

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

Sunday September 8th, 2024
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story shows us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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 forgives all our sin and whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues and our actions. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great

mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: 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 16th Sunday after Pentecost.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” #620 *ELW*, vv. 1-3

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.*

*Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a.

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

146:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

146:2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

146:3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

146:4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

146:5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

146:6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

146:7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

146:8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

146:9 The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

146:10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Second Reading: James 2:1-17

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *“All Nature Sings”* by Susan Naus Dengler and Lee Dengler
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths and the Apostles Choir

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

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 102 ELW

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in the ministry of Jesus. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the seventh 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: “Praise and Thanksgiving” #689 ELW, vv. 1-3

*Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.*

*God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.*

*Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom’s guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that rejoicing
with us all others may know your care.*

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 sins, 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: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

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

D: Hear us O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

The final petition ends;

D: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our 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” #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, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: And also with you.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

**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 108)

*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.*

P: And together we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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 112)

*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, grant us peace.*

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus invites and welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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: “Be Thou My Vision” #793 ELW, vv. 1-3

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tow’r,
raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

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: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Light Dawns On a Weary World” #726 ELW

*Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.*

Refrain: *The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's hearts are fed.

Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. [Refrain]

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. [Refrain]

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God!

We pray for those celebrating Birthdays and an Anniversary:

*9/9 Pastor Edwardsen, 9/10 Bryan Kane,
9/12 Thomas Osterman, 9/14 Mark Leipert*

9/10 George & Linda Eill



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 to the Glory of God.

Today's 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.

September 15th 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.***

**Council Meeting: Tomorrow, Monday, September 9th, 6:30
pm**

**Food Closet: Thursday, September 12th & Thursday
September 26th, 1-3 pm**

**“Let’s Get Together for Pizza & Ice Cream!” We are planning our
September Fellowship Dinner in coordination with Crust and Stio’s
on Fries Mills Road. Details/Date to follow—stay tuned!!
*(Be sure to invite your family and friends; Apostles’ will receive 20%
of the proceeds on the date of the “dinner”.)***

August 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$73,387.07

Year to Date Expenses: \$95,990.69

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$20,603.62

Money Market/CD Balance: \$92,255.49

(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.**