Gras started. The dancing started Wednesday afternoon and ended at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday night, and we really enjoyed all the dancing. This was my 21st festival; and in the picture, we are pointing to the 20+ marker. July 13 - 15, I attended the 58th Star-Spangled Banner Festival which is the Baltimore Area Festival in Hunt Valley, Maryland, and danced to some really great callers.



During previous summers, I attended The Good Luck Squares, the New Carrollton Square Dance Club that I belonged to; however, they folded and had their final dance in January. Our caller and friend, Jim Wass, started The Good Luck Squares and called on Thursday nights for 33 years. Although there have only been a few dances locally this summer, the two clubs that I still 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!

- **Jan Kalshoven: Richard Moore's Ongoing Adventure toward internment in Arlington –** When our congregation member, Richard Moore, passed away suddenly last September without known to family or a will, the Maryland Board of Anatomy assumed responsibility for his remains and cremated them. A National Funeral Directors Association 2022 report indicated that 41% of consumers opted for direct cremation.

The APLC Council voted to obtain his ashes (cremains). The Board shipped us his ashes for less than \$440, after I emailed them a letter of permission from the county-assigned estate lawyer. The minimum cost of a direct cremation, with no viewing or ceremony, in Maryland is \$695, with the average being \$2400. If we had not requested his cremains, he would have been buried at the state burial grounds located in Sykesville, Maryland. A memorial service has been held there on the third Monday of June since 1974. Anyone can attend.



At the end of last October, Ann LaVigna suggested he could be buried at Arlington National Cemetery if he had served in the military. I pursued that since Richard had served in the Air Force. Of course, Arlington has a slow and meticulous process for this to happen. I found the most relevant papers concerning honorable discharge at his house, and others I obtained from the National Archives. Arlington also requires permission from an immediate relative or from a court order specific to interment location. The estate manager cannot give this permission. Only recently when a search conducted by a person hired by the estate manager (out of funds from the sale of Richard's house) located Richard's sister and a nephew, did we have anyone to contact about the location of the internment. I was able to find the document obtained by the estate lawyer on the Prince George's County of the Register of Wills Office, where the estate manager was required to post all relevant documents. Richard's sister subsequently gave her written permission for his cremains to be buried at Arlington. It is interesting that from the document I learned that Richard technically had no children. While he actually did have two, Richard told us they were adopted by the husband after his wife remarried following their divorce back in the early 80's. So, the government no longer recognizes them as his offspring for legal purposes.

As of this date, it appears all that is left is for Arlington to assign a date, which can take at least 60 days, up to a year. We will be placing his remains in a columbarium there. The APLC Council also voted to purchase an urn. I obtained the urn, including engraving, for \$140 on Amazon. As seen in the photo. The inscription reads Prime in Math, Music, Tech & Faith, Richard Allen Moore, July 15th, 1945 – September 26th, 2022.

- **Billy Clark: My Dear Brother, Edward Clark**, was born January 27, 1941, in DC to a military family. He spent most of his childhood in Landover Hills, MD. He was an animal lover and had dogs and cats wherever he was. He worked at the Library of Congress with Gene Lehr for 38 years. He was a lifetime member of the N.R.A and a Secretary and historian for the Potomac Arms Collectors Association (Paca). He collected all sorts of rare watches, coins, guns, corn razors, books, swords mostly focusing on the Civil War and early 1900's era. He also liked going to flea markets, movies and traveling with Betsy Fulton, his longtime partner. He was very proud of our country. He passed away peacefully on June 17th, 2023. He had complications from diabetes and vascular dementia. He will be greatly missed by family, Co-workers, friends and neighbors.



- **Pat Thornberg: Family Vacation** – My family meets once a year for a get together and a fun time. This year, since the girls are older and learning about government, we decided to go to DC and visit the museums and visit the eastern shore. It's not easy trying to plan a vacation for three families and arranging all day trips. We started early in January of this year.

We had a mild winter this year, but for some reason I had an attack of arthritis in my back and hips. I tried everything from PT and working out in the pool. No improvement, I was

in constant pain to the point it was affecting my mobility and sleeping. I found ROSM, Regenerative Orthopedics and Sports Medicine. I had heard about this. Of course, there are so many new options out there for people who have back, legs and hips problems. I was lost. I tried the plasma rich and growth factor injection using my own blood. After four weeks of physical therapy and going to the pool, I was finally improving. Wanted to share this with you, as for the first time in nine years of chronic pain, I was pain free. Oh, what a relief.

My daughter and granddaughter flew in on June 21st. That weekend it rained, so we



decided to get a motel room for a few days so we could use the indoor pool. My daughter and I took the girls to a motel and played in their indoor pool until the weather improved. Each day we had something to do. On Wednesday we went to the Eastern shore. I have been going over to the eastern shore and never visited the beach or the community pool. Boy, I missed a treat. Everyone had a good time there. The beach had some type of algae on the beach. They claimed it was ok to swim there, but we decided to go to the pool.

