



Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 35
Winter Issue, 2022

Calendar

Every Wednesday
Online Bible Study

January

6th Thursday
Season of Epiphany begins

9th Sunday
Baptism of our Lord

30th Sunday
Annual Congregational Meeting

February

27th Sunday
Transfiguration of Our Lord

March

2nd Wednesday
Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)

13th Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins

April

10th Sunday
Passion/Palm Sunday Holy Week Begins

14th & 15th
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday.

17th Sunday
Easter

"Sing a New Song"

"O sing to the Lord a new song, for he will judge the world in righteousness." (Psalms 96:1, 13)

The Psalm 96 of praise is proclaimed against the backdrop of Israel's memory of suffering. Through enslavement, oppression, war, famine, uncertainty and doubt in God's promise, the experience of humiliation and vulnerability, and the instability of life seemingly devoid of God's presence, God's faithfulness has prevailed. God's power has come to save, and Israel knows its reality as once again firm, secure, and stable.

The language of Psalm 96 is praise and exaltation, the exhortation to "sing a new song." Not only Israel, but all living things are called into a chorus of praise to God. The new song is a response to God's brand-new deeds, which transform reality and give birth to a new order – not only for humankind but throughout creation. This "new order" is the establishment of all things in the right relationship – what the psalmist calls "righteousness" (v. 13). The stable ordering of lives and all life, the firm foundation of the world, rests on the rule of God. The efficacy of God's rule, however, seems to depend upon Israel's acknowledgement of one true God and the rejection of all idols. It depends upon Israel's own relationship with this God, a relationship of honesty and trust. Above all, this relationship should give God what is due, which entails, reverencing the order of creation and humbly acknowledging the existence and participation of all other nations.

In this Christmas season, we look back to the birth of Jesus as the decisive fulfillment of that "always-coming" reign of God, and yet we still look forward to the fullness of that kingdom when Christ will come in glory. The coming of Christ in our day depends upon our willingness to allow the grace of God's reign to dissolve our devotion to the idols of our age, and instead, serve God whose presence is unchanging and eternal. We, who live in an ever-changing world in both uncertain and perilous times, seek the everlasting God as our only source of salvation. God is the one who offers strength in times of trouble and comfort in times of sorrow. In the midst of desperation,

God brings hope. In the face of oppression, God promises justice. We are able to "sing the new song" only to the extent that we are willing to open up to this grace and allow it to transform our lives. Glitter and bright lights have been spread throughout the land during this Christmas season. It is Christmas on the surface, but the authenticity of this Christmas for us rests upon our willingness to do what it takes to give birth to Christ in all facets of our lives today. This may require the humility of a child willing to lay the baby Jesus in a simple manger and to worship him as he is. This is the enthronement God chooses. Amen.

-Pastor Jongkil Na

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Message from the President

The Christmas season is busy. The “hustle and bustle” of this time of year is considered to be just part of it. I do enjoy all the special activities, events, and traditions of Christmas. I love decorating the house, driving around looking at Christmas lights, baking cookies, Christmas programs, holiday gatherings and all that stuff, but we must be careful that those things don't overshadow what Christmas really is about – the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift to us.

We had another year of virtual services for our church this year. As we are struggling with the decision to fully open up for services due to the covid pandemic, a new variant is on the rise. For this reason, our church will continue to offer online services until we are sure that it is safe to fully open up. In the meantime, our congregation is getting very comfortable with our online services even though we miss the face-to-face contact with each other. We are also sad to have another year with no festivities or events for our congregation. However, we are fortunate that we can see and talk to each other everyone Sundays online and have fellowship time there as well.

We have a brand-new year ahead of us. Let this be a time for renewal. With God's help, let us strive to renew our faith, our hope for the future, the love of family and friends and our service to others. May God bless us all and bring us happiness and peace throughout the coming year.

May God bestow His blessings on all of us as we continue on our journeys, always striving to fulfill God's vision for us. And let us truly rejoice in every day that the Lord has made, being ever vigilant to seek ways to spread God's love in the world.

*Congregation President
Annie Gajadhar*

Annual Meeting Coming Up – Sunday, January 30, 2022

Please make sure to attend our annual meeting which will follow our Sunday service on January 30th.

