

The Epistle

THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gloucester, Virginia

www.apostles-elca.org

May 2022

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



Salutations from The Sennachie

“I swear to fulfill, to the
of my ability and judgment,
this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures [that] are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say 'I know not,' nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility

includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.”

—*The Hippocratic Oath, written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna, Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University, and used in many medical schools today.*

When I was in still attending Seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), I visited The Gubbio Project, a Cathedral that has dedicated its space to Sacred Sleep. Every day, The Gubbio Project provides houseless guests with daily provisions, supplies, and chaplaincy necessary for those living on the streets. The story of Gubbio is quite interesting to hear, so I will share it with you.

“Once upon a time, there was a peaceful French village called Gubbio. One day, a Wolf emerged and settled on the edge of the forest, just beyond the clearing where the village laid their claim upon the land. The Villagers were terrified of the wolf and sent their best huntsmen out to kill him. However, the Wolf would eat all who

accosted him and send the rest home missing limbs. Francis of Assisi happened upon the Village of Gubbio and listened to the Villager's tales of the big, bad wolf. He walked out towards the edge of the forest where the wolf resided and waited until the wolf appeared. The Villagers watched in fear as Francis spoke with the wolf. 'Brother Wolf,' he started, 'You are terrifying the Villagers, and I suspect that they are terrifying you. If you promise not to neither eat nor harm anyone else, then the Villagers will promise to care for you for the rest of your days.' The Villagers were shocked to see Brother Wolf roll onto his back and allow Francis to rub his belly, and from that day on, Brother Wolf and the Villagers of Gubbio lived together in peace." In life, we may not always get what we want. However, so long as we ground our community in Christ and listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, then God will provide to us what we need. The question then is, "What do we need as a Church that is grounded in our Triune God?" God only knows, and the rest is left for us to figure out. Ultimately, loving relationships are all about fracturing and coming back together in an adjusted form that has adapted to new circumstances. This is true for any loving relationship one may have with a community, a family, a friendship, a partnership, and even oneself. If you have gotten this far, then go to your kitchen and find an unused coffee mug. One that has been hanging around in your cupboard forever even though you never use it. Everyone has at least one in their kitchen. Bring it to worship with you this Sunday, May 1st, and I'll explain why. I dare you to be curious.

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

"If people can't see what God is doing,
 they stumble all over themselves;
 But when they attend to what God reveals,
 they are most blessed."

~Proverbs 29:18
 The Message

A First for Apostles



For the first time, Apostles had a booth at the annual **Daffodil Festival** which was held April 2nd-3rd. A BIG thank you to everyone to helped set up the booth, man the booth and take the booth down. In the booth, we highlighted the groups that use our church (AA, Al-Anon and the Girl Scouts), our prayer shawl ministry, our mission trip to Guatemala and Apostles being a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We also gave information out about the organizations we support—Bread for Life Food Pantry, GUEST Homeless Shelter and the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic. We gave away rainbow bracelets, lemonade, had a children's craft and a free raffle for a stained glass piece. The piece was inspired by a picture in a 1942 edition of National Geographic of women working on the daffodil farms in Gloucester and made by Gene Gomez. Yve Grundy from Williamsburg won the raffle.



Reconciling in Christ (RIC) News

- On March 31st, The Rev. Scott D. Parnell, Rector of Ware Episcopal Church, wrote the following letter to the Gazette Journal editor—the letter was entitled “Loving people, no matter what.” “I would like to recognize Apostles Lutheran Church as they celebrate their one-year anniversary of being a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community in Gloucester County. Their discernment to make the RIC designation for their congregation took place over three years and culminated in a congregational vote at the end of last March, affirming their commitment to reconciling work in our local neighborhoods. They have faithfully taken up the challenge of extending intentional welcome to those who are members of marginalized groups. It is not easy, in our contemporary world, to form a consensus over things the media has deemed “political.” Yet, Apostles Lutheran, within their own diversity of opinion, has chosen to honor St. Paul’s admonition that “in Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female” and establish a welcoming place for all people. They have risen above party and politics and committed themselves to God’s work in the world: loving people, no matter what. For this, they should be recognized and encouraged as they continue this effort.”



people. When we are in a right relationship with God and one another, peace will ensue—dove with olive branch. Stars are for the Abrahamic covenant. Your descendants will outnumber the stars of the heavens. The Rainbow for the promise to Noah. The Mosaic covenant is depicted by the ten commandments. I will be your God and you will be my people. The crown with purple streamers, is similar to the crown that David might of worn. The Davidic covenant promises that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David and sit on the throne of God. The rose represents Isaiah's prophecy that a rose would bloom in the desert. The red rose symbolizes love. For Vickie and she hopes for others that as we wander through the deserts of life, God's promise of love and presence sustains us. The shell is the daily promise of our baptism that we are children of God and nothing can separate us. We all are heirs to the kingdom. These promises belong to everyone regardless of color, sexual orientation, gender, etc.

