



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 43
Fall Issue, 2024

Calendar

September

11th Wednesday

Online Bible Study &
Confirmation class begin

October

27th Sunday

Reformation Sunday

November

Food Drive

3rd Sunday

All Saints Sunday
Daylight Saving Time ends

24th Sunday

Christ the King Sunday

December

The Gifts of Hope

1st Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

8th Sunday

Greening of the Church

15th Sunday

Gift Exchange

24th Tuesday

Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 pm

25th Wednesday

Christmas Day
(No Service)

29th Sunday

Lessons & Carols

“We Will Serve the Lord”

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord...” (Joshua 24:15b)

In the biblical story of Joshua, after long years of wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites conquer the promised land. Joshua gathers all the tribes at Shechem, bringing together the heads of the tribes, the judges of the people, and the officers of Israel. Then, he brokers a relationship. “Now therefore revere the Lord...put away the gods that your ancestors served... and serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:14).

What does it mean to leave behind the ancestral gods and serve the one God Yahweh? This transition may not be as easy as one might imagine: “How we long to serve the gods of our ancestors, the gods on the other side of the river where we remember life was better!” In the 1950s, the television show *Leave it to Beaver* characterized such a life: Nuclear families prospered through the support of their fathers. Tidy homes flourished with abundant food, lovely flowers, and all-around happiness. Those were the days when safety and plenty reigned. The gods of order and abundance held sway. America watched over and protected all the inhabitants of the land. All was right with the world.

The ancestral gods of the Israelite people provided many of the same benefits. Tied geographically to the land they protected, these gods guaranteed security and abundance to all who lived within their embrace. As the people discovered while they were wandering in the wilderness, slavery did not seem too high a price to pay for safety and prosperity. The place of belonging, even if it is in bondage, may be better than wandering about, unsettled, homeless, hungry, and unknown. It would be difficult for the people to face a future in a new land with different promises, expectations, dreams, and a new understanding of God.

The God Yahweh is different from the worship of the ancestral gods. This one God is not simply a god of the land, place, and prosperity. This one God is a God who travels with God’s people. This God is not tied to any

location or sanctuary. This God makes a different kind of promise to the people. This God promises to accompany the covenant people no matter where they go. This God will be with them not only in their prosperity but also in their suffering and in their trials. This God also promises security and abundance. This God promises to be present throughout everything life brings. For a battle-worn, world-weary, wandering community, this is a different kind of promise from a different kind of God. In this promise, they are able to glimpse the one God who is present with them in birth, in death, in humiliation, in joy, in wandering, and in arrival. This God delights in the people and also desires much more than safety and plenty for them. This God desires for them new life.

Recognizing the one God who has been with us all the way, we declare, in unison: “Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” Amen.

In this Issue

	<i>Page 1</i>
Calendar/We Will Serve the Lord	2
President’s Message/ Prayers/Birthdays	3-4
Music Ministry/Synod Assembly/ The Loss of A Great Friend	5
Baptism	6-7
Ice Cream & Pizza Party/Birthdays	8-9
Where Did That Phrase Come From? /Council Report	10-15
News from the Pews	16
Trivia Corner	17-18
Serving in Worship	

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Message from the President

Summer is almost over, which means vacationing is over for most of us. Pastor and Keisun are the ones to venture off on a vacation in May to visit family in Korea for 4 weeks. At that time we had two Pastors to preside over our Sunday worships, Pastor Kern and Pastor Bastein. They both delivered great sermons, but we missed Pastor Na's sermons.

I would like to recognize our very own Josie Kalshoven on her graduation from Brown University with a PhD in Biomedical Engineering. To top that off, her graduation day was on her parent's 28th wedding anniversary! Talk about double celebrations! Congratulations to both daughter and parents. Josie, we are all very proud of you. Also, we welcome you back home, at least for a while. Congratulations also go to Mitchell Deller, grandson of Bette Deller. Mitchell graduated from VA Tech for a second time after completing the requirements for a master's degree in accounting.

There are other events to celebrate that occurred during the summer in our church. On June 2nd, we had a baptism for Logan Gajadhar, son of Sherlon and Rafeena Gajadhar. On May 12th, we celebrated Mother's Day with special refreshments and gifts for the mothers. The same was done on June 15th on Father's Day, when we had a special cake. We also had a pizza and ice cream social on July 28, organized by Bette Deller, while I was out of town. Thank you, Bette! We are blessed to have you all as part of our congregation.

