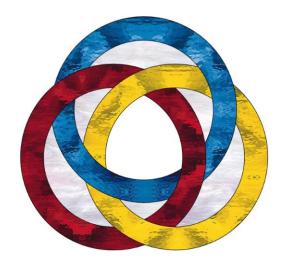
APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 (804) 693-9098 | apostles-elca.org | facebook.com/ApostlesELCA



THE HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025 | 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.





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 and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our 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 <u>j80j84@msn.com</u> (preferred) or <u>pastor.apostles@gmail.com</u>. 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

"O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God's love and hope to our neighbors.

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ACS #1068

"The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe"



Text: Carl David af Wirsén, 1842–1912; tr. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, and Kenneth Jennings, 1925–2015 Music: SOMMARPSALM, Waldemar Åhlén, 1894–1982

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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.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING

PROVERBS 8:1-4, 22-31

In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.

- ¹ Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
- ² On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
- ³ beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
- ⁴"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.
- ²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.
- ²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
- ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
- ²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—

- ²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.
- ²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
- ²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,
- when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight,
- rejoicing before him always,
 ³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world
 and delighting in the human race."

Response after the First Reading
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM PSALM 8

¹ O [|] LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in [|] all the earth!—

- ² you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger. R
- ³ When I consider your heavens, the work ¹ of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set ¹ in their courses,
- ⁴ what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them, human beings that you should | care for them? R
- ⁵ Yet you have made them little less ¹ than divine; with glory and hon- ¹ or you crown them.
- ⁶ You have made them rule over the works ¹ of your hands; you have put all things un- ¹ der their feet:

- ⁷ all [|] flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts [|] of the field,
- 8 the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.
- ⁹ O [|] LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in [|] all the earth! **R**

SECOND READING ROMANS 5:1-5

Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.

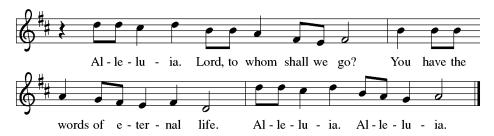
¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Response after the Second Reading
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the Sixteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL JOHN 16:12-15

Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.

[Jesus said,] ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

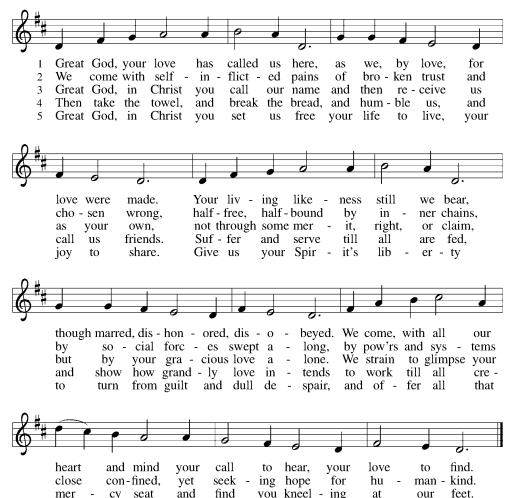
SERMON JANET GOMEZ

Silence is kept after the reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #358

"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

faith

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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 worshine.

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING

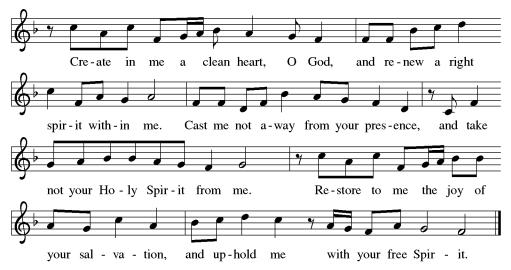
CHOIR ANTHEM

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

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

- → Visit <u>apostles-elca.org/contributions</u>
- From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

OFFERTORY HYMN ELW #186



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

SENDING

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

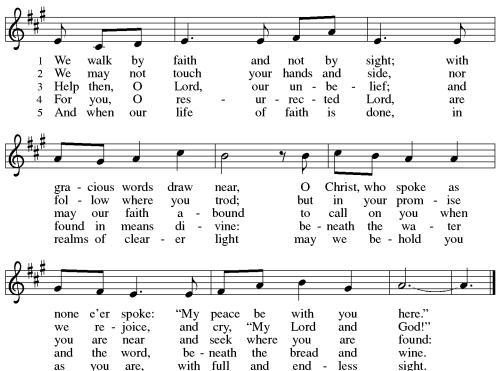
BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit → bless you and give you peace

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #635

"We Walk by Faith"



Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher	Pete Lilejberg	Pastor Jay Serafin
Preacher	Janet Gomez	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister	Sue Turner	Linda Hodges
Lector	Judy Wright	Chase Ambrose
Acolyte	Ray Scholz	Chase Ambrose
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care		Judy Wright
Communion Bread		Donna Ambrose
Greeter/Usher	Judy Wright	Heinz Albert
Technology	Doug Dalager	Chris Hawkins

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Liljebergs	Albert/Runk
Tellers	Barbara Runk/Don Garfield .	Barbara Runk/Chris Hawkins
Fellowship Set Up	Ray Scholz	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food	Alberts	Guatemala Team
Fellowship Clean Up	Alberts	Donna Ambrose/Barbara Runk

FLOWERS THIS MORNING ARE GIVEN BY ...