We will be reviewing annual reports, discussing the budget for the year, electing Council members, as well as discussing any other pertinent issues that may arise.

The meeting will be zoomed, and your participation is truly needed!

In Our Prayers: Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Julia, Ken, Lisa, Martha, Meghan, 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), Martha McKisson (3/22), Betty Wellborn (4/8), and Ramesh Das (4/20)

Benevolence News

During the season of Advent, the congregation was invited to share with the *Beltsville Women's Club* Toy Drive, *Gifts of Hope*, and the *Maryland Food Bank*. Our congregation's wonderful generosity continues. The *Maryland Food Bank* site for our congregation (operative through Easter) indicated that \$400 had been given as of December 23. *Gifts of Hope* contributions went directly to *Gifts of Hope*, so there is no congregational total to report. The Beltsville Women's Club is very thankful for the two big boxes of new toys from APLC.

Bible Study



Near the end of the Book of Revelation, Chapter 18, John continues his theme of encouraging the early Christians as well as warning them of the dangers of succumbing to the idolatrous values of Rome.

In verse 4, “A voice from heaven saying, “Come out of here my people, so you do not take part in her sins...” Generally, this is seen not as a call for leaving the Roman Empire but a call to avoid accommodation to its values and practices. John reports the lamentations of merchants, seaman, and citizens over the coming destruction of Babylon (Rome). He incorporates lamentations found in the Old Testament, borrowing heavily from Daniel, Lamentations, Isaiah, and Ezekiel sometimes adapting the older writings to his circumstances. John describes the wealth in Rome, which in and of itself is neither good or bad, but which has (and can) lead to letting goods, not God, rule in peoples' lives and can result in reliance on people being seen as “others” or even as “goods.” This led to a discussion of the role of goods in our own lives – do they rule, capture our allegiance, cause us to feel superior, or incur harm to others?

John's visions of the destruction of Babylon (Rome) are contrasted with praise of God for his judgement. John pictures the heavenly joy over God's judgement of Rome. “For God has given judgement for you against her (18:20).” This mirrors the joy we may experience in worship – even in the midst of the troubles of this world. The trials of life are by no means over, but we can look forward to and celebrate God's reign.

Anna Graeber

A Salute to Our Members: Lyn and Kelly Christie

In this issue, Lyn and Kelly Christie will be made more familiar to you. Although they are now in California with Ken, Katie (their older daughter) and grandchildren, they'll be back soon.

Lyn is an only child, born in Montana, and as an Army "brat" she saw a lot of the world with her dad in the service. She said they even lived in Alaska before it was part of the U.S. She still loves to travel, particularly to the Dominican Republic where she maintains the beaches are a big improvement over the California beaches!

Lyn graduated from Frostburg College with a teaching degree, and put that to use in Montgomery County. Among other pursuits, she also worked at the telephone company (C and P, now Bell Atlantic) as a Service Rep, then as secretary to one of the VP's and as a computer programmer. She met Ken at the telephone company, married him and Katie and Kelly arrived thereafter. She also became a Special Education Para Educator later on.

They all like to do a lot of hiking, particularly in National Parks, and on the Outer Banks. Lyn also loves gardening and feeding feral cats, both here in Maryland and in California.

Kelly held jobs here in Maryland but had to give them up when the pandemic arrived. In California she is in a Kennedy initiative class with some practical training, some socializing.

The Christies are long-time members of Abiding Presence, and we are happy to see them when they are back in Maryland.

Where did that phrase come from?

Did you ever wonder why we say, "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Christmas" or (whatever) Christmas?

As it so happens, the British are more likely to say "Happy Christmas", and the basic reason has to be a bit snobbish. The word, "merry", was associated with the lower classes implying a more raucous (possibly inebriated) crowd. The word "happy" was associated with a more genteel gathering, hence, the Queen of England addresses her people with "Happy Christmas" rather than "Merry Christmas. Guess we see where that puts us, huh?

Another famous statement we hear occasionally is, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink." We understand this to mean that you can tell someone something but they don't necessarily believe it or do it.

