



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 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.



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 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 j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. 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 and 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

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

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.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #385

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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EASTER PROCLAMATION

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW #394

Hail Thee Festival Day, Verse 1

Refrain



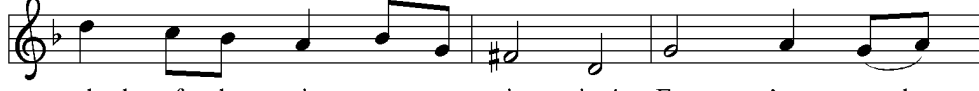
Hail thee, fes - ti-val day! Blest day to be hal-lowed for - ev - er;




day when our Lord was raised, break-ing the king - dom of death.



Easter 1 All the fair beau - ty of earth from the



death of the win - ter a - ris - ing! Ev - 'ry good



gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns: *Refrain*

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 READING

ACTS 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Response after the First Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 23



Psalm 23:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

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¹The Lord^l is my shepherd;

I shall not ^l be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down ^l in green pastures
and leads me be- ^l side still waters.**

³You restore my ^l soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways ^l for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ^l fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ^l comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ^l of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ^l running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ^l of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ^l Lord forever. R**

SECOND READING

1 PETER 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Response after the Second Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #778

"The Lord's My Shepherd"



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650

Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God,

your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We share a 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 apostles-elca.org/contributions

✚ From your mobile phone, text the word **GIVE** to 844-215-5453

ATTENDANCE & HOLY COMMUNION RECORD

If you haven't filled out the Attendance/Holy Communion Record card that is the pew rack, please fill one out and place it in the offering plate – this will help with the statistics needed for the parochial report that has to be completed once a year – thank you from the Worship Ministry Team!

DOXOLOGY

ELW #884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

OLD HUNDREDTH
Psalms 150; Is. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:8

Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

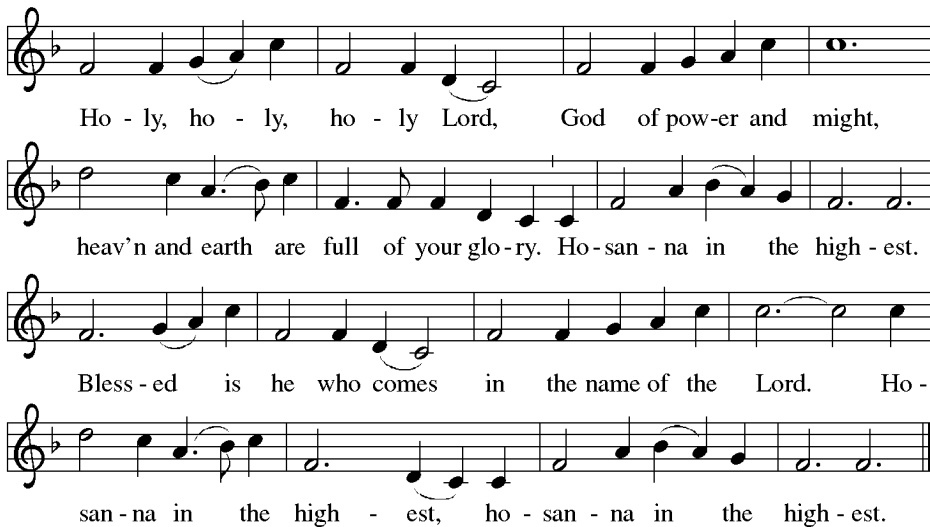
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The thanksgiving continues.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... Send us forth, burning with justice,
peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving concludes.

...we praise you, O God, blessed and
holy Trinity, 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 know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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 either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving 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. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #502

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #764

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	TBD	Gomez/Grimes
Tellers	Ben Grimes/TBD	B. Grimes/N. Peterson

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Officiating Minister	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Ray Scholz	Jade Hawkins
Altar Care	Janet Gomez	Jennie Hawkins
Cantor	Daniel Gomez	Daniel Gomez
Communion Bread	Irene Albert	Janet Gomez
Greeter/Usher	Judy Wright	Heinz Albert
Lay Assisting Minister	Sue Turner	Daniel Gomez
Lector	Sue Turner	Teresa Grantham
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Chris Hawkins

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2023 – they are in the narthex – thanks!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

*The martyrdom of
Stephen*

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

*God's people chosen to proclaim
God's mighty acts*

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Christ the way, truth and life

LOOKING TO LOVE: LGBTQIA+ CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR CHURCH

The LGBTQIA+ Inclusions Tapestry Thread (a ministry of the Virginia Synod) is hosting a three-part discussion series in May and June. Participants will collectively watch a YouTube TED Talk and join Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (Our Saviour, Norge, VA) and Pastor Joel Neubauer (St. Mark, Yorktown, VA) in an exploration of the weekly topic and its application in daily life.

May 1 - 7-8:30 PM

Civility: Faithful Civil Engagement (on Zoom)

May 15 - 7-8:30 PM

Acceptance: Faith and Family (on Zoom)

June 5 - 7-8:30 PM

Love: Extending Love to All (on Zoom)

The sessions will not be recorded. You do not have to attend all three sessions. You can register to attend at vasynod.org.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SPECIAL PRESENTATION NEXT SUNDAY!