- **Update on Citizens Advocating for Racial Equity (C.A.R.E.)** - The CARE group met on April 26th at First United Baptist Church to continue discussing efforts to address racism in our community in a more effective manner. **Save the date of Saturday, August 20th**—there will be a cookout at First Baptist for the participants of the CARE seminar and for anyone who would like to get involved. Details will be forthcoming. Participants in the 3-day anti-racism workshop sponsored by the NAACP received certificates.

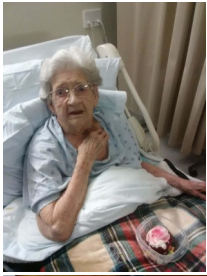


- **A new banner** is being made in preparation for our Pride month celebration in June—the banner was designed by Vickie Divelbiss, a liturgical arts designer. Vickie has provided the following information about her design—this design is based on our covenant relationship with God for all of God's



Betsy and Pete Liljberg and Janet Gomez receive certificates from Deacon John Perrin

News of Our Members



Opal Baker lives at the Riverside Convalescent in Mathews—Judy Sowden, Opal’s daughter, said that her Mom is now able to have visitors. She enjoys visitors and would love to see any of her Apostles family.



Manning Freeman recently moved to the Virginia Home for Adults in Chesapeake, VA. We are planning to go and visit Manning on Sunday, July 3rd—Manning’s birthday is July 4th.

Jade Hawkins has been granted the opportunity of a lifetime, by the Girl Scouts. Due to her effort in Girl Scouts, Jade was chosen as an eligible "highest award achiever" to take a trip to Puerto Rico in July of 2024. As part of a special program designed for deserving students. Jenny said



they are hoping to do a fundraiser to help of offset the cost, - Jade has recommended either a Paint Party/Spaghetti Dinner to be held later this year.

Jenny Hawkins portrayed Juliette Gordon Low, the American founder of The Girls Scouts of the USA, for the Daffodil Festival Parade on April 2nd.



+++++

Ministry Team Meetings

The following ministry team will meet in May:

+ **Reconciling in Christ** –Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 PM

+ **Caring Community**—Monday, May 30th at 7:00 PM.

+++++

Happy Anniversary To . . .

Gerald and Tina Britt

May 6



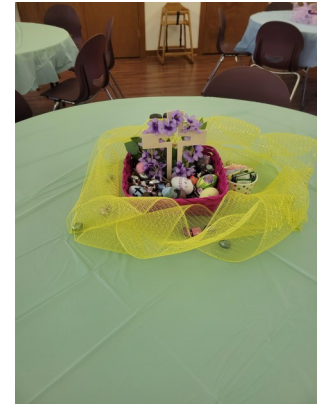
Celebration of Life of Jim Reinke

There will be a Celebration of the life of Jim Reinke on **Sunday, May 15th, at 2:00 PM** at Apostles. There will be a reception after the service.

+++++

Holy Week Worship at Apostles Lutheran Church

Christ is Risen—He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!



A Prayer for Our Church

Holy Father, we give thanks for those who founded this community of believers; faithful individuals who relied on the guidance and presence of the Holy Spirit. Over the course of these 41 years, this congregation has been greatly blessed yet has also experienced conflict and strife; always turning to you and your word to sustain us. We again find ourselves in the midst of the wilderness unsure of your path forward. Lead us and Guide us, Holy Father, so we do not hide or shy away from this conflict but to help us walk through it with Your abiding love at our side. Amen.

(Prayer by Linda Hodges from worship on April 24th.)

+++++

Happy Birthday to . . .

Erin Riordan	May 1
Bob Ely	May 3
Gerald Britt	May 6
Dave Wagner	May 8
Barbara Whitely	May 10
Jewel Thomas	May 12
Robert McMahan	May 12
Juanita Sturdy	May 13
Nicholas Allen	May 16
Pete Liljeberg	May 19
Opal Baker (103!!!)	May 24
Shawn Jaeger	May 28
Carolyn Ryman	May 30

+++++

Happy Baptismal Anniversary to . . .

Tina Britt	May 1
Gerald Britt	May 8
Mary Leunig	May 19

+++++

Please Keep In Your Prayers

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



Power In The Spirit 2022

Registration is now open!! What does it mean to be a leader in the church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose

faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places. For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus—even into danger. At Power In The Spirit 2022, we'll explore these themes, and more! Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to serve your neighbor! Come to Power In The Spirit 2022. **July 14-16, 2022 on the beautiful campus of Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia.** To register, go to <https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>.

