

The Epistle

THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.apostles-elca.org | www.facebook.com/ApostlesELCA | May 2026

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



A Word from Pastor Jay

For some summer fun, I thought I'd focus on Martin Luther and ask a simple question. Look at each of the following quotes, and

answer, "Is Martin Luther is the originator of the quote?" So, if you think Martin Luther is the actual person quoted, your answer for that quote is yes, and if you think it is not a Luther quote, your answer is no.

1. Almost every night when I wake up the devil is there and wants to dispute with me. I have come to this conclusion: When the argument that the Christian is without the law and above the law doesn't help, I instantly chase him away with a fart.
2. I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.
3. Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!
4. The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and should not call

themselves Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone...How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?

5. Pray, and let God worry.

6. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it one thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and with all creatures; and this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith.

7. May a merciful God preserve me from a Christian Church in which everyone is a saint! I want to be and remain in the church and little flock of the fainthearted, the feeble and the ailing, who feel and recognize the wretchedness of their sins, who sigh and cry to God incessantly for comfort and help, who believe in the forgiveness of sins.

8. I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

9. But know that to serve God is nothing else than to serve your neighbor and do good to him in love, be it a child, wife, servant, enemy,

friend...If you do not find yourself among the needy and the poor, where the Gospel shows us Christ, then you may know that your faith is not right, and that you have not yet tasted of Christ's benevolence and work for you.

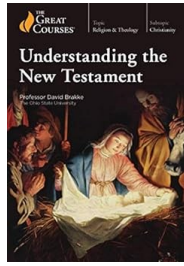
10. It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor.

11, This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

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"Ocho" De Mayo!!



A big THANK YOU to our Caring Community Ministry Team (Karen Johnston, Irene Albert and Judy Wright) for an OUTSTANDING "Ocho de Mayo"!!



Join Us for Adult Bible Study

Our current Bible study is "Understanding the New Testament." The class is being led by Pastor Jay—it is being held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in June we will only be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday (June 10th) - it will resume in July on Wednesday, July 8th—bring a sandwich for dinner at 6:00 PM and the study begins on 6:30 PM—please make plans to join us!!

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Congregation Council Update

The Congregation Council will be having their annual retreat on **Saturday, June 6th** and their regular meeting will be on **Monday, June 8th.**

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Happy Anniversary to . . .

Gene and Janet Gomez June 17

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Happy Birthday to . . .

Ellen Kendzierski June 3
 Karen Johnston June 21
 Janet Gomez June 29

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Please Keep In Your Prayers

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

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World Hunger Sunday

Don't forget your world hunger offering on **Sunday, June 21st – UNTIL ALL ARE FED!!**

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Save the Date!!

On Sunday, July 5th, we will celebrate our country's 250th birthday after our Sunday worship service. Join us to enjoy a BBQ with salads and sides, a indoor and outdoor games and fellowship!



Pride Sunday—June 7th, 10 AM!!
 As a Reconciling in Christ congregation we are committed to intentionally inviting and including people of all genders and races. On June 7th we will intentionally celebrate the diversity of God’s creation in our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ. We give thanks for God’s creative involvement in our lives and the life of the church! Wear lots of colors to celebrate! An offering will be collected to support the mission of Reconciling Works.

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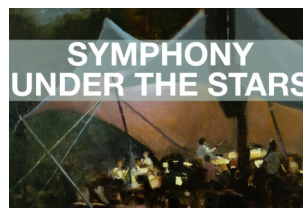
Hunger News: Pasta with a Purpose!

The Virginia Synod Hunger Team is sponsoring a food drive during the upcoming summer months. Often food giving is down during the summer and children don’t always get meals from summer lunch programs. Pasta with a Purpose is a way that congregations can joyfully respond to the food needs of their neighbors. Congregations will be entered in a synod-wide competition (!!)

with 3 top collectors receiving \$250 to donate to the food ministry of their choice. People of Apostles....we got this! Let’s get competitive and generous this summer!! Watch for more information!

