

***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, 10:30 – Noon, or by appointment.

Email: [pastoredwardsen@gmail.com](mailto:pastoredwardsen@gmail.com)

Office: (856) 629-4228

Web Site: [www.Apostleslc.org](http://www.Apostleslc.org) Email: [apostleslutheranchurch@comcast.net](mailto:apostleslutheranchurch@comcast.net)

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**

December 1, 2024  
**The First Sunday of Advent**

*Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

**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, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.     **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

*We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.*

God of might,

*We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.*

God in our midst,

*We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.*

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **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, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent.  
**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to  
the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you  
live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: “Hark A Thrilling Voice is Sounding” #246 ELW v.v. 1-3**

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness all you children of the day!"*

*Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.*

*See the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The Community sings the appropriate verse(s) of Hymn 240, Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah as the appropriate Advent candle is lit.*

**Week 1. – The Hope Candle is lit.**

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel; God fulfills the promise.*

Week 2 – The Love Candle is lit.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flocks like a shepherd, gently leading them homeward.

Week 3 – The Joy Candle is lit.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Week 4 – The Peace Candle is lit.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

P: Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name-"The LORD is our righteousness"- proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 25:1-10**

25:1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

***25:2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.***

25:3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

***25:4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.***

25:5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

***25:6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.***

25:7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

***25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.***

25:9 He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

**25:10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** *“This Child, Emmanuel” by Jeremy Walton.*  
**Performed by Apostles Lutheran Church Choir and Phyllis Griffiths**

*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:** Luke 21:25-36

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dis- may, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21<sup>st</sup> 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: “Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn” #242 ELW. v.v. 1-3**

*Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon He is born, behold! the child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
He opens wide the heav’nly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all, in sorrow and fear, Emanuel comes a singing  
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.*

*In darkest night His coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,  
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in Advent preparation that wakes to Christmas joy and as we prepare to lift our voices in prayer, we confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

### **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: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

*The Deacon, pastor, or worship leader continues with the prayers. Each petition ends;*  
*D: Lord, in your mercy,                      All: Receive our prayer.*

*The final petition ends;*



D: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

**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: “Thine the Amen” #826 ELW**

*Thine the amen, thine the praise, alleluias angels raise, thine the everlasting head,  
thine the breaking of the bread, thine the glory, thine the story, thine the harvest then  
the cup, thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.*

*Thine the life eternally, thine the promise let there be, thine the vision, thine the tree,  
all the earth on bended knee, gone the nailing, gone the railing, gone the pleading,  
gone the cry, gone the sighing, gone the dying, what was loss lifted high.*

*Thine the truly, thine the yes, thine the table we the guest, thine the mercy all from  
thee, thine the glory yet to be, then the ringing and the singing, then the end of all the  
war, thine the living, thine the loving evermore, evermore.*

*Thine the kingdom, thine the prize, thine the wonderful surprise, thine the banquet,  
then the praise, then the justice of thy ways, thine the glory, thine the story, then the  
welcome to the least, then the wonder all increasing at thy feast, at thy feast.*

*Thine the glory in the night, no more dying only light, thine the river, thine the tree,  
then the Lamb eternally, then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee, thine the splendor,  
thine the brightness, only thee, only thee.*

*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: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C: Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

**Blessing**

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + blesses and keeps you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: “People Look East” #248 ELW, vv. 1-3**

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow’r may flourish.  
People look east and sing today—Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.  
People look east and sing today—Love, the Star is on the way.*

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**We pray for those celebrating a Birthday:**

*12/1 Dianne Lindsay*



**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 the Shultz**



**Family,**

**in Loving Memory of Albert.**

**Today's Altar Volunteers:**

**Deacon:** Gene A., **Acolyte:** Nicole G.,  
**Greeter:** Joan T., **& Usher:** Susan A.,  
**Readers:** Sandy P., Nicole G., Gene

A.,

**Set Up:** Thea M., **& Clean Up:** Susan

A.

**December 8th Altar Volunteers:**

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

T.

**We will be decorating the church for Christmas immediately following the service.**

**Join us! Pizza and drinks will be provided.**

**Council Meeting: Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm**

**Grief Share: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. All are welcome.**

**You are invited to attend our Christmas Program:**

**“Mary’s Story” - a Monodrama and Concert**

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 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.***

***\*\* Attention bakers! We need baked goods for the light refreshments to be served after the program. Thank you! Please see Sandy if you have any questions. \*\****

**Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser—Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

***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.***

**December 15<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Covered Dish Fellowship Luncheon,  
immediately following the service.**



**Bring your favorite Christmas foods and  
celebrate Christmas with your Apostles' family.  
There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.**



**It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias!  
They are \$16.50 each and the deadline to order is December 15<sup>th</sup>.  
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.**