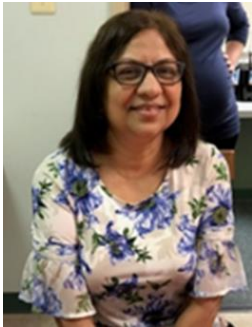
That phrase is believed to possibly be the oldest English proverb still in common use, having been written down in 1175 somewhere, by somebody.

In this country of independent thinkers, it seems quite apt today.

Jean Opeka

Birthdays

Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between September and December 2021. 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. We could not celebrate that way this time since we are still having our worship services on Zoom, but we did sing to a couple of them. Happy belated 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



We observed All Saints Sunday on Sunday, November 7th. Anna Graeber and Jean Opeka read the names of loved ones who have passed away as Annie Gajadhar, and Bette Deller rang a bell after each name was called.

All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, is a Christian celebration in honor of all the saints from Christian history. In Western Christianity, it is observed on November 1st by the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, and other Protestant denominations. The Eastern Orthodox Church and associated Eastern Catholic churches observe All Saints Day on the first Sunday following Pentecost.

The Christian festival of All Saints Day comes from a conviction that there is a spiritual connection between those in Heaven and on Earth. In Catholic tradition, the holiday honors all those who have passed on to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a national holiday in numerous historically Catholic countries. In Methodist tradition, All Saints Day relates to giving God earnest gratitude for the lives and deaths of his saints, remembering those who were well-known and not.



On November 21st we celebrated Christ the King Sunday, which is a relatively recent addition to the Western liturgical calendar. It was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI for the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. The earliest date on which it can occur is November 20 and the latest is November 26. Roman Catholics now (as of 1969) celebrate Christ the King Sunday, also known as the Solemnity of our Lord, on the last Sunday before Advent.

In the Lutheran church, Christ the King Sunday is observed on the last Sunday before Advent and is the last Sunday of the Christian Church Year. The following Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent that starts the new 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. Its purpose is to celebrate the coming reign of Christ as King of the Earth.

"Christ the King" is a title of Jesus in Christianity. It refers to the idea of the Kingdom of God where the Christ is described as seated at the right hand of God. Since the Word of God, is consubstantial (of the same essence) with the Father, Christ is also consubstantial with the Father and therefore has supreme and absolute dominion over all things created by God the Father.

The liturgical vestments for the day are colored white or gold, in keeping with other joyous feasts honoring Christ. The Feast of Christ the King has an eschatological dimension pointing to the end of time when the kingdom of Jesus will be established in all its fullness to the ends of the earth.

Advent



The first Sunday in Advent was observed on November 29, 2021. 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.

Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller of the fellowship committee hung wreaths on the windows surrounding our sanctuary and placed red candles on the windowsills to decorate the church for Advent as we prepare for celebrating the birth of Christ. They also hung greens around the sanctuary doorway and adorned the inside of the sanctuary with red and white poinsettias. Two poinsettias were placed in the narthex along with a creche. Pastor Na hung the pretty blue Advent banner. 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.



Christmas Eve Service



On Christmas Eve, we had a beautiful worship service at 7:00 pm using Zoom along with an in-person service at the church. The service opened in a darkened sanctuary where attendees lighted candles and sang "Silent Night, Holy Night," accompanied by our music director, Laura Kalshoven. Those participating at home on Zoom lighted candles, too, and joined in the singing.

Anna Graeber served as Assisting Minister. She read from St. John, who reminded us that all things came into being through God. Pastor Na read from St. Luke, who pointed out that the glory of the Lord scattered the darkness and comforted the shepherds. He asked that our candles might remind us of that and be a sign to us that the Light of the World is among us.

Annie Gajadhar read the two lessons. The first lesson was from Isaiah 9:2-7. It told of how the people who walked in darkness had seen a great light, for a child had been born named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Following the reading, we sang Psalm 96 responsively. It told us to sing to the Lord a new song, bless his name, and proclaim the good news of his salvation.

The second lesson was from Titus 2:11–14. It told us that God appeared, bringing salvation to all, and that we should renounce impiety and worldly passions, and live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.



