

# The Epistle

**THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Gloucester, Virginia**

**[www.apostles-elca.org](http://www.apostles-elca.org)**

**November 2022**

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

## *For The Congregation's Information*

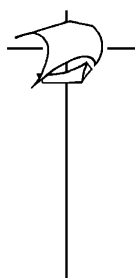
Pastor Jay Serafin has been recommended by the Virginia Synod to be a candidate for our Interim Pastor. Pastor Jay will join us for worship on **Sunday, November 6th**, and stay after worship for the "first Sunday" potluck lunch where you will have a chance to get to know him. Pastor Jay will also preach on **Sunday, November 13th**.

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## *All Saints Sunday*

Who are the saints, and what do they have to say to us? What makes someone a saint? Rather than being perfect Christians, the saints are people who have been made whole by the grace of God, through baptism into Christ. On All Saints Day, we remember that saints are not just people of the past, like St. Patrick or St. Nicholas. They are people of the present. Some saints we see every day. Some saints we have never met in person. All saints inspire us to be closer and more faithful to God in the way we live, serve, and pray. This is because saints are ordinary people like you and me by the grace of God. **For the worship service on Sunday, November 6th, you are invited to bring in pictures of the saints in your life who are no longer with us to adorn the sanctuary.** We will celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears.



## *Apostles' Symbol*

A couple of Sundays ago, Ingrid Peterson talked about the symbol of our church, the boat. This has been the symbol of our church since the congregation first started in 1981. It was created by Karen Bauer, daughter of charter members, Paul and Barbara Bauer. I recently read an interesting reflection by Adam Hearlson in the May 4, 2022 edition of Christian Century on another story of a boat. It's in Matthew, chapter 14, where Jesus has just fed the 5,000 and immediately afterwards makes the disciples get into a boat to go ahead of him to the other side of the lake. Jesus has stayed on the shore to pray. The boat is besieged by a storm and in the middle of it, Jesus walks on water to meet the disciples. Peter, thinking Jesus is a ghost, says to Jesus "if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus answers, "come," Peter starts walking on the water and quickly begins to sink. Jesus lifts Peter from the water and deposits Peter back in the boat. Adam says he is convinced that Peter should have stayed in the boat. I've never heard that take on this story—but Ingrid reminded us that we all need to stay in the boat that is Apostles and remember that Jesus is present, no need to fear. Adam imagines that Peter picked up his oar and started paddling again so that everyone made it safely home. He hopes Peter found more purpose in that rowing than in his water walking.

Janet Gomez

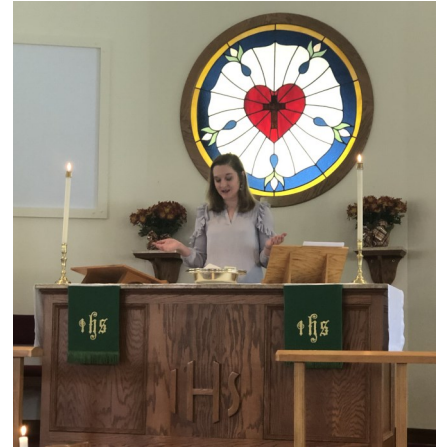
## ***God's Work, Our Hands***

On Saturday, October 22nd, several people got together for a "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service to build a front porch for a member of our congregation. Another day of service will be scheduled soon to build a back porch. A big THANK YOU to Ray Scholz and Danny Joyce for coordinating everything!!



## ***Thank You, Pete and Ingrid!***

A big THANK YOU to Pete Liljeberg and Ingrid Peterson for leading our worship services for the past few weeks!



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## ***Nametags Are Back!!***

We have started wearing our nametags again—we had suspended wearing them with COVID. Please pick yours up when you come to worship. There are paper nametags in baskets in the pews for visitors to fill out and wear.

