



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 42, 2024
Spring & Summer Issue

Calendar

May

9th Thursday
Ascension of Our Lord

12th Sunday
Mother's Day

19th Sunday
Day of Pentecost

26th Sunday
The Holy Trinity/First
Sunday after Pentecost

June

1st Saturday
Synod Assembly

16th Sunday
Father's Day

July

4th Thursday
Independence Day

"Life after Resurrection"

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." (Luke 24:36b)

After the resurrection, Jesus showed up, saying "Peace be with you." He provided his disciples with words of comfort, assurance, and also chastisement. Then, Jesus asked what was for dinner! It was the same Jesus, yet different – once dead but now alive, caring, yet still fussing. Jesus acted as if nothing had happened. He seemed normal, natural, which was just what they had come to expect. Just when we thought the story was over, God had something to say.

Jesus did not launch into an explanation about the mechanics of the resurrection, nor did he provide an itinerary of his whereabouts since Friday. Instead, Jesus taught and commissioned: his whole life, death, and rising were about what God is doing in the world – reconciling the world to God's self. From the law of Moses, the prophets, to the Psalms, it has always been about God and God's purpose, aim, and agenda for creation, that is, repentance that leads to forgiveness of sins and the wholeness of creation.

Today, we live in a world of war, poverty, disease, neglect, prejudice, fear, isolation, and sinfulness. God seems powerless and absent in the face of ongoing suffering and pain. Despite the efforts of well-intentioned, generous, and sensitive persons, the world remains oppressive and inhospitable for many, but the contradictions of life are not final nor ultimate. God is the giver of forgiveness and mercy, ever ready to offer peace. The possibility and promise which point to well-being, hope, compassion, and love might yet prevail.

The resurrected Jesus keeps showing up to offer comfort, assurance, and a bit of fussing wherever exploitation, discrimination, and hopelessness lie in humanity. He invites us to be witnesses to God's deliverance of peace, unity, harmony, love, compassion, grace, justice, and mercy

to a world that is broken and sinful. Jesus' post-Easter appearance assures us that God is alive and working on behalf of wholeness and community.

The resurrected Jesus commissions us to declare the presence and power of God in the midst of tragedy, despair, and death. Things of the world are not ultimate – God is. God aims to redeem creation and us. The risen Christ makes himself known to us in ways both large and small. As people of faith, we are to be witnesses to Christ's presence among us, in our words and in our deeds; our faith demands nothing else. God's ultimate peace be with us always. That is the life of resurrection we live by.

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Message from the President

“The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed!” Happy Easter Season! May the Peace of the Lord that was given to His Apostles on that first Easter day be given to you and reign in your hearts, in your families, and in your homes.

It seems like we just celebrated Christmas and now we're in the season of Easter, which lasts for 50 days. We also have two important church holidays coming up. Pentecost is on May 19th, and Holy Trinity Sunday is on May 26th. Pentecost is a feast commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. It is sometimes described by Christians today as the "Birthday of the Church". Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost. On Trinity Sunday, Christians remember and honor their belief in an eternal triune God, consisting of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many churches have special prayers and events on Trinity Sunday.

We had a beautiful and inspiring Easter Sunday service, led by Pastor Na. The choir included the voices of Steve McKisson, Josie Kalshoven, and Lydia Kalshoven. Their anthem was enhanced by the sound of beautiful handbells played by Bette Deller and Annie Gajadhar. It was a beautiful sight to see that almost all the seats were occupied. The worship service was followed by a delicious potluck lunch. Thanks to all who participated for making Easter Sunday at church so special. Then we all went home and celebrated Easter with our family.

Though Easter traditions vary from culture to culture and home to home, one thing remains consistent, and that is the presence of the Easter bunny. Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny brings lucky children's baskets full of goodies on Easter morning. The tradition is so strong that the bunny and its eggs have become the official symbols of the Christian holiday. Easter egg hunting is another traditional way to have fun on this special day.

IT'S FINALLY SPRING! What a beautiful time of year it is with many flowers and trees in bloom! That just must perk up everyone's spirit. It makes us feel alive again after a long, cold, winter. Now is the time to plant, to plan projects, to do things around the house, to plan vacations, and become physically active again. The earth and its people feel alive once more. God is good!

