

# The Epistle

THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gloucester, Virginia

[www.apostles-elca.org](http://www.apostles-elca.org)

October 2021

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



## *From Beyond The Page*

Two years ago, I packed up my entire life in Upstate New York and departed for a town I had only heard of a few months before my egress. After relying upon the hospitality of the Scholz's and Britt's for temporary housing and transportation, I moved into the Pink House on Main Street and started my ministry with Apostles Lutheran. We really started off with a bang until a once in a century Pandemic left us dazed and confused. Lockdowns, canceled trips, social distancing, mask mandates, and worst of all no takeout! Now I never got on the bread baking bandwagon having left my break maker to a friend Upstate, but like many of you, I learned how to navigate the new normal. Then that became shattered and discarded for the newest normal, then came the *new*, new normal, the normal 2.0, which gave way to the nouveau normal. It became normal to embrace the abnormal, which only came with the guarantee that things would change tomorrow. I asked you all to go along with some crazy ideas: recording for Christmas Eve before Advent 3, rhyming the liturgy, and embracing life online. These maneuvers seemed out of left field, but they were all apart of a carefully thought-out plan that took months to prepare. Now that we are

back in our building, we can adapt to this particular way of being God's people that combines the familiar customs of the past with the innovative habits we discovered during 2020. We will host an in-person Adult Forum dedicated to inclusive language followed by an online Blessing of Animals on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ministerium was canceled due to COVID this year, but I will be taking an extended Sabbath from October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>. We welcome and thank Pastor Sandy Wisco for supplying during Sunday Worship while Pastor Alex Wit is available for Pastoral Emergencies while I'm gone. We will end October celebrating Reformation Day as a newly formed Reconciling in Christ Community with our guest preacher, Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick. I pray that this Autumn will be bountiful for us all. In God's Abiding Love,  
Pastor Jeniffer Tillman, Mission Developer

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## *Happy 4th Anniversary of Ordination!!*

Pastor Jeniffer will celebrate her 4th anniversary or ordination on October 31st! We are so grateful for Pastor Jeniffer's spiritual leadership and for maintaining a regular connection with each member of the congregation during these difficult months of the pandemic. We are blessed by you!!



## ***Blessing Of The Animals***

The custom of blessing of the animals is

conducted in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation. The blessing of the animals will be on **Sunday, October 3rd, at 12:00 PM via Zoom**. A Zoom invitation will be sent out via e-mail. We hope you can join us!

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## ***News About Our Youth***



Gloucester High School invites their senior students to paint their parking lot spaces—this is the parking space that Abby Britt painted. 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, October 10th**. All youth and their friends are welcome to attend!

## ***Hand Chimes Choir Starts***



A hand chimes choir has started again under the direction of Sue Turner. Practice is held from 7:00 PM–7:30 PM on Wednesdays—we are asking people who want to join to be able to read music. A little history. . .some members of the congregation attended a Power In The Spirit event several years ago and took a workshop on the hand chimes—the choir director at that time, Phil Anderson, wanted to have a hand chime choir at Apostles so a talent show fund raiser was held and enough money was raised to purchase a 3-octave set of hand chimes and tables.

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## ***You Are Invited. . .***

Silver Award Scouts from Troop 1055 would like to extend an Invitation to Apostles Lutheran Church and it's members to come out for our project's unveiling on **Saturday, October 2nd at 12:00 PM** at the Gloucester History Museum. Thank you for your support, and the use of your building. We would like you to please bring a book to donate to the Mini Free Library.

Maya Jones and Jade Hawkins.

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## ***Ministry Team Meetings***

The following ministry team will meet in October:

+ **Service and Sharing—Monday, October 18th at 7:00 PM.**





## Reconciling in Christ: Time to Celebrate!

+ On October 31st, Reformation Sunday, the congregation will be celebrating our new welcome statement and Reconciling in Christ Ministry. This will be a special day to celebrate this ministry of inclusion to all people. We will celebrate with special liturgy, music, and maybe a balloon or two!. Please plan on attending and bring a friend.

