APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 (804) 693-9098 | apostles-elca.org | facebook.com/ApostlesELCA



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 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.





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

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

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,

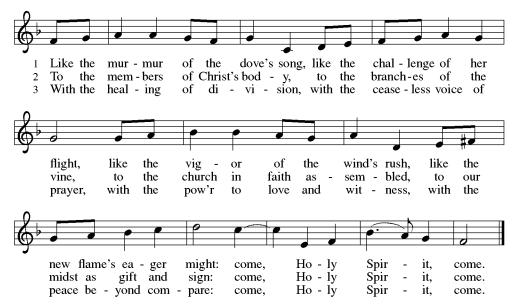
you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. 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 \oplus 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 #403

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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.

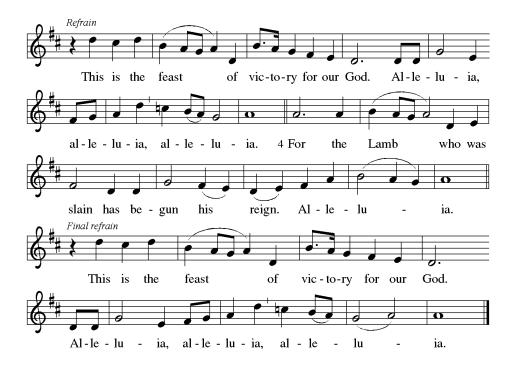
And also with you.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING

GENESIS 18:1-10A

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a}Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Response after the First Reading The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

- ¹ LORD, who may dwell in your [|] tabernacle? Who may abide upon your [|] holy hill?
- ²Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right, who speak the truth | from their heart; R
- ³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.
- ⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵ They 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 ¹ overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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 10th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL LUKE 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

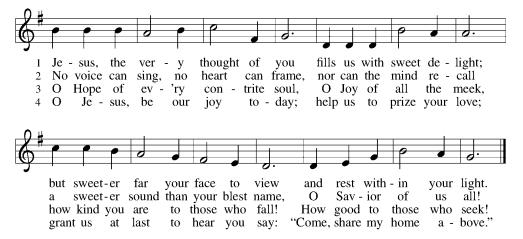
PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #754

"Jesus, the Very Thought of You"



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

PRAYERS 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.

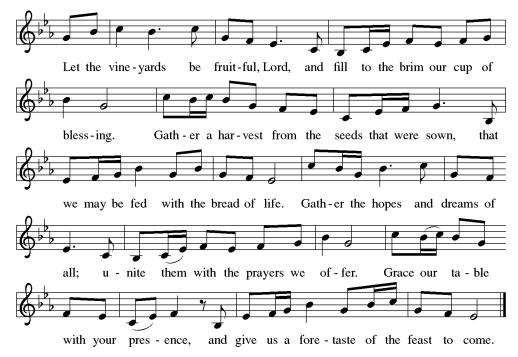
Sit

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

OFFERTORY HYMN ELW #184



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.

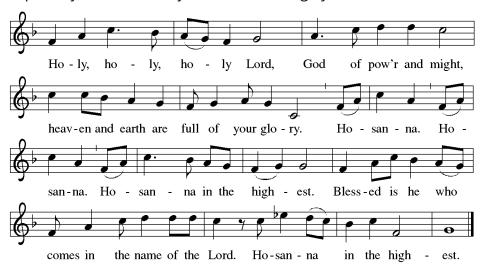
We lift them to the Lord.

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

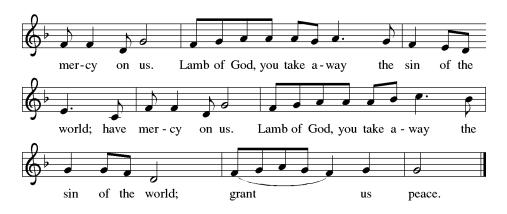
COMMUNION

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 #834

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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

