APOSTLES LUTHERAII CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

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



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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 loves us all, both big and small," a child's verse declares. The sins of the world are covered. We are able to stand tall before God our righteous judge because in the person of Jesus "salvation has come to this house"—to our house today. In Christ Jesus God seeks us out to save us.

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

There will a congregational meeting on **Sunday, November 16th** after worship to approve the ministry spending plan for 2026 – please make plans to attend!! We will have an "agape" worship service before the meeting – please plan to bring a dish to share.

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, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #588

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty. there is mer-cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood. the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind. great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n. There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this; But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own; Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg-ment giv'n. there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss. and we mag - ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own. and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt. Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

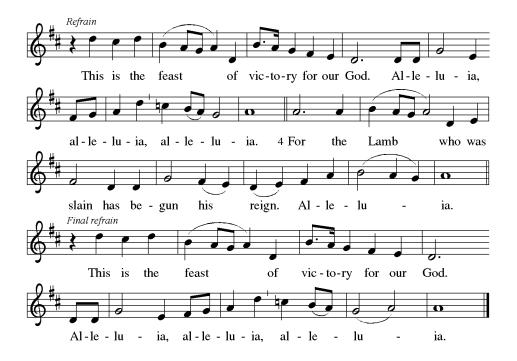
And also with you.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Merciful God, gracious and benevolent, through your Son you invite all the world to a meal of mercy. Grant that we may eagerly follow his call, and bring us with all your saints into your life of justice and joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING ISAIAH 1:10-18

Isaiah announces God's displeasure with the offerings and sacrifices of a people who are without compassion. He urges them instead to do justice and defend the oppressed. Indeed, if they repent, God promises that they will be made as clean as new-fallen snow.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more!

¹³ Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me;

I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers,

I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil;

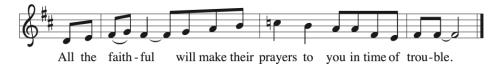
17 learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

18 Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD:If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow?If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool?

Response after the First Reading The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM PSALM 32:1-7



Psalm 32:6
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions [|] are forgiven, and whose sin is [|] put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the Lord im- putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away, because of my groaning ¹ all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ^I ceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

 Then you forgave me the guilt ^I of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.
- ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble; you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance. **R**

SECOND READING

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4, 11-12

This letter attributed to Paul begins with a typical salutation, blessing, and words of praise for what God is accomplishing among the recipients. By remaining faithful and growing spiritually during hardship, the Thessalonian Christians have become witnesses to the glory of God.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

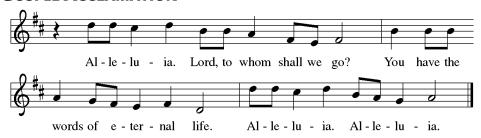
Response after the Second Reading

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 19th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL LUKE 19:1-10

Jesus encounters Zacchaeus, a rich man who is also a lost sinner. Moved by Jesus' acceptance of him, Zacchaeus becomes a model of discipleship. In immediate response to being restored to God's people, Zacchaeus ministers to the poor and seeks reconciliation with those whom he has wronged.

¹ [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it.² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

PETE LILJEBERG

Silence is kept after the reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #631

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY COMMEMORATION

Today, on All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us in the faith and have entered the Church Triumphant. During the Prayers of Intercession, as we pray for God's saints, we will pause to name individual saints who are dear to us. The congregation is invited to come forward and name friends/family who have entered the Church Triumphant out loud and, if desired, light a candle in memory of each. As each saint is named out loud, a chime will be sounded in that saint's memory. When this naming ceremony concludes, we will give thanks to God for all the Saints who from their labor rest.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; 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

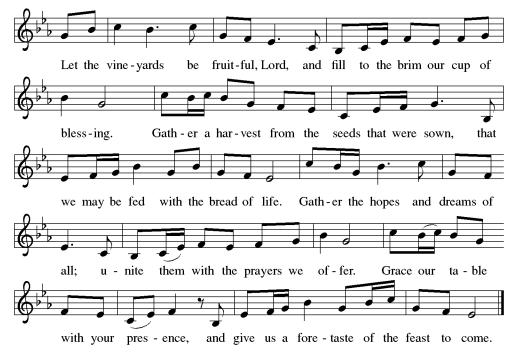
"Song of Hope"

CHOIR ANTHEM

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. God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

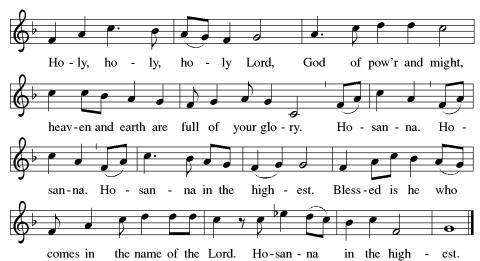
We lift them to the Lord.

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

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

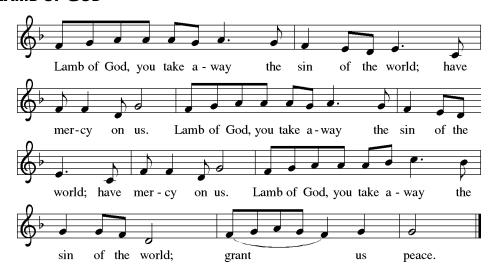
Sit

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 #638

"Blessed Assurance"



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Say-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood. an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

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. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you + and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #774

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"



Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WORSHIP LEADERS

| | Serving Today | Serving Next Week |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Worship Leader | Pastor Jay Serafin | Pastor Jay Serafin |
| Preacher | Pete Liljeberg | Pastor Jay Serafin |
| Lay Assisting Minister | Irene Albert | David Leunig |
| Lector | Irene Albert | Karen Johnston |
| Acolyte | Chase Ambrose | Ray Scholz |
| Accompanist | Janet Gomez | Janet Gomez |
| Altar Care | The Alberts | Betsy Liljeberg |
| Communion Bread | The Alberts | Betsy Liljeberg |
| Greeter/Usher | Heinz Albert | Betsy Liljeberg |
| Technology | Chris Hawkins | Doug Dalager |

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

| | Serving This Week | Serving Next Week |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cleaning Team | Albert/Runk | Gomez/Grimes |
| Tellers | Ray Scholz/Nate Peterson | C. Hawkins/B. Grimes |
| Fellowship Set Up | Jennie Hawkins | Ray Scholz |
| Fellowship Food | Alberts | Judy Wright/Ellen Quirk |
| Fellowship Clean Up | Alberts | Jamie Serafin |

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Reading: Job 19: 23-27a

I know my redeemer lives and I will see God

Psalm 17: 1-9

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

The coming of the Lord Jesus

Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38

Jesus speaks of the resurrection; the God of the living

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

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 - NOVEMBER 9, 2025

| TODAY | 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:00 PM | Worship Service Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School Congregation Council |
|-----------|---|--|
| Monday | 7:00 PM | AA |
| TUESDAY | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 7:00 PM | Pastor Jay in the Office Al-Anon/AA |
| WEDNESDAY | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Pastor Jay in the Office |
| FRIDAY | | Girl Scouts |
| SATURDAY | 9:30 AM 6:30 PM | Women's Group Young and Sober |
| SUNDAY | 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:00 AM | Worship Service Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School Lay Assisting Minister Meeting |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To ...

Michael Crocker – November 2nd | **Nan Duff** – November 6th **Chris Lilejberg** – November 8th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY To ...

Pastor Jay and Jamie Serafin - November 3rd

THANK YOU To ...

Pete Liljeberg for preaching this morning and **Nate Peterson** for percussion.

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