



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 | 804-693-9098 | www.apostles-elca.org



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD **SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023 | 10:00 AM**

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



RECONCILING *in* CHRIST



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

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is serving as our part-time interim pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #855

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"



- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hail Thee Festival Day, Verse 2

Refrain

Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;

day when our Lord was raised, break - ing the king - dom of death.

Easter 2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the au - thor of

life and cre - a - tion. Tread - ing the path - way of

death, new life you give to us all: *Refrain*

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

FIRST READING

ACTS 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Response after the First Lesson

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 47:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

²**For the Lord Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,**

³who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R**

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the Lord with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises. R**

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. R

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Response after the Second Lesson

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

LUKE 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

INGRID PETERSON

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #359

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God,

your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you,
almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you.***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

✝ **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**

✝ **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**

HOLY COMMUNION RECORD

If you haven't filled out a Holy Communion Record card **this year, please take one from the pew rack, fill it out, and place it in the offering plate** – this will help with the statistics needed for the parochial report that has to be completed once a year – thank you from the Worship Ministry Team!

DOXOLOGY

ELW #884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

OLD HUNDREDTH
Psalms 150; Is. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:8

Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service - ly to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

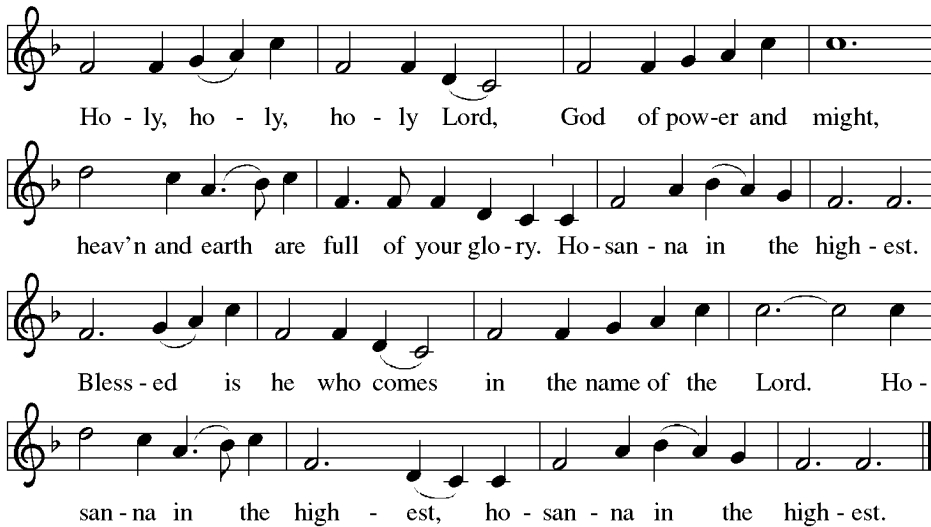
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface.

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The thanksgiving continues.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... Send us forth, burning with justice,
peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The great thanksgiving concludes.

...we praise you, O God, blessed and
holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Sit

COMMUNION

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.

You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #322

"Oh, Love, How Deep"



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor-tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed, 6 For us he rose from death again; 7 All glory to our Lord and God
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed, for us he went on high to reign; for love so deep, so high, so broad:
 he bore the shameful cross and death; for us he sent his Spirit here the Trinity whom we adore
 for us he gave his dying breath. to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer. forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #656

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Officiating Minister	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Preacher	Ingrid Peterson	Pastor Jay Serafin
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Ray Scholz	Ray Scholz
Altar Care	Janet Gomez	Lynn Scholz
Cantor	Daniel Gomez	Daniel Gomez
Choir Director		Sue Turner
Communion Bread	Janet Gomez	Irene Albert
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert	Betsy Liljeberg
Lay Assisting Minister	Ingrid Peterson	Pete Liljeberg
Lector	Irene Albert	Ingrid Peterson
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Chris Hawkins

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Scholz/Ambrose	Badger/Dalager
Tellers	Ray Scholz/Ben Grimes	Betsy Liljeberg/Barbara Runk

JOINING OUR CONGREGATION

We are accepting new members into our congregation! If you are interested in joining our fellowship here at Apostles, please let Pastor Jay know. We'll begin the process leading to membership in the near future. We want you to feel welcome and would be happy to have you as a member and include you in all aspects of our congregational life or to welcome and enjoy your presence in any of our gatherings.

RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will adorn our sanctuary with red geraniums for Pentecost next Sunday, May 28th – a signup sheet is in the narthex. The cost is \$7. **We will be planting them in the church yard after the Pentecost worship service next Sunday. We would love your help!**

OFFERING OF LETTERS FOR BREAD FOR THE WORLD

We at Apostles are committed to anti-hunger efforts. We will be doing an Offering of Letters for Bread for the World today. Bread for the World is an ecumenical advocacy organization. The Offering of Letters is a letter writing campaign to our government representatives regarding the upcoming Farm Bill which will affect many people in Virginia. The Farm Bill is a large piece of legislation that is renewed every five years. It covers things like crop insurance and agricultural funding as it's name suggests but it also is the source of funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the largest governmental anti-hunger program. Please take time to sign one – thanks!!

