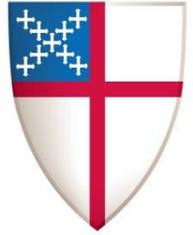


# St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel  
and to seek and serve Christ in all people



2021 – July Newsletter

## **Greetings to each of you in this season of re-engagement and renewal,**

I have noticed in the last couple weeks that this Summer seems to mean more. I have noticed more neighbors of mine cooking on the grill or having house parties. I have heard stories from many people, including many of you, who finally have the opportunity to travel or do things you love after spending the last year in isolation.

What we know about times like this in our biblical stories is that these are times of great power and movement of the spirit. We have experienced some of that already. We have begun to respond to hunger in new ways in our community. We have more opportunities for more people to join us for worship, study and fellowship. It is exciting to think about how else the Spirit is moving in our community.

I would like your help doing just that. Summer is a time of planning for me. What will the next year look like? When we went into quarantine last year, we were already in the process of looking for where the spirit was calling us. And in my experience that question has two distinct parts: what is the Spirit calling us from and what is the spirit calling us to? Now is the time for that second question. The time is right to try new things or old things in new ways.

So, let us do just that, knowing that the one who calls us is faithful and is with us every step of the way: restoring, healing, grieving, sending, and calling alongside us in the vineyard.

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

## **Diocese of the Rio Grande**

*Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn*

**St. John's Rector:**

*The Rev. Michael Drinkwater*

**St. John's Deacon:**

*The Rev. Aileen Walther*

**Day School Director:**

*Christine Duncan*

**Day School Business Director:**

*Karla Warren*

**Violinist:**

*Tom Lubenau*

### **Our Vestry**

**Senior Warden:**

*Nancy Gregory*

**Junior Warden:**

*To be filled*

**Treasurer:**

*To be filled*

**Vestry:**

*Randy Burroughs, Roy Benavides*

*Kim Buie, John Shipe*

### **Ministry Contacts**

**Altar Guild:**

*Nikki Van Vliet*

**Community Kitchen:**

*Bill Henchar*

**Eucharist Ministers:**

*The Rev. Michael Drinkwater*

**Lectors:**

*The Rev. Michael Drinkwater*

**Mission and Outreach:**

*Available*

## **Senior Warden's Corner**

Dear friends of St. John's church,

This will be another of those "as I write this letter to you" letters. Things are happening at St. John's! We are preparing to add a hybrid service at the 10:15 hour. Our plan is to offer worship both in person and online on Sunday June 27. And, I am very pleased to report that Gabe Mauger, our pianist turned computer science major, has agreed to offer his skills and abilities to help make this transition flow smoothly! He and I are learning a new (to us) piece of software called Open Broadcaster Software, OBS for short. It is great fun to work with Gabe, especially when I run into a difficult patch!

Another member of our congregation is lending a hand. That is our very skilled Tim Schultz! He's handcrafting a set of shelves to be used to hold the cameras needed for the hybrid service. Thank you, Tim!

In other news, by now you are probably aware that the Farmers to Families Food Box Grant ended. It has been hard to see it stop. Fr. Michael composed a discernment prayer for us to use in prayerful sabbath as we search for a new path for providing food assistance. We will be calling for a meeting soon to open discussions on this topic. Please contact me or Fr. Michael if you would like to be included in the discussions.

I continue to be involved as one of our Deanery representatives to the Diocesan Council. Our Bishop generally seeks this group's opinion on the Diocesan budget. As you may imagine, many things affect a budget, and there is always a lot to discuss. Right now, we are preparing to engage in what we call, the Budget Roadshows. Each Deanery will host a Zoom meeting in July to give you a forecast of the proposed 2022 Diocesan Budget. I hope you will plan on attending one of the meetings.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support!

Peace,

Nancy Gregory

## Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
4-Jul	Deuteronomy 10:17-21	Psalm 145	Hebrews 11:8-16	Matthew 5:43-48
11-Jul	Amos 7:7-15	Psalm 85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
18-Jul	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
25-Jul	2 Kings 4:42-44	Psalm 145:10-19	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Seminar

The Brotherhood is a group of men who engage in the study of scripture and service. We currently meet each Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar at the cafeteria at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

Birthdays for June 2021:

Joe Kelman, Ezra Robinson, and Michael Drinkwater

Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries for June 2021:

Steve and Nikki Van Vliet & Fred and Louise Van Vliet

Happy Anniversary to All!

### Caring card ministry

Our card ministry is still active during these challenging times. We (as a church family) are recognizing birthdays and anniversaries for all who signed up. I am signing the cards on behalf of our congregation, since I can't legally sign anyone's name. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving one of our cards, please let me know. I would be happy to extend our get well wishes, sympathy or congratulations on behalf of our church to them. This includes any pets/owners that are in need of prayers. Sharon's email: ke4zia@gmail.com; call/text: 757 718 9451. If you would like to join our birthday or anniversary lists, please contact me. I will be happy to include you in our list.

The Caring Card ministry could always use cards and stamps. Please consider donating!

## **Pet Prayer Chain**

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let me know. Please consider joining our pet prayer chain volunteers. You may contact: Sharon Kelman at ke4zia@gmail.com or 757 718-9451 call or text.

## **Daily Office**

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Links to these services can be found on the website. The service is also streamed to our Facebook page when technology allows.

## **Formation Hour**

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study on Exodus. We began our journey with Abraham and are now reading through the story of Exodus. The formation hour is now offered in a hybrid format, with links on the website or in person.

## **Digital Coffee Hour**

Join us on Sundays at 1115 for coffee hour. This is our time to catch up, share prayer intentions, and enjoy each other's company in an unstructured time. Links to our Digital Coffee hour can be found on our website.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

## **Food Box Ministry**

As many of you know, our church community has been doing amazing work through a grant made possible by the USDA farms to families initiative, a form of COVID relief. After serving more than 1000 meals over the months that we were involved in that program, it became clear that we were meeting a different kind of need. Now that the grant has run out and things are returning to normal, Father Michael is calling for a time of sabbath and planning for next steps. To that end, he has composed the prayer below. If you would take some time to pray with us in the coming weeks, we would appreciate it as we continue to discern how to serve our community in the name of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, whose eyes and ears, hands and feet we are. Give us eyes that see the needs of our community through the lense of your loving-kindness. Give us ears that hear the sprirt speaking through the mouth of our neighbors. Give us hands that reach out and build up your kingdom in our midst; and give us feet that carry the Good News to the darkest corners of our world; in the name of the one who died and rose again, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Blessing Bag Ministry:**

Blessing Bags contain travel size items (i.e. hand sanitizer, small notebooks, toothbrush, toothpaste, pens, pencils, shampoo, deodorant, granola bars, soap, tuna/cracker packs, underwear, socks etc). We place several of the items in a gallon storage bag and distribute them to those in need. Currently, we are working closely with Pastor Mike Degner, COPE and our community kitchen.

If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Sharon Kelman at 757 718 9451 or email:ke4zia@gmail.com. You may bring any items you purchase to the church and deposit them in the box that is in the Narthex beginning Sunday, July 4th.

# St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

Office Phone: 575.437.3891

Email: [stjohnsalamo@tularosa.net](mailto:stjohnsalamo@tularosa.net) Website: <http://www.stjohnsalamo.co>