



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

**THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN**

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

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## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 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.



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 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 [j80j84@msn.com](mailto:j80j84@msn.com) (preferred) or [pastor.apostles@gmail.com](mailto: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 news

# GATHERING

*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”*

## 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.*

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

**Amen.**

## "Sweet Hour of Prayer"



1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,  
 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear  
 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.  
 to him whose truth and faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;  
 till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.  
 and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,  
 With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
 I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.  
 and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

Text: William Walford, 1772–1850, alt.

Music: SWEET HOUR, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# WORD

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

*Sit*

## READING

## GENESIS 18:20-32

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

*Response after the First Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The gospel is announced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the Eleventh Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

## **LUKE 11:1-13**

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*The gospel concludes:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

## SERMON

**PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

*Silence is kept after the reflection.*

## AGAPE MEAL

*Members of the gathering are invited to proceed to the banquet table and select food and drink to bring back to their place. Once all have returned to their places, the presider will continue.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's love endures forever.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #745**

**"Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright"**



- 1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.
- 2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
- 3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;
- 4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength-ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es in your sight, we may, we must draw near.  
And when to meet you we pre - pare, Lord, meet us on our way.  
a strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live;  
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone.  
we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Music: SONG 67, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

## **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**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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

*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](https://apostles-elca.org/contributions)**

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

*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.

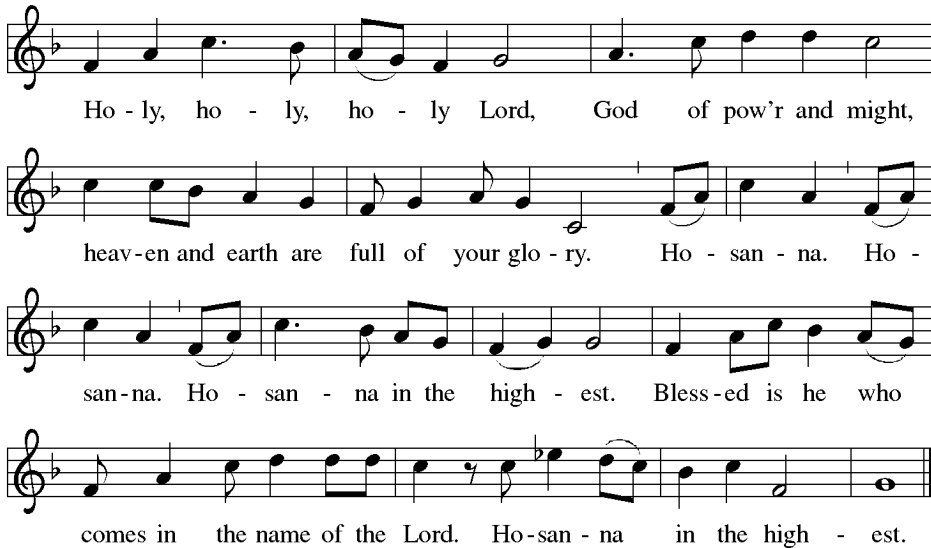
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.*

*Distribution will take place at your table as you remain seated. The communion will be brought to you by the pastor and assisting minister. Receive the bread and consume it. Leave your empty glass on the table and it will be collected following worship.*

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION

**ELW #742**

**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

*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.

**Amen.**

## 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.*

### SENDING HYMN

**ELW #543**

#### "Go My Children, with My Blessing"



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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## 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.**

## 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 .....	Sue Turner .....	Doug Dalager
Lector .....	Margaret Grimes .....	Irene Albert
Acolyte .....	Chase Ambrose .....	Ray Scholz
Accompanist .....	Janet Gomez .....	Janet Gomez
Altar Care .....	Betsy Liljeberg .....	The Alberts
Communion Bread .....	Betsy Liljeberg .....	The Alberts
Greeter/Usher .....	Cynthia Lowe .....	Heinz Albert
Technology .....	Jason Lowe .....	Chris Hawkins

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Scholz/Ambrose	Alberts/Runk
Tellers	Ben Grimes/Barbara Runk	Barbara Runk/Chris Hawkins
Fellowship Set Up	Ray Scholz	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food	Agape Meal	Alberts
Fellowship Clean Up	Scholzs	Alberts

FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

*We are church for the sake of the world* — for the abundant *life* promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

We recognize the wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, “The church is the church only when it exists for others.” Our constitution’s “Statement of Purpose” boldly proclaims this commitment to be a people “called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.” Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God’s mission of reconciliation for the life of the world. Please keep the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in your prayers this week.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading:  
**Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**  
*Search out wisdom, for all is vanity*

**Psalm 49:1-12**  
*My mouth shall  
speak of wisdom*

Second Reading:  
**Colossians 3:1-11**  
*Clothed in Christ, your life is hidden in him with God*

**Gospel: Luke 12:13-21**  
*Jesus says: Be on guard against greed;  
be rich toward God, your treasure*

## **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 Shackelford, 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 27, 2025 – AUGUST 3, 2025**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Agape Worship Service</b>
<b><i>JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>-AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> - 2025 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY</i></b>		
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 PM	AA
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>4:00 PM – 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b>
	7:00 PM	Reconciling in Christ (Zoom)
	7:00 PM	AI-Anon/AA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>		Girl Scouts
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship

## **HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY TO ...**

**Janet Gomez – July 31<sup>st</sup>**