



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 41
Winter Issue, 2023

Calendar

Every Wednesday
Online Bible Study

January

6th Saturday
Season of Epiphany begins

7th Sunday
Baptism of our Lord

28th Sunday
Annual Congregational Meeting

February

11th Sunday
Transfiguration of Our Lord

14th Wednesday
Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)

March

10th Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins

24th Sunday
Passion/Palm Sunday Holy Week Begins

28th & 29th
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday.

31st Sunday
Easter

"God's Light"

"The glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;" (Isaiah 60 1b:2a)

I think only a tribe that has known total defeat and scattering can reach into such a deep, poetic place. As a family mourns their lost children long after their deaths, so this ancient tribe recalls the richness of its faith diminishing by each reversal and period of oppression. No matter what happens, the shadow of what is lost, of what might have been, leaves the circle broken. The great hymn is sung without all of its verses. The great proclamations are read without all of their words.

We too know darkness. It comes with feeling insignificant and helpless. It comes when our power to protect is lost. It comes when there is nothing left to say beyond simply guttural phrases that get us from here to there. Then again, if we are fortunate, a poet arises in our midst. She sees the distortion in us and explores its strange shapes. He grasps the absences and crafts them into words. The poet comes as spring rain soaking our parched land with hope.

In a time of despair and discouragement, the prophet Isaiah offers more than encouragement. He offers a vision so glorious and compelling that anyone who trusts the Lord will be inspired and motivated to work hard to rebuild and renew the land and the people. The exiles have returned from Babylon, but instead of the welcoming and peaceful homeland of their grandparents' stories, they find ruin, decay, and corruption.

In the midst of this grief and desperation, the prophet speaks an incongruous invitation: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." (60:1). Darkness is an overarching metaphor for many ways in which life is difficult and the human experience seems to shut out joy. This is especially true to the prophet Isaiah, who composed long poetic passages mourning the darkness of the current circumstances and praying for God's light, which includes both spiritual faithfulness and

material prosperity, to shine once again on God's people.

When this passage is proclaimed in the New Testament, the promises of Isaiah are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. For believers, however, the promises of God are our starting point, not the end nor even the goal of our life of faith. Knowing what God promises, that "the glory of the Lord has risen upon you," we begin our journey of faith afresh confidently in the New Year of 2024 no matter how dark our circumstances may be. There would be no wandering in the darkness anymore. May God's light shine upon us all, guide and protect us always throughout 2024. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastor Jongkil Na

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Message from the President

Advent is here! It's the season when we get ready to celebrate anew the greatest gift ever given to humanity. Every Christmas we claim this amazing gift of love and grace again as we celebrate Jesus' coming as a baby in a manger. Our churches and homes are dressed up. Trees are put up and decorated. Garlands and wreaths are hung on walls, doors, and windows everywhere. Special paraments and banners are hung in the church. They will be the royal blue color of Advent as a reminder that our King is coming once again. I love the themes of the season during this time of the year, when our culture is encouraging us to get our Christmas decorations out early, and do all our Christmas shopping before Thanksgiving. I enjoy the singing of our favorite carols and our special Christmas Eve candlelight service. I love to see members of the Kalshoven family join our choir and the handbell players playing along with their anthem. I also love our holiday fellowship event with its delicious potluck lunch and the fun-filled gift exchange game that brings us lots of laughs. It's such a joyous time for all of us! Sometimes it gets a bit tiring doing everything, and we often forget the real reason for this season.

I will be celebrating the Christmas holiday with many members of my family. Some are visiting from out of town. There will be lots of cooking, an exchange of gifts, and kids running around having fun. There will be late nights and getting up early. It's chaos, but there is no other way to celebrate Christmas for my family.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the New Year in 2024 bless you with good health, wealth, and happiness.

Peace,

*Congregation President
Annie Gajadhar*

Annual Meeting Coming Up – Sunday, January 28, 2023

*Once again January rolls around, bringing up our Annual Meeting at Abiding Presence. The date is Sunday, **January 28th**.*

Be sure to save the date when we conduct the important business of our congregation – Approving the budget, reviewing the annual report, electing council members, recognition of those who have served and whatever other business may arise.