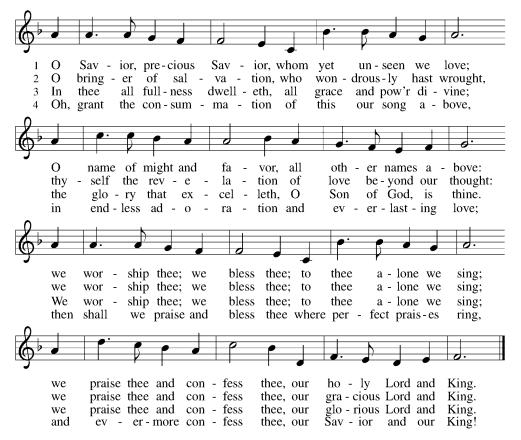
→ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #820

"O Savior, Precious Savior"



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

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	Irene Albert	Sue Turner
Lector	Linda Hodges	Margaret Grimes
Acolyte	Ray Scholz	Chase Ambrose
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	Judy Wright	Betsy Liljeberg
Communion Bread	Donna Ambrose	Betsy Liljeberg
Greeter/Usher	Judy Wright	Cynthia Lowe
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Jason Lowe

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Liljebergs	Scholz/Ambrose
Tellers	Linda Hodges/Don Garfield	Ben Grimes/Barbara Runk
Fellowship Set Up	Jennie Hawkins	Scholzs
Fellowship Food	Scholzs	Agape Meal
Fellowship Clean Up	Janet Gomez/Barbara Runk	Scholzs

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham bargains with God for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah

Psalm 138

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15[16-19]

Buried with Christ in baptism, raised with him through faith

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches the disciples to pray

UNEXPECTED AND INTENTIONAL DISTRACTION

As digital tablets and smart phones keep us busy and on the go, today's gospel reminds us of a struggle: when are we to set aside our busy calendars, duties, and to-do lists and simply rest in God's presence, listening to what God has to say to us? This tension mounts in our gospel as Jesus addresses Martha's busyness, worry, and distraction, juxtaposed with Mary's contemplation, focus, and desire to sit at the feet of the great teacher. But is "quietly sitting" even possible in our age of distractions? Perhaps we can find helpful advice in our first reading, as Abraham rests in the heat of the day. In that time of rest, he was ready to receive the three guests who came bearing the news that Sarah would have a son, fulfilling God's promise given years earlier. With the heat keeping him from moving on to other things, the guests had Abraham's undivided attention. These readings remind us how crucial it is to set aside time to spend with God. We might even wonder what sort of things Jesus was saying to Mary. Were they profound words, akin to the "mystery" the author of Colossians addresses in the epistle? Jesus was the person in whom God was pleased to dwell, that same one who is "the hope of glory."

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We join with Martha, Mary, Luke, the ancient Yahwist narrator, the later editor of Genesis, the anonymous poet of the Psalm, the author of Colossians, and perhaps even the Colossian community singing its hymn to welcome Christ to our table and hear his word. **This is no "ordinary" Sunday**.

AGAPE WORSHIP SERVICE

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



The Trinity is an icon written by the iconographer Andrei Rublev in the fifteenth century that depicts the appearance of the Lord to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis chapter 18. This famous icon is full of symbolism, from the colors of the three figures' clothing to the image of a chalice formed in relief between them. The angel on the left is said to represent God the Father, the one on the right, God the Holy Spirit, and in the middle, God the Son. Icons are religious works of art depicting scenes from scripture, famous saints and heroes of the faith, and angels. They are often used as devotional tools, offering a visual image to reflect on in prayer and contemplation. Icons continue to be important in the worshiping lives of Catholic and Orthodox Christians, and while not common in Protestant traditions, may provide yet another way for Christians to enter the story of the gospel.

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 (Juanita 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 20, 2025 - JULY 27, 2025

TODAY 10:00 AM Worship Service – World Hunger

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pastor Jay in the office

5:00 PM Worship Ministry Team

7:00 PM (Zoom) Service & Sharing Ministry Team

7:00 PM AA

TUESDAY 7:00 PM Al-Anon/AA

WEDNESDAY 10:00 PM - 1:00 PM Pastor Jay in the office

FRIDAY Girl Scouts

SATURDAY 6:30 PM Young and Sober

SUNDAY 10:00 AM Agape Worship Service

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY - TODAY

Please remember your offering for World Hunger today!!

HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY To ...

Willow Crocker – July 23rd | Karen Johnston – July 24th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Nate Peterson – July 22nd | Miles Frost-Mayer – July 23rd |
Brian Badger – July 24th

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