

# The Epistle

**THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Gloucester, Virginia**

**www.apostles-elca.org**

**March 2021**

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



## ***Musings From The Minister***

*So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my LORD is old, will I now have this pleasure?"*  
—Genesis 18:12

It's been one year since that dreaded Ides of March when we entered into Lockdown. Looking back, I remember us transitioning from sipping to dipping only with Common Cup Communion. I once wrote how I would rather take on something productive as opposed to fasting. While I still believe this principle, there are only so many masks and stage plays a person can create in social isolation. I digress. We are on the precipice of a return to normalcy with the number each person who receives a vaccination. Like Sarah, who doubted the possibility of birth due to her age, we may yield to the disbelief of such hope. However, like the birth of Isaac, hope has not died. We will be together in person one day, even though we do not know when that day will come. Have faith that God has never abandoned us. God will never abandon us. Take care and do not lose sight of that better tomorrow, which is made possible with each present day.

“One of my greatest lessons has been to fully understand that what looks like a dark patch in the quest for success is the universe pointing you in a new direction. Anything can be a miracle, a blessing, an opportunity if you choose to see it that way.”

~Oprah Winfrey, What I Know For Sure

In God's Abiding Love,  
The Reverend Jeniffer Tillman,  
Mission Developer

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## ***Mid-Week Lent Holy Communion Service***

Please join us on Wednesdays for a mid-week Holy Communion service on Wednesdays during Lent via Zoom - **March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th**—you won't want to miss this unique worship experience.

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## ***Congratulations To . . .***

Kayla and Matthew Hautz (and grandparents Lynn and Donald Jaeger) upon the birth of a little baby boy on Thursday, February 11th, at 6:46 PM - little Theodore Hunter weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

## Looking For Something To Do With Friends or Family in March?? Check This Out!!



Sign up to help and be sure and wear your Apostles shirts (don't have yours yet—details on how to order one is in this month's Epistle)!! It's time to round up your team for Clean Gloucester Weekend 2021! In addition to the usual family and community-group teams, this year we are encouraging employers to allow their staff to do cleanups during work hours on Friday, March 26! Choose where you'd like to clean up, round up your family or a group, then register for supplies at: [tinyurl.com/CleanGloDay](https://tinyurl.com/CleanGloDay). Watch your email for a confirmation. All team captains will receive a free potted daffodil, compliments of the Gloucester Master Gardeners. All equipment is sanitized and contact-free pickup is available. If you would rather join an employee-led group cleanup on Sunday, March 28 (recommended for those with small children), sign up under the Clean Community tab at Civic Rec: [gloucesterva.info/civicrec](https://gloucesterva.info/civicrec) (this is a new system so you may need to create a new account first). Thank you for helping to keep Gloucester clean and green.

## Stations of the Cross

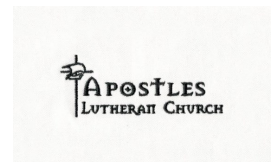
Stations of the Cross refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. Praying the Stations of the Cross is among the most ancient of spiritual disciplines, a practice that stretches back to the early centuries of the church. As Katherine Sonderegger says in her book, *Praying the Stations of the Cross, Finding Hope in a Weary Land*, the stations offer a spiritual practice that can refresh us at those times when our souls are parched for God's presence in our lives. Eight Stations of the Cross have been set up in our sanctuary for the season of Lent - there are devotion booklets for you to use. We invite you to spend some time and prayer and to reflect on the scripture at each stop. If you need help getting into the church or have any questions, please contact Janet Gomez at 804-693-5738 or [thezemogs@gmail.com](mailto:thezemogs@gmail.com). "Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise."



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## Information About Apostles Shirts

You can purchase t-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts with the Apostles logo. Apostles has a "storefront" with Lands' End - just go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/apostles> - you can select any type and size of shirt you want and they will put the Apostles logo on.





## Holy Week Plans

Holy Week will begin with a Palm/Passion Sunday worship service via Zoom on Sunday, March 28th at 9:30 AM. The services for Maundy Thursday (April 1st) and Good Friday (April

2nd) will be pre-recorded. You will have two opportunities for the Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 3rd—one from the Virginia Synod and one from local Episcopal/Lutheran churches. Our Easter worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4th, will be a combination of pre-recorded music and readings and Zoom from the sanctuary of the church. Details on all of these services will be forthcoming. Your Congregation Council will be delivering a “Holy Week” bag complete with palms for Palm Sunday between Friday and Saturday, April 2nd-3rd. Stay tuned!