+ On Sunday October 3rd, Pastor Jeniffer will lead a discussion about inclusive language and why how and what we say matters. The discussion will take place after worship, so plan to stay a little longer to participate in this lively discussion.

+ Our new banner in front of the church depicts the great diversity of God's creation in human form! The banner was designed by the Liljeberg's niece.

+ A stained glass window will soon be added to the narthex depicting our welcome to all.

If you have ideas to share or would like to join the team please contact Pastor Jeniffer, Betsy Liljeberg, or Janet Gomez.

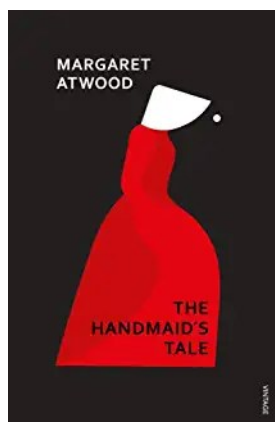


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## Please Join Us For Bible Study

Pastor Jeniffer is leading a new Bible study on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM via Zoom—an invitation is sent out every week—we are studying our Sunday morning Lectionary readings—please join us!!

## 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, October 19th, at 7:00 PM. Highlights from the meeting in September are:

+ Treasurer, Tina Britt, reported that for the first time this year, we have a positive balance of \$473.

+ A spending plan for 2022 will be drafted—input from the 4 ministry teams will be requested by October 15th.

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## Results of Special Congregational Meeting

At a special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 19th, the congregation voted unanimously to hire a part time office assistant—the plan is for the assistant to work 3 days a week, 3 hours each day at \$13 an hour.

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## Happy Birthday To. .

Sam Blittle	October 5
Heidi Henderson	October 11
David Albert	October 12
Lilliana Jaeger	October 17
Sue Turner	October 18
Bayleigh Albert	October 20
Sarah Anby	October 22
Lilly Frost	October 23
Michael Schlemmer	October 23
Roy Ryman	October 28
Alice and Henry Blittle	October 28
Lynn Jaeger	October 28
Aleya McCurry	October 30
Reida Avery	October 30



## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

We all know the commandment: love you neighbor as yourself! We all know the words of Jesus: Whatever you have done for the least of these you have done for me. We are called to serve our neighbors. We are called to help our brothers and sisters. But how? When?? Where??? Well, here is your opportunity! On **Saturday, October 9th from 9:00 AM until noon**, the people of Apostles will be out doing God's work with our hands. We will be doing yard work and simple home repairs for neighbors in our community. We will be assembling health kits for our mission team to bring to Guatemala. We will be preparing a meal for all those who are working that day. Come and Join us! Answer God's call and serve! Sign up sheets will be in the service bulletin each week. Fill them out and leave them in the offering tray. Or contact Pete Liljeberg or Ray Scholz and let them know how you can help. See you on the 9th!

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## Advent Devotions

The Caring Community Ministry Team would like to invite you to participate in preparing a devotion booklet for the season of Advent. Advent is the season of the church year preceding Christmas. Advent is the time we prepare our hearts, minds

and spirit for the Advent, the birth, of the Christ child. Advent is defined as "a coming into being" - a time of slowing down and of opening our ears to God's quiet voice. Please take a day in Advent and read and reflect on the readings for that day and write a short reflection on them. All of the reflections will be put into a booklet that will be used for daily devotions during Advent. Everything you need is on the display in the narthex.

## Administration Ministry Team Seasons of Stewardship Concludes

The first "season of stewardship—Summer" for the Administration Ministry Team concluded on Sunday, September 26th, with an ice cream social—it was a beautiful day!! Congratulations to the winners of the game (they were presented with Short Lane ice cream gift certificates) and to Sue Turner and Manning Freeman for winning the raffle for two stained glass pieces! A BIG thank you to everyone who filled out the Time and Talent surveys and helped serve the ice cream!!





