# APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

# THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

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



# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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**

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

#### 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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.** 

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of  $\pm$  Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

#### **ELW #526**

#### "God Is Here!"



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991 Text © 1979 and Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

# **WORD**

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

Sit

#### FIRST READING

# Наваккик 1L1-4, 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

<sup>1</sup> The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup> Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup> So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

<sup>2:1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

<sup>3</sup> For there is still a vision for the appointed time;

it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup> Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Response after the First Reading
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM PSALM 37:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>|</sup> evildoers; do not be jealous of those <sup>|</sup> who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the Lord <sup>1</sup> and do good; dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> Take delight <sup>|</sup> in the Lord, who shall give you your <sup>|</sup> heart's desire. R
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust <sup>|</sup> in the Lord, and see what <sup>|</sup> God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.

  Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land. **R**

# 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup> and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup> Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in 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 Luke, the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL LUKE 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup> "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup> Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup> Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **SERMON**

# **PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### **ACS #1063**

# "God of the Fertile Fields"



Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

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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**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

#### receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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.

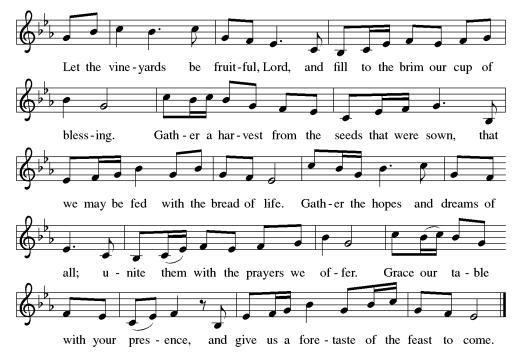
Sit

#### **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
- $\pm$  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. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus 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 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**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

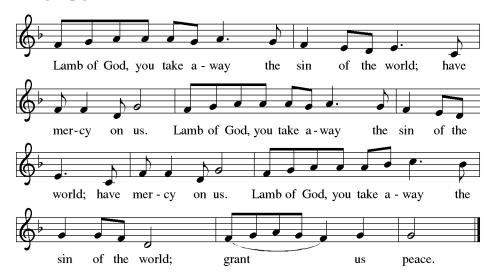
Sit

#### 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.

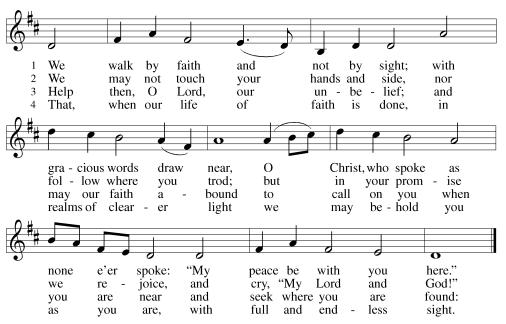
#### **LAMB OF GOD**



#### **HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

# **WOV #675**

# "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"



Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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.

#### **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

# **SENDING**

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

#### **BLESSING**

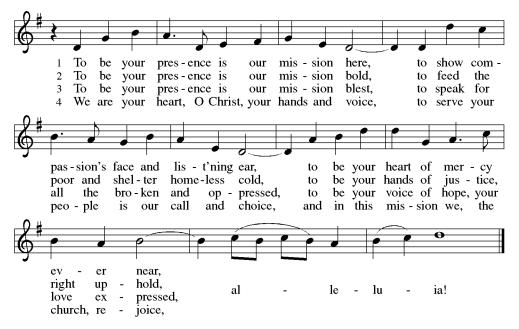
The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

# **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #546** 

"To Be Your Presence"



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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	Irene Albert	Linda Hodges
Lector	Chase Ambrose	Chase Ambrose
Acolyte	Chase Ambrose	Chase Ambrose
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	The Alberts	The Alberts
Communion Bread	The Alberts	The Alberts
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert	Heinz Albert
Technology	Jason Lowe	Doug Dalager

#### **SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK**

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	The Alberts	Gomez/Grimes
Tellers	Ben Grimes/Barbara Runk	Ben Grimes/Ray Scholz
Fellowship Set Up	Ray Scholz	Ray Scholz
Fellowship Food	The Alberts	Scholzs
Fellowship Clean Up	The Alberts	Scholzs

#### **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman washes in the Jordan and is cleansed

**Psalm 111** 

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

If we die with Christ, we will live with Christ

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

One leper made clean by Jesus gives thanks to God

#### **THOUGHTS FOR TODAY**

Faith is the theme for today's readings, but not just any faith. It is a life-transforming faith, one that demonstrates the very presence of God moving, alive, and active in God's people. In response to Habakkuk's oracle, the Lord answered him that "the righteous live by their faith" (Hab. 2:4b). But just what does it mean to be righteous? It's a righteousness imparted by God, who creates and claims each of us as God's own sons and daughters, bringing us into this family by our baptisms and by the faith God gives us makes us holy children. Being part of this divine family gives us our worth, even at those times we may not think of ourselves as worthy. In 2 Timothy, the author writes a history of the faith in Timothy's family, beginning with his grandmother and then passed on to his mother and himself. This is how many of us were first brought into the family of God: we had faithful parents who knew of their own God-given righteousness and then passed this gift on to their children. But again, it's all God's doing! Finally, Jesus' disciples boldly ask their teacher to "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). They knew that faith was something needed, and Jesus explains that even a small amount of faith can do great wonders. What does it mean to have this sort of faith, a faith that can serve God's purposes here to truly be God's work and yet it's done with our hands?

#### **ADULT THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION**

There will be a new adult theological discussion starting this **Wednesday**, **October 8**<sup>th</sup> – we will have a sandwich and fellowship at 6:00 PM and the study will start at 6:30 PM. The study will focus on how Lutherans interpret scripture. We would LOVE to have you join us.

# **CHURCH MORTGAGE PAYOFF**

If you would like to contribute to our mortgage payoff plan, you can (1) place your contribution in an envelope and mark the envelope with the words "mortgage payoff", (2) use one of the envelopes found in our narthex entrance already noted as "mortgage payoff campaign", or (3) if you contribute electronically, make a note on the annotation line directing the contribution to the "mortgage payoff fund." Congregation Council has announced that anyone who designated offering in the last 2 years for the "building fund" and meant for it to be applied to the mortgage contact a member of Council so that the offering can be applied to the mortgage instead of the building fund.

# **WOMEN'S GROUP**

Apostles Women's Group will be meeting this coming **Saturday**, **October 11**<sup>th</sup> **at 9:30 AM**. **ALL women of Apostles are invited to attend!!** 

#### 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), the family of 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

# OCTOBER 5, 2025 - OCTOBER 12, 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

**WEDNESDAY** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor Jay in the Office

6:00 PM Adult Theological Discussion

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

12:00 PM Blessing of the Animals

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school will resume on October 28th.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Heidi Henderson - October 11<sup>th</sup> | David Albert - October 12<sup>th</sup>

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

C.K. and Donna Ambrose and David and Mary Leunig – October 8<sup>th</sup>

Ray and Ellen Kendzierski – October 10<sup>th</sup>

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