# APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

# THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

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



# **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 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**

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

#### 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  $\oplus$  Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #663

# "Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"



- 1 Spread, oh, spread, al might y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
- 2 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, who, to save our hu-man race
- 3 Tell of God the Spir it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n, 4 Lord of har vest, great and kind, rouse to ac tion heart and mind;



Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav-en's gifts ex - tend to re - bel-lion's price, gave him - self sac - ri - fice. pay as just and true, work-ing both to will and do. strong and ho - ly, na - tions all see your light and heed your call. let gath-'ring

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt. Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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.

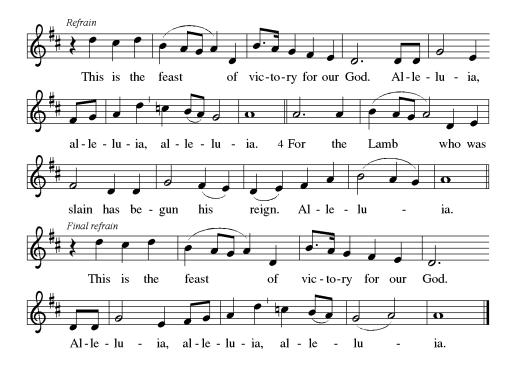
And also with you.

# **K**YRIE



# **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





# **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING ISAIAH 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;
 rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—
 that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;
 that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

<sup>12</sup> For thus says the LORD:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.

<sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

Response after the First Reading
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Be joyful in God, <sup>|</sup> all you lands; be joyful, <sup>|</sup> all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing the glory | of God's name; sing the glory | of God's praise.
- <sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds!

  Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you.
- <sup>4</sup> All the earth bows | down before you, sings to you, sings | out your name." R
- <sup>5</sup> Come now and see the <sup>1</sup> works of God, how awesome are God's deeds <sup>1</sup> toward all people.
- <sup>6</sup> God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wa- | ter on foot, and there we re- | joiced in God.
- <sup>7</sup> Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations; let no rebels ex- <sup>1</sup> alt themselves.
- 8 Bless our | God, you peoples; let the sound of | praise be heard.
- <sup>9</sup> Our God has kept us a- <sup>1</sup> mong the living and has not allowed our <sup>1</sup> feet to slip. **R**

## SECOND READING

# **GALATIANS 6[1-6] 7-16**

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."

[¹ My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup> If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will

reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup> It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup> As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

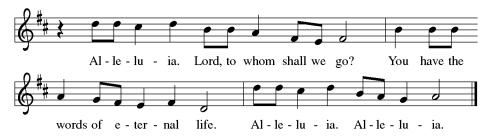
Response after the Second Reading

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 Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL** 

**LUKE 10:1-11, 16-20** 

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers

into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'"

<sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

<sup>17</sup>The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" <sup>18</sup>He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup>See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

**PASTOR JAY SERAFIN** 

Silence is kept after the reflection.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## **ELW #574**

"Here I Am, Lord"



Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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## **APOSTLES CREED**

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

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

## 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.

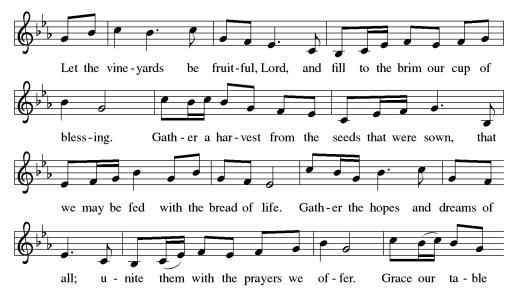
Sit

#### **OFFERING**

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 #184





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

#### **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 great thanksgiving continues.

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





The great thanksgiving continues.

... with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... into the future

We bless you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... with us now.

We thank you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving concludes.

... in your church without end.