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## Lunch & Learn

Join us for the monthly Lunch and Learn series



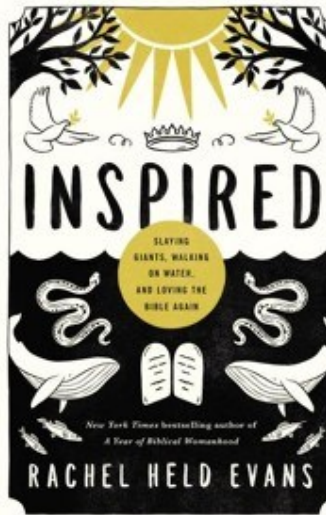
sponsored by your Virginia Synod Hunger Committee. On **Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at noon**, there will be a conversation with people who have started successful food ministries. The speakers for this month’s gathering include Garry Lautenschlager, Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries, Pastor John Wertz, Virginia Synod, and Monique Raposa Bread for Life, Executive Director of the Bread for Life Food Pantry. Registration details are at [vasynod.org](http://vasynod.org).

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## Midwinter Power In The Spirit

What a wonderful event! Over \$2,700 was raised for ELCA Good Gifts. Save the date for the summer event, July 8-10.



## Thursday Evening Book Study

The study of Rachel Held Evans’ book, *Inspired*, will continue on **Thursday, March 11th, and 25th** from 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom—watch your e-mail for the Zoom invitation. Pastor Jeniffer is leading the study.

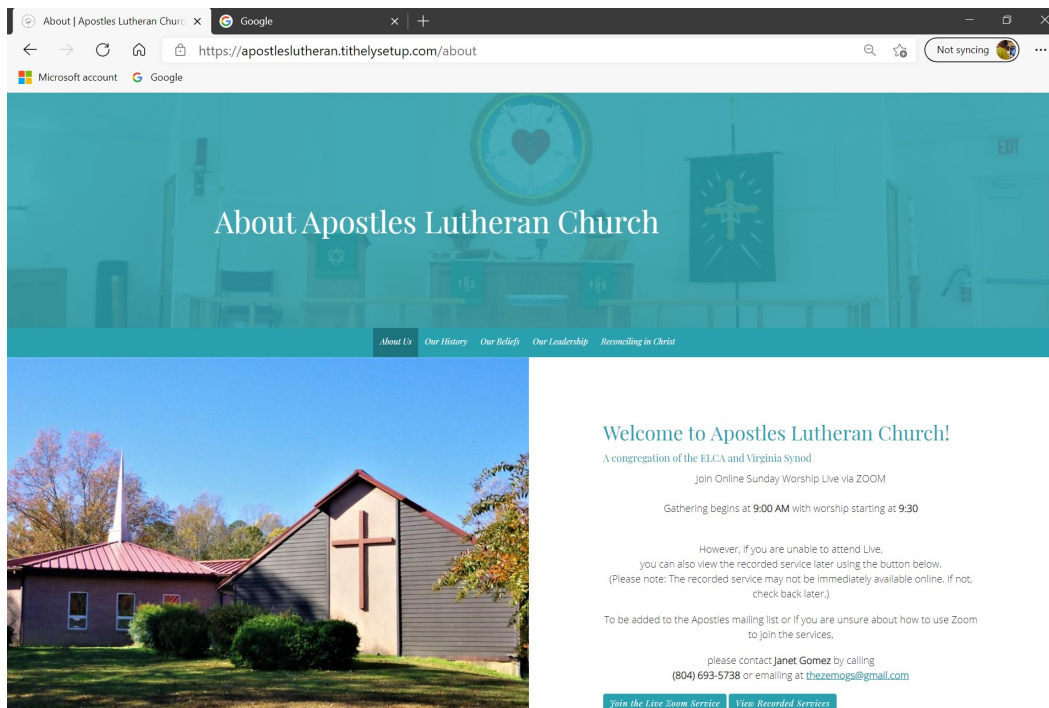
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## Readings for March

Lectionary readings for March are:

- + **March 7th, Third Sunday In Lent** – Exodus 20:1-17 (the commandments are given at Sinai), Psalm 19 (the commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes), 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (Christ crucified, the wisdom of God), John 2:13-22 (the cleansing of the temple)
  - + **March 14th, Fourth Sunday in Lent** – Numbers 21:4-9 (the lifting up of the serpent), Psalm 107:103, 17-22 (you deliver your people from their distress), Ephesians 2:1-10 (saved by grace through faith for good works, John 3:14-21 (the lifting up of the Son of Man)
  - + **March 21st, Fifth Sunday in Lent** –Jeremiah 31:31-34 (a new covenant written on the heart), Psalm 51:1-12 (create in me a clean heart, O God), Hebrews 5:5-10 (through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation), John 12:20-33 (the grain of wheat dying in the earth)
  - + **March 28th, Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**—Isaiah 50:4-9 (the servant of the Lord submits to suffering), Psalm 31:9-16 (into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit), Philippians 2:5-11 (humbled to the point of death on a cross), Mark 14:1-15:47 (the passion of the Lord).
- Check out God Pause from Luther Seminary for a daily devotion based on the upcoming readings for the week—[www.luthersem.edu/godpause](http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause).