As you all know, Anna Graeber, a prominent and long-standing member of our church passed away in June. It was so sad and a big loss for our congregation. Her sister is waiting for all the necessary paperwork before traveling to the USA for a memorial service, which we will plan at a later time. Let's continue to keep her sister and other family members in our prayers.

Thanks go to Chris Ham and Billy Clark for taking care of the maintenance of our church building. Thanks to all of you for your continued support with your gifts and talents.

Peace,

*Congregation President
Annie Gajadhar*

In Our Prayers: Angela, Betty, Bobbie, Brooke, Chris, Debra, Gene, Janet, Joan, Julia, Ken, Linda, Lisa, Matt, Meghan, Moon-Hee Kim, Neil, Norma, Pam, 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), Logan Gajadhar (11/9) and Lucas Gajadhar (12/26).

Music Ministry



I recently read of someone complaining that “Summer should get a speeding ticket!” I agree! Summer has gone by so quickly! The one bright spot is that Steve McKisson and I will resume choir after Labor Day. It is an absolute joy rehearsing each Wednesday for the upcoming Sunday service. If anyone would like to join us in singing, we meet at 11:00am. You are always welcome! Here’s to a wonderful Fall!

Laura Kalshoven

2024 Synod Assembly



My daughter, Lydia, and I joined Pastor Na representing APLC at the Metro DC Synod meeting June 1st at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax VA. It was Lydia’s and my first experience filling such a role.

Our destination was all the way around the beltway during rush hour. With Pastor Na driving, we arrived before 9 am on time, and in time to snag the last on-site parking spot, thus avoiding having to use the shuttle bus that was provided for overflow. The significance of this was the ease of departure afterwards! Excellent driver!

After a simple breakfast we were very happy that Pastor Na is the type of person that likes to sit up front. We got nice seats on the end of the second row despite there being hundreds of people already settled down. This made the whole event much more personal and engaging.

There was a service followed by many presentations, although a lot of time was spent in doting introductions and subsequent individual public thanks and shout-outs amongst the cognizant. The main sessions in the auditorium consisted of additional administrative activities that did not impact our congregation. The smaller workshops were well done but on subjects our congregation is having no issue with, such as stewardship and mission support.



The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Marci Vandiver, Associate Professor of Education at Towson University. Bishop Marianne Edgar Budde preached at the service and also conducted an energetic workshop on Decision Making.

Lunch turned out to be an educational highlight when the synod secretary, Barbara Bilodeau, joined the three of us. The topics ranged from the functioning of synods to HVAC issues! Overall, this was a great introduction to the scope and scale of ELCA for this newest member of APLC.

Jan Kalshoven

The Loss of a Great Friend



Abiding Presence has lost a beloved friend and a devoted servant of our Lord. Anna Graeber died, unexpectedly, on June 24 at home while fighting the ravages of cancer that she had fought for so bravely for many years.

When we cite someone's death it usually looks like this;

Anna Olga Graeber
June 13, 1942 -----June 24, 2024

but what does that long line between the dates really mean? That is our line of life, and in Anna's case it means a lifetime of teaching others, of helping others, of being true

and dedicated to her Lutheran calling.

Her parents moved to Buffalo, NY in the mid 1920's from Germany, hence, the Lutheran connection. Anna earned her BS degree in New York, then earned her master's at Indiana St., and completed her education at Columbia. She lived for many years in Philadelphia, where she was instrumental in establishing math programs for elementary as well as high school students. In 1986, she moved to Maryland and took a position at the University of Maryland, where she eventually attained the rank of Associate Professor, having taught many math courses including doctoral courses. She enjoyed traveling, and when she retired in 2010, she continued traveling, frequently to see her sister, Martha Zarikow (whom many of us met when she came here to assist Anna after a serious operation), brother-in-law and nieces in Germany.

It's important to us that when she moved to Maryland, she joined Abiding Presence, and over the years served as a Sunday School teacher, Treasurer and President of the Church Council.

Anna always credited the support and encouragement of others in making her the person that she became. We, and innumerable others, were so fortunate to have had her influence in our lives. This is briefly Anna's "line of life," but she has written an extensive autobiography that can be obtained from Pastor Na.

