



# 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 – June Newsletter

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

As we begin to come back together in ways that we have longed for for months, I want to make sure that one occasion and date does not slip by our notice. That date is June 19. David-Luke Henton will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on that day; and that is a joyful occasion in which all of us can be grateful. This congregation has provided David-Luke with some wonderful opportunities for learning and service and we should all feel proud of the role our congregation has played in his discernment and formation.

David-Luke started field-placement with us shortly after I arrived in the Fall of 2019. During that time, he has continually been a blessing to our community in so many ways. He has done chapel with me for the Day School. He has served meals with our Community Kitchen groups. He has assisted me with pastoral care. This ordination marks a new season for David-Luke in his ministry where he will be able to delve deeply into the servant's heart that we have come to see so well in him and how it relates to the future of his vocation as a Priest. Every Priest in the Episcopal Church serves as a transitional deacon prior to their ordination as a Priest. Transitional deacons in this diocese normally serve as such for one year in a congregation before their ordination to the priesthood.

We are blessed that David-Luke will continue to work with us during that time. Some feel conflicted about the transitional diaconate because it feels too much like being a Priest-in-Training, which does not really seem to do justice to the ministry of vocational deacons or the ministry of priests. I understand that; but there can be a gift for all of us in the reminder that every ministry in the church is rooted in the ministry of service. Just as the ministry of the priesthood reminds us that we are all called to be priests in our baptism, the ministry of the diaconate reminds us that all christian leadership is rooted in service. I know that it will be a great year of learning for him and I hope it will be a year when all of us will be challenged to live more deeply into our Christian vocation.

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:**

*John Shipe*

**Treasurer:**

To be filled

**Vestry:**

*Randy Burroughs, Roy Benavides*

*Kim Buie*

### **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,

As I write this letter to you, one of our work groups is totally focused and deeply involved in cleaning and sprucing up the church, making it ready for our first in-person worship service in 2021! The church is looking brighter and more loved! Indeed, our excitement level is running high!

What a joy and relief to have it finally happen!

Yes, but it will be a gradual return to a more complete resemblance of what we all knew and enjoyed pre-COVID. That may be a bit frustrating but I think we can handle it, knowing that it won't be long now. In fact, I am pleased to announce that we plan to return to in person worship at both 8 and 1015 on June 27.

So, we will be in a transition period, an-almost-but-not-quite-period. Let's be welcoming to each other, patient, and joyful that we made it this far. Did you know, we actually added some new members during COVID who are just now getting a chance to worship with us inside the church?

No matter how each one of us spent the COVID-tide, worshipping online, worshipping in person with another church, or worshipping at home, let us welcome all who are here, now!

I think we all may've picked up some new skills along the way that may help us as we grow into the future, whatever God has in mind for us, we are ready!

Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Nancy Gregory

## Community Kitchen Serving Schedule

June 1	St. Joseph's
June 8	49 <sup>th</sup> Med Group
June 15	Christ Community Church
June 22	29 <sup>th</sup> ATKS Spouse Group
June 29	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist

## Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
6-Jun	Genesis 3:8-15	Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
13-Jun	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Psalm 92:1-4,11-14	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Mark 4:26-34
20-Jun	Job 38:1-11	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
27-Jun	Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24	Psalm 30	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43

# 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:

Stephen McFarland (6/3), Sarah McFarland (6/8), Makayla Robinson (6/9), Tim Kruse (6/15), and Kathy Ann Henchar (6/15)

Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries for June 2021:

John and Kim Buie (6/13), Joe and Sharon Kelman (6/15). Randy and Gwen Burroughs (6/21), Michael and Sarah Drinkwater (6/21), Lloyd and Lisa Jenkins (6/23)

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 or call or 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.

## **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 spirit 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.

# 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>