



# The Epistle

THE NEWSLETTER OF APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gloucester, Virginia

[www.apostles-elca.org](http://www.apostles-elca.org)

April 2022

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel



## *Proclamations From The Polychromatic*

*“And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ~Revelation 21:5*

Spring has returned to this corner of our world, and she has spilt all of her paints upon the land. Winter has its own beauty, and I am so looking forward to warmer weather. Our Safety in Worship Team has allowed our four Teams to set the tone concerning their stance on masking and social distancing. Concerning worship in the sanctuary, it was agreed that masking and singing may be optional so long as the windows and doors remain open during worship. This will promote better air circulation in our enclosed space.

The Daffodil Festival is this Saturday. Apostles has a booth! I have never experienced a Daffodil Festival in full bloom, and I will be working between Apostles, the Humane Society, and the Visitor's Center. After this week and Holy Week, I plan on taking Fridays and Saturdays off for my Sabbath Day. I will answer a text message if there is a Pastoral Emergency, e.g. someone has died. Otherwise, I will answer phone calls and emails on Sunday afternoon. I typically avoid reading/answering emails on Sunday mornings as to prepare for worship. Easter is upon us, and first, we journey through

Holy Week. Palm/passion Sunday will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. The Triduum begins with Maundy Thursday, which will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Worship Team has agreed to participate in a hand washing ritual. Good Friday will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Lutherans and the Episcopalians will celebrate the Easter Vigil together at the Waterman's Museum on April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. Every congregation involved is encouraged to pitch for our ice cream fellowship afterwards. We can contribute both financially and by making cookies. *Ben and Jerry's* in Yorktown has graciously agreed to sponsor the Vigil After Party. More information concerning this will follow depending upon the weather. Apostles Lutheran Church will participate in recreating *The Flood Story*. Stay tuned.

Finally, we will arrive at Easter Sunday, which falls on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. I've been told that the men will be cooking breakfast while the Easter Bunny may leave some eggs in the yard to be hunted.

April will also kick off our final Season for Seasons of Stewardship this year. The Worship Team will be blooming with Spring Awakening. April marks the month of Presentation. Perhaps you've always wondered why we have specific Servant Leaders performing certain roles during worship... perhaps not. The Worship Team will guide our Community of Faith through answering those parts of worship that feel meaningful to those of us who have always done it a certain way. Through trial and error,

we may articulate to those new to our Lutheran Faith these two questions: 1) What are we doing, and 2) Why are we doing it?

My prayer is for our community to become curious about our faith as a Lutheran congregation. These last three years have felt to me like they've ebbed more than flowed. There is a Sufi proverb that states "In the desert there is no sign that says, 'thou shalt not eat stones.'" We have survived the most abnormal part of a once in a century Pandemic, which has disrupted everyone's plans. I for one was warned not to change anything for the first five years... did someone hear God laughing? We've had a long distance relationship for almost three years since I was installed back in 2020. Life online, on the phone, and on paper can be awkward yet manageable once you've done it for more than 28 days. Right now, we are learning how to live together under the same roof. Those of you who have ever been married or moved in with a roommate know how rough and rocky those new relationship dynamics can be. Let's all take just take a breath and learn how to dance with each other. I ask the question, "Why?" because I wasn't here when it happened and would like to hear from your perspective what makes it important. On the same token, if you are curious about something that I'm doing which invokes the question "Why?", then ask me. It would be nice if we could all be satisfied with the answer, but we can work on it if we're willing to do the work together. I promise that I am not here to hurt any of you, and I am not here to be hurt by any of you. God is always making things new, including us, so let's see where the Holy Spirit is leading us. If you have gotten this far in my article, then bring a sunflower to Sunday morning worship this April 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have observed that this congregation prefers fresh cut flowers, but a fake one will do. I will explain the "Why" behind my request during the Announcements. I hope to see you during worship at 9:30 AM this Sunday from beyond the page.

*'I could tell you my adventures – beginning from this morning,' said Alice a little timidly: 'but 'it's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then.'*

~Lewis Carroll

Pastor Jeniffer, M. Div, Miss. Dev.

