

# The Epistle

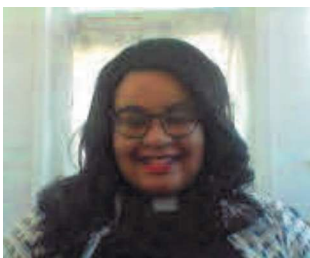
THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gloucester, Virginia

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

November 2021

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



## *The Shepherdess' Voice*

*"...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the*

*people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."*

~President Abraham Lincoln,  
Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

Thanksgiving celebrates the gathering of two very different cultures who set aside their differences to share a meal. It's a sweet thought, the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people breaking bread over their equivalent of Pumpkin Pie. Less sweet is the thought of brothers and cousins dying on battlefields under the guise of ending human trafficking. Still, we travel long distances or take to online and give thanks for another year together. We've lost so much these past two years, but we are adapting to our circumstances. I pray that we close our Liturgical Year a little wiser, kinder, and full of grace.

We'll begin this month reading Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, which will be paired with excerpts from our ELCA Social Statements. Everyone is encouraged to bring pictures of their dead loved ones to worship on

November 7<sup>th</sup>, when we will celebrate All Saint's Sunday together.

This Thanksgiving, I plan to work with another worshipping community that has a steady foothold in serving meals to those in need. I hope that you'll join me either before or after you've celebrated the day eating your version of Pumpkin Pie with loved ones.

We'll conclude Year B, which follows the Gospel of Mark, with Christ the King Sunday on November 21. The Church ushers in the Gospel of Luke with Year C with the first Sunday of Advent on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

"Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light. Don't look at your weaknesses. Realize instead that in Christ crucified you can do everything."

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

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## *Time Change*

Remember that daylight savings time ends at 2:00 AM on **Sunday, November 7th** - set your clocks

back one hour.

## Welcome New Members!



Makayla Hess is a senior at Gloucester High School with a dual enrollment at New Horizons Vocational studying early child development—she is also continuing her art studies. Makayla is a member of Apostles bell chimes choir and youth group.



**Barbara Whitley** was a Civil Service employee. She retired from the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center in Yorktown as a Contracting Officer

for the Base in June 2005 with 31 years of Civil Service time. Barbara has one daughter, Leigh, and step daughters, Lynn and Kim. She has 5 grandchildren. Barbara was a member and attended Trinity Lutheran in Rocky Mount, North Carolina from 1966–1975. She joined St. Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown and was a member from 1979–1986. She loved to RV and in 2015 traveled across country with Chris and Reida Avery. She also loves to watch men’s pro golf. Barbara’s husband, Jerry Little, died in February of this year and it has been quite difficult to adjusting to being alone. He was the love of her life.

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### Please Vote on November 2nd!!!



Voting is a commitment to civic engagement, to our Christian values to seek justice and the first step of inclusion in the political process. The simple act of voting has a powerful impact.

Your vote means that elected officials are accountable to you. Your vote allows you to become an advocate for all the change or consistency that you wish to see in this country. Your voice and your vote matter.

## Worship in the Park October 10, 2021



It’s always wonderful worshipping in the midst of God’s good creation!!

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### Ministry Team Meetings

The following ministry team will meet in November:

- + Caring Community—Thursday, November 11th at 7:00 PM.
- + Worship—Saturday, November 13th, at 12:00 PM.
- + Service and Sharing—Monday, November 15th, at 7:30 PM.

Coffee first reached Europe in 1515.



Beware a caffeinated pastor.

Martin Luther sparked the Reformation in 1517.



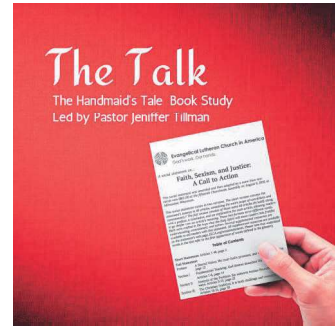




*Reformation  
and  
Reconciling in  
Christ  
Celebration!*



On October 31st, Reformation Sunday, the congregation celebrated our new welcome statement and Reconciling in Christ Ministry. It was a special day to celebrate this ministry of inclusion to all people. We celebrated with special liturgy, music, and balloons! The Reverend Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Virginia Synod Bishop The Reverend Robert F. Humphrey, was guest preacher. A wonderful time of fellowship followed the worship service—thanks to everyone who helped make this possible!!



*The Talk  
The Handmaid's  
Tale Book Study  
Led by  
Pastor Jeniffer*

Winter is coming, and with it comes indoor activities.

"The Talk" will be adjusting to the change of seasons in the form of a Book Study led by Pastor Jeniffer. You are invited to this newest rendition of "The Talk." We will spend four weeks between November and December discussing Margaret Atwood's prolific novel, The Handmaid's Tale, in conjunction with several passages from our ELCA Social Statements. All are invited to attend a Zoom meeting at 7:00 P.M. on November 4th, November 18th, December 2nd, and December 16th. Please purchase a copy of Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale before November 4th. The ELCA Social Statements can be found at Social Statements - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org). To register go to [https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOyvqTliH9aPwETCRlGFTd\\_RlIqHjGw2](https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOyvqTliH9aPwETCRlGFTd_RlIqHjGw2). Page readings for the Book Study can be found at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c\\_QVmCrNCTZpPmikDfD6dHKi0IGm3P\\_p/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c_QVmCrNCTZpPmikDfD6dHKi0IGm3P_p/edit) We can't wait to see you!

