

The Epistle

THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gloucester, Virginia

www.apostles-elca.org

September 2021

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



A Pugilist of Prose from the Pulpit

“A Back to School Blessing”
By Pastor Jeniffer Tillman, M. Div

**As summer light begins to fade,
And teachers mark work with a grade,
It's comforting to know your school year
with start**

**With a few supplies purchased straight from
the heart.**

**And as you navigate your way,
Know that God is with you every day.**

Autumn is just around the corner, and we all welcome a return to normalcy. I mean, what's more normal than going back to school, rehearsing for plays, and grabbing the obligatory Pumpkin Spice Latte? We at Apostles will be saying good to the Summer Season of Administration in order to say hello to the Autumn Season of Service and Sharing. Autumn is the perfect time to lean into community outreach, especially when it comes to our Stewardship with God's ministry.

September will mark the beginning of a new Bible Study opportunity. Join me on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 to study our Sunday morning Lectionary. We will engage the Four Steps of Lectio Divina. Come join us on Zoom! Speaking of education, Children's Chapel will resume this month with First Communion. We will meet via Zoom at 12:00 PM on Sunday afternoons. We can't wait to see you!

In God's Abiding Love,
Pastor Jeniffer Tillman
Mission Developer

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Blessing of the Backpacks



A blessing of the backpacks was held during the worship service on Sunday, August 29th—we also blessed the students, teachers and caretakers—students were given a special tag for their backpacks—shown here is Bec Smith who will be attending kindergarten this year.

Special Congregational Meeting on

Sunday, September 19th

Apostles' Congregation Council has scheduled a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 19th**, in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service to vote to hire a part time office assistant. Your Council wants your input and your commitment before we move forward with this decision. There will be a Zoom link. Please, talk to your Council members about this, talk to God about this, and join us on September 19th as we move forward trying to do God's work in this world. Council members are Pete Liljeberg, President, Nancy Wagner, Vice President, Janet Gomez, Secretary, Tina Britt, Treasurer, Gerald Britt, Doug Dalager, Ben Grimes, Ingrid Peterson and Ray Scholz.

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News About Our Youth

Nate and Ingrid Peterson are holding youth group (for youth in grades 6-12) every other Sunday after the worship service—the **next meeting will be Sunday, September 12th**. **All youth and their friends are welcome to attend!** Two members of the youth group are Jade Hawkins and Makayla Hess—both will be attending Gloucester High School—Jade is a 9th grader who is interested in environmental science and theater and is a Girl Scout; Makayla is a senior with a dual enrollment at New Horizons Vocational studying early child development—she is also continuing her art studies.



Apostles Helps Our Community and Beyond!

- + Apostles recently gave \$1,000 of our Mission Outreach Fund to the Gloucester Housing Partnership to help pay for a ramp for a young man so he can safely access his home—Gloucester Housing Partnership is a nonprofit organization that focuses on housing repair for Gloucester residents in need.



- + Apostles also sent \$500 of our Mission Outreach Fund to Lutheran Disaster Response to help the people affected by the earthquake in Haiti.
- + Apostles Congregation Council voted at their August meeting to give the remainder of the payroll protection funds we received to Bread for Life, Bay Aging, GUEST, the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic and the Community Services Board. Each agency will receive \$500.

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Ministry Team Meetings

The following ministry teams will meet in September:

- + **Caring Community**—Monday, September 13th at 7:00 PM.
- + **Worship** - Wednesday, September 15th, at 7:00 PM



Reconciling in Christ Ministry

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

We have scheduled our RIC celebration for Reformation Sunday, October 31st. The Reconciling in Christ team will be meeting on Thursday, September 23rd, at 7:30 PM via Zoom—if you would like to join the meeting, please contact Betsy Liljeberg at b4liljeberg@gmail.com. Also, the Service and Sharing Ministry Team has been working with Cheryl Matteo-Kearney from the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board to provide LGBTQ1A+ awareness training with Ted Lewis—we had hoped to provide the space for in-person training but because of the increase in Covid-19 cases, this training will be offered virtually. Ted Lewis (they/them), is an out and proud queer and genderqueer leader who grew up in an interracial family, who were engaged in conversations of justice, equity, and difference at the dinner table. They have dedicated their professional life to making the world better for LGBTQ+ people. Ted has a Master's Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies from UNC Charlotte, a MEd in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of South Carolina and a BA in English and History from the University of Mary Washington.

