APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

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



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 | 10:00 AM

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





WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. 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.

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.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is serving as our part-time interim pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at <u>j80j84@msn.com</u>. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. We ask two things:

1) sit in the front pews near your children; 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon. They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

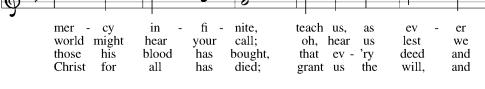
Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #714

"O God of Mercy, God of Light"







- 5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, may we each other's burdens share; may we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.
- 6 And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love, till you receive in heav'n above all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Music: Just as I Am, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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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



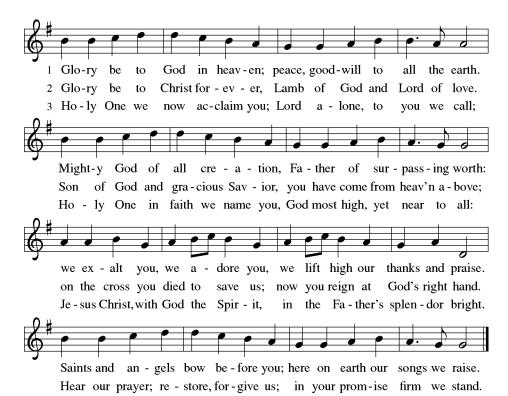
We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

For



the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry

be

to

God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING MICAH 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Response after the First Lesson Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

¹Lord, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle? Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right, who speak the truth | from their heart; R

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God

and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

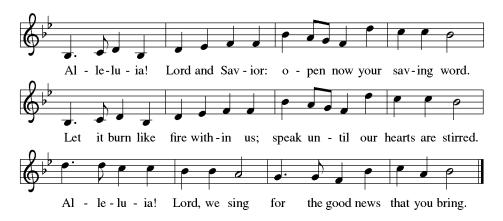
²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Response after the Second Lesson Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL MATTHEW 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

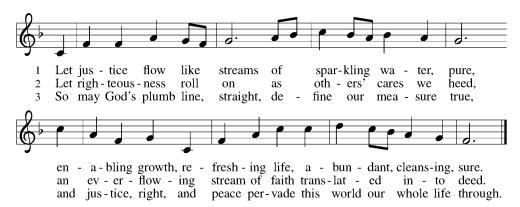
SERMON

PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #717

"Let Justice Flow like Streams"



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

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. To give online:

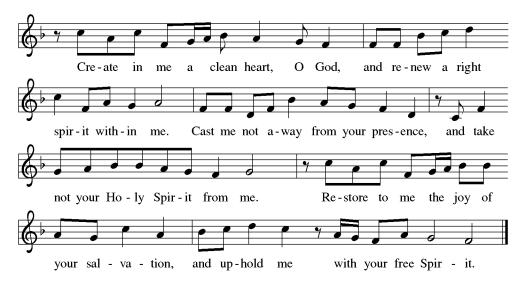
- + Visit <u>apostles-elca.org/contributions</u>
- + From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

Please rise in body or in spirit

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

ELW #186

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"



OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

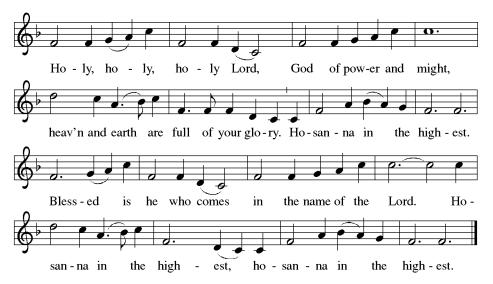
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface.

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come and taste the joy of God!

Sit

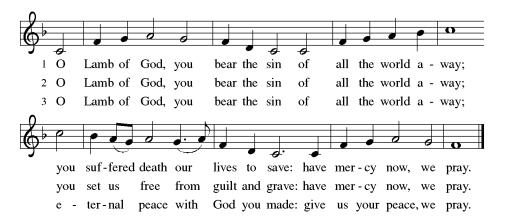
COMMUNION

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. After receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Let Pastor Jay know if you need gluten free wafers.

If you do not wish to take communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion are the gifts of God for the people of God.

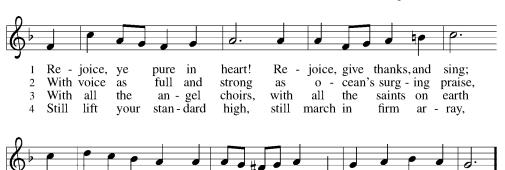
LAMB OF GOD



HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ELW, #873

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king. send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days. pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth. as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

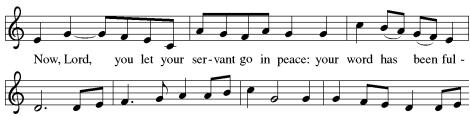


- 5 At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore: the Father, Son, and Spirit blest, one God forevermore. *Refrain*

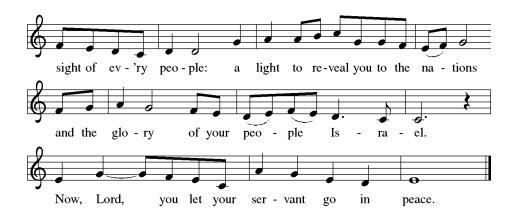
Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt. Music: Marion, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which you have pre-pared in the



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

SENDING

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

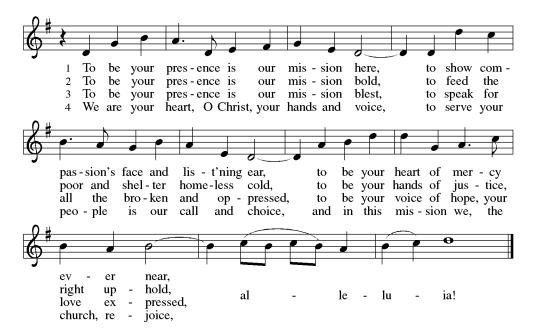
BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod \oplus bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #546

"To Be Your Presence"



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be immediately after the worship service today – please join us!!