That should do it! Thank you all for your continued support with your talents or financial contributions.

Peace,

Annie Gajadhar, President



In Our Prayers: Angela, Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Janet, Joan, Julia, Ken, Linda, Lisa, Matt, Meghan, Neil, Norma, Pam, 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

Gifts of Hope sent the congregation a thank you note. In Fiscal Year 2023, *GOH* received 4 gifts from APLC members totaling \$650. Please be aware that this represents only those donors who indicated their congregation; there could have been more if they did not disclose their congregation



The *Maryland Food Bank* website shows that the congregation gave \$850 between December 3, 2023, and April 2024.

LIVING LUTHERAN

If you miss picking up your copy of *Living Lutheran* at church, remember that it is no longer available in print. But you can access *Living Lutheran* online at *Living Lutheran.org*. In the current issue, you can read about the gifts of community in the article *Be Brave*, some thoughts on repentance, and the usual topics including news of the church.



Anna Graeber

Music Ministry



Steve McKisson and I joined Abiding Presence at the same time almost 30 years ago and have sung in the choir ever since. We are a duet most Sundays, but it is pure joy working with him each week. We are also blessed to have Steve as our cantor for the Kyrie and the Psalms. His presence is absolutely integral to our wonderful Sunday service.

Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller, once again, graciously offered to accompany the choir for both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Their musical addition, made the holiday services so much more festive. It is absolutely humble that, as BUSY as they are, they never hesitate to offer their musical talent. We are so blessed!

Whenever my children are in town, they offer to sing in the choir. (Why not! APLC is their church HOME!) Whereas I cherish our regular weekly duets, it is so refreshing whenever we have larger numbers. I am so humbled when I think of all the blessings given to our congregation. Thank you, ALL!

Laura Kalshoven, Choir Director/Pianist

Bible Study Notes



During the winter, Bible Study continued reading, learning about, and pondering Matthew 5 and part of Matthew 6.

The antitheses (Matthew 5:21-47) that reaffirm, extend and provide conditional exceptions to Old Testament law concern the relationship of person-to-person. There is a lot to unpack in those. For example, emphasis on not renegeing on a vow reflects in part the importance of spoken word in a society that was largely illiterate. The message on divorce suggests a man could commit adultery at a time when a man could not be found committing adultery. Further it suggests a women could divorce, when in Jewish society of that time only men had the right to initiate divorce. Two other messages concerned enemies and retaliation. One common notion of enemy at the time, was someone of a different religion. Matthew's recollection of Jesus's word seems to call tolerance of others – whether they be the occupying Romans, those of another religion, or personal enemies. Jesus' sayings against retaliation have been at the heart of many non-violent movements and stand in contrast to the Old Testament maxim "an eye for an eye." The threat of retaliations spiraling is not just between individual people, however, think of recent world news.

In Chapter 6, Matthew considers Jesus's sayings about the person-to-God relationship, addressing almsgiving, prayer and fasting. These practices were familiar to Matthew's congregation that had a Jewish background. Matthew selects sayings that contrast these practices when motivated by the desire for the attention of other people with these practices motivated by a desire for righteousness before God. Hence, "Beware of practicing your piety on order that you may be seen by them (Matt. 6:1).

All our discussions are very rich, and my comments do not do them justice. Learn about the authors' theology, Biblical scholarship, literary style, and more. Join us Wednesday nights on Zoom to hear all.

Anna Graeber

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



The annual meeting of Abiding Presence was held on Sunday, January 28th, following the service.

As we had a quorum, business conducted by President Annie Gajadhar, was legal. All annual reports, as printed, were reviewed, including the Pastor's report (Pastor Na), the President's report, (Annie Gajadhar) the Music Director's report, (Laura Kalshoven) the Financial Secretary's report (Ann LaVigna) and the Treasurer's report (Laura Kalshoven)

Approval of the budget was our main order of business, and after review of what was proposed, the budget was passed with some additions and subtractions. Funds were added to cover the replacement of our refrigerator, musical instrument repair and supply organist fees. At his request, Pastor Na's salary was reduced to 50% of the synod's recommendation.