Angela had missed Maryland Crabs and seafood.

California does have great seafood, but no crabs like ours nor do they cook like we do. We went to the Crab Deck for steam crabs and seafood. It was nice sitting at the waterfront watching the boats. The next night we went to the Jetty that has great seafood. They also had karaoke. Amelia, 10 years old, coached by her cousins got up and sang a few songs for me. I am still shocked as none of us can sing.



The next day we went to DC to visit American Museum of History and tour. I found the best way to see DC in the heat of the day is by water taxi. Enjoying the boat ride, the cool breeze, sitting down and watching scenes was the best for me. We had a 45-minute ride around the Potomac, and we ended up at the National Harbor. There was a lot to see, but the rain caught up with us, and we were not able to see everything. We still had a great time, a 45-minute ride back where the girls entertained themselves on the boat ride back. When we docked, the rain had stopped, and we walked around the dock checking it out.

To top our vacation off, the next day we went to the Kennedy Center and saw Lion King. It had been years since I attended the center, and I thought there was no parking. This was not the case and little walking was involved. The girls were mesmerized with the play. Usually they can't sit that long, but they sat there for 2.5 hours and didn't want to leave. We had dinner together, and we said our goodbyes. The next day Angela and Amelia flew home. It's so nice having my children and grandchildren together even though it's only once a year.



- **Ramesh Das: Reflections of Life** – I was very fortunate to know my great-grandfather. He had a brilliant mind and was very well educated. He could name the capital of every country. However, he was very poor and sickly and could not work for any length of time. He used to wrap old gifts of his in newspapers to present to me on my birthdays. He taught me life lessons through his gifts.

On my eighth birthday he gave me an old chess set. Chess is a reflection of life. It teaches you that every move has a consequence whether you perceive that it does or not. Nothing you do, not a single moment, is empty of living. So, think things through not always, but often enough so that your life does not feel as black and white and as uniform as the squares on a chess board. Sometimes, to move forward you need to take a few steps backward. There is no loss in doing something that hurts in the short term, but proves beneficial in the long run. Do not choose which seems more desirable if something tells you that it will get you into a lot of trouble. Do not forget the pawns, the little ones. Life is like that. If you forget the people around you or forget the little graces given to you thinking they are of no value, you get nowhere. Look around you. Learn to notice all the little things that make your existence privileged and special. Taking your blessings for granted is the most ungracious stupidity in life. As in chess you sometimes get stuck, but don't let this deter you. Accept this as a temporary bump in the road to success.

On my ninth birthday I got a typewriter, and I was fascinated to see words from your thoughts printed on paper. You need diligence to work a typewriter. If you make a mistake, you most likely have to start the exercise over. You have to remain focused and work hard to achieve success with this machine. Dedication and practice over and over will bring you closer to your dreams. Not many of us are born with silver spoons in our mouth or have million-dollar trust funds.

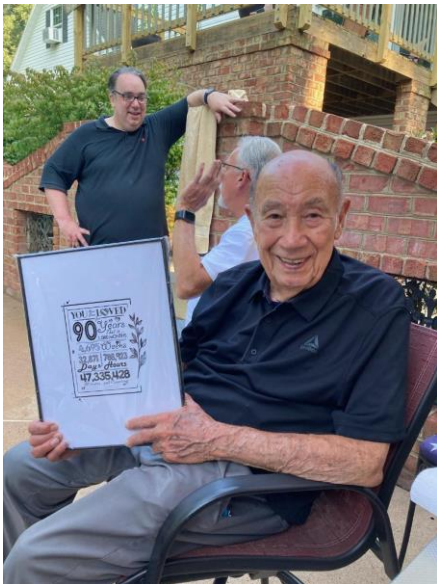
On my tenth birthday I got a camera, but it did not work. Looking through the lens I could see endless possibilities of the kaleidoscope of nature. Sometimes things don't have to be functional to fulfill a need. The greatest creativity emanates from the fragments given to us. Creativity is a process of the soul and does not need an outcome or a product for the world to accept it. It needs only the truth of its own expression. It comes from within and makes of your world whatever you wish to make of it. Creativity remains your friend even when you are surrounded by darkness because it belongs to you and will bring you comfort in a depressing world.

My great grandfather taught me that the gift of life was my most precious gift, and that I should treasure it always. He said that there is nothing that makes a man or woman out of the ordinary more perfectly than grace. Grace is the consciousness that life is bigger than we are, and therefore our gratitude must match its vastness. It is the understanding that everyone we encounter, whether they are loving towards us or offensively abrasive, is a human being like we are. It is knowing that experiences shape human beings, and no matter how good we are, we are never better than the other person. If you can live your life with grace, you will become the person God intended you to be.