Rest in peace, Anna, good and faithful servant, with the knowledge that your legacy, your stewardship, have laid the foundation of service and love for generations to come.

Jean Opeka

Baptism

On Sunday, June 2, 2024, Logan Nizam Gajadhar, son of Rafeena and Sherlon Gajadhar and grandson of Murzeena and Jerome Gajadhar was baptized during our worship service. Logan is also the great nephew of Annie Gajadhar. It was a lovely and solemn ceremony with the presence of the Holy Spirit followed by a wonderful luncheon provided by the extended Gajadhar family.



(Clockwise from the upper left) – the beginning of the baptism; right after – with the presence of Godparents: Nafeena Bacchus and Marlon Gajadhar; and also with Lucas (Logan's older brother) and Adelyn (Logan's cousin)



The ceremony continued at the altar



Logan with his parents, Sherlon & Rafeena, and his older brother, Lucas

Pizza and Ice Cream Party – On July 28, 2024, we had a special summer social event...a pizza party! The fellowship committee ordered 6 medium pizzas from Domino's with various double toppings. Members volunteered to bring in ice cream and toppings for dessert. Tables were set up in the sanctuary and covered with blue tablecloths. Bud vases of white flowers were added to decorate each table. The pizza was plentiful and delicious, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Whatever was left over was taken home by anyone who wanted to have some for later. 😊



Birthdays – May – August



Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between May and August 2024. 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



Billy Clark
May 12



Steve McKisson
May 27



Joyce Das
June 11



Bette Deller
June 18



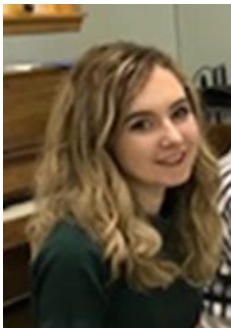
Jerome Gajadhar
July 4



Soomin Na
July 10



Nathan Na
July 18



Lydia Kalshoven
July 31



Laura Kalshoven
August 13

WHERE DID THAT PHRASE COME FROM?

In these days of frequent political discourse, we really need to listen with both ears to what is emanating from the mouths of our elected and soon-to-be-, or not-to-be elected officials.

They may be accused of "hemming and hawing" in response to a question they are reluctant to answer. So, where did that idiom hem and haw come from? We think of the phrase as meaning to speak of or act indecisively and the two words were joined for the sake of emphasis, as in "beck and call", or, "aid and abet."

The word "hem" actually means to hesitate in speech, while "haw" actually is defined as an utterance marking hesitation.

An English Tudor priest actually coined the phrase in 1530, and it traveled to the U.S. sometime around the end of the 19th century. Surprisingly, a variant of the phrase is actually the use of 'um' and 'ah' in speaking. Now when you hear someone saying 'um' in the middle of their sentence, they are actually hemming and hawing!

Jean Opeka

COUNCIL REPORT



May - The church council did not meet in May, July, or August.

June - The council met on June 22, 2024. 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:

1. Jan Kalshoven for putting up the banners,
2. Laura Kalshoven for taking care of the music,
3. Annie Gajadhar for seeing that things go smoothly,
4. Bette Deller for continuing to change the decorations in our coffee room often,
5. Billy Clark for monitoring the HVAC system, and
6. Chris Ham for placing roach traps around the church building.

The financial secretary was in Switzerland visiting her daughter, so she was unable to submit her financial graph for last month. Laura Kalshoven submitted the Treasurer's report and spoke about the status of our accounts. She reported some problems with Intuit resulting in some refunds from them and the IRS. She also reported that the bills have all been paid and that \$20,000 was added to our Schwab investment account as voted on at an earlier meeting. The council discussed several items of business. Rich Moore's burial at Arlington is still an open case. Documents are needed from the National Archives. Jan Kalshoven is monitoring

the situation. Billy Clark obtained estimates from two pest control companies should we need one. The council moved to monitor the situation before doing any treatment.

Billy also reported that the building HVAC system is old, but there are no issues with it at this time. We have free inspections twice a year. The council selected July 28th as the date for our pizza and ice cream party. The fellowship committee (Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller) will handle the details. Annie Gajadhar will prepare a new supply list to post on the church bulletin board and passed around a signup sheet asking council members to volunteer to provide various items.