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*Congregation Council Highlights*

The Congregation Council will be meeting on Tuesday, November 9th, at 7:00 PM. Highlights from the meeting in October are:  
 + A spending plan for 2022 was drafted – it will be presented to the congregation at a congregation meeting on Sunday, November 21st.  
 + Council is looking into emergency training for the congregation.

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*Happy Anniversary To...*

Kayla and Matthew Hautz November 9  
 Shawn and April Anby November 18



***GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS  
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE***

God's work is an ongoing process and doesn't always follow the schedules we set up. This was made quite obvious last month when it rained on our scheduled outside workday for our community neighbors. The weather, however, did not deter a group of dedicated volunteers who gathered at church to assemble health kits for our mission to Guatemala. Over 50 kits were packaged and prepared for our trip this coming April. Each kit contained towels, wash cloths, soap, tooth brush and paste, and safety pins. These supplies are all valued by the people in the village we serve. I really believe that many people choose to wait to be seen at the clinics just to receive their health kit and not for the brilliant medical advice of Dr .Donna and Pete! For those who volunteered to work outdoors on God's Work, Our Hands day, fear not! Our work day has been rescheduled for **Saturday, November 13th**. We will meet at **9 AM** at the church and travel to the worksites together. If you are unable to attend that day please let Pete Liljeberg know. AND if you would like to add your name to this list of great volunteers, let Pete know as well. We can use your help! Thanks to all for continuing to serve as God's hands in this world!



***Advent Devotions***

Thank you to everyone who participated in submitting their reflections for a devotion booklet for the season of Advent—the devotion booklets will be available on Sunday, November 28th, the first Sunday in Advent.

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***Seasons of Stewardship—Autumn  
The Service and Sharing  
Ministry Team***

The Service and Sharing Ministry Team is responsible for encouraging, strengthening and coordinating the congregation's outreach ministries and for supporting members in living out their Christian calling of service to others. On October 24th, the Team made a wonderful presentation about what this team does—if you didn't get a chance to see it during worship, PLEASE check it out on <https://www.apostles-elca.org/seasons-of-stewardship/autumn-2021>. In November, on November 21st, you will be invited to participate in the work of the Service and Sharing Ministry Team and in December, on December 12th, we will CELEBRATE!

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***Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, November 21st***

A congregational meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, November 21st, after the 9:30 AM worship service (around 10:30 AM) both in-person and via Zoom** to discuss and approve a ministry spending plan for 2022. Please make plans to attend - we need your voice and vote!!

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***Please Keep In Your Prayers***

Opal Baker, Luise Buerget, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Betty Hauch, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief.

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***Happy Baptismal Birthday to . . .***

Marina and Nicolas Allen

November 21

Emmaleigh Haultz

November 30



## Readings for November

- + **November 7th—All Saints Sunday**  
Isaiah 25:6-9 (the banquet of the Lord), Psalm 24 (they shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation), Revelation 21:1-6a (a new heaven and a new earth), John 11:32-44 (the raising of Lazarus)
- + **November 14th—25th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Daniel 12:1-3 (the deliverance of God's people at the end), Psalm 16 (my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope), Hebrews 10:11-14[15-18], 19-25 (the way to God opened through Christ's death), Mark 13:1-8 (the end and the coming of the Son) and reward)
- + **November 21st—Christ the King Sunday**  
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 (the one coming with the clouds rules over all), Psalm 93 (ever since the world began, your throne has been established), Revelation 1:4b-8 (glory to the one who made us a kingdom), John 18:33-37 (the kingdom of Christ)
- + **November 28th—First Sunday of Advent**  
Jeremiah 33:14-16 (a righteous branch springing up from David), Psalm 25:1-10 (to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul), 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord), Luke 21:25-36 (be alert for the coming of the Son of Man)

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**Ted Lewis**

**LGBTQ+ Training Series**

**Friday, November 5 - 12:00-1:30 PM**  
**Allyship & Making Positive Change for LGBTQ+ Inclusion**

**Online Registration:**

[https://bayriverstelehealth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUud-2qrT0pGNnyzzral\\_tfnqDXUvznc3J](https://bayriverstelehealth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUud-2qrT0pGNnyzzral_tfnqDXUvznc3J)

**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 MPMN OSB Prevention, Health & Wellness Division  
In Partnership with the MPMN 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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## Checking In With. . .



**Opal Baker**—Preston Higgins and Don and Lorraine Malkemus visited Opal recently. Opal is living at the Riverside Convalescent Center in Mathews.