Apostles has been invited by ReconcilingWorks to participate in a Region 9 listening session (via Zoom) to share our thoughts, requests and dreams about being a Reconciling in Christ congregation. As partners in this shared ministry, ReconcilingWorks wants to learn how they can best support and accompany us in living out our RIC commitments. We will be sharing with them (1) what has been most meaningful or supportive in our journey as a RIC partner; (2) where are we sensing new opportunities, challenges or needs; and (3) how can ReconcilingWorks better walk alongside us with resources and tools. The listening session has been scheduled for **Thursday, June 4th, at 10:00 AM.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Janet Gomez for registration information. Our voices are essential as we shape how they continue developing resources to support RIC partners in living boldly into our identities. *(Editor’s note: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America consists of 65 synods which are configured into 9 regions. Region 9 has six synods across the Southeastern US and Caribbean: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern (AL, GA, TN, KY), Florida-Bahamas, and Caribbean.)*

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Symphony Under The Stars 2026

Please join us for this annual concert on **Saturday, June 6th.** We will start gathering around 6:00 PM at the corner of Main Street and Walter Reed Way – the Liberty Dolls will be performing at 6:15PM and the Virginia Symphony concert will start at 8:00 PM. Please bring a snack or two to share, a drink and a lawn chair.



**Jubilee Churches
News**

The Jubilee Churches of Gloucester, a coalition of several congregations in Gloucester (including Apostles), will be **meeting on**

again on Wednesday, June 10th, at New Mount Zion Baptist Church. The Rev. Dr. Ed Walker, pastor of Bellamy United Methodist Church, and Pete Liljeberg are the co-moderators of the Jubilee Churches of Gloucester. In May, Jubilee Churches assisted a woman with \$625.54 for a Dominion bill – her power had been disconnected and we assisted with getting it turned back on quickly. Here is her story. . . living on a very limited fixed income due to disability, she had been doing everything she could to stay afloat after a winter of unusually high utility bills. She was enrolled in a payment plan with Dominion Energy and was faithfully making monthly payments, but she did not fully understand the balance remaining and had been estimating what she owed each month. Unfortunately, the underpayments eventually led to her service being shut off. This was the first time she had ever needed to ask for community assistance. Because of the generosity of Jubilee Churches, we were able to respond quickly and restore her power before the situation became even more overwhelming. During the process, she also worked directly with Dominion to better understand how to monitor and manage her payments moving forward, helping create more long-term stability. She expressed deep gratitude for the help she received and shared how meaningful it was to experience kindness from Jubilee Churches during such a vulnerable moment. Your support did more than turn the lights back on for her - it reminded someone that asking for help is okay and can be met with compassion.

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Women’s Group Meeting

The women’s group will be meeting on **Saturday, June 13th, at 10:00 AM.** We would LOVE to have you join us!!



**News
From GUEST**

+ There is a **BIG** need for volunteers at the day shelter—if you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Runk or Janet Gomez.
+ **Needed items** at the day shelter include office supplies—push pins, paper clips, staples and white out.

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“Let’s Go to the Movies”

The Gloucester Arts Festival is holding a “Let’s Go To The Movies” event on **Friday, June 26th at 7:00 PM.** They will be showing the 18 minute film with Gloucester native **Ellis Finney**, its writer/director, and **Jeff Lichtenstein**, the movie’s producer. An aging black high school football star, living a quotidian life and married to his high school sweetheart in a small town, reminisces over a long-lost lover - a man he once shared the football field with. Registration is required for this free event –go to <https://www.gloucesterartsfestival.com/sport-star>.

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Your Help Is Needed!!

We are looking for **someone to take care of changing the outdoor sign periodically during the year.** Pastor Jay will help with what to put on the sign—we just need someone who will change it when needed (7-8 times during the year). If you are interested in helping, please contact Ray Scholz, Administration Ministry Team leader.

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**From Your Treasurer
Doug Dalager**

April 2026	
<i>Planned Income</i>	\$ 9,194.75
<i>Actual Income</i>	\$ 8,813.07
<i>Delta</i>	\$ (381.68)
Year to Date	
<i>Planned Income</i>	\$ 36,779
<i>Actual Income</i>	\$ 36,638
<i>Delta</i>	\$ (141)

Power In The Spirit 2026



The Spirit Enlightens, Equips, Empowers

July 16-18, 2026
at Roanoke College

Bible Study Leader: The Rev. Susan Briehl

Keynote Presenter: The Rev. Drew Tucker

Musician: Michael Benshish

Special Guest: Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry



News From The Pews

Nate Peterson recently graduated from Montana State University with a Master's in Education and Leadership—congratulations, Nate!! *(Editor's note: We LOVE to share stories about*

what you are doing outside of church—please send your pictures and stories to Janet at thezemogs@gmail.com.)

Lunch for GUEST

Apostles will be providing lunch for the clients of the GUEST shelter the week of June 8th—if you would like to help, please contact Janet Gomez. Lunch is needed on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, June 9th, 11th and 12th for 10-15 people and needs to be delivered to the shelter on Moose Drive by 11:30 AM. If you are interested in helping, please contact Janet Gomez—thanks!