

### THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

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# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025 | 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 and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

# FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our 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> (preferred) or <u>pastor.apostles@gmail.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 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

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

# **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**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

#### **GATHERING HYMN**

### ELW #526 "God Is Here"



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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.

# **K**YRIE





### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

# WORD

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

# FIRST READING

Sit

# DEUTERONOMY 30:9-14

Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> "Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Response after the First Reading The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# PSALM 25:1-10

# PSALM

<sup>1</sup> To <sup>|</sup> you, O Lord,

I lift <sup>|</sup> up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be <sup>|</sup> put to shame; rather let those be put to shame <sup>|</sup> who are treacherous.

- <sup>4</sup> Show me your <sup>|</sup> ways, O LORD, and teach <sup>|</sup> me your paths. R
- <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your <sup>1</sup> truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all <sup>1</sup> the day long.
- <sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, your compas- <sup>1</sup> sion and love, for they are from <sup>1</sup> everlasting.

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and <sup>1</sup> my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-<sup>1</sup> ness, O LORD.

- <sup>8</sup> You are gracious and up- <sup>|</sup> right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners <sup>|</sup> in your way.
- <sup>9</sup>You lead the low- <sup>1</sup> ly in justice and teach the low- <sup>1</sup> ly your way.
- <sup>10</sup> All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast <sup>|</sup> love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your <sup>|</sup> testimonies. R

# SECOND READING

# COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and

growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup>This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*Response after the Second Reading* The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

# GOSPEL

# LUKE 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The gospel concludes: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

#### sit Sermon

Silence is kept after the reflection.

### **PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

#### ELW #708

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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### **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almightv.

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of 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.

# **P**RAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

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

#### hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.

# MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

# OFFERING

Sit

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
- $\pm\,$  From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN** ELW #184 Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our all; u - nite ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### Please rise in body or in spirit

# **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, 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 great thanksgiving continues.

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



The great thanksgiving continues.

... with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... into the future

#### We bless you, O God.

*The great thanksgiving continues.* ... with us now.

#### We thank you, O God.

*The great thanksgiving continues.* ... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

The great thanksgiving concludes. ... in your church without end.

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**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

# 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



### **HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

# ELW #800

#### "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"



Text: George Croly, 1780–1860 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.

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

Amen.

# **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

# SENDING

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

### BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

#### **SENDING HYMN**

# "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"



Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister	Pete Lilejberg	Linda Hodges
Lector	Karen Johnston	Linda Hodges
Acolyte	Chase Ambrose	Ray Scholz
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	Janet Gomez	Judy Wright
Communion Bread	Janet Gomez	Donna Ambrose
Greeter/Usher	Karen Johnston	Judy Wright
Technology	Doug Dalager	Chris Hawkins

### **SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK**

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Gomez/Grimes	Liljebergs
Tellers	Betsy Liljeberg/Ray Scholz	Linda Hodges/Don Garfield
Fellowship Set Up	Ray Scholz	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food	Judy Wright/Donna Ambrose	Scholzs
Fellowship Clean Up	Scholzs	Janet Gomez/Barbara Runk

# **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

#### First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to three visitors of the Lord

#### Psalm 15

Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill?

#### Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

Hymn to Christ, the firstborn of all creation

#### Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Jesus says: Martha, your sister Mary has chosen the better part

# WHO ARE YOU?

Who do you identify with in the parable? This is part of what makes parables so powerful. Some days we read the story through the eyes of the priest or the Levite. Some days we feel like the Samaritan. And then there are those days when we are the man in the ditch. Some days you are the windshield and some days you are the bug, as the saying goes.

It is easy to miss the shocking nature of this parable if we start to think that this story only teaches us to imitate the Samaritan. The parable says so much more about God, our relationship to God, and the lengths to which God will go to reach out to us.

Through the image of the Samaritan, Jesus lifts up a surprising rescuer as an image of the God who relentlessly cares for those in need. Could it be that we are meant to identify not with the Samaritan or even the lawyer to whom Jesus speaks the parable, but rather with the man who is hopeless and left for dead? Could it be that Christ is the good Samaritan who embraces us with the tender compassion of God?

All of the sudden the parable is turned on its head. Jesus is not just giving us a comfortable morality tale reminding us to be nice, helpful, generous people. Instead Jesus is proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. God's grace comes to us through the cross. God's grace comes to us even—and especially—when we are at our worst, when we struggle in the depths and cry out for help. Even when we cannot or will not cry out, mercy and grace come into our lives through Jesus. So whether you are on the road or in the ditch, Jesus even now is coming for you.

### **AGAPE WORSHIP SERVICE**

We will have an "agape" worship service on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> – please plan to bring a "brunch" type dish to share!!

# LUNCHES FOR GUEST

Apostles will be providing lunch for the clients of the GUEST Day Shelter the week of July 28<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – if you are interested in helping, please contact Janet Gomez.

#### PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Lena Woodlief, and Nancy Wagner

#### **OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Patricia Armentor, Paul Bauer, Karen Bell (Pam Moore's sister), Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis (friend of Donna Ambrose), Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Al DeWitt, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), Laura Fleige (Janet Gomez's sister), Teresa Floersheim-Miller (Ingrid Peterson's mother), Suzanne and Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin (luanita Sturdy's grandson), Jimmy & Fay Gray (Chris Hawkins' family), Karen Guire, Mike Hall, Melvin Hawkins (Chris Hawkins' father), Chaneice Hayden (Daniel Hayden), Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs (friend of Ray Scholz), Spencer Hodges, Ray Hughes, Wendy Isernia (Heinz and Irene's daughter), Suzanne Kinkade (friend of Ellen Quirk), Legend, the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Manuel, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Michael, Sylvia Midgette (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale (Lynn Jaeger's mother), Chastity Perkins (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), Brad Person (Lilly Frost's uncle), Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, James Schollian (friend of Nancy Wagner), Michael Scholz (Ray Scholz's nephew), Joseph Serafin (Pastor Jay's father), Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Dave Wagner (Nancy's husband), Wayne McCormick, Chuck Webb (Tina Britt's father), Makenzie Webb (Tina Britt's niece), Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright (Judy Wright's husband), Logan & Shannon Wymer, Greg Yvonovich (friend of Margaret & Ben Grimes), Derek Zwiers (friend of CK Ambrose)

#### OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo

#### **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

# JULY 13, 2025 - JULY 20, 2025

TODAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service	
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship	
Monday	<b>4:00 PM – 8:00 PM</b> 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b> Congregation Council AA	
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA	
THURSDAY	10:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the office	
Power In The Spirit – July 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>			
Friday		Girl Scouts	
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober	
SUNDAY	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service – World Hunger</b> Coffee Fellowship	
HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY TO			

Preston Higgins – July 20th

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

#### Shawn and Lara Jaeger - July 17th | John Mayer and Lilly Frost - July 20th

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR JAY!!**

Congratulations to Pastor Jay on the anniversary of his ordination on July 9<sup>th</sup>!!

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