# APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

#### THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

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



## REFORMATION SUNDAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

#### PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

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

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

#### Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

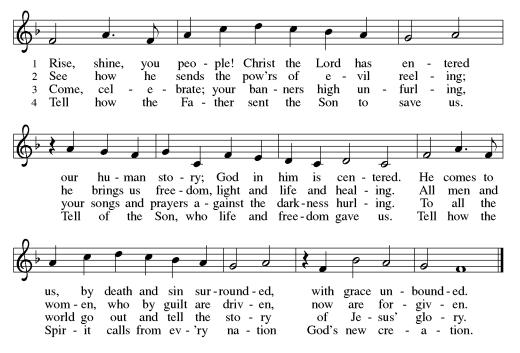
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

#### Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #665

"Rise, Shine, You People!"



Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, 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.

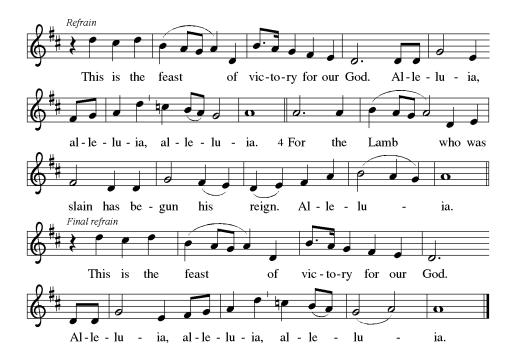
And also with you.

#### **K**YRIE



#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### WORD

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

Sit

#### FIRST READING

#### **JEREMIAH 31:31-34**

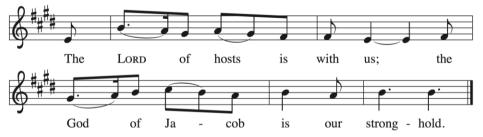
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Response after the First Reading The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM PSALM 46** 



Psalm 46:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- <sup>1</sup> God is our ref- <sup>|</sup> uge and strength, a very present <sup>|</sup> help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters <sup>1</sup> rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble <sup>1</sup> with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall <sup>1</sup> not be shaken; God shall help it at the <sup>1</sup> break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations rage, and the <sup>1</sup> kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth <sup>1</sup> melts away. R
- <sup>7</sup>The Lord of <sup>1</sup> hosts is with us; the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup> is our stronghold.
- 8 Come now, regard the works | of the Lord, what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- <sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in <sup>1</sup> all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the <sup>1</sup> shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> "Be still, then, and know that | I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."

<sup>11</sup>The Lord of <sup>|</sup> hosts is with us; the God of Jacob <sup>|</sup> is our stronghold. **R**  SECOND READING ROMANS 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup> But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL JOHN 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

 $^{34}$  Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.  $^{35}$  The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there

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 #504**

#### "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

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#### **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 worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

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

#### receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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

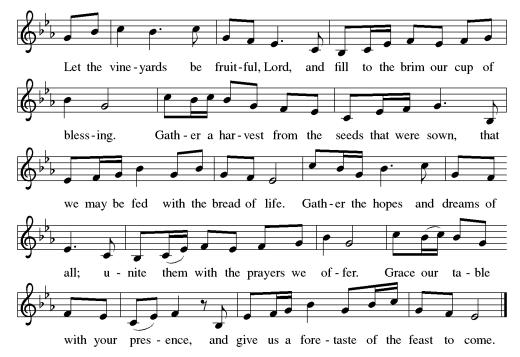
OFFERING CHOIR ANTHEM

"Touch That Soothes and Heals"

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>
- $\pm$  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.

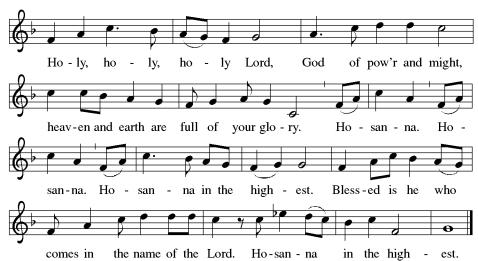
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

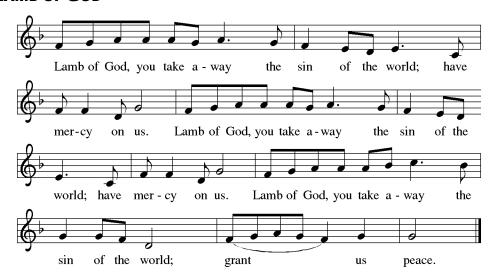
Sit

#### 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.

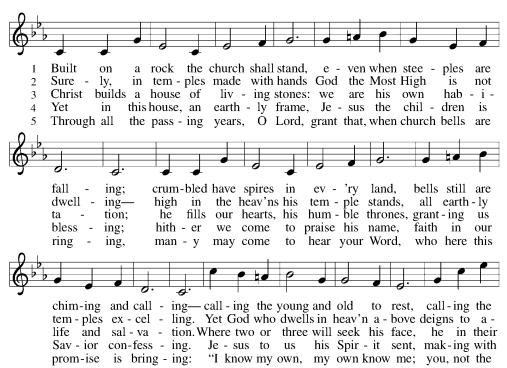
#### **LAMB OF GOD**



#### **HYMN DURING COMMUNION**

#### **ELW #652**

"Built on a Rock"





Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt. Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

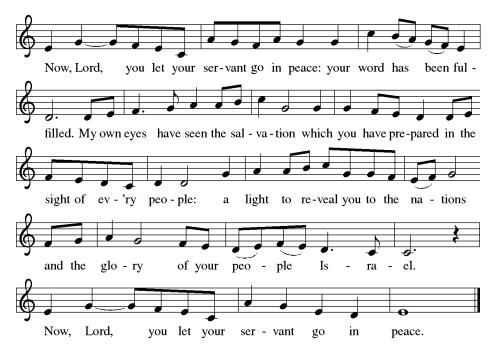
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After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.

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

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**

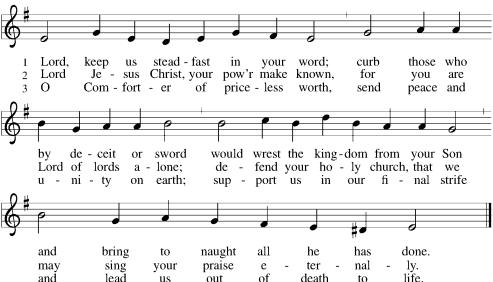
The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,  $\oplus$  bless you now and forever.

Amen.

#### **SENDING HYMN**

ELW #517

#### "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Preacher	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pete Liljeberg
Lay Assisting Minister	Doug Dalager	Irene Albert
Lector	David Leunig	Irene Albert
Acolyte	Ray Scholz	Chase Ambrose
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Altar Care	Jamie Serafin	The Alberts
Communion Bread	The Lowes	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	Albert/Runk
Tellers	Linda Hodges/Nate Peterson	Ray Scholz/Barbara Runk
Fellowship Set Up	Ray Scholz	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food	Donna Ambrose/Janet Gomez	Alberts
Fellowship Clean Up	Scholzs	Alberts

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

#### First Reading: Isaiah 1:10-18

Learn to do good, seek justice, and rescue the oppressed

#### Psalm 32:1-7

All the faithful will make their prayers to you

#### Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:4,11-12

Faith and love amid persecution and adversity

#### **Gospel: Luke 19:1-10**

Zaccheus climbs into a tree to see Jesus

#### **GOOD NEWS ALL OVER AGAIN**

The desire to privatize the free love of God for all creation seems stamped on the human soul. While Lutherans learn early on in their faith formation about the abuses of the church through the sale of indulgences in the sixteenth century, the scriptures for Reformation Day remind us that the desire of religious people to claim ownership of what God freely gives is nothing new.

We hear the self-righteous bickering of the Israelites behind the prophet Jeremiah's declaration of a new covenant between God and humanity, one that erases any claim to special access, because we shall all know God. For the early church the question was whether there was any longer a need to observe the religious laws and customs of Israel, and the inclusion of Gentiles in the Christian community. Paul reminds us that we are justified by faith in who God is, a God of grace, not by virtue of who we are.

Yet we forget this fact over and over again, like the Jews who insisted to Jesus that they had "never been slaves to anyone," forgetting their bondage in Egypt (John 8:33). We, too, lose sight of our bondage to systems of oppression and the unjust hierarchies they create. We, too, fall prey to thinking we are better or less than others because of arbitrary categories assigned to us at birth.

Reformation Day reminds us that our impulse to contain God's grace in structures of our own making cannot hold back God's determination to claim the whole world in a love as encompassing and intimate as words written on our hearts. That was good news for the Israelites in exile, for the early church in Rome, for those living during the Reformation, and for us today. Reformation Day reminds us that the words God spoke at creation when God made the world and called it good, become good news for us each time we hear them.

#### **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NEXT SUNDAY**

For the worship service next Sunday, you are invited to bring in pictures of the saints in your life who are no longer with us to adorn the sanctuary. We will celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears.

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school will resume after worship today. All ages are welcome!

#### 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, Kate Casper, 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, Pastor Wendy Roundy, 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 26, 2025 - NOVEMBER 2, 2025

TODAY	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM 11:00 PM	Worship Service Coffee Fellowship Sunday School
MONDAY	<b>10:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b> 7:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
WEDNESDAY	<b>10:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b> 6:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office Choir Practice
FRIDAY		Girl Scouts
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service - All Saints</b> Coffee Fellowship Sunday School

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Lynn Jaeger - October 28th | Michael Crocker - November 2nd

#### **APOSTLES LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Today we gather on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, and Nansemond peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

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