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

Happy Birthday to: Jan Kalshoven (1/1), Jongkil Na (1/20), Marlon Gajadhar(2/10), Sherlon Gajadhar (2/10), Josephine Kalshoven (2/25), Stephanie Gajadhar (3/1), Chris Ham (3/18), Joshua Ham (3/19), Pat Thornberg (3/20), Betty Wellborn (4/8), and Ramesh Das (4/20)

Music Ministry



Music is alive and well at Abiding Presence thanks to the beautiful tenor voice of Steve McKisson. Every week, in addition to singing during the Offertory, Steve leads the congregation in the Kyrie and the Psalms. Singing duets with Steve is a pure joy. We are so lucky to have him!

Whenever Josie, Julia, Nick, or Lydia are in town, they eagerly join our little choir. Their generosity in sharing their talents during our service, makes me so proud.

Bette Deller and Annie Gajadhar are also very giving of their time! They add such a festive sound to our Christmas Eve service when they play the bells during our Musical Offertory. Thank you, Ladies!

Laura Kalshoven

Benevolence News



Thanksgiving and Christmas Drives: APLC participated in the Beltsville Women's Club Thanksgiving and Christmas Drives, contributing numerous gift cards, new toys and new children's clothing for the needy in Beltsville. Members also donated to the Maryland Food Bank and the Synod's Gifts of Hope Campaign. Those totals will not be known for a while, but our congregation is usually generous.

There have also been some individual contributions to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

Bible Study



Matthew was writing for a congregation that had a Jewish background. Thus, it is not surprising that he draws heavily on the Old Testament. Many of his descriptions of Jesus lead the reader see parallels between Moses' role in Judaism and Jesus' role in Christianity.

The Beatitudes, one of the most well-known parts of Matthew, are included in the "Sermon on the Mount." Most scholars agree that the Sermon on the Mount was not one actual sermon, but a collection of Jesus' teaching as recalled by Matthew or his sources.

Perhaps lesser known than the beatitudes are the so-called antitheses. In these verses (5: 21-47), Matthew addresses those who said Jesus meant the Old Testament laws no longer held. The text not only reaffirms the law of the Old Testament but extends the law to include not only actions but also feelings in the heart, and it includes some illustrative, but not all inclusive, cases. Mathew indicates that Jesus calls us to consider our thoughts as well as deeds. Most of us are not guilty of killing, but who has been angry with someone? "But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment" Matthew 5:22. There are certainly conditions that warrant anger and for other instances in which we fall short, we rely on Luther's insight that the faithful have the promise of Christ's forgiveness.

Anna Graeber

Where did that phrase come from?

Since candles are a big part of Christmas, we thought exploring the phrase, “can’t hold a candle” might be appropriate. We say this when one thing, or person, can’t measure up to someone or something else.

Way back when, an apprentice was expected to hold a candle for more experienced workmen. Thus someone unable to do that would be of very lowly status indeed.

Another phrase or saying we have is the cramping of a muscle somewhere being called “a Charlie horse.” Why Charlie??? Guess what. We don’t really know, but we do know it’s an American expression. No one can pin it down to anything but baseball. A pitcher named Charley Radbourne was nicknamed, “Old Hoss.” He got a cramp during a game in the 1880’s, but that seems to be the most plausible explanation anyone can find.

Jean Opeka

Special Memorial Service



On Saturday, September 23rd, a Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held for Richard Moore who died a year earlier on September 26th.

In attendance were friends and congregation members, both in-person and via zoom. Pictures from his childhood were on display.

Many spoke including the president of the Beltsville Young at Heart Club. She said that Richard was the secretary of the Club at the time of his passing, and had been for several years. Richard had also been the secretary for APLC for many years.

Following the extensive laudatory speeches, a repast was held after tables were set up in the sanctuary.

My Memory (presented at Richard’s Celebration of Life)

Richard was the embodiment of the medieval concept of the Everyman and the inquiring mind. If my memory serves me correctly my first encounter with Richard's unique interests and hobbies was when he introduced me to Mongolian guttural singing. He had CDs that he lent me, and they were quite fascinating. Here was a member of the church choir that was very serious about voice, particularly in his base range. I suspected that he was jealous of the deep bass exhibited by Mongolian singers.

About that same time, his eclectic nature with respect to the arts was further exhibited in a totally different way. I had taken my oldest daughter for ballet class just up the road from here, and as I am waiting, in comes Richard for his own group lesson. He later was not shy about performing a solo dance at Christmas here at the church. Years later I learned of his interest in medieval sword fighting (another form of dance?!). One of his neighbors verified that she had seen him in full regalia sword fighting in his front yard with a friend.