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Officiating Minister	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Jade Hawkins	Chase Ambrose
Altar Care	Lynn Scholz	Irene Albert
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert	Jennie Hawkins
Lay Assisting Minister	Sue Turner	David Leunig
Lector	David Leunig	Irene Albert
Technology	Jennie Hawkins	Chris Hawkins

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	TBD	Albert/Runk
Tellers	B. Grimes/N. Peterson	B. Liljeberg/R. Scholz

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a[9b-12]

The fast God chooses

Psalm 112:1-9[10]

Light shines in the darkness for the upright

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12[13-16]

God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The teaching of Christ: salt and light

HEALTH KITS FOR GUATEMALA

We will again be bringing health kits to pass out at the clinic, so you may begin to collect supplies at home. Each kit contains 1 towel, soap, 1 washcloth, toothbrush and paste, safety pins and Band-Aids. It works best when people collect supplies for an entire kit. You can bring your health kits on Sunday March 5th when we will have a work day for Guatemala.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The company that provides our offering envelopes has experienced delays in getting orders shipped. They hope to ship the envelopes sometime in January. In the meantime, if you use offering envelopes, please just use a pew envelope and make sure your name and offering envelope number are on your check.

FLOWERS TODAY

Flowers today are given by Jamie Serafin in honor of Pastor Jay's birthday on January 26th. Thank you!!

"BLESSED ARE" | 2023 MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Register today to join us for Midwinter Power in the Spirit (Digital): Monday, January 30 and Tuesday, February 1. This will be the third annual Midwinter Power in the Spirit online gathering. Come, and explore how you can bring the Beatitudes into the modern world with a fresh look at Jesus' words for you today through the morning devotions, digital workshops, and worship. Explore how God's people can reach out to all with the love of God. The Rev. Brenda Smith, from 1517 Media, retired director of the ELCA Book of Faith initiative, joins us as our keynote speaker! You can register at www.vasynod.org. This event is free.

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.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

(FROM SUNDAYS AND SEASONS)

The Webb telescope was launched on Christmas Day in 2021. Its sensors detect infrared light, which is more sensitive than the visible light that the Hubble telescope picked up. You can see the difference between the two at https://webb.nasa.gov/content/about/comparisonWebbVsHubble.html. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14), but it's important to remember that there are all sorts of ways of shining that happen in hidden but powerful ways. It may appear that someone's metaphorical light is "under the bushel basket" (Matt 5:15), but their light may be infrared, illuminating more than is instantly recognizable.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, David Muse, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Patricia Armentor, family of Sharon Bagley (friends of Judy Wright), Paul Bauer, Karen Bell (Pam Moore's sister), Gisela Broughton (Karen Stark's mother), Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Family of Kimberly Conine, Ben Davis (friend of Donna Ambrose), Tommy and Kathie Davis, Mary Divelbiss, Colton Elliot (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), Melissa Ethan, Laura Fleige (Janet Gomez's sister), Teresa Floersheim- Miller (Ingrid Peterson's mother), Michelle Fowler (Reida Avery's daughter), Trudy Gies (Betsy Liljeberg's niece) Steven Godwin (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), Jimmy and Fay Gray (Chris Hawkins' family), Shirley Grimes (Ben Grimes' mother), family of Shirlean Hackman, Mike Hall, Chaneice Hayden (Daniel Hayden), the Heaney family, Carl and Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko (nephew of the Hansons), Aris Hibbs (friend of Ray Scholz), Diane Hill (friend of Nancy Wagner), the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Lorraine Malkemus, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Jean McKee (Lilly Frost's grandmother), Sylvia Midgette (grandmother of Krystle McMahan), **Keith Morgan**, **Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), Patricia Patel (Spencer Hodges' daughter), Brad Person (Lilly Frost's uncle), Dick Peterson and his brother, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian (friend of Nancy Wagner), Michael Scholz (nephew of Ray Scholz), Erin Seamonson (Lara Jaeger), Kathy Shackleford, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Judy Sowden, Linda Sutterfield, Dave Wagner (husband of Nancy), Chuck Webb (Tina Britt's father), Makenzie Webb (niece of Tina Britt), Elizabeth and Steven White, Kitty Witty, Cory Woodlief, Jim and Carol Wolf, Jim Wright (Judy Wright's husband), Greg **Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret and Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Amayra, Hugolino and Manuela

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!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

JANUARY 29, 2023 - FEBRUARY 5, 2023

TODAY	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service Annual Congregational Meeting
MONDAY	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the office Mid-Winter Power in the Spirit Men's AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Mid-Winter Power In the Spirit Al-Anon
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the office Mid-Winter Power in the Spirit
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ray Scholz - February 1st | Keira Anby - February 2nd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Roy and Carolyn Ryman - February 1st

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