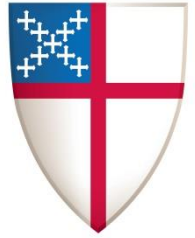




St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2021 – October Newsletter

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

I'm guessing that we are all feeling the effects of that change of seasons. The mornings are cooler; which somehow makes the afternoon sun all the more harsh for the contrast. There is a transition coming in our church year also, with the end of ordinary time on the horizon. Transitions are happening at St. John's, too. Our beloved Day School Director, Christine Duncan, has accepted another position after years of faithful service at our school. She goes with all the well wishes we have to offer her. Many of the things I have done with the day school, including the weekly chapel services, would have been impossible without her leadership. At the same time, I am also excited to announce that Kami Allen, one of our long-time teachers at the Day School has stepped into the position of interim director.

Just as the movement of the seasons pulls us toward growth; so too is there an opportunity for new life and growth in our relationship with the Day School. The Day School has been an important part of our ministry to the wider community of Alamogordo; and it has been largely self sufficient for many years. Now, however, I feel the beginnings of something new: a future where we not only share a name and resources with the day school, but also a common vision for how we can be a vehicle for positive change in our community.

It is my hope that you will listen for the opportunities I will make in the future for us to discern together how our relationship with the day school can be a source of health for both organizations as we move into the future together with the intent of building up the kingdom of God.

Blessings from...

Your Brother in Christ (and in Hope),

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,

Our worship at St. John's continues to be filled with a sense of hope, hope for each other's well-being, hope for yet another wonderful sermon by Fr. Michael, hope for a reduction in the impact COVID-19 has had on each of our lives.

And in the meantime, we carry on with strength from the Holy Spirit. Tim, Gabe and I are moving ahead with putting finishing touches on our streaming service. You may notice that Gabe no longer sits among us to work this magic! Can you find him and our cameras? Well, Gabe's still around and if you worship with us via Zoom, you just might receive a friendly hello from Gabe, right before the service begins! The next part of the plan is to add some additional sound devices at various places, such as the pulpit, lectern, and altar. Some of the altar party may wear mics.

Our Food Ministry is "under construction" you might say. St. John's has been serving the Alamogordo area in Food Ministry for many years, and we do our best to keep up with the changing needs of our community. We want to build on our strengths and keep on in Food Ministry for many more years into the future. If this ministry interests you, we'd love to hear from you!

Work will soon begin to repair our Columbarium units. And, repairs will be happening in several other parts of the church as well. Deferred maintenance has caught up with us!

The time for Stewardship season will soon be here and as I care very much about the ministry activities of St. John's and our individual spiritual needs and support, I am starting now to pray how I may continue and grow in my stewardship gift to St. John's. I hope you will too!

As always, thank you for your continuing prayers and support! It is a joy to be your Senior Warden!

Peace,

Nancy

From the Deacon's Desk

How (and why) to Develop a Rule of Life ... Even if you Don't Have to **By Br. David-Luke Henton, BSG, Deacon**

Some of you know that my adult prayer life began here in the southern mountains of New Mexico long before I was blessed to live here. Every summer I would spend a week or two at my friend, Virginia's isolated cabin in the White Mountain Wilderness. My prayer life ignited in these mountains, where much of my time was spent in prayer, but my prayer life afire here in the mountains always fizzled out when I got back to Austin, and the demands of work and life. I wound up discerning a vocation in vowed religious life because I longed for the shared structure of prayer, service, work, spiritual companionship, and accountability. That led me to the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, the vowed, canonical religious community of the Episcopal Church to which I became a vowed friar in 2008. The great challenge and joy of vowed life as a Gregorian friar is our simple, succinct Rule of Life (<https://gregorians.org/publications/rule.php>), the scaffolding that shapes, forms and directs our lives of prayer and charism of service in the church and in the world as "servants of the servants of God" (as our patron St. Gregory the Great styled himself in his service as a simple friar chosen pope in the 6th century).

A Rule of Life is a means to an end: It is intended to draw us closer to Jesus Christ, closer to our sisters/brothers/friends in Christian Community, and closer to reaching our true potential as the unique human being God created each of us to be. It is intended to help us find balance, obedience and joy in areas of life and practice like: prayer, service, worship, sabbath, ministry, meditation, self-examination, evangelism, work, study, and spiritual development. Though Rules of Life are particularly associated with vowed religious communities, any/all Christians can benefit from developing their own individual Rules of Life. And there are many wonderful resources for doing so:

Arguably the most famous Rule of Life in Christian history was that of St. Benedict of Nursia written for the community life of his monks in the early 6th century, and followed today with almost no revision in its entirety by Benedictine monks and nuns around the world: https://www.solesmes.com/sites/default/files/upload/pdf/rule_of_st_benedict.pdf An excellent contemporary adaptation and spiritual commentary on the Rule is that of Roman Catholic Benedictine theologian Sister Joan Chittister in *The Rule of St. Benedict* (New York: Crossroad Publishing, 2010).

Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's *Way of Love*, his vision of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/>) provides a beautiful framework for developing an individual Rule of Life with its counsel to "Turn; Learn; Pray; Worship; Bless; Go; and Rest". Adapting each of these themes to one's individual journey could help craft a balanced Rule of Life for Christian life and work in the world.

All of the vowed religious communities of the Episcopal Church have Rules of Life, and most of them are available online through the Conference on Anglican Religious Orders of the Americas (www.caroa.net) representing traditional monastic communities or the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (www.naecc.net) representing contemporary ones.

Many of both our traditional and contemporary religious communities welcome Associates, Oblates, or Companions who share portions of the community's Rule of Life, or a modified Rule for their associates living in the world. For example, our Senior Warden, Nancy Gregory is an Associate of the Community of the Transfiguration, a traditional community of nuns in the Episcopal Church with a charism for spirituality and spiritual direction (<https://www.ctsisters.org/index.php>)

The Society of St. John the Evangelist, an Episcopal monastic community for men, perhaps best known for their daily digital ministry, Brother, Give Us a Word (subscribe here: <https://www.ssje.org/subscribe/>), also provides some outstanding resources for developing an individual Rule of Life: <https://www.ssje.org/growrule/>

Some other excellent websites and resources for developing an individual Rule of Life include the following:

<https://sacredordinarydays.com/pages/rule-of-life>

https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/338

<https://ruleoflife.com/>

<https://practictheway.org/unhurrying-with-a-rule-of-life/workbook>

The last is from the nondenominational Bridgetown Church of Portland, OR, and includes some really sound guidelines: start small; be specific; consider your own personality (temperament and needs); consider your season of life and state of discipleship; keep a healthy balance of upstream practices (those that are challenging but move us towards growth) and downstream practices (those that are fun, easy, and joyful); keep a healthy balance between structure and spontaneity; and remember that a good rule is a working document: It may change as your life circumstances change.

St. John's Episcopal Church in Dubuque, Iowa has a community Rule of Life for its members that entails the following shared routine of spiritual practices: (1) worship weekly; (2) pray daily; (3) serve at St. John's and beyond; (4) love others and build spiritual friendships; (5) know the Christian story and invite others into it; (6) give generously; (7) rest regularly. Addressing each of these areas: How might you build a Rule of Life for yourself?

A Rule of Life is not meant to confine; it is meant to liberate! And that has certainly been my own experience: My Rule of Life has anchored and stabilized my life; It has made me a better Christian, a better spouse, a better neighbor, and a better Brother. It has empowered me for ministry, and fills my life with joy, gratitude, purpose, energy and focus. Though it challenges me every day, it is also a source of constant blessings, joy and new opportunities and discoveries, and I cannot imagine my life or Christian journey without it. Most importantly it has brought me closer to Jesus and closer to my Brothers.

If you are interested in developing your own Rule of Life, and need help or feel stuck, or even if you just want to talk about and explore the idea more, feel free to contact me. I love journeying with folks as they contemplate, draft and craft Individual Rules of Life, and always welcome the opportunity to visit about it. Soli Deo Gloria, with love and gratitude, David-Luke, BSG

Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
3-Oct	Genesis 2:18-24	Psalm 8	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
10-Oct	Amos 5:6-7,10-15	Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
17-Oct	Isaiah 53:4-12	Psalm 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
24-Oct	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
31-Oct	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Psalm 119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34

Community Kitchen Schedule

October 5	St. Joseph's
October 12	PPW
October 19	Christ Community
October 26	St. John's

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing Bag Ministry: New Ministry at St. John's

Blessing Bags contain **travel** size items (i.e. hand sanitizer, small note books, 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 bag that is located in the Narthex any Sunday.

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 in the Parish Hall. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in October

October Birthdays:

Irvin (10/5), Aileen (10/7), Lloyd J. (10/8), Morgan (10/9), David-Luke (10/18), Nancy (10/22), and Deb (10/28)

Happy Birthday to all!

Caring card ministry

I would like to thank everyone who has donated cards, stamps and stickers to this ministry. We would like to help you celebrate **ALL** occasions. So, if you haven't signed up on our birthday (we just need month and day- **NO YEARS**) and anniversary lists, please do so. If you know of someone who may enjoy receiving one of our cards, please let me know. The sign- up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. If you prefer, you may contact me directly: Sharon Kelman email: ke4zia@gmail.com or 757-718 9451 call or text.

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.

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, 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.

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 Website: <http://www.stjohnsalamo.com>