After installation of Council Members (Annie Gajadhar, Billy Clark, Bette Deller, Anna Graeber, Jan Kalshoven, Chris Ham, Eugene Lehr, Pat Thornberg, Ramesh Das), Pastor and Laura were presented with special monetary gifts for their wonderful service to our congregation.

The meeting then closed with the Lord's Prayer.

WHERE DID THAT PHRASE COME FROM?

Have you ever heard someone say, "It's as dead as a doornail"? The phrase itself means something has gone kaput (whatever that means!) or it is no longer working whether it be animate or inanimate.

It's actually a very old expression; somebody used it in the 14th century and Shakespeare used it in one of his writings.

So what's a doornail? Actually, it's a nail that has been hammered into something and left a protruding end. That end is then hammered over to prevent the nail from coming out - similar to riveting. It is thought the expression comes from the fact that the nail is then unusable, thus finished, or "dead."

Dickens liked the phrase so much he used it in "A Christmas Carol" to indicate that 'Marley was as dead as a door-nail."

Another common expression is to call something or someone, a "dark horse" meaning to come from behind and come into prominence. This originally comes from horse racing, of course, as a dark horse was one on which putting money on would be difficult. The phrase became figuratively applied to someone who was little known but came into notoriety. Benjamin Disraeli, British author and subsequent Prime Minister, coined used the phrase in the 1800's and that was our earliest recognition of it. It was originally used to refer to an unknown horse who won a race.

The English language is inundated with strange idioms and phrases. Imagine how difficult it is to learn for people from other countries!

Jean Opeka

Lenten Worship

We began our observance of Lent with the traditional Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 on February 14th this year. Pastor Na held the service both on Zoom and with in-person worship. He also prepared ashes and rubbed them in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of those who wished to receive them. Bible study classes were canceled for Ash Wednesday. They resumed the following Wednesday on February 21, 2024, and continued until March 20th. They were canceled during Holy Week and resumed again on April 10th at 6:30 pm.



Holy Week Services



Holy week began with Palm Sunday on March 24th at 10:00 with services held both on Zoom and in the Sanctuary. Later that week, there were special services on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, and Good Friday, March 29th at 7:00 pm. A beautiful festival service for Easter was held on Sunday, March 31, 2024.

Palm Sunday



There were palm branches for parishioners to pick up in the foyer that were used in the service on Palm Sunday. Those participating from home on Zoom were invited to pick up palms the Saturday before Palm Sunday at

the church and take them home. The Holy Gospel from Mark 11: 1-10 was read by Pastor Na. Lessons were read from Isaiah 50:4-9 and Philippians 2:5-11 and were read by Bette Deller. The Passion of our Lord came from Mark 14 and 15 and was read by Pastor Na and four other readers: Annie Gajadhar, Jean Opeka, Steve McKisson, and Zally Thurairatnam.



Maundy Thursday was observed on March 28, 2024, and services were held both on Zoom and in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday is a somber celebration of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples before his crucifixion. There is no music in this service. The partaking of bread and wine is offered in remembrance of Jesus' communion with the disciples long ago. The word "*maundy*" comes from the Latin word "*maundatum*" for "*commandment*," which comes from Jesus' words from the last supper: "I give you a new commandment; that you love one another..."

The first lesson was from Exodus 12:1-14. It told the story of the LORD telling Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt that each family was to take a lamb, slaughter it, roast it, and put its blood on the doorposts and lintel of the houses in which it was eaten. They were told how to eat it and urged to eat hurriedly because this was the Passover of the LORD, and He will pass through Egypt and strike down the firstborn in every house not marked with blood as judgment and will skip over those homes marked with blood. The second lesson was from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. It told of how the LORD Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed conducted the last supper and told those who received it to eat of the bread and drink of the cup in remembrance of Him, proclaiming the LORD's death until he comes.