Ted Lewis

LGBTQ+ Training Series

Monday, September 20 - 12:00-1:30

Understanding the LGBTQ+ Community

Online Registration:

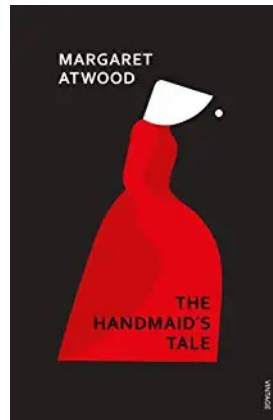
https://bayriverstelehealth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwucOGpqTMrHdT_s1HW_BDph2s2plvuY80I

Monday, September 27- 3:00-4:30

Allyship & Making Positive Change for LGBTQ+ Inclusion

Online Registration: <https://bayriverstelehealth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwucOGupjgqGt1MnrHYmCO6aUNx0F50vP94>

New Book Study To Start



The new book study of Margaret Atwood's book, "The Handmaid's Tale" has been **rescheduled** to start on **Thursday, November 4th** - In addition to reading the book, we will be reading several of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Social Statements.

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Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregation Council will be meeting on **Monday, September 20th, at 7:00 PM.**

Highlights from the meeting in August are:

- + **Council** approved the use of the church basement by the Girls Scouts on Thursdays from 6:30 PM–7:30 PM starting on Thursday, September 9th.
- + **Council** is overseeing the audit of the church financial records—helping with the audit are Sue Turner, Linda Hodges, Nate Peterson and Ben Grimes.
- + **Council** is looking into purchasing a screen and projector for the sanctuary and for an outside camera.
- + **Council** voted to approve holding a special congregational meeting to vote on hiring a part time administrative assistant.
- + **Council** voted to distribute the remaining payroll protection funds to several local agencies.

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Happy Baptismal Birthday To . . .

Doug Dalager	September 3
Jewel Thomas	September 28

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Happy Anniversary To . . .

Heinz and Irene Albert	September 14
Donald and Lynn Jaeger	September 16
Eric and Sara Blittle	September 18
Chris and Reida Avery	September 19
Steve and Lorna Hanson	September 21
Keith and Juanita Sturdy	September 26
Jim and Judy Wright	September 28



Seasons of Stewardship—Summer The Administration Ministry Team

The Administration Ministry Team is responsible for organizing and overseeing the administrative business of the church—the team will:

- + routinely maintain the building and grounds and plan for long range renovations
- + provide effective communication avenues within the church and provide relevant and timely information to the community
- + perform financial duties
- + monthly bill payments and reconciliations, annual development of spending plan, ensure annual audit of financial transactions, plan and monitor long range financial needs and goals of the congregation



July Presentation

On Sunday, July 18th, the Administration Ministry Team presented a

wonderful video about what this team does—it was put together by our very own Gerald Britt—if you didn't get a chance to see it during worship, PLEASE check it out on

YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbbCa04HUAs>

August Invitation

During the month of August, you were invited to participate in the work of the Administration Ministry

Team with your time, talent and treasure by filling out a time and talent survey. It's still not too late to fill one out—we will have copies available in the narthex and at the celebration on Sunday, September 19th.

September CELEBRATION!!!

On Sunday, September 19th, we will CELEBRATE the work of the Administration Ministry Team—immediately following the special congregational meeting, we will have an for an ice cream social — there will be LOTS of homemade ice cream, a special game with prizes and a drawing to win a special gift—your ticket to enter the drawing is your time and talent survey! To prepare for the game, it would help if you became very familiar with what the Administration Ministry team does!!

There is an opportunity for everyone to share their time, talent and treasure on and for the Administration Ministry Team!

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Remembering . .

+ **Cindy Peterson**—Cindy was a former member of Apostles—she died on August 8th.
+ **Patricia Truchlinski**—Pat was Chris Avery's aunt—she was the youngest of three sisters with Chris's mother, Anne, being the oldest. Carol was the middle sister. Pat went to secretarial school eventually working in the Board of Elections of Erie County, Buffalo NY. She was married to Ed for 45 years—he was a lieutenant in the Buffalo Police Department. After retirement, they moved to Sarasota Florida and settled there. After Ed passed about 12 years ago she lived in their condo and stayed active in the local garden club until she entered assisted living. Chris and Reida couldn't take care of her 900 miles away so they brought her to Gloucester. Pat always appreciated Apostles giving her the sacraments. She would have liked attending Apostles services. Although she was Catholic by marriage, family history shows our history was Lutheran from Canada with a pastor who had a parish in Eden, NY. She rests now with Chri's family in their family plot in Buffalo. With a generous donation in honor of Pat from Chris and Reida, cabinets were made and installed in the new administrative assistant office.



