

***APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH***

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

4401 Black Horse Pike (Rt. 42) Turnersville, N.J. 08012

The Rev. Peter C. Edwardsen, Pastor, Cell (609)668-2133

Pastor's Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30 - Noon

Email: [pastoredwardsen@gmail.com](mailto:pastoredwardsen@gmail.com)

Office: (856) 629-4228, Fax: (856) 728-9186

Web Site: [www.Apostleslc.org](http://www.Apostleslc.org) Email: [apostleslutheranchurch@comcast.net](mailto:apostleslutheranchurch@comcast.net)

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 First Sunday of Advent**  
November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**A Brief 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 the Holy Trinity, + One God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God for whom we wait.

**ALL: In the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ rejoice and be glad! God hears the prayers of all who cry out and through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens us anew to follow the ways of peace. **All: Amen.**

**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 of the day for November 27<sup>th</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent.

*Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Gathering Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound” #239 ELW**

*Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.*

*He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.*

*He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.*

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The Community sings the appropriate verse(s) of Hymn 240, Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah as the appropriate Advent candle is lit.*

**Week 1. – The Hope Candle is lit.**

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel; God fulfills the promise.*

Week 2 – The Love Candle is lit.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flocks like a shepherd, gently leading them homeward.

Week 3 – The Joy Candle is lit.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Week 4 – The Peace Candle is lit.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

P: Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### **WORD**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call. Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have. Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 122**

122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**122:2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

122:3 Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.

**122:4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

122:5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

**122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

122:7 Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

**122:8 For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."**

122:9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

### **Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem: “People Look East” #248 ELW.**  
***Performed by the Apostles Choir and Phyllis Griffiths.***

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**pg. 205(a) ELW**

***Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.***

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

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

**Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-fourth 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: “Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn” #242 ELW**

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav’nly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.*

*In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may fill every day we share and bring us at least into glory.*

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**Apostles Creed (pg. 105 ELW)**

**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 and Concerns of the Community**

**““O Lord, Hear My Prayer” (ELW#751)**

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.*

*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.  
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God the wellspring of life.*

D: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence*

D: God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

**All: here our prayer.**

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

D: God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God in your mercy, **All: here our prayer.**

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

## Offering

P: As a people of God, who wait expectantly for the joy of a Christmas star, 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 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: Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

(#190 ELW)

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen, amen, 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.

**Lord's Prayer:**

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

(pg. 154 ELW)

**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.**

(#199 ELW)

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.*

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Communion Hymn: "Come to the Table" #481 ELW**

*Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread. All who are hungry and thirsty, come and your souls will be fed.*

*Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand. Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.*

*Please rise if you are able*

**Post Communion 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: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

## Dismissal of Confirmation Class

### THE SENDING

#### Blessing

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: Amen.

#### Sending Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264 ELW

*Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:*

*Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!*

*God's people see him coming: your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! (Refrain)*

*Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: (Refrain)*

*His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: (Refrain)*

#### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

*C: Thanks be to God!*

**The flowers on the altar are given by Bill Leipert,  
In Memory of Norma Leipert.**



**We pray for those celebrating Birthdays:**  
*11/29 Sharon Lancaster, 11/29 Miranda Roberts,  
11/30 Bobbi Kane, 12/1 Dianna Lindsay*



**Please keep in prayer**

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

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

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

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

*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.*

**November 30: The 1<sup>st</sup> "Soup and Service Advent Fellowship". There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please bring something to share.**

**Meal is at 6:00pm and a brief worship service at 7:00.**

**The remaining dates are December 7,14 & 21.**

**December 4: Altar Volunteers: Deacon: Mark Leipert, Acolyte: Nicole Goldstein, Greeter: Joan Tartamosa,**

**Usher: Barb Marlow, Readers: Sandy Pagano, Mark Leipert**

**Set Up: TBD, Clean Up: TBD**

**December 5: Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm.**

**December 8: Food Closet 1:00-3:00 pm.**

- **Thank you to all the “Bakers and Buyers” —our November Bake Sale raised \$80.00!**
- **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** Linens: Towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies: Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, non-expired medications, dog food, tubing, syringes, etc... Empty ink cartridges of all types. Pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.
- **If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, the sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.  
Thank you.**