

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

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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

Sunday August 4, 2024
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily mana they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our provider, help us.

It is hard to believe that there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own broken understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offence at your teaching and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy and you are forgiven and loved into eternal life. **Amen.**

Gloria

(#854 ELW verse 1)

Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r, wisdom and riches and strength evermore, be to the Lamb who our battle has won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne; whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.

Prayer of the Day

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer of the day for this day, the 11th Sunday after Pentecost.

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its needs with the life that only comes from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “As We Gather at Your Table” #522 ELW

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with mana for bread and quail for meat.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:23-29

78:23 Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven;

78:24 he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.

78:25 Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance.

78:26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;

78:27 he rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;

78:28 he let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings.

78:29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem: "Bread of Angels" by Curtis Stephan.
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths**

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

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 205 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.*

Gospel: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people that Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the sixth 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: “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” #461 ELW

*All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in Easter trust and Christmas hope and as we prepare to lift our voices in prayer, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers and Concerns of the Community

“What A Friend We Have In Jesus” #742 ELW (verse 1)

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear --
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!*

D: Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

The Deacon, pastor, or worship leader continues with the prayers. Each petition ends;

D: Merciful God. All: receive our prayer.

The final petition ends;

D: We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

All: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Offering

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to this feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **All: Amen.**

Please rise if you are able.

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: Risen One. You call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **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 all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW page 181)

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power, holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power, holy is the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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
(ELW page 182)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

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

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. **All: Amen!**

Please be seated.

As sinners redeemed not by our own actions but by God's promise of grace alone Lutherans practice an open table: Christ invites all to the table. All who desire to receive communion are welcome. Christ turns no one away.

Ushers will direct you when to approach the altar rail. Communion trays contain empty cups for wine, as well as filled cups of grape juice in the center for those who cannot drink wine. If you have a gluten sensitivity, please tell the pastor as he approaches with the bread and he will offer you to take from the tray of gluten-free wafers.

If you are unable to approach the rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please let the ushers know.

Communion Hymn: “By Your Hand, You Feed the People” #469 ELW

By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven’s bread. For these gifts we did not labor, by your grace have we been fed.

Refrain: Christ’s own body, blessed and broken, cup o’er-flowing, life out-poured, given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.

In this meal we taste your sweetness, bread for hunger, wine of peace. Holy word and holy wisdom satisfy our deepest need. [Refrain]

Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved. In our living and our dying, we become what we receive: [Refrain]

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. **All: 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: Jesus, Word of God made flesh, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **All: Amen.**

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, renews us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak” #676 ELW

*Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.*

*Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.*

*Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the precious truths which you impart;
and wing our words, that thy may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, until my very hearts o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

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 Gene & Susan

Abel,



Lisa.

in honor of the heavenly birthday of Susan's sister,

Today's Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Gene A., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: & Usher: Joan T.,
Readers: Laura E., Gene A.,
Set Up: Thea M., & Clean Up: Susan A.***

August 11th Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter & Usher: Paul G.,
Readers: Connie T., Mark L.,
Set Up: Sylvia D., & Clean Up: Connie T.***

****The church office will be closed the week of August 12th. If you have any announcements you want in the bulletin for the 11th & the 18th, *please contact the office before 8/7. Thank you.*****

Council Meeting: Monday, August 5th, 6:30pm.

Food Closet: Thursday August 8th and Thursday August 22nd, 1-3pm

Fellowship Dinner: Sunday, August 18th, immediately after the service. Details to follow.

Next Sunday, 8/11, will be Hawaiian Shirt Day!!

Starting today, we are collecting healthy breakfast and snack items for the children of our Food Closet families. Please have your donations in no later than Sunday, 8/18. Thank you.

***A special “thank you” to Pastor, Phyllis, the Apostles Choir members,
bakers and decorators and all those who made Christmas in July
such a special celebration!***

June 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$62,138.65

Year to Date Expenses: \$71,397.88

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$9,259.23

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

***Please remember to mail in or drop off your offering while away
on summer vacation.***



Thank you.