Linda Hodges in honor of daughter, Katherine's, baptism.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet sent to a rebellious people

Psalm 22:19-28

In the midst of the assembly
I will praise you

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-39

In baptism, clothed with Christ; no longer Jew or Greek

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus casts out demons possessing a man of the Gerasenses

VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2025

The 2025 Virginia Synod Assembly is taking place this weekend on the campus of Roanoke College. The Assembly Theme is Intertwining Hope—John 15:5 - "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear great fruit. Without Me, you will accomplish nothing." - The Voice Translation. This year's Synod Assembly theme embraces God's connection with us as Vine and the branch and the unimaginable mission and ministry that could be possible as God works within and through us to accomplish God's purpose. As baptized believers, we have that hope-filled, confident support to know that our gracious and faithful God is with us. Our theme, Intertwining Hope, emphasizes the connectedness of our spiritual relationship with the Creator, Redeemer, and Guide. As our physical bodies continually need nourishment to sustain life and livelihood, our spiritual dependence on the nourishment we receive through our Holy Connection helps us to be strong in our relationships with each other, courageous in our mission and ministry to others, and fearless in our following wherever the Holy Spirit may lead. The Virginia Synod gathers at assembly to experience and express what it means to be church. Together, as the Body of Christ, we care for necessary business, participate in and experience corporate worship, and engage in fellowship and faith formation. Please keep Pastor Jay and our delegates Chris and Jennie Hawkins in your prayers as they attend the Assembly. We look forward to hearing about their experience!!

Presentation on Guatemala 2025 - Next Sunday

The team that went to Guatemala in April will be making a presentation about their trip during fellowship next Sunday – please join us!!

SUMMER FUN PICNIC - SUNDAY, JULY 6TH

Join us on Sunday, July 6th, after the worship service for our 4th of July Summer Fun Picnic - there will be games, food, fun and fellowship. We will have both outdoor (weather permitting) and indoor activities. Your help is needed!! A signup sheet is in the narthex. Please share any ideas you have for a successful event–you can talk to Karen Johnston, Jennie Hawkins or Irene Albert.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Lena Woodlief, Nancy Wagner, and Judy Wright

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Patricia Armentor, Paul Bauer, Karen Bell (Pam Moore's sister), Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis (friend of Donna Ambrose), Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Al DeWitt, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), Emily, Melissa Ethan, Laura Fleige (Janet Gomez's sister), Teresa Floersheim-Miller (Ingrid Peterson's mother), Suzanne and Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), Jimmy & Fay Gray (Chris Hawkins' family), Karen Guire, Mike Hall, Melvin Hawkins (Chris Hawkins' father), Chaneice Hayden (Daniel Hayden), Rosie Heins, Sherry Helpap, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko (nephew of the Hansons), Aris Hibbs (friend of Ray Scholz), Spencer Hodges, Ray Hughes, Wendy Isernia (Heinz and Irene's daughter), Suzanne Kinkade (friend of Ellen Quirk), Legend, the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Manuel, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Michael, Sylvia Midgette (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale (Lynn Jaeger's mother), Chastity Perkins (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), Brad Person (Lilly Frost's uncle), Dick Peterson & his brother, Monique Raposa, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian (friend of Nancy Wagner), Michael Scholz (Ray Scholz's nephew), Scott, Erin Seamonson (Lara Jaeger), Joseph Serafin (Pastor Jay's father), Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Susie, Dave Wagner (Nancy's husband), Wayne McCormick, Chuck Webb (Tina Britt's father), Makenzie Webb (Tina Britt's niece), Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright (Judy Wright's husband), Logan & Shannon Wymer, Greg Yvonovich (friend of Margaret & Ben Grimes), Derek Zwiers (friend of CK Ambrose)

OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo

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

JUNE 15, 2025 – JUNE 22, 2025

TODAY 10:00 AM Worship Service – World Hunger

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship

VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES

MONDAY 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Pastor Jay in the office

7:00 PM AA

TUESDAY 7:00 PM Al-Anon/AA

WEDNESDAY 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Pastor Jay in the office

11:00 AM Caring Community Ministry Team

FRIDAY Girls Scouts

SATURDAY 6:30 PM Young and Sober

TODAY 10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship &

Guatemala Presentation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Karen Johnston – June 21st

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY To ...

Gene and Janet Gomez - June 17th

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY TO ...

Krystle McMahan – June 15th

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