I think of math as an art and that was another area he excelled at, particularly with his focus on and love of prime numbers. At the same time he was telling me about applications and methods for calculating them, he introduced me to the different forms of color perception down through the ages and how it related to language. He also was quite technical in describing spectroscopy and the purity of colors and had many collections of color gels and plates.

He also had many books of art, and when I introduced him to Second Story used books in Rockville, he ended up purchasing books related to the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and also to religious icons down through the ages. He was a big fan of art festivals and made many purchases of paintings, blown glass, and even mounted geodes. This art appreciation extended to many beautiful puzzles which he hardly had the space to assemble, so he ended up breaking each completed puzzle into large chunks and putting them back in the box after completion.

He was intrigued by language and the relationships between languages, in particular German because of his being assigned to Germany while in the Air Force. After his honorable discharge he worked in the mapping section of the defense department which helped indulge his love of geography,

He collected and studied everything related to Christianity from multiple Bibles, including some in German, to analytical books delving deep into subtle aspects of the Bible and its history. He said he had trouble attending a Bible class because he wanted to contribute so many of his own interpretations from his studies and readings.

Richard could hold forth on almost any subject and was enthused and informed in his conversations. He was often a monologist if something was of particular interest. And this was not just verbally but also in writing. That urge was exhibited as he was a long-term secretary to the church council years ago, and was this year's secretary to the Beltsville young at hearts.

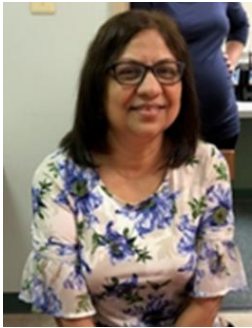
We are going to miss our deep thinker and eclectic singer and dancer, someone who I really got to know after the pandemic started and we were able to have longer conversations when I visited him. I am sure he is now getting the answers to many of his probing questions about art and the sciences and in particular religion!

Jan Kalshoven

Birthdays from September to December



Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between September and December 2023. We sang Happy Birthday to those who showed up at church on a Sunday near their birthday and shared a special birthday dessert with them. Happy birthday, everyone!



Annie Gajadhar
September 3



Gene Lehr
September 11



Julia Kalshoven
October 2



Murzeena Gajadhar
October 18



Seonhee Ham
November 7



Jean Opeka
November 17



Jason Kalshoven
December 13



Keisun Na
December 16

Christ the King Sunday



Christ the King Sunday is a feast day that focuses on the authority of Christ. The feast is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation.

It is always celebrated on the last Sunday after Pentecost before the beginning of Advent that starts the new Church Year. This year that special Sunday fell on November 26, 2023.

As the last Sunday of the Christian Church Year, Christ the King Sunday is the climax and conclusion of the Church's liturgical journey through the life of Christ and the Gospel message. Celebrating on this special Sunday also provides a bridge to the new Church Year that begins on the first Sunday of Advent.

As a bridge between the completed year and the beginning of a new year, worship services often use Scripture and song to provide both an overview of the journey through the life of

Christ and the Gospel message that the Seasons of the Church Year provides. The liturgical color for Christ the King Sunday is white, the color of light, gladness, and joy. The altar and pulpit paraments and the pastor's stole change from green to white.

Advent



The first Sunday in Advent was observed on December 3, 2023, and extended until Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin "ad-venire" meaning "to come to." Advent begins the Church's liturgical year and is the season encompassing the four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. Blue is the color for Advent so the banners and Pastor Na's paraments are blue.

Celebrating Advent involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. It typically involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of the age.

Pastor Na hung the pretty blue Advent banner. On December 10th, the congregation decorated the church. They hung wreaths on the windows surrounding our sanctuary and placed red candles on the windowsills to decorate it for Advent as we prepare for celebrating the birth of Christ. We also hung greens around the sanctuary doorway and all the doorways to other rooms in the building. We adorned the inside of the sanctuary with red poinsettias. Three poinsettias were placed in the narthex along with a creche. Our worship area looked very festive during Advent as we looked forward to Christmas. Pastor Na led us in very inspiring worship services during Advent and lit a small candle in an advent wreath to open each service.



December Events



The Greening of the Church – December 10th was the date chosen to decorate the church for Christmas. We hung six wreaths on the sanctuary windows, tacked greens around the doorways of each office and room. The tree and cross in the lobby were decorated with beads, ornaments, and lights. It was a great time of fun and fellowship. When we were finished, Annie Gajadhar brought out a jug of egg nogg and poured everyone a cup to toast the event and the season.