The Gospel lesson for Maundy Thursday was from John 13:1-17, 31b-35 and was read by Pastor Na. It told the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples during the Last Supper and his conversation with Peter, who did not want Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus told his disciples that servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them and Jesus gave them a new commandment to do as he has done: wash one another's feet and love one another. Pastor Na's sermon was entitled "The Love Mandate." The sermon was followed by a responsive prayer. Then came the Peace, the Lord's Prayer, communion, the Post Communion Blessing and Prayer, and the stripping of the altar.



Good Friday was observed on March 29th this year. The First Lesson was from Isaiah 52:13- 53:12. The Second Lesson was from Hebrews 10:16-25. Following these two lessons was the Gospel reading of THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN, from John 18:1—19:42. The Gospel Lectors were: Pastor Na, Anna Graeber, Bette Deller, Jan Kalshoven, and Billy Clark. Pastor Na's sermon followed the Gospel readings and was entitled "It is Finished." After the sermon, there was a responsive prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer said in unison and the Procession and Conclusion. There was no music.

Easter Sunday



Easter was celebrated on March 31st, and worship services were held both on Zoom and in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am. Lilies adorned the church behind the altar, in front of the altar, and in the narthex to decorate for this special occasion. The opening hymn was "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today."

Steve McKisson served as Lector, reading the first lesson from Acts 10:34-43. It told of Peter speaking to the people and telling them that anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him and that Jesus is LORD of all and judge of the living and the dead. Peter also told of how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and the power to go about doing good and healing. The second lesson was from 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and told of the good news that Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised from the dead on the third day, and appeared to Cephas, the twelve, and more than 500 people.

The Gospel was from Mark 6:1-8. It told of how Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to the tomb of Jesus and found a young man in a white robe, who told them that Jesus had risen and had gone to Galilee. Pastor Na's sermon followed the Gospel reading and was entitled "The Best of the Story." It was followed by the singing of "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done." The Nicene Creed was recited in Unison and the Prayers of Intercession were led by Ramesh Das, who was acting as Assisting Minister.

After saying the Peace, the choir sang "Risen Today" as their anthem accompanied by Director, Laura Kalshoven. Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller played handbells along with the anthem. Lydia and Josie Kalshoven sang with the choir on this special holiday. Following the anthem was the Offertory and Offertory Prayer, the Great Thanksgiving, the Sanctus, and the Lord's Prayer followed by communion and the Pastor's blessing. The service ended with the recessional hymn entitled "Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing."

It was a beautiful service and an uplifting day for all. We loved the special music, and all felt truly blessed. A special potluck meal was shared following the service.



Pastor Na at the Easter Worship Service



The Handbell Station was Ready for Annie and Bette



Tables Were Made Ready for the Easter Potluck



The Wide Variety Food Was Delicious.

Members Enjoyed the Meal and the Camaraderie.



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

Council Report



January – The January meeting was held on January 14th. Pastor Na thanked the council for approving his trip to South Carolina. He also thanked the fellowship committee (Bette Deller and Annie Gajadhar) for all they do, Jan Kalshoven for getting flowers for special occasions, Anna Graeber for her work on benevolence, and Jean Opeka, Bette Deller, and Anna Graeber for working on the newsletter for us. Thanks to Billy Clark, a new refrigerator will be installed in the kitchen on January 22.

Laura Kalshoven, Treasurer, submitted her report and commented on some of the expenses and bills that were paid. She also presented the proposed budget for 2024, and the council voted to approve it to be presented at the annual meeting. Pastor moved that we accept Jan Kalshoven as a new member of APLC, and the council voted to accept him.

February – Pastor Na thanked the council for their assistance in conducting the annual meeting and thanked Annie Gajadhar for conducting such a loving meeting. He also thanked Bette Deller for decorating the coffee room for us with special themes, Billy Clark for getting our new refrigerator, and Chris Ham for refurbishing all of our handbells. Pastor also welcomed Jan Kalshoven as a new member of our church and of the council.

Laura Kalshoven, Treasurer, reported that we had the usual expenses and a few big ones that have been paid: the new refrigerator, Insurance State Farm, Consolidated Metal (Maintenance of the HVAC system). She also paid for the materials for handbell repair, CUCE, American Wheat, and Global Refuge (formerly LIRS). Under New Business, there was a discussion of switching to an online version of Intuit. Jan Kalshoven will look into the cost as we think more about that.