And finally, he said to have some humor for life because life is so short. He proceeded to tell me this story about my grandfather. He said that my grandfather liked a girl that lived in the house next to his, but did not know how to approach her. So, he had this hair brained idea to grab her book bag and take it home hoping the girl will follow. Needless to say, the girl did not fall for this but sent her mother instead. The mother

knocked on the door and my great-grandfather opened it surprised to see her. She complained bitterly, and shortly my great-grandfather told her that he was getting very angry at my grandfather, but felt better after looking at her. He told her that if her daughter was as beautiful as she was, no wonder my grandfather fell in love with her. The mother not expecting this blushed and stammered and accepted his invitation for some tea. She told my great grandfather that my grandfather was welcomed at her house to study with her daughter. This study exercise lasted all but one week. "Nothing bad or good lasts forever" were my great grandfather's last words to me. He died before my next birthday.

- Ken Ryland: 90th Birthday Celebration – The Ryland Family had a wonderful 90th birthday celebration for Ken Ryland at the home of his daughter, Karen and surrounded by all his children (Patricia, Karen, Kenneth, Kurtis and Kristine) with spouses (Bob, Kevin, Gretchen, Alan) and grandchildren (Samantha Hans, Joseph Hans and wife, Darcey, Sean Mattern and wife, Chrissy, Kyle Ryland, Grace and Mariah Ryland and great-grandchildren Asher Hans and of course, his sister-in-law of 69 years, Pat Thornberg and Dennis Glidden! (Some family members were unable to attend, but were there with Facetime calls!) This birthday celebration also commemorated what would have been the 69th Wedding Anniversary for Ken and Barbara (deceased in 2001). Ken has 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Ken is a native Washingtonian and has quite a history and wonderful life! His mother was Native American and Ken and family are affiliated with the Rappahannock Tribe in VA. He met his beautiful wife, Barbara when they were only 14 and 13 on a hayride. It was a love that would last for over 55 years. Their marriage produced 5 great children, and they lived most of their life at their home in Calverton / Beltsville MD. This is where they attended Abiding Presence Lutheran Church for more than 40 years. All of their children became confirmed here as well as baptisms held here for their children and grandchildren. The children still remember happy times at vacation bible school and camping at Mar-Lu Ridge. The church was the foundation of love for the Ryland Family.



Early years for Ken and Barbara included Ken attending VMI Military Institute in Lexington, VA on a football scholarship. He returned home and continued his studies at the University of Maryland to assist his father with the family business – managing several Delicatessens' in the District of Columbia. He married Barbara and settled down, eventually beginning his career with Smith Mayflower Moving & Storage where he worked for 42 years. Ken's most memorable event with Mayflower was a secret mission to oversee the moving of the Baltimore Colts from Baltimore to Indianapolis on March 28, 1984. He was under strict orders not to disclose any information about this move – including to Barbara. The move was done in the dark of night to avoid any fans rioting over the loss of their beloved colts. Ken oversaw all of the packing and truck loading. These trucks were coming from Indianapolis so

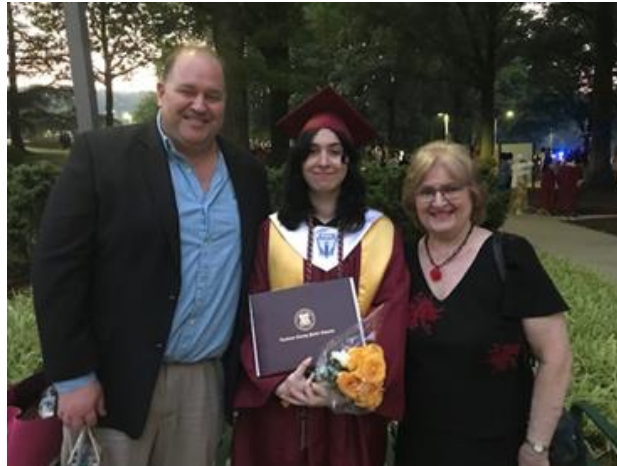
as not to tip off any local trucking companies. All went smoothly, and Ken was safe and sound despite major concerns for everyone's safety for a quick getaway.



Ken's favorite pastime was playing softball with his many friends over the years. His teams received many awards and championships up until his last accomplishment playing through 85+ years old. He has some amazing championship rings that look like those that super bowl winners receive! Ken has been lucky to have so many great friends that have played ball with him for so many wonderful years. They traveled all over the USA playing senior softball tournaments. He and Barbara loved this

life of fun. Ken is spending his time mostly in Jupiter, FL. He also spends a few months in Staunton, VA to be closer to his children and visit for holidays and special events. At 90, Ken is living fairly independently and loves to play poker with his Florida buddies. He is loved and respected by many and continues to live each day with love and gratitude. Ken wishes all of the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church members many blessings and prayers.