Our Christmas Brunch – A holiday brunch was held on December 17th. The food was delicious and included many tasty dishes including some Korean favorites. For dessert we all enjoyed a wonderful meal and some tasty desserts on this special Sunday.



Chinese Gift Exchange – This gift exchange game has become a tradition at Abiding Presence and is one that is greatly enjoyed. Those who participated brought a gift that would be suitable for either a man or woman priced at or under \$20. The participants drew numbers to determine the order in which they would choose a gift for themselves. When their turn came, they could either choose a gift from the gift table or take one away from someone else. This year there were some unusual gifts, which made the game a lot of fun.





Christmas Eve Worship Services – On Sunday, December 24th, we had two church services. One was the usual Sunday morning service held at 10:00 am. The second was a beautiful candlelight service of worship at 7:00 pm. Red jar candles were lit in each of the six sanctuary windows, and members sang the Christmas carol entitled “Silent Night” while holding small white candles. The altar and the tabletops throughout the sanctuary and foyer were adorned with gorgeous red poinsettias, and the Christmas tree in the foyer looked beautiful with its white lights and gold and white ornaments. The cross in the foyer was decorated with gold beads. The church looked lovely for the celebration of Christ’s birth! The choir sang a special Christmas anthem, and Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller played hand bells along with the anthem, adding a special nuance to the music.



– Bette Deller

COUNCIL REPORT

September – The first meeting of this school year was held on September 10th. Pastor Na welcomed everyone back after the summer break and reported on things that happened since our last meeting. Pastor Na led a gravesite service for Billy Clark's brother on July 15, 2023, and one for Martha McKisson on July 29, 2023. He also reported a large donation from the Opeka family on July 16, 2023. He thanked Bette Deller and Jean Opeka for their work on the publication committee and Anna Graeber for helping with the editing...and of course all of the members who submitted articles. Bible study will resume on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on



September 6, 2023. Reformation Sunday will be observed on October 29th this year. During the Treasurer's report, Anna Graeber moved that we move \$20,000 from our checking account into the TD Ameritrade account. Billy Clark seconded that motion, and it was passed. A memorial Service for Rich Moore will be held on September 23, 2023, at 11:00 with light refreshments following the service. Jan Kalshoven reported that Arlington National Cemetery will take Rich Moore's ashes. Chris Ham will purchase a new computer from Costco and three new clocks for the church. Billy Clark will be in Florida visiting his daughter for the month of October.

October – Pastor Na thanked everyone who participated in Rich Moore's memorial service. This included Bette Deller for decorating, Annie Gajadhar for organizing the potluck, Laura Kalshoven for taking photos, Keisun for providing flowers, and Jan Kalshoven for taking care of Rich Moore's affairs. Billy Clark will see that the ceiling tile near the banner is replaced. All Saint's Sunday will be observed on November 5th. He thanked Jean Opeka, Anna Graeber, and Bette Deller for their work on the fall newsletter, which was published on September 3, 2023. Laura Kalshoven reported that \$20,000 was transferred to TD Ameritrade as voted on at the last meeting. Pastor Na announced that there will be two services on Sunday, December 24th. One will be the regular 10:00 service and the other the Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:00 pm.

November – Pastor Na welcomed Billy Clark back following his month in Florida visiting his daughter. He also welcomed Bette Deller back after two weeks recovering from a medical procedure she had done on October 27th. He also thanked her for her love and care in changing the Halloween decorations to Thanksgiving décor before her absence. Pastor Na thanked Chris Ham for purchasing an atomic clock for the conference room. Pastor Na sadly reported that a very good friend of his from divinity school recently passed away, and that he will be going to South Carolina for his memorial service. We will have Pastor Eugen Kern as a guest pastor on December 3rd. Laura Kalshoven will be in Nashville on December 31st so there will be no worship service on that Sunday. Laura Kalshoven, Treasurer, reported that TD Ameritrade was bought by Charles Schwab. The council moved to take the money from the Mission Investment Fund and put it in a short-term CD within the Mission Investment Fund so it will earn more interest. The council voted to have no Thanksgiving potluck, but to have one on December 17th with our Holiday Gift Exchange, Jan Kalshoven will facilitate the buying of poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas this year. Pastor Na will insert order sheets into the bulletins so members can order and pay to take some home after Christmas. Pastor Na also announced that the Beltsville Women's Club will be accepting donations of toys, gift cards, and clothing for children until December 10th. He reported that APLC donated \$315 in gift cards to the club for their Thanksgiving drive and that we will also be participating in drives for Gifts of Hope and The Maryland Food Bank. The next newsletter will be published during the first week of January. The Budget Committee will meet and prepare a budget for next year and we will handle the nominations for Council officers later. The greening of the church will take place on December 10th.