The current officers agreed to remain in office and the council voted to accept that. Jan Kalshoven and Lydia Kalshoven will accompany Pastor Na to the Synod Conference on June 1, 2024. Pastor Na announced that there will be no Bible Study on March 27th and April 3rd.

March – Pastor Na reported that Sherlon and Rafeena have requested the baptism of their second son, which will be conducted on June 2, 2024. Rafeena also wants to take confirmation classes to become a Christian, so Pastor Na will begin classes for her in September on Wednesday nights after Bible study to continue for one year. Her baptism will be on Easter 2025. Pastor Na thanked Billy Clark for handling repair work on our building. An HVAC inspection will be scheduled for the last week in March.

Jan Kalshoven will get the Easter lilies for the church, and Pastor Na will put order forms in the bulletin for those who would like to buy some to take home. The cost will be \$8.50 each. Pastor Na thanked Chris Ham for restoring the handbells and Bette Deller for counting and depositing the offering each week in addition to serving as council secretary, and member of the fellowship committee and newsletter committee.

Laura Kalshoven reported that we will be using Quick Books online program instead of the desktop version, and she has paid for the switch. She also reported that our Schwab investment account has grown 3.9% this year. There was a discussion about discontinuing our website and using a public Facebook account instead.



April – Pastor Na thanked everyone who helped make Easter a success. That included Jan Kalshoven for getting the Easter lilies for the holiday, Josie and Lydia Kalshoven for singing with the choir, Bette Deller and Annie Gajadhar for playing handbells, and Chris Ham for restoring them. It also included everyone who served as a reader during Holy Week and all who brought food to the potluck.

We had an increase in donations during March due to a large contribution from one of our members. Laura Kalshoven reported the difficulties she has had using the new online version of Quick Books and with the lack of helpful service from the company, so we may go back to the desktop version or another product. In the meantime, Chris Ham offered to help her with the online version. The council voted to move some money out of our checking account to be placed in a short-term CD in our Schwab account.

Jan Kalshoven designed a new ad to place in the Greenbelt newspaper. The council voted to try it out in that newspaper for two weeks per month during May, June, and September. The council voted to have geraniums adorn the church for Pentecost on May 19th even though Pastor Na will be away that whole month. Jan Kalshoven will take care of getting the geraniums for us.

A change in the frequency of council meetings was discussed. It was decided to continue scheduling the next meeting as needed at the end of each meeting before we adjourn rather than have a monthly or bimonthly meeting. Pastor Peter Bastien will lead our worship service on May 12th, and Pastor Eugene Kern on May 19th and May 26th while Pastor Na is in Korea visiting his mother as she turns 90 years old. There will be no council meeting in May.

Bette Deller, Council Secretary

News from the Pews

- **Jean Opeka** – Jean and Matt Opeka were pleased to hear that their son, Mark, will be the recipient of the John Koenig Lifetime Achievement Award for distinguished service from the National Space and Missile Materials Symposium in June. The award is given to one who has exemplified technical and organizational leadership, inspired others in the field, and provided mentorship. Mark had previously won a distinguished service award from the Navy for his many years of employment with them. Mark grew up at Abiding Presence, but he and his family now belong to a Presbyterian church in Laurel.

- **Jan Kalshoven** – Jan, husband of Laura Kalshoven, our organist and choir leader, became an official member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 21, 2024. He is also the father of Jason, Lydia, and Josephine Kalshoven and Julia Hajek. Jan has attended worship services at APLC for several years prior to this year and has been involved and active in many events and capacities. We welcome him both as a new church member and also a new member of the church council. 😊



