

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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

The Day of Pentecost
Sunday May 19th, 2024

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us and; through baptism, calls us by name, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all 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

(ELW pg. 176)

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

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 of the day for this Day of Pentecost, May 19th, 2024.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel 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 Holy Spirit, Root of Life" #399 ELW

O Holy Spirit, root of life, creator, cleanser of all things: anoint our wounds, awaken us with lustrous movement of your wings.

Eternal vigor, Saving One, you free us by your living Word, becoming flesh to wear our pain, and all creation is restored.

O holy Wisdom, soaring pow'r, encompass us with wings unfurled, and carry us, encircling all above, below, and through the world.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

104:24 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

104:25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

104:26 There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

104:27 These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

104:28 when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

104:29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

104:30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

104:31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works--

104:32 who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

104:33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

104:34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

104:35b Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *“Sweet, Sweet Spirit” by Doris Akers and Joel Raney.
Performed by 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 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

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: “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” #400 ELW

God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend! Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send! Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!

God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose purge! Through your church, Christ’s living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge! Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth, kindle us to speak your truth!

God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy! Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth’s healing set us free! Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!

God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love’s restlessness! Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart’s distress. Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom’s work, claim us for your kingdom’s work!

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and 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 sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon students and teachers, all proclaimers of the gospel, and the newly baptized. 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: "Spirit of Gentleness" #396 ELW

**Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free.
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." [Refrain]

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through the prophets to open their eyes. [Refrain]

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. [Refrain]

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. [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. Make the dry, bleached bones of our lives live and breathe and grow again as you did of old. Pour out your Spirit upon your whole creation. Come in rushing wind and flashing fire to turn the sin and sorrow within us into faith, power, and delight. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your good news and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer. **All: Amen.**

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine" #398 ELW

*Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine; breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.*

*Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine; kindle ev'ry high desire; purge
me with your holy fire.*

*Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, fortify this will of mine; by your will I strongly live, bravely
bear, and nobly strive.*

*Holy Spirit, peace divine, still this restless heart of mine; speak to calm this tossing sea,
stayed in your tranquility.*

*Holy Spirit, right divine, king within my conscience reign; be my guide, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God!

We pray for those celebrating a Birthday:

5/20 Sandy Pagano

*Congratulations to **Grace Mulligan**, who graduated from Rowan University on May 8th, with a BA in Liberal Studies.*

Grace will be pursuing her master's degree in social work this Fall.



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: David S., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Barb S., & Usher: Carol B.,
Readers: Laura E., David S.,
Set Up: Carol B. & Clean Up: Barb S.***

May 26th Altar Volunteers:

M.,

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

Readers: Eleanor B., Colleen F.,
Set Up & Clean Up: Tracy D.***

May 23rd: Food Closet, 1-3pm.

May 26th: Ceremony at the Glou. County Veterans Cemetery, honoring our fallen heroes, 1pm.

June 2nd: Annual Congregational Meeting, following the 10:00am worship service.

June 6th: Grief Share, 10:30am.

June 9th: “Pot Luck Lunch”: Please join us for food and fellowship immediately after the service.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

If you wish to have a graduate recognized in the bulletin, please contact
Sandy
or leave a message in the church office. Thank you.

April 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$46,842.55

Year to Date Expenses: \$46,754.52

Year to Date Net Contributions: \$88.03

(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.