+++++

Symphony Under The Stars

The Caring Community Ministry Team invites you to join your church family for the annual Symphony Under The Stars on **Saturday, June 11th**—this is something you won't want to miss! It will be held in one of Gloucester's newest parks, Woodville—it's a beautiful setting for a wonderful concert. Detailed information will be in the June edition of The Epistle—save the date for now!

+++++

Anniversary Gift

Don't forget to pick up your anniversary gift for Apostles' 41st anniversary—it is on the table in the narthex.

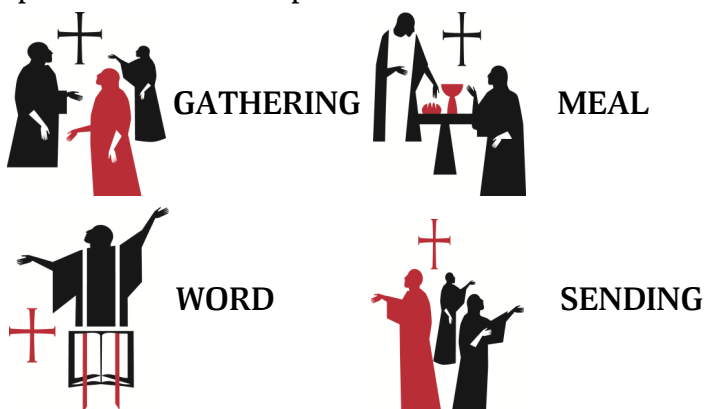


Welcome to The Spring Edition of Seasons of Stewardship The Worship Ministry Team

The last “season of stewardship” is dedicated to the work of the Worship Ministry Team. The **Worship Ministry Team** is responsible for encouraging and supporting the growth of members’ worship of our triune God and focus on the Word. To meet this goal the team will:

- + plan the setting, liturgy and music for all worship services;
- + provide and maintain appropriate resources (bulletins, worship folders, worship books, music, devotional materials);
- + train and empower members to participate actively as worship leaders (assisting ministers, communion assistants, acolytes, crucifers, lectors, preachers, ushers, music leaders, choir members, altar care servers);
- + enrich the worship experience through preparation and care of appointments reflecting the liturgical calendar and sacraments (paraments, altar linens, communion vessels, baptismal vessels, banners, robes, flowers and appropriate seasonal adornments such as Advent wreath, Christon tree, palms);
- + recommend policy with respect to care and use of the worship space (weddings, funerals held at Apostles);
- + make nursery care available as needed.

Starting in April, we will be exploring the pattern we use for our worship services—the 4 parts of our worship service are:



Later in May, you will be invited to participate in the work of this team—there are many opportunities to serve and we will celebrate the work of the team in June. If you would like additional information, please contact a member of the Worship Ministry Team—Shawn Jaeger, Team Leader, David Albert, Irene Albert, Sue Turner and Janet Gomez.

+ + + + +



Easter Cross

To celebrate the season of Easter which will end on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, we will be leaving the Easter cross up outside—you are invited to bring fresh flowers each Sunday to adorn it—it’s a beautiful reminder of our Lord’s resurrection!

+ + + + +

New Worship Furnishings Dedicated on April 24th



On Sunday, April 24th, new worship furnishings were dedicated to the glory of God. A new stained glass window, Resurrection, was designed by Gene Gomez, made by Bob Ely and installed by Ray Scholz and Gene Gomez.



A beautiful new veil and burse to cover the chalice and paten for Holy Communion were made by Irene Albert. Irene is planning to make a set for each of the church seasons.

Meal for GUEST

We will providing the meal for the GUEST shelter on May 25th—please see Nancy Wagner to sign up to help. Thanks!

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Come and have a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and join us to discuss the readings for the day—we start at 8:30 AM—no preparation is needed. If you need more information, please contact Doug Dalager.

I know that my Redeemer lives

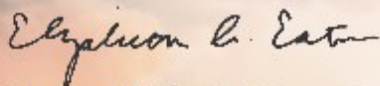
This Easter, many of us will be able to gather in person for glorious celebrations of our Lord's resurrection. But the first Easter was in a cemetery, surrounded by tombstones. The women and then the men disciples came to see what had happened to their Lord. They expected to find a dead body, but instead they found God's defiant answer to death.

As St. Paul writes in Corinthians, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Oh, death, where is your victory? Oh, death, where is your sting?"

I know now that we're entering the third year of this pandemic, and we see the signs of stress and incivility, even the signs of war and disease in Ethiopia and Sudan, in Europe. It might seem like death still has sway, but we can declare confidently on this Easter and all times what Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh, I shall see God."

Centuries ago, the Russian Orthodox developed this beautiful poem, the Kontakion of the Departed. It's often used at gravesites. "Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind, and we are mortal, formed of the earth and to the earth shall we return. For so you did ordain when you created a thing. You are dust and to dust you shall return. All of us go down to the dust. Yet even at the grave we make our song. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Blessed Easter, dear church.



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.