Apostles Lutheran Church

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN
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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13)

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 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 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 the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #327

"Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"



Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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 God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

First Reading — Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
  Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
  and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
  and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
  and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
  and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
  I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
  I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
  I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
  and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Response after the First Reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm — Psalm 70

[1] Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
[2] **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R

[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. **R**

Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

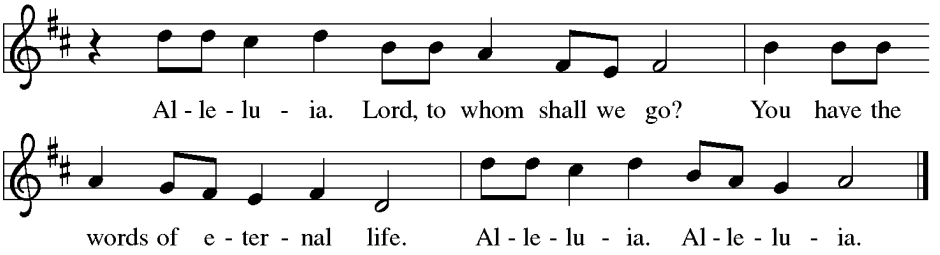
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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. All are invited to make a small cross over your forehead, lips, and chest, inviting Jesus the Word into your heart, mind, and speech.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 25th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel — Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young
women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and
five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise
took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became
drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come
out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The
foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise
replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers
and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and
those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.
11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied,
'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day
nor the hour."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — Ingrid Peterson

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Hymn of the Day — ELW #244

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:
God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

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

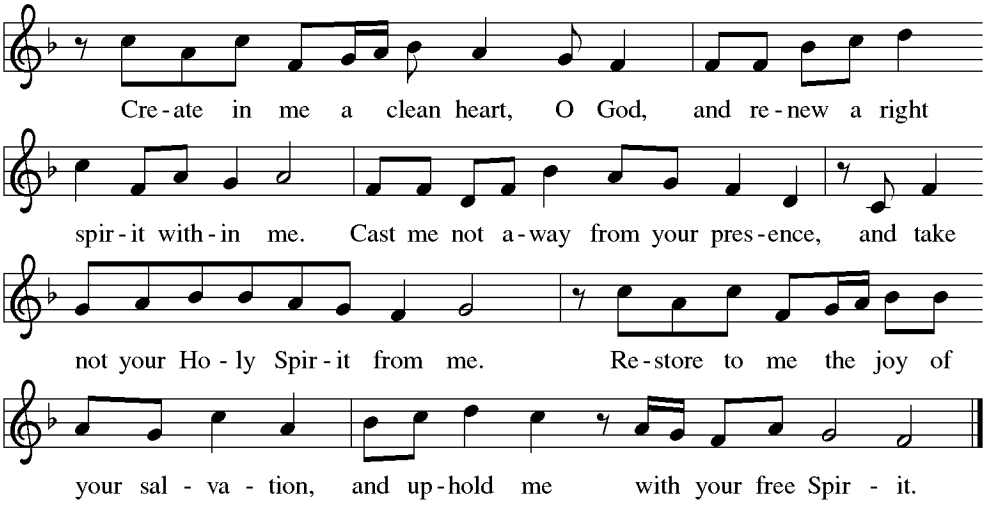
Offering

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**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Offertory Hymn — ELW #186



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

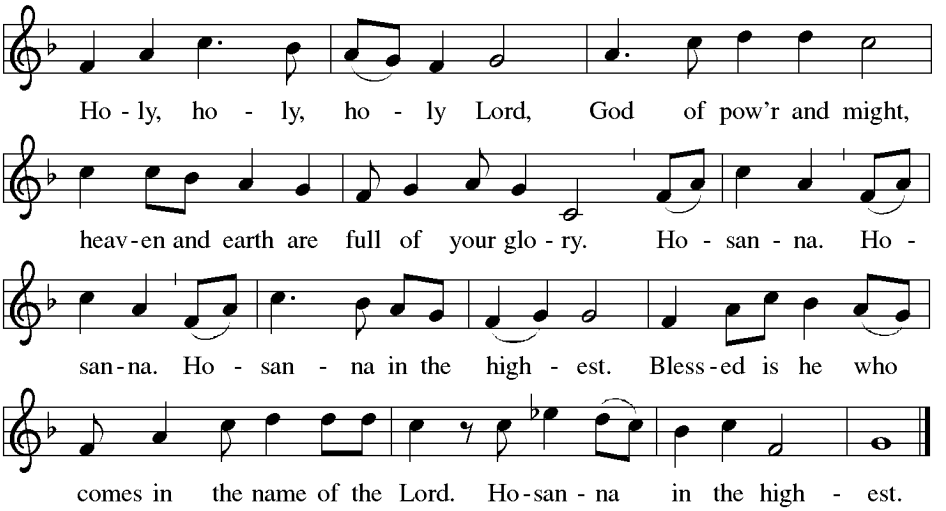
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