December – There will be no council meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2024, at approximately 11:10 in the conference room and also on Zoom.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Jean & Matt Opeka** – In November and December, Jean and Matt Opeka celebrated birthdays with family and enjoyed their favorite foods. Jean hit 88 (yrs.) and was treated with fried oysters (a true Marylander) and coconut cake. Matt got to 93 and had Chinese takeout. The only times he gets that is on Father's Day and his birthday because Jean doesn't like Chinese food! She did make him a banana cream pie, though, in celebration of the occasion.

- **Anna Graeber** – Christmas tradition. Most of you are likely familiar with Advent calendars that have a small door for each day of Advent. Behind each is a picture of a Christmas related object. More recently there are variations that have a candy, a teabag, or whatever, behind each door. For about the last 5 years my sister, who lives in Germany, and I have used this idea in another way. We send each other 24 small gifts, each wrapped and designated for a given date. (She does this for her 3 grandchildren as well, and I can't imagine that production as it takes me a while just to make them for her.) The stocking stuffer-like gifts might be a favorite snack, hand cream, unusual unused greeting cards, a Christmas decoration, etc. Since these gifts need to be mailed to Germany, I need to get my Christmas things ready no later than mid-November. Opening one a day does make for a joyful part of each day. (The picture shows the array of packages I received this year- prior to my December 1 opening of any.)



- **Zally Thurairatnam** – Greetings to all! I am proud to say that my son, Alexander, has done an exemplary work and has a job offer after passing his final Radiology school exam on December 22. He achieved his license for Radiology and will be taking the State exam in January.

- **Sherlon Gajadhar** – I'd like to introduce you all to the newest member of the Gajadhar family: Logan Nizam Gajadhar, born November 9th, 2023. He is a calm and happy baby boy who likes to smile. His big brother Lucas dotes on him all the time and they are inseparable. Rafeena, Lucas, Logan and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



- **Bette Deller** – This fall, Bette's Grandson, Mitchell, started working on his master's degree in accounting at Virginia Tech (VT) in Blacksburg, VA. It's a one-year program. Her granddaughter, Brooke, just began her freshman year in college at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA (VCU) majoring in forensics...so both grandchildren are students again. Bette had some exterior work done in her backyard this fall. She had the patio, sidewalks, and driveway power washed and the large wooden gate to her backyard fence rebuilt so things are looking and working better. In October Bette had a medical procedure performed, which went well. She seems to be OK, and hopes things are working properly now as they should be. In November, Bette celebrated Thanksgiving with her daughter-in-law's extended family along with her son, grandchildren, and daughter-in-law. She enjoyed the Christmas festivities at church and celebrated Christmas Day with her son and his family at their home in Ashburn, Virginia. Bette hopes all of you have a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year!



Mitchell Deller – College



Bette and Son Steve in December



Brooke Deller – High School

- **Ramesh Das – The Cowards That We Are:** Unfortunately, we all fall into this category in some form or another. I may be the worst one of all. It is so much easier to agree with another person's insincere persuasion just to please him or her instead of saying, "No, that is wrong" and having to justify your argument. We are afraid of confrontation even with our own children. We seek the easy way out.

God gave us a free will, but we abuse it. We see things happening with our own eyes, yet we allow others to tell us what we are seeing, putting a different spin on things. What a waste of free will and oh, what cowardice. Cowardice exists when we choose self-protection at the expense of doing what is right to create changes.

Thank God, free will is limited by physical possibilities. To me, free will does not mean we are free to do whatever we want without facing consequences. Many of us would like to fly like a Superman or be as strong as Samson or teleport from one location to another, but physical limitations prohibit this. God in his infinite wisdom knew that we would become more evil, more unjust, more selfish and create chaos.

Some people say we need to be politically correct. What does this even mean? It is just a cowardly way out of not standing up for what is right. The person who coined these words is a moron and the worst kind of coward. Jesus consistently rebuked the way of cowardice, the way of choosing self over loving others, seeking ease at the expense of the downtrodden, or helping one's own cause when it oppresses or neglects the poor and needy.

After his resurrection, Jesus quite sternly rebuked his male disciples for hiding in fear and not listening to the testimony of the women who saw him alive. This is evidence of cowardice of believing your own fear-based thinking at the oppression of others.