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## ***Join Us For Coffee and Fellowship After Worship***

We are now having coffee and fellowship after the worship service—on the first Sunday of the month, we will have a potluck lunch-everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. The first Sunday potluck will be **Sunday, November 6th.**



## ***First Communion Celebrated***

Liliana Jaeger, and Kimberleigh and Emmaleigh Hautz celebrated their first communion on July 17th. The dress Lily is wearing was worn by her mother Lara for her first communion. The dress Emma is wearing, Kayla Hautz wore when she was a flower girl and it was made by Kayla's paternal grandmother. And the dress for Kimmie, Kayla made for the occasion. It was a joyous occasion and they were happy to strengthen their relationship with God.



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## ***Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 20th***

A congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, November 20th, after the 10:00 AM worship service (around 11:00 AM) both in-person and via Zoom to discuss and approve a ministry spending plan for 2023. Please make plans to attend - we need your voice and vote!!! The proposed spending plan was sent out by e-mail on November 2nd from Apostles office.

## ***Our Deepest Sympathy To...***

- + David and Mary Leunig upon the death of David's brother-in-law, Jim Plessinger.
- + Linda Hodges upon the death of Linda's uncle, James Perkison.
- + The Jaeger family upon the death of Lynn's Aunt Alice. Aunt Alice was very active in her church in Queens and she drove over 50 miles each Sunday from Medford, NY to Queens to attend her church. At one time, she was one of three members of her church and served in every capacity including climbing ladders to put up wreaths in the Sanctuary. Lynn remembers visiting her in Medford and she was creating and printing out bulletins, logging in member donations, and paying the bills. Being a Lutheran was extremely important to Aunt Alice, and after the Jaegers moved her to Virginia, she eagerly attended church with Lynn until COVID hit. Aunt Alice was buried in a cemetery in Queens on August 12th, but none of their children were able to attend the funeral. A Celebration of Life was held on Sunday, September 25th at Apostles. After the service, they had a lunch reception with some of Aunt Alice's favorite foods including chicken wings and crumb cake.



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## ***Worship Ministry Team Meeting***

The Worship Ministry Team will be meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, at 7:00 PM. We will be planning for Advent and Christmas.



## Time Change

Remember that daylight savings time ends at 2:00 AM on **Sunday, November 6th** - set your clocks back one hour. (The picture is the beautiful tree in our church yard.)

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## Correspondence

"Dear Apostles Lutheran Church, Thank you for your gifts given to your synod for ELCA World Hunger, \$1,055. *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God though our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God."* (Romans 5:1-2) As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, Mission Funding, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

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## Happy Baptismal Anniversary to . . .

Tina Britt

Marina and Nicolas Allen

Emmaleigh Hautz

October 25

November 21

November 30



## Ways to Give Thanks this Month

Most of us are looking forward to a hearty Thanksgiving meal with family or friends. Most of us will be in a warm home and comfortable surroundings. For those who are able, here are some ways to share the blessings God has granted us:

+ **Invite** others to your family celebration. Perhaps there is a neighbor or church member who does not have family close-by.

+ **Volunteer** at, or make a special donation to Bread for Life Food Pantry: <https://www.breadforlifefoodpantry.com/how-to-help/>

+ **Donate** to ELCA Disaster Relief to help people affected by recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Florida: <https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>

+ **Talk** to Nancy Wagner about helping out with meals for the homeless shelter this winter.

+ **Pray** to end hunger and food insecurity.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. The **third Sunday** of each month at Apostles is designated as World Hunger Sunday. A basket will be available during communion for your hunger offering. God feeds us so that we can feed others!

Until all are fed,

Betsy Liljeberg



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## Congregation Council Meeting

The Congregation Council meeting for September will be **Monday, November 14th at 7:00 PM**— anyone is welcome to attend.

