Apostles Lutheran Church

THE REV. JENIFFER TILLMAN
7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 | 804-693-9098 | www.apostles-elca.org

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 20, 2022 | 9:30 AM

Our Mission is to be a Caring Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the loving presence of the Spirit as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal. **If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact information**. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

The leadership of Apostles Lutheran Church has prioritized keeping all worshipers healthy and at ease as we return to in-person worship. For some the pace of transition back to normalcy isn't happening fast enough; for others, it seems too fast. As we continue to assure one another and our neighbors that Apostles is a safe place to celebrate our community of faith in Jesus Christ, we appreciate patience and understanding over the weeks and months ahead. If someone approaches you and appears to want to hug, shake hands, etc., please know that it is okay to say that you are not comfortable with this practice. So, to keep everyone safe during these continuing challenging times, we ask:

- For everyone to wear a mask
- For families to sit together – the Prayground is closed for the time being.
- For you to use the hand sanitizer which is available both in the narthex and the sanctuary.
- For everyone to stay in place when we share the peace – *of course, feel free to share the peace with members of your family.* Otherwise, kindly use appropriate hand gestures to share the peace with your neighbors.
- For you to place your offering in the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary when you enter or leave the sanctuary – the offering plates will not be passed during the service.
- For you to leave the building after worship. At this time there will be no greeting of Pastor Jeniffer.

Introduction to Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.
Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
As a called and ordained minister of our Triune God, and
In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how-to live-in love.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN — ELW # 321

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

First Lesson — Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. *(Ps. 63:1)*

[1]O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there | is no water.
[2]**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,**
that I might behold your power | and your glory.
[3]For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.
[4]**So will I bless you as long | as I live**
and lift up my hands | in your name. R
[5]My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
[6]**when I remember you up- | on my bed,**
and meditate on you in | the night watches.
[7]For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.
[8]**My whole being | clings to you;**
your right hand | holds me fast. R

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

SERMON **PASTOR JENIFFER TILLMAN**

SERMON NOTES

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please rise in body or in spirit

Apostles' Creed

Living in trust and hope, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and
was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right
hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a distanced sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** *to which we respond* **And also with you**.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates will not be passed around. Drop your offering in the plate at the back or give online:

- **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**
- **From your mobile phone, text the word *GIVE* to 844-215-5453**

Please rise in body or in spirit

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season.

… we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The thanksgiving continues.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving continues.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

The great thanksgiving continues.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving continues.
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Here is food and drink for the journey.
Take and be filled.

Sit

Communion

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away. You will be invited to come forward to receive the elements from the Pastor. Holy Communion are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

Sit

Parish Announcements

Please rise in body or in spirit

Benediction

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✝ bless you this day and always.
Amen.

Sending Music

"I Will Testify to Love" Wynonna Judd

Theological Apology

Pastors Note: "We have 150 Psalms written in our Bible. Here is Psalm 151; a song to live by and to live into."

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on your way.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

****

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Joshua 5:9-12
Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land

Psalm 32
Be glad, you are righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. *(Ps. 32:11)*

2 Corinthians 5:16-21
The mystery and ministry of reconciliation

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

Worship Leaders

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Chris Liljeberg	Lynn Scholz
Altar Care	Irene Albert	Irene Albert
Assisting Minister	David Leunig	Linda Hodges
Greeter	Scholzs	Averys
Announcements	Douglas Dalager	Douglas Dalager
Lector	Preston Higgins	Judy Wright
Tellers	P.Higgins/B.Grimes	D. Albert/C. Hawkins
Technology	Shawn Jaeger	Gerald Britt
Usher	Preston Higgins	Betsy Liljeberg
Lenten Actors/ Preacher	Pastor Jeniffer Tillman	TBD

	This Week	Next Week
Cleaning Teams	Gomez/Grimes/Higgins	Ambrose/Scholz

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

Singing the Hymns

We are a singing church. We express our faith through song. We miss hearing our liturgy and hymns and singing them-praying them-together. We yearn to lift our voices once again in song. But for the time being, we will not be singing the liturgy or the hymns. We are including the texts of the hymns in the bulletin so you can meditate on the texts of the hymns as they are played instrumentally but for the safety of all, we ask that you refrain from singing. We will sing again – it is all for the glory of God and we know that even in our silence God can still be praised!

