



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-9098 | apostles-elca.org | facebook.com/ApostlesELCA



2026 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 7:00 PM

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 (preferred) or 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 pews.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

WITH ONE VOICE #664

“A New Commandment”

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as
I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.
By this shall peo - ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if
you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know
you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

Text: John 13:34-35

Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

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

Sit

FIRST READING

Response after the First Reading

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Response after the Second Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Return to the Lord, your God,
return to the Lord, your God,
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

REFLECTION

Reverent silence is kept for reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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.*

THANKSGIVING

Sit

OFFERING

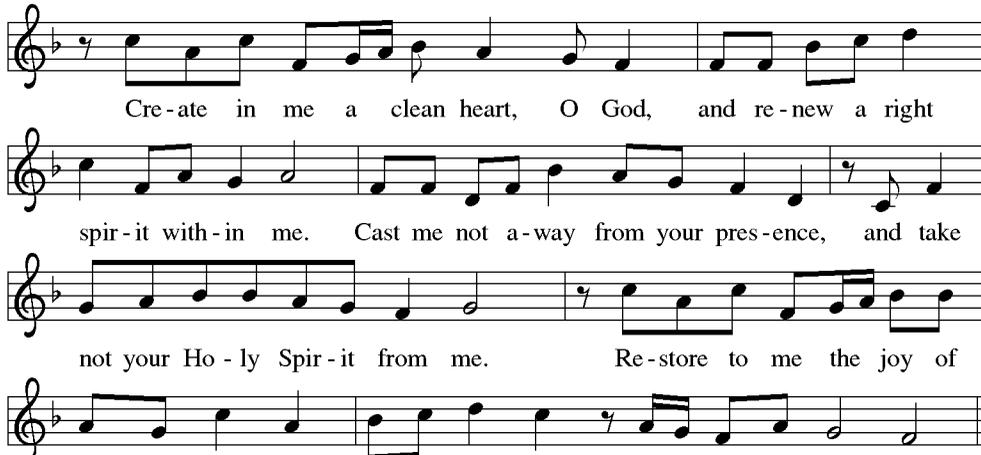
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

✝ **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**

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

Offerings received during this Lent are given to the organizations we support: **Gloucester United Emergency Sheltering Team (GUEST), Jubilee Churches, Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic (GMCC), Bread for Life Food Pantry, and Rural Housing Partnership.**

Thank you for sharing God's love with your neighbors when and where they need it most!



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
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.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

2026 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

MARCH 18, 2026

READING & HYMNS

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #681

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

FIRST READING

LEVITICUS 19:9-10

SECOND READING

JAMES 2:14-17

GOSPEL

LUKE 14:12-14

REFLECTION

TRACEY REED

Executive Director, Bread for Life Food Pantry

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #723

“Canticle of the Turning”

SENDING HYMN

ELW #679

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

THANK YOU TO ...

Tracey Reed, Executive Director of the Bread for Life Food Pantry, for being with us tonight and sharing information about her organization!!