God detests a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and anyone who stirs up dissension among the people.

It may seem impossible to conquer our cowardice, but anything is possible with God on our side. We must be willing to use our free will for the good of others. It is not only the Christ-like thing to do but what God expects us to do and the only one to whom we are accountable for our actions. God Bless Us All.

- **Soomin Na** – Greetings, and happy holidays from Houston! It's been some time since we have visited the church, so I'm here with some photo spam as a small update from home. I hope everyone is in good health, and look forward to seeing you all in person soon. As for us, we didn't travel much this year, but we did enjoy a trip to Yosemite back in October. Charlie will be going to Canada in January to go snowboarding at Whistler. We go bouldering (rock climbing) pretty regularly and I've started running to boost my heart health and lung capacity. I can typically run for about half a mile now!



Charlie and I make an attempt at the letter 'S'

- Nathan Na – Two Felines Join the Na Family: On December 8th, two California Spangled cats were welcomed into our home. Their previous owner, my mom's friend, was not able to take care of them anymore.



According to my mom, the male cat, Titan, would greet and nudge my mom every time she visited their previous home, which my mom took as a sign of "SOS." Emo, the female cat, would rarely make an appearance, and it wasn't until she arrived at our home that her highly affectionate personality

began to shine and come out of its shell.

The bond between Titan and Emo is extremely tight knit. Titan seems to play the role of the watchful older brother, while Emo prefers to lurk in the shadow and let her brother do the reconnaissance until there's confirmation that the coast is clear. We are often



surprised at how much they seem to communicate not only with each other, but with us as well. Emo likes to be vocal with her meowing whenever she wants food, affection, and attention. Other times, Titan will surprise you randomly and get his daily dose of dopamine from his human and then be off to his own agenda.



So far, both cats have been adjusting quickly and limit testing every boundary around the house. From the dogs to the birds, Titan and Emo are constantly stimulated in their new environment. Luckily, we are blessed that they don't get haywire and knock things off the shelves nor disrupt anything that we value. Both cats are very well-behaved, intelligent, curious, and affectionate. We are happy to have them!

Trivia Corner



January - January is the coldest month of the year! Although global warming and climate changes may have bumped it out of first place in recent years, if you look at the average temperatures over all the years on record, January is considered the coldest month in the Northern hemisphere. Not in the Southern hemisphere, though, where Australians are currently wearing bikinis and taking their family photos on the beach.



February - Mardi Gras, also called Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday, takes place annually on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday—the beginning of the Christian observance of Lent, which lasts about six weeks and ends just before Easter. In French, Mardi Gras means “Fat Tuesday.” Mardi is the word for Tuesday, and gras is the word for fat. In 2024, Mardi Gras will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 13. This means that Mardi Gras is a moveable holiday that can take place in either February or March.



March – Daylight Saving Time begins in many regions of the world, including the United States and Europe, in March. In the United States, It begins on the second Sunday in March and finishes on the first Sunday in November in the United States. It is frequently regarded as a sign of the arrival of spring, and many people modify their clocks and schedules to take advantage of the longer days. Daylight Saving Time is the springtime practice of advancing the clock by one hour to increase the amount of daylight in the evenings.



April - April is a great month for meteor showers. These showers are a celestial event in which a number of meteors are observed to radiate, or originate, from one point in the night sky called Radiant. These meteors are caused by streams of cosmic debris called meteoroids entering Earth's atmosphere at extremely high speeds on parallel trajectories. The Quadrantids, a group of showers active from December 26th to January 16th, 2024, have the potential to be the strongest shower of the year. Another type is called the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year. For a calendar of other types of showers, go to <https://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/>.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

JANUARY

		7TH	14TH
A-Minister		Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
Lector		Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

		21ST	28TH
A-Minister		Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
Lector		Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

FEBRUARY

		4TH	11TH
A-Minister		Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
Lector		Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das

		18TH	25TH
A-Minister		Billy Clark	Jan Kalshoven
Lector		Jan Kalshoven	Billy Clark

MARCH

		3RD	10TH
A-Minister		Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
Lector		Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

		17TH	24TH
A-Minister		Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
Lector		Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

		31ST	
A-Minister		Ramesh Das	
Lector		Steve McKisson	

APRIL

		7TH	14TH
A-Minister		Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
Lector		Ramesh Das	Jan Kalshoven

		21ST	28TH
A-Minister		Jan Kalshoven	Anna Graeber
Lector		Billy Clark	Annie Gajadhar