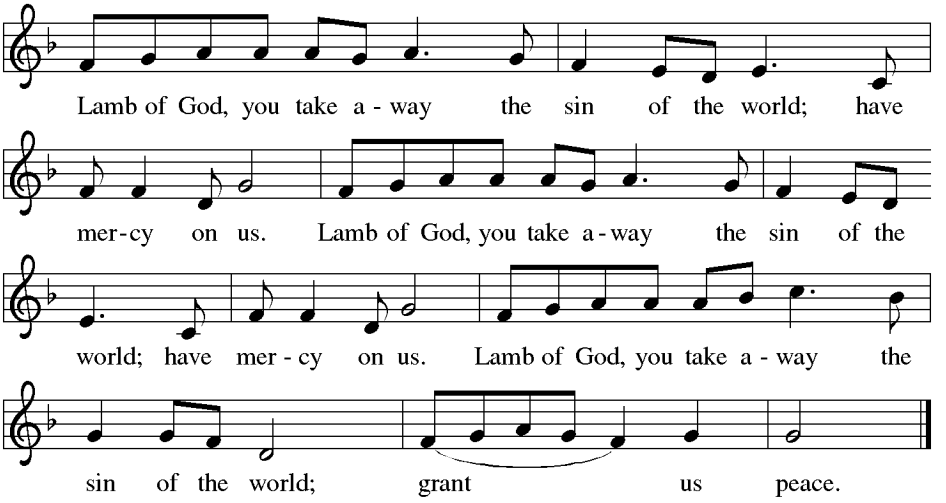
Sit

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 #785

"When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)"



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

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.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

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

Blessing

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn — ELW #638

"Blessed Assurance"



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Worship Leaders

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader	Pastor Jay	Pastor Jay
Preacher	Ingrid Peterson	Pastor Jay
Lay Assisting Minister	Sue Turner	Chase Ambrose
Lector	Karen Johnston	Judy Wright
Acolyte	Chase Ambrose	Tegan Goetz
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	*(recorded)*
Altar Care	Judy Wright	Alberts
Communion Bread	Donna Ambrose	Alberts
Flowers	Irene Albert	Ingrid Peterson
Greeter/Usher	Karen Johnston	Judy Wright
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Doug Dalager

Servants for the Week

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Alberts	Gomez
Tellers	Chris Hawkins/Nate Peterson	Barbara Runk/Linda Hodges
Fellowship Set Up	Jennie Hawkins	Caring Community
Fellowship Food	Judy Wright/Ellen Quirk	Donna Ambrose
Fellowship Clean Up	Donna Ambrose	Barbara Runk

Readings For Next Sunday
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
The day of the Lord

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Be alert for the day of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30
The story of the slaves
entrusted with talents

Prayer Chat
Thursday, 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Please join us on Thursday with a "prayer chat" with Pastor Jay on Zoom – invitation to join will be sent out by email.

Trusting in God, Trusting with God

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from trust in others to sustain us rather than God (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is cause for joy even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) God's promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus.

ELCA World Hunger Sunday – Next Sunday!!

Don't forget your world hunger offering on Sunday, November 15th. Did you know that our congregation has given over $1,600 this year to ELCA World Hunger—thank you so much!! UNTIL ALL ARE FED!!

Preparing For Advent

There will be a short meeting after worship today to talk about preparations for Advent, in particular the Advent wreath. Anyone serving on Altar Guild is asked to attend as well as anyone interested in helping!

Time And Talent
There Is Still Time!!!

If you didn't have a chance to fill out a Time and Talent survey for any of the 4 ministry teams (Administration, Caring Community, Service and Sharing and Worship), you can still do that. Forms are available in the narthex – just fill them out and put them in the offering plate. Thanks!

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 22nd

A congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, November 22nd, after the 10:00 AM worship service (around 11:00 AM) both in-person and via Zoom to discuss and approve a ministry spending plan for 2027. Please make plans to attend - we need your voice and vote!!! The proposed spending plan will be sent out by e-mail in the coming week from Apostles office. This meeting will take place after an "agape" worship service in the fellowship hall. Please bring a brunch type dish for the agape male and make plans to stay for the meeting - thanks so much!!

Lunch for GUEST

Apostles will be providing lunch for the clients of GUEST the week of November 22nd – lunch will be needed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for 10 people – lunch needs to be at the shelter by 11:30 AM. If you are interested in helping with this, please talk to Janet Gomez – thanks!!

Apostles Women's Group

All women of Apostles are invited to attend the Women's Group this coming Saturday, November 14th, at 10:00 AM.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Rich Bitting, Don Garfield, Ellen Kendzierski, David Leunig, Cyndi Lowe, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Ray Scholz, Pastor Jay Serafin, George Thomas, Rick Tucci, Lena Woodlief, and **Judy Wright**

Our Family and Friends

Natalie Abu Dayyeh, Patricia Armentor (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic)**, 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, Juan Carlos, Amy Carter, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Scott Jeffery, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Terri Larsen, Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, 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, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Skye Sulton, Marier Upshrie, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, 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, 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

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 – NOVEMBER 15, 2026

TODAY	**10:00 AM**	**Worship Service**
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 AM	Meeting to Prepare for Advent
MONDAY	6:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
	7:00 PM	Congregation Council
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
WEDNESDAY		
THURSDAY		Bread for Life Board Meeting
	7:00 PM	Prayer Chat (Zoom)
FRIDAY		
SATURDAY	10:00 AM	Women's Group
	5:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	**10:00 AM**	**Worship Service & World Hunger Sunday**
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Ellen Quirk – Fri, Nov 6 | **Jim Wright, Sr.** – Sun, Nov 8 |
David Leunig – Tue, Nov 10 | **Matthew Hautz** – Wed, Nov 11



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