+++++

***Holy Week Schedule***

- April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday**  
9:30 AM
- April 14 Maundy Thursday**  
**Hand Washing and Holy Communion**  
7:00 PM
- April 15 Good Friday**  
7:00 PM
- April 16 Easter Vigil**  
**On The Beach at Watermen's Musuem**  
7:00 PM
- April 17 Easter Sunday**  
**Holy Communion**  
9:30 AM

***He Is Risen—He Is Risen Indeed!***

+++++

***New Stained Glass Windows***



Bob Ely has completed the "resurrection" window and it will be installed for Easter—the design for the next window has been completed and Bob will be starting on it soon. The windows were designed by Gene Gomez.

## ***Easter at Apostles***

### **Flowers for the Easter Cross**

Don't forget to bring fresh flowers on Easter Sunday to adorn our Easter cross.



### **Easter Brunch**

Please join us for an Easter brunch after the worship service—there is a sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up to bring food, set up and clean up.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for our children after the worship service—bring your Easter basket!!

+++++



## ***Mid-Week Dinner Church at Ware Episcopal***

During Lent, members from Apostles joined members of Ware

Episcopal for a mid-week dinner church. After a delicious dinner of soup, salad, bread and dessert provided by the 2 congregations, we had 2 options for study—discussing the 5 tenants of Baptism with Rector Scott or learning about the named and unnamed women of the Bible as we draw parallels with the role of women during the Pandemic of 2020 with Pastor Jeniffer. You have one more opportunity to join us on **Wednesday, April 6th at 6:00 PM** in the fellowship hall at Ware Episcopal on Route 14. We are providing the soup and bread.

+++++

## ***Crisis in Ukraine***

Lutheran World Relief announced that thanks to the leading generosity of Nelsonville Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church in Amherst, WI—and now joined by incredible congregations across the country—all congregational gifts given through Lutheran World Relief will be doubled—up to \$422,000. Our Mission Outreach Committee (Margaret Grimes, Donna Ambrose and Linda Hodges) gave \$300 which will now be doubled to \$600—it will provide food, shelter, and emergency funds for refugees impacted by the Ukraine crisis.

## ***Flowers for the Altar***

With Spring upon us, it's time to start thinking about flowers for the altar—please take a minute to sign up for a Sunday or two—in honor of a birthday, or anniversary or other special occasion. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex—thanks!

+++++

## ***Update on Our Members***



**Opal Baker** recently had a fall and broke her leg—Opal lives at the Riverside Convalescent in Mathews—you can now go and visit and/or send cards—the address is 603 Main Street, Mathews, VA 23109—she would LOVE to get a card or a visit from us!!



**Manning Freeman** recently moved to the Virginia Home for Adults in Chesapeake, VA. We are planning to go and visit Manning after Easter—if you would like to send him a card, the address is 2701 Border Road, Chesapeake, VA 23324.

+++++

## ***Ministry Team Meetings***

The following ministry team will meet in April:  
+ **Worship**—Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 PM  
+ **Service and Sharing**—Monday, April 18th at 7:00 PM.

+++++

## ***Happy Birthday to . . .***

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Ann Albert                       | April 3  |
| Ray Kendzierksi, Jennie Hawkins, | April 5  |
| Pam Moore and Jack Baur          | April 5  |
| April Anby                       | April 6  |
| Barbara Runk                     | April 7  |
| Carson Riordan                   | April 9  |
| Doug Dalager                     | April 10 |
| Marina Allen                     | April 19 |
| Pastor Jeniffer                  | April 20 |
| Shawn Anby                       | April 21 |
| Mary Leunig                      | April 25 |
| Willow Crocker                   | April 27 |



## *Reconciling in Christ: BIPOC*

The Reconciling in Christ ministry team is working to enlarge our welcome to all people. BIPOC is the acronym for Black, Indigenous, People of Color. We are developing ways to be more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all people. It is our humanity that makes us all one!

In March the team decided to invite the congregation to study the book entitled “White Fragility” by Robin Deangelo. This book will help us understand why speaking about racism is so difficult for white people.



