

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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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

May 4, 2025
The Third Sunday of Easter

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

Order of Confession and Forgiveness
Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. ***All: Amen.***

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the Thanksgiving.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, ***make us one as you are one.***

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, ***make us one as you are one.***

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

Gloria

(ELW pg. 149)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood sets us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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 for today, May 4th, the third Sunday of Easter.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW #367 (vv. 1-3)

Now all the vault of heaven resounds in praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings; therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Now still he comes and gives us life and by his presence stills all strife.

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above,

that we conquer through your triumph;

grant grace sufficient for life’s day, that by our lives we truly say,

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] (please see insert)

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ.

This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30

30:1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

30:2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

30:3 O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

30:4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

30:5 For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

30:6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

30:7 By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

30:8 To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:

30:9 "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

30:10 Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

30:11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

30:12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11–14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *"The Day for Rejoicing" by Charles Wesley and Charles McCartha
Performed by the Apostles Lutheran Church Choir and Phyllis Griffiths.*

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

Gospel Acclamation

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The Gospel: John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 21st 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: “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” ELW #707

***Lord of glory, you have bought us with your life-blood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that hast freely given blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.***

*Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.*

*Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity
in your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry – in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you."*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in that joyful baptismal promise, we celebrate and 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 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 twice*)

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: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

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

D: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

The final petition ends;

D: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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

Please rise if you are able as the collection plates are presented at the table of the Lord.

Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #181 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 the 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 have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

C: 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, 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 207)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n 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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 208)

*O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.*

*O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave; have mercy now, we pray.*

*O Lamb of God you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made; give us your peace, we pray.*

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

C: 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: "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW #494

*For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.*

*By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.*

*With the saints who now adore you, seated at the heav'nly board,
may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.*

*In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.*

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” #206 ELW

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev’ryone what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.

Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory. and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **C: Amen.**

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: “The Head That Once Was Crowned” ELW #432

*The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns the mighty victor’s brow.*

*The highest place that heav’n affords is his by sov’reign right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav’n’s eternal light.*

*The joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below
to whom he manifests his love, and grants his name to know.*

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We pray for those celebrating a Birthday:

*5/4 Bob Stanley, 5/8 Chris Johnston,
5/9 Stacey Mulligan*



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 Bill Leipert,
In loving memory of my wife, Norma.***

Today's Altar Volunteers:

G.,

A.,

A.

Deacon: Gene A., Acolyte: Nicole

Greeter: Joan T., & Usher: Susan A.,

Readers: Sandy P., Nicole G., Gene

Set Up: Thea M. & Clean Up: Susan

May 11th Altar Volunteers:

T.

Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.,

Greeter & Usher: Paul G.

Readers: Connie T., Mark L.,

Set Up: Sylvia D., & Clean Up: Connie

Monday, May 5th: Church Council, 6:30pm.

The next Food Closet dates are May 8th & May 22nd, 1-3pm.

*******Please use the forms that are located next to the flower chart in the Narthex and return them to the church office at least one week before the date(s) you have chosen. This is to ensure that your dedication will appear in the bulletin. Thank you! *******

April 2025 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$45,720.38

Year to Date Expenses: 45,924.28

Year to Date Shortfall: - \$203.90

Money Market/CD Balance: \$86,422.59

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

There is now a “Memorial Wall” in the Narthex; if you would like, you can place a cross on the wall either in Honor of Loved ones who are no longer here, or to Memorialize an event. (We ask, if possible, that you include a command hook with the cross that you would like to place on the wall.)

If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

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.

Would you want to donate items to help fund the “Smile Train” organization?

Consider downsizing and donating items that can be sold at a garage sale to raise money specifically for the Cleft Palate Program a/k/a “Smile Train” sponsored by one of our Food Pantry Volunteers.

Some Items being considered: Used, books, in good condition, CDs, DVDs, Records, Old Cell Phones.

We are also asking for freshly washed sheets, blankets, quilts and towels that can

be donated to the Volunteers of America in Collingswood on Route 30. Please see Judy for more information.