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**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

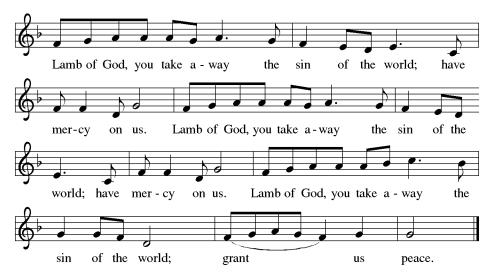
Sit

#### **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**



## "We All Are One in Mission"



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

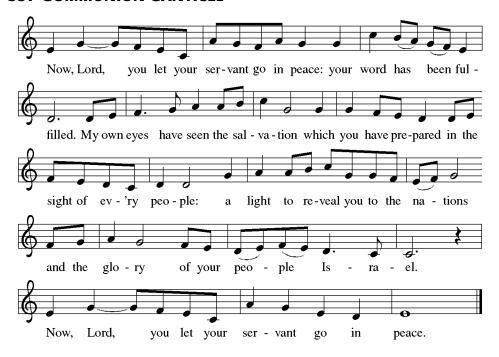
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After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.

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

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

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.

SENDING HYMN ELW #888

## "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"



Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929 Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

# **POSTLUDE**

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# **WORSHIP LEADERS**

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister	Doug Dalager	Sue Turner
Lector	Doug Dalager	Karen Johnston
Acolyte	Ray Scholz	Chase Ambrose
Accompanist	Kathy Merithew	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	The Alberts	Janet Gomez
Communion Bread	The Alberts	Janet Gomez
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert	Karen Johnston
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Doug Dalager

# **SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK**

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Alberts/Runk	Gomez/Grimes
Tellers	Ben Grimes/Chris Hawkins	Betsy Liljeberg/Ray Scholz
Fellowship Set Up	Jennie Hawkins	Ray Scholz
Fellowship Food	Alberts	Scholzs
Fellowship Clean Up	Alberts	Judy Wright/Donna Ambrose

# **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

# First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

The Lord will take delight in your fruitfulness

## Psalm 25:1-10

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths

# Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

The gospel is growing, bearing fruit in the whole world

## Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the merciful Samaritan

#### **SENT WITH THE SEVENTY**

Close your eyes and picture Jesus and his followers together. Most likely people either picture Jesus sitting around with the twelve disciples or standing in the midst of thousands preaching and teaching. Yet in today's gospel Jesus has seventy followers close enough that he trusts them to be sent out in pairs to heal the sick and announce that God has come near. Seventy trusted preachers. Thirty-five pairs of preachers telling the good news of God. So telling the story is clearly not to be limited to the twelve disciples. The good news is meant to be shared far and wide by those who trust Jesus and follow him.

This is a reminder to all of the followers of Jesus of every time and place. Sharing the good news is not just the responsibility of "professionals" like clergy. Sharing the good news is the calling of everyone who follows Jesus.

Consider the assignment Jesus gives to the ones he sends. First, they are sent to cure the sick. Second, they proclaim that "the kingdom of God has come near." It has been said that "you don't throw a drowning person a sandwich." Jesus sends the seventy out with not only words of comfort but with acts of grace as well.

God's people are sent out into the world to serve in the name of Jesus each time they gather for worship. In this gospel text we are again reminded that the gospel message is to be shared in more than just words. We share the message by welcoming others, sharing bread with the hungry, and offering compassion to the afflicted. Yet our baptism also reminds us that God has first come near to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ—a relationship that is like a mother comforting a child. The promise that God is near in Christ compels us to live faithfully and compassionately, wherever our journeys take us.

## THANK YOU TO...

Kathy Merithew for playing for our worship service today!!

# **APOSTLES WOMEN'S GROUP - SATURDAY, JULY 12TH**

All women of Apostles are invited to join us for the Women's Group this Saturday at 9:30 AM.

#### 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, and Nancy Wagner

#### **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, 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), 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, Carl & Kaleb Hess, 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, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, James Schollian (friend of Nancy Wagner), Michael Scholz (Ray Scholz's nephew), Joseph Serafin (Pastor Jay's father), Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, 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

**JULY 6, 2025 - JULY 13, 2025** 

**TODAY** 10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship

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

7:00 PM AA

**TUESDAY** 7:00 PM Al-Anon/AA

**THURSDAY** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pastor Jay in the office

3:00 PM Preaching Guild

FRIDAY Girl Scouts

SATURDAY 9:30 AM WOMEN'S GROUP

6:30 PM Young and Sober

**SUNDAY** 10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Kaleb Hess – July 9<sup>th</sup>

# HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY To ...

Matthew Hautz, Jr. – July 7<sup>th</sup>

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY To ...

David and Ann Albert - July 8th

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