

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

Sunday October 27th, 2024
REFORMATION SUNDAY

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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, October 27th, Reformation Sunday.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “O Word of God Incarnate” #514 ELW

*O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.*

*The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.*

*It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.*

*Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;*

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.*

⁵ God is in the midst of the city;^[b] it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ *The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ *Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.*

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ *'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'*

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem: "Only By Grace" by Gerrit Gustafson and Lloyd Larson
Performed by 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: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th 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: “The Church’s One Foundation” #654 ELW, vv. 1-3

*The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: “How long?”
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

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: Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

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: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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.*



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: “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” #592 ELW

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

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: “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” #505 ELW, vv. 1-3

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper frees us from the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe, forsworn to work us woe.
With guile and dreadful might is armed to wage the fight:
on Earth there is no equal.*

*If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing;
the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God’s own choosing.
You ask who this may be; Christ Jesus, it is he,
the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim!
None else can win the battle.*

*Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us,
We tremble not, we trust God’s will: they cannot overpower us.
Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage,
this tyrant’s doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word shall triumph.*

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God!

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 Paul



Goley,

***in Honor of his daughter Beth's birthday, on 10/31,
and by Mark & Nancy Leipter, In Memory of Nancy's sister,
Janet.***

Today's Altar Volunteers:

Stephanie M.,

M.

***Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Sylvia D., & Usher:***

Readers: Eleanor B., Mark L.

Set Up: Tracy D., & Clean Up: Judy

November 3rd Altar Volunteers:

G.,

Deacon: Gene A., Acolyte: Nicole

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

Readers: Sandy P., Nicole G., Gene A.,

Set Up: & Clean Up: Sylvia D.

****Today is the Fall Bake Sale! ****

**~~The Sunday Book Study will meet today,
after the worship Service. ~~**

**The free Harp Concert is today at Prince of Peace Lutheran
Church in Marlton at 3:00pm. Please see Sandy if you would like
to meet back at Apostles and
“form a caravan” to the concert.**

Council Meeting: Monday, November 4th, 6:30pm.

Grief Share: Thursday, November 7th, 10:30 am.

**The next food closet will be Thursday, November 14th, 1-3pm
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!!

***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. Thank you.)***

(please see the other side for more announcements)

September 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$83,796.77

Year to Date Expenses: \$106,910.00

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$23,113.23

Money Market/CD Balance: \$88,481.75

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

The Congregational Life Committee is asking for donations of the following:

Faith based birthday, anniversary and sympathy greeting cards. Also, disposable coffee cups, bowls, and round and rectangular table covers.

Thank you!

The October-December “Word In Season” booklets are now available in the vestibule.

- *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.