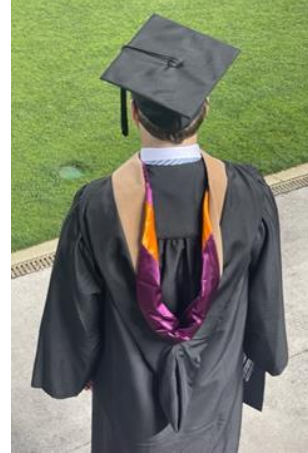
Pastor Na announced that we will no longer have ushers. Instead, will have greeters who will arrive 10 minutes early to greet and hand out bulletins in the lobby as people arrive for worship. Pastor Na will light the candles in place of ushers. Annie Gajadhar will speak to Ann LaVigna about updating our church directory. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Bette Deller, Council Secretary

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Jean and Matt Opeka:** Matt and Jean Opeka celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary with dinner and a family get-together on August 31. Homemade ice cream and peach pie capped off the evening as the celebrants wondered where all those years had gone, and reminisced with fond memories.

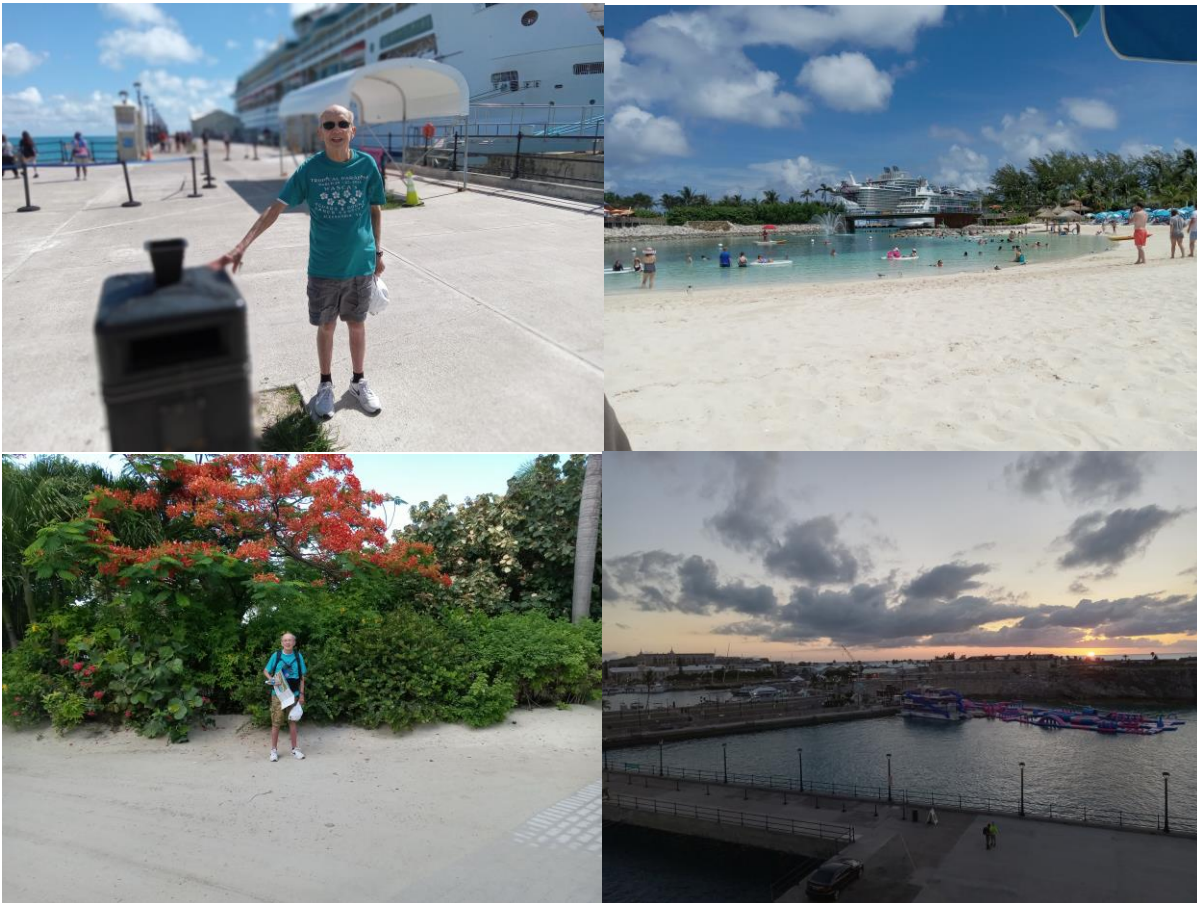
- **Bette Deller** – On May 8, 2024, Bette attended her grandson's graduation ceremony for obtaining his master's degree from Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, VA. His degree is in accounting, and his special interest is auditing. He began his new job with KPMG International Limited in Washington, DC on August 2, 2024. KPMG International Limited is a multinational professional services network, and one of the Big Four accounting organizations.