REFLECTION:
WHY DO YOU STAND LOOKING UP TOWARD HEAVEN?

Our ascended Lord lives in the heavens, but Jesus does not leave his disciples—or us—to fumble while he naps in the clouds. Before he ascends, Jesus promises that we are clothed with the Holy Spirit’s power, witnesses “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). “Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” the two men in white robes asked the witnesses remaining after Jesus ascended. Why do we stand still in our lives? Is it that we just saw God (Look! Up there! Did you see?), so we expect God to arrive in the same way again? Can God be that expected and predictable? This story of Jesus ascending to the heavens after his time with us on earth gives us mixed feelings: we know he’s returning to where he belongs—out of this world full of brokenness and sin to holiness and glory. Still, our longing is intense: Lord, we want to see you! How will we know it is you when you come again? Ascension Day could be explained as the cynical “I’m outta here” of a God weary of us self-centered, broken humans, but that explanation would be short-sighted because it leaves out the important stop on the cross. Instead, Jesus’ departure is accompanied with the promise of the Spirit’s presence remaining among us. We look up to the skies for help, then return our gaze to those among us in need of our care, to the body of Christ and the wind of the Spirit among the baptized, preparing for the time when Jesus comes again to gather us in.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Filled with the Spirit to tell God’s deeds

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit

Gospel: John 20:19-23

The Spirit poured out

SEASONS OF STEWARDSHIP

SPRING 2023: 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. Members of the team are Pastor Jay, Sue Turner (chair), David Leunig, Irene Albert, Janet Gomez, and Jennie Hawkins.

There are four major aspects of the Worship Ministry Team:

1. Worship Assistants
2. Music
3. Altar
4. Worship Team Ministry

You are invited to join the work of the team by filling out the Time and Talent Sheet that is in the bulletin. After filling it out, please place in the offering plate. On June 25th, we will celebrate the work of this wonderful ministry team with an "agape" meal/worship service. Please remember that training is provided for ALL positions on this team.

SEEING THE RISEN CHRIST

Where has the risen Christ touched your life? The risen Christ touched the lives of the disciples and followers of Jesus in various ways, some of them simple and some extraordinary. We believe the risen Christ touches our lives as well. **Throughout the Easter season we invite you to share how the risen Christ has revealed God's presence and love to you. In our narthex we have a poster board and sticky note pads. We hope you will take the time to write down on the pad an instance where you felt the presence and the joy of life with which the risen Christ has touched you.** As we look for the risen Christ active in our lives, perhaps we can become better at naming how God's love and life become real for us. We look forward to reading your experiences of the risen Christ touching you with the love and joy of life God's Easter gift brings.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

Pastor Jay invites you to invite him to visit you at your home and lead your family in a House Blessing. All you need is a candle and a way to light it. **Call Pastor Jay at (570) 205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com to plan this special service of asking God's blessings and grace to remain in the place which you call "home."**

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Linda Hodges, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Patricia Armentor, family of Sharon Bagley (friends of Judy Wright), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Jim Bible** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Gisela Broughton** (Karen Stark's mother), **Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Family of Kimberly Conine, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy and Kathie Davis, Mary Divelbiss, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Melissa Ethan, Laura Fleige** (Janet Gomez's sister), **Teresa Floersheim- Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Trudy Gies** (Betsy Liljeberg's niece), **Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy and Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Shirley Grimes** (Ben Grimes' mother), **Mike Hall, Chaneice Hayden** (Daniel Hayden), **Carl and Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Diane Hill** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Lorraine Malkemus, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Jean McKee** (Lilly Frost's grandmother), **Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle M^cMahan), **Keith Morgan, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Patricia Patel** (Spencer Hodges' daughter), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson and his brother, Joan Ritter, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Erin Seamonson** (Lara Jaeger), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackelford, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Cathy Walker** (friend of Linda Hodges), **Jake McWaters** (son of Teresa and Dan Grantham), **Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (niece of Tina Britt), **Elizabeth and Steven White, Kitty Witty, Cory Woodlief, Jim and Carol Wolf, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan Wymer, Greg Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret and Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Amayra, Hugolino and Manuela

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

MAY 21, 2023 – MAY 28, 2023

TODAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service – World Hunger Sunday
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship World Bee Day/Offering of Letters
MONDAY	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
	10:00 AM	Reconciling in Christ Meeting
	7:00 PM	Men’s AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship & Planting Red Geraniums

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Shawn Jaeger – May 28th

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY TODAY!!

Please remember your offering for World Hunger today – please use the envelope in the bulletin – thanks! “Until all are fed!”