

***APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH***

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Church Facebook Page: Apostles Corner

***The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!***

***As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.***

***Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!***

***Pastor Peter Edwardsen***

**APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Service of Holy Communion**

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another since we all stand before the judgement of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are reminded of our renewal in baptism, and our sending to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

**Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

*you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and from our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**All: Amen**

**Gloria**

***“Glory be to God in Heaven”***

*(pg. 204 ELW - Verse 1)*

***Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.***

***Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:***

***we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.***

***Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.***

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer for this day, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. We lift our voices praying:

***O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn: “Awake O Sleeper, Rise from Death” #452 ELW**

***Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light; so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.***

***To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release, to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.***

***There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.***

***Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save; with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.***

*For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife, Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.*

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

50:15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13**

103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--**

103:3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**103:4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

103:5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**103:6 The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

103:7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

103:9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

103:13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

**Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem: “There is a Savior” by Greg Nelson, Sandi Patty and Mary McDonald.  
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths**

*Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.*

**Gospel Acclamation**  
*“Celtic Alleluia” pg. 174 ELW*

***Alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.***

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eighteenth chapter.

**All: Glory to you O Lord.**

*After the reading*

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: The Rev. Peter Edwardsen**

*Please rise if you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” #359 ELW**

*Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by  
Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.*

*With grateful joy and holy fear, God’s charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and  
soul now love God in return.*

*Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s holy Son; as members of each body  
joined, in him we are made one.*

*Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease. Be God’s the glory that we  
seek; be his our only peace.*

*Let us forgive each other’s faults as we our own confess, that we may love each other  
well in Christian gentleness.*

**Prayers and Concerns of the Community**

**“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #752 ELW**

*(sung three times)*

*Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place;*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

D: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence*

D: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,  
**All: receive our prayer.**

*Deacon or worship assistant continues with the prayers of intercession.*

D: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Offering**

P: As a people of God we have been named and claimed through our waters of baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. From those waters we are called into community with one another and called to share abundantly with others from those gifts that God has first given us.

**Offertory music:** “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

**Offertory prayer:**

D: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**All: Amen**

### **The Meal**

**The Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Preface: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**(#193 ELW)**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

**Spoken: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen, amen, amen.***

**Eucharistic Prayer:**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.



To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer:**

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

**All: 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.**

**Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)**  
(#194 ELW)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.*

*(Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.)*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

C: Thanks be to God!

**Communion Hymn: "When We Are Living" #639 ELW**

*When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, Whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind. And when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*After all have received communion the community stands and sings three times:*

*Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your Kingdom.*

**Table Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Canticle:** “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” 207 ELW

*Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev’ryone what God has done. Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Post Communion Prayer**

P: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In the name of Jesus we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

## **Blessing**

P: The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **All: Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn: “Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” #545 ELW**

*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.*

*Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound. May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.*

*Savior, when your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way, let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.*

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

*C: Thanks be to God!*

**We pray for those celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

*9/20 Mike Hansen*

*9/20 Stephanie & Stephen Morgan*



**Please keep in prayer...**

... all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters.

... all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.

... all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

*God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice. We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.*



***The flowers on the altar are given by Tammie & Ken***

***Kennedy,***



***In Memory of Our Mom, Geri's birthday.***

**Today's Altar Volunteers:**

***Deacon: David S., Acolyte: Nicole G.,***

***Greeter: Barb S., Usher: Carol B.,***

***Readers: Laura E., David S.,***

***Set Up: Carol B., Clean Up: Barb S.***

**September 24<sup>th</sup> Altar Volunteers:**

***Deacon: David S., Acolyte: Nicole G.,***

***Greeter: Sylvia D., Usher: Stephanie M.,***

***Readers: Eleanor B., David S.,***

***Set Up & Clean Up: Tracy D.***

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:**

**Fellowship Dinner, 6:00pm. Bring your favorite Fall dishes.**

**There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>:**

**Food Closet, 1-3pm.**

**August 2023 Financial Update**  
**Year to Date Giving: \$83,048.20**  
**Year to Date Expenses: \$91,175.75**  
**Shortfall: \$8,127.55**

*(For more information, please see Gene Abel or Joan Tartamosa)*

- **If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.**
- **The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the Apostles' website. Any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.**
- **We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.**