-Bette Deller – Bette celebrated both of her grandchildren's graduations this spring. Her grandson, Mitchell, graduated from college at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA on May 11th. Bette watched the ceremony online for this one. Mitchell majored in accounting and had a summer internship with KPMG in DC and Tysons Corner, VA which began on June 8th. He is interested in auditing and went to some training with the company in Florida in June. Bette's granddaughter, Brooke, graduated from Broad Run High School in Virginia on June 1st. Her graduation ceremony was held at George Mason College in Virginia, which Bette attended. Brooke plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA this fall majoring in forensics. Both graduates were members of the National Honor Society and received other high school honors. Brooke is also a very talented artist and was a member of an Art Honor Society. This summer was a very happy and exciting time for the Dellers.





Bette Deller's Birthday – Bette also celebrated a landmark birthday this year: number 85! Church members surprised her with helium balloons, a dozen yellow roses, and a special Happy Birthday cake. Her son and his family took her to dinner at the Yellowfin Restaurant in Annapolis and later celebrated at Bette's house with presents and dessert.



Photo News



Pastor Na was in Korea visiting his mom in May so we had a guest pastor Bastien for Pentecost.



We celebrated Father's Day & Bette Deller's birthday on June 18, 2023.



Chris Ham brought his son, Josh (Age 12) and his daughter, Rachel (Age 7) to church on Sunday, August 6, 2023.



We celebrated Laura Kalshoven's birthday on August 13, 2023. Hers was the only birthday in August.



Trivia Corner

September – September 11th is Grandparents' Day. Grandparents Day is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day! While we honor our grandparents every day, take an extra moment to appreciate all the joy and wisdom that grandparents bring to our lives. Jimmy Carter declared the first Sunday after Labor Day to be National Grandparents Day.

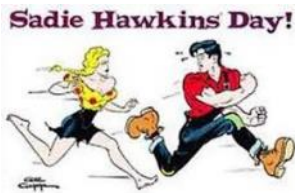


Grandparents Day has both an official flower and a song. The flower is the forget-me-not which blooms in the spring. The official song of National Grandparents Day is "A Song for Grandma and Grandpa" by Johnny Prill. Audio <https://youtu.be/Eyq7L9azi-c> Printed Lyrics <https://www.nationalgrandparentsday.com/lyrics-song-clip.html>

October – This month's name stems from Latin octo, "eight," because this was the eighth month of the early Roman calendar. When the Romans converted to a 12-month calendar, the name October stuck despite the fact that it's now the 10th month! The early Roman calendar, thought to have been introduced by Rome's first king, Romulus (around 753 b.c) was a lunar calendar. This ancient timekeeping system contained these 10 months: Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Iunius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October (the eighth month), November, and December.



November – Sadie Hawkins Day is celebrated on November 13 each year. It's a day for a bit of gender role reversal. On November 15, 1937, cartoonist Al Capp, creator of the Li'l Abner comic strip, introduced the idea of a day in fictitious Dogpatch, USA, when all unmarried ladies, including the character Sadie Hawkins, could pursue their men. If the men were caught, marriage was unavoidable. The idea took off in real life in November 1938, when the first recorded "girls-ask-boys" Sadie Hawkins Day dance was held. In 1939, Life magazine reported that more than 200 colleges had held Sadie Hawkins Day events.



December - Boxing Day is celebrated on December 26! This year, that's a Tuesday. Why is it called Boxing Day? It is a centuries-old gift-giving day that originated in Britain. Yes, boxes are a big part of Boxing Day traditions! It was a custom on that day for tradesmen to collect their "Christmas boxes," gifts of money or goods in return for reliable service all year.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER

	3RD	10TH
A-Minister	Billy Clark	Jan Kalshoven
Lector	Jan Kalshoven	Billy Clark

	17TH	24TH
A-Minister	Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

OCTOBER

	1ST	8TH
A-Minister	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
Lector	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

	15TH	22ND
A-Minister	Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
Lector	Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das

	29TH	
A-Minister	Billy Clark	
Lector	Jan Kalshoven	

NOVEMBER

	5TH	12TH
A-Minister	Jan Kalshoven	Anna Graeber
Lector	Billy Clark	Annie Gajadhar

	19TH	26TH
A-Minister	Annie Gajadhar	Bette Deller
Lector	Anna Graeber	Jean Opeka

DECEMBER

	3RD	10TH
A-Minister	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
Lector	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

	17TH	24TH
A-Minister	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
Lector	Ramesh Das	Jan Kalshoven

24TH (CHRISTMAS EVE)

A-Minister	Jan Kalshoven	
Lector	Billy Clark	