## Readings for October

### + October 3rd–19th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24 (created for relationship), Psalm 8 (you crown us with glory and honor), Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 (God has spoken by a Son), Mark 10:2-16 (teaching on marriage)

### + October 10th–20th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 (turn from injustice to the poor, that you may live), Psalm 90:12-17 (so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom), Hebrews 4:12-16 (approach the throne of grace with boldness), Mark 10:17-31 (teaching on wealth and reward)

### + October 17th–17th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12 (the suffering servant), Psalm 91:9-16 (you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation), Hebrews 5:1-10 (through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation), Mark 10:35-45 (warnings to ambitious disciples)

### + October 24th–22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:7-9 (the Lord gathers the remnant of Israel), Psalm 126 (those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy), Hebrews 7:23-28 (Christ the merciful high priest), Mark 10:46-52 (Christ healing the blind man Bartimaeus)

### + October 31st–Reformation Day

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord), Psalm 46 (the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold), Romans 3:19-28 (justified by God's grace as a gift), John 8:31-36 (Jesus says, continue in my word and you will know the truth)

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## Pastor On Call During Pastor Jeniffer's October Vacation

Pastor Alex Wit has agreed to be our Pastor on-call while Pastor Jeniffer is on vacation from October 17th-30th. She will be available for pastoral emergencies: death and severe crisis of faith. Her contact information is as follows:

Email: [pastoralexwit@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralexwit@gmail.com), phone: (717) 434-5037.

## WALK FOR A NEW DAY!

A Suicide Prevention Walk



**WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH**

**TIME 10AM-12PM**

**WHERE: MAIN ST. SHOPPING CENTER, GLOUCESTER**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
Ronnie Sidney II, LCSW  
Creative Medicine: Healing Through Words, LLC

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/spwalk2021>  
Registration is encouraged but not required.

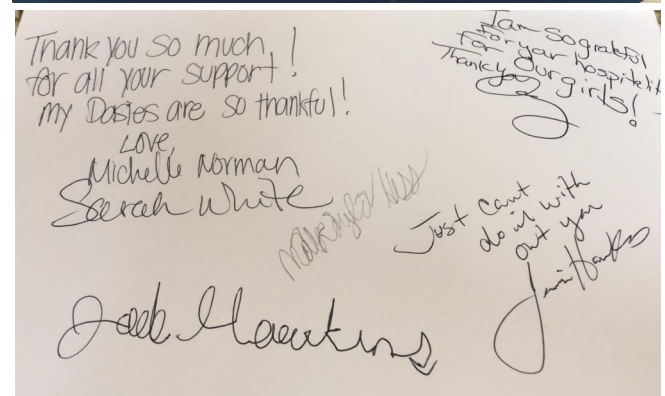
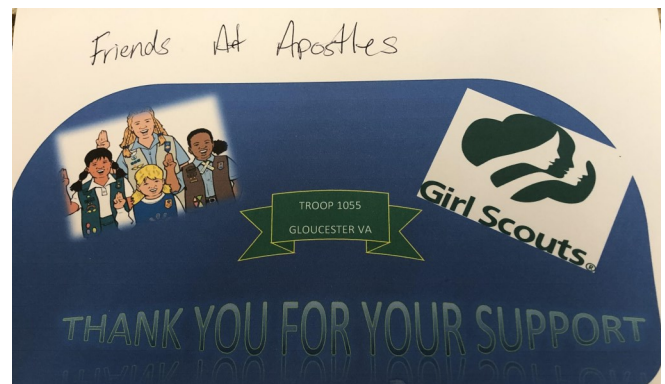
A \$5 donation, per person, will benefit our Suicide Prevention Initiatives. Donations will be accepted the morning of the event.



Sponsored by the MPNN CSB Prevention, Health & Wellness Division  
In Partnership with the MPNN Regional Suicide Prevention Task Force  
A Sub-Committee of the Coalition for Healthy Virginia Communities  
Funded by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

If you are interested in getting a team together to walk, please contact Ingrid Peterson at [ifloersh@gmail.com](mailto:ifloersh@gmail.com) or 320-232-3473.

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## World Hunger Events and News



Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>,  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Virginia State Senator John Edwards will join us to talk about how to advocate with your government officials. Senator Edwards represents the 21<sup>st</sup> District and serves on the Courts of Justice, Privileges and Elections, and Transportation committees.

Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>,  
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 you and your congregation to attend the Virginia Legislature's advocacy day, A Day for All People. On this day, sometime in January, you can put the information you have learned to work by advocating for justice issues in your communities. More information will be forthcoming about this event. Register online at: <https://www.vasynod.org/resources/world-hunger/>. Contact Betsy Liljeberg if you have any questions.

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### ***Please Keep In Your Prayers***

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 Jerry and Lena Woodlief.

## Worship In The Park



Please make plans to join us for our annual Worship in the Park on **Sunday, October 10th, at 10:30 AM (please note change in time!!)** at **Beaverdam in Whitcomb Lodge**. We will have a wonderful worship service followed by a potluck dinner—we'll have a couple of games as well. Don't forget to wear your God's Work, Our Hands t-shirts!!

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### ***Save the Date***



#### **Guatemala Mission Trip Kick Off**

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

for the first week in April 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Pete or Betsy Liljeberg.

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### ***Happy Anniversary To. .***

CK and Donna Ambrose	October 8
David and Mary Leunig	October 8
Samantha and Michael Crocker	October 15
George and Jewel Thomas	October 21

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### ***Happy Baptismal Birthday To. . .***

Nancy Wagner	October 1
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### ***New Member Sunday***

New members will be received into the Apostles church family on **Sunday, October 31st**—if you are interested in joining our congregation, please contact Pastor Jeniffer.

## *A Message From Your Safety in Worship Team*

The Safety in Worship Team met with Pastor Jeniffer and they discussed possible thresholds for Apostles during the colder seasons. It was recommended that we recommend follow community trends as our bench markers. We will revisit our worship and building use if, for example, schools return to virtual learning or public spaces increase restrictions. We will follow any mandated Synod guidelines as we receive them. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor COVID cases in our area. The congregation is asked to spread out during worship from now on. Please let Pastor Jeniffer know if you have any questions and please take care of yourselves.

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### *In Case You Missed It!!*

Pastor Jeniffer was interviewed by Melany Slaughter of the Gazette Journal about Apostles becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation—it was a wonderful article—you can read it at <https://www.gazettejournal.net/apostles-lutheran-becomes-reconciling-in-christ-church/>. Check it out!

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## *Confessions of a Lutheran: Reformation Remix*



The Virginia Synod Adult Faith Formation Team is excited to announce their fall offering, "Confessions of a Lutheran: Reformation Remix." **This four-week experience will include TED**

**Talks from Dr. Vince Everer remixed into a playlist with biblical passages, hymns, art, poetry, and more.** (It will be a similar format as Our Journey to Emmaus was this past summer.) Congregations can participate as a group, or individuals can explore their materials on their own. The first playlist will be ready to roll on or before **Reformation Sunday, October 31**. You can use them right away or save them for later. **Registration will be available soon!**

## *Seasons of Stewardship Autumn*

### *The Service and Sharing Ministry Team*

*October–December*

Thank you Apostles! Our world may have been locked down over the last year, but thanks to your generous gifts of time talent and treasure, Apostles has NOT shut down. We have continued to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need in our community and around the world. You will be hearing more about our work over the next 3 months as we enter the second quarter of our Seasons of Stewardship campaign but here's a brief summary of what we are currently doing.

\*We continue to support the Bread for Life food Pantry financially and with volunteers

\*We continue to support the free clinic financially and several of our members are volunteering there

\*Yard work for our neighbors on God's work our hands Saturday

\*We provide meals for the homeless during the winter months through the GUEST shelter

\*The mission trip to Guatemala is back on for April 2022!

\*We currently provide medical care food and education to children in Guatemala. (3 children supported by the congregation and 4 others individually by members)

\*We support Encircle (formerly Lutheran Family Services), Lutheran World Relief and World Hunger

\*Prayer-shall ministry

\*KIVA micro loans to people around the world

\*We are beginning an outreach ministry to LGBTQ+ youth in our community That's a lot! But there is so much more that we could do with your help. So think about it, pray about it, listen to our upcoming presentations then give anyone on the committee a call. Trust me, we will find a ministry and a mission for you!

**October–Presentation, November–Invitation,  
December–Celebration**