The Gospel lesson in Luke 2:1–14 [15–20] told the story of Mary and Joseph traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the birth of Christ, and the visit by the wise men. Pastor Na's sermon, which followed the Gospel, was entitled "Christ's Birth in Our Midst." In it, he elaborated on how God comes into our lives and offers us strength and comfort.

After the sermon, we sang "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" as the hymn of the day and read the Nicene creed in unison. The prayers of intercession were led by Anna Graeber and followed the creed. Then we wished one another peace, and the choir sang "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" by John Carter during the offertory. After the Great Thanksgiving and prior to communion, we sang a musical arrangement of the Lord's Prayer written by a former member, the late Frank Akers.



At the end of the service, Pastor Na blessed us all now and forever, and we sang "The First Noel" as the recessional hymn. It was a beautiful service and an inspiring Christmas Eve.

– Bette Deller

COUNCIL REPORT



September – At the September meeting Pastor Na said that he was glad to see us all. It had been two months since our last meeting. He reviewed that one person at Ming Yee Chen's memorial service had tested positive for the corona virus and all in attendance had to quarantine themselves for 2 weeks. At the end of that time all tested negative. He thanked the publications committee and the wonderful articles that everyone wrote. We discussed the details for holding in-person worship services. Pastor Na still wants to keep the number at 10 or less. Chris Ham reported that our Paycheck Protection Program loan (PPP) was forgiven. We discussed the church lighting system that eventually will need to be replaced. Chris Ham and Billy Clark will continue to work on that. We discussed transferring to Verizon's digital voice services. Chris Ham and Anna Graeber will look into that. We decided to move \$22,000 out of our PNC checking account and into the Thrivent account. We also decided to continue our subscription to the Lutheran Magazine so we can keep up with official ELCA news and to have it as a reference. Pastor Na announced that Reformation Sunday would be observed on October 31st, and All Saints Sunday on November 7th.



October – At the October council meeting Pastor Na said that he did not have much to report. He announced that in the future the Beltsville News will not be mailed out to residents due to the expensive cost, but 25 copies will be delivered to our church each month. Pastor Na asked Bette Deller and Annie Gajadhar to be bell ringers for All Saints Sunday. He will email the list of names to be remembered for members to make any changes to that list. Pastor announced that Christ the King Sunday will be observed on November 21st, after which we will enter the season of Advent. We continued discussions about the church lighting system and transitioning to a digital phone system. Anna Graeber, Annie Gajadhar, and Chris Ham will be members of the budget committee for 2022, and they will ask Laura Kalshoven to join them. The budget will need to be ready so that a council agreed-upon a version can be forward to the congregation for discussion and approval. Anna Graeber will talk to Karen Coakley of the Beltsville Women's Group about holiday benevolence needs and will write an article for the church bulletin regarding holiday benevolence campaigns. Bette Deller will see that the virtual food drive with the Maryland Food Bank is reactivated. Bette will also buy 6-8 poinsettias to provide a touch of Christmas to the church. The church will reimburse Bette, and members will be invited to donate to the church to cover that expense.

November – Pastor Na announced that we are still in a condensed mode due to the pandemic, and he is grateful that we are willing to do that. He thanked Anna Graeber and Bette Deller for their help with benevolence campaigns for the holidays. All are encouraged to participate in Gifts of Hope, the Maryland Food Bank, and the Beltsville Women's Group drive. The next newsletter will be published in the first week of January. Articles will be due by December 26. The budget committee will meet on December 6 using Zoom. There will be a Christmas Eve service on Zoom at 7:00 on December 24th. There will be minimal greening of the church done by Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller, but there will be no in-person holiday events. Laura and the choir will perform in person on Christmas Eve, but Pastor would like to keep other in-person attendance under 10. There will be no service Christmas day. Chris Ham and Billy Clark will continue to work on the light fixtures. Anna Graeber will continue to look into digital phones. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30th, and reports will be due by January 16.