Please make plans to join us for fellowship and “first Sunday” brunch after worship next Sunday – the Reconciling in Christ ministry team will have a special presentation on land acknowledgement – the traditional custom that dates back centuries in many Native nations and communities. Today, land acknowledgements are used by Native Peoples and non-Natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live. **Please bring a “brunch” dish to share!**

SEASONS OF STEWARDSHIP

SPRING 2023: WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Worship Ministry Team is responsible for encouraging and supporting the growth of members' worship of our Triune God and focus on the Word. Members of the team are Pastor Jay, Sue Turner (chair), David Leunig, Irene Albert, Janet Gomez, and Jennie Hawkins.

There are four major aspects of the Worship Ministry Team:

1. Worship Assistants
2. Music
3. **Altar**
4. Worship Team Ministry

We will focus on one part each Sunday for the next four Sundays. Today, we focus on altar care which includes **changing the paraments** (for the different seasons of the church year), **setting up and cleaning up Holy Communion** (set up the bread and wine for communion and then cleaning up after the worship service), **baking bread** (baking the bread for the weekly worship service), **providing flowers** (to adorn the altar and sanctuary for the weekly worship services and special services during the year; e.g., lilies for Easter, palms for Palm Sunday, etc.), **making banners** (designing and making banners for the different seasons of the church year)

In May, you're invited to join the work of the team and in June, we will celebrate the work of this wonderful ministry team with an "agape" meal/worship service. Please remember that training is provided for ALL positions on this team.

SEEING THE RISEN CHRIST

Where has the risen Christ touched your life? The risen Christ touched the lives of the disciples and followers of Jesus in various ways, some of them simple and some extraordinary. We believe the risen Christ touches our lives as well. **Throughout the Easter season we invite you to share how the risen Christ has revealed God's presence and love to you. In our narthex we have a poster board and sticky note pads. We hope you will take the time to write down on the pad an instance where you felt the presence and the joy of life with which the risen Christ has touched you.** As we look for the risen Christ active in our lives, perhaps we can become better at naming how God's love and life become real for us. We look forward to reading your experiences of the risen Christ touching you with the love and joy of life God's Easter gift brings.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY: AN ABUNDANT LIFE

(FROM SUNDAYS AND SEASONS)

Abundant life is promised to those who follow Jesus. But what is meant by abundant life? Some Christians, and much of contemporary American culture, interpret an abundant life to mean the “good life” of many fine things, an opulent lifestyle. Much of our economy and leisure time revolves around consumerism—shopping and buying things which we hope will make us happier and our lives better. But an abundance of things does not necessarily lead to an abundant life.

What does Jesus mean when he says that he came so that we may have an abundant life? Psalm 23 provides us with a good illustration of what Jesus is promising to his followers. The psalm imagines an abundant life not in material terms but in relational terms. An abundant life is one lived in the presence of God, in the company of the Lord. Whether one is in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious and generous care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled. The image of Jesus as our shepherd reminds us that he is with us at all times, and our relationship with him provides us all we need.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

Pastor Jay invites you to invite him to visit you at your home and lead your family in a House Blessing. All you need is a candle and a way to light it. **Call Pastor Jay at (570) 205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com to plan this special service of asking God’s blessings and grace to remain in the place which you call “home.”**

JOINING OUR CONGREGATION

Now that the season of Lent is over, we are able to accept new members into our congregation. If you have any interest in joining our fellowship here at Apostles, please let Pastor Jay know. We can begin the process leading to membership in the near future. If you are not a member and wish to continue sharing in our worship and fellowship gatherings without joining, please know we are happy that you are here. We want you to feel welcome, and would be happy to have you as a member and include you in all aspects of our congregational life or to welcome and enjoy your presence in any of our gatherings.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Linda Hodges, 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), **Jim Bible** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **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), **Trudy Gies** (Betsy Liljeberg's niece), **Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy and Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Shirley Grimes** (Ben Grimes' mother), **Mike Hall, Chaneice Hayden** (Daniel Hayden), **Carl and Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Diane Hill** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Lorraine Malkemus, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Jean McKee** (Lilly Frost's grandmother), **Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle M^cMahan), **Keith Morgan, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Patricia Patel** (Spencer Hodges' daughter), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson and his brother, Joan Ritter, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Erin Seamonson** (Lara Jaeger), **Kathy Shackelford, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Cathy Walker** (friend of Linda Hodges), **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), **Logan Wymer, 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

APRIL 30, 2023 – MAY 7, 2023

TODAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
	7:00 PM	“Looking to Love”
	7:00 PM	Men’s AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	First Sunday Brunch & RIC
		Presentation on Land Acknowledgement

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Erin Riordan – May 1st | **Bob Ely** – May 3rd | **Gerald Britt** – May 6th

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Tina Britt – May 1st

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gerald and Tina Britt – May 6th