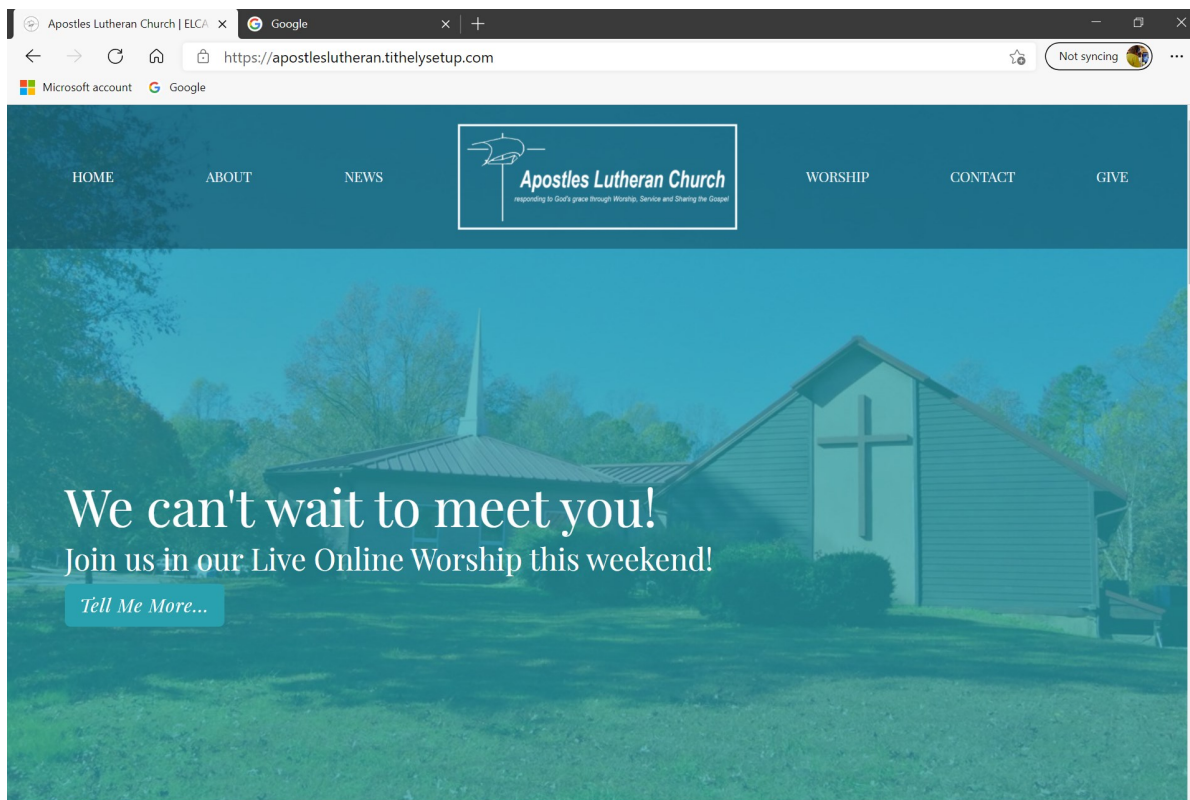




## ***New Website for Apostles Lutheran Church***

Apostles Congregation Council recently approved the upgrading of our church software by taking advantage of a special half price offer extended to ELCA churches. This new system includes features to help congregations stay better connected during these times of social distancing and

afterwards as well. It will consolidate a number of things we have been struggling with making it easier to manage communications, contact information, church events, ministry teams, worship services, giving and more. The world is increasingly accessed online and this will enhance our digital presence as well as improve our ability to reach out to our church family and the community at large. The most obvious change will be our website as it is being completely redone to make it more useful and inviting. It will be our new doorway to the community through which we hope to extend our welcome and ministry to all. This of course includes our own members who will be better able to keep track of church plans, events, online giving and each other. The new website is nearly ready for launch so be watching your email for a notice soon.



