

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

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

Web Site: www.Apostleslc.org Email: apostleslutheranchurch@comcast.net

Church Facebook Page: Apostles Corner

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.

SUNDAY VOICE

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

Service of Worship with

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 14th, 2022

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

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

Merciful God,

ALL: We confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

D: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life. **All: Amen.**

Gloria: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” 857 ELW (*sung three times*)

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises. I’m so glad you’re in my life, I’m so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord I lift your name on high.

Prayer of the Day

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

C: And also with you.

D: Let us pray together our prayer of the day for Sunday, August 14th, 2022.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “We Praise You O God” #870 ELW

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

WORD

Please be seated.

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In word and meal we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God’s judgement, he suffers rejection. Today’s reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God’s word, and the false prophets who mislead the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 82

82:1 God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

82:2 “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?

82:3 Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

82:4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

82:5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

82:6 I say, “You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;

82:7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.”

82:8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the one who justifies us before God, acting as the perfect model, whom we cannot fully emulate, of faithful endurance.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “Psalm to the Savior” Pepper Choplin – Performed by Phyllis Griffiths

Gospel Acclamation

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” 172 ELW

***Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.***

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

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those that they love.

D: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

After the reading

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

A Time of Mediation on the Readings for today.

(God's word often both challenges and comforts us when we hear it proclaimed. Please take a moment to reflect on how these readings may have played out this week, this month, this year, and how they may continue to move and guide us, individually and mutually to a place of both challenge and comfort as we go forth from worship to life in the world.)

After the time of quiet contemplation, please rise if you are able.

Hymn of the Day: "Will You Come and Follow Me" #798 ELW

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

D: 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

“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: Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

a brief silence

D: Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all those who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the word of ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Deacon or worship assistant continues with the prayers of intercession.

D: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

All: Amen.

Offering

D: As a people of God, who have been named and claimed through our waters of baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, 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 abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen

The Meal

EM: Gathered at the Lord’s table this past Sunday, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that “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.”

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

(pg.153 ELW)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.

Lord’s Prayer:

EM: 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.

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; have mercy on us.

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

Invitation to Communion

EM: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Eucharistic Ministers who serve the community of Apostles Lutheran Church by taking Holy Communion to those members who are sick or unable to attend service, will

now commune the worshipping assembly with pre-sanctified bread, wine, and grape juice. Through the meal of Christ's body and blood we are joined together into one body of faith and reminded of Christ's redeeming work in the world and the promise of Easter Sunday, given to each and every one of us.

Communion Hymn: "Bread of Life from Heaven" #474 ELW

*Refrain: Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.*

*Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. [Refrain]*

*Seek not the food that will pass away; set your hearts on the food that endures.
Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours.
[Refrain]*

*Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself for the life of the world.
Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. [Refrain]*

*Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the life-giving Word.
Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. [Refrain]*

*Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn;
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn.
[Refrain]*

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

D: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he and us that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

We pray for those celebrating Birthdays:
8/15 Doris Rodman, 8/16 Helen Ferrara, 8/20 Kimberle Hughes

THE SENDING

Blessing

D: Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “For the Beauty of the Earth” #879 ELW

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: [Refrain]

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]

For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n; for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: [Refrain]

Dismissal

D: We have gathered to hear the word of God proclaimed, to know that we have been gathered by water and word into community with both God and one another. We have been fed at the Lord's table and receive God's grace given freely and abundantly without end or any merit on our part. From the table we are sent to share the Good News through word and action.

C: Thanks be to God!

Online Giving: We have set up online giving for church offerings. The Vanco online system 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.

Our Fellowship BBQ Dinner is this Wednesday, August 17th.

The doors open and grill starts at 5:30—dinner at 6:00.

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex

Hope to see you there!

Year to date financial information:

Giving: \$73,793.00

Expenses: \$80,504.00

The Next FOOD CLOSET is Thursday, August 25, from 1:00-3:00 PM

We are in desperate need of canned fruit. Please donate what you can.

Thank you.

***If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship,
the sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Thank you.***

We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

As a congregation, we have generously given over \$3,380 to the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund to alleviate the suffering caused by the ongoing crisis in Eastern Europe. The need is still great--**if you are able to give, there is a collection plate in the Narthex for your gift.**

Thank you.