December – The Council met on December 19th primarily to agree upon the version that will be presented to the congregation for deliberation and approval and to approve the 2022 budget proposal from the budget committee and to plan for the annual congregational meeting at the end of January. The budget was discussed at length and approved by the council with a change or two. An official letter announcing the annual meeting will be sent out two weeks in advance of the meeting. Reports for the annual meeting bulletin are due to the pastor by Sunday, January 16. Those required to submit a report include the pastor, president, treasurer, financial secretary, and choir director.

Bette Deller, Council Secretary

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Lyn Christie** – We are all in San Diego and enjoying our time with Katie and family. We had a lovely Thanksgiving with friends. We have been busy with Gavin and Brianna's soccer practice, games and tournaments. We also went to Sea World, California Adventure and Disneyland which was fun. We have been attending a very large church which we walk to and it is nice. Kelly and I will be home on January 4 and Ken will be returning in March. Looking forward to going to Abiding Presence when we are home. Wishing everyone a Blessed New Year.

- **Anna Graeber on staying- in-touch in the time of covid.** Despite the lack of much in-the-flesh, face-to-face. contact, I am thankful for the ability to stay in touch – even though it is chiefly by Zoom or Skype. There is Zoom church, Bible study, and Church Council as well as two book clubs. I Skype with my sister in Germany about every other week and with a friend in South Carolina once a week. Former APLC member, Margaret Neilly, is a member of the Capital Hill Chorale, and I zoomed two of their fall/winter concerts. Some Smithsonian and National Archive programs are also available on Zoom. I am thankful for this technology – think of people in 1918 when less than 35% of US households had phones during the Spanish flu epidemic and, as phones chiefly depended on operators, there were even times of limited phone service due to the numbers of sick operators. At all times, the congregation's support in the form of prayers and, when needed transportation, are much appreciated.

- **Bette Deller** – I didn't do much over the past four months other than settle on a house that I listed, attend my daughter-in-law's family Thanksgiving gathering, celebrate my son's birthday, and host my family for Christmas dinner. I took an appetizer and pumpkin bread to the Thanksgiving feast. They had two turkeys, and one weighed 41 pounds! I took my son to the Olive Garden for his birthday and then came back to my house for cake, ice cream, and presents. I had 8 people over for Christmas dinner and dessert. My sister, Joan, stayed overnight afterwards, and we relaxed together watching Christmas movies that night.



Grandkids on Thanksgiving



House Settled on Oct. 12



Son's December Birthday



Steve & Denise at Bette's

- **Ramesh Das** – Are we in the real Christmas Spirit? Christmas is about opening our hearts much more than opening our gifts. Tradition says we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the symbol of love, light, hope and peace. This should be the real celebration. Christmas is not a season but rather a feeling that should last throughout the year.

Christmas should be a wonderful time for all. Unfortunately, it is also a difficult emotional holiday for many. Many people feel lonely and depressed for any number of reasons. Then there is the pressure to buy gifts with funds you cannot afford.

So, what defines Christmas? It is a condition of the heart. Until we feel the Spirit of Christmas there is no Christmas. We must be willing to give of ourselves with real love to others. No gift can really equal the love and time spent together with another person.

At this time, we need to give thanks for the things we have rather than the things we want to have and be appreciative. Christmas is a powerful time for reflection. We need to be charitable and kind to experience the joy of Christmas and the love of the baby Jesus. Merry Christmas to one and all.

- **Pat Thornberg** – Christmas is my time of year no matter what happens during that year good or bad. Christmas season seems to resolve all problems by bringing my family and friends together to celebrate peace and the birth of Jesus. This year I am spending Christmas with my daughter and her family in California. The weather here is beautiful. It's rained a little which they really need. Christmas Eve was very special to me. My son-in-law and the children fixed an Italian dinner for my daughter and I. As we sat at the table enjoying dinner, we had such a good time talking about today, their future and everything else. We went to their church on Christmas Eve; there was a candlelight service with a band and singing all the Christmas songs. We walked out under an array of beautiful Christmas lights with Christmas trees everywhere and snow blowing out through the lights. It was so beautiful. The kids loved it.