Bette's granddaughter, Brooke, is a forensics major. She just finished her freshman year at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Her mom says that she really enjoyed her freshman year! She made lots of friends, learned how to do a lot on her own, and got to experience college courses. She is looking forward to her sophomore year, which begins on August 20, 2024.



- **Eugene Lehr:** I traveled on a cruise ship this summer. Here are some pictures.



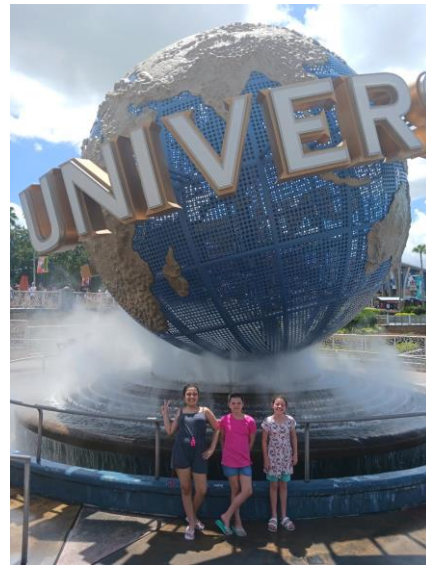
- **Pat Thornberg: Our Family Summer Vacation** – This is the first year that my daughter and her family were not able to attend our family vacation. Her stepdaughter starts college in High Point NC in August. I was very disappointed that they were not able to come, and they were greatly missed. However, Dennis's daughter and granddaughter were able to meet us there. They live in Sarasota, Florida.



My son made all the reservations in February for July for our trip to Florida. Because of his work the only time he was able to take off was in July. I was not thrilled about going to Florida in July, but we did go. He made reservations at Legoland Resort which I highly recommend. We had a nice home that slept 10 people. The house was large and comfortable for all of us. At the lodge they had a pool, lazy river, and everything you could want. Great place for several families to be together.

We decided to take the auto train to Florida. This was a new experience for us. It was OK. I suggest that if you decide to go, take your food with you. I was not impressed with the food. It's been several years since I was in Florida. From the auto train to the resort all we could see was all new neighborhoods being built, numerous new buildings, plenty of places to eat and all types of attractions. The surroundings were beautiful. There was lots of traffic, but the scenery was just beautiful. I thought the prices had tripled since I was there last. It wasn't hot as I thought. In Maryland that week was hotter.

We stayed at the lodge for several hours waiting for the house to be ready. I could have stayed there all week because they had a lot things to do. My son had planned to visit a park or sometimes two each day. This was the first time Michael's children visited Florida. When he was young, his father and I spent our vacations in Florida every year. Over the years, it has changed a lot, and it's a great place to live if you can stand the summers.



Each day, we all had places to go. Each morning and evening we all met and had a meal together. The girls would tell us all the events of that day. We did celebrate Dennis's daughter's 40th birthday at a famous Japanese restaurant where the chef cooks in front of you and puts on an act with food. We had such a great time there.

The week went so fast that in no time, it was time to leave. We all had such a good time we could have stayed an extra week, but we couldn't. We decided to drive back as the children didn't want to go back on the train. We drove back and stopped at some of the places Michael remembered as a child. It was fun being with the families. I hope next year we can go someplace not so hot for our family vacations.

My daughter and her family are thinking about moving from California to Nashville next summer. They decided they wanted to be closer to his daughter who is attending college in NC. I visited Nashville when Angela graduated. It's been a few years, but it's a great place to have our summer vacation. I am so thankful to be able to go with my family on vacation, but the parks in the summer are too much. We shall see what next year brings.