Three team members (Janet, Betsy, and Pete) attended a 3 day Antiracism workshop sponsored by the NAACP which involved a coming together of the black churches and white churches in Gloucester. We heard difficult stories from our African American and Hispanic siblings in Christ, who shared what it is like to be a minority in America. People shared about the necessity of teaching their son’s how to protect themselves while driving, and their daughters how to behave in the mall to avoid being falsely charged with crime. Hard lessons for people who rarely consider routine trips to the mall a danger. The group learned ways to become allies for one another and planned ways to bring about change in our community. Everyone was encouraged to become members of the NAACP. Please ask any one of the team members in attendance for more information and future plans. In June we will be

celebrating Pride Month and Pride Sunday. Your participation and ideas are welcome! The next meeting of the RIC ministry team will be **May 12 at 7 PM.**

If you have ideas to share or would like to join the team please contact Pastor Jeniffer, Betsy Liljeberg, Irene Albert, Janet Gomez, Mary and David Leunig or Pete Liljeberg.  
Betsy Liljeberg

+ + + + +

## *Additional Thoughts On The Readings for March*

The readings from Year C of the lectionary in March were some of my favorite—they brought to mind lots of memories. On Sunday, March 20th and March 27th, we had readings from Psalm 63, the parable of the fig tree from Luke and 2 Corinthians 5. Both Psalm 63 and 2 Corinthians 5 remind me of our former Bishop of the Virginia Synod, James F. Mauney—he loved Psalm 63 especially “my whole being clings to you, your right hand holds me fast” and he made a part of 2 Corinthians the motto of the Virginia Synod—“we are ambassadors for Christ.” The parable of the fig tree reminded me of a sermon that inspired Gene so much, he designed a stained glass piece about it only having the farmer looking at the ground instead of looking up at the tree. Finally, Pastor Jeniffer ended her sermon on March 27th by telling us that Jesus was the fatted calf in the parable of the prodigal son. Robert Farrar Capon, in his book “Kingdom, Grace, Judgment,” death is the mainspring of the parables of grace. He says that the parable of the prodigal son is practically a festival of death—the father dies at the beginning of the parable by putting his will into effect; the prodigal dies in the far country when his life as he knew it comes to an end in bitter poverty; the prodigal dies again when he comes home and confesses that he is a dead son and finally the fatted calf dies to make possible the party that is the point of the whole parable.  
Janet Gomez





## World Malaria Day April 25, 2022

For decades, the celebration of World Malaria Day has been a positive event to update and educate the public on the status of malaria in our world. It usually identified a decrease in malaria cases and deaths throughout the planet. This annual improvement began to slow in recent years, and in the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Malaria Report of 2021, there was an increase in annual cases (14,000,000) and in annual deaths from malaria (60,000). This was not a surprise, for in fact it had been forecasted that malaria deaths might actually double during the course of the year due to the Corona Virus pandemic and its impact on health services' ability to carry out normal anti-malarial activities. These included the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets, and malaria diagnosis and treatment. Hopefully next year's report will show a resumption of the decrease in cases that had been occurring earlier.

On the positive side, in 2021, WHO approved the first malaria vaccine which will be available to immunize African children. Malaria kills more than 400,000 people a year, and WHO indicates that more than 259,000 of those deaths are in African children under age 5. This new vaccine (RTS,S/AS01) is effective in preventing death from the serious *P. falciparum* malaria in 30% of cases, but requires 4 shots to be fully effective. It is the first malaria vaccine to be adopted for widespread use and more effective vaccines are under development and are being field tested!

**Prayer Petitions**—Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of malaria and all diseases that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry, O Lord. Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Hear our cry, O

Lord. Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Hear our cry, O Lord. Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hear our cry, O Lord.

*Adopted from The Lutheran World Federation's prayer for COVID-19* **Malaria**

- Facts:**
- + Nearly half of all people in the world are at risk of getting malaria (3.2 billion).
  - + Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2020, the region was home to 95% of malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths. Children under 5 accounted for an estimated 80% of all malaria deaths.
  - + Since 2000, the annual number of global malaria deaths have been cut in half, saving 7.6 million lives.
  - + More than 1 billion treatments for malaria and bed nets have been provided in areas suffering from malaria.
  - + In the United States, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) conducts research to improve malaria testing, treatment, and vaccines, and improves tools that help control mosquitos. It also helps to prevent, treat, and track malaria in the United States.