**Betty Hauch**—Janet Gomez saw Betty at Walter Reed hospital recently—she has resumed volunteering there 2 days a week.

## World Hunger Events and News

Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>,  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

The Rev. David Street, a Deputy Director with Bread for the World, will speak on being an advocate for hunger issues both nationally and internationally. In addition, he will share basic background information on Bread for the World. Bread for the World is a non-partisan, Christian advocacy organization based in the United States that advocates for policy changes to end hunger. This session will be Thursday, **November 11th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm by Zoom.**

There is no cost to attend but to receive the Zoom link, go to [https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdu2vrz0vG9acWKPeANdLaDmDa7107ja-](https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/j/7107ja-tZUkdu2vrz0vG9acWKPeANdLaDmDa7107ja-)



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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 **Reformation Sunday, October 31.** You can use them right away or save them for later. **Register at [https://vasynod.formstack.com/forms/confessions\\_of\\_a\\_lutheran\\_reformation\\_remix\\_registration](https://vasynod.formstack.com/forms/confessions_of_a_lutheran_reformation_remix_registration).**

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### *Prayer Shawls Available*

Thanks to the hard work of Pam Moore, we have several prayer shawls—if you need one, they are in the closet behind the piano in the fellowship hall.

## All Saints Sunday

You will have 2 opportunities to celebrate **All Saints Sunday** this year:

+ **The first** will be our in-person and Zoom worship service on **Sunday, November 7th at 9:30 AM**—we ask that you bring pictures of loved ones who are no longer with us to adorn the sanctuary. We will celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears.

+ **The second** will be All Saints Worship with Necrology on **November 1st at 7 PM.** You're invited to join with the Office of the Bishop in celebrating the lives of rostered ministers who have died in the past year, as well as giving thanks for all of the saints who have helped us grow in faith. Following the service, you are welcome to a time of fellowship in the "lobby" of Peace & Hope with Bishop Humphrey, Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick, Pastor John Wertz, Jr., Pastor Dave Delaney, and Pastor Colleen Montgomery. This service will be streamed live at Peace & Hope on a platform called [AltarLive](#). Follow this link to join: [www.peacehopeva.org/worship](http://www.peacehopeva.org/worship). The recording will be shared on the Virginia Synod's Facebook at a later date.

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### *Happy Birthday To . . .*

Michael Crocker	November 2
Eddie Freeman	November 2
Chris Liljeberg	November 8
Jim Wright, Sr.	November 9
David Leunig	November 10
Joan Podd	November 11
Matthew Hautz	November 11
Jerry Woodlief	November 11
Juliet Baur	November 15
Tyler Britt	November 18
Conner Badger	November 19
John Mayer	November 29
Jim Reinke	November 23
Arden Epling	November 23
Donna Ambrose	November 23
Reagan Badger	November 25
CK Ambrose	November 27

## ***Bread for Life Update***

Our church has really been a blessing to the Bread for Life food pantry. Over the years, the pantry has given over a million pounds of food to the needy families in our community. Thanks to all the families here at Apostles who have helped support this endeavor in God's name. Most of you don't know of all our members who have donated their time and funds to make this program such a successful endeavor. So, I would like to recognize the following members who are volunteers at Bread for Life—Gene Gomez, Sue Turner, Chris, Betsy and Pete Liljeberg, Mary Leunig, Ray and Lynn Scholz, Heinz Albert and Jim Reinke. There are many ways you can help. The pantry is open two days a week, Monday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 4:PM. We have several different jobs you could help us with, if you had the time. We need truck drivers to go to Newport News and Hampton to pick up food, people to sort food at the pantry, people to hand out the food and people to check in the clients on the computer, and teams to clean and sanitize the pantry. Most of the work requires 3 to 4 hours of your day. You can volunteer for either of these two days. As most of you already know, the pantry has purchased the old Jehovah Witness building located on Route 17 this year and plan to open the new facility January 3, 2022, if all goes well with modifications to the building. Over the years the old food pantry located in a garage at St. Therese Catholic Church, it lacked many conveniences such as, customers had to stand outside to enter the building rain or shine, hot or cold, no bathrooms, and walk hundreds of feet to get to their parked cars. All of these inconveniences will be eliminated at the new building. During this past year, due to the Covid infection, the pantry was fortunate to receive large amounts of money from the government and other community organizations that have helped to make the operation and purchase of the new building possible. We have been under a fundraising campaign to pay off the \$150,000 loan to purchase the new complex and perform the modifications to the building. To this point we

have raised about \$50,000 dollars. We also found an organization in Richmond that will match up to \$50,000 dollars of your donations. This group plans to meet with their directors on November 19, 2021 to approve our request. We are asking if you plan to help with your donation, to wait until after that date to send us your tax deductible gift. One of the things I have heard about our organization is the largest food pantry in the Newport News, Hampton, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Gloucester, Matthews, West Point and Saluda areas. I am so grateful for all the volunteers and Gloucester residents for their help in making our pantry the best in the area. God has blessed this organization with many caring people, local organizations and churches. Ray Scholz

Bread for Life Food Pantry Board Chair



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## ***Mission Outreach Fund Update***

Money from the Mission Outreach Fund was recently sent to help Rukhsana purchase cattle to resell.

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## ***Fall Church Yard Cleanup***

Several people joined the Monday night AA Men's Group, Strictly Solutions, on October 23rd to help clean up the church yard—it looks so much better—thanks to all who helped!!