Browser tabs: About | Apostles Lutheran Church | Google | Calendar • Apostles Lutheran Church

Address bar: <https://apostleslutheran.tithelysetup.com/about>

Navigation: Home Roster Songs Calendar Unavailability My Giving

### Calendar


Subscribe

February 2021

W	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8	14	15	16	17	18	19	20


Browser tabs: About | Apostles Lutheran Church | Services | Apostles Lutheran Church | Google

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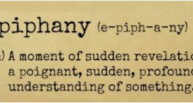
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## Services

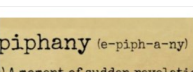
By Date By Series



**First Sunday in Lent**  
Lenten Season - 2021  
Pastor: Jennifer Tilman, M.Div.  
February 21, 2021



**Transfiguration Sunday**  
The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Epiphany - 2021  
2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9  
Pastor: Jennifer Tilman, M.Div.  
February 14, 2021



**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Epiphany - 2021  
Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

**Filters**

- Lenten Season - 2021
- Epiphany - 2021
- Christmas 2020-21
- Advent 2020

Jennifer Tilman, M.Div.

Guest Speaker

2021

2020

All

## Happy Birthday to . . .

Phil Dunn	March 1
Martha Carroll	March 4
Tina Britt	March 11
Makayla Hess	March 15
Judy Wright	March 20
Steve Hanson	March 22
Sara Blittle	March 25
J. Dillon	March 27
August Good	March 27
Margaret Grimes	March 28

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## Happy Anniversary To . . .

Bernie and Barbara Runk	March 1
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## Happy Baptismal Anniversary to . .

Kayla Hautz	March 2
Carson Riordan	March 26
Emily Riordan	March 26
Sean Riordan	March 26
Jack and Juliet Baur	March 31

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## No Conversation Café for March

We will not have a Conversation Café in March—it will resume in April.

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## Ministry Team Meetings

The following ministry teams will meet in March:

+ Worship - **Saturday, March 13th , at 10:30 AM** via Zoom.

+ Caring Community —**Monday, March 15th, at 7:00 PM** via Zoom.

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## Please Keep In Your Prayers

Opal Baker, Luise Buerkert, the Crocker family, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Betty Hauch, Kayla and Matthew Hautz, Michael Schlemmer, Keith and Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, Lena Woodlief, and Judy Wright .



The Reconciling in Christ ministry team thanks everyone who sent back the postcard with the draft welcome statement. In response to those who wanted more scriptural engagement, Pastor Jeniffer will be leading a discussion after worship on Sunday, March 14th regarding a Lutheran interpretation of the Scriptures in regards to LGBTQ+ individuals and communities. We hope you can join us!

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## Mission Outreach Fund Update

Our Mission Outreach Fund Committee (Margaret Grimes, Bonnie Hayman and Lynn Scholz) has been busy! \$250 was donated to Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund to help with weather disaster relief in Texas and \$100 was given for a Kiva loan to a woman in Kenya to use for goods to sell in market. This loan amount was from money that others repaid to Kiva and not from our 2021 budget.

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## Easter Lilies

We are taking orders for Easter lilies to adorn our sanctuary for Easter—the cost is \$12—if you would like to purchase one, please call or e-mail Janet Gomez at 804-693-5738, thezemogs@gmail.com. Thanks!

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<p><b>God's work.</b> Our hands.</p> 	<p><b>Save the date</b> September 12</p> 
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At Apostles, we make a weekend out of it—we work on Saturday and worship on Sunday—we aren't sure exactly what it will look like this year but stay tuned!!

**Meals for Gloucester United  
Emergency Shelter Team (GUEST)**

In February, Apostles started providing meals for GUEST—they need dinners for approximately 30 people every day—we provided the dinner for February 22nd—we will be providing the dinner again on March 22nd—a big THANK YOU to those who provided the meal and to Nancy Wagner for coordinating it and delivering the meal. If you are interested in helping with the meal in March, please contact Nancy at 443-794-8923 or email her at nanwagner@hotmail.com.



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**Daylight Savings  
Starts March  
14th**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!!

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**Recommended Reading**

Janice Roe had a couple of books that she recommended reading: *Separated, Inside an American Tragedy* by Jacob Soboroff and *400 Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. Check them out!



**Hepi Ista!  
Worship for the Second Sunday  
of Easter**

The Virginia Synod staff will record a full worship service for the Second Sunday of Easter, April 11th. The purpose is to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as a synod. The service will highlight and celebrate our companion relationship with the New Guinea Islands District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea. Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick will preach. This service will be available on Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo.

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**Church Directory Changes**

Please note the following changes to the Church Directory that was recently sent out:

- + Samantha and Michael Crocker's physical address is 4263 Capahosic Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061
- + Lorna Hanson's telephone number is 713-818-9905
- + Please change Jeri Woodlief to read Jerry Woodlief

Please note that if a post office box is listed, use that for mailing information—don't use the physical address.