## *Happy Birthday to...*

Heidi Henderson	October 11
David Albert	October 12
Liliana Jaeger	October 17
Sue Turner	October 18
Bayleigh Albert	October 20
Sarah Anby	October 22
Lilly Frost	October 23
Michael Schlemmer	October 23
Lynn Jaeger	October 28
Roy Ryman	October 28
Alejandra McCurry	October 30
Michael Crocker	November 2
Eddie Freeman	November 2
Chris Liljeberg	November 8
Jim Wright, Sr.	November 9
David Leunig	November 10
Joan Podd	November 11
Matthew Hautz	November 11
Jerry Woodlief	November 11
Juliet Baur	November 15
Tyler Britt	November 18
Conner Badger	November 19
John Mayer	November 19
Donna Ambrose	November 23
Reagan Badger	November 25
CK Ambrose	November 27

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## *Happy Anniversary To...*

CK and Donna Ambrose	October 8
David and Mary Leunig	October 8
Samantha and Michael Crocker	October 15
George and Jewel Thomas	October 21
Kayla and Matthew Hautz	November 9
Shawn and April Anby	November 18

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## *A Big THANK YOU To...*

To all who helped deep clean our church building on Saturday, October 29th. We really appreciate your efforts and time!

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## *Please Keep In Your Prayers*

Opal Baker, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief.

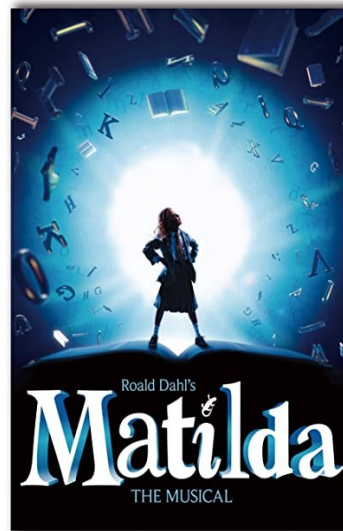


## *Please Vote on November 8th!!*

Voting is a commitment to civic engagement, to our Christian values to seek justice and the first step of inclusion in the political process. The simple act of voting has a powerful impact. Your vote means that elected officials are accountable to you. Your

vote allows you to become an advocate for all the change or consistency that you wish to see in this country. Your voice and your vote matter.

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## *Caring Community Outing*

You are cordially invited to the Courthouse Players production of "Matilda, The Musical" on **Sunday, November 6th**, at Mathews High School at 3:00 PM. Come out to show your support for our congregation

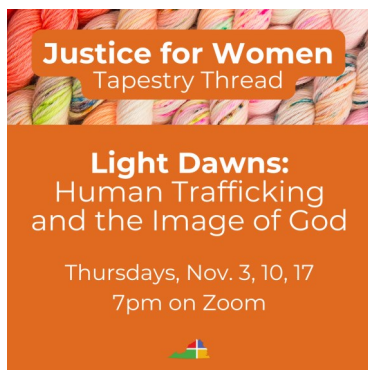
members, Shawn and Lily Jaeger and Jade Hawkins, as they star in this Courthouse House Players Production. Tickets are \$17 in advance or \$18 at the door for adults. Student tickets are \$5. They are available for purchase online or at any CHP ticket outlet. We will going out to dinner after the play.

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## *Flowers for the Altar*

A new sign up sheet has been posted in the narthex for you to sign up to provide flowers for the altar on a given Sunday. Please take a minute to sign up to honor someone, remember a birthday or anniversary or just because. Thank you!





## New Bible Study

*"Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity."*  
(ELW 726; Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953)

God has made all of humanity in God's holy image - we are ALL beloved. Our primary identity is *Child of God*. Human trafficking and exploitation are linked to our identity and to the sexual brokenness of our world. Too often, God's children can become vulnerable to being exploited by others who will gladly "fill in the blanks" on **who** we are, **what** we are good for, and **whose** we are (their property). You are invited to join Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick (Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod) and Lisa Kersey (Executive Director of [Freekind](https://freekind.org/)) on Thursdays in November (3, 10, 17) from 7:00 PM-8:15 PM as together we engage God's Word to shine the light of truth on the sin and evil of human trafficking and on the hope, dignity, and inherent worth found in our identity as God's beloved. Registration information can be found at <https://vasynod.org/event/light-dawns-human-trafficking-and-the-image-of-god/>.