Pastor Na, Jan Kalshoven and Annie Gajadhar

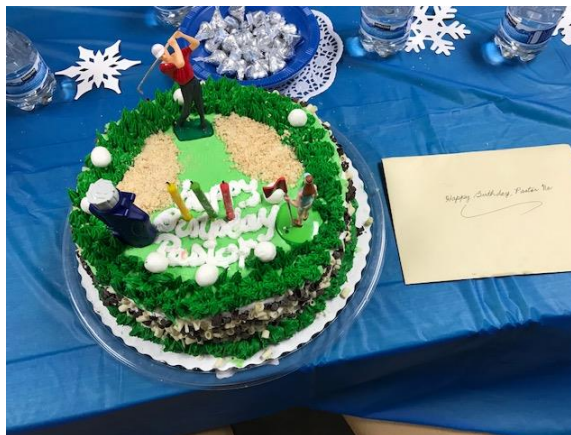


Laura and Jan Kalshoven with Pastor Na

- **Pastor Na** – The congregation surprised Pastor Na with a special birthday cake and card on Sunday, January 21st. His actual birthday was on Saturday, January 20, 2024. The cake had a golfing theme since the Pastor is a golf enthusiast. Annie Gajadhar supplied the cake and decorated it especially for him. Everyone who was present that day sang “Happy Birthday” to him and enjoyed partaking of the cake and the other tasty refreshments supplied by Keisun Na.



Pastor Na Blows Out His Birthday Candles



A close-up of the Cake Annie Gajadhar Decorated



-Ramesh Das – Reflections of Life

As we age, we become more aware of the wonder of life and how quickly we can let life slip by.

When I was Young, I found it difficult to wake up. Now I am Old I find it difficult to Sleep.

When I was Young, I was worried about my Pimples. Now I am Old I am worried about my Wrinkles.

When I was Young, I was waiting to hold someone's Hand. Now I am Old I am waiting for someone to hold my Hand.

When I was Young, I wanted my parents to leave me Alone. Now I am Old I am worried to be left Alone.

When I was Young, I hated being Advised. Now I am Old there is no one around to Talk to or Advise.

When I was Young, I admired Beautiful things. Now I am Old I see Beauty in things around me.

When I was Young, I felt I was Eternal. Now I am Old I know soon it will be my Turn.

When I was Young, I celebrated the Moments. Now I am Old I am cherishing the Memories.

When I was Young, I wanted to be a Heart-Throb. Now I am Old I am worried about when my heart will stop Throbbing.

At extreme stages of our life we worry but we need to realize that life needs to be Experienced. It doesn't matter whether Young or Old life needs to be lived with Love and Loved Ones. Live and enjoy Life. Build Lovely and Happy moments. You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems like just yesterday that I was Young, and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way it seems like years ago, and I wonder where all the years went.

I know I have lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and all of my hopes and dreams. However, here it is the last quarter of my life, and it catches me by surprise!!

How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go, and where did my youth go?

And now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and the ability to go and do things I wish I had done but never did. At least now I know, and though I am on my last quarter, and I am not sure how long it will last, but when it is over on this earth for me, I will begin a new adventure - a marvelous one I can feel it.

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done, but truly there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So if you are not in the last quarter of your life yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it quickly. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by so quickly. So do what you can today as you can never be sure whether you are on the last quarter or not.

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life. So live for today, and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope they appreciate and love you for who you are.

Life is a gift to you. Be happy in it.

Have a Fantastic Day and Wonderful Years ahead, and whatever quarter of life you are in make it count.

God Bless.

- **Bette Deller** – Bette’s daughter-in-law came over and took Bette to a followup appointment in Columbia with her cardiologist on February 13th. It’ was nice to be chauffeured and to have another pair of ears listening to the doctor. Denise brought Bette flowers, candy, and a pair of pjs with hearts all over them for Valentine’s Day. The appointment went well. Bette was told she was doing fine, and her next appointment was scheduled for October 24th. Denise and Bette went to lunch at The Olive Garden afterwards. Denise also took Bette to a followup appointment with her hearing doctor in March to check on Bette’s new hearing aids. That appointment went well, too, and the next appointment was scheduled for the end of June.