**Resources:**  
 World Health Organization information and publications  
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>  
 Downloadable poster from the CDC  
<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/infographics/pdf/WorldMalariaDay2021.pdf>

++++++  
**Happy Anniversary To . . .**

Robert and Krystle McMahan      April 19

++++++  
**Happy Baptismal Anniversary to . . .**

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Abby Britt      | April 18 |
| Margaret Grimes | April 19 |
| Tyler Britt     | April 21 |
| Sarah Anby      | April 25 |

**Welcome to The Spring Edition  
of Seasons of Stewardship  
The Worship Ministry Team**

The last “season of stewardship” will be dedicated to the work of the Worship Ministry Team. The **Worship Ministry Team** is responsible for encouraging and supporting the growth of members’ worship of our triune God and focus on he Word. To meet this goal the team will:

- + plan the setting, liturgy and music for all worship services;
- + provide and maintain appropriate resources (bulletins, worship folders, worship books, music, devotional materials);
- + train and empower members to participate actively as worship leaders (assisting ministers, communion assistants, acolytes, crucifers, lectors, preachers, ushers, music leaders, choir members, altar care servers);
- + enrich the worship experience through preparation and care of appointments reflecting the liturgical calendar and sacraments (paraments, altar linens, communion vessels, baptismal vessels, banners, robes, flowers and appropriate seasonal adornments such as Advent wreath, Chrismon tree, palms);
- + recommend policy with respect to care and use of the worship space (weddings, funerals held at Apostles);
- + make nursery care available as needed.

+++++

***Apostles In the Spring***



+++++

***Please Keep In Your Prayers***

Opal Baker, Luise Buerger, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Michael Schlemmer, George and Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner and Jerry and Lena Woodlief

**Caring Community Ministry  
Team Seasons of  
Stewardship Concludes**

The third “season of stewardship–Winter” for the Caring Community Ministry Team concluded on Sunday, March 20th, with a box-lunch fellowship. Congratulations to Corlis Everett who won the stained glass angel. A BIG thank you to everyone who filled out the Time and Talent surveys!



+++++

***Please Join Us  
for the Easter Vigil***

This a service you won’t want to miss—it is



WONDERFUL—it is held on the beach at Yorktown—7 local Lutheran and Episcopalian churches participate—hope to see you on **Saturday, April 16th, at 7:00 PM** on the beach behind the Watermen’s museum.

## News of Our Children and Youth



The Courthouse Player's production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr. was presented on March 25-27 at Thomas Hunter Middle School in Mathews. Based on both the original Broadway production and the Academy Award-winning motion picture "Beauty and

the Beast," the junior version of this beloved musical tells a story of tolerance and transformation, and it includes familiar songs made popular by the original production. The classic story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress, is a favorite of children and adults everywhere. Emmaleigh Hautz, 7 years old, was cast as a statue, candlestick, and a townspeople (fruit seller). Kimberleigh, 5 years old, was cast as a candlestick and a townspeople (a lady with a baby). Both appearing on the very stage their mother Kayla first performed with the Court House Players in 1998 as the youngest townspeople in My Fair Lady at the age of 7.

On February 21, 13 girls and adults with Troop 1055 along with August Baker from Boy Scout Troop 133, came together under the instruction of Mrs. Michelle Williams, and Mrs. Susan Clements for a Sewing workshop, to help put together Feminine Hygiene kits, to accompany the Health care kits made by the God's Work, Our Hands Team for the mission trip to Guatemala. The Scouts, learned many new skills that day, including how to use a sewing machine, many of which had never done before.



## Happy 41st Anniversary, Apostles!!

Gloucester Lutheran Church, began in 1981 as a satellite of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Virginia. The first worship service was held on April 26, 1981 at the Botetourt Masonic Lodge in Gloucester Courthouse by the Reverend Ralph W. Spears. In September 1983, the congregation became chartered and subsequently approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia as an Independent Lutheran Church. On May 13, 1988, Apostles Lutheran Church became a congregation of the Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The Reverend Theodore M. Schulz was called as Apostles' first ELCA pastor in October 1988 and was installed on December 4, 1988.



+++++

### The Three Days



For something as ancient and as central to the Christian faith as the days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are, they generate a surprising amount of questions and misunderstanding. These days are at the very core of Christianity. Through our worship we actually become involved in—a part of—the stories they tell. No longer are they just something that happened thousands of years ago—they are now living, active and urgent events—we are no mere passive bystanders—we are part of the story.