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## Mission Outreach Fund Update

Money from the Mission Outreach Fund was recently sent to Kiva. The mission of Kiva is to **connect people through lending to alleviate poverty**. Leveraging the Internet and a worldwide network of micro-finance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world. (*Money from The Mission Outreach Fund is donated every year to local and global causes—serving this year on the Mission Outreach Fund Committee are Donna Ambrose, Margaret Grimes and Linda Hodges.*)

## Mildred McDaniel Concert Series At

## Reformation Lutheran Church in Newport News

The Mildred McDaniel Concert Series provides the community with access to a broad spectrum of the musical arts. Upcoming concerts are: Andrey Kasparov and Oksana Lutsyshyn, Invencia Piano Duo, on Sunday, November 13th at 4:00 PM and the Virginia Handbell Consort on Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 PM. Concerts are held at Reformation Lutheran Church in Newport News. The concerts are free and open to the public—contributions will be accepted to help support the Concert Series. Masks are optional.

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## Look What's New At Apostles



A new stained glass piece has been made by Gene Gomez—panels will be replaced with each season/festival—this was the panel for Reformation Sunday—there will be a new panel for All Saints Sunday (November 6th), Christ the King Sunday (November 20th) and the season of Advent.

## ***Save the Date!!***

+ **Wednesday, December 21st**—Blue Christmas Service—A Service of Comfort, Remembrance and Hope—at 7:00 PM

+ **Monday, January 30th—Wednesday, February 1st**—Mid-Winter Power In The Spirit—details will be forthcoming

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## ***Thanksgiving Table Prayers***

There will be Thanksgiving table prayers and candles available in the narthex for you to use at your Thanksgiving celebration—please help yourself!

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## ***ELCA Social Message on Climate Change: Public Comment Period Open***



A draft of the ELCA's forthcoming social message on climate change and how we are called to respond has been posted, and the public comment period is open through

Friday, Dec. 2. This project was authorized in light of the grim contemporary situation affecting our global home and the need for fresh action on the part of this church. The draft will be edited in response to your feedback and brought to the ELCA Church Council for a vote this spring.

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## ***A Message from Our Presiding Bishop***



One of the distinct privileges of this call as presiding bishop is seeing the church at work at home and around the world. The Lutheran movement is alive and well, speaking the gospel in a distinctive voice. Sunday after Sunday the good

news is proclaimed in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. In hundreds of languages and dialects, God's promise of grace, reconciliation and freedom is received and celebrated in places Martin Luther never knew existed. We are part of a worldwide family. In many ways, and in the most important ways, we are alike. The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. A clear understanding of human brokenness and our inability to save ourselves sets us apart from societal

and even some theological pressures that would try to draw us away from the source of our life and freedom. A world built on works and individualism promises salvation based on our own effort and denies salvation if we fail. The Lutheran movement points to another way. This is our common witness. There are also glorious expressions particular to regions, countries and history: governance; organization; the role of laity, deacons, pastors and bishops; and the age for first communion, to name a few. And that's just the ELCA! Around the world the expression of Lutheranism takes on many different flavors—literally and figuratively. Part of Luther's genius was to make Scripture, preaching and worship available in the language of the people. In fact, this year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the publication of his translation of the New Testament from the ancient Greek into the German language, known as the "September Testament." This publication paved the way for other translations of the Bible, making it accessible for people both at church and in their homes. All these variations make the Lutheran movement richer, especially when we share across borders and cultures. It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. What it means for the Lutheran World Federation's 149 member churches, representing over 77 million members in 99 countries, that are exploring Lutheran identity. For some member churches with a state church tradition—Sweden, for example—Lutheran identity is a novel concept. The Lutheran church was "The Church," and there was no need to think about identity. Now many churches in Africa and Asia are forging an indigenous expression of what it means to be Lutheran. Yes, they still sing hymns set to German, Swedish and American hymn tunes, but they are also developing music and worship using traditional instruments and styles. What will our Lutheran identity be in the ELCA? We still treasure our immigrant roots—and we should. But if our ethnic identities become synonymous with Lutheran identity, we are missing the mark. The gospel, and Luther's clear exposition of it, transcends human boundaries. When a single culture's vernacular becomes the established language of the people, we hinder the gospel's free course in the world. We can become an alternative face of Christianity in the culture—one that moves across divisions, is meant for all, and that is a free and liberating gift.

The Reverend Elizabeth Eaton