APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

We will be welcoming new members during worship this morning – welcome to the Slider Family (Ben, Michelle, Ben, Mia and Keegan), David Muse, and Tonia Fallin!!

Please join us for a special reception for them after worship!

GATHERING

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

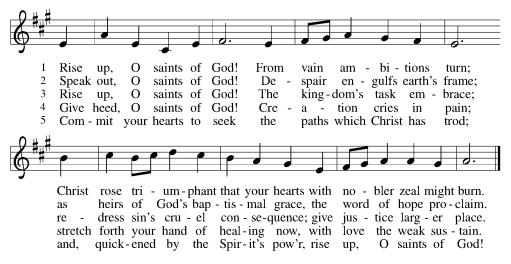
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #669

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"



Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

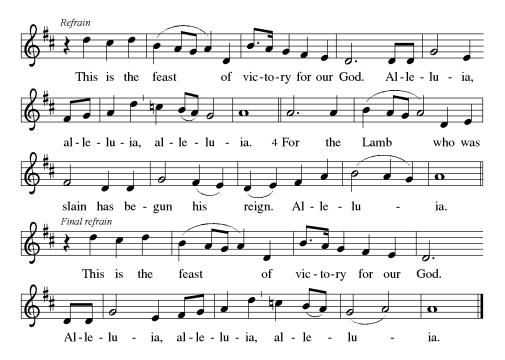
And also with you.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING

GENESIS 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Response after the First Reading The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM PSALM 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills; from where is my ¹ help to come?
- ² My help comes | from the Lord, the maker of heav- | en and earth.
- ³ The Lord will not let your ¹ foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you ¹ fall asleep.
- ⁴ Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R

- 5 the Lord watches | over you; the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶ the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.
- ⁷The Lord will preserve you ¹ from all evil and will ¹ keep your life.
- ⁸ The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in, from this time forth for- | evermore. R

SECOND READING

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL LUKE 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

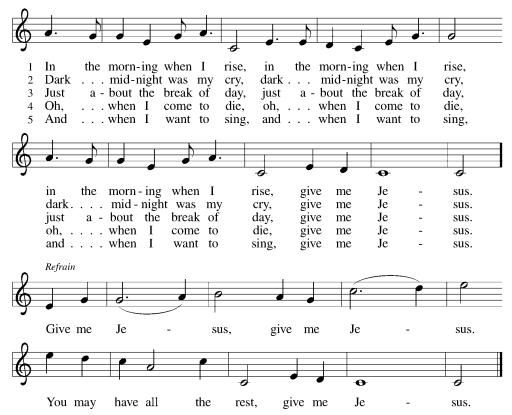
PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #770

"Give Me Jesus"



Text: African American spiritual Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

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

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our 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**. 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.

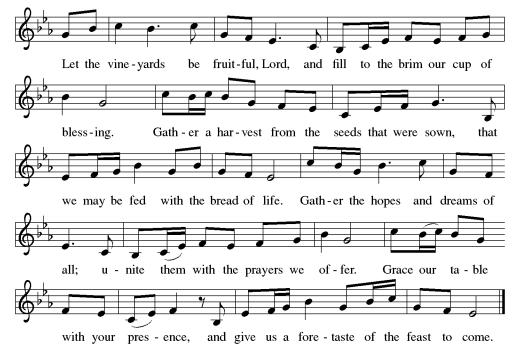
Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

- + Visit <u>apostles-elca.org/contributions</u>
- \pm 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. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus 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 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

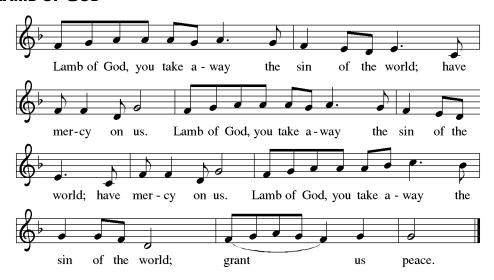
Sit

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

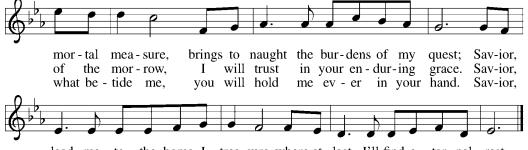


HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #790

"Day by Day"





lead me to the home I trea-sure, where at last I'll find e - ter-nal rest. help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo - ry I be-hold your face. with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005

Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

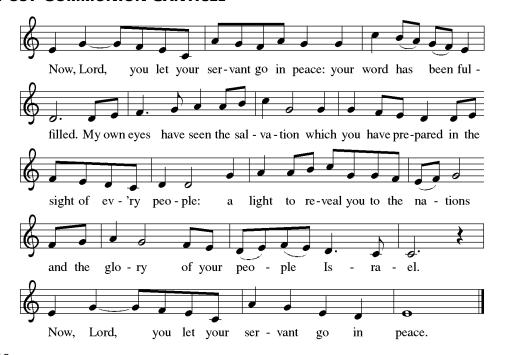
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, \pm bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #624

"Jesus, Still Lead On"



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister	Sue Turner	Doug Dalager
Lector	Judy Wright	David Leunig
Acolyte	Chase Ambrose	Ray Scholz
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	Judy Wright	Jamie Serafin
Communion Bread	Donna Ambrose	The Lowes
Greeter/Usher	Judy Wright	Cynthia Lowe
Technology	Doug Dalager	Jason Lowe

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Liljebergs	Scholz/Ambrose
Tellers	Betsy Liljeberg/Ray Scholz	Linda Hodges/Nate Peterson
Fellowship Set Up	Ray Scholz	Ray Scholz
Fellowship Food	Ellen Quirk/Judy Wright	Donna Ambrose/Janet Gomez
Fellowship Clean Up	Donna Ambrose/Barbara Runk	Scholzs

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Jerusalem will be defeated

Psalm 84:1-7

Happy are the people whose strength is in you

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The good fight of faith

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

A Pharisee and tax collector pray together

KYRIE ELEISON: PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Two characters step out of scripture today to teach us about persistence in prayer. One is named. Jacob is the devious brother who tricked his twin, Esau, out of his birthright and their father's blessing, and Jacob was himself duped on his wedding night by his father-in-law, Laban. The other character, unnamed, is a widow acquainted with grief, one among many marginalized and vulnerable people, but a woman who dares to stand her ground in her quest for justice. On the banks of the river Jabbok, Jacob wrestles with the angel and limps away with a blessing and a new identity. The unnamed widow repeatedly appeals for justice and finally is vindicated. Many have known persistent prayer as a kind of wrestling with God. Many have pleaded with God for justice and mercy. Today God's grace and mercy is known in the blessing of baptismal remembrance and our identity as beloved children of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The hymn of the day is "Day by day" (ELW 790). This text was written in the late nineteenth century by Carolina Sandell Berg to accompany a story she wrote, in which the pendulum of a clock quits swinging back and forth in frustration at the thought of how many million times it would have to swing over many future years. Berg wrote that we are given life one day at a time and that God's mercy attends us each single day. Like the widow, we struggle day by day. Like Jacob, we seek God's blessings and will in the end see God's face.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

There will be a "Blessing of the Animals" today at 12:00 PM. Since a pet blessing can be difficult for those who have lost dear pets, please consider bringing a photograph to the blessing so that we can remember them together.

God's Work, Our Hands - Saturday!!

Apostles Lutheran will once again be helping our friends and neighbors in and around Gloucester this coming **Saturday**, **October 25**th. We will be doing yard work and power washing for folks in our community in need. We will meet in the parking lot at **9:00 AM** and will finish by **1:00 PM** – lunch for the workers will be provided at church at 1:00 PM.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY - TODAY!

Please remember your offering for ELCA World Hunger today. Until all are fed!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will resume next **Sunday, October 26th** after the worship service. All ages are welcome!

CHURCH MORTGAGE PAYOFF

If you would like to contribute to our mortgage payoff plan, you can (1) place your contribution in an envelope and mark the envelope with the words "mortgage payoff", (2) use one of the envelopes found in our narthex entrance already noted as "mortgage payoff campaign", or (3) if you contribute electronically, make a note on the annotation line directing the contribution to the "mortgage payoff fund." Congregation Council has announced that anyone who designated offering in the last 2 years for the "building fund" and meant for it to be applied to the mortgage contact a member of Council so that the offering can be applied to the mortgage instead of the building fund.

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, Kate Casper, 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), the family of 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, Pastor Wendy Roundy, 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

OCTOBER 19, 2025 - OCTOBER 26, 2025

TODAY	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM	Worship Service - New Members Coffee Fellowship Blessing of the Animals
MONDAY	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
WEDNESDAY	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM 6:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office Adult Bible Study
FRIDAY	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Oktoberfest Movie
SATURDAY	9:00 AM 6:30 PM	God's Work, Our Hands Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service – Reformation Coffee Fellowship Sunday School

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Lilly Frost and Michael Schlemmer - October 23rd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY To ...

George and Jewel Thomas - October 21st

The liturgical texts and music are from Sundays and Seasons (sundaysandseasons.com) copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB149450. Hymnody made available through One License Annual License with Podcasting Renewal A-717259. Used by permission. All rights reserved.