Denise at the Olive Garden

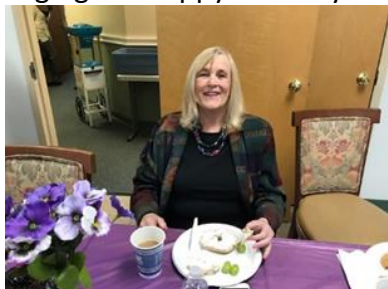


Valentine’s Day Flowers



Bette in Her Valentine Pjs

- **Pat Thornberg** –Pat Thornberg had a birthday on March 20th. We had a small celebration for her on Sunday, March 24th after the worship service with a tasty chocolate cake and the singing of “Happy Birthday to You.” Everyone clapped, and we took some photos.



Pat Enjoying Coffee and Snacks



Keisun, Pastor Na, and Annie



Pat Ready to Blow Out Her Candle

- **Zally Thurairatnam – My 9-11 Experience** – Yes, it happened a long time ago, but the memories keep recurring and are traumatic. At that time I was working at G.E 115 Broadway, a stone’s throw from the twin towers. On that day I was in the conference room watching the 1st plane turn towards the towers thinking they were filming a movie. When the 1st plane hit, the impact caused our building to shake as if we were experiencing a strong earthquake. When the 2nd plane hit, we were told to evacuate the building. I went to a small park nearby watching in dismay as the towers started to crumble. I was soon covered in soot and ashes. That’s when HR personnel told us to go home. I started to walk home, crossing the Brooklyn Bridge with hundreds of other people. It was the scariest and longest walk of my life. My son was just 3 years old, and I had to pick him up from the babysitter and rush home still walking for miles. I turned on the TV at home looking at the news and was horrified at the scene but could not turn away.

I learned later of the thousands that had died. My name was listed as one who had perished in the attack. My name was posted at the Grand Central Station. I was totally shocked and had to show proof that I was alive. I never thought that I would go through something as stressful as what happened on that day but unfortunately, I was diagnosed



with cancer some time ago. When life throws you curve balls relying your faith is the greatest strength you have to pull you through. May God Bless all of you.

- **Jan Kalshoven** – It was back in 2017 that we drove to Tennessee to catch totality for the eclipse near the place where I grew up in Knoxville. Of course we discussed the upcoming 2024 eclipse which seemed quite far in the future at the time. Well, the future came, and we saw totality for a second time. (At least everyone in the family except Josie and Julia saw it. Again, they were far away from totality. However, they did see a partial eclipse. They had also missed totality in 2017.)

This time the excitement was led by Lydia. The media hype in 2024 was much greater than in 2017, and I had no specific viewing location criteria except to pick one that was reasonably a short driving distance away. However, Lydia acquired an app which amongst its features had a probability forecasting capability for clouds in any location at the time of totality. My attitude was that even if it was overcast, it would still turn totally dark. It would be a different experience from the clear sky darkness we had in Tennessee.

I had heard about hotels being booked and Airbnb's being sold out all along the path of totality. My original plan was to leave early on Monday morning, the day of the eclipse, get to totality, and then head right back, avoiding all the booking headaches since the eclipse wasn't supposed to occur until late in the afternoon.

Then on Saturday afternoon, two days before the event, I went to Google Maps and started looking for hotels. I found one that was very reasonable just to the west of Columbus Ohio on the edge of the path. Since Jason's girlfriend and Lydia's boyfriend were coming, I booked two rooms, took our 2005 Grand Caravan, and left after church on Sunday.

Lydia's app was showing that due west of Columbus was more likely cloud-free. From Columbus I saw that the shortest route to totality was to a city called Wapakoneta Ohio. I had heard the name before but couldn't remember why. The morning of the eclipse a friend told me that was the birthplace of Neil Armstrong and that his home was a museum there. This was enough for Lydia to be happy with that as our destination rather than a different city with a tiny bit better probability of clear sky. Luckily, we were basically cloud-free after all.

It only took a little over an hour to get close to Wapakoneta. I wanted to stop at a rest stop that had 3 minutes and 49 seconds of totality. I figured that then we could just get back on the road and head home afterwards and not worry about the forecast of heavy, heavy traffic going back east.

Then Lydia prevailed upon me to keep driving until we got to the museum. It turns out it was in a big field with a beautiful dome. Across the four lane highway were simple things like gas stations and fast-food places, but in the field, there were already what appeared to be thousands of cars! People crammed on the lawn are sitting in the beds of their trucks with telescopes and binoculars ready.