Seasons of Stewardship

Our current Seasons of Stewardship is Winter and is dedicated to the work of the Caring Ministry Team. You are invited to participate in the work of the Team – if you haven't already, please fill out the time and talent sheet inserted in the bulletin and put it in the offering plate located at the back of the sanctuary. Thanks!

Flowers for the Altar

Please take a minute to sign up to provide flowers for our altar – you can make your own arrangements from your garden – if you need vases, we have them. The signup sheet is in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Janet Gomez.

Prayer Requests

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

For Pastoral Care

Pastor Jeniffer will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM–1 PM. For immediate concerns, contact Pastor Jeniffer at 678-524-4919, by e-mail at pastor.apostles@gmail.com, or leave a message at 804-693-9098.

Happy Birthday

Judy Wright- March 20th
Steve Hanson- March 22nd

Happy Anniversary

Oscar Romero- March 24

Happy Baptismal Anniversary

Carlson Riordan- March 26th
Emily Riordan- March 26th
Sean Riordan- March 26th

Save The Date!!

April 2nd -3rd- The annual Daffodil Festival is taking place in Gloucester this year on Saturday, April 2nd, and Sunday, April 3rd. Apostles Lutheran is going to have a table at the festival this year to share our many ministries with our neighbors. What should people in our community know about Apostles? What makes us special?? Is it our worship, our Lutheran heritage, our music, our designation as a RIC congregation, our mission trips to Guatemala, our work with the GUEST shelter, AA…..? We have a lot to share! We need volunteers to sit at our table and talk to our neighbors during the festival. A signup sheet is in the narthex. We have a great church. Let's tell people about it!

TODAY: Please come celebrate the work of the Caring Community Ministry Team immediately after worship today - we will have fellowship, games, a special raffle, and a box lunch. Your entry for the raffle will be your Time and Talent sheet.

Stay tuned for details on all of these events!!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

MEMBERS

Opal Baker, Luise Buergert, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Betty Hauch, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Pastor Jeniffer's Neighbors, Andrea, Angie (co-workers of Jennie Hawkins), **Patricia Armentor, family of Sharon Bagley** (friends of Judy Wright), **Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Paul Britt** (Gerald Britt's brother), **Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter,Eric and Lauren Cartwright, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, family of Kimberly Conine, James Cummings, Sr.** (brother-in-law of Reida Avery), **Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy and Kathie Davis, Mary Divelbiss, Terry Dobson, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Laura Fleige** (Janet Gomez's sister), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Michelle Fowler** (Reida Avery's daughter), **Dana Goodwin** (Juanita Sturdy's daughter), **Shirley Grimes** (Ben Grimes' mother), **family of Shirlean Hackman, Mike Hall, Sage Heymann Hannan, Carl and Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Diane Hill** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Spencer Hodges** (Linda Hodges' husband) **Alice Jaeger, John, Nero Katz** (friend of Pastor Jeniffer), **Pastor Betty Krafft, employees and residents of Liberty ARC, Terri Larsen, the Little Family, Richard and Gloria Lowe** (friends of the Averys), **Lorraine Malkemus, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Jean McKee** (Lilly Frost's grandmother), **Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle M^{c}Mahan), **Mitchelle and baby Stella, Keith Morgan, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother) **Melissa Persse and her father, Dick Peterson and his brother, Aleen Poupard** (friend of Luise Buergert), **Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Kathy Shackleford** (friend of Jim Reinke), **Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Genie Stickleman** (friend of Chris Avery)**, Becky Speight** (friend of the Alberts), **Linda Sutterfield, Danny Sydow** (friend of Chris Avery), **Carl Issac Ulsaker** (Grandson of Corlis Everett) **Tara, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Robert Wagner** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Mackenzie Webb** (niece of Tina Britt) **Elizabeth and Steven White, Carla Witt** (friend of Chris and Reida Avery), **Kitty Witty, Cory Woodlief, Greg Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret and Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

Our sponsored children in Guatemala – Amayra, Hugolino and Manuela

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

MARCH 20TH – MARCH 26TH

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	6:00 PM	Children's Chapel
MONDAY	7:00 PM	Men's AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	Soup and Bread Pickup
	7:00 PM	PM Hand Chimes
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice
THURSDAY	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	AA Young and Sober
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	6:00 PM	Children's Chapel

The liturgical texts and music are from Sundays and Seasons (sundaysandseasons.com) copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB149450. Hymnody made available through One License Annual License with Podcasting Renewal A-717259. Used by permission. All rights reserved.