

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

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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
November 17th, 2024
The 26th Sunday after Pentecost

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

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 for today, the 26th Sunday after Pentecost, November 17th, 2024.

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "You Are Mine" #581 ELW v.v. 1-3

*"I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here."*

*"I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me."*

**Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.**

*"I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.*

Refrain: *Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

16:1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

16:2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

16:3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.

16:4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

16:5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

16:6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

16:7 I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

16:8 I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

16:10 For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.

16:11 You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *“Enter His Gates With Songs of Thanksgiving” by Robert C. Clatterbuck
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths and the Apostles Choir*

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

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 102 ELW

Choir only: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th 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: “My Lord, What a Morning” #438 ELW.

*You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.*

*Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.*

*You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]*

*You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]*

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

“Come Bring Your Burdens to God” *South African Traditional*
Come, bring your burdens to God. Come, bring your burdens to God.
Come, bring your burdens to God. For Jesus will never say no. (sing twice)

D: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

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 offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through 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.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

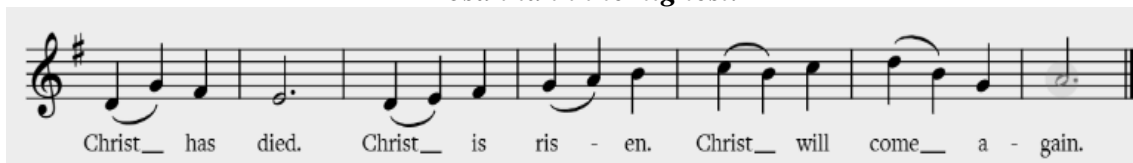
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 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.*



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: "Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal" #464 ELW

*Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us.
Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.*

*Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us.
Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.*

*Grant forgiveness in the feast -- Jesus, feed us --
for the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.*

*Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us.
Save God's children ev'rywhere; feed us with your love.*

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: "Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us" #707 ELW, vv. 1-3

*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."*

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God!

We pray for those celebrating an Anniversary:

11/23 Carol & Dan Burke



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 Ken and



Tammie Kennedy,

in Celebration of their Grandchildren.

Today's 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.***

November 24th Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Tracy D., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Sylvia D., & Usher: Stephanie M.,
Readers: Eleanor B., Tracy D.,
Set Up: Tracy D., & Clean Up: Judy M.***

****Our Fellowship Covered Dish Luncheon is today, following the service. ****

***Sunday Book Study will meet after today's service. ***

The "Thanksgiving" Food Closet will be **Tuesday, November 26th, 1-3pm.**

We are in need of box stuffing mix for our Thanksgiving Food Closet.

Please see Ken if you have any questions. Thank you!!

Mark your calendars for DECEMBER 1st!

Immediately following the service, we will be decorating the church for Christmas.

***Join us! Pizza and drinks will be provided.
Any questions, please call Connie, 856-343-7610***

Council Meeting: Monday, December 2nd, 6:30pm

Grief Share: Thursday, December 5th at 10:30am. All are welcome.

You are invited to attend our Christmas Program:

“Mary’s Story” - a Monodrama and Concert

Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 pm

***Please join the choirs of Apostles Lutheran Church, Saints Peter and Paul Church,
Saint Michael the Archangel Parish and soloists and musicians,
as we prepare to usher in the birth of our Savior.***

(please see the other side for more announcements)

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser—Wednesday, December 11th

***We need Baskets for the auction and help for that night!!
There are signup sheets and flyers on the table in the Narthex.***

***Please take the flyers and distribute them to family and friends!
If you have any questions, please contact Gene Abel: 610-291-0343.***

**It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias!
They are \$16.50 each and the deadline to order is December 15th.
The order forms are on the table in the Narthex.**

October 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$95,243.56

Year to Date Expenses: \$118,748.53

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$23, 504.41

Money Market/CD Balance: \$88,755.02

(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.)

Altar Flower Dedications: To ensure that your dedication will appear in the bulletin, 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 your chosen date. Thank you!

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.

The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the Apostles' website.

If you have any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.