So we just pulled into the Taco Bell across the street where there was plenty of parking and a very friendly staff. We wanted lunch anyway and it was delicious. The staff was very interactive with us. The manager said if there was anyone in line to place an order when totality began. They were just going to have to wait!

We comfortably spread out in the grass on the other side of their parking lot with blue sky above us with only a few wispy clouds. Lydia's app gave us minute by minute coverage of the percent of coverage by the moon of the Sun from where we were located. It was hard to notice any darkening of the area until over 90% of the sun was covered. By about 96%, it became obvious. It felt like an overcast day although the sky was clear.

Then came totality. Off on the horizons you could see the bright skies still but where we were it was like late twilight. We were even able to see a solar flare at the bottom of the moon. As time went by, we could see to the south brightness approaching us, but behind us to the north it was still dark like saturated rain clouds as the sun's shadow slowly swept past us on its northeastward journey. Beautiful success!

We did have some traffic on a back road coming back but then it cleared up after Columbus. Since we took freeways, it was rather an easy ride home although we didn't get in till 2:00 am! We didn't rush back on the road after the eclipse. We are too busy swapping stories and just feeling joyous.

It was definitely worth it to heed my youngest and not make it a day trip. The fun of a small group at the Taco Bell across from the birthplace of the first man to step foot on the moon goes down for 2/3 of our family as another successful eclipse. My fingers are crossed that the other 1/3 eventually gets to see a total eclipse somewhere in the future. Given their careers, I'm sure they will.



Trivia Corner

May - The month May was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility and the mother of Hermes. Maia was also tied with the May Roman festival of Bona Dea, which honored the goddess of fertility and healing. May is still connected with growth, renewal, and fertility in many cultures, and it is a significant time of year for many celebrations and festivals. May is the official month of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The weather begins to warm up during this season, and the natural world begins to come back to life after the long, harsh winter.



June - June was most likely named for the Roman goddess Juno, patroness of marriage and the well-being of women. Juno was the wife of Jupiter and the queen of the gods. However, there are multiple theories as to what the month of June was named after. One theory is that it was named after the Roman goddess of marriage, Juno. Another theory is that its name originates from the Latin word "*iuniores*," which translates into "younger ones". Yet another possibility is that the month was named after Lucius Junius Brutus, the founder of the Roman Republic. June was called "*sera monat*" by the Anglo-Saxons, which translated into "dry month."



July - July was named by the Roman Senate in honor of Roman general Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., being the month of his birth. Before then it was called Quintilis, being the fifth month of the calendar that started with March. July is the seventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Its length is 31 days. It is on average the warmest month in most of the Northern Hemisphere, where it is the second month of summer.



August - August, the eighth month of the Gregorian calendar, was named to honor the first Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar (63 B.C.– A.D. 14) in 8 BCE. Augustus was the grandnephew of Julius Caesar. Augustus comes from the Latin word "augustus," meaning venerable, noble, and majestic. The original name for the month of August was Sextilis, Latin for "sixth month," indicating its position in the early Roman calendar beginning with March.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

MAY

	5TH	12TH
A-Minister	Annie Gajadhar	Bette Deller
Lector	Anna Graeber	Jean Opeka

	19TH	26TH
A-Minister	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
Lector	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

JUNE

	2ND	9TH
A-Minister	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
Lector	Ramesh Das	Jan Kalshoven

	16TH	23RD
A-Minister	Jan Kalshoven	Zally Thurairatnam
Lector	Billy Clark	Annie Gajadhar

	30TH	
A-Minister	Annie Gajadhar	
Lector	Zally Thurairatnam	

JULY

	7TH	14TH
A-Minister	Anna Graeber	Bette Deller
Lector	Bette Deller	Anna Graeber

	21ST	28TH
A-Minister	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
Lector	Ramesh Das	Jean Opeka

AUGUST

	4TH	11TH
A-Minister	Billy Clark	Steve McKisson
Lector	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark

	18TH	25TH
A-Minister	Jan Kalshoven	Zally Thurairatnam
Lector	Zally Thurairatnam	Jan Kalshoven