- Ramesh Das – My trip to Guyana after 34 years seems as if I am in another world. Some of the changes are dramatic, such as the road repositioning and addition to make your trip from one place to another much easier and quicker. New bridges are being constructed across easier counties of Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo. It may not seem such a big deal in America, but for Guyana it is major for travel and for reducing the timeline dramatically.

People are building houses, I mean, huge houses like there is not tomorrow. The house where I used to live seems puny. I walk into the malls that were not there in my time and I think I am in America. Everything you want is available including fast foods, Burger King, KFC, McDonalds, Churches, Popeyes, and prominently in the mix is Starbucks and PF Chang just to name a few. Hoping the oil revenue will continue to create positive changes to improve Guyana and the Guyanese people on the whole. The changes so far are impressive.



This is St George's Cathedral, an Anglican Church in Georgetown, the capital. It was once the largest wooden church structure in the world



This is the house where I used to live



Now the house is surrounded by massive houses



The high school where I taught physics and integrated science, and the church I attended.



- **Soomin Na** – Hello again! I'm back with another camping update. This time it's from Glacier National Park. Traveling to Montana was quite the trek from Houston, but the sights were wonderful. The huckleberry ice cream was delicious, and we saw a lot of wildlife!



- **Keisun Na** – On May 7, 2024, I departed from Washington Dulles Airport and, after a 15-hour flight, arrived in Korea on May 8 with Jongkil. Although it was a long flight, the air conditioning on the plane was good, and the friendly service made it an enjoyable journey. Since my father-in-law passed away, my mother-in-law has been very heartbroken, so we plan to visit Korea every year, which brings a small comfort to both Jongkil and me. As I adjusted to my mother-in-law's routine, which begins with prayer and exercise, we went to the market, hiked, and cooked meals together. It reminded me of my childhood in Korea as I listened to my mother-in-law's constant concerns, even though we are grown up now. It's been 37 years since Jongkil and I came to New Haven in 1987 and began life in the United States, and time feels like a flowing river.

Together with Jongkil, we attended the church where my mother-in-law has served her whole life, met the church members, and had many conversations that we hadn't been able to have before. On May 19, Jongkil gave a sermon at Suseok Church. There were many

church members who missed and remembered my late father-in-law. Whether it's the members of Abiding Presence in the U.S., or the members of Suseok Church in Korea, I felt that the only differences were the location and language. The unchanging love of God transcends place and time. I earnestly pray that those I love stay healthy for a long time.



Trivia Corner

September – The name “September” comes from an old Roman word, “septem,” which actually means 7. It has 30 days. September was the seventh month of the year on the Roman calendar. It did not become the ninth month until the advent of the Gregorian calendar. Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters. It contains nine letters, and it happens to be the ninth month of the year. No other months have the same number of letters as their number in the calendar year.



October – October is the tenth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Its length is 31 days. It was the eighth month in the old calendar of Romulus c. 750 BC and retained its name (from Latin and Greek *ôctō* meaning "eight") after January and February were inserted into the calendar that had originally been created by the Romans.



November – November is the eleventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Its length is 30 days. November was the ninth month of the Roman calendar. November retained its name from the Latin *novem* meaning "nine" when January and February were added to the Roman calendar. November is a month of late spring in the Southern Hemisphere and late autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.



December - December is the twelfth and final month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Its length is 31 days. December's name comes from the Latin word *decem* (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar, which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any month. Later, the months of January and February were created out of the “month less” period and added to the beginning of the calendar, but December retained its name.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER

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

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

	29 TH	
A-Minister	Billy Clark	
Lector	Jan Kalshoven	

OCTOBER

	6 TH	13 TH
A-Minister	Jan Kalshoven	Annie Gajadhar
Lector	Billy Clark	Zally Thurairatnam

	20 TH	27 TH
A-Minister	Zally Thurairatnam	Bette Deller
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	Jean Opeka

NOVEMBER

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

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

DECEMBER

	1 ST	8 TH
A-Minister	Jan Kalshoven	Annie Gajadhar
Lector	Billy Clark	Zally Thurairatnam

	15 TH	22 ND
A-Minister	Zally Thurairatnam	Bette Deller
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	Jean Opeka

24TH (CHRISTMAS EVE) 29TH (LESSONS & CAROLS)

A-Minister	Jean Opeka	
Lector	Bette Deller	