

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, 9:30 - Noon

Email: pastoredwardsen@gmail.com

Office: (856) 629-4228, Fax: (856) 728-9186

Web Site: www.Apostleslc.org Email: 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

April 28th, 2024
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is the water of eternal life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promise of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voiced thundered out over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

C: Here is the water of eternal life. Alleluia!

P: At the river Jordan your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Here is the water of eternal life. Amen.

Gloria
“This is the Feast”
(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, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together the prayer for the fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28th, 2024.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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: “Abide with Me” #629 ELW

*Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh,
abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with
me!*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to
the skies; heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O
Lord, abide with me.*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

22:25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before
those who fear him.

**22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the
LORD. May your hearts live forever!**

22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families
of the nations shall worship before him.

22:28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

22:29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

22:31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem: “Come to the Table of the Lord.” By Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse.
Performed by Apostles Lutheran Church Choir and Phyllis Griffiths.**

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

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 205 ELW

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fifteenth 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: “As We Gather at Your Table” #522 ELW

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s vict’ry known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayers and Concerns of the Community
“O God in Heaven” #748 ELW (verses 1, 3)

O God in heaven, grant to your children mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing, grace to invite us, peace to unite us, O God in heaven, author of love.

Spirit unending, give us your blessing: strength for the weary, help for the needy, hope for the scornful, peace for the mournful, Spirit unending, comfort and guide.

D: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence

D: We pray for your church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace.

All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon or worship assistant continues with the prayers of intercession.

D: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

All: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Offering

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts in this Easter season and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

All: Amen.

Please rise if you are able.

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: Risen One. You call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

All: 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 181)

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power, holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power, holy is the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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 182)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

All: 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: “As the Grains of Wheat” #465 ELW

(Refrain) As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. (Refrain)

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you. (Refrain)

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.

All: 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: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you this day and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Now All the Vaults of Heaven Resounds” #367 ELW

*Now all the vault of heav’n 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 to give 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!*

*Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav’nly blessed sing: “Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

We pray for those celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

5/2 Laura Edwardsen, 5/4 Bob Stanley

4/29 Frank & Connie Troilo, 5/1 Frank & Brigit Fewkes



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 in Celebration



of the

35th Wedding Anniversary of Frank & Connie

Troilo.

Today's Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Colleen F., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Sylvia D. & Usher: Stephanie***

M.,

Readers: Eleanor B., Coleen F.

Set Up & Clean Up: Tracy D.

May 5th Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Gene A., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter & Usher: Joan T.***

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

Set Up: Carol B. & Clean Up: Sylvia D.

May 2nd:

Grief Share, 10:30 am

May 5th:

Community Concert at Apostles, 2pm

(Please see the concert details on the back of this announcement page.)

May 6th: Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

May 9th & May 23rd: The Food Closet dates for next month.

Attention all bakers!

We need baked goods to be served after the Community Concert on Sunday May 5th.

If you have any questions, please see Sandy or Phyllis.

Thank you!

March 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$41,174.80

Year to Date Expenses: \$36,484.38

Year to Date Net Contributions: \$4,690.42

(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.

*Please join us for the first concert in our
“Praise God” series: “God is Love, Let Love Grow”
as we celebrate
God’s creation displayed by the new life coming forth this
Spring!*

**Where: Apostles Lutheran Church
4401 Black Horse Pike
Turnersville, NJ 08012**

**When: Sunday, May 5th
2:00 pm**

This event is free of charge and open to everyone.

Light refreshments will be served following the concert.

Please call the Church office at 856-629-4228,
or email at apostleslutheranchurch@comcast.net
if you have any questions.