Pat's family in CA



Mr. Cinnamon

My son and his family celebrated Christmas at home. They have a new addition to the family and he is called cinnamon. When my granddaughter had her operation, we promised her a dog, but that was impossible because of her allergies. We finally found a pet that she was not allergic to, and he has become part of our family. Cinnamon goes everywhere with them. All dressed up with his Santa Claus suit, he goes with the children to see Santa Claus. To my amazement, I was

surprised they had a Santa suit small enough for cinnamon. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish everyone a healthy safe new year.



Meghan, Brooklyn and Cinnamon



- **John Na** – So far, I have never had a single regret when it came to my choice to live in America. I have cherished the values of this nation, especially, the individual freedom of expression, the way of thinking, the way of reasoning, and the way of life. Since my father's health has drastically deteriorated recently, however, the sense of there being something wrong with the fact that I am not physically near him has begun to settle in my own consciousness.

I am indebted to my father for many things in my life. He gave me the theological foundation on which I can build my own. I grew up with constant, honest conversations with my father about Christian faith, theology, and church history. He is the source of inspiration for my biblical and prophetic imaginations, in relation to the human context of life. He introduced me to various types of theology so that I could choose the ones that are pertinent to me, while constantly considering the value of others. My spirituality has always been nourished by his great sermons. Suffice it to say, I cannot imagine my existential and theological being without him.

Although my father gave me so many things in my life, it is really frustrating and heartbreaking that I am not able to be with him when he is suffering the worst pain in his life. There are other reasons, in addition to the pandemic itself, why I cannot go to Korea. My parents have told me quite sternly that I should not come. "How would it benefit all of us for you to come here after the mandatory isolation for 10 days at a certain remote place where the Korean government imposes? There are many PCR tests, and the trip is a grueling 14-hour flight, not to mention the cost of the flight. It is not worth for you to physically come here just to see us since there is essentially nothing you can do. Just live your life well where you are. That is how you're helping us."

All I can do now is to keep calling my father (Sometimes he is too weak to receive my call) and praying for him to recover, while hoping that the pandemic ends soon and completely. Living long-distance is toughest and most painful when it involves your closest family. Blessed are you who live near your family!

Trivia Corner

January – January has two zodiac signs – Capricorn, which is from December 22 to January 19, and Aquarius, which is from January 20 till February 18. Capricorns are said to be the most patient and careful, and they are down-to-earth for everything. They tend to hold on to their own views and never give up before achieving the goal. At the same time, Capricorn people are said to be the most tolerant among the 12 zodiac signs. The Aquarius personality lets everyone be free and think for themselves. They are never judgmental. They are fluent and very witty and learn how to interact with others through observing people.



February - February is the only month that fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years. February is also the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon. The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling." If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flower is a primrose.



March - The 17th of March is St. Patrick's Day! It is celebrated in many western countries to commemorate the day St. Patrick died. It is acclaimed in the whole of Ireland in honor of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. According to folklore, people wear a shamrock on this day because the Saint used the three-leaved shamrock to explain how the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit could exist as distinct parts of the same being.



April - April is named after the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. She was similar to the Roman goddess Venus. Aphrodite's major symbols include myrtles, roses, doves, sparrows, and swans. In the Roman calendar, the fourth month April is spelled Aprilis, meaning "to open." Festivals which were planned for April included Parrilla, a day celebrating the founding of Rome. The name Aprilis, then, fits April, because in so many places in the northern hemisphere April is the month when trees and flowers begin to bloom and go on to flower.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

JANUARY

	2 ND	9 TH
A-Minister	Annie Gajadhar	Bette Deller
Lector	Anna Graeber	Jean Opeka

	16 TH	23 RD
A-Minister	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
Lector	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

	30 TH	
A-Minister	Steve McKisson	
Lector	Ramesh Das	

FEBRUARY

	6 TH	13 TH
A-Minister	Billy Clark	Richard Moore
Lector	Richard Moore	Billy Clark

	20 TH	27 TH
A-Minister	Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
Lector	Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

MARCH

	6 TH	13 TH
A-Minister	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
Lector	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

	20 TH	27 TH
A-Minister	Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
Lector	Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das

APRIL

	3 RD	10 TH
A-Minister	Billy Clark	Richard Moore
Lector	Richard Moore	Billy Clark

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