Readings for September

+ **September 5th–15th Sunday after Pentecost**—Isaiah 35:4-7a (like streams in the desert, God comes with healing), Psalm 146 (I will praise the Lord as long as I live), James 2:1-10[11-13]14-17 (faith without works is dead), Mark 7:24-37 (Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man)

+ **September 12th–16th Sunday after Pentecost**—Isaiah 50:4-9a (the servant is vindicated by God), Psalm 116:1-9 (I will walk in the presence of the Lord), James 3:1-12 (dangers of the unbridled tongue), Mark 8:27-38 (Peter's confession of faith)

+ **September 19th–17th Sunday after Pentecost**—Jeremiah 11:18-20 (the prophet led like a lamb to slaughter), Psalm 54 (God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life), James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (the wisdom from above), Mark 9:30-37 (prediction of the passion)

+ **September 26th–18th Sunday after Pentecost**—Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 (the Lord's spirit comes upon seventy elders), Psalm 19:7-14 (the commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes), James 5:13-20 (prayer and anointing in the community), Mark 9:38-50 (warnings to those who obstruct faith)

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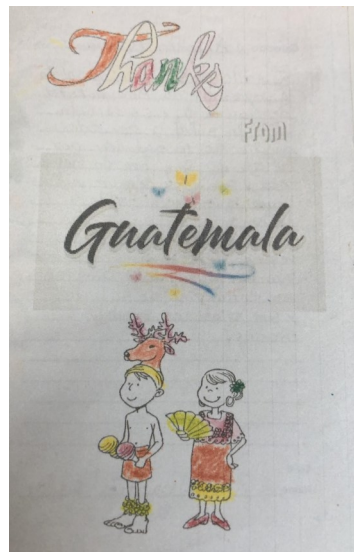
Correspondence

“Dear friends,
On behalf of Gloucester Housing Partnership, I wish to thank Apostles Lutheran Church for the donation of \$1,000 made to our organization. Since being founded in 1992, we have continued our mission to provide home repair assistance (at no cost) to qualified, elderly, disabled and low-income Gloucester County homeowners. We are grateful for your continued support of GHP, and we thank you for being a significant part of making our neighbors' home warm, safe, dry and accessible.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Altland, Office Coordinator”

“Dear Apostles Lutheran Church,
First of all, just let me say, **thank you!** We recently received your gift of \$250 and are

absolutely humbled by your generosity. Your choosing to support the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic means that you understand just how important it is to provide community-based healthcare to *all* of our neighbors in need, including the uninsured and under-insured. In the words of a real patient who has been impacted by gifts just like yours: *‘The Clinic offers wonderful service to individuals who cannot afford health insurance. When I had health insurance, I did not get the care that I have here at the Care Clinic.’* Through your gift, GMCC will be able to continue offering world-class, affordable care to *hundreds* of local individuals and families. Although our mission may seem simple to some, you recognize that it is not. That's why you gave, and that's why we are full of gratitude for your generosity. Again, thank you for your investment in GMCC and in this community. We truly believe ‘it takes a village’, and we're so glad to call you part of ours. With utmost gratitude,
Arlene Armentor, Executive Director”



“Dear Apostles Lutheran Church, Here your little girl Amayra greets you hoping that you are in good health. With this card I thank you for the assistance that you send us month after month. May God shed many blessing on your life and work. This little girl Amayra Ester says goodbye to you with the grace of

God hoping you are well and that God blesses you. Thank you.”

(Amayra is one of the three children from Guatemala that Apostles sponsors through the Partners in Development Program.)





News From Your World Hunger Team

The Virginia ELCA Hunger Committee is resuming its *Food and Faith* series. Our Fall sessions will emphasize how to be an effective advocate for the hungry. We have three exciting programs to share with you.

Thursday, September 9th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light Co-Directors, Faith Harris and Kendyl Crawford will discuss food injustices, the intersection of water, transportation, and food deserts. They will illustrate ways individuals can advocate in their local communities. The mission of Virginia Interfaith Power & Light is to collaborate among people of faith and conscience to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice.

Thursday, October 14th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Virginia State Senator John Edwards will talk about how to advocate with your government officials. Senator Edwards represents the 21st District and serves on the Courts of Justice, Privileges and Elections, and Transportation committees.

Thursday, November 11th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
A representative of Bread for the World will speak on advocating for hunger issues both nationally and internationally. Bread for the World is a non-partisan, Christian advocacy organization based in the United States that advocates for policy changes to end hunger.

January 2022

The ELCA Hunger Committee would like to encourage interested you to attend the Virginia Legislature’s Advocacy Day to put the information you have learned to work advocating for justice issues in your communities. More information will be forthcoming about this event.

You can register for one or all events here:

<https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdu2vrz0vG9acWKPeANdLaDmDa7l07ja->

Please Keep In Your Prayers

April Anby, Chris and Reida Avery, Opal Baker, Luise Buerkert, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Betty Hauch, Michael Schlemmer, Keith and Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Lena Woodlief.

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Save and Date!!

<p>God's work. Our hands.</p>	
	<p>Save the date September 12</p>

God’s Work, Our Hands
Our annual weekend of worship in the park and a day of service in the community will be **Saturday-Sunday, October 9-10**



Guatemala Mission Trip Kick Off

The kick off for our 2022 mission trip to Guatemala will be in **November**.

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New Bible Study Begins

Pastor Jeniffer will begin a new Bible study in September on **Wednesdays at 11:00 AM** via Zoom. We will be studying our Sunday morning Lectionary readings using the four steps of Lectio Divina—read, meditate, pray, and contemplate. The Lectionary provides a three-year (Year A, B and C) series of readings for Sunday starting with the season of Advent, four weeks before Christmas Day. For each Sunday and festival, three readings and a psalm are suggested and include: a Gospel reading, an Old Testament reading, and a New Testament reading. Each year of the Revised Common Lectionary centers on one of the synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Gospel of John is read periodically in all three years and is especially frequent in Year B.



Do You Have Your God's Work, Our Hands T-Shirt??



It would be wonderful if everyone would wear a God's Work, Our Hands t-shirt for our annual God's Work, Our Hands weekend on Saturday and Sunday,

October 10th-11th—you can go to <https://oldlutheran.com/collections/elca> to order yours today— they start at \$7.75.

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Happy Birthday To . . .

Lorna Hanson	September 3
Nancy Wagner	September 7
Ben Grimes	September 12
Spencer Hodges	September 13
Rachel Blittle	September 13
Linda Hodges	September 30

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News from Our Synod and Churchwide

+ **From the Office of the Bishop of the Virginia Synod**—As the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to spread quickly around the country, the CDC released new guidance for vaccinated individuals which notes that “to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission” (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>). The CDC provides a map which identifies areas of substantial or high transmission. You can see the map at: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>. While the risk of serious illness is reduced by the vaccine, the Delta variant appears to be as contagious as the chicken pox, so additional precautions are warranted even for those who are fully vaccinated. As you think about next steps for the health and well-being of those connected to your ministry, the Virginia Synod

Office of the Bishop encourages everyone to:

1. **Get Vaccinated!** The vaccines are highly effective, extremely safe and free to everyone. Getting vaccinated will help protect you against the most serious effects of COVID-19. Getting vaccinated will help protect your neighbors including children and those unable to be vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best way to safely return to worship and other activities.
2. **Follow CDC Guidance!** The CDC is monitoring the transmission of COVID-19 and adapting guidance in response to what is happening in each community. You can learn more about current CDC guidance at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Remember we are the body of Christ and individually members of the body. As you make decisions, consider the impact of those decisions on the wider community. While it may feel safe to sing unmasked in worship, for example, that decision could negatively impact another member of the community by putting them at risk or by making them feel uncomfortable or even unwelcome at worship. Each community is different, so unlike at the beginning of the pandemic it is impossible to present a single response that is appropriate in each community, but by getting vaccinated and encouraging others to get vaccinated, by following CDC guidance, and by caring for your neighbor, we can make strides toward returning safely to the activities we all love. *The Worship Ministry Team held a special meeting after receiving this guidance and a decision was made to not sing during worship for the time being.*

+ **From Churchwide**—Do you subscribe to *Living Lutheran*? *Living Lutheran* is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America publication which is published monthly—you can subscribe to the [print edition](#) of *Living Lutheran* to stay current on religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, faith and family, spiritual practices